

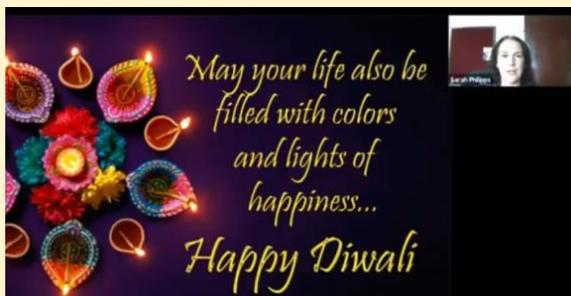


Senior Section Newsletter December 2021

Welcome to our second newsletter of this academic year: we hope you enjoy reading about our students' achievements and activities during the latter part of this term.

The last two months have involved some serious hard work and study for all our senior students, as they prepared for their End of Term Exams and Unit Tests, which were held during November. Years 10, 12 and 13 came into school to complete these, while the remaining year groups sat their exams online – we are so proud of all of them for the maturity and diligence they showed during this process, and the excellent results achieved are a testament to this!

We were thrilled to then welcome Years 12 and 13 back onto site, following a modified timetable, for two weeks. During this time they have been able to enjoy classroom based lessons and some Enrichment activities, designed to promote team building and creative thinking – all students were extremely enthusiastic and positive about the experience.



We have also been in celebratory mood once again: on 3rd November, we shared a beautiful Deepavali assembly online, including a message from the Principal; an informative history of this festival and a poem. We do hope everyone who was celebrating enjoyed a wonderful day together with family and loved ones.

Our students continue to impress us with their commitment and dedication to sports, despite the restrictions of the pandemic. Reshan Algama (9M) and Nirekh Tejwani (11I) both took part in the Royal Colombo Golf Club 100th Club Championship, with Reshan (pictured) reaching the quarter finals of the competition. Our Sports department also continue to work hard to keep our students enthusiastic about CIS



sports competitions, most notably our fiercely contested Inter-House Fitness Challenges, which was won by Green House – congratulations to them.

We are excited to announce we have a brand new society, Film Club, whose members are already working with passion and creativity to produce a video for our school song – keep a look out for the imminent release of this! Congratulations also go out to our dedicated Environmental Society: many of the society's students have been giving up their Sundays since the middle of August contributing to the removal of nurdles and beach clean ups following the X-Press Pearl disaster. They should be commended for the commitment they have shown to keeping this island a beautiful place for generations to come.



There is certainly no time to relax academically in the Sixth Form: the results from the October exam series will be released in January and we currently have a number of students preparing to sit exams in January also, while entries for the main exam series in May / June are soon to be finalised. We are doing everything we can to support our students through this pressured time.

Our Year 13s are also busy with their university applications and are working hard with their designated counselors to continue to submit these to some of the most prestigious universities around the world – it is wonderful to witness them laying the foundations for the next stages of their educational journey and see the admission offers piling in. We currently have six students who have confirmed Oxbridge interviews, and two medical interviews ongoing at other highly respected UK universities, while nineteen of our students who completed their IALs the previous academic year will be starting their university courses in February in Australia – we would like to wish all of them every success. We have also made a nomination for the much-coveted Lester B. Pearson scholarship at Toronto University for the forthcoming academic year.

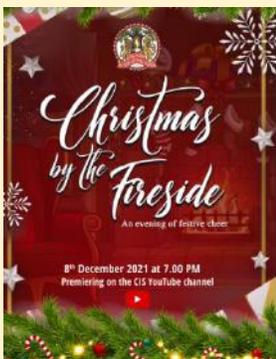


We were absolutely thrilled to hear that one of our esteemed alumni, Raveen Kariyawasam (2017 batch), has been awarded the Rhodes Scholarship. This highly competitive award is given only to the most exceptional post-graduate students internationally, allowing them to study at the Oxford University in the UK. We know Raveen will make the most of this fantastic opportunity and we are eagerly awaiting him returning to Sri Lanka to tell us all about his experiences, after he has completed his studies there.

At CIS, we are very proud of how we have collectively adapted to a dual approach to learning and we intend to retain many aspects of our online learning programme when we return to classroom based education. Our Google Classrooms allow students a direct point of contact with subject and pastoral staff and include a record of the lessons taught and resources shared throughout the year – definitely an invaluable revision resource that we will continue to maintain! A lot of work is currently also underway updating our much loved Electronic Research Library (ERL), which has an impressive new look; improved usability and a whole range of updated resources. Finally, we are excited to share our new Virtual Museum room: this state-of-the-art space allows students to visit sites of educational value and interest from all around the world and enjoy 3D tours and walk-throughs. The students in our IT Society have worked extremely hard to create a user-friendly, attractive interface and now the work is underway to finalise the resources for each subject area. Watch this space!



During the last few weeks of term, we conducted our final parents' afternoons online – it has been a real pleasure to have a chance to connect with our parents even in the absence of physical school and we would like to extend our thanks to all who joined us on Zoom for their continued support at this challenging time. We eagerly anticipate meeting face-to-face once more soon.



In place of our usual carol service, we ended term with a special online Christmas celebration, 'Christmas by the Fireside', which included contributions from students of all three sections of the school. We do hope you were able to watch and that you enjoyed this wonderful event.



We would like to wish all our students and parents a very restful holiday, a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas to those who are celebrating!