

From Principal's Desk

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we close another inspiring and eventful third quarter, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on the achievements and experiences that have shaped our school community. This quarter has been marked by numerous events and milestones that have enriched our students' learning journeys and strengthened our bonds as a community. I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable activities and accomplishments we have shared.

We have had the privilege of hosting various events this term, each contributing to the vibrant life of our school. From the spirited Independence Day celebrations that filled us with patriotic pride to the insightful Career Guidance Seminar that provided our students with valuable perspectives on their future paths, this newsletter reflects our school community's dedication, resilience, and collective spirit.

We also welcomed our new Class XI students with a comprehensive orientation program, ensuring they felt supported and ready to embark on this new chapter of their academic journey. This event was designed to help them acclimate to the senior school environment, providing valuable information and a sense of belonging. It helped them transition smoothly

and set the stage for academic and personal growth. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn have already positively impacted our school community.

Our Career Guidance Seminar was a tremendous success. It offered students insights into various career paths and helped them navigate their futures confidently. It helped our students make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures.

Our Independence Day celebrations were a testament to the spirit of patriotism and unity that binds us. The event was marked by a series of competitions and vibrant cultural performances, speeches, and activities that reminded us of the importance and responsibilities of our freedom.

Our students continue to excel in their studies, demonstrating remarkable enthusiasm and commitment. The recent assessment project works have showcased their creativity and critical thinking, proving that our future is in capable hands. We experimented with school-based Assessments [SBA] to implement NEP 2020. Students participated overwhelmingly. The SBA reflects not only their academic prowess but also their ability to apply knowledge to real-world scenarios. I am incredibly proud of our students' hard work and dedication.

Teacher's Day was a special occasion to honour the tireless efforts of our educators. Our students expressed their gratitude through heartfelt messages, performances, and gestures of appreciation. It was a day filled with joy and recognition of teachers' pivotal role in shaping young minds.

In response to the recent floods, our school community came together to support those affected. The outpouring of generosity and compassion was genuinely inspiring. Our students, parents, and staff showed commendable generosity and compassion in collecting and distributing relief materials. This initiative highlighted our collective commitment to social responsibility and humanitarian efforts.

As we move forward to the last part of this academic session, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made the school events successful. The dedication of our students, the unwavering support of parents, and the tireless efforts of our staff have made our journey smooth. Let us carry forward the lessons and memories we have created and continue to strive for excellence in all our endeavours. Your continued support and involvement are essential to the vibrant and nurturing environment we strive to maintain at our school. Let us continue to work together to inspire, educate, and uplift one another.

With warm regards,

Father Jilson Tom CSC, Principal, HCSA

CAREER GUIDANCE SEMINAR

As students, we are at a crossroads, facing numerous career choices that will shape our future. Choosing the right career option is a vital step in our lives. Attending the Career Guidance Seminar at our school on July 13, 2024, was an enlightening and memorable experience. The seminar gave us a unique opportunity to gain insights into potential career paths.

As I walked into the auditorium, I felt a buzz of excitement and curiosity. The day began with a group activity and an introductory session. The emphasis on career planning, following our passions, and staying true to our interests resonated deeply. It set a powerful and motivating tone for the rest of the seminar.

The sessions were a diverse mix of professions, ranging from traditional fields like medicine and engineering to emerging careers in technology and creative industries. This variety broadened our perspectives on career options and sparked our interest in potential personal growth.

The practical activities were the most engaging parts of the seminar. The hands-on sessions on resume-building, SWOT analysis, Aptitude tests, interview skills, and networking strategies offered practical tips that we knew would be immediately useful when applying for internships or jobs.

What made the seminar truly special was our sense of community and support. We were all there to learn and grow, and our discussions

during breaks and after sessions were just as valuable as the formal presentations. Sharing our aspirations and concerns with peers created a supportive environment where we could learn from each other's experiences, making us all feel included and part of a more extensive network.

