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LOTUSBUDS

2022-2023

THE YEAR THAT WAS



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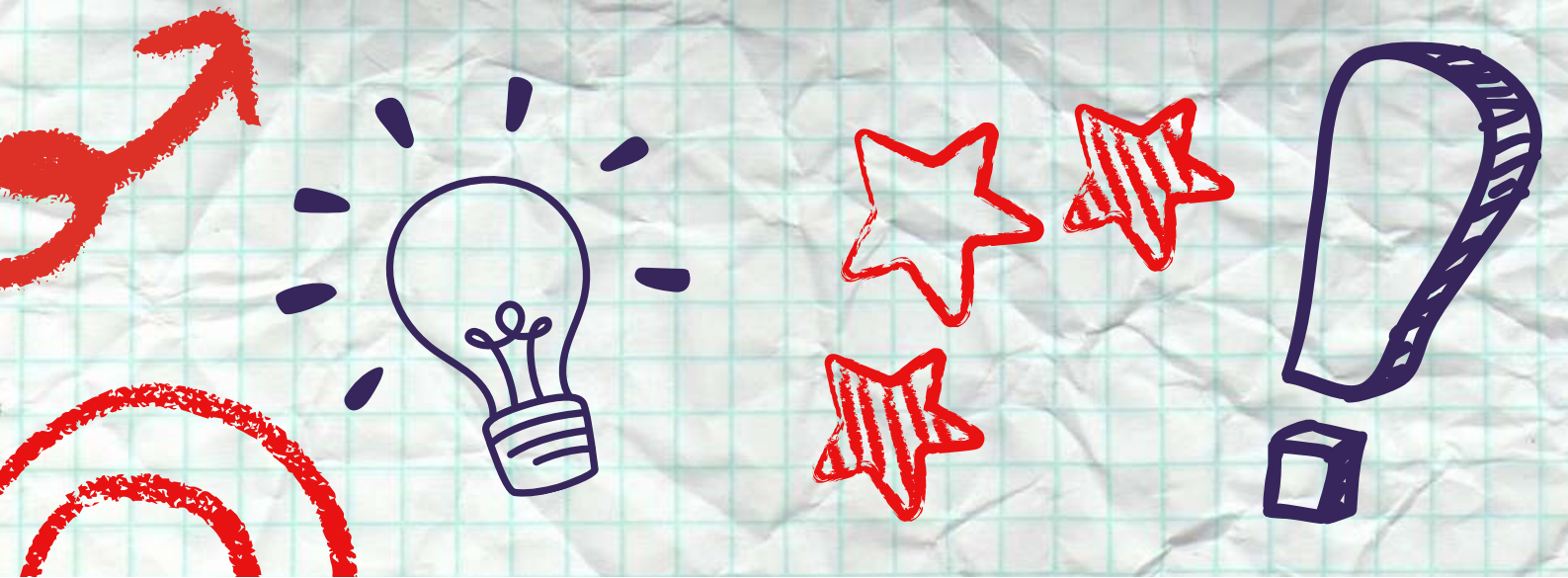


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Modern High School for Girls
E-Lotus Buds
2022-2023



तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय



The Late Mrs. Rukmani Birla

Our Founder



Mrs. Nirmala Birla

Our Chairperson



The Late Mrs. Ganga Somany

Our Founder Member of the Managing Committee



The Late Mrs. V. Clarke

Our Founder Principal



Mrs. I. L. Wilson-deRoze
Our Former Principal

CONVERSATION iN

WITH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS

LOTUS BUDS

with our Director Ms. Devi Kar



IN CONVERSATION

Constant change and innovation is an indispensable part of today's world. While the students adapted themselves to the pandemic, is there any particular change that you would like to have seen this year, in the school or in the students? Are there any changes that you would like to see in the future?

There is of course enormous scope for change and I do not know where to begin and where to end. There is one

thing that I have always wished for and that is self-discipline. What happens with students is that they need constant supervision. It is not only the need for lowering or modulating voices indoors (instead of the loud and raucous voices we hear when we approach a classroom) but other things too which should happen without any 'policing' by teachers. I dream of a time when we can have examinations without invigilation. Our theme for next year will be 'Towards Self Discipline'. I have used the word 'towards' because I know that it cannot be achieved completely.

K-Now has been a part of this school for almost three years. Was there anything in particular that you had hoped it would achieve amongst the students?

with our Director Ms. Devi Kar

Is there any accomplishment of theirs that you are particularly proud of?

K-Now or Know stands for 'Kolkata Now'. I want students to know more about the city they live in. It is surprising, but many students do not know much about their city.

I think we all love the city, in our own way, but it is more because of the presence of family and friends, and the people around us. But this is not enough. The city has its own character and its own unique features and students should know about these. The more you know about the city, the more you fall in love with it.

What I am proud of is that the club has been sustained over the years. I know for some it is not exciting because there is no competition involved, there are no prizes and no fests. Sometimes it seems that students do all this laborious research on their own and it feels 'thankless' because nobody sees it. Yet, how beautifully they do the work. I am proud that there are some students who take a genuine interest in certain fields and don't work just for applause and public appreciation.

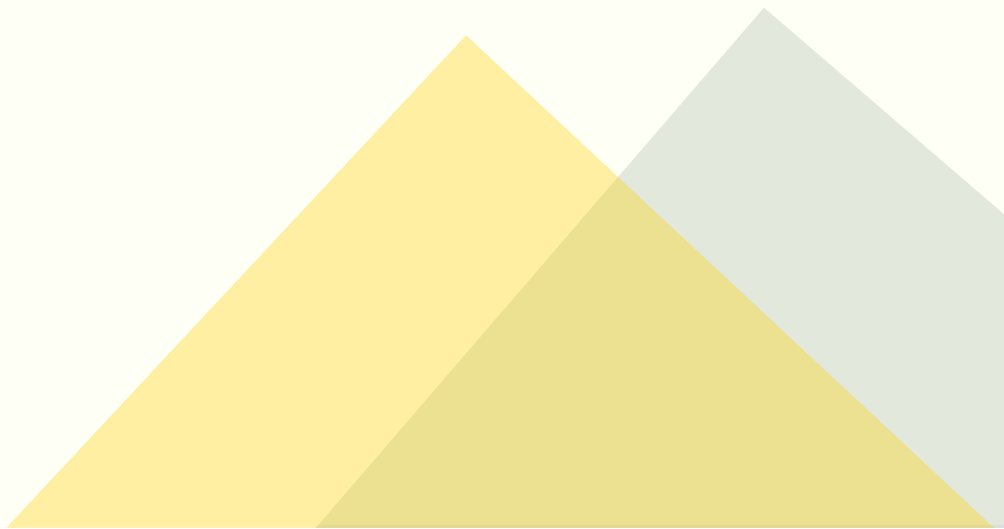
Ma'am, you have been associated with Modern High School for Girls in various capacities for many years.

Is there a specific reason that you chose to stay with this institution for so long? Has this experience changed the way that you perceive teaching and education?

with our Director Ms. Devi Kar

You see, I grew to love the school. It happens with students too, if you have been in a place and you have been happy in the place, you become attached to it. Apart from that I have had unlimited freedom to do the things that I wished to do for the school but of course I needed my team's advice and collaboration. Together, we have experimented, and innovated to our heart's content. This is what I really enjoyed and loved and I know it is very rare. The values that we hold dear are very precious, and we still stick to these age-old values.

I have learnt, not only from experience in my workplace, but from life itself. Life teaches you all the time. I travel quite a bit and I read a lot, so from every experience, from other schools too, indeed from everywhere, I keep learning. Yes of course, I have changed my views. Sometimes, I feel I have changed my views radically. I feel I have shifted my focus on what the goals of education should be. So, as I grew older, my ideas and views changed. My interactions with readers, thinkers and scholars have all impacted my thinking. One example I can give you is my changed views about reward and punishment – but that story is for another day.



with our Principal Ms. Damayanti Mukherjee



IN CONVERSATION

The school theme for this year was ‘learning to reflect’. As you reflect on the past academic year, what are the changes that stand out in stark contrast to the constraints of virtual schooling?

The greatest contrast is the most obvious-- human interactions in a physical social setting as opposed to a gallery view of blank screens. However, coming back and restarting in a once-familiar mode has not been easy. In the

initial weeks , both students and teachers found it difficult to grapple with the discipline of a timetabled day as well as travel exhaustion. However, once the activities – both intra and interschool school and the before-after school- started, there was a return of the sense of community. Assimilation of “ new admissions’ has been better achieved in the in-campus mode.

