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ISEB Independent Schools
Examinations Board

Essay Competition 2022

on developing and challenging pupils in their application of programming skills whereas Cybersecurity focused on principles and preparation for Cyber Centurian competition using the Cyber Start program. The Cyber Club team is looking forward to the competition in the 2022/23 academic year.

As this year closes, we say goodbye and thanks to Mr Ramnarain, who is taking the position of Head of Department in a school near to his home. Mr Ramnarain will be replaced by an experienced teacher Mr Sivalingham, who brings with him a wealth of teaching experience both in the UK and abroad.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere thanks to all the pupils and Staff who have made my tenure as a Head of the Department in the past four years a memorable one. As I move to a new role within the School, I leave the Department in the capable hands of our new Head of the Department Mrs Colette Babe, who will be starting her role in September 2022. Colette is an experienced

teacher and Department Head. She has worked in many schools with a notable eleven years spent at Bromley High School delivering a successful Computer Science Department and a STEAM ambassador. I look forward to continuing in the Department as a teacher next academic year.

The Upper Sixth team from left: Daryna, Mr Martin, Mr Gupta, Harry, Daniel, Elliott, Jamie, Kimi and Artem.

Adi Gupta, Head of Computer Science



Philosophy & Religion

After two years of lockdowns combined with periods of online teaching, it has been wonderful to return to the physical classroom for the entirety of this academic year. We were immensely proud of the Stoics and their creative and inspiring efforts in the online classroom but it is in the physical classroom that Philosophy & Religion, a subject centred on debate and discourse truly comes to life.

It has been a year of change in the Department. After eight successful years as Head of Department, Colin Bray stepped down in January 2022, but he remains an integral part of the team as a classroom teacher.

It is also with great sadness that we said goodbye to our Chaplain and Departmental colleague Tim Mullins. Tim was an infectiously enthusiastic and kind individual, many Stoics benefited from his excellent teaching and we all benefited from his unwavering support. He is greatly missed.

2022 saw the return to the first public exams since 2019, and we were immensely impressed by the dedication and drive shown by both our Fifth Form and Upper Sixth exam cohorts. Both year groups worked tirelessly in the run up to their exams.

We have welcomed new cohorts at both GCSE and A Level this year and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm for the subject. It was wonderful to see 50 Third Form opt to begin the GCSE in January, demonstrating the subject's continuing appeal.

The Philosophy & Religion Society continued

this year and we explored a range of topics and texts that went beyond the A Level syllabus, including the relationship between faith and reason, philosophical challenges around the attributes of God and the Old Testament text of Esther.

January 2022 saw the return of the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event, which took place in the Music Room. A number of items of Music and Drama were presented by the Stoics, based around this year's theme 'One Day'. We were also fortunate to be recipients of a video recorded second generation testimony by Yifat, the daughter of Thomas Geve, a Holocaust survivor. Thomas' story is told in Old Stoic, Charlie Inglefield's (Temple 95) book 'The Boy Who Drew Auschwitz'. The evening was very moving and reflective and I would like to thank the support offered by the Music and Drama Departments in bringing the evening together.

The year ended with a great success when **Paul Ostroverhy (Third Form, Chandos)** received a commended mention in the Independent Schools' Religious Studies Association's annual essay competition. His essay was a highly sophisticated piece of work reflecting on the nature of freedom and drawing on a varied range of philosophers including Thomas Hobbes and Hannah Arendt.

I would also like to congratulate this year's internal prize winners, Darius Shirazi (Upper Sixth, Chandos), William Eastwood (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Jemima Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent).

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Bray and Dr Adkins for their support this year. The academic year of 2021-2022 was a memorable one and it has been a pleasure to take on the leadership of such an exciting, varied and forward-thinking Department.

Francesca Holloway,
Head of Philosophy & Religion

Commended

Victoria Wolfensburger, South Hampstead High School

Gurjus Chadha, Manchester Grammar School

Maia Martin, St Helen & St Katharine

Alexander Govindan, Wetherby Prep School

Saul Grenfell, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Azka Noor, Withington Girls' School

Paul Ostroverhy, Stowe School

Neve Pearson, Notting Hill and Ealing High School

Riccardo Santoleri, Manchester Grammar School

Ira Singh, St Helen & St Katherine

Flora Liu, Withington Girls' School



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