



THE SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE

Colombo International School

AS AND A2-LEVELS IN YEARS 12 AND 13

2016 - 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Colombo International School, Sri Lanka offers an A-Level Sixth Form education which is of the highest international standard and it is comparable to what can be obtained in schools of quality throughout the world.

The school has sent a large number of students each year to the best universities in North America, the UK, Australia, Malaysia and elsewhere, and this process has been continuous for the past 30 years.

Currently the enrolment in the Sixth Form is around 300 students with 150 students being in each of years 12 and 13.

The academic year commences in August and students normally study 4 subjects for AS-Level in Year 12 and 3 or 4 subjects for the full A2-Level in Year 13.

The choice of subjects available is wide and consists of Mathematics, the Sciences, Modern Languages, the Humanities, Commerce subjects and Applied ICT.

Students are thoroughly prepared for Pearson Edexcel and for AQA International Advanced Levels and GCE.

The school is recognised as a centre by Edexcel, AQA, UCAS and the Common App which results in examinations being entered through and taken at the school. University applications for all countries are handled by the school.

Typical A-Level results can produce 50% of all grades being at the top A* / A grade Level.

Over 100 students per year proceed to universities overseas in the widest range of disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Law, Management, Finance, as well as academic disciplines such as Literature, Physics and other subjects.

In 2015 and 2016 students have entered or received offers for Oxford (PPE and Law), Cambridge (Engineering), Imperial College (Engineering), Liverpool (Medicine), Yale, New York University, New South Wales (Medicine) and Melbourne (Economics).

Students receive extensive counseling and guidance on university entrance.

In a typical year students enter 50+ world-ranked universities.

This short booklet will give more detail of our programme which offers much more than a narrow academic education.

Students have the opportunity to offer additional English which leads to IGCSE, IELTS and SAT qualifications.

The Enrichment programme also offers short courses in Philosophy, World Affairs, UKCAT / BMAT, Interview technique and many other fields.

There is a layered Pastoral guidance programme available which involves Class Tutors, Heads of Year and the Head of Sixth Form. This covers academic and personal concerns.

There is an extensive extra-curricular programme with more than 20 societies including Model United Nations, Social Service, Drama, Orchestra, Maths Olympiad and many others, meeting each week.

Plays and Musical evenings take place in the school's auditorium throughout the year.

In sports there are senior teams operating at the Sixth Form level. Numerous matches and inter-school tournaments take place in Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Swimming, Tennis and Netball.

The School's academic staff is experienced, well qualified and committed. Sri Lankan and expatriate staff teach in purpose built facilities including science laboratories, computer rooms, subject based rooms and rooms with multimedia and interactive whiteboard facilities.

Technology continues to expand throughout the school and a recent development is an Electronic Reference Library.

This booklet will provide more information on :-

- The A-Level Sixth Form Curriculum,
- The Examination system,
- Education, Information and Research Coordinating Unit (EIRCU)
- University Entrance Guidance
- The Enrichment Programme
- Pastoral and Academic Support
- The extra-curricular programme
- The sporting programme

Each year up to 50 new students are admitted into the Sixth Form and many achieve outstanding results and enter the best universities.

Colombo International School offers a great opportunity to all its students, and interested parents and their son / daughter are most welcome to meet the Principal and view the school.

David Sanders - BSc, MEd (London), Cert. Ed. (Sheffield)
PRINCIPAL

INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD OF SECONDARY

Entrance into the Sixth Form and the Advanced Level Grade is an important stage in your school career. You will be entering it with great anticipation, excitement and maybe a bit of apprehension. All these feelings are valid considering the step you are taking. Because of this it is important that you make the best use of this opportunity given you.

The shift from O-Level/IGCSEs to AS and A2s is a much larger leap than a student first assumes. At IGCSEs you study a variety of subjects and must necessarily show competence in these subjects to pass your IGCSEs and go into the Advanced Level class. In the Advanced Level you would now focus only on 4 subjects and they should be the subjects you have enjoyed studying and the subjects you are best at. Unfortunately too many students make the wrong choice here and after coping reasonably well at the IGCSE perform poorly at the AS Level examination. If you are focused on a career then the subjects you choose would naturally be dependent upon this. But make your own choices, and be realistic about what you can achieve. Not everybody is cut out to be a doctor or engineer. There are lots of new career options. Go through the University guidance section and see what universities have to offer.