By the end of the day, we walked away with a clearer vision of our career paths and a renewed confidence in our abilities to achieve our goals. The Career Guidance Seminar was more than just an informational event; it was a transformative experience that equipped us with the knowledge and motivation to take the following steps towards our future, leaving us inspired and motivated.

I thank our principal, Father Jilson Tom CSC, for giving us his time and expertise to enlighten us on our career paths. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend such an impactful seminar. It provided valuable career insights and inspired us to pursue our dreams with determination and passion.



Sohadi Chakraborty
Class- XII A



NURTURING MINDS, HEALING HEARTS - TRAINING PROGRAM IN BANNERGHATA, BANGALORE

On the 11th of July, my colleague and I took a flight from Agartala to Bangalore with a delegation from Tripura to attend a two-day training program at the Peyton Institute For Families, run by the Holy Cross congregation. The program was slated for the 12th and 13th of July 2024 and was on how to deal with emotionally disturbed children, their home lives and how to help them cope in school. There were participants from all the schools run by the Holy Cross Fathers/Brothers congregation, from all over India. We were put up in their beautiful, lush campus in Bannerghatta. I was awed by the amount of professional expertise the organising Fathers showed there. The training program was very informative and helpful. In the first session, Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham (the current Provincial of the Northeast Province) gave us an insight into the philosophy of Holy Cross Education and how and why Fr. Basil Moreau first established a school in France in 1836. In the next session, Fr. Royal Nazareth spoke on 'Cultivating Empathy in Education'. The session emphasised on the importance of empathy in teachers in providing emotional safety to the students in school. He gave some creative tips on conducting activities that the teachers might conduct to enhance students' social and emotional skills. After that, we were invited to talk about how we, as a school, faced and dealt with children who

were emotionally disturbed. I elucidated on some points through a PowerPoint presentation. The next day started with a powerful session on work-life balance by Dr. Manila Cavalho and Mr. Alan Cavalho. They spoke on developing the right attitude in life, how to plan the day and gave some practical strategies to manage time and job pressure. The whole experience was amazing. We learnt through various activities, which helped us work together, learn, and make friends from all over India. I thank my Principal, Rev. Fr. Jilson Tom, and my Vice Principal, Rev. Fr. Agi Paul, for selecting and sending me and my colleague for this enlightening experience. We hope to put our knowledge and learning to good use here at Holy Cross School, Agartala.



BETHANY FOUNDATION DAY 2024

The Bethany Foundation's history unfolds like a carefully woven tapestry, each thread representing a story of hope and transformation. It is known as The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany and was founded on July 16, 1921, by Rev. Fr. RFC Mascarenhas, the then parish priest of St Sebastian Church, Bendur, Mangalore.

It is one of the most prominent days, and each year, Holy Cross School, Agartala, celebrates it with great enthusiasm. Most of the students from both junior and senior classes participated in felicitating our dearest sisters from Holy Cross School. Some students also bring cards and flower bouquets as a gift of gratitude. As a member of the Holy Cross Family, it is bliss to be a part of such a beautiful and auspicious day.

This year's Bethany Foundation Day was memorable because being one of the Cabinet members allowed me to congratulate our sisters with greater exertion. Making the invitation card with two able leaders (the Cultural Captain and ASPL) was

interesting. Besides, I would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and express extreme gratitude to our respected Teacher's rep for helping us until the last moment. The smiling faces of our sisters on seeing the card were all our efforts could ever ask for.

Though my fever prevented me from attending school on the primary day, it was still wonderful to hear that it went smoothly without any hindrance. Well, it wouldn't have been possible without the strong cooperation and coordination of all the members of Holy Cross Family. Let us continue progressing and working together as a term. Thank you.



Krittika Indu
Literary Captain



LEGAL AWARENESS SEMINAR

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it," said Albert Einstein. While we learn many subjects in school, we should always be open to other topics. I experienced it when Madam Merlyn Darlong and other professors and law students pursuing their degrees from the National Law University of Tripura visited our school to conduct a Legal Awareness Seminar for class XII. The team made an impactful presentation.