As you have mentioned before, you often tend to enjoy your role as a teacher more than your role as a principal. How do the identities of educator and administrator interweave themselves into your daily responsibilities at the school?

with our Principal
Ms. Damayanti
Mukherjee

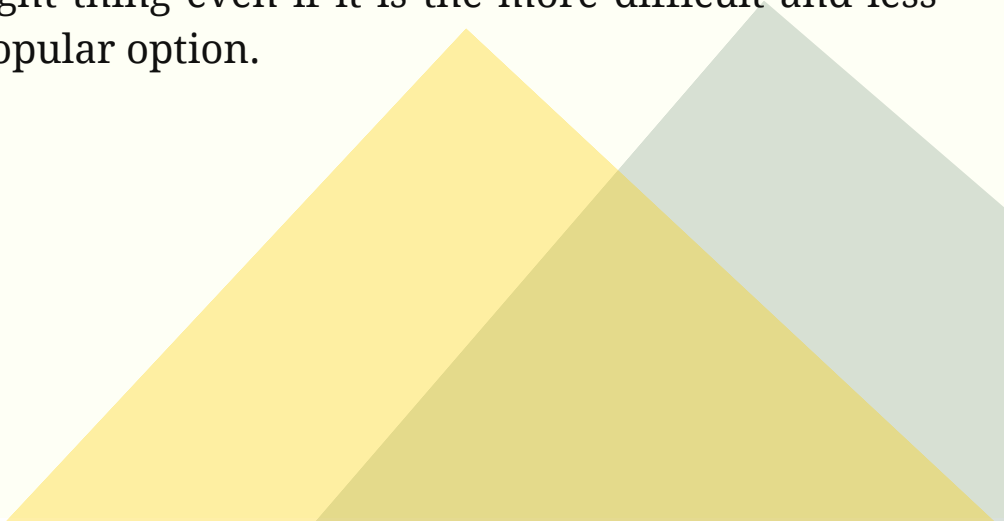
Personally , wearing multiple hats- sometimes one at a time , othertimes in layers -has mostly been seamless . I do find myself thinking of how to ensure understanding of authorial intent in a particular play while dealing with a particularly difficult parent! Still, I admit that while in class, I tend to block out all the duties / paperwork that await in my office downstairs.

What is the vision that you have for MHS now that we have left the pandemic years behind and life has resumed as usual?

We do need to think about inclusion in an avowed manner and work diligently, creatively and empathetically to make the environment of the school more accepting without compromising on discipline and expectation of excellence.

In all the years that you have been the Principal of MHS, the winds of change have affected the school in various ways. What in your opinion however, is the one thing about MHS that has remained constant?

Ethics is at the core of MHS in all of its policies and practices. Our moral compass is very steady and that makes us fearless about choosing to do the right thing even if it is the more difficult and less popular option.



IN CONVERSATION

Change is the only constant in our lives and the school itself has changed over the years. Is there something you wish that never changes about the school?

Yes, its commitment to excellence and at the same time focus on all round development of each student.



with our Vice Principal
Ms. Indrani Roy

Ma'am you are an English teacher, our Vice Principal and you have been the Middle School Coordinator. How have these responsibilities given you a better understanding of the students?

As a teacher I learn about the interests of my students, what concerns them, the new trends in books, films, music which appeals to them etc. As a Middle School Coordinator I interacted with greater number of students in the middle school, became better acquainted with the issues of adolescence. Now as Vice Principal I have the opportunity to observe more holistically the growth and development of the students, how some have blossomed, how a few have grown more inhibited. So I think all my different roles have enriched my understanding of the students.

with our Vice Principal Ms. Indrani Roy

This year MHS had its very own inter-school fest. Is there any experience from the fest that left an impression on you?

Not really, because we have had a number of inter-school fests earlier too. What was new was the inclusion of the DJ. It was good to see the students enjoying themselves but wished they had behaved a little more responsibly!

MHS now has some unique school societies like K-NOW and MHSPSG. What are your thoughts on such developments?

MHS always looks for new and interesting areas to explore. K-Now has been part of MHS for quite some time. MHSPSG is a more recent one. I think and hope that it will be able to reach out to many students and help them deal with the challenges (both in school and at home) they face daily.

Ma'am is there any book or show (TV, OTT, LIVE) which has impacted you?

Can't really speak of one book or show that has impacted me because I have enjoyed reading and watching a number of them. Still would like to mention Social Dilemma which left me thinking about social engineering and its impact on us.

This year the school has achieved a number of milestones. With that being said, what do you want the future of MHS to look like?

MHS should be a happy place for students, and we will not have to impose too many rules as the student body will be responsible and self-disciplined!

with our Middle School
Coordinator

Ms. Ritika Kunda



IN CONVERSATION

In your opinion, what sets MHS apart from other institutions?

The values and skills instilled in the students by this institution stay with them beyond their school years. The importance of discipline, the gift that is given here, is carried with them even after school, and it helps them establish themselves as successful, well-rounded individuals in life.

As a part of the administrative board of MHS, what is your vision for 2023 regarding the future of our school?

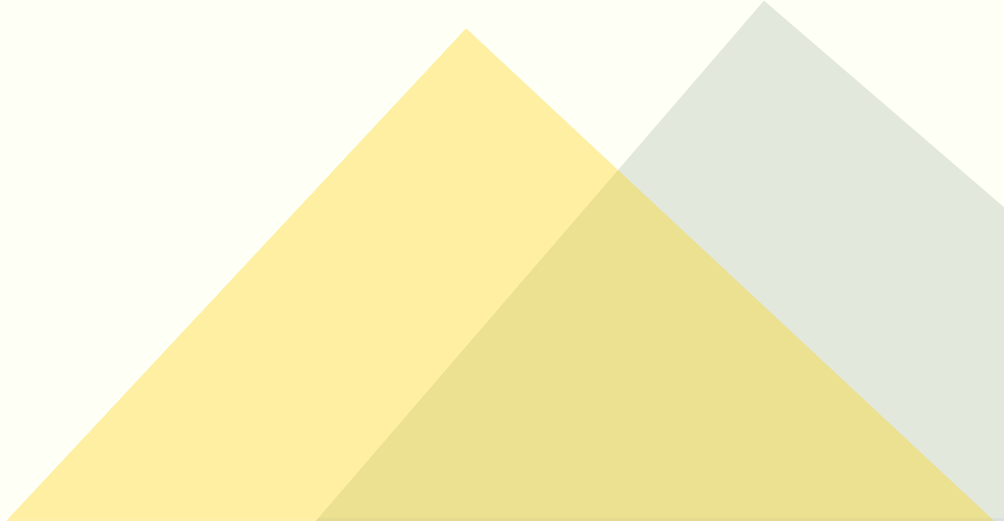
This year, we hope to provide the students with more hands-on experiences in various fields. From gardening to stargazing, the students may be taken on educational excursions that bring them closer to the natural world. Trips with the local people acting as guides in rural areas will give them a chance to explore and learn about a world different from theirs, as it is necessary for them to experience life to realize what awaits them after school.

MHS has always provided exposure to its students through lectures, inter school fests, educational trips and more. How do you aim to broaden the middle school students' field of knowledge as well as expose them to various experiences this year?

with our Middle School
Coordinator

Ms. Ritika Kunda

The students will gain exposure through vocational training - programmes that link their classrooms to the outer world. By interacting with artisans, resource persons and even parents who volunteer to provide information about their area of expertise and about their professions, , they will become aware of the practicalities of the various fields of work and job opportunities that they can pursue after school. This will help them develop clear goals and ideas about the future as well as inform them on ways to achieve said goals.



with our Secondary School

Coordinator

Ms. Chitralekha De Bakshi



IN CONVERSATION

Q1: Coming back to school after facing two years of online school is a daunting challenge, how well do you think students have dealt with it?

Ans: I think they have initially been very shak yand they were scared, but we were also scared. So it was daunting, particularly for the 9s because they last came to school when they were in Class 6 going up to Class 7, it took them about a year to settle down

Q2: The batch of class 10 is taking their first public examination in the standard format after two years of virtual schooling, and have also stepped into the role of prefect council, taking on student governance post-pandemic. Do you think they have been able to handle these challenging tasks responsibly?

Ans: You know, children are very resilient and they are extremely capable. We had to explain their responsibility. We had to actually explain how to vote – what are the qualities you need in a leader: it's just not your friend, we explained the responsibility, that the position should go to somebody who is very just – all that was told, and the children voted very very intelligently, and we had a very good batch of prefects. We went for our batch trip and they were very good, even in their daily duties.

with our Secondary School
Coordinator
Ms. Chitralkleha De Bakshi

Q3: Class 9 spent two of their formative years in middle school virtually, and have now come back to school as seniors. Have they been able to adjust to this change?

Ans: Now, yes. In January, February, I can say yes. However in November, December they were fumbling, the teachers were fumbling. Not only learning gaps, there were behavioral gaps which we had to address and are still addressing, but yes, they coped very well.

Q4: Secondary School has had the opportunity to participate in many inter-school fests this year. Do you think these experiences outside the classroom are as important a part of education as the teachings imparted in class?

