

# THE TWS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021 ISSUE

## GREEN SOUQ SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS SOURCING

Green Souq - Sustainable Solutions Sourcing Conference is a TWS Climate change initiative to source sustainable solutions from industry experts who are creating a change to make this world a better place to live. It aims to encompass sustainable solutions that can be adopted at the individual level to create a larger impact on society as a whole.

**THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, DUBAI GREEN SOUQ**

World renowned climate change activists, environmentalists and social entrepreneurs come together with TWS and share sustainable solutions. Be part of this sustainable solutions conference.

28th JUNE 2021 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM (UTC+4)

<b>BILAL AJADI</b> SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEUR AT SHEIKH FARHAN - U.A.E. ABOUT ME	<b>OMAR SHIHAB</b> FOUNDER AND MANAGER OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR RESTAURANT - U.A.E. ABOUT ME
<b>NIKOLA SOBOT</b> DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AT CLEAR THE WORLD FOUNDATION - U.S.A. ABOUT ME	<b>EMMA BARBER</b> DIRECTOR AT DONORDE SUSTAINABLE FARMING - U.A.E. ABOUT ME
<b>LAKSHMI MENON</b> SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR & FOUNDER OF FORTLEAF INDIA - INDIA ABOUT ME	<b>VINISHA UMASHANKAR</b> STUDENT INNOVATOR - INDIA ABOUT ME
<b>ANNA PITT</b> KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT ENVIRONMENTAL U.S.A. - U.S.A. ABOUT ME	<b>JOE NEWCOMBE</b> CO-FOUNDER OF OCEAN UNCLE MADE FROM OCEAN WAVES - DENMARK ABOUT ME

## OUR SPEAKERS

**BILAL AJADI**   **OMAR SHIHAB**   **NIKOLA SOBOT**   **EMMA BARBER**   **LAKSHMI MENON**   **VINISHA UMASHANKAR**   **ANNA PITT**   **JOE NEWCOMBE**

From world-renowned climate change activists and environmentalists to social entrepreneurs, The Westminster School's third international mega-conference was a smashing success. Held on Monday 28th February, the conference featured eight keynote speakers from around the world, as well as the CEO of GEMS Education, Mr. Dino Varkey. He addressed the audience about adapting to perpetuating change in the world and how the youth of today, with such initiatives, bring about much needed positive change.

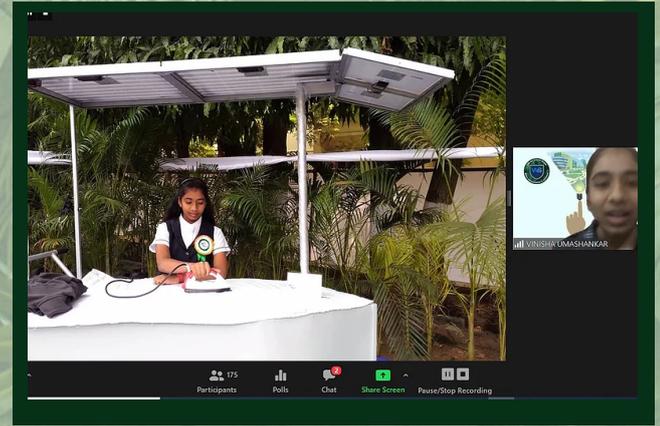
**CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS**

**MR. DINO VARKEY**  
Group Chief Executive Officer  
GEMS EDUCATION

**Impact Examples**

<b>Kenya</b> 56% Reduction in hygiene-related illnesses 45% Increase in school attendance	<b>Uganda</b> 67% Reduction diarrheal diseases within community of 16,000 people 21 New toilets installed 24 New handwashing stations in 6 schools + community clinic	<b>Tanzania</b> 49% Reduction in hygiene-related illnesses 42% Increase in school attendance	<b>India</b> 97% Reduction in hygiene-related illnesses 80% Children wash hands 90% Parents purchase soap
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The youngest keynote speaker was Ms. Vinisha Umashankar, an innovator and climate activist at 14 years old. Tackling the problem of climate change from her hometown of Tamilnadu, Ms. Umashankar designed a solar powered ironing cart to replace the charcoal powered carts in India.