Being unfamiliar with many of the topics, I was interested in learning more about them. They told us about our rights as students in our country, which significantly broadened our understanding. These included the fundamental rights to equality and education, non-discrimination rights, freedom of expression, and a safe and healthy learning environment. They also informed us about the various types of contracts used in the corporate world, empowering us with knowledge from unilateral and bilateral agreements to those involving the buying and selling of properties.

They educated us about the workings of the Indian court systems, including the Supreme Court, the High Court, the district and other lower-level courts, and how they derive their powers from the

Constitution of India.

They also informed us about the various legal protections for the safety and security of girls and women from harassment, abuse, marriage, and divorce, which is very important in today's day and age, considering women are generally considered to be less informed of their rights and protections.

I thank our school administration for providing us with this informative learning experience. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Madam Merlyn Darlong and the National Law University of Tripura team for their insightful seminar. Their dedication and expertise have given us a valuable learning experience that will undoubtedly shape our understanding of the legal systems and our rights.



SWAYAM DEB
Cultural Captain

TEACHERS' ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Holy Cross School, Agartala, organised a one-day "Safeguarding Children" seminar on 13th August 2024. Rev. Fr. Abraham KJ, the Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Fathers, Northeast Province, and the Chairman of Holy Cross Education Foundation, was the chief guest and resource person for the event. The entire faculty of Holy Cross School actively participated in this insightful seminar.

The school's Principal, Fr. Jilson Tom, extended a warm welcome to the attendees and introduced the chief guest, shedding light on the achievements of Rev. Fr. Abraham KJ. Subsequently, Fr. Abraham delivered an engaging presentation, commencing with a comprehensive slideshow. His impactful address resonated with the educators as he underscored the significance of raising awareness and effectively preventing child abuse. He urged each teacher to pursue their passions and undertake calculated risks and

stressed that the skills acquired would prove valuable. Fr. Abraham emphasised that every child possesses the right to a life free from violence, exploitation, and abuse, with safeguarding constituting an essential facet of a teacher's responsibilities.

Fr. Abraham also discussed the positive progress in schools' efforts to protect and safeguard

children, focusing on the more child-centred and trauma-informed approaches. Changes in the curriculum, like the requirement for relationship and sex education, are prompting important conversations about personal safety. He emphasized the crucial role of educators in promoting a strong culture of safeguarding within educational institutions, underscoring the seminar's significant contribution to this mission.

The seminar had a profound impact on the educators, fostering enthusiasm and mindfulness. It served as a powerful reminder of their duty to maintain a secure and supportive environment within the school, ensuring it remains a safe space for children and adolescents. By establishing positive relationships with students, teachers can encourage them to voice their concerns and identify subtle indicators of distress. Despite appearing minor, these indicators could signify an underlying issue. The seminar was a transformative experience for all the educators, sparking a shift in their approach toward their students.



SR. VERONICA SENTEI
Headmistress (NS)



78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN HOLY CROSS

Independence Day celebration is one of the most critical events in the Holy Cross School calendar. Every year, the school organises activities before 15th August for nearly a week to inspire student patriotism and unity. This year was no exception as it organised solo and group activities from the 1st of August and meticulously planned to nurture the feeling of love and respect for the country. To ensure maximum participation, competitions were organised among the eight houses, which made the celebration more special.

Cultural events were organised in the form of solo songs, solo dances, group songs, group dances, character dramatization of freedom fighters, and storytelling with props, all revolving around patriotic themes. These activities were incorporated to sensitise the children to our rich history and further make them appreciate the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters. The traditional costumes worn by song and dance performers added colour to the festive atmosphere.

Students were not only tested on their expertise in arts and crafts. They were also allowed to express patriotic feelings in events like face painting, rangoli, making of toran, and painting the diyas. The 'salad dressing' competition was in this category, where the students artistically presented the vegetables.

The government declared the theme of the 78th Independence Day 'Viksit Bharat' or 'Developed India.' Activities revolving around this theme included 'Video message presentations' and 'bulletin board presentations.' While performing and witnessing these activities, the students received information and clarity about India

as it is today.

