



The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village
M. Palada Post, Ootacamund - 643 004, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India
Visit us @ www.gsis.ac.in | www.gsfs.ac.in

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Founder-Principal of GSIS Dr P C Thomas left for his heavenly abode

*"Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure."*



Dr P C Thomas, Founder-Principal of GSIS

We express our profound grief over the sad demise of the eminent educationist and visionary, **Dr P C Thomas**, our beloved Founder-Principal of Good Shepherd International School, Ootacamund, on Tuesday, 16th of June 2020. He was 76. His funeral was held at the chapel of Good Shepherd International School in the Palada Campus on Friday, 19 June 2020.

Dr Thomas was born on 15 October 1943 in Ettumanoor, a major town and municipality in the Kottayam district of Kerala. He studied at St. Thomas College, Palai, for his degree in Botany and St. Joseph's College, Devagiri in Kozhikode for his post-graduate degree in English Literature. Later, he obtained his doctorate degree in education management from Columbia Pacific University, USA.

Dr Thomas had worked as a teacher at the Loyola School in Thiruvananthapuram and Sainik School at Bijapur. He later served as the Principal of the Cordite Factory School at Aruvankadu, and the Breeks Memorial School in Ooty. He then founded the Good Shepherd Public School in 1977 and since then it has grown into a world-renowned International School. The school is currently one of the most prominent schools in Asia. Spread over an area of about 160 acres, the school is fortunate to have state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure that provide a wonderful teaching-learning environment. Good Shepherd International School has been an IB World School since

February 2002. The school was re-accredited by **Council of International Schools (CIS)** on 27 March 2019 and to the **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)** on 2 May 2019. According to **EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR)** for 2019-2020, Good Shepherd International School is ranked the **No.1 International Residential**

School in Tamil Nadu and the **No. 2 International Residential School in India** for the year 2019. The school was ranked the No.1 International Residential School in 2016 and the No. 2 in 2017 and 2018.

Dr Thomas, the legendary and iconic personality, a titan of dignity and an epitome of grace, touched many lives with his generosity and passion for life. He had a bright and energetic personality. Dr Thomas is a recipient of numerous Indian and international awards and accolades. He was an active member of the Rotary International and served as the Governor of District 320 and was later elected to serve as an International Director. His autobiography, '*An event called LIFE*', is an account of the journey of his life, a glimpse of important events, its excitements, his beliefs and values. His Mission, Vision and Objectives are our much-cherished treasures. Backbone of several institutions, his legacy of unity and harmony, inspire us to keep his aspirations alive. He will be deeply missed by everyone he was able to meet and reach out to during his lifetime. He is always in our thoughts and actions. He will continue to remain in our hearts forever.

His legacy lives on through his wife **Madam Elsamma Thomas**, son **Liju** and daughter **Julie**.

***"You can no longer see me, but please know that I am there.
I am the flowers in the garden, I am the wind beneath your hair.
The memories that I left behind, shall forever be with you.
As for me I am in heaven now, where my life will start anew."***

- Sherry Rockhill

***In reverence and remembrance
The Good Shepherd Family***

Eulogy for my Dad!

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

- Proverbs 22:6



Mr Jacob Thomas

This is one of my wife's favourite verses in the Bible and she has quoted it to me often in relation to the raising of our two children. Today, as I stand here remembering my father, there is no better scripture I can find. For my father, was at heart a teacher of children.

The vocation of teaching is the most noble profession in this world, and Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher we know. Both Dad and Mom began their professional lives as teachers. Dad taught English literature and Mom taught Hindi. My Dad devoted his life to imparting a well-rounded Education - one that extended beyond academic excellence. When children came to him for education, many as young as toddlers, they found a home in his school. The lessons Dad and Mom have taught the students, and Julie and I, are lessons that will stay with us for a lifetime – for you never depart from the ways of your teachers. Over the past few days we have received and read

countless messages of grief and condolence from students, teachers, parents, Rotarians and many others whose paths have crossed with my father's. In every one of those messages the story is the same. My father was first and foremost a teacher, then a leader – and the man who shepherded his flock of students and staff, many of whom bear witness to that throughout their lives. They carry those teachings from their youth. There is no greater testament to a teacher than his students following his path and taking away the lessons taught for a lifetime.

Boldness, perfection, fortitude, perseverance, discipline, courage and, above all, conviction. These are the words that come to me when I want to describe my father who has made an indelible mark on this world and on so many lives. As a young man when my father set out to accomplish his life's dreams, he was obsessed, single-minded and uncompromising in his approach to education. He strived for perfection in everything he undertook. His ambition and drive were unparalleled, eclipsed only by his determination, grit and hard work. He was truly an inspiration and motivated our youth to aspire for greatness in their own lives. And through it all, he had my mother's unrelenting and unwavering love and support. If my father was the head of the school, my mother was its backbone, for without one,

the other cannot stand. This incredible institution he created along with my mother, is a testament to his vision and their strong partnership. Growing up, Julie and I often felt that he belonged more to the school than he did to anyone or anything else in this world. He often reminded us that the school was his first child – and with good reason. They have nurtured every aspect of the school and committed their lives to furthering the cause of a world-class education. Even in his final days, he took great interest in introducing new subjects like robotics and artificial intelligence to the school’s curriculum because he recognized the important role they will play in the lives of our children in this constantly evolving world. He was truly a visionary and an icon in the field of education.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
- 2 Timothy 3:16

As many of you know, I shared a somewhat complicated relationship with my father. But as the Bible teaches us in Hebrews 12:5-6: ***“And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”***