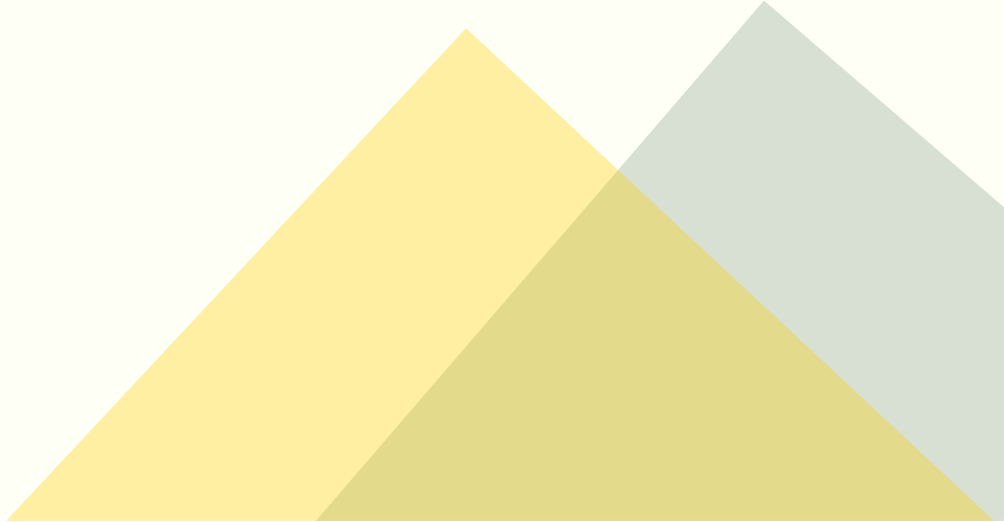
Ans: Absolutely. We do believe in wholesome education, and a holistic approach, your EQ and IQ are equally important. To be a team-player, to be part of a team and work together, putting the team in front is like a football match. That is why Messi is Messi, even if he could not himself score the goal his passes were there to help others, and I think that the children learnt when they came back to school.

Q5: The theme for this year was 'learning to reflect' so when you reflect on the year 2022-23, what are some moments that stand out?

Ans: For the students, to come back and meet their friends, to come out of those four walls of their

with our Secondary School
Coordinator
Ms. Chitralkha De Bakshi

homes, coming back to physical and not virtual life – that was very important. And for me, I understood how important coming back to work was. Dealing with my colleagues, my students, dealing with all the initial problems. I mean, we were scared of each other when we first came back, to sit down and talk without wearing masks, social distancing – but that had to be broken. So if I'm reflecting: even I grew. Of course technology helped, we've gone back to a hybrid mode, not only physical. We've learnt a lot of new things and we appreciate that we have to change. And appreciate that we have to learn.



with our Senior School Coordinator Ms. Swati Das



IN CONVERSATION

Have you observed any distinctly shifting trends, after resuming offline classes post the pandemic?

Some shifting trends were evident during the commencement of the academic year. Students were reluctant to forego their comfort zones and attend offline classes. Punctuality was wavering. Furthermore, there was increasing

absenteeism. Students took some time to readjust themselves. Hence, paying undivided attention in class was a task for them- learning gaps were quite vivid.

To what extent has the theme of ‘Reflection’ been a guiding tool in readjusting to “normalcy”?

Self-reflection has been essential to blend into the re-established patterns of normalcy. Over-dependence on gadgets and the internet is a challenge to students, which can be overcome by reflection, self-induced independence in thought, and critical analysis.

Do you think students have effectively re-established the school spirit, or might it be lacking in some aspects?

with our Senior School Coordinator Ms. Swati Das

School spirit is gradually re-emerging. However, it is lacking in some areas; for instance, wishing a teacher as she enters class or in the corridors, and maintaining decorum. Taking initiative is a forte of our students, which is unfortunately wavering.

Do you have any major takeaways from the last two years? If so, how do you think these would assist students during the present?

Yes. Some noteworthy takeaways are Google Classroom, Google Forms, and plagiarism detectors, among other features. These facilitate easy assimilation of any material shared online, allow effective research and test academic integrity. The pandemic also unleashed creativity, as syllabus-oriented topics could be researched and explored through these modes. These did maintain a level of interest regarding the subject matter.

Do you have any advice for the students? It means everything to us!

As was observed by one and all, self-sufficiency aided by time- management is the key to development. Academic and personal constraints should not thwart one's pursuit of one's goal. Moreover, try to face challenges and use them to grow. Ultimately, being a good human- makes one a worthy possession of our wonderful world.

with our Co-curricular
Coordinator
Ms. Swapna Kar



IN CONVERSATION

How do you feel about the number and variety of the clubs and special classes offered at our school?

We have almost twenty-six or twenty-seven clubs. We try to cover up everything: dance, music, dramatics, writing skills. So, it is more of an extension of our academics and hence, I don't think

we need much, though sometimes I feel that if we have a separate club where we develop more of internet use and of learning more about computers, AI, etc. It will help to have such a club, we would have a complete range. Regarding special classes, last year we started two more new classes- one is Martial Art and the other, Zumba along with Gymnastics for the juniors. So, I think we are doing a good job as far as the numbers are concerned.

Many events were held online during the pandemic years. Do you think the virtual world provides more opportunities for co-curricular activities than physical?

These two years of pandemic have taught us a lot of things. However, the virtual world is growing and it is a reality but at the same time

with our Co-curricular
Coordinator
Ms. Swapna Kar

we have to believe that to be in school with other children is important because that develops certain skills which probably we cannot have in the virtual world. The whole world cannot be turned into a virtual stage ever. The presence in watching a theater and watching dramas through a virtual medium is completely different. The emotions that we feel when you're sitting in an auditorium and watching, maybe a concert, and watching an online concert is a huge difference. Virtual platforms were kind of a way to get connected with other schools and keep the students within our schools involved in co-curriculars. I feel, somehow we need to focus more on the on-stage events in the physical presence of children.

Do you think the quality and opportunities for extracurricular activities have suffered due to the pandemic?

We have noticed some things - children have had literally no physical activity and many of the co-curriculars involve physical stamina. At the same time, the commitment has also decreased. When we are putting up an on-stage event, or a co-curricular activity that we do on a regular basis, there are certain things at work here: one is discipline and the other is time management. These two things have suffered. Seeing that, the quality of on-stage things we do is coming down. The children have been back in school for a year already but I think we will reach the levels where we were in the years to come.

with our Co-curricular
Coordinator
Ms. Swapna Kar

Co-curricular activities are becoming a prominent part of one's college CVs - do you think that is a major reason why many high school students are participating in them nowadays?

Co-curricular is becoming predominantly an important part of college applications, so of course, I can see a lot of children coming out to participate who were not very interested in co-curricular before or focused more on their academics - those children are also coming out now. However, I believe that if you have to have an all-round development, you have to take part in co-curricular activities. The purpose should not be adding on to the CV but to be learning, participating and giving time to that also. So, it's a holistic learning. CV is important but at the same time, to be actually interested besides that factor is necessary.

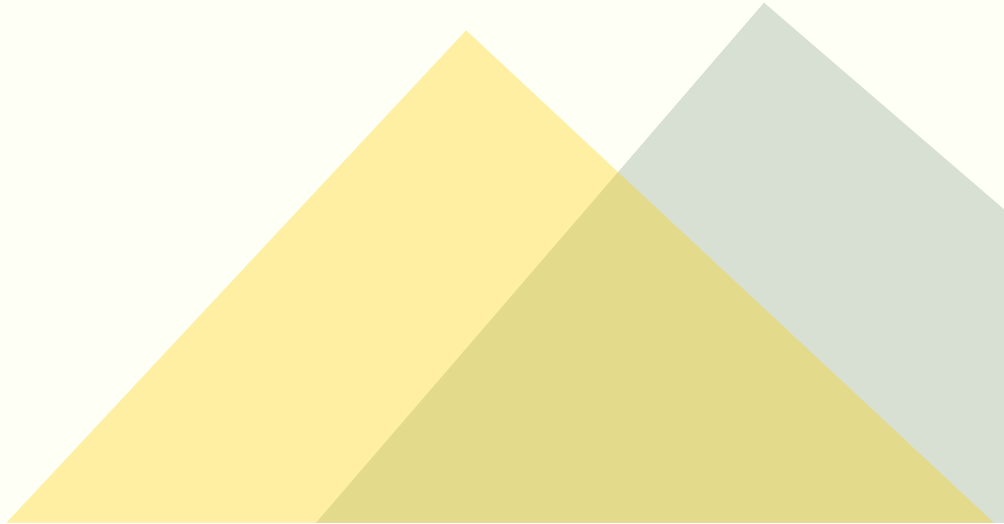
Do you think partaking in co-curricular should become a compulsory part of the school Curriculum?

Yes. It should be compulsory and part of the curriculum and it is in our school. You have to take part in clubs and all kinds of events. We try to do our best and I absolutely believe that it should not be optional, but compulsory.

How can those of our generation be encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities more often?

with our Co-curricular
Coordinator
Ms. Swapna Kar

There are a number of things that can be done, and we are doing. We have our clubs, where we find the talents and get the children interested. So, a more proactive plan to get the children interested in various activities other than academics - making them understand that participating in co-curriculars does not mean compromising your academics. It is learning here and learning there. A proper structured presence of children in all events that we have is required - suppose a group is present in one, for the next event there should be a different group of children. The mindset that I have to participate and learn something new is necessary to promote this participation and as long as we say it's compulsory, the probability of it becomes better.



CONVERSATION

PASTORAL CARE

LOTUS BUDS

IN CONVERSATION

In these highly competitive times, what do you think are some of the biggest challenges a student faces about their careers and as a career counselor how do you plan to help them through it?