Holy Cross hoisted it on August 13, 2024, and solemnly observed the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to encourage a deeper connection with our National Flag. The celebration became educational and interesting, with events like the spell bee competition, extempore, and, finally, 'Mock Court.' Mock Court proved to be educative, as the students were able to understand how the process of trial takes place in the court.

The celebration of 15th August 2024 was the culmination of all the events organised since the 1st of August 2024. On this day, the celebration began with flag hoisting and a march past by the NCC cadets, eight houses and the security staff. The chief guest to grace this occasion was Rev. Fr. Kitbok CSC. We were delighted to have him amidst us since he had been a student of this institution at the Higher Secondary level. The celebration emphasised the diverse culture of our nation with ethnic and traditional dance performances. The students' songs on this day were a tribute to our freedom fighters. Thus, the Independence Day celebration ended in a significant way for the students.



CYBER - BULLYING

With increased access to technology, **cyberbullying** is a genuine challenge facing many students and families.

Cyberbullying includes the use of social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other online platforms to send abusive or hurtful texts, emails, posts, images or videos; deliberately exclude others online; spread nasty gossip or rumours; impersonate someone online or use their log-in.

Examples of behaviours considered to be cyberbullying include:

- Teasing and making fun of someone in the online environment to the extent that it causes them emotional distress.
- Spreading rumours online
- Repeatedly sending someone unwanted messages, even after a request to stop
- Damaging a person's reputation by sharing untrue statements about them.

Cyberbullying can happen to anyone, and the person may act anonymously or publicly if they feel they cannot be reprimanded. People can also be bullied online by groups of people, such as class groups or collective members of an online community.

What's the difference between bullying and cyberbullying?

While bullying isn't new, cyberbullying has a unique set of characteristics that are evolving with changes in technology.

1. The invasion of home and personal space can occur 24/7
Cyberbullying can take place at any time and comes directly into a student's personal space, whether it is at school or home.
2. The audience can be huge and reached rapidly
The difficulty in controlling electronically circulated messages means the scale and scope of cyberbullying can be greater than other forms of bullying. Electronically forwarded content is hard to control, and concerns that content may resurface later can make it difficult for targets to move on.
3. People who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous
This can be highly distressing for those being targeted. The content creator could hide behind pseudonyms and fictitious social media accounts.
4. Some instances of cyberbullying are known to be unintentional
It can be the result of not thinking (something sent as a joke may be profoundly upsetting or offensive to the recipient) or a lack of awareness of the consequences – for example, saying something negative online about another pupil or a friend that they don't expect to be forwarded or viewed outside their immediate group.

Cyber Addiction Leads to Potential Cyber Security Risks.

Internet addiction increases one's exposure to the online world. It potentially leads to a lot of cyber-related issues, especially social issues that result from spending too much time online, such as online gaming, cyberbullying and even cyber grooming.

Tips to keep children safe on the internet are:

- Parents need to familiarise themselves with the content their children are being exposed to.
- Parents can install parental control applications that can help monitor and block inappropriate content.
- Parents should keep themselves up-to-date with the online world.
- Schools should start educating students on cyber security awareness.

- Parents should also raise their children's awareness of cyber security risks.

What children might feel....

When you experience cyberbullying, you might start to feel ashamed, nervous, anxious and insecure about what people say or think about you. This can lead to withdrawing from friends and family, negative thoughts and self-talk, feeling guilty about things you

did or did not do, or feeling that you are being judged negatively. Feeling lonely, overwhelmed, frequent headaches, nausea or stomach aches are also common.

You can lose motivation to do what you usually enjoy and feel isolated from those you love and trust. This can perpetuate negative feelings and thoughts, which can adversely affect your mental health and well-being.

Skipping school is another common effect of cyberbullying. It can affect the mental health of young people who turn to substances like alcohol and drugs or violent behaviour to deal with their psychological and physical pain. Talking to a friend, family member or school counsellor you trust can be a first step to getting help.