You all know my father to be a disciplinarian and a tough taskmaster. Even in my youth he held me to seemingly impossible standards that he expected me to raise myself to. Although it sometimes caused resentment and misunderstanding between us, today as a father myself, I recognize that the father only disciplines the one whom he loves. And as his flock, many of you know what I speak of. I take great comfort that on my last visit in February, we both found peace and forgiveness. When I look back at my life and relationship with him now, what remains are those precious moments we shared. I will forever remember how I held him in my arms and the warmth and love in his eyes, and the forgiveness we both felt. For in death as in life, we all want to remember only the good. Dad, you always said that no one is irreplaceable. But dad, you were one of a kind and you cannot be replaced in our hearts and in our lives. ***And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,***

***“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”***

- Mr Jacob Thomas

Memorial Service: 41st Day of Demise of Dr P C Thomas

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.”



The Memorial Service in progress at the Palada Campus chapel



Arrival of His Excellency, The Most Reverend Dr A Amalraj, Bishop of Ootacamund



Address by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Dr A Amalraj, Bishop of Ootacamund



Chapel service in progress

The traditional 41st day memorial service of **Dr P C Thomas** was held at 10.30 am on Saturday, 25 July 2020 at the Palada Campus Chapel. His family, friends and staff of GSIS attended the memorial service, ceremonies and rituals in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines and protocol.

The memorial service was conducted by **His Excellency, The Most Reverend Dr A Amalraj, Bishop of Ootacamund** and two priests of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ootacamund. In his address, the Bishop said that Dr Thomas was a dear friend and a well-wisher of the church. After the service, the bishop and the attendees visited the grave, lighted candles and offered prayers. They also attended the memorial luncheon held in the dining hall of the Palada Campus. According to traditional religious belief, after the 40 days of mourning, the funeral wreaths are removed from the grave and all ceremonial restrictions are also lifted. **Dr Thomas leaves behind a rich and lasting legacy of love, passion and achievement that makes him one of the most important and transformational educational leaders of our time.**

*“Death leaves heartache
No one can heal,
Memories are treasures
No one can steal,
Some may forget you
Now that you are gone,
But we will remember
No matter how long.
You will always stay
Loved and remembered,
In every way,
No tears, no verse,
Can ever say how much
We miss you every day.”*



Receiving Holy Communion in the church



Service on the lawn of the church



Placing flowers on the grave during the memorial service



Lighting candles



Prayer at the graveside



The final resting place of Dr Thomas

74th Independence Day Celebrated at GSIS



Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd), Senior Vice Principal [Administration], unfurling the national flag

Indians across the world commemorated India's independence from British rule by celebrating its **74th Independence Day** on 15 August 2020. Beginning in 1757, Indians suffered domination of the British colonial power for nearly 200 years. We were able to claim our country back with retaliations and uprisings against the British that eventually drove them out and forced former viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, to free India on 15 August 1947 after giving the mandate to transfer the power to Indians. On 15 August 1947, the first Prime Minister of Independent India **Jawaharlal Nehru** unveiled India's tricolour flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. Since its independence, India has made stellar progress in every field, including education, economy, space programmes, military modernization, science and technology, research and development.

GSIS organized a virtual Independence Day celebration and activities for students on Saturday, 15 August 2020. **Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd)**, Senior Vice Principal [Administration], hoisted the tricolour flag accompanied by a formal rendition of the national anthem. Owing to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, there was no social gathering. Our students across the country and around the world delivered speeches, performed dance, sang patriotic songs and participated in various cultural activities on the occasion to commemorate the historic day.

Master Abhishek Krishnan, IB-2, as the emcee, introduced the performers / speakers and monitored the agenda to ensure that the events took place smoothly.



The emcee, Master Abhishek Krishnan, IB-2, introducing the performers / speakers

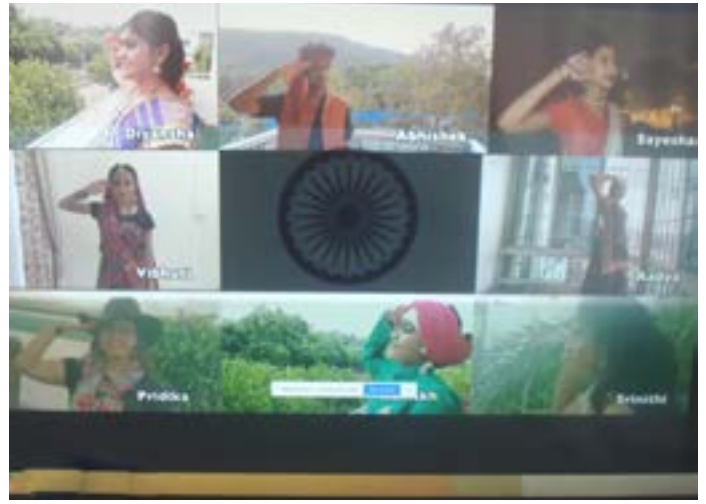


Ms Aryana Anoop Chemmanur, FM-2A, offering the prayer

Ms Aryana Anoop Chemmanur, FM-2A, gave a virtual rendition of our school prayer. Students then presented a dance performance, paying a befitting tribute to the nation. **Ms Rishika Hemanshu Sopariwala**, ISC-1A, delivered the first note followed by **Master Sarvesh Ragavendra Perumal**, grade 10, and they touched upon the significance of the historic day. The Indian Music Choir sang two patriotic songs – *Vande Mataram*, the national song of India and *Sare Jahan Se Accha*, an anthem of opposition to the British Raj. The Western Music Choir then gave a moving rendition of *Heal the World*, a song originally written and recorded by Michael Joseph Jackson, the 'King of Pop.' **Ms Eve Saha**, IB-2A, gave