I think the biggest challenge these days is the lack of knowledge about internships, and since more focus is put into academics, there is a

sheer lack of practical knowledge and lack of practical work experience. Furthermore, the companies and employers as well as the universities look for practical experience in students but with the present kind of education system focus is solely on book-based knowledge and academic excellence.

To overcome this challenge, I think providing knowledge about internship to students and how to apply for them is important and learning should include a healthy balance between theoretical as well as practical knowledge.

You joined Modern High School for Girls in 2021. Is there anything that you feel the school offers to their students that most other schools don't?

Absolutely! This school offers a lot of things which



with our Career Counsellor
Ms. Pratyusha Ghose

with our Career Counsellor Ms. Pratyusha Ghose

others may not. First of all the concept of a career counsellor is not known to many schools. Diverse club activities and more opportunities to learn and explore various careers is also something unique to this school along with a reach to universities both abroad and domestic.

What behavioural changes have you noticed in students post the pandemic? How are you dealing with it?

I feel the pandemic has taken quite a toll on all of us and especially on the students with the whole education business occurring from home. As a result, students have become more relaxed, lethargic and are taking things for granted- but it's not just students, change in attitude is common in this growing period of adolescence and can even be seen among adults. Problem arises when this change in attitude causes students to be inactive, develop a lack of vigilance and basic mannerisms. There are certain qualities that one learns only in the school environment and with people being habituated to study from the comfort of their homes, they've seem to forget the school decorum. This out of touch from institutions has also lead to lack of already practiced habits such as wishing the teachers among others. The best way to deal with it I believe is to bring these habits into practice again and as a teacher, remind them about the school etiquette to be followed.

We know that MHS puts a lot of focus on career building with career counselling sessions, boards outside the library dedicated to careers abroad. To what extent do you think this makes a positive impact on students? And do you think it's something other institutes should also put more focus on?

with our Career Counsellor Ms. Pratyusha Ghose

Definitely. The main thing these initiatives do is connect students with the world outside, give them a reality check, and prepare them for the outside world. Additionally, since it is not possible to personally reach out to every individual and tend to their query, the career boards help them get information without much effort. The visual boards definitely grab students' attention and encourage them to research more. These initiatives provides a neutral exposure to students irrespective of their family background or other peoples' opinions and thus make a huge positive impact on students. I believe such initiatives should also be considered and implemented by other schools.

More and more people today attempt for contemporary or non-academic related careers. Do you think this phenomenon is likely to replace traditional careers in the future?

Never. In a society like India which is deep-rooted in culture and traditions, academic career can never run out of its popularity. Even subconsciously we tend to follow the traditional path, no matter how much one tries to explore one always uses the traditional path as a backup. While some outright have academic careers as their first choice, some also have it as their second choice. Hence, even in the age of exploration, traditional careers never fail to play an important role in a person's life. The thing about traditional career paths is that they provide security and stability which most of the contemporary careers are yet to provide. Therefore such careers will never be replaced as people will always want security. For example sometimes film

with our Career Counsellor Ms. Pratyusha Ghose

producers/actors also have a fallback option be it in the form of a business or anything else. Thus, traditional career routes have been laid out to us by our previous generations and it is unlikely for us to get rid of them.

Today, a lot of people focus on upskilling themselves for better career options. What are some fundamental skills one should have for a career growth?

One of the most fundamental knowledge one should have is of Computer and technology. AI is taking off these days therefore being comfortable with technology is a must. Looking at the rate of fast growing technology, one should constantly upskill themselves in the latest developments.

In the last couple of years, technology did leave a mark in our lives having made it almost impossible to get anything done without it. Another thing students should be focused on apart from academics is Personality Development skills, including public speaking, self-representation, SUPW and essential life skills. There is a considerable lack of seriousness to such courses and as a result lack of good personality development courses.

Do you have any message for students who are unsure about their career path or struggling to choose one?

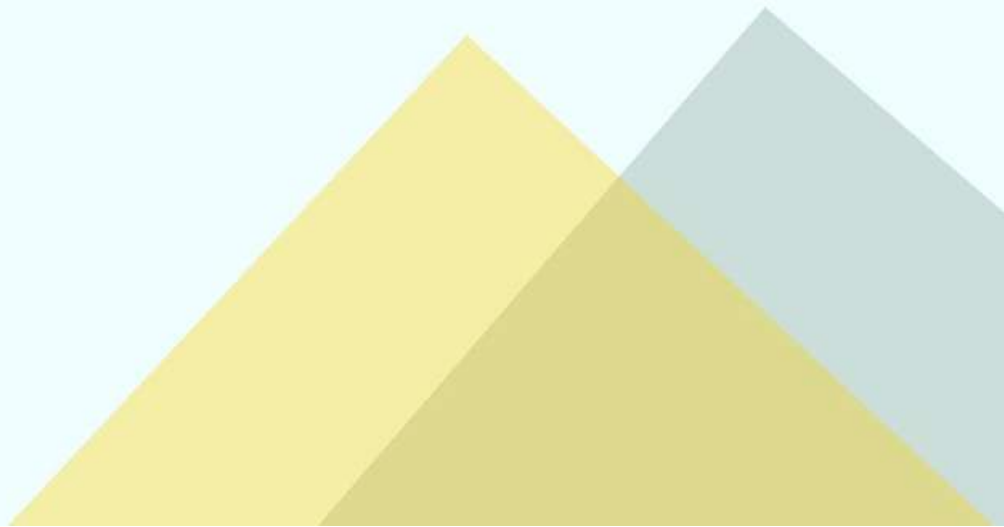
Always follow your passion while having a realistic approach towards the career of your choice.

with our Career Counsellor
Ms. Pratyusha Ghose

Passion isn't enough but passion combined with practical knowledge can lead one to great success. Do not chase financial stability but an unwavering interest and consistency will eventually lead you to financial satisfaction. While choosing between career paths one should always keep in mind their interest and their area of practicing, also keep in mind the various opportunities that will come along with your degree and career.

Any last message for your students?

I wish all the best to my students and I hope to interact more with them and guide them towards the correct path. Embrace life the way you aspire to be.



IN CONVERSATION

2022-2023 was the first year back to in-person school after 2 years of online school. What are some significant changes you have seen in the students?

I have seen a lot of positive changes in students. Resilience is one of them. I was amazed by how the students adjusted and readjusted so well to whatever the situation demanded. It was not an easy task.

There were some negative changes too like the disturbed sleep schedule and the addiction to screen. However, I am sure they want to work on it and will find a way.

This has been a year of readjustment. How do you think having a school counsellor helped students in this process?

Thank you for this question. The role of the School Counsellor is very important because only a neutral person trained to provide the nonjudgmental space can help students explore their thoughts. A School Counsellor is different from a teacher, parent, or a peer because she does not give solutions like the others try to provide. She creates a space where your problem is valid and you can come up with solutions of your own. This is because you have the know-how and you become the expert of your life and problems.

with our Counsellor
Ms. Imon Neogy



with our Counsellor Ms. Imon Neogy

MHS is aiming to be more inclusive and aware of mental health. We recently took part in the World Psychiatry Association's Walk too. What plans do you have to embrace this inclusivity?

Yes! I was really happy that we could participate in the walk and was proud of you girls who took the trouble to wake up early in the morning and be there. MHS believes in and tries to support inclusivity. Mental Health is as important as physical health. It's time we all realise it is real. On the other hand we should know that if there is a cure for any problems with our physical health, there is a cure for mental health too. It should also be noted that we must prevent the problem from growing and seek support as early as possible. In MHS, we have a Peer Support Group where students of Class XII provide support to their peers and juniors. We have the Counsellor to deal with emotional and behavioural problems and the Special Needs Department to take care of academic support.

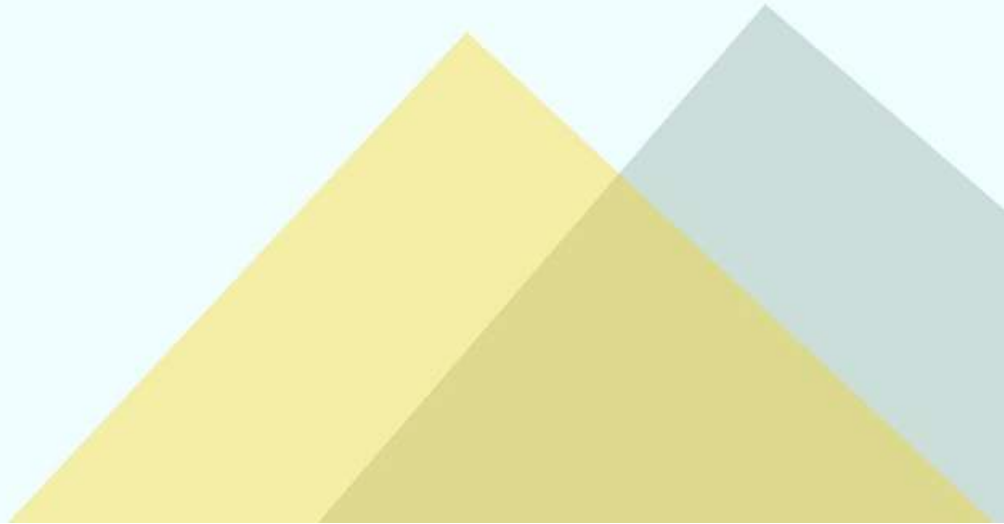
As our school counsellor you've had a lot of opportunities to interact with the students. What are some of your most fulfilling memories in MHS?