How and Where to Report

Filing a Complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal: This portal is an initiative of the Government of India to facilitate victims/complainants to report cyber-crime complaints online. This portal caters to complaints pertaining to cyber crimes only, with a special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Complaints reported on this portal are dealt with by law enforcement agencies/police based on the information available in the complaints.

Face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying can often happen alongside each other. But cyberbullying leaves a digital footprint – a record that can prove helpful and provide evidence to help stop the abuse.

People who are victims of any form of violence, including bullying and cyberbullying, have a right to justice and to have the offender held accountable. We should all follow the Golden Rule - Be nice online and in real life. - Do not say or do anything online that you wouldn't say or do in person.



Honouring Our Teachers on Teacher's Day: A Unique Experience

Teacher's Day is a cherished occasion to honour educators' dedication and hard work. Holy Cross Agartala School marked a historic milestone this year by celebrating Teachers' Day twice, each event with deep meaning and significance.

Teachers' Day is traditionally celebrated on September 5th in India, but this year was different. Due to the devastating floods that impacted Tripura, our teachers chose to hold a formal assembly to meaningfully contribute to the suffering community. The extreme circumstances of the floods prompted our educators to reflect on their roles not only as teachers but also as active members of society. This special assembly reminded us of our collective responsibility during challenging times. The assembly was a resounding success, led by the enthusiastic Class XII students, who stepped into their teachers' shoes for the entire noon shift. This unique experience allowed students to appreciate their teachers' daily challenges while fostering a sense of respect and gratitude among peers. The electrifying atmosphere was filled with camaraderie and admiration. Students took this opportunity to engage their classmates in learning, showcasing their creativity and leadership skills.

The special assembly featured various activities, including a teacher's speech that resonated with everyone present. The teachers shared stories of resilience and the importance of education, emphasising the role of teachers as guides and mentors in times of adversity. The students, in turn, delivered lessons that reflected the compassion and knowledge imparted to them by their educators. It was a day filled with learning, laughter, and reflection, creating a deeper bond between students and teachers.

In addition to the special assembly, the school authorities again

recognised the significance of honouring our teachers on Holy Cross Feast Day, September 13, 2024. This decision came with a sense of urgency and excitement, especially for the Class XII students, as this would be their last chance to organise such a celebration. The anticipation of a grand Teachers' Day celebration added a layer of enthusiasm to the school community. Students

planned cultural performances, including dances, skits, and music, to express gratitude to their teachers. This event promised to be a celebration of educators and a testament to the spirit of unity and resilience that defines Holy Cross School, Agartala.

Both celebrations served as powerful reminders of teachers' vital role in shaping the future, especially during times of crisis. The decision to contribute to flood relief efforts exemplified the school's commitment to social responsibility. The Class XII students embraced this opportunity, demonstrating their growth and maturity as they prepared to step into the next phase of their lives.

In conclusion, the double celebration of Teachers' Day at Holy Cross School, Agartala was a historic and transformative experience. It honoured the educators who dedicated their lives to teaching and highlighted the importance of community and resilience in the face of adversity. Together, we celebrate learning, gratitude, and the spirit of giving back.



FLOOD RELIEF MISSION BY HOLY CROSS SCHOOL: BRING HOPE TO DISPLACED FAMILIES

In response to the devastating floods that swept through various parts of Tripura, the dedicated team of Holy Cross School, Agartala, undertook a large-scale flood relief mission to support affected communities across the state. The initiative, coordinated by the school's teaching and non-teaching staff, provided essential livelihood items to those in need, offering hope and assistance during these challenging times.

The mission was meticulously planned, with different groups of staff assigned to specific regions to ensure comprehensive coverage. The morning shift teachers took charge of the Amarpur subdivision, while the afternoon teachers and staff contacted the Udaipur subdivision. The school administration staff focused their efforts on the Korbook subdivision. This comprehensive approach ensured that no affected area was left unattended, and each team visited numerous relief camps, where they personally handed over the relief materials to the affected families.

