



A CLASS ACT:

Aditi students' performance in external examinations and college admissions 2008-2009

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A Letter from the Principal

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Dear Parents,

Greetings from Aditi!

A question that I am often asked by parents is: how do Aditi students fare in external (national and international) examinations? I get this question sometimes as early as during the Preparatory interview! My short answer to this question has always been that they do extremely well. In this letter I am providing a more detailed answer. I do this however, with the important caveat that consistently good public examination results are necessary, but not sufficient, indicators of the success and effectiveness of a school.

As you are aware, the school is affiliated to two examination boards: the *Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations* (CISCE) based in New Delhi and *Cambridge International Examinations* (CIE), based in Cambridge, UK. Both these boards offer two sets of external examinations. These are **CISCE's** ICSE (Std.10) and ISC (Std.12) and **CIE's** IGCSE (Std.10) and AS/A Level (Std.12).

ICSE/ISC

The results of the ICSE and ISC were announced in May 2009. The ICSE results were excellent with all our students being awarded pass certificates. Namrata Rao topped the class with an *all subject* average of 89%. Nine students averaged 80% or above. Apart from individual performances the average performance of the class was impressive in quite a few subjects. These include English (84%), Environmental Education (85%), Economic Applications (84%), Art (87%) and Physical Education (89%). The class averaged 77% taking all subjects into consideration.

The ISC results were, if anything, even more impressive for both individual and class performances. Tulika Sud and Tarini Padukone topped the Sciences and Arts streams with 95% and 93% respectively,

taking *all their subjects* into consideration. Class averages were particularly impressive in the following subjects: English (91%), Environmental Education (87%), Political Science (91%), Psychology (88%), Mathematics (84%), Economics (81%), Physics (80%), Literature (85%), Sociology (80%), Home Science (83%), Computer Science (88%) and Art (80%). The average for both classes, taking all subjects into consideration, was 84%.

Two points are worth noting here. Firstly, the school does not as a policy filter students to secure deceptively good results. We enter all our students for the examination, having provided them with the academic and pastoral support that they need, and securing accommodations, if necessary, from the Council. It is for this reason that, proud as I am of individual performances, I am infinitely prouder of how the class does as a whole. The successes of students with difficulties also fill my heart with joy. Secondly, the Council does not provide a nationwide ranking of students either for overall performance or individual subjects.

IGSE/AS/A Levels, ICE and AICE Diploma

The IGCSE awards grades from A* to G. Also, please note that in this school the IGCSE was taken in two sessions, November 2008 and May 2009. Given below is the list of subjects where the number of students who were awarded an A*, the highest grade, is 50% or more of the class. This, I felt, gives a sense of the depth of our results that I referred to earlier. The number of students who received an A* grade is given in brackets: Physics (15), History (2), Chemistry (14) and Economics (8), Business Studies (14), Food and Nutrition (2) and Biology (16).

CIE also has a group diploma award in the IGCSE. This is the *International Certificate of Education (ICE)*, for students who take a minimum of seven courses over five different subject groups. The diploma recognizes students who have taken a broad selection of courses. The diploma is awarded with ratings of *Distinction, Merit* and *Pass*. In 2009 **fifteen** students out of a class total of **twenty nine** received a Distinction.

In the AS/A Levels grades are awarded from A to E. Given below is the list of subjects where the number of students who were awarded an A, the highest grade, is 50% or more of the class. This, again, gives a sense of the depth of our results. The number of students who received an A grade is given in brackets: AS English Language and Literature (18), AS Art and Design (3), A-Level Art and Design (2), A-Level Biology (2), A-Level Chemistry (5), A-Level Economics (8), A-Level History (2), A-Level Mathematics (9), A-Level Physics (6), AS Business Studies (5), AS Economics (10), AS History (4) and AS Mathematics (9).

CIE has a group diploma award in the AS/A Levels as well. This is the *Advanced International Certificate of Education* (AICE), for students who earn six credits (AS Levels contributing 1 credit and A Levels contributing 2) over three different subject groups. This diploma also recognizes students who have taken a broad selection of courses. The diploma is awarded with ratings of *Distinction*, *Merit* and *Pass*. In 2009 **sixteen** students out of a class total of **twenty eight** received a Distinction. In the newly introduced Young Enterprise (YE) programme the highest grade of *Distinction* was awarded to 10 students. You will recall that it was YE that set up the **Amaising Store** in school and whose work was showcased at the CIE conference in Mumbai earlier this year.