I love interacting with you girls. I learn from every session. My most fulfilling moments comprise the positivity I see in most of you regarding mental health. There have been times when girls come up to me on their own to discuss certain issues. They do not worry about any stigma. Some of them bring their friends to me, who might need some sessions. How can I forget those times when I see someone face all her struggles with positivity. I feel blessed to be in the profession that I am in.

with our Counsellor
Ms. Imon Neogy

Lastly, what advice do you have for the students for the upcoming academic year 2023-24?

I would not like to give any advice as I do not believe that I know more about your life than you do. However, I would like all of you to explore sensitivity. I feel, once we learn to be sensitive to the needs of the other person, we will be able to walk in the path of inclusivity and hold hands towards a better and brighter future. I would also like you to know your strengths. Only that will help you make a mark in this world.



BOARD

RESULTS

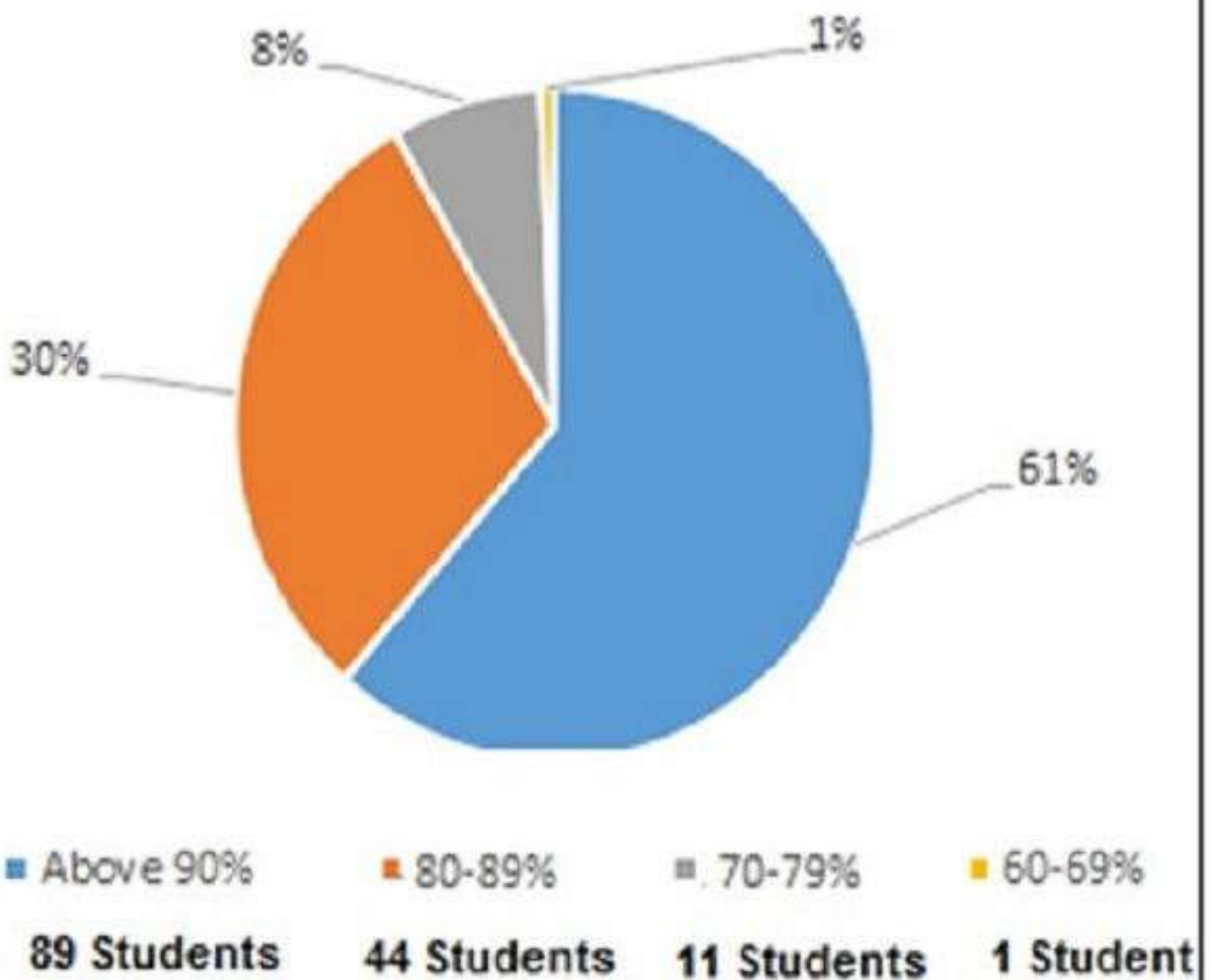
LOTUS BUDS

ICSE 2022

ICSE 2022 - (ENGLISH + 4 SUBJECTS)

SCHOOL HIGHEST : 99.2%

SCHOOL AVERAGE : 89.97%

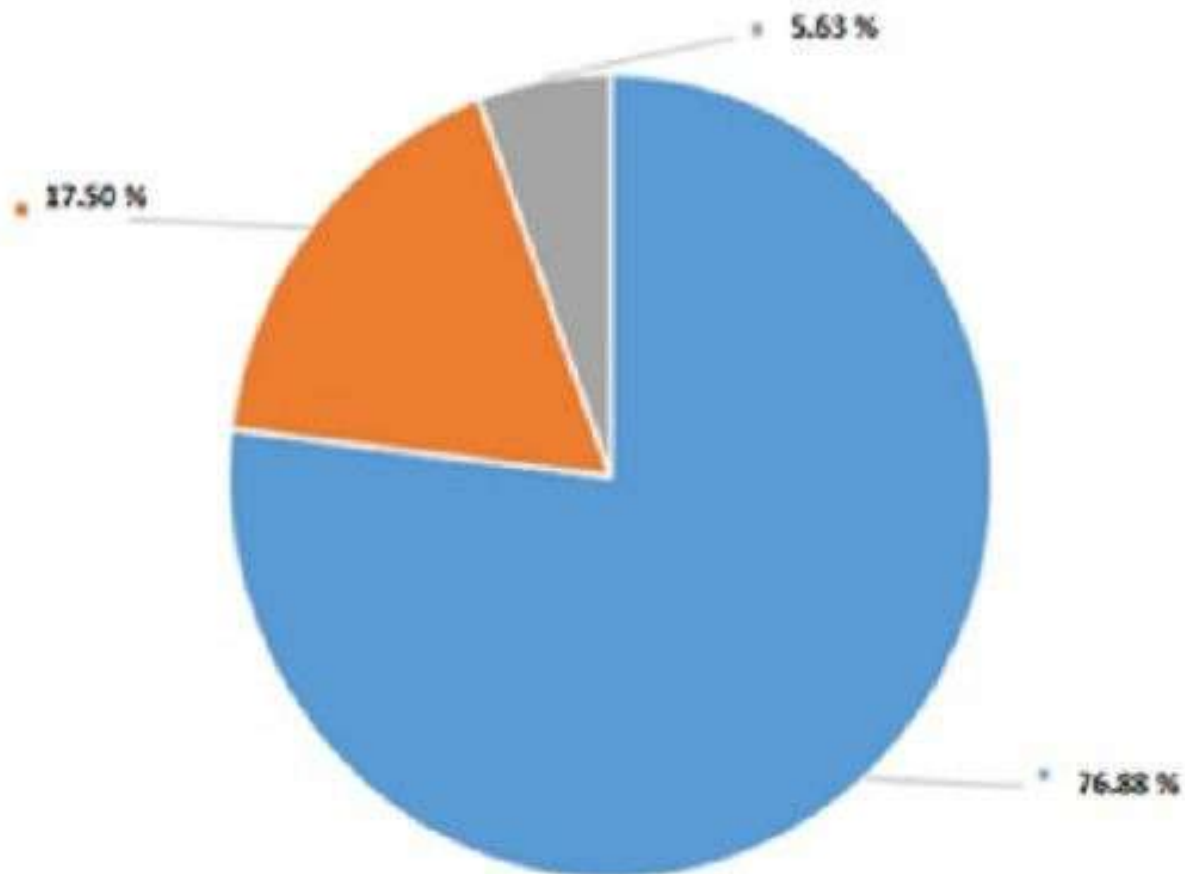


ISC 2022

ISC 2022 - (ENGLISH + 3 SUBJECTS)

SCHOOL HIGHEST : 99.50%

SCHOOL AVERAGE : 92.12%



• Above 90%
123 Students

• 80-89%
28 Students

• 70-79 %
9 Students

STUDENT

LEADERSHIP

REPORTS

LOTUS BUDS

2022-23



HEAD GIRL'S REPORT:

2022 – 23

14th March, 2020 – the day normalcy was destroyed. It marked a new era not only in the 21st century, but also in each of our individual lives. All the cogs of the education system had to be overhauled -and gradually became completely dependent on the daily bandwidth speed of the service provider. As a result, one of the primary challenges that the entire student body (right from kindergarten to senior school) had to face this academic year was the return to the 'old normal' once.

