## MRS. SHETA SAHA INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR

1. What accomplishment by MHS of the past year fills you with pride?

Mrs Saha: "The fact that our IB results were good. But I think the biggest accomplishment was having everyone together, being able to communicate in spite of being at home and working online. I think the solidarity and the togetherness we built up, both with my students and my colleagues, to me that's a big achievement."

2. What would the students be surprised to discover about you? How?

Mrs Saha: "I think I initially convey the impression of being stern and probably a little unapproachable, but once I teach them they discover that I actually enjoy the time with them, have a good laugh, and I love joking around. I'm fairly relaxed when I come into the classroom."

3. You are admired by several students for being so welcoming and supportive. How do you make those connections?

Mrs Saha: "I think I just love my students. I have always loved interacting with students and I think if you genuinely love something, it shows. So, there is no pretense with me.



4. If you could pass a nugget of wisdom to your students, what would it be?

Mrs Saha: "Be yourself. What I always say to every batch of students in some way is that if you can look at yourself in the mirror and not hide away from it, that's when you're truly a good person, you're truly somebody worth knowing. It is the hardest to face yourself."

- 5. What do you feel has been the most challenging part of the year? Mrs Saha: "I think what I said earlier, the keeping together of everyone, the building groups. Every group, there was a little bit of work that went into it because the pandemic initially had everyone very frightened, as it was so new, and a new kind of learning had to be introduced. But today what I can do is look back at every level, whether with my colleagues or my students, and see how we were able to bridge that and still have fun"
- 6. To what extent, does technology make teaching simpler or more difficult?

Mrs Saha: "I think technology, and must always be, a tool. I don't think it ever replaces the teacher. In fact, if the pandemic taught me anything, that's what it's taught me. I don't think my lessons online were particularly bad or different from what I taught physically, but watching a student smile, or look around, or be distracted, or asking a question there is a huge difference, and I know, I don't know if my students can tell, but I'm just a different person now that I'm back in the classroom, talking to them, laughing with them. I'm just so glad to be back"



- 7. What is something new you tried in the classroom this year? How was it devised? Mrs Saha: "The 'Mrs Brown' activity for Theory of Knowledge with the IBDP-1 cohort! I've done it again after almost three or four years because everyone was online, and it couldn't be done online because we needed a group interaction. And it was so much fun!"
- 8. Is there any such incident that you could describe that made you look at things a different way?

Mrs Saha: "I think the pandemic itself. It made me value human connections, and it made me value sharing. I believe I've always been a caring person, but it's just taught me to care more because for me, my biggest thing was, how much more can I reach out to my students. I mean, it's gone to the point where it's gone beyond email, it's now on Whatsapp. I think this is a different level of caring, I think that's been the biggest change."

9. What advice would you give to a student so that they could remain consistent and punctual with their work? Mrs Saha: "What I always say is, work everyday. The minute you get into the habit of working everyday, everything falls into place. Because then you don't fall behind on schedule, you don't worry about missing deadlines, you're just very comfortable with yourself."

10. MHS has now completed 70 years. What significance does this hold for you?

Mrs Saha: "I have been in this school for only 5 years, but I can see how this school has evolved, I can see what makes it a wonderful school. The school's values and my values are very similar, especially in one respect, that being that you may be your parents' child but you are also ours. That feeling is something I truly believe in. The other thing is, although I do not live by the words, in a different way they matter to me - 'Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram'. Being able to put those values across to you is very important to me. That is something that resonates with me. So, personally the 70th year does not excite me very much, because I have a very short history with the school, but I can see how far the school has come and why people are so proud of this school, and why is it that people say "I must get my child into MHS!". I can see that for myself."