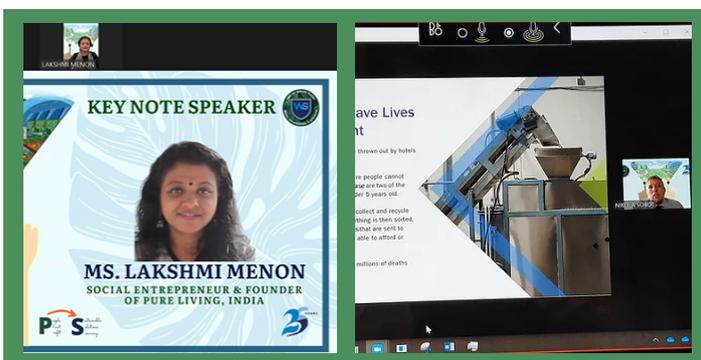


The remaining seven keynote speakers were: Mr. Bilal Ajadi (Aquaponics Engineer at Sheri Farms, U.A.E), Mr. Nikola Sobot (Director of Clean the World Foundation, U.S.A), Ms Lakshmi Menon (Founder of PURE Living, India), Ms. Anna Pitt (Keynote Speaker at Zero Waste Week, U.K), Mr. Omar Shihab (Founder and Manager of BOCA restaurant, U.A.E), Ms. Emma Barber (Director of Dgrade, U.A.E) and lastly Mr. Joe Newcombe (Co-founder of D'bris, Denmark). They voiced their general opinions and solutions for waste, whether it be food, fabric, or plastic.

Ms. Vijayakumari Sathyan, the Head of School at TWS, shared her thoughts moving forward with the Eco-School plan. She recounted the beginning of this journey back in 2020 when the student-led action plan was launched, paper initiatives that saved TWS a substantial amount in finance, and more. Moreover, she announced the implementation of three projects from the Youth Vision, Green Solution student seminar 2021: Conditioning the Air Conditioners, Sustainable Diet, and Hydroponics.



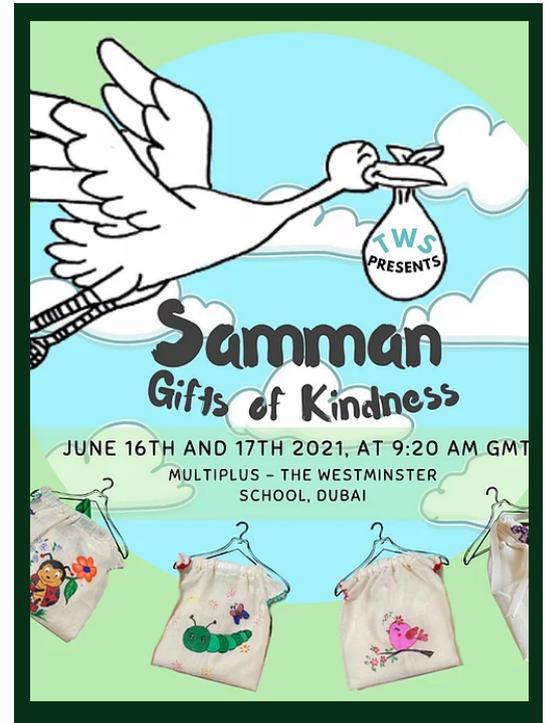
The CEO and Executive Principal of TWS, Mr. Carl Roberts, set a challenge for the youth. During his opening address he asked students to take inspiration from the conference to develop sustainable entrepreneurial ideas for implementation in the school. Laying sustainability as part of their foundation, they set themselves as an example for schools and businesses alike. With about 2220 attendees in this conference alone, GEMS TWS continues to successfully raise awareness and advocate for a greener and cleaner change, nationally and globally.



# THE SAMMAN PROJECT

## GIFT OF KINDNESS!

Samman means "Gift". The Westminster School, Dubai has joined hands with the NGO - Pure Living, India founded by social entrepreneur Ms. Lakshmi Menon. The project is an initiative to convert ordinary, unsold handloom material into a 'Samman' for underprivileged mothers of newborns in war-torn areas in different parts of the world, which is supported by the United Nations Development Program. The Samman project aims to convert the handloom materials sourced from weavers who find it difficult in these trying times to sell their stock, into baby frocks, nappies, and baby sheets. This Corporate social responsibility initiative of The Westminster School, Dubai proves the school's ongoing commitment to sustainable activities involving the entire school team.