Students presenting a patriotic dance



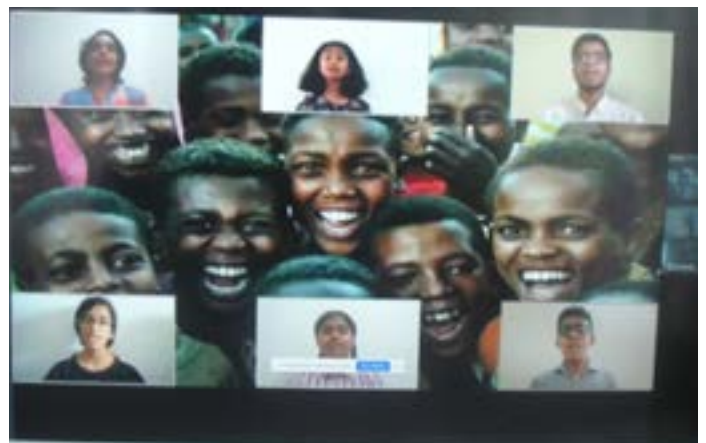
Address by Ms Rishika Hemanshu Sopariwala, ISC-1A



Students singing patriotic songs



Master Sarvesh Ragavendra Perumal, grade 10, addressing the students



Students singing 'Heal the World'

the welcome address. She extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, members of the Academic Council, staff and students. The chief guest, Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd), delivered the Independence Day address. In his speech, he stressed upon our moral responsibility to remember the achievements and pay our respects and gratitude to the 'Father of the Nation' - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi - and the entire team of leaders, our defence forces, all the *satyagrahis*, and every single freedom fighter who gave their life, time and put in relentless effort to the cause of freedom. **Master Krish Surana**, IB-2C, expressed gratitude to the chief guest, all the performers, administration, members of the music, dance and IT departments for making this event possible. The programme ended with the online singing of the school anthem by the students, located remotely but joined together by the strength of their memory of their alma mater.



Welcome Address by Ms Eve Saha, IB-2A



Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd), Senior Vice Principal [Administration], delivering the Independence Day Address



Expression of Gratitude by Master Krish Surana, IB-2C



Students singing the school anthem online

India's Independence Day reminds the country's citizens of all the sacrifices the valiant freedom fighters have made to secure the country's future, so that the later generations could breathe in free air and live with dignity in their sovereign motherland. The most remarkable feat was the synchronization of the whole programme which was performed excellently by our students from their environs spread across the country and world. It was a meticulous collaboration engineered by our IT team and the co-curricular department. **Happy Independence Day 2020!**

A Virtual School Assembly held



The School Assembly in progress

A virtual **School Assembly** was held for students of Grades 3 to 12 at 9 am on Monday, 20 July 2020. Before the beginning of the assembly, a one-minute silence was observed in loving memory of the Founder-Principal of GSIS, **Dr P C Thomas**.

The Assembly started with a prayer by the School Captain, **Master Devya Robin Goenka**, IB-2C. The school song and the school prayer song followed. **Master Bhargav Basavaraj**, 6C, read out the school prayer. **Master A P Maghizhan**, FM-3C, read out the news headlines of

the day. **Master Devya Robin Goenka**, IB-2C, then delivered the speech. He said that everything the students are going through is preparing them for what they asked for. He told them not to take a 'no' for an answer. Addressing the students and the staff, the Senior President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, said that COVID-19 threatening the whole world has affected the normal functioning of every one of us globally. *"There are no secrets for success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure,"* she added. The President, **Mr Jacob Thomas**, said that Dr Thomas along with Mrs Thomas has built this school brick by brick and made their dreams come true. *"Dreams! We all have them. We need them. It is what helps us thrive, motivate us to greatness, a dream to achieve more than what we can imagine,"* he added.

All the new members of staff then introduced themselves. The school anthem was played at the end of the assembly.

A Staff Orientation held as a virtual online session!



Staff Orientation programme in progress

A virtual, online **Staff Orientation Programme** was organized at GSIS on Wednesday, 15 July 2020. The purpose of the orientation was to kick-start the academic programme, develop a happy and constructive relationship, discuss the road ahead and the details of the online teaching and learning process.

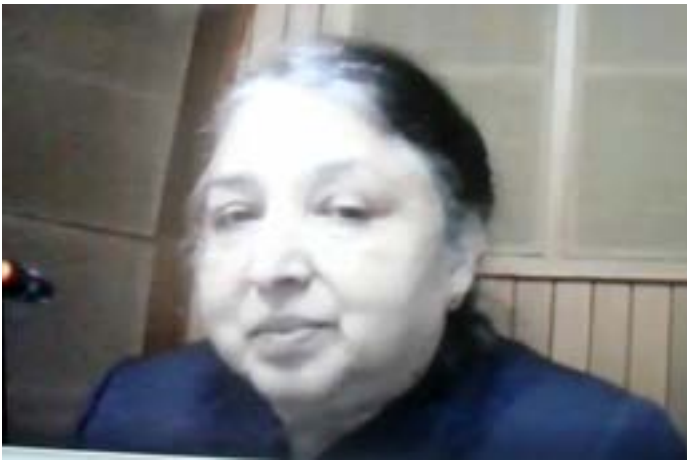
Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal [Academics], gave the introductory speech. The newly-appointed staff introduced themselves and got acquainted with the organizational culture and work environment. **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, Senior President of GSIS, delivered the welcome address. She started her address with the quote - *"Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance"* - often used by **Dr P C Thomas** in his speeches. *"We have so many opportunities to grow, learn and adapt. We have to soar to new heights of excellence,"* she said. **Mr Jacob Thomas**, President of GSIS, then welcomed the members of staff. He remarked that *"the board examination results of ICSE, ISC and IB are good and we have to improve it."* He is also very keen to set up a new recreation centre in the Palada Campus for the members of staff to unwind. **Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd)**, Senior Vice Principal [Administration], said that the school was going to introduce standard operating procedures in classrooms, games fields, dormitories and dining halls to keep students safe and happy in the Palada Campus. **Mr T Suresh**, Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, addressed the group on *'Designing for online learning.'* He said that online learners need time, space and support to develop independent learning skills.

