



Senior Section Newsletter

October 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter - we are so excited to share with you details of the wonderful start our Senior students have made to the new academic year!

We returned to school on a high, after the absolutely exceptional results achieved by our exam classes this summer. At IGCSE, 66% of grades were 8 or 9; our AS students achieved 60% A grades and at A2, an incredible 75.7% of grades were A* or A. We are really proud of all our students, who worked so hard to succeed despite the most challenging of circumstances.

This year, term commenced on Friday 27th August 2021 with an inspiring assembly from the Principal and the new Head of School, Praveen Jayamanna; Deputy Head of School, Devmini Wimalasena; and



Assistant Heads of School, Devishka Chandrasekera and Anushka De Silva, which you can watch here: <https://bit.ly/3mCHJck> . We also welcomed a fantastic group of students to the Prefects' Guild and met the seven new teachers, and two returnees, who are joining us this year. We have a wonderful new team of Sports Captains, led by

Ahamed Haniff and Ashaani Kirubanandan, and some fantastically able students stepping into the positions of President and Secretary for our Clubs and Societies. We wish everyone all the very best as they settle into their new roles.

Although we were all disappointed to be meeting once again on Zoom rather than in the classroom, the busy six weeks that have followed have been full of successes and positivity, reminding us that our sense of community remains strong, despite our physical separation.

We have also had much cause for celebration during the preceding month: last month, we commemorated CIS' 39th anniversary, with a beautiful assembly that included wonderful performances from the choir, the drumming society and some of our dancers. We also had an opportunity to hear moving speeches from our students, past and present, and see some amazing photos of our school in its infancy. If you have not yet had a chance to enjoy the assembly, you can watch it here: <https://bit.ly/3uQtZOW> .



In addition to this, we have also been celebrating each other with Children's Day on Friday 1st October and Teacher's Day on Tuesday 5th October. Our fantastic Prefects' Guild coordinated these events, with



the support of the Head of Sixth Form, Mr. Mahesh, arranging Kahoot Quizzes for our students and delivering beautiful gifts for all staff members. We all feel very spoilt! It felt more pertinent than ever to say



a big "thank you" to each other at this time: we are so grateful to our wonderful students, who approach their online learning with a positivity, diligence and enthusiasm that inspires us all, and I know that they too are very grateful to their teachers, who give them so much time and support, and work tirelessly for their benefit.

In addition to studying hard in their online lessons, our students are very busy taking part in virtual Clubs and Societies meetings and activities, including everything from Scrabble to Dancing; Choir to



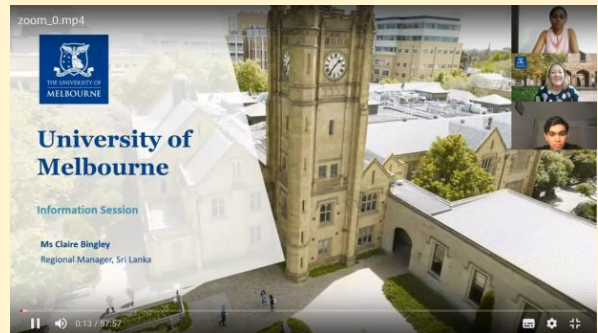
Animal Welfare. Particular congratulations are in order to our amazing debating team who have achieved an incredible three consecutive victories in their recent tournaments. We would also like to congratulate five of our students who were top 10 finalists in the Royal Institute Colombo Spring of Wisdom (SOW) Challenge 2021 for both individual and team projects, and the team from the General Knowledge Society

who were recently third runners up in the competition organised by Royal College History Club, which meant they were placed fourth of out of 150 schools island-wide. Our MUN Society are also currently busy preparing for the 2021 SLMUN Conference, which will be held during November – we wish all our delegates the very best of luck!

As we are sitting still in front of Zoom for much of the day currently, the Sports department are eager to get us moving and have set up a number of Google Classrooms targeted at different sports, with videos of skills that can be practised at home with limited space and resources. There are also four Inter-House competitions scheduled for the coming weeks, which we know will bring out our students' competitive side! (You can find links for all of the activities detailed above in the Principal's email, dated 30th September). We would also like to commend those students who continue to excel in their own sporting endeavors – we have been thrilled to note marked recent successes in a number of fields, including golf and rowing.



The year ahead is of course a particularly crucial time for our Sixth Form students, as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey and our experienced team of University Coordinators are currently working with them to ensure that they are guided every step of the way. We have specific coordinators for each region (UK / AUS, NZ and Malaysia / USA and Canada / Global), so all students get the targeted support and advice they need. We also have well-established links with higher education providers, so our students have been able to enjoy virtual visits, workshops and talks with a wide range of universities across the globe.



We have a busy month ahead, with a number of Parents' Afternoons, and Unit Tests and end of term exams preparation already under way. Currently a number of Year 12 and 13 students are also sitting external exams - we know they are studying hard and wish them every success.

Unfortunately the pandemic has meant that we have not been able to enjoy many of our usual school celebrations in recent months but we are eagerly looking forward to being able to host these once the situation in the country has stabilised. Currently, we are busy planning our Speech Day for the end of the school year, where we look forward to rewarding the incredible academic and sporting achievements of our fantastic students. Watch this space for more details of this ceremony and the forthcoming scholarship awards for our high achieving year 13 students, which we hope to announce very soon.

Despite the challenges of online learning, we hope that all our students have enjoyed the first six weeks of term and are as excited as we are about everything that lies ahead this school year!