Despite the initial difficulties, trials, and tribulations, once all school activities were resumed, it was as though we had travelled back in time to 2019. The school corridors buzzing with plans to bunk lessons in the coveted washrooms, joyous faces elated to be reunited with their friends, and then usual 'serious' discussions about marks, college admissions, fests, surprise tests and the likes. Even our teachers were relieved that the soundless boxes on the laptop screen had finally morphed into mischievous expressions and glinting eyes.

In History, we study that 1848 was known as the 'Year of Revolutions' – it can be safely assumed that 2022 was the 'Year of Fests' at MHS. Throughout the academic year, students have represented the school, and have upheld our standards of excellence at a multitude of inter-school activities. From the CISCE Regional and National Competitions, an assorted number of Model United Nations conferences and debates (JACOMUN, LMCMUN and the Slater's Debate to name a few) to organising our very own

Manthan'22, complete with its DJ evening (the first in MHS history) – it was certainly an exhilarating ride. Another highlight of the academic year was Mathfinity 2022 - a one-of-its-kind mathematics meet in the city - our collaboration with our sisters at Modern High International. Our students were also able to showcase their numerous talents in several intra-school events – with Mitali and Maitree being our calendar staples.

Setting aside the immense honor, trust and faith that my teachers and peers had bestowed upon me, being the Head Girl brought unknown facets of my character to the fore.

This position, and the work that it entailed - interacting with students from across the city, becoming more accepting of the students from various backgrounds and classes from my school, and above all, realizing that it is not possible to remain above criticism at all times. Organising these events helped me understand that it is okay to not be perfect, and

it is humanly impossible to worry about every little thing, and stress about the fact that some parts of it may not go as planned. They gave me the space to make mistakes, forgive myself (something that I had difficulties with when I was young) and then make sure that I would not repeat these errors.

It would be remiss of me to not thank my ever-effervescent Deputy Head Girl, Ananya Ganguly. Without her constant support, her cool-headedness and her people-skills, this year would have been a difficult one for me indeed. I think I speak for the entire school when I say that the Student Council for this year could not have been better, comprising of Urvi Agarwal, Antara Roy Chowdhury, Rishika Agarwal, Tanvee Goenka, Vedika Agrawal and Anushree Mukherjee – they are nothing less than the Justice League to my Batman.

Finally, I would like to express my immense gratitude towards all my teachers- right from Nursery

C, to 12 D- those who have helped me up each time I have fallen, had the confidence in me when I lacked it in myself, and have supported me through thick and thin. 15 years at Modern High School have laid the foundation for the skills and the grit that we need, to face the next 60 years. These years have made us realise a little bit of who we are, and what we are capable of achieving. They have given us the courage to stand up and face the world after falling. It may seem like a bittersweet end, but to paraphrase Frost, we have miles to go before we sleep.

Signing off for the last time,
Shrinjana Ghosh,

Head Girl-
2022-23



CHAMPAK

Vincent Van Gogh had once said, "For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream."

Champak is that dream, and we, the members, are the stars fostering that dream to grow bigger and better each day.

Every star comes with its own size, shape and abilities, yet, they're all united by the yellow that shines brighter than ever, breaking through every cloud coming their way. Champak House flaunts such a diversity of skills, all of which were visible this year.

We began the year by winning the first prize in the

Middle School Table Tennis Tournament. This was followed by landing the 2nd place in the Middle School Badminton Tournament. The middle schoolers really did achieve the dream this year; the dream of becoming the Best House in Mitali 2022. A plethora of prizes was bagged by the members in events like Creative Writing, Eastern Dance, Fusion Dance, Cooking and Eastern Music. The diligence with which each participant attended the multifarious practices and gave their best was just commendable. The ecstatic moment for me, however, was looking at the radiant faces, filled with tears of happiness, surprised at their efforts translating into a big success.

The pinnacle that turned many heads was the Fusion Dance Event. With one of the participants falling sick in the eleventh hour and nobody to replace her, the dancers went on stage with one body less. Yet, they set a bright yellow fire to the stage, and placed first. It is true that magic is possible wherever the toes are twinkling.

Maitree 2022 was yet another success that Champak endorsed by coming 3rd this year. Having placed in many events, for example, Digital Art, Fusion Music and Drama, it was just a beautiful ensemble of excitement, teamwork and a dollop of cooperation amongst the members. It was our team spirit that made Champak be the sky full of stars, which were all yellow.

I always think of Maggi when I think of Champak. It's the plenty of yellow and the fact that we're tangled together that truly makes Champak whole. The collaborative effort and support contributed by each member, be it participating or cheering from the side lines, Champak is not Champak without all the champs in it.

Sports Day was yet another day which reflected this warm feeling. Although we didn't place too high on the scoreboard, I can say with pride that the dedication with which everyone participated was meritorious. The March Past squad deserves a special

mention for the sincerity they showed.

Without failure, success can never be appreciated. Without darkness, the stars can't illuminate with full vigour.

I'd like to mention my good cop, my Vice-Captain, Swaranya Sarkar, without whom achieving anything would have been impossible. Her kindness, humbleness and temperament were an aid to every setback we faced.

As this year comes to an end and I bid adieu to my favourite cluster of stars, my heart bleeds yellow. I now truly understand what it meant to say, "Lights will guide you home and ignite your bones."

Vedika Agrawal
Captain 2022-2023



GULMOHAR

Orange symbolizes survival, hope and sunlight and that is exactly what Gulmohar is for me. After two rocky years, we were back in school and all activities were back in full swing. Gulmohar house truly outshone others this term as always.

When I took the oath as the captain of the house with the flag in my hand, I had but one intention - to make the house stand out and it very well did.

The year started off with the house register being painted in the colour of orange. We reached the quarterfinals of throwball, soccer and badminton tournaments. We reached the semi-finals of the

table tennis and basketball tournaments and the debate competition. The juniors went a step ahead by placing first in the basketball tournament. We stood out in the Inter-House Middle school fest, where we did well in all categories, placing in several events.

The juniors amazed me with their persevering attitude and the seniors with their relentless optimism. The performance put up by the seniors in all events in the Inter-House Senior fest was exceptional and nothing short of perfection. Our acclaimed dance and drama teams deserve a special mention. As a sports person, the Annual Sports Day was the day I was eagerly waiting for. Every division excelled, contributing to the total points. Every single girl worked so hard, I was thrilled at the sense of unity which kept us going together. We did exceedingly well in both on field and off field events.

Heartiest congratulations to all the track and throw event winners! We won the March Past shield after 17 long years, and the hard work paid off. This was an overwhelming feeling and an

that was unparalleled. My promise to the house had come true. A special mention to all the upcoming athletes who are going to be phenomenal and going to lead Gulmohar to victory, becoming the Champion House again.

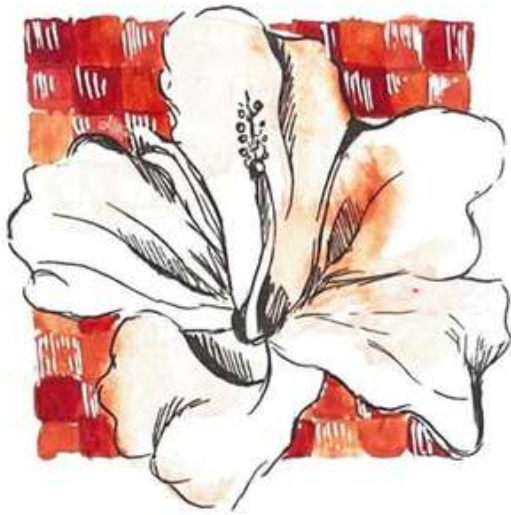
Mention must be made of my vice-captain Sheetal Banthia for her constant support towards the success of the house. She kept us going through all moments high and low and her dedication and enthusiasm towards the house made things so much easier. A big thank you to each and every member of the house who worked tirelessly regardless of whether they took part in the event or not - you have all done a wonderful job. I would especially like to thank my batch mates for without you Gulmohar would just be a house, not a home - Urvi Agarwal, Rishika Agarwal, Stuti Maheshwari, Kritika Kajaria and Zynah Khan. To all the Class 11's, your constant effort to enhance each performance and be goofy at the same time is beyond belief. You all made orange so much more than a colour. Class 10's - I hope you all continue to baffle me in the most

pleasant ways and I cannot wait to see you all shine. The orange army in class 9 - make sure to sweep everyone off their feet like you did with me and excel at everything you do. To all the middle schoolers and soon to step foot into Senior School, your seniors have left big shoes to fill but seeing your enthusiasm and passion for the house makes me sure you all are going to thrive and take the house, the orange home to higher places. I see the house this year and see that there is more excitement, more energy, an urge to persevere and succeed - don't lose that passion. Keep going strong!