In the Sixth Form students will also be required to do more independent study, and a little more maturity and discipline is required. Diligence and hard work pays off as does regular attendance. Teachers are there to guide and assist you in your studies but a large part of what you achieve will be dependent on your input. Keep up with your work. Try not to fall behind. Don't make the mistake of thinking you can take it easy and catch up at the end (like maybe you did for the O-Levels/IGCSEs). The course is much harder and requires a strong commitment.

This is not to say you should not take advantage of the many sports and extra-curricular activities available. There is a wide range of activities to choose from. Pick the sports and societies you are interested in. A balance between studies and extra-curricular activities is important.

The school offers you a wide variety of subject combinations and you should take advantage of this. Each subject has seven 50 minute lessons a week. In addition students are advised to spend an hour a day per subject on homework and extra reading. The school also offers classes in SAT, TOEFL and IELTS, and in English Language in preparation for the IGCSE. The latter is particularly useful for students who join the Sixth Form from local schools. Enrichment courses in a variety of subjects from Philosophy to Art and Crafts add value to education in the Sixth Form.

While this is an important stage in your education, it is equally important to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports. Universities particularly, look for well-rounded candidates who can contribute actively to the community. Study hard, stay focused, but enjoy your time at school.

Dr. Damaris Wikramanayake – BA Hons Classics (Peradeniya), Masters Degree in Educational Administration (Michigan State University, USA), Doctor of Philosophy in Education (University of Sydney)
Head of Secondary

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

Full details of the extensive academic programme of the school can be found in the CIS booklet A-Level Choices 2016 – 2017.

In Year 12 students study 4 main subjects in school. There is a multitude of subject combinations possible but many still study traditional combinations such as :-

Examples

- Medical : Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics.
- Engineering : Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.
- Economics and Finance : Mathematics, Economics plus 2 other subjects.
- Commerce : Economics, Mathematics, Business Studies and Accounting.
- Environmental Management : Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Geography.

There are 16 AS / A2-Level subjects available and the table below shows the selection of subject process with one subject being selected from each block A,B,C and D.

B) The Choices

The courses offered at the School are as follows :

NB – Students cannot choose more than one subject from the same column block.

A (7 lessons per week)	B (7 lessons per week)	C (7 lessons per week)	D (7 lessons per week)	E (2 lessons per week)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	IGCSE for students with local O Level only
Further Mathematics	Further Maths (Mechanics)	Geography	Chemistry	
English Lit	Further Maths (Statistics)	Physics	Economics	SAT
Economics	Biology	Biology	Class. Civ	Enrichment Programme
Physics	History	Chemistry	Business Studies	Yr 13 IELTS
Business Studies	Business Studies	Computing	Computing	(All students) Followed by an Enrichment Programme
	Physics	Accounting		
	Art & Design	French		

- Further Mathematics with Mechanics requires both block A+B (It is a double subject).
- Further Mathematics with Statistics requires both block A+B (It is a double subject).
- Art can also be taken by arrangement with the Art department if it is not possible for a student to take it in the block allocated.

Success at A-Level demands consistent study with a strong independent learning dimension. The contact time with teachers is 350 minutes (Shr. 50mins) per subject per week.

Regular attendance is essential for success and it is difficult to ‘catch up’ if too many lessons are missed.

In Year 13 students continue to study 3 or 4 subjects for the full A2-Level.

An exciting new development in the academic life of the school is the development of the Electronic Reference Library (ERL). This example of “Knowledge Management” gives immediate access to material which is highly relevant to A-Level study and goes beyond the confines of an individual textbook. It gives appropriate and relevant extension work.

The content of ERL has been carefully researched by senior staff and gives a link access to a suitable specific web page.

This ERL is being developed for all subjects and at all levels in the school.

The Enrichment programme is compulsory for all Sixth Form students and it is taught for 2 periods per week.

The study of 4 AS-Level subjects will take up 28 periods a week. The remaining two periods will be taken up with Option E. We, at CIS, want to enable all of our students to fulfill their potential and enter the Universities of their choice. In order to enter the majority of universities in the United States the SAT examination will need to be taken and a high score (out of 2400) obtained.

SAT consists of three major sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Each section receives a score on the scale of 200-800. All scores are multiples of 10. Total scores are calculated by adding up scores of the three sections. Each major section is divided into three parts.