The relief packages, which included essential daily items such as clothing and hygiene supplies, were not just a form of aid, they were a symbol of the personal connection established by the school staff with the flood-affected families. The staff spoke with the

displaced individuals, listening to their stories and sharing their grief and resilience, thereby adding a human touch to the relief efforts.

The Tripura state administration provided invaluable support throughout the mission. Their efforts to maintain law and order and ensure the proper distribution of relief items were crucial to the operation's success. Their collaboration ensured that all families in the relief camps received the aid they desperately needed.

The Holy Cross School's flood relief mission is a shining example of community solidarity and compassion in the face of adversity. Through their tireless efforts, the school has provided material assistance and a sense of hope and comfort to those affected by the floods.



MY EXPERIENCE WITH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING UNDER NEP 2020

Since 2023, all the news channels have been busy discussing the implementation of the New Educational Policy (NEP) 2020. Holy Cross School, Agartala took a significant step towards it and initiated Project-Based Learning [PBL] in place of UNIT II examinations.

We were divided into five groups: A, B, C, D, and E. Each group had 8-12 members, and various topics on different subjects were given to the groups. Group work enabled the teachers and us to learn about our talents. Some were good speakers, some were good artists, some were tech-savvy, and many more. There were several modes of presentation: PowerPoint, chart, and model presentation, and even drama was a mode of presentation!

Introducing PBL as part of NEP 2020 has been a transformative experience for us students. When our school introduced PBL, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. However, I soon realised this approach was a game-changer in learning and engaging with our studies. Gone are the days of rote learning and passive classroom sessions. PBL has breathed new life into our educational journey, making learning exciting and engaging.

At first, the transition seemed daunting. The idea of working on extensive projects, collaborating with peers, and presenting our findings felt overwhelming. However, the apprehension became enthusiastic as we dived into our first project. From the very first project, it was clear that PBL differed from the traditional student project work we were used to. Instead of working on isolated assignments, we were challenged to tackle real-world problems that required critical thinking and collaboration. PBL has put us in the driver's seat of our learning. We had to research, plan, and execute our project, making critical decisions. It was empowering to take ownership of our work and see the real impact of our efforts. This sense of responsibility was a huge motivator.

The collaborative aspect of PBL has been particularly enriching. We had to divide tasks, manage timelines, and support each other to meet our goals. Working in teams taught us valuable communication, leadership, and conflict-resolution skills. Each member brought a unique perspective, and we could approach problems more creatively and effectively. The sense of solidarity and mutual support we experienced made the journey enjoyable and rewarding, making us feel more connected as a group. This

improved our teamwork skills and taught us the importance of effective communication and conflict resolution.

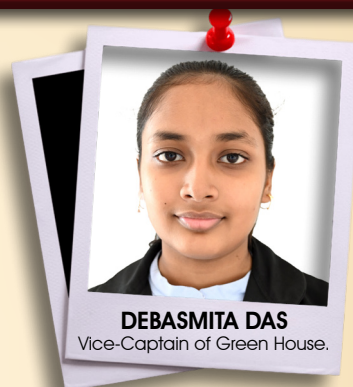
Unlike traditional projects, where you wait for the final grade, PBL involves continuous feedback from our teachers and peers. This iterative process helped us refine our work and learn from our mistakes in real-time, making it a much more dynamic and engaging way to

learn. The skills we developed during PBL were practical and applicable beyond the classroom. Whether conducting surveys, analysing data, or presenting our findings, everything we did had a tangible purpose. It felt great to see our efforts culminate in something meaningful.

Moreover, PBL has significantly enhanced our critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Instead of memorising facts and formulas, we are encouraged to ask questions, research, and develop solutions. This hands-on approach has made learning more meaningful and relevant to our lives. We feel more confident tackling complex issues and are better prepared to bring theoretical knowledge to real-life situations.

Looking back, Project-Based Learning has enhanced my understanding of various subjects and equipped me with problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. These skills will be valuable throughout my life. PBL has transformed our educational experience by making learning more relevant, engaging, and impactful. It has shown us that education is about acquiring and applying knowledge to make a difference in the world. I am grateful to our school for embracing this innovative approach and to the NEP 2020 for promoting such progressive educational reforms.