As I wish a final goodbye, I'm leaving a part of me with this house. This house which I call my family and which has given me so much in return. I will always be there for you. I could not have been a captain of a better house. It was an honour to lead and be a part of such a spirited team. There is nothing I could have wished for more. Keep doing things with determination and conviction. Keep the Gulmohar house flag flying high and always remember 'If you can dream it, you can

do it'. I love you so much,
Gulmohar.

Tagyaa Parakh
Captain 2022-2023



Hibiscus

The red in this house stands for love, it is the colour of the heart and will stay that way forever!

My journey with Hibiscus house started in class 5 when I joined this school. Since then, I have had the opportunity to serve as the committee member throughout 8,9 and 10 and further as the vice-captain and now as captain. I have had the opportunity to work alongside many of my seniors who set an amazing example as well as juniors and these experiences have helped me learn and grow as an individual. Hibiscus house cannot be described in terms of a badge pinned to a collar or a red shirt worn every month. Becoming the captain in class 12 seemed daunting

and challenging as I no longer had my seniors to guide me and had to be the motivation for all my house members. Fortunately, it was not a challenge that I had to face alone. Throughout the year I had the constant support of my vice-captain Anvita Tripathi. She was there to help me make decisions, calm me during times of stress and be the voice of logical reasoning. Not only her but all the other core members made it so much easier, all of them combined helped make Hibiscus not just a house but a close-knit family with a strong bond that could not be broken despite any hardships and barriers we faced. A house is what its members make it and I cannot thank each and every house member enough for making it what it is. All the members of the house were enthusiasts and did not hesitate in taking part in house events and showing the love they have for the house and for each other. I can proudly say that each and every member gave in their best in every event they took part in without the thought of embarrassment.

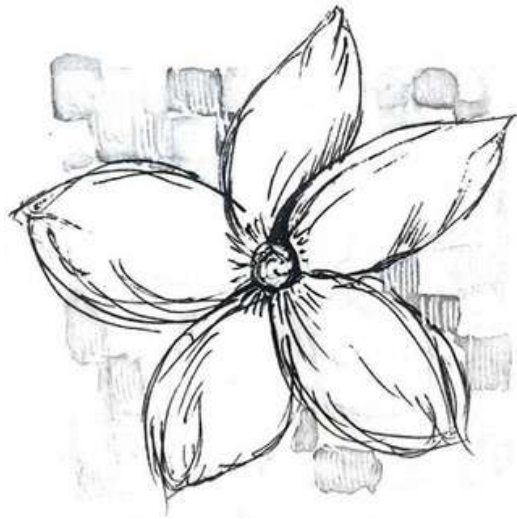
This motivated mindset of the house members helped us secure a number of wins this year, from being the champion house in Maitree, winning the debate, showing off their strength in tug of war and coming second in Mitali, these achievements are not my own but the combined effort of every member in the house.

The innocent excuses given by my class 7s on why they cannot attend practices leave me amused to this day. Holding the red flag and marching during sports day was all I could have dreamt of as a 12 year old child watching her captain march by. I have learnt so much from this house, I have learnt the meaning of family and of caring for each other. I realized the importance of being there for everyone and how a little motivation goes a long way. Something that I always encouraged as a captain was a safe space for them be it to showcase their art, blog, dance or singing.

This house has been a source of courage and pride for me. It taught me the true meaning of team spirit. I met few of the most dedicated

people in my journey as a captain- Udyomaa Surekha, Diya Bavishi, Manvi Shroff, Oishi Sanyal. Our class 12s stood beside me throughout my journey, brainstorming ideas and never failing to showcase their love for this house- Swarnima Dalmia, Vanishree Agarwal, Antara Roy Chowdhury, Karishma Shah have been my biggest cheerleaders this year helping this house achieve everything it already has. Now when I am leaving school, I can positively say that I will miss this house the most because it gave me an unexpected family and helped me make memories and bonds that I will cherish for all my life. It's been an honour being the captain of this house. This house helped me evolve as a person and I hope it does the same for all the other members and help them become the best version of themselves. May the hibiscus flag always soar high.

Signing off,
Vanshika Agarwal
Captain 2022-2023



JASMINE

I have seen my House grow over the past years and I feel nothing but gratification and honour. The past year has been nothing but a rollercoaster for us. We have dealt with every obstacle, every high tide that came our way by standing by each other at all times. Our journey has been full of ups and downs but nothing has stopped this House from conquering and winning in its own way. Participation has been at its peak and witnessing the people of this House gathering in person, discussing strategy and working towards victory after the terror of the pandemic is fulfilling to a vast extent.

It gives me honour and glory to announce that the house has

been able to achieve awards in numerous fields. The past year has been a huge milestone for my vice captain Brisha and me. Every year we await the middle school fest- 'Mitali' and the senior school fest- 'Maitree'- the two platforms where my girls get to showcase and seek their copious talents.

My creative and strong girls went ahead to win a chain of events. They threw light on their creativity and imagination by winning in art in the middle school fest- 'Mitali', showed off their culinary skills by placing first in cooking events and filling our lives with harmony and happiness by winning the music events for three consecutive years. We are blessed with the finest of dancers who never fail to impress us with their grace and hip hop moves, they leave us in awe with their concluding stunts and have us hooked on to the steps choreographed completely by themselves. I would also like to reflect on all the work that does not get the spotlight- the behind the scenes. A major chunk of hard work, determination and diligence goes into the preparation of the final outcome of any display. Our

girls spent weeks practising and grinding which has allowed them to climb the ladder of success.

The members of this House motivated Brisha and I to work towards every opportunity this House gave us. They show loyalty and passion towards everything they do. Although we are eight houses competing against one another, putting other houses down is something we never do, we are a union after all. We abide by the principle of healthy competition and supporting and appreciating other Houses. We are blessed with ambitious and hard working girls who never fail to put their best foot forward. Their ability to take initiatives is also something to be highlighted. The house showcases sportsmanship and we have it in us hearts even when competing.

The annual school sports is another platform for our warriors to exhibit their vigour. Jasmine has never failed to take its audience by surprise by their determined attempts of seeking victory. Both participants and non participants have contributed to the success of the house, be it directly or indirectly. An honourable

mention to our all time consistent and persistent champion- Vedika Himatsingka. Whether it be practising for the march past for endless hours in the scorching heat or the numerous practices of the Relay event our girls stay unstoppable to this date. The relay depicts the significance of teamwork, coordination and how our girls are young independent athletes yet dependent on one another for the success of this house. Hearing the atmosphere fill up with the cheers of 'Go Jasmine' swells my heart with exhilarating joy. Each and every cheer for the triumph of Jasmine is heard and each adds to the upliftment of our members. Watching our girls gear up for the annual school sports is a treat to the eye. Looking at all the optimism, enthusiasm and adrenaline rushes lights a beacon of hope in us.

This journey would not have been possible without my partner and my right hand- my Vice Captain, Brisha Jain. I believe this house can do wonders and I have all my faith in it for the upcoming years.

A 'spectrum' is a band of colours as seen in a rainbow.

The colours in a rainbow are all unique but what is common between them is the fact that they all originate from the colour white. Jasmine house is a rainbow, it has young women of all kinds possessing a spectrum of skills, working together, striving to make the house stand out as one. Our triumphs would not have been possible without Brisha and my core committee and some constant helpers – Brishti Daruka, Flora Bavishi, Naisha Mehta, Tanvi Chopra, Anousha Dutta, Sonakshi Sen, Varija Dhandhanian and Anvesha Khemka. I offer my love and gratitude to them and all the members of my House.

Signing off,
Yana M Patel
Captain 2022-2023.



LOTUS

Lotus House has always been the backbone of my school life and it's never been anything less than my home, a place I can call my own at school. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with incredibly talented individuals and it is all on account of this house. This house has taught me to never give up, to continue to work hard and persevere no matter what the circumstances.

Lotus is a resilient flower that stands upright and serene in the marshy water. Its purity, unaffected by the filth, makes the water appear divine. That is exactly what it means to be a Lotus and that is, without a doubt, what

each and every member of this house symbolises. No matter how many times we are knocked down, we always get back up. The flower Lotus is a perfect representation of its members, each shining bright with their own uniqueness.

This year, my experience has been so eventful and significant that every intricate detail has left an indelible mark in my mind. Our goal has been to highlight the members' varied talents. The house members' tenacity and unwavering spirit led them to participate and give their all in a variety of endeavours.

Girls had invested unparalleled efforts and worked tirelessly to attain perfection. It was really wonderful to watch both new and seasoned faces participate in the various events. The shining moments that come to mind include winning the Senior school badminton tournament in which Srinija Chatterjee and Suhani Shah made the House proud with first position and Senior Inter-House Debate where not only did Anya Grover and Samriddhi Ganguly placed second, but

Samriddhi Ganguly with her exceptional way of words, won the judges over and was rewarded with the best speaker's award.

Members completely outdid themselves and raised the morale with their enthusiasm and unflinching spirit. Not all victories were represented on the scoreboard but the love for the House resonated amongst each member who did not shy away from giving their level best. Frenzy around the Middle school and Senior school fest revived competitive spirit amongst the houses. Our eccentric theme, script and choreography won us the second prize in group dance and drama. In every event, we performed as a house, bagging prizes in Creative Writing, Elocution, Art. However, what stays with me is the effort, hard work and time put in by the participants and volunteers from the House who worked relentlessly together for weeks to achieve the feat. If they did not end up winning a prize, they definitely won memories for life. This House is not about wins and glories - we win some, we lose some - but the fight

and indomitable strength, never to succumb.