Those students wishing to study in the US must opt for SAT in Option E. If a student is studying A level Mathematics then that course will cover SAT Mathematics. Those students who are not studying Mathematics at A Level and want to study in the US must attend an after school class in SAT Mathematics.

Subject SATs are also a requirement at competitive US universities.

Edexcel IGCSE English Language is required for all students who do not possess this qualification. This course will last up to one year and students will take the examination either in January or in May. It is compulsory to have this qualification if you wish to study in the UK.

Students applying to Indian universities including, Medicine at Manipal must have a pass at GCE AS-Level English Language. This requirement has been introduced for entry from 2013 onwards. Special arrangements need to be made for GCE AS-Level English Language with initial consultation with the Head of Secondary.

Enrichment Programme

If students do not fit into any of the above categories, a programme of study will be offered in order to enrich their learning. Students will be offered a choice of six week modules in various disciplines. The staff at CIS have a wealth of knowledge outside of their subject areas and we want to offer our students the opportunity to consider other areas of life and society. Some examples of courses could be :

- Spanish language and people
- An introduction to psychology
- The role of the media
- Critical thinking
- An introduction to Philosophy
- How do we learn? How to improve learning skills etc.
- Current scientific issues.

In Year 13

All students can undertake the IELTS qualification which is increasingly sought by universities around the world.

After successful completion of IELTS students will switch to an enrichment programme.

This is a time of much curriculum change and the school has an Education, Information and Research Coordination Unit (EIRCU) which advises Heads of Department on curriculum change.

David Sanders - BSc, MEd (London), Cert. Ed. (Sheffield)
PRINCIPAL

CIS AND THE MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

The speed at which technology is developing is fast and so it is not only students who are challenged and motivated to keep up-to-date with modern trends. CIS continues to place great emphasis on research and design into educational technologies so that the school offers world class facilities. The technologies available at CIS provide value added capability to students and teachers that allow outstanding education, administration and operational processes to be achieved.

The computing systems available at CIS offer extensive opportunities to all students to learn and develop skills in using modern technologies. The computer network links over 200 PCs throughout the school in addition to the numerous laptops in use. The school has extensive high volume broadband ADSL connections with continuous enhancement of bandwidth to facilitate faster downloading of information and data from the Internet.

The Secondary School has 3 computer labs equipped with state-of-the-art computer, printing and multi-media facilities. Apart from computer classes specified in the curriculum, our students are encouraged to use the computer facilities as often as their schedules will permit. A specialized teacher or supervisor is always present to provide help and guidance in the proper and careful use of the facilities.

There has been an outstanding investment of time and resources into numerous types of media that are available to teachers and students. This media is constantly evolving and delivers a wide variety of text, audio, images, animation, and also includes many applications and processes that students get to learn about and develop their skills in. CIS also fully understands that the future of educational technology is about access, collaboration, and “anywhere learning” both at school and at home in a 24/7 setting. With high profile research and development taking place all the time at CIS, teachers and students are able to benefit from ever-expanding cloud technologies used at school.

CIS has embedded the use of SIMS as a school information management system. This is the most widely used system in UK schools. SIMS provides far-reaching insight into administrative and operational processes in order to raise academic achievement. SIMS provides powerful tools for CIS leaders and teachers to manage and analyse pupil data in order to identify ways to support every student in making good progress at school. SIMS enables graphs to be created easily from the data available in the system which helps staff spot patterns and identify trends, so key actions can be taken in order to support and upgrade every student’s performance at CIS.

The introduction of an Electronic Reference Library (ERL) has also been a new initiative in the school. The ERL allows teachers to research and share information that provides a beyond the subject broader view of the education process. Our expert teachers understand that information and knowledge is constantly evolving, so the ERL is a way of keeping the school’s finger on the pulse, and providing the most up to date and valuable subject related content to our students.

Through the ERL, blended learning is being achieved where students are able to successfully learn both in the traditional classroom setting and beyond, via digital and online media. This provides students the encouragement to explore and extend their understanding at a time, place, path and pace that best suits them. The inviting facilities coupled with quality teaching by well-equipped

professionals at CIS, provides students with the work environment to study confidently and gain admirable examination results on a continuous basis.