The stakeholders of TWS participated wholeheartedly in this project and volunteered to design and stitched over 500 baby kits including dresses, napkins, and nappy sheets. The heartfelt handy work of the TWS members will be available for display and shared through social media under the title Samman - Gift of Kindness from TWS, Dubai. We are grateful for every hand that selflessly toiled for this great initiative and look forward to your ceaseless compassion and creativity in such endeavours in the future. Together we can make the world a much better place.



# TWS NEWS FEATURES!

## Dubai students make 500 kits for needy infants in conflict-hit countries

Saman Haziq | Dubai  
Filed on July 4, 2021



Supplied photo

# Khaleej Times

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/dubai-students-make-500-kits-for-needy-infants-in-conflict-hit-countries>

# APPRECIATION!



Mr. Sunish had hand sewed 60 frocks! We thank him for his efforts towards this program, we are sure his work will inspire many more!



Ms. Marshanil had individually painted 30 frocks! Her efforts and contribution towards this project is an inspiration for many students! We wholeheartedly thank her for her contribution!

## SAMMAN – GIFT OF KINDNESS

Jewels of Kindness and Respect Initiative

Young Minds



434

As part of the GEMS' Jewels of Kindness and Respect program, The Westminster School, Dubai has pioneered yet another initiative in encouraging student led projects

<https://www.theyoungvision.com/samman-gift-of-kindness/>



# YOUTH VISION GREEN SOLUTIONS

## A STUDENT COLLABORATION PROGRAM

'Youth Vision, Green Solution' an interschool student collaboration program was the next progressive step taken by the school. This three-week-long program was organized during the month of April 2021. It aimed to create a difference towards climate change. Sustainable solutions based on real-life case studies were presented by students' teams. Thirty students, three schools, five teams, two mentors (teacher and student) in each group started their marathon for sustainable solutions through 2 progressive sessions prior to the program.



- HIGH IMPACT - PAPER**  
Promote paperless operations
- MODERATE IMPACT - PLASTIC**  
Eradication of plastics
- AWARENESS IMPACT - PLASTIC**  
To promote sustainable fashion

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



**Wesgreen**  
International School



THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL



مدرسة جيمس ونشستر  
**GEMS**  
Winchester School  
DUBAI

## OUR TEAMS

## WINNING TEAMS!

**Group 1 - Green Saver (Conditioning the Air Conditioners)**

Ms. Ebra Teacher Mentor - TWB	Yehong Ake Year 10, TWB Student Mentor
Alisa Wazfar Year 11, TWB	Munaza Nagmani Year 11, TWB
Sriharsha Krishna Year 11, TWB	Aashwin Srivatsaran Year 11, TWB
Hani Shabb Year 11, GSB	

### Green Saver

**Group 3 - Grow Green (Technology in Agriculture)**

Ms. Supriya Teacher Mentor - TWB	Joshua Isaac Year 11, TWB Student Mentor
Aseel Mohammed Year 11, TWB	Khadija Ali Asghar Year 11, TWB
Fengyu Yang Year 11, TWB	Muhammad Rayan Year 11, TWB
Nastha Kamran Year 11, GSB	

### Grow Green

**Group 2 - Green Life (Sustainable Diet)**

Ms. Nereza Teacher Mentor - TWB	Sakshya Parv Year 11, TWB Student Mentor
Muhammad Khatt Year 11, TWB	Hiba Mohammed Year 11, TWB
Hemant Koushik Year 11, TWB	Parvati Parvati Year 11, TWB
Danya Perera Year 11, GSB	

### Green Life

**Group 4 - Green Mile (Coastline Reduction in the U.A.E)**

Ms. Ashwin Teacher Mentor - TWB	Nabha Nadeem Year 11, TWB Student Mentor
Gyanada Trivedi Year 11, GSB	Zahra Ali Jaffer Year 11, TWB
Shariqua Tasnim Khan Year 11, TWB	Raeed Jaldin Year 11, TWB
Mustafa El Korek Year 11, GSB	