Mrs Anila Ann Mathew, Director of Counselling, talked on *'Emotional well-being.'* **Mrs Manju Murali**, Head of Online Teaching and Learning at GSIS, gave ideas on digital education, and useful online resources and lessons on online teaching. The coordinators then conducted the section meetings. The orientation programme ended with the concluding remarks of **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, Director of Activities.

Online Induction Programme for students of IB & ISC

A **Virtual Induction and Familiarization Programme** was organized at GSIS for the newly joined students of ISC-1 and IB-1. The purpose of the Induction Programme was to welcome the students to the new courses, provide a brief overview of the courses, ease their anxiety and set the stage for continued positive interactions.

The Senior President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, welcomed the entire batch of students. She started her address by quoting the words of Dr Thomas to 'raise the bar.' She congratulated all the teachers for motivating the students and toiling hard to produce excellent ISC and IB board examination results in 2020. The President, **Mr Jacob Thomas**, reminded



Welcome Address by the Senior President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas



Address by the President, Mr Jacob Thomas



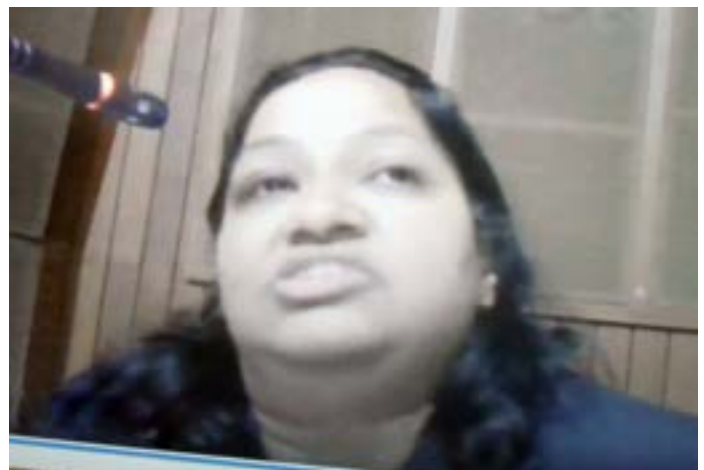
Address by the Senior Vice Principal [Academics], Mrs Sheila Alexander



Address by the Senior Vice Principal [Administration], Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd)



Address by the Coordinator, Higher Secondary School & IBDP, Mr Suresh Thangarajan



Address by the Director of Counselling, Mrs Anila Ann Mathew

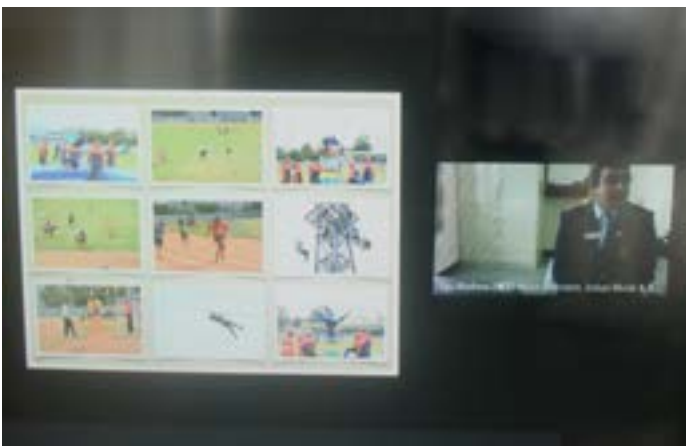
the students that the IB Programme is one of the best in the world to develop and expand their thinking and creative ability. He reminded them to focus, work hard and diligently, learn to prioritize and improve their financial management skills. He concluded with the famous quote of **Lao Tzu**, the Chinese philosopher and writer – *“Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”* The Senior Vice



Address by the Director of Activities, Mr Dominic Jude Hurst



A virtual presentation on 'Digital Resources' by the Teacher-librarian, Mrs Sakhvir