I have no words for what this school has provided me—these assessments, those two weeks, those teachers, students, my friends, and all those memories. I thank Holy Cross for contributing to our overall development. I am really in love with every single piece of this school. Thank you.



MY PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT UNDER NEP 2020

Unit Test II was interrupted this year due to the flood, so the NEP 2020 integrated assessment test was conducted for Classes V to XII. The assessment test started on September 18th, 2024, and ended on October 1st, 2024. Classes V and VI had an MCQ test based on creativity, problem-solving, and high-order thinking skills.

For Classes VII to XII, Project-Based Learning [PBL] activities were conducted. Class teachers divided the groups and informed the Block Coordinators. Topics were finalised from the Unit-II chapters and allocated to the students through a lottery. The class Teachers and the subject teachers instructed the students about the rubrics for evaluation and marking.

The students were well-equipped and presented very well. In some cases, students who are very shy and introverts also performed very well. We could understand that they had very good group activity and group Coordination. Hidden talents were exposed. The subject teachers and the peer group evaluated all the students in different categories. The Peer group enjoyed marking their classmates.

As an educator with years of experience in the classroom, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of School-Based As-

essment (SBA). This approach shifts the focus from traditional, high-stakes exams to more comprehensively evaluating students' abilities and learning journeys.

One of the most significant advantages of SBA is its ability to provide a holistic view of a student's progress. Unlike standardised tests that often capture a narrow aspect of learning, SBA encompasses a variety of assessment methods, such as projects, presentations, and continuous assessments. This variety allows teachers to evaluate a broader range of skills, including critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration.

SBA enabled me to offer personalised feedback to my students, which is crucial for their growth and improvement. Traditional exams



often result in a single grade, leaving little room for detailed insights. With SBA, I can provide specific, constructive feedback that helps students understand their strengths and areas for improvement. This ongoing feedback loop fosters a growth mindset and encourages continuous learning.

From a well-being perspective, SBA significantly reduces the stress and pressure of high-stakes exams. Students are assessed through various activities over time, alleviating the anxiety of performing well on a single test. This more relaxed environment promotes better learning and knowledge retention, as students are not solely focused on exam preparation.

SBA promotes active learning and student engagement. Students become more involved in learning by integrating assessments into regular classroom activities. They are not just passive recipients of information but active participants in their education. This engagement is particularly beneficial for developing soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

One of the most valuable aspects of SBA is its inclusivity. Traditional exams can be biased towards students who excel in test-taking. In contrast, SBA allows multiple assessment forms, accommodating

diverse learning styles and abilities. This inclusivity ensures that all students can demonstrate their knowledge and skills in ways that suit them best.

SBA often involves real-world problems and scenarios, making learning more relevant and applicable. Students who work on projects that simulate real-life challenges are better prepared for future academic pursuits and careers—this practical application of knowledge bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world skills.

Implementing SBA is not without its challenges. It requires careful planning, time management, and a shift in mindset for both teachers and students. However, these challenges are surmountable with proper training, resources, and support.

In my experience, School-Based Assessment has been a game-changer in creating a more dynamic, inclusive, and effective learning environment. It emphasises the continuous development of skills and knowledge, fostering a love for learning rather than mere exam preparation. As educators, our goal is to nurture well-rounded individuals ready to face future challenges, and SBA is a powerful tool in achieving that vision.

CLASS XII ARTS STUDY TOUR

On July 10, 2024, the students of Class XII Arts visited Mutha Industries Pvt. Limited, situated at Bodhjungnagar Plot—A, Bamboo Park main road. The main aim of the visit was to complete their Geography Project prescribed by the Board as their curriculum under the topic 'Visit a manufacturing unit to find out the sources of raw materials, supply root, area where it is sent, manpower strength and their organisation.'

The Mutha Bamboo Processing Industry was established in 2014, though the foundation stone was laid in 2012. In a world

that is chasing Sustainable Development, Mutha Industries takes pride in bringing green industries to our homes. It endeavours for brilliance and wishes to lead India into the future with innovative offerings.

The students visited almost all the processing units and

learned step-by-step how bamboo is transformed

into various products. The industry, with constant research and development of processed bamboo, offers 45 different varieties of products, which include doors, door frames, flooring, decking, customised furniture, etc. These finished products are sold under the name 'Epitome Bamboo Products.' Though processed from bamboo, they give the same feeling as hardwood.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the administration and staff members for their invaluable assistance and provision of necessary information. The trip was not only educational but also enjoyable for the students.



SONALI NANDI
Asst. Teacher



WE THINK OF YOU – A MORAL SCIENCE EXPOSURE PROJECT

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving," said Mother Teresa. The ICSE batch 2025, inspired and guided by their Moral Science teachers, demonstrated remarkable empathy and compassion as they reached out to people in need on October 25, 2024, putting their classroom lessons into heartfelt action.

Holy Cross Education's motto is "Educating Heart and Mind," which integrates compassion and learning. The Moral Science Education program, backed by the expertise of experienced educators, comprises a series of interactive sessions. These sessions delve into various aspects of moral science, such as ethical decision-making, community service, and the significance of helping others. The Moral Science Exposure Program, a unique initiative, was launched in 2022 with the noble goal of reaching out to 50 underprivileged families in our neighbouring community. The program's distinctive feature was its focus in instilling values of empathy, compassion, and social responsibility in our students, thereby nurturing them to become conscientious citizens.

This year, we visited a community in Damdamia, where 50 selected families were invited to attend the program in ASHA Holy Cross. With the guidance of teachers, the students executed the campaign with efficiency and enthusiasm. The students and their teachers interacted with the families, understanding their needs and offering support. The students distributed baskets, blankets, bedsheets, and some dry food items to 50 families at Damdamia village out of the donations from Class X students and teachers. This direct engagement helped students not only understand the

impact of their actions on real people's lives but also realize the depth of their learning and growth. Their excitement and happiness were palpable as they contributed to a noble cause. The effect of their actions was profound, as the people of Damdamia village, with tearful eyes and joyous smiles, expressed their heartfelt gratitude and blessed the students with a bright future.

The program profoundly impacted both the students and the families involved. Students reported a greater understanding of moral values and a significant increase in their empathy. It demonstrated the importance of solidarity and community support by reaching underprivileged families and involving students in meaningful activities.

I felt immensely blessed and honoured to be part of such a noble event. Our students were also profoundly influenced by the moral values of social responsibility, compassion, respect, and kindness. The short trip blended fun, learning, new experiences, pleasure, and positivity. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Principal, Fr. Jilson Tom CSC, for his visionary leadership in organising such events. His initiatives not only benefit the underprivileged but also enrich the souls and educate the minds of our students.



UPcoming EVENTS

2024-25

02-11-2024	Parent-Teacher Meeting
09-11-2024	Picnic – Classes X & XII
04-11-2024	Practical Exams begin
12-11-2024	Minor Subjects Exam begin
17-11-2024	Class VIII Parents Seminar
18-11-2024	Final Exams Begin
30-11-2024	Last Day of Final Exams
02-12-2024	Class XII Board Practical Exams begin
03-12-2024	SOF - NSO
07-12-2024	Parent Teacher Meeting
10-12-2024	SOF - ISSO
12-11-2024	SOF - IMO
13-12-2024	Results and Book Distribution (Nursery – KG II and X - XII)
14-12-2024	Results and Book Distribution (I-IV)
15-12-2024	Results and Book Distribution (Noon Shift)
14-12-2024	Anticipated celebrations of Christmas and Fr. Agi's Birthday.
17-12-2024	Winter Holidays Begin
15-01-2025	Staff Enrichment Program
16-01-2025	Staff Enrichment Program

JULY-SEPT 2024
PROGRAMME PHOTOS
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