Lewis Chalk – BA Hons (Southampton Solent Uni.), PGCE (Uni. of Southampton), M.Ed (Uni. of Portsmouth)
Head of Business Studies and Accounting / Acting Head of ICT and Computing

EDUCATION INFORMATION AND RESEARCH COORDINATION UNIT

The Education Information and Research Coordination Unit (EIRCU) was established in September 2014 and has since become integral to the operations of the school. EIRCU has two main aims:

1. To keep the school up-to-date with changes and trends in education policy from the UK and beyond
2. To ensure that the school has the most relevant and current information with regards to qualification changes

EIRCU is led by members of staff with vast experience of the UK education system, and works very closely with the Principal and other areas of the school's Senior Management. The scope of work performed by EIRCU is always evolving, reflecting the constantly shifting patterns and trends in the education system. The establishment of EIRCU has led to many benefits for the students of CIS, including:

- Ensuring that decisions are made which provide the best possible qualification options for CIS students
- Providing CIS students with the most up-to-date and appropriate academic resources, in order to maximise achievement
- Undertaking forensic post-examination analysis, meaning that students are provided with a detailed overview of exactly how they can improve exam performance

Initially, EIRCU was established in order to forward plan for the latest wave of education policy reforms which have had deep and wide-reaching implications for schools following the British education system. These changes mostly relate to the content of qualifications, the examination 'windows' when students are able to undertake their tests, and the structure of the examinations themselves. This has been a time of great change, however due to vast amounts of research and strategic planning, CIS has been able to anticipate the implications of such changes. As such, we are now in a position where all students starting the Sixth Form in September 2016 will undertake Edexcel International Advanced Levels, in all subjects apart from Further Mathematics and Classical Civilisation. These qualifications provide maximum benefits for students, with the following specific advantages:

- ✓ Globally recognised and enables access to leading universities around the world.
- ✓ Contemporary content which is relevant to international learners
- ✓ An AS Level examination which can be sat after Year 12 that contributes to the overall A Level grade
- ✓ The option to retake examinations in January if required

Despite the recent wave of changes coming to an end, the role of EIRCU remains central to the school's future. It is likely that there will be slight modifications to the content, new resources will be released and there may be possible changes to the methods of assessment. Each of these

developments will be closely monitored by EIRCU and planned for as necessary. EIRCU has developed a global reach of contacts with Examination Boards, world-ranked universities and education advisors. The exchange of information is used to benefit all students. The education media is carefully monitored on a daily basis so that the school is up to date with all relevant developments.

Patrick Ball – MELD (Warwick), GTP (University of East London), BA Hons (University of Manchester)
EIRCU Coordinator

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

Each year students from Colombo International School graduate to worldwide leading universities. In recent years students have attended (many fine universities including Stanford, Harvard, Yale, New York, UPENN in the USA, Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, UCL and LSE in the UK and Melbourne, Monash, Adelaide in Australia. Students have also attended universities in India, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, China, Germany, Singapore and Sri Lanka. CIS supports all students in furthering their education and has teachers dedicated to providing students with the best opportunities.

Representatives from leading universities are invited to Colombo International School every year to discuss with students their options after CIS. ‘University Fairs’ take place usually between September and November and include visits from leading universities in Australia, UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand amongst many others.

APPLYING TO UK UNIVERSITIES

Students applying to UK universities complete their applications online using the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) at www.ucas.com. There are two main deadlines for UK applications:

1. 15th October – for students applying for Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge), Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
2. 15th January – for all other applications.

Offers are made to students based on a points system or more commonly by grades. Typical offers recently have ranged from A*A*A for competitive courses such as Engineering at leading ranked universities such as Cambridge or Imperial College, London, to BBB studying less competitive courses such as Business Management at Kent.

Students’ applications are supported by the school through the UCAS coordinator. An informative assembly, organised during April for parents and students of year 12 will detail the application procedure and inform students of the ‘next steps’ they need to take. Students are encouraged to undertake their own, thorough research to prepare for their application, finding out which universities offer the best option for them as well as the entry requirements or additional testing that may be needed. The school offers support for some additional testing including sessions for IELTS, UKCAT and BMAT.

In September each year CIS hosts a university fair where many UK universities will send representatives to discuss course options, fees, visa requirements and scholarship opportunities. Parents and students of year 12 and 13 are invited to attend.