Presentation by the CAS Coordinator, Mr Siju Mathew



Address by the HOD of Physical Education Department, Mr K V Muraleedharan

Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, mentioned about the motto of GSIS – *'TRUTH, TRUST & TRIUMPH'* – enlightening students about these three major concepts that are applicable in everyday life. The Senior Vice Principal [Administration], **Brig Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd)**, reminded the students to stay safe, try to stand on their own legs and not to bank on their parents' wealth. **Master Vibhas Rikin Sekhani**, a student of IBDP, 2018 – 2020 batch, described his experience of studying IB at GSIS. The Higher Secondary School & IBDP Coordinator, **Mr Suresh Thangarajan**, reassured the students and their parents that the school is putting all its effort to ensure a smooth navigation for online learning, especially for ISC and IB students, even though remote learning may look and may sometime feel different from face-to-face instruction or traditional classroom teaching. The Director of Counselling, **Mrs Anila Ann Mathew**, said that this day is a special day for ISC and IBDP students as it marks the beginning of a new life with new routines and may be a new way of thinking. *"For the rest of the students, this day means continuation but also a new beginning with new challenges and opportunities,"* she added. The Director of Activities, **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, said that the key to battling COVID-19 is fitness and hygiene. The teacher-librarian, **Mrs Sakhvir Lawrence**, talked on 'digital resources' that are available to students of GSIS. She said that the context of library will change for the students as they make their transit from ICSE, IGCSE or any other board to IBDP. The CAS Coordinator, Mr Siju Mathew, talked on CAS – *Creativity, Activity, Service* – a mandatory requirement for IBDP. The Head of the Physical Education Department, **Mr K V Muraleedharan**, gave guidelines on CAS, SUPW and IAYP to the new students. The programme ended with the open forum during which the students raised their queries which were answered by the members of the Academic Council.

GSIS Welcomes New Students through Virtual Orientation

In 2020, COVID-19 necessitated a switch to online learning and made campus tours and traditional orientation of new students impossible. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic prompted the management to change gears and organize a virtual orientation for the incoming new students to connect with them, make them feel at home and provide all the necessary information while remaining safe at home. The **virtual orientation** was held on Friday, 31 July 2020.

The Orientation Programme started with the school prayer read by the Director of Counselling, **Mrs Anila Ann Mathew**. The Senior President of GSIS, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, welcomed the new students. In her address, she mentioned about the New Education Policy (NEP) that was initiated by the HRD Ministry. She said that the school education pattern, which was earlier based on 10+2, is now changed to 5+3+3+4 model. Next was the turn of the Counsellors in the school – Ms Shanthadurga (Middle School), Ms Hemalatha G (High School) and Mrs Mary Shiju Joseph (Higher Secondary School). They engaged the students in an ice-breaking session during which they played virtual games with the new students. A series of entertainment activities followed. Ms Diyansha Magesh, IB-1 and Ms Preita Nadarajah, IB-1, performed dances in a bid to keep the students happy. Master Alexis Nettos, FM-3, showed off his amazing piano skills. The Head Girl, Ms Dhyani Khoont, IB-2, addressed the new students. She said that the activities in the school made her a self-reliant person and nothing can be gained without hard work. Ms Dipsikha Pal, FM-2, then presented a dance, which was followed by a presentation of keyboard music by Ms Keya Vinay Mediratta, IB-1. **Brig Suresh Kumar VSM (Retd)**, Senior Vice Principal (Administration), advised the students to behave well at home and stay safe. He informed them that the school is waiting to resume normal lessons when it is safe to do so and will be in line with the government's advice. The co-curricular captain, Master Abhishek Krishnan, IB-2, showed off his dance moves. He recalled his own orientation and experiences at GSIS and said that he misses life at GSIS. Our western music teacher, Ms December, sang "*Top of the World*" – a 1972 hit song originally written and composed by *Richard Carpenter* and *John Bettis* and first recorded by the American pop duo Carpenters. At the end, Senior Vice Principal [Academics] **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, gave the concluding remarks. She advised the students to make good use of the good environment at home and become outstanding Shepherdians.

COVID - 19 Refresher Training held at GSIS



Dr Deepu Chandran addressing members of staff

The outbreak of an atypical strain of pneumonia circulating in the *Wuhan* province of China was notified to the World Health Organization (WHO) in early January 2020. This **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** was caused by a novel coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The International Health Regulations (IHR) was triggered and the world was informed of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The International Health Regulations (IHR) represent an agreement between 196 countries including all WHO Member States to work together for global health security. Through IHR, countries have agreed to build their capacities to detect, assess and report public health events. The genome of the novel coronavirus was mapped in the first week of January and in the second week of January, it was publically shared. By 30 January 2020, under International Health Regulations (IHR), WHO declared its highest security alert, a public health emergency of international concern.

The events of the last few months are a tragic reminder of the insecurity and instability that diseases can cause. We are all in the middle of a global pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic has changed our

world. It has humbled us all. It has caused stress to our political, economic, cultural and social infrastructure and found us wanting. It has spread to countries all over the world.

It has pushed the limits of the health systems, leaving no country untouched. No country can fight this pandemic alone. Its existence anywhere puts lives and livelihoods at risk everywhere.

A **Refresher Training** on COVID-19 was held in the Mowbray Hall of the GSIS Palada Campus at 11.30 am on Friday, 24 July 2020. **Dr Deepu Chandran, MD**, the Resident Medical Officer of GSIS, conducted the Refresher Training for all



Members of staff attending the COVID-19 Refresher Training

the members of staff at GSIS. Dr Deepu Chandran gave information on key features of COVID-19, its symptoms, mode of transmission, preventive measures, standard medical procedures and answered other FAQs. His address provided information on hygiene practices, sanitation, in understanding and quantifying the health risks involved and how best to tackle COVID-19 at GSIS.