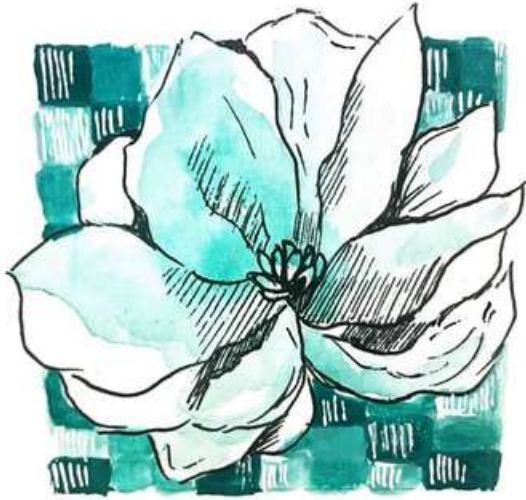
Sports day invokes a myriad of emotions. The tireless sessions of March past practice, countless relay auditions and heats all leading up to it. The entire school radiates a different aura all together. Sports may not be our greatest strength but the spirit of teamwork propelled our house to place second in Division C relay, third in Division A relay. Aaina Ray gave us an early lead with the prizes by achieving first and second position in the off-field events. The March past squad deserves special mention for their dedication.

The immense support of my Vice-captain, Navya Jalan - phenomenal in carrying out responsibilities - helped me perform my duties and bring out the best in every member. My batchmates, Anushka Doshi, Navya Almal, Gargie Hirawat to name a few lived up to the house spirit by rising to the occasion every time it was asked of them, be it teaching, helping or encouraging the juniors.

A big thank you to all my juniors for their enthusiasm and hard work, for working with such a zest throughout the year showing competence beyond compare.

With a bag full of memories, unforgettable experiences and hard decisions, I wish each and every house member the very best for their future endeavours. It gives me immense pleasure as I stand back and the unity and team spirit bind us together. Fond memories and moments etched in my and hopefully their minds as well. I would finally like to thank every member for having immense faith in my abilities. It has been an honour being your captain. I feel privileged to have something so priceless that makes it so hard to say goodbye. Keep dreaming, achieving and inspiring, Lotus.

Signing off,
-Hrishita Baheti
Captain 2022-2023



MAGNOLIA

JK Rowling once said, "Family is a life jacket in the stormy sea of life." It perfectly describes what Magnolia House means to me- a family who has always been my life jacket. From wearing the house badge on my collar to being the captain badge on the day of the Investiture Ceremony, it has been a rollercoaster ride, but I am proud to say that today, Magnolia House has become an integral part of my identity.

2022 was a wonderful year for our house. We won various awards in both Mitali and Maitree this year and put up brilliant performances in all the Inter-House tournaments. We placed first in the Inter-

House Throwball tournament and the Inter-House Soccer tournament. Seeing the determination and happiness on the faces of the players proved to me that every member feels a sense of pride in being part of Magnolia House.

Holding the green flag on the Annual Sports Day with my head held high, has always been my dream. This year, that seemingly unachievable dream came true. All our members cheered on passionately as each participant gave their utmost effort for the house. I would like to particularly mention Saranya Mondal for bagging three trophies and with an uncountable number of medals. She was also named the Individual Champion of Division A. Magnolia House won the trophy for Divisional Champion for Division A.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my juniors Sumiran Hora, Jahnavi Poddar, Prisha Khemka and Aakanksha Lakhota for their never-ending support. I would also like to thank my batchmates Tanisha Malhotra, Dristi Dutta, Gina Doshi, and Arshia Goyal for always being a call away.

One of the many reasons behind our growth this year is our Vice-Captain, Saranya Mondal, who worked efficiently throughout the year to make sure everything went smoothly. Her dedication towards the house despite her participation in various co-curricular activities is commendable. I cannot thank her enough for comforting me every time I got anxious and helping me carry the burden of my responsibilities. I know that I am leaving the house in capable hands.

I would like to thank everyone who put their faith in me and gave me the opportunity to be the Captain of Magnolia House. I hope that the enthusiasm in every member of this house never fades and that they continue to keep the green flag flying high. Go Magnolia!

Signing off,
Yashvi Bagri
Captain 2022-2023



ORCHID

I remember when my class one- self saw pretty purple balloons fly up to the sky during sports day; I thought to myself that that is what I wished for my house, I wanted to see my house succeed and help it do so. Orchid house is not just a group of students who share the love of purple, but a close-knit family willing to overcome every obstacle that comes their way with the same enthusiasm and an everlasting smile. The past academic year was filled with inter house activities and it has been a privilege for me to give them that extra boost of confidence.

Last year was a roller coaster and the one thing that has helped me keep my ground is

this house. The innocent laughter and eagerness of middle school, the support, compassion and drive of senior school, MSF and SSF, Sports Day has made me smile, cry, nervous and feel a million other emotions. Orchid House has displayed extreme talent in all fields from Art to Basketball. This House truly showcases uniqueness in unity.

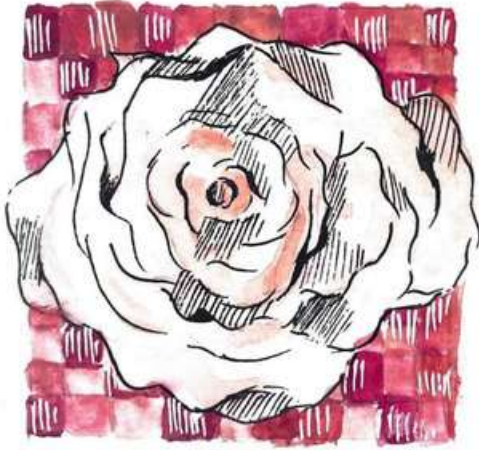
One of the most inspiring things about this house is their perseverance through failure and drive to do better. This year we placed 1st in the Senior School Table tennis competition, Second in the Senior School Badminton tournament, and 1st in both Senior and Junior School Debate Competition.

The Annual Sports Day was indeed a success in its absolute sense, as it showcased team spirit, sportsmanship and undying enthusiasm at its highest form. Weeks of hard work and broken voices paid off not only because of the medals and laurels won but because it brought every house member together. I am extremely proud to say that Orchid House won the Division B championship on Sports Day.

Anvita Jaipuria, my vice- captain has been my pillar of strength and support through it all. Without her, this year would not have been half as successful and memorable (and fun). I would also like to thank Gargi Patel (class 10) and all my batch mates who helped share the burden of responsibility. With the badge on their collar, being a part of this house is a sense of pride that we all share. This journey has taught me so much.

Every single member has taught me; they have inspired me every day with their dedication, devotion and hard work especially with a never fading smile. I can indeed say that Orchid House has not only helped me become a better leader but also a better person. As I sign off as captain, I wish Orchid House best of luck for the years to come and to soar higher, work harder and shine brighter. Lastly, like I always say, don't forget to have fun along the way!

-Sara Shah
Captain 2022-2023



ROSE

Pink is a colour that stands for compassion and kindness. Living up to that description, Rose House never fails to show empathy and respect for their peers. Over the years, the unfading enthusiasm to participate in inter-house activities has been seen in every member of the house. This year was no different. The house spirit was soaring and the wave of excitement that accompanied the cheers was felt deeply.

This sportsmanship and dedication was seen in the soccer tournament. The juniors placed second in the table tennis tournament and the seniors played extremely well. Basketball was a huge success with the juniors placing second and the

seniors placing first. The juniors placed first in the badminton inter-house tournament and the seniors played very well. We placed second in the tug of war and throwball tournaments.

Our house members made us proud during Mitali, the Middle School Fest, where we placed third overall and Maitree, the Secondary School Fest. An immense amount of effort and dedication was put in by all the participants. The creativity shown and the performances put up were magnificent. The inter-house debate tournament also generated eager participation.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Sports Day. After a long hiatus, we finally returned to the field. Weeks of hard work bore fruit as Rose House won the March Past trophy and emerged as the Champion House 2022! The excitement and joy of the participants and the members of the audience who was cheering them on was unmatched. Rose House also bagged the Division C Championship! The determination and grit of the participants was unrivalled.

This year would not have been such a huge success if it had not been for the unending support of the House members who have always been just one call away to aid and assist others.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Vice Captain, Anisha Agarwal, who has shouldered responsibility brilliantly. She has always ensured that no performer goes up to any stage scared and no athlete experiences nervousness. She has assisted me in every possible way during the course of the year and has been a pillar of strength for me and the house. Anisha's dedication, time-management and passion is truly commendable.

Rose House has become an integral part of me and my identity. It has helped to increase my confidence tremendously. It is more than just a house, it is a family, where every member feels a sense of belonging. Marching with the pink flag has been an honour. As I sign off with a heavy heart, I am completely confident that the pink flag will always fly high.

-Arya Puglia
Captain 2022-2023