



SENIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

*'If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it'* - Rudyard Kipling

Our Senior Section students have certainly abided by this precept, getting themselves involved in the many opportunities they are presented with whilst continuing to excel in their academic studies.



Traditionally, one of our main attractions in the first half of the second term, is the Senior School Art Exhibition. Themed 'Puzzle', the exhibition hosted by the Art Society in collaboration with the Department of Art was held on the 24th - 26th of January at the Senior Hall. A splendid array of paintings, pen works, wire sculptures, digital artworks, and multimedia pieces adorned the walls of the Senior Hall, showcasing the artistic genius of our students in the secondary section of the school.

The Independence Assembly was held on Friday the 2nd of February at the CIS Auditorium to commemorate the island's 76th year of independence from foreign rule. The packed audience was treated to a smorgasbord of informative speeches, poetry recitals, traditional dances and uplifting songs, reminding us of our rich history and cultural diversity.

On the sporting front, CIS continues to excel with stellar performances across a number of sports. On January 18th 2024, the CIS girls' Football team beat Gateway College Colombo 1-0 at the Racecourse Grounds, bringing home the Neville De Alwis-Ralph Alles Challenge trophy for the second consecutive year.





On Saturday, the 10th of February, the CIS Boys U18 Basketball team won the *Shepherdian Ballers' Bash* trophy beating the Goone Squad in the finals 14 - 6. Our girls' Water polo team were equally impressive as they won the *RCUAC Challenge Shield* beating Musaeus College Colombo in a thrilling encounter. Inter-house competitions in boys' Tennis, Rugby and Badminton were also held this term.

CIS has always been a home to exceptional athletes who compete at national and international level. Thus, it is with great pride that we celebrate the outstanding performances of Reshan Algama and Neoma Kahandawa who have consistently brought honour to CIS. In Golf, Reshan is ranked 557 in the world, currently holding the record of becoming the youngest ever Sri Lankan amateur. Buoyed by tumbling records every time he picks up his golf club, Reshan continues to train hard and set his sights on the *All India Amateur National Golf Championships* next.



Neoma Kahandawa of Year 10 was selected by the Ministry of Sport to represent Sri Lanka in the *BIMSTEC Youth Water Sports Meet 2024* which was held in New Delhi from 5-10 of February 2024. In her first ever appearance on the international swimming stage, Neoma successfully reached the finals of the 200m breaststroke and the 200m IM and placed 4th and 5th respectively.

We wish them both great success in their future.

Although it would seem that sport and performing arts have dominated proceedings, internal exams for IGCSE and A Levels are very much the focus this term. Our Year 11 students have started their mock examinations and A Level Unit tests will commence in March. Students have been prepared thoroughly for these exams and we believe that their results will give us a clear indication as to how they will perform in May / June Edexcel exams. We wish them all the best.

In keeping with the academic focus this term, parents' meetings for year 7 and 8 have already been concluded with year 9 to 13 parents' meetings to follow in the remainder of this academic term. We look forward to these meetings with parents which prove to be invaluable in terms of supporting our students in their academic development.



Many of our scholars have successfully transitioned to prestigious universities overseas including the UK, USA, Australia, Malaysia and many more. Ashwin Laksumanage won both the Penn World Scholarship (making him one amongst only 15 worldwide) and the Benjamin Franklin Scholarship to read Economics and Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, becoming the first Sri-Lankan student in 6 years to gain admission to this Ivy League university. Chanidu Ratnayake secured the prestige of entering the University of Oxford to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Our year 10 and year 12 Geographers went on their annual field trip earlier this term. Additionally, the Environmental Society as well as the History Department organized trips to Sinharaja and Galle respectively.

Auditions for the Senior Musical Evening were conducted recently and droves of students expectantly showcased their talents in the hope of earning their place in one of the most glamorous events of the school calendar. The Musical Evening will be held in the third term, allowing our young musicians plenty of time to polish their skills.



To say that it has been a busy first half of term is an understatement. We look forward to the second half which promises to be equally exciting.