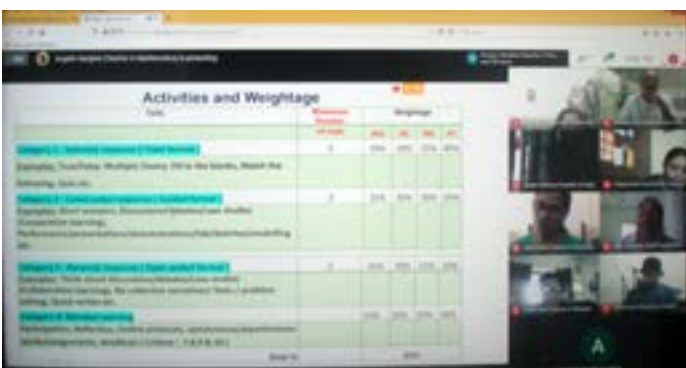
We have learned it the hard way that if we do not prepare ourselves in pandemic preparedness, we leave ourselves open to enormous harm. We have to work to galvanize collective international public health action to build health care and safer future for humanity. It is never too late to turn outbreaks of diseases and the situation around.

Professional Development Session for Teachers



The online PD session for teachers in progress

Professional development is a form of education for teachers which can enhance or better their teaching or classroom environment. Educators at GSIS are familiar with professional development sessions. Since teaching is a collaborative profession, teachers require personal growth and PD that is relevant for them and their students. Broadening teachers' perspectives can, in turn, lead to increased engagement with their students. Teachers who have advanced skills or experience can guide a session using their expertise to build their students' knowledge base. As students learn new content during the day, they also have to learn new skills. The school organizes regular PD sessions on a variety of topics and seeks teachers'



reflections. Implementation of new practices, policies, or technologies in international schools and development of new skills is a big challenge in our technology-driven education. Sustained administrative support and professional development programmes are essential to implement them and train the teachers.

A **Professional Development** session was organized for teachers at GSIS at 3.30 pm on Monday, 10 August 2020. The topic for the PD session was 'Online Assessment.' At GSIS, the online teaching is in progress and soon the students have to be assessed for their teaching, learning and first monthly tests. The Assessment Committee at GSIS framed the criteria for 'online assessment' and it was presented to all the teachers. Discussions were held online, questions were asked and clarifications were made. The final assessment criteria will be conveyed to all the teachers after they reach a consensus.

Results of Board Examinations 2020

The **Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations [CISCE]** has announced the results of its class 10 ICSE and class 12 ISC 2020 board examinations.

Students of Good Shepherd International School have achieved excellent results in the board examinations for the academic year 2019-20. We are honoured and privileged to present a brief report of the results of the board examinations for the academic year 2019-20.

Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination – March 2020 [Grade 10, ICSE]

The ICSE examinations began on February 27 and was scheduled to end on March 30. The normal examination schedule was disrupted due to the panic created by the spread of the novel coronavirus. In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, a few exams were cancelled on March 19 and rescheduled in July, but were cancelled again due to the surge in corona cases. The final results in pending subjects were determined on the basis of their performance in internal assessment, pre-board examinations and the results of board examinations papers in subjects already taken.

Our students excelled in ICSE, registering 100% pass. Of the 25 students who appeared for the examination from Good Shepherd International School in the academic year 2019 – 2020, **21 secured distinction and 4 were awarded first class. The topper scored 96.8%. One student in Computer Applications scored a perfect 100.**

ICSE Examination 2020 (Science):

Of the 17 students who appeared for the examination in the Science stream, **14 secured distinction and 3 were awarded first class. The topper** from the science stream, **Master Darshil Kedia, scored 96.8%. He scored centum in Computer Applications.**

Second Position : **Ms Rishika Hemanshu Sopariwala [94.3%]**

Third Position : **Master Lingha Prabhu [93.5%]**



Master Darshil Kedia



Ms Rishika Hemanshu Sopariwala



Master Lingha Prabhu

ICSE Examination 2020 (Commerce):

Of the 8 students who appeared for the examination in the Commerce stream, **7 secured distinction and 1 was awarded first class. Master Sanchit Bang topped in Commerce stream. He secured 95.7%.**

Second Position : **Ms Ayushi Rajesh Panjri [93.7%]**

Third Position : **Ms Akshita Muthukumar [93.5%]**



Master Sanchit Bang



Ms Ayushi Rajesh Panjri



Ms Akshita Muthukumar

Well done!

Indian School Certificate Examination – March 2020 [Grade12, ISC]

The **Indian School Certificate (ISC)** examinations began on February 5 and was scheduled to end on March 30. Students were able to write examinations in most of the subjects. The ISC board examinations in Biology, Psychology and Business Studies could not be held as the CISCE cancelled these examinations due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Later, the pending examinations that were rescheduled to be held in March were also cancelled. The scores of students in these subjects were determined by the CISCE on the basis of their performance in internal assessment, pre-board examinations and results of board examination papers in subjects already taken.

28 students from GSIS appeared for the ISC examinations. **22** students secured **distinction** and **6** were awarded **first class**. **5** students scored **above 90%**. The school has once again shown its academic proficiency by a cent per cent pass.

ISC Examination 2020 (Science stream):

School Topper : **Master V P Laksith (95.2%)**

Second Position : **Master S Sachin Velu (93.6%)**

Third Position : **Master Shivam Bansal (92%)**



Master V P Laksith



Master S Sachin Velu



Master Shivam Bansal

ISC Examination 2020 (Commerce stream):

School Topper : **Ms R R Varshitha (96.6%)**

Second Position : **Ms Avani Didwania (90.6%)**

Third Position : **Master S Vasikar (86%)**



Ms R R Varshitha



Ms Avani Didwania



Master S Vasikar

The highlight of this year's ISC results is that of **Ms R R Varshitha** who scored cent percent (100%) in Mathematics. The humongous efforts and perseverance of the students is appreciable. The teachers have brought out the best in our students with their hard work and constant efforts. Hearty **congratulations** to all the teachers and students who have worked hard to achieve these excellent results.

