



MARCH 2025

ELIZABETH MOIR SCHOOL

5 MOIR STUDENTS EARN PLACES AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE



Five students have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge universities to begin courses in September 2025, a record for the school in one year. At present, there are only 5 Sri Lankan undergraduates at Oxford and 9 at Cambridge, across 4 batches, so one school having 5 students offered places in one year is remarkable. Three other Moir alumni will still be at Oxford and Cambridge next year too, so there will be a total of 8 Moir students at the UK's two top universities.

Malith Gunawardena will read Economics at Cambridge University. The Cambridge Economics course is the most prestigious in the world. Past students and faculty include John Maynard Keynes, Milton Friedman, JK Galbraith, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and a total of 19 Nobel Prize winners. A significant proportion of current Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors around the world are alumni; Malith hopes to join their ranks. Malith earned nine 9s in his IGCSEs and four A*s at A Level, winning the award for the Highest Mark in the World in Economics after scoring 100% on all his four papers. He has spent part of his gap year at the Junior School, embracing new opportunities and broadening his horizons. Malith impressed his interviewers with his mathematical skills, intellectual curiosity and vast general knowledge.

Raveen Akuretiyagama has been offered a place to read Engineering at St. Peter's College, Oxford. Raveen joined in Form 1 and achieved ten 9s in his IGCSE exams in 2023 as well as prizes for scoring the Highest Mark in Sri Lanka in Computer Science and Geography. His application stood out as he had represented Sri Lanka in both the International Junior Science Olympiad in Bogota in 2022, where he won a Bronze Medal, and the FIRST Global Robotics Olympiad in Athens last year, where the team of Moir students he led finished 6th out of 193 countries and brought home gold medals for Engineering Design.

Savaira Sammoon is one of two students with places to read

History at Cambridge in September. She joined Moir aged two years old in 2008 and left last year as one of the senior Head Prefects. She achieved nine 9s in her IGCSEs and developed her interest in political and social issues through writing for national newspapers, editing the school newspaper and being head of the Press Corps at the Sri Lanka Model United Nations.

Sulaari Stuart earned 3 A*s in her A Levels and the award for the Highest Mark in the World in IAL History, having scored 99.5%. She impressed the fellows at Sidney Sussex College with her essay challenging conventional views of Partition by blaming Nehru rather than Jinnah. She was also President of Essay Club, which helps the school's top students develop the skills and interests they need to impress interviewers.

Tienn Kapilasena also joined Moir when he was two years old. He spent fourteen years in the school and earned nine 9s in his IGCSEs before moving to England with his family. Tienn was appointed School Captain at Sevenoaks School there, despite being new, before being offered a place at Hertford College, Oxford to read Geography.

Offers from other universities are still coming in, with US decisions mostly coming at the start of April. Students have already received places, however, at Stanford, Cornell and leading Liberal Arts colleges in the US. In the UK, three students have offers from Imperial College London and eight at UCL, currently ranked the 2nd and 9th best universities in the world.

The number of Moir students who earn places at top universities reflects not only students' outstanding academic results and the guidance they receive on university applications but also the school's emphasis on teaching students to think for themselves and encouraging them to pursue their interests beyond the syllabus through independent reading and research.

U20 GIRLS RETAIN TISSL

FOOTBALL TROPHY AGAIN

The Under 20 Girls' Football team won the Inter-International Schools Football Championship for the fourth time in a row to maintain their proud unbeaten record: they have not lost to a school team here since 2019.

They qualified for the semi-finals with comfortable victories over the British School and Stafford. They beat Gateway in the semi-final before defeating CIS 4-0 in the final. Such was our dominance and the strength of our midfield and defence that goalkeeper Maleesa Gunasinghe did not touch the ball once in the entire tournament.

Congratulations to Captain Niara Wijeyasinghe, who again won the Golden Boot as the top goal scorer after scoring 8 goals in the competition, and to Seneli Jayawardane, who won the MVP award.

Earlier in the term, the Under 18 Boys' team qualified top of their group in their tournament, after comfortable victories against Lyceum International School, Pandura and Lyceum, Wattala. They won their quarter-final against Horizon College 4-0 but lost to old rivals Gateway College in the semi-final. Our Under 14 Boys won 3-0 against St. Nicholas' International School and drew 1-1 against hosts Royal Institute but did not qualify, having suffered a disappointing loss in their opening game against Lyceum, Ratnapura. As a very young team, with 5 Junior School players, some as young as 9, they showed great team spirit and commitment and learnt a lot from the experience.



GIRLS' UNDER 20 INTER-INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

British School in Colombo	Won	2-0
Stafford International School	Won	2-0
Gateway College, Colombo	Won	2-0
Colombo International School	Won	4-0

FOOTBALL TOURS TO THAILAND



The Bangkok International Youth Football Festival attracts top teams from ten Asian countries. This year, we entered our Senior Boys' and Girls' teams. With most other teams being clubs selecting the best players from all the schools in their city, we were aware that the standard would be high but knew that our players would benefit from playing against good teams, as well as enjoying going on an overseas tour.

We were especially keen to challenge our Girls' team, who have been so dominant in Sri Lanka. Although they lost a ll but one game in their tournament in January, they were competitive in all the matches and only lost most by one goal. They learnt a lot from the experience and returned home having won the award for Sportsmanship. Captain Niara Wijeyasinghe said: 'Playing in an international tournament truly tested our girls'



ability, which will unlock the full potential this team can achieve.'

Our Under 18 Boys' team was able to compete against some very good teams, drawing three of their group matches and only losing one match by more than a single goal. Our Under 16 team won their final game, to record our only victory. Captain Ayaan Weerasooria said: 'The Bangkok tour was an unforgettable experience for our Boys' teams and let us test our skills against some great talent from around Asia'.

The tour was the final time a group of Upper 6 boys will play for the school, including Ayaan, goalkeeper Alwan Mausoom, Vidur Mirchandani and our top goal scorer in the tournament, Mohamed Ilaan. Several leave with medals from winning the Under-14 TISSL tournament in 2020 and finishing runners-up in the Under-18 tournament in 2023 and 2024, and last year's Under-20 tournament.

MOIR FINISHES 2ND IN FTC INDIA



The FIRST Technical Challenge is a global Robotics competition. Last year, over 99,000 students in 81 countries took part. We entered the Indian Championship for the first time last year and finished 8th. This year, our team of seven students worked throughout the holidays and six afternoons a week during term time to design and build their robot. Their hard work paid off when Moir Robotics finished 2nd out of 50 teams. They also won the Control Award for the best autonomous robot. The experience the students gained will stand them in good stead when we organise a team to represent Sri Lanka in the FIRST Global Challenge in Panama in October.

JUNIOR SCHOOL XMAS CONCERT

On December 11 the Junior School resounded with 'Merry Melodies and Magical Moments' as all students, from our Early Learners to our Junior 5s, brought the spirit of Christmas to Park Road.



DEBATERS WIN SCHOOLS LEAGUE

The results of all the Debating tournaments organised under the auspices of the Debaters' Council over the year count towards the Schools League. The top four teams qualify for the play-offs to determine the best school team of the year. Moir qualified for the play-offs after winning a series of prestigious competitions, including the Sri Lanka Schools' Debating Championships and the tournaments organised by Ladies' College and Royal College.

In the play-offs, our team defeated the other three top schools in the league – Ladies' College, Royal College and CIS – to reach the final. All the decisions were unanimous, with all three judges ruling in our favour. In the final against CIS, another unanimous decision led to Moir being crowned as Champions and the winners of the 2024 Schools League. Debating Club President Okitha Karunadhara won the Best Speaker Award, fitting recognition of his huge contribution to the team over the year.



Harish, Savith & Okitha – Schools League Champions

ALICE IN WONDERLAND



The Junior School production of Alice in Wonderland took place on 15 March at Bishop's College Auditorium. The audience was taken on an adventure down a rabbit hole with Alice and introduced to all the weird and wonderful characters of Wonderland. This year, we had 48 'Wonderlanders', our biggest cast ever, and our largest audience ever too. Our youngest cast members came from Junior 1 while Alice was played by a Junior 3 student, Sara Hapuarachchi. The cast and crew navigated the 'madness of Wonderland' with ease and are now left wondering if it was 'all a dream'.

NASA SCIENTIST SPEAKS AT ASSEMBLY

We have been fortunate to welcome NASA planetary scientist, Dr. Henry Throop, to speak to students at the Senior School three times this year. He spoke twice in Assembly and once to senior Physics students. Dr. Throop was one of the leaders of the New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, and spoke to students about this. He also brought a telescope to school to enable students to study the sun in detail. Among Dr. Throop's many accolades are having an asteroid named after him.



SUN IN B-ALPHA
ELIZABETH MOIR SCHOOL
MARCH 5, 2025



U19 BASKETBALL TEAM FINISH 3RD

After finishing 3rd in last term's Under-17 tournament, our senior Boys' Basketball team trained very hard for the Under-19 event and were among the tournament favourites. Despite a tough draw, they finished top of their group after impressive victories over Asian International School and Lyceum International School, Wattala. A comfortable win in their quarter-final over Wycherley set up a semi-final against CIS, who had narrowly beaten them in both the final of COMBOS and Under-17 semi-final and now included a 6' 9" national player. As in the earlier games, we were ahead at Half-Time but were unable to close out the game. Victory over a good team from Horizon College in the Consolation Final sealed another 3rd place finish. The team again stood out for their passing, teamwork, defence and 3-pointers, playing a more modern style of Basketball than other teams. After our best ever season, we look forward to further progress next year, with all but one squad member returning. Our Girls' team also reached the quarter-finals but lost against a Gateway team determined to avenge their defeat in the Under 17 tournament.

BOYS' UNDER 19 INTER-INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS BASKETBALL

Asian International School	Won	33-18
Lyceum, Wattala	Won	50-32
Wycherley International School	Won	51-23
Colombo International School	Lost	53-69
Horizon College International	Won	67-55

MOIR 2ND IN COMBOS ATHLETICS

The school continues to promote COMBOS sports events, which provide opportunities for our students to compete against schools of a more similar size in a friendly environment. The COMBOS Athletics Championship in February gave all our athletes the chance to compete and have a decent chance of finishing among the medals. Congratulations to Sakith De Mendis, Damiru Suriyapperuma, Seneli Jayawardane, Isaac Okoro and Athletics Captain Mariam Alibho who won the overall Championship in their age groups and to Jack Shearer, Manula Edirisinghe, Nethula Edirisinghe, Aleeza Salie, Vidul Kumarawadu and Nesangi Hemakumara, who all won one or more competitive events. We finished second overall, narrowly behind CIS but well ahead of the British School in 3rd.

Mariam also won Silver in High Jump and Bronze in Hurdles at ISAC, while our 4 x 400m relay team of Seneli, Aleeza, Eva De Silva and Viola Barattini also won Bronze medals. Two Junior School students also took part - Kai John and Zaid Ibrahim - and Kai achieved a Merit Certificate in the Long Jump.



INTER-HOUSE MUSIC



TEAM-BUILDING CAMPS IN WELIGAMA & KITULGALA