Late last week CIE-India announced the *Outstanding Achievement Awards*. Aditi students won a total of eight awards, details of which are provided below:

First position Worldwide:

Ajay Ravindran AS Mathematics November 2008
Sejal Pachisia AS English Language and Literature May 2009¹

India A-Level Prize² (for top position nationwide across three A-Levels)

Boram Kim

¹ Sejal is the second student from Aditi to win this award

² Boram is the third student from Aditi to win the India A-Level Prize

First Position Nationwide:

<i>Abhimanyu Arni</i>	<i>A-Level Literature in English</i>	<i>May 2009</i>
<i>Neal Duggal</i>	<i>AS-Economics</i>	<i>May 2009</i>
<i>Shubhi Sharma</i>	<i>AS-Economics</i>	<i>May 2009</i>

Outstanding Achievement Nationwide: (*Awarded when sample size is not large enough to be awarded First Position Nationwide*)

<i>Arjuna Reddy</i>	<i>IGCSE Food and Nutrition</i>	<i>May 2009</i>
<i>Abhimanyu Arni</i>	<i>A- Level History</i>	<i>May 2009</i>

The combination of individual performance and depth of these results make them a significant accomplishment. I congratulate, first of all, the students who have worked hard to achieve this. Next, kudos are due to **individual subject teachers**, as well as all those teachers who have taught these students over the years. Congratulations must also go to the **two section Coordinators** and **respective class teachers** for their mentoring and supporting role, over the last two years. The essential scaffolding and advocacy of the Learning Support and Counselling departments cannot be praised too highly.

Mahindra Awards:

The K.C.Mahindra Education Trust instituted the *Mahindra Search for Talent Awards* in select schools across the country. These are awarded annually to students of Stds.8-11 for outstanding academic performance. In 1992, Aditi became one of the schools to be chosen for this prestigious award. My tracking of Mahindra Scholars from Aditi over the years reveals that they have vindicated the faith reposed in them by the school and the Trust. Apart from gaining admission to the finest colleges in India and abroad, they have gone on to make significant contributions in a range of career contexts. The Mahindra Scholars for the academic year 2008-2009 are as follows:

Std.8:	Avirukt Mittal
Std.9 ICSE:	Sridharan Thirumalai
Std.10 ICSE:	Sreevalli Srinivasan
Std.11 ISC (Arts):	Praatika Prasad
Std.11 ISC (Science):	Arjun Kudva
Std.11 AICE:	Neal Duggal

Sridharan Thirumalai and Sreevalli Srinivasan have also won the prestigious Honour Scholarship for winning the Mahindra Award twice.

The awards are not currently available to students of Std.9 and 10 (IGCSE).

College Admission Offers:

The foregoing results speak for themselves. This of course begs the question: how did they translate into college admissions? An indicative list of admission offers made to Aditi graduates of 2009 (AICE and ISC) is given below.

India:

Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi
Christ University
CMR College of Engineering
ILS Law College
Lady Shriram College
Mount Carmel College
Nagarjuna Institute of Engineering and Technology
NALSAR
Manipal University
National Institute of Design
NLSIU
NIFT
O.P.Jindal Global University
Ramaiah Medical College
RV College of Engineering
Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology
St.Stephen's College
St.Xavier's College (Mumbai)
Stella Maris College
Vydehi Medical College

Australia and New Zealand:

University of Melbourne
University of Auckland

Canada:

University of British Columbia (International Goodwill Scholarship)³
Queen's University
Mount Allison University (Merit Scholarship)⁴

Singapore:

Nanyang Technological University
Singapore Management University

United Kingdom:

Imperial College, University of London
London School of Art
Oxford University
Royal Holloway, University of London
University of Cambridge (HSBC Scholarship)⁵
University of Kent
University of Liverpool
University of Sussex
University of Warwick

United States:

Allegheny College
Brown University
Claremont-McKenna College
Duke University
Franklin and Marshall College
Georgia Institute of Technology
Macalester College (Kofi Annan Scholarship)⁶
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Stanford University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, LA
University of Massachusetts
Yale University

³ Sadhvi Gupta (AICE)

⁴ Nivedita Nath (ISC)

⁵ Agastya Muthanna (AICE)

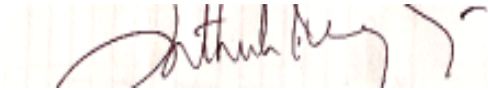
⁶ Tulsi Mehrotra-Menon (AICE)

Two points are worth reiterating here:

1. The list above gives lie to the claim (made by some) that sending our students to foreign universities is the *raison d'être* for Aditi's Pre-University section. The facts tell a different story. Our students routinely gain admission into the finest and most respected universities and colleges in this country. It is altogether another matter that we replicate the same overseas as well.
2. In the area of college selection one size certainly does not fit all. Our students opt for a fascinating plethora of pathways both in terms of subjects and college destinations. The experience of our alumni over the years clearly confirms that all these pathways can lead to successful careers in diverse fields.

It remains only for me to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. The students and faculty have certainly earned this break, given how hectic the first term has been. This does not of course apply to the students of Std.10 ICSE and 12 ISC who are returning to their mid-term examinations on October 5. My best wishes to you all.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sathish Jayarajan', is written over a light-colored, textured background.

SATHISH JAYARAJAN
Principal