The **Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations [CISCE]** was able to handle the difficult situation in the best possible way. Teachers, students and their parents felt quite relieved after the declaration of the results.

Excellent Results in IGCSE Board Examination 2020!

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible and stimulating curriculum for students in schools and is supported by excellent resources and training. International General Certificate of Secondary Education (**IGCSE**) is an academically rigorous, internationally used, specialized, English language curriculum which is offered to students to prepare them for International Baccalaureate and CIE A-level. There are over 70 subjects available at the Cambridge IGCSE, including 30 languages, and schools can offer them in any combination.

The Cambridge IGCSE curriculum offers a variety of routes for learners with a wide range of abilities, including those whose first language is not English. The IGCSE help schools build a curriculum around their specific needs. Encouraging learners to engage with a variety of subjects, and make connections between them, is fundamental to its approach. Cambridge IGCSE develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in students. IGCSE is the perfect springboard to advanced study in specific subject areas. For students, Cambridge IGCSE helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving.

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examination of Hindi as a Second Language (Reading & Writing) was held at GSIS on Wednesday, 19 February 2020. Listening test of Hindi as a Second Language was held on Thursday, 27 February 2020 and the Global Perspectives paper was held on Monday, 2 March 2020. 72 students of GSIS were registered for the June 2020 series IGCSE examinations. The examinations were cancelled worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students have been graded based on the predicted grades for students, IGCSE results of the school in the past three years and internal assessments. Assessment process combined teacher insights – predicted grades and rank orders - with a rigorous standardization process, keeping teacher judgments consistent across different schools. Cambridge International has released results for students of the June 2020 series to ensure that the students' higher education is not impacted by the epidemic.

Students of GSIS have done exceptionally well and have come out with flying colours. The information given below outlines the overall results:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Total number of students | : 72 |
| Distinctions | : 36 |
| Merit | : 33 |
| Pass | : 3 |
| Number of A*'s in individual subjects | : 228 |
| Number of A's in individual subjects | : 132 |

Number of B's in individual subjects : 143

Number of C's in individual subjects : 104

Number of D's in individual subjects : 35

Number of E's in individual subjects : 6

Results of IGCSE Examination 2020 (Science group)

Total number of students : 48

School Toppers : **Master Harshul Ashish Amin [9A*'s],**
Ms Kanupriya Vinkle Chawla [9A*'s],
Master Neev Gulabani [9A*'s],
Ms Nitya Nilesh Dhanani [9A*'s],
Ms Ravina Jaywant Patil [9A*'s] &
Master Shreyaan Jain [9A*'s]

Second Position : **Master Deiv Pinkesh Kotecha [8A*'s & 1A],**
Master Hariyanth Nagesh [8A*'s & 1A],
Ms Kashika Sunil Gulabani [8A*'s & 1A],
Master Vedaant Vinodkumar Jain [8A*'s & 1A] &
Master Yashvardhan Saraff [8A*'s & 1A],

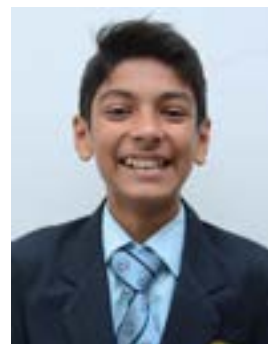
Third Position : **Master Poorvash Muthumaheswaran [8A*'s & 1B]**



Master Harshul Ashish Amin



Ms Kanupriya Vinkle Chawla



Master Neev Gulabani



Ms Nitya Nilesh Dhanani



Ms Ravina Jaywant Patil



Master Shreyaan Jain

Master Harshul Ashish Amin, Ms Kanupriya Vinkle Chawla, Master Neev Gulabani, Ms Nitya Nilesh Dhanani, Ms Ravina Jaywant Patil and Master Shreyaan Jain are the joint toppers in the Science stream of IGCSE achieving A*'s in all the 9 subjects.

Results of IGCSE Examination 2020 (Commerce group)



Master Meet Dobariya

Total number of students : 24

School Topper : **Master Meet Dobariya [9A*'s]**

Second Position : Master Harshil Aggarwal [8A*'s & 1A]

Third Position : Master Heneel Vishnubhai Patel [7A*'s & 2A's]

Master Meet Dobariya topped in the Commerce stream of his batch securing A*'s in all the 9 subjects.