### Green Mile

**Group 5 - Eco Green Eco Green (Wetlands in the UAE)**

Ms. Jyoti Teacher Mentor - TWB	Mira Khalaf Year 11, TWB Student Mentor
Mustansir Mohammed Year 11, TWB	Marufa Jannat Year 11, TWB
Jamila Bhagat Year 11, TWB	Mariya Khodun Year 11, GSB

### Eco Green

### Best Team Solution:

Team Green Mile  
Teacher Mentor:  
Ms. Ashwini Deshpande  
Student Mentor:  
Nabiha Nadeem  
Team Members:  
Zahra Ali Jaffer  
Raeed Jaldin  
Gyanada Trivedi  
Shariqua Tasnim Khan  
Mustafa El Korek

### Best Team Coordination:

Team Green Mile  
Teacher Mentor:  
Ms. Ashwini Deshpande  
Student Mentor:  
Nabiha Nadeem  
Team Members:  
Zahra Ali Jaffer  
Raeed Jaldin  
Gyanada Trivedi  
Shariqua Tasnim Khan  
Mustafa El Korek

### Student Choice Team Solution:

Team Eco Green  
Teacher Mentor:  
Ms. Jyoti  
Student Mentor:  
Mira Khalaf  
Team Members:  
Mustansir Mohammed  
Marufa Jannat  
Jamila Bhagat  
Mariya Khodun

### Best Student Mentor:

Mira Khalaf  
(From Eco-green)

### Best Speaker:

Shariqua Tasnim Khan  
(From green Mile)

# THE OFFICIAL WEBPAGE OF SUSTAINABLE TWS

Home TWS Green Events TWS Green Initiatives Press Release Contact us

*Welcome to TWS Dubai's Green Website*

TWS is the Middle East's first, and to date only, 'Centre of Excellence in Sustainability and Climate Change Learning' and holds impressive green credentials. Our school has also partnered with eduCCate Global and has already achieved the related Bronze and Silver Awards in record time, making it the largest school in the world to have achieved this status. A total of 292 TWS teachers and leaders are now UN-certified Climate Change Teachers.

Our school's efforts in moving towards a more eco-friendly organization has been on-going and innovative. From in-house green initiatives like Greet Pot Initiative, Rethinking Waste Competition, Organic gardening, TWS creatively expanded its eco-journey with student led action plan highlighting high impact, medium impact and awareness based action points.

## TWS GREEN EVENTS

"No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than Climate Change", rightly said by President Obama. It is our utmost duty to safeguard life on earth and be a valuable member of this planet in preserving nature. We, at The Westminster School, Dubai are striving towards achieving this target by educating our stakeholders about climate change and its impacts implemented various strategies to fight against it and make this world a happier place to live in. Among the series of events taken up are the Green Vogue, Youth Vision Green Solutions and Green Souq. Under the leadership of our Head of School - Ms Vijayakumari Sathyan, the green ambassadors and the Climate Change Leaders have initiated these series of green events under the theme of sustainability.

**GREEN VOGUE**  
SUSTAINABLE FASHION FETTER CONFERENCE

GREEN VOGUE  
SERIES 1

READ MORE

**YOUTH VISION GREEN SOLUTIONS**  
A Green Solution for a Sustainable Future

YOUTH VISION GREEN SOLUTIONS  
SERIES 2

READ MORE

**GREEN SOUQ**  
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

GREEN SOUQ  
SERIES 3

READ MORE

### GREEN INITIATIVES BY TWS

**GREEN POT INITIATIVE**  
READY, STEADY, GROW

VIEW MORE

**SIMPLY BOTTLE INITIATIVE**  
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

VIEW MORE

**GREEN COMPETITIONS**  
Make Us Green!

VIEW MORE

**CURRICULUM INTEGRATION**  
By the change, Lead the change!

VIEW MORE

Student Leadership Team with our green garden!