APPLYING TO U.S UNIVERSITIES

The US college and university environment may be described in one word, as 'flexible'. The system is flexible in the sense that students are not often tied to a particular field of study from the outset. They explore the options available and decide on the major only during the third year. However, if applying to a college of engineering, they need to make their decisions at the point of admission.

All student applications are made online. A majority of colleges and universities accept the Common Application, a form that the student fills out only once and sends to multiple schools. Generally, a secondary school report including the Principal's report & transcripts, and two teacher recommendations are required by most institutions as important supportive documents.

SAT, TOEFL and IELTS are three admission tests that the students are expected to complete before the application deadline. School provides help with these courses and the library has copies of several books on these admission tests.

Most university application deadlines are on the 1st of January, although there are a few exceptions with earlier deadlines.

Need-blind, need-based and merit scholarships are available, but are tied to a student's academic profile or an impressive extra-curricular activity.

Students are encouraged to do thorough research on the type of institution they may be interested in at the end of their 12th year at school. This may be based on their field of interest and cost of tuition.

APPLYING TO AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

Students who are interested in applying to Australian universities have to apply to each university separately as there is no common application procedure. Australian universities are based on the guaranteed entry procedure which entails a student being guaranteed a place in the university if they meet the specified criteria for the course, provided that the university has a place for them. Consequently, students are encouraged to apply as soon as they receive their A2 results even though the deadlines are December of the year they complete their A2 exams. Students have to complete the IELTS exam to fulfill their English requirement and if they wish to study direct-entry medicine, the ISAT exam needs to be completed.

Students are encouraged to do their own research about the universities they wish to apply to. They can choose to apply online or through the school (application fees are waived). Students are supported throughout the application process by the Australian Universities Coordinator.

APPLYING TO OTHER UNIVERSITIES

CIS is happy to support students applying to universities anywhere in the world. Students are welcome to discuss applications with their Head of Year, Class Teacher or Subject Teachers.

Andrew Biggins – B Sc Hons (Geography), PGCE (Liverpool Hope University)
Head of Sixth Form

PASTORAL GUIDANCE (I)

The Sixth Form is a critical period of transition between school and university. During this time, students face a number of challenges, particularly making the academic adjustment from O-Level/IGCSE to A Level, taking more responsibility for their own academic progress and becoming more independent learners. These changes may also coincide with personal problems and social pressures, which we do not want to distract students from achieving their potential. Therefore, we take pastoral care very seriously to ensure that students can make the most of their abilities.

Our Sixth Form team works hard to support students in all areas of their school life. We have a tutorial system in the Sixth Form. Each year group is divided into six form classes, which means that every student is a member of a form for their two year A Level career. Students meet with their form tutor on a daily basis for registration and their tutor is the person who is responsible for monitoring their well-being and performance. In addition, we have two Sixth Form Heads of Year who take overall responsibility for the pastoral welfare of Year 12 and Year 13 respectively. They are led by the Head of Sixth Form.

Academic tracking is vital to ensure that students are supported in their pursuit of academic excellence. Within the first few weeks of term in September, subject teachers grade every student on their progress and performance. Tutors and students discuss these reports in individual meetings and set targets for continued progress. These targets are further reviewed and amended after the mid-term reports and unit tests each term. Any student who is falling below expectation or struggling in their subject choices is also picked up by the Head of Year and further discussions are scheduled to provide support and advice. The Head of Year liaises closely between tutors and subject teachers to ensure that students receive the support and encouragement required.

We also recognise the importance of regular feedback and communication with parents. This is achieved in a number of ways: we have both Year 12 and Year 13 Parents' Evenings each term, regular academic reporting, telephone calls and personal meetings where necessary.

Full attendance in all lessons, registration, and assembly is expected and has never been more important than in the Sixth Form. Attendance records will be used in application forms and references for future employers, Higher Education institutions, Universities and so-on. Therefore, students must ensure that they register with their tutor by 7.30 on a daily basis and are punctual to all classes during the school day. Students who are frequently late to registration receive detentions on a Wednesday afternoon and poor punctuality or attendance to class results in students being placed on a monitoring report which is checked by the tutor and parents on a daily basis.

Commendations are awarded to students for academic achievements throughout the Sixth Form and these provide an opportunity to celebrate success in the weekly assemblies conducted by the Principal. The Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year also conduct assemblies to address pressing issues, reinforce expectations and to offer guidance to students, particularly with regard to attendance and punctuality.

Academic excellence demands active participation in lessons and all teachers expect exemplary behaviour from students. To achieve this CIS employs a negative mark policy as a deterrent to poor behavior. Any Sixth Form student who receives 5 negative marks is immediately placed on report for one week, allowing their tutor to monitor their behavior in class. After 10 negative marks, the student is again placed on report, this time with their Head of Year and after 15 negative marks they will have to show their report to the Head of Sixth Form on a daily basis. Each of these reports also requires a parent's signature daily, ensuring that parents are aware of their child's progress.

We value our Sixth Formers as individuals and as leaders of our school community. Our pastoral provision aims to ensure that their transition from school to university is a happy and successful one.

Sarah Phillips – BA (University of Warwick), PGCE (University of Bath)
Head of Year 12

ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL SUPPORT (II)

Academic support

Each subject in the Sixth Form has seven timetabled periods of 50 minutes. The school aims to keep Sixth Form class sizes small – 16 being the maximum. Regular assessments of students' abilities and performance in the subject are made through class work and tests. In the first half term an internal assessment record is made to assess if the student has the aptitude for the subject and if they are making progress in it. This early evaluation in Year 12 is invaluable both for the student and the teacher and aids in assessing whether the student has made the right choice in the selection of subjects. At this stage it is still possible to change subjects.

Parents are kept informed of student progress through regular reports. Two reports are sent to parents in the first term and one each in the second and third terms. Unit tests for all subjects are held in the first and second terms. Some subjects like Mathematics have an extra Unit Test in the third term. Reports, recording students' performance at these tests, are sent to Parents. Parents Afternoons are held in the first and second terms after these unit tests. At these sessions parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's performance in each subject with the subject teacher.

Besides the face to face sessions, teachers are quite willing to give extra support to those who need it either before school starts or in the afternoons after school. It is quite a common sight to see groups of students sitting in the courtyard outside the staffroom getting some extra help from a teacher. Quite a few revisions classes are held after school just before the exams. If you do need help with catching up on work do talk to your teacher.

External Examinations are held usually from early May to the middle of June for Year 12 students which means that work must begin in earnest from the start of the first term.

Pastoral support

In addition to the Academic support available there is a Pastoral support system in place. The first point of contact for a student facing any difficulties or concerns is the class teacher or form teacher. The student will come into contact with their form teacher every day at registration and he/she would naturally be the teacher they know best, particularly for a student new to the school. If the issue cannot be resolved by the form teacher the student and/ the form teacher can then take the matter to the Head of Year. Each grade has a Head of Year who oversees the group of students in that entire grade. Pastoral concerns will be taken from the Head of Year to the Head of Secondary and finally to the Principal. All concerns/issues will be kept with the highest degree of confidentiality. Parents will be kept informed of any concerns.

Form teachers and Heads of Year also have a role in monitoring student punctuality and attendance, and keep a detailed record of late arrivals and absences. Three or more days late will get you a late detention. Irregular attendance can cause you to fall behind in your studies. Form teachers will also check to see if you are wearing the appropriate uniform. It is thus important for new students to settle in quickly and ensure they follow the school rules.

Dr. Damaris Wikramanayake –
Head of Secondary

BA Hons Classics (Peradeniya), Masters Degree in Educational
Administration (Michigan State University, USA), Doctor of Philosophy in
Education (University of Sydney)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SOCIETIES

There are around 20 different clubs and societies in the secondary section and students are strongly encouraged to join these societies as it can help develop interests and build new skills. Participating in these extra-curricular activities can also help develop leadership skills, build team spirit and broaden one's outlook on life. Every society is supervised by a member of staff and has a student President and student Secretary who are appointed annually. There are a variety of societies to choose from, from Animal Welfare to Art, Debating to Drumming, Drama, Social Service, the Eureka Club – to name just a few.

The Drama Club consists of Students from Year 7 to Year 13. Two major productions are held each year; one for the senior students and one for the intermediate students (Year 7 to 10). This year's senior production (2015) was Shakespeare in Love, a romantic comedy on the creation of the greatest love story ever told. The lower secondary section performance is Skellig and will go on the boards on 12th of February 2016.

If you like music and singing you might want to join the choir and/or the orchestra that feature in special school events. A Musical Evening is organized in the second term and showcases both individual and group items. Our dancers and drummers from the Cultural and Drumming societies participate in assemblies and special school events, like the school anniversary and Independence Day celebrations.

The Social Service society is a popular society and has been very active in supporting surgery for infants with a cleft palate, in supplying medicine for patients at the Cancer hospital, in visiting an elders' home, not only taking food and dry rations but entertaining the inmates as well. The students are also geared to respond quickly to natural disasters sending food and provisions to those affected by earth slips or floods.

The CIS MUN or Model United Nations is recognized as one of the most successful MUN societies in Sri Lanka, and has won the prestigious SLMUN Best School award for six years and COMUN Best School award in 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2015. At the COMUN last year the Society not only won the coveted Best School award but also the award for the Best Charity Project for its "Donate to Educate" stationery drive which collected over 12,600 items for the war affected schools in the Northern Province.

The Science Society organize regular Science Days. Students from the Environmental society participated in a beach cleaning and tree planting campaign in Galle in March this year. The society has also placed re-cycling bins in classrooms and at strategic locations around the school.

For the more serious minded there is Chess or Scrabble or even the Math Olympiad society.

Some of the benefits of being involved in extracurricular activities are that students learn about time management and long term commitments, while getting involved in diverse interests. Extracurricular activities allow a student to make a contribution in some way. It will also help you to make friends with students in other grades. Besides everything else it looks good on your University application.

A complete list of societies is listed below :-

- Animal Welfare
- Art
- Chess
- Choral
- Cultural
- Debating
- Drama
- Drumming
- Environmental
- Eureka
- General Knowledge
- Interact
- IT Society
- Literature
- Math Olympiad
- MUN
- Orchestra
- Science
- Social Service
- Scrabble

Dr. Damaris Wikramanayake –
Head of Secondary

BA Hons Classics (Peradeniya), Masters Degree in Educational Administration (Michigan State University, USA), Doctor of Philosophy in Education (University of Sydney)

CIS SPORTING PROGRAMME

Sports are an important feature of CIS life. The school provides a large range of sporting opportunities from recreational clubs to Inter-International School Tournaments.

Sports clubs include Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Fitness, Football, Netball, Rugby, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis.

Our sporting facilities on site include a 25m swimming pool, Basketball, Netball and Futsal courts. In addition we use excellent local sports facilities for PE lessons, practices and competitions. These include the MCA for Cricket, SSC for Badminton, Race course for Rugby and the Sugathadasa Stadium for athletics.

We have a highly trained and qualified team of PE teachers and sports coaches, all of which are committed to encouraging and developing students at all levels. In year 12 and 13 we have a sports enrichment programme, which involves a combination of physical conditioning and recreational sports.

Inter-house competitions are always very well supported and attended. We have Boys and Girls Inter-House Competitions in most sports. Inter-house highlights include the Athletics meet held at the Sugathadasa Stadium, Swimming meet held at our very own CIS pool and the extremely well attended annual Road Race.

The school also takes part in a number of Inter-International Schools and All Island tournaments CIS is usually very competitive. The under 19 boys and girls both made semi-finals of the Inter-International schools Basketball tournaments. Under 19 Boys and girls were both Inter-International Schools Tennis Champions.

CIS has a tradition of producing good swimmers. This year we won 16 Medals at the Inter-International Schools Swimming meet and we have had many students represent the national team.

Last year at the Inter-International Schools Athletics Championship we achieved 28 medals at the U20 age group including 9 gold medals. We also have practices, inter-house trials and Inter-house competitions which take place at the Sugathadasa stadium.

The CIS vs Wycherley Annual Cricket 'Big Match' encounter is the oldest International School Big Match in Sri Lanka, which stretches back over 20 years. This has been played at a number of cricket grounds including the Premadasa International Cricket Ground. The rivalry with Wycherley is intense and leads to very competitive and entertaining matches.

All students are actively encouraged to participate in sports at CIS as part of a wider balanced curriculum. Sports are not only essential for improving health and fitness but also for helping to develop communication, time management and leadership skills.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The Colombo International School is a confident and successful school with proven and well established systems.

It represents a supportive plural community where all are given the opportunity to develop their full potential.

The Principal and Head of Secondary are available to explain in more detail the fine opportunities available.

CIS is a centre of excellence in a country that values high quality education.

David Sanders - BSc, MEd (London), Cert. Ed. (Sheffield)
PRINCIPAL