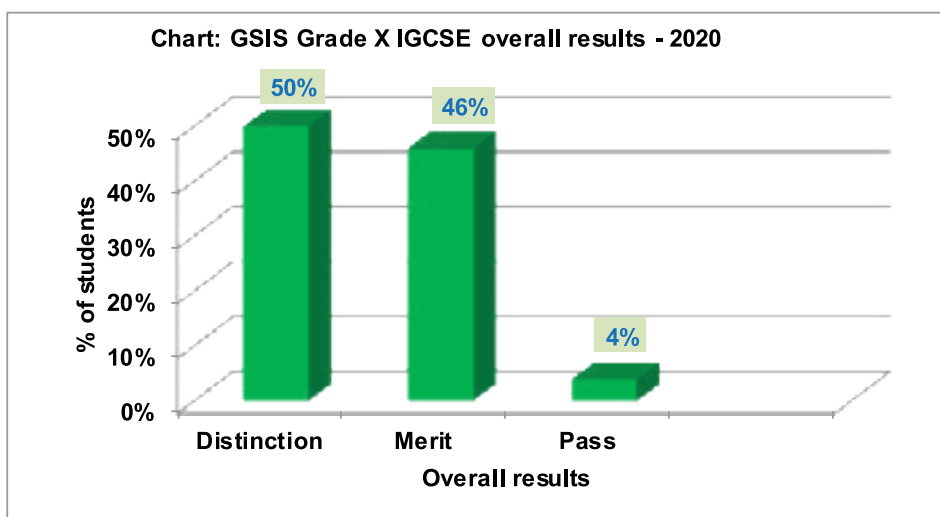
Our students secured 228 A*'s, 132 A's, 143 B's, 104 C's, 35 D's and 6 E's. 35% of all grades achieved are A*'s and 20% are A's. Seven students achieved A*'s in all their nine subjects. A highly commendable performance!

A week after results of IGCSE (Class 10) qualifications for the June 2020 series were declared, Cambridge International has revised its earlier granted scores after receiving feedback from several schools. Cambridge International have decided that the grades issued for the June 2020 series should not be lower than the predicted grades. Predicted grades of students were submitted by schools on the basis of their overall performance throughout the year.

Grades achieved by our IGCSE Science & Commerce students in different subjects are mentioned below:

| Subjects | Grades | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| | A* | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | U | |
| First Language English | 14 | 12 | 10 | 21 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Literature [English] | 18 | 13 | 21 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| Cambridge International Mathematics | 25 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| French | 18 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Hindi as a SL | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Spanish | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Geography | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Mathematics | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Chemistry | 20 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Biology | 22 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Physics | 31 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Combined Science | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Accounting | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Economics | 9 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| Global Perspectives | 10 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| Business Studies | 9 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| Computer Science | 12 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| Design and Technology | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Art & Design | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 228 | 132 | 143 | 104 | 35 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 648 |

The chart shown below reveals the grade X IGCSE overall results:



Congratulations to the students for scoring high grades in the board examination! **Very well done! Congratulations** to all!

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme – May 2020 [Grades 11 & 12]

A total of **82** students of GSIS had registered for the IB examination for the May 2020 session. 79 candidates appeared for the IBDP and 3 candidates appeared for the IB Diploma Course. The May 2020 examinations for the Diploma Programme were scheduled to take place between 30 April and 22 May. The normal examination schedule was disrupted due to the panic created by the spread of the novel coronavirus. The IB cancelled the examinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic the world over and the difficult circumstances our students and educators are experiencing.

The IB declared the results for the class 12 students. Depending on what they registered for, the students were awarded a Diploma or a Course Certificate which reflected their standard of work. This was based on student's coursework, predicted grade as submitted to IB by respective schools and the established assessment expertise, rigour and quality control already built into the programme. The Good Shepherd International School produced very good results. 9 students scored 40 points and above in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme of the May 2020 session. **Master Sriniketh Krishnan** scored 43 points out of 45 points in the IBDP examinations 2020 and attained the pride of being the school topper.

Overview of the results:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Diploma Awarded | : 79 candidates |
| Diploma Course Certificates Awarded | : Nil |
| Course Students | : 3 |
| Average Diploma score of GSIS students | : 34 points |
| Highest Diploma score awarded to a GSIS candidate | : 43 points |
| Average grade of GSIS students who passed the diploma | : 5.41 |
| Number of students who scored 40 points or above | : 9 |



Sriniketh Krishnan



Mohammed Shamak Bin Masum



Raj Nipulbhai Dadhania



Vibhas Rikin Sekhani



Prerna Baid



Veer Manish Sambaragi



Nandini Saboo



Gayatri Cheerathu Dinesan



Pavanrat Sakulsacha

School Topper : **Master Sriniketh Krishnan [43 points; five 7s & one 6]**

Second Position : Master Mohammed Shamak Bin Masum [41 points; three 7s & three 6s] & Master Raj Nipulbhai Dadhanian [41 points; three 7s & three 6s]

Third Position : Master Vibhas Rikin Sekhani [40 points; two 7s, three 6s & one 5],
Ms Prerna Baid [40 points; one 7 & five 6s],
Master Veer Manish Sambaragi [40 points; three 7s, two 6s & one 5],
Ms Nandini Saboo [40 points; three 7s, two 6s & one 5],
Ms Gayatri Cheerathu Dinesan [40 points; two 7s & four 6s] &
Ms Pavanrat Sakulsacha [40 points; three 7s & three 6s]

One student (Master Sriniketh Krishnan) scored 43 points out of 45, two students (Master Mohammed Shamak Bin Masum and Master Raj Nipulbhai Dadhanian) scored 41 points each and six students (Master Vibhas Rikin Sekhani, Ms Prerna Baid, Master Veer Manish Sambaragi, Ms Nandini Saboo, Ms Gayatri Cheerathu Dinesan and Ms Pavanrat Sakulsacha) scored 40 points each. Of the nineteen subjects offered, there were 7s in fifteen subjects. Overall, there were sixty-five 7s and one hundred fifty-five 6s. Eight students scored a 3 in the Theory of Knowledge/Extended Essay combination, with eleven scoring A's in Extended Essay and two scoring A's in Theory of Knowledge. Heartiest **congratulations** to each one of our young achievers and their proud parents!

We thank the students, staff, parents, guardians and the learning community of Good Shepherd International School for the excellent results of the IBDP May 2020 examinations.