Our Curriculums (Project) at our Green Garden plot

Fresh green food and vegetables harvested from our TWS garden

eduCCate Global Award  
THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, DUBAI  
SECONDARY SCHOOL, TEAM

eduCCate Global Award  
THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, DUBAI

## TWS TEACHERS ARE IN IT, TO WIN IT!

**LOSE IT 2 WIN IT**  
Thank you to all participants

**Congratulation**

**TWS lost 167.1Kgs**

1 kg of body mass lost, the CO<sub>2</sub> production would decrease 3.2 ml min<sup>-1</sup>

84 % of the fat that is lost turns into carbon dioxide and leaves the body through the lungs, whereas the remaining 16 % becomes water

Being obese is associated with about 20% more greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) than being a normal weight, according to the study

10 kilograms (22 lbs.) of fat, a person needs to inhale 29 kg (64 lbs.) of oxygen. And the chemical process of burning that fat will produce 28 kg (62 lbs.) of carbon dioxide and 11 kg (24 lbs.) of water

# VIRTUAL GWAMUN CONFERENCE '21

Mohammad Waleed, Year 11 student of The Westminster School, Dubai, won accolades as the Best Speaker at the Model United Nations held at Gems World Academy on the 14th - 16th January 2021. Aya Mohammad Mansour Ali Alshalloudi, Shariqua Tasnim Khan, Annora Bernadette Dsouza and Chenuka Nethwan Samarasinghe of Year 11, also represented The Westminster School, Dubai in the one-of-a-kind conference that was held online on Zoom. They represented Spain, Turkey and Somalia.



Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the eighth Secretary-General of United Nations, gave a Welcome speech which energized the delegates and set the tone for the day to discuss important issues like delivering quality education in such challenging times.

Mr. Dino Varkey, Chairman GEMS Education, welcomed the participants warmly on a crisp Thursday morning and motivated them to discuss on topical issues and the challenges that the world is facing like Covid 19, terrorism, health crisis, food and security issues etc. It was a wholesome and an enriching participants for all the students as well as teachers, Ms. Anvita Zutshi and Ms. Dolly Pradhani, who were the chaperons for the event.

# GWAMUN JUNIOR '21

GEMS World Academy has organized an MUN conference in which several schools have taken part in, ours as well. About 10 students from our school ranging from yr7 to 10, have participated in this MUN conference, including myself. Ms. Gayatri Nair who helped us prepare our speeches and contents was conducting meetings several times to ensure we were on the right track. On the 20th and 21st of June, the conference was held online through zoom.



I was representing the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the United Nations Environmental Programme committee. The main goal of an MUN conference is to have nations unite and solve the issue that has been introduced by the committee. It is often confused with debate which is not really the case, diplomacy, rationality, critical thinking, and leadership skills are the qualities needed to carry out a conference smoothly. Although each single participant from our school performed amazingly, it is with pride that I mention, Brent Jabri Ceballos of 8B5 for winning the best Position Paper and 3rd Place in the UNDP committee, Abdul Raheem Kurshid of 8B4 for winning 2nd Place in the ECOSOC committee, Jumana Ibrahim of 10G3 for winning 3rd place in the General Assembly 3 and myself, Leila Ibrahim for winning 1st place in the UNEP committee and School's Top Delegate. This has been an amazing experience for me, and I am certain it has been for the others as well.

- Leila Ibrahim

# ERFANS' PAGE!

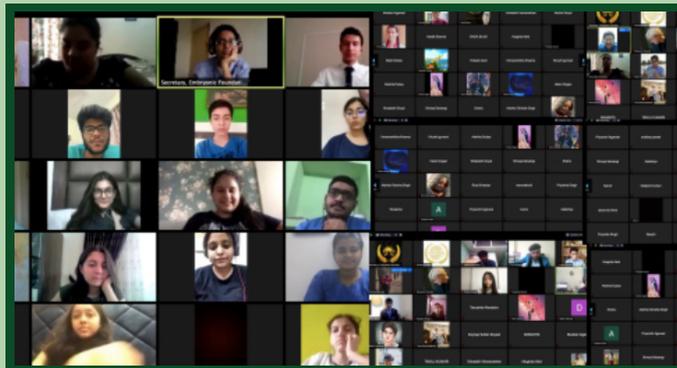
In accordance with World Environment Day, the Green Gala took place on June 5th, 2021 with over 100 individuals across the globe that indulged themselves in a variety of fun activities and competitions, gaining and raising awareness for the importance of mother nature and the protection of our Earth!

