



Ms. Oindrila Dasgupta

• Career counsellor's report •

1. You have been informing us about webinars we need to attend and sharing essential information regarding colleges. Do you think the pandemic has opened up different avenues for students to get more exposure and access to college education/ admissions?

Definitely!

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in, close to 1.2 billion students globally, being out of the classroom. Education as we had known it all along changed dramatically, giving rise to e-learning, remote learning and various digital learning platforms. I think the high school seniors were particularly affected by the pandemic because of their impending college admissions and future career plans.

In order to address this anxiety among high school students, universities sought the online platform as an alternative to the traditional in-school visits. Zoom calls and webinars which were practically non-existent before became the choice of universities during the pandemic. Online presentations and university exhibitions were not previously encouraged due to issues like poor connectivity, lack of student interaction and other technological challenges but owing to the move to digital platforms during the pandemic, the transition for universities from physical visits to webinars and virtual exhibitions was readily accepted.

The biggest advantage that the online platform provided was the chance for students to interact with a bigger audience - more universities and more students globally. This was not possible during physical visits by a single or small group of universities, and students rarely met other high school students from elsewhere in India or abroad. ,



Universities held workshops on writing personal statements, addressing admission queries, talking about scholarships etc. These workshops helped students immensely! Different entities like the USIEF, British Council, DAAD, etc. also held numerous workshops introducing various career opportunities, higher education in their countries, and visa processes. Prior to the pandemic, the student would have had to research independently or visit the institute to collect information on such things. Finally, I think the move to online platforms also helped with the scheduling and timing - students could choose from multiple timings offered to attend a webinar or watch a recording if they missed it. The pandemic has definitely had a negative impact of increasing the number of hours a student spent online but I think it has also helped to bring the global student community closer and share information with the community faster and more easily.

2. Ma'am could you tell us about some of your most fulfilling memories in MHS?

The short time that I spent at MHS has been a hugely gratifying experience! Every day has been a new learning and immensely fulfilling journey. I loved being among the young Indians, the brilliant minds, the beautiful smiles - the simply pure souls. Each day spent at MHS is something that I will truly cherish for the rest of my life. I must thank Mrs Kar for giving me this brilliant opportunity and bringing me on board - introducing the world of career counselling; Mrs Mukherjee for sharing her insight and guiding me every step of the way; Mrs Saha for helping me understand the IBDP program, patiently answering my concerns on college admissions and Mrs De Bakshi for essentially always being there for me, helping me transition from being in a corporate setting to a school academic setting. Every day has been special and the entire journey a memorable one.