Inclusive of heated debates, informative panels, group discussions, influential guest speakers from the United Nations, fun quizzes, and more, The Green Gala called for awareness and activism towards the protection of our environment.

It also helped broaden the knowledge of current environmental affairs, giving a platform for the voices of the youth being heard to shed their perspectives on not only social aspects of the environment but also the political and economical aspects as well to craft global citizens



**ERFAN  
FIROUZI**



## HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE UNIVERSAL MUN



# GREEN GENESIS - GREEN SPACE

Green Genesis is a hands-on project that aims to make the school premises a greener place. The project was created by the students, for the students. Our pilot project was to sow seeds of various plants, in different parts of the school, and it took place in May of this year. Ms. Ashwini and Ms. Jiji led the venture, briefing the pupils about the plan. Squashes, watermelons, cucumbers, beetroots, and eggplants were among the seeds planted.

Weekly observations and reports were made, the plants were cared for, and excitement among students grew.



Students researched the botanical names of the plants, studied their lifecycles, and found out about the effects of nutrients on the yield. The process was a smooth one, because of the support from the students and staff. All equipment, including PPE, were provided, to make it a safe activity. The experience has been enriching for everyone involved. The proactive approach makes it attractive, and poses as an important lesson in the world of botany. In the next academic year, we aim to expand the endeavour to include more students and faculty members. Currently 16 students [Afreen Chowdhury (10G3), Mehnaz Chowdhury (9G2), Aseel Mamoon (10G2), Humna Shibli (10G3), Miyuni (10G2), Jamila Bhagat (9G2), Malaak Saleh (9G1), Malak Ossama (9G1), Arya (9G1), Siham (8G1), Tehzeeb (8G1), Erum (8G1), Ashal (7G2), Haiqa (7G2), Rifah (10G1), Shenali (9G1)], and 4 staff members were involved in the project [Ms. Ashwini, Ms. Jiji, Ms. Mini Mathew, Mr. Madan]. Personally, this has heightened my interest in this field, and I am excited for all future projects related to the green genesis, and I hope I can inspire other students to take part as well.



The objective of Green Space, was to promote eco gardening and sustainability, this project was initiated under the leadership of Ms. Marshanil (Climate Change Leader-Secondary Boys) and to support and carry out the activities of the project, many students and teachers volunteered.

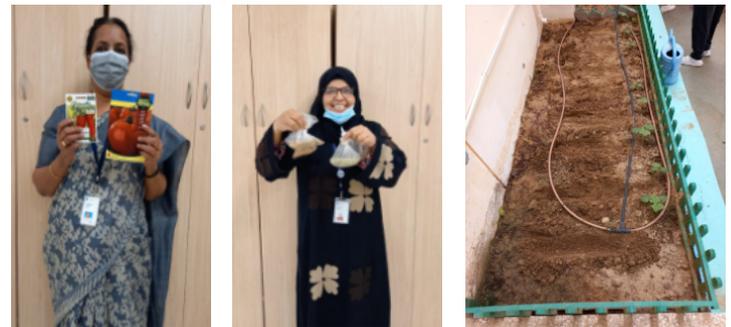
**Day 1- Sowing of the Seeds (10th June 2021)**

**Contributions-**

Seeds donated by student and teacher volunteers

The seeds which were sowed were; Hot bell peppers, sweet bell pepper, chilli, ginger and corianders

The students enthusiastically participated in this noble act of sowing seeds following all the safety protocols; the teams would then be monitoring the growth of the saplings.



The purpose of this convivial activity was to drive along the road of making TWS a sustainable school in collaboration with the wonderful teachers and students of TWS. Thus, this project was planned and commenced to motivate everyone to take a step closer to achieving a sustainable and green future for the sake of humanity and the species that are settled with us on this planet!

**SECONDARY TEACHER'S  
EDUCATE GLOBAL TEAM**

Ms. Lali, Ms. Radhika, Ms. Nilambari, Ms. Jiji, Ms. Sonia, Ms. Seranic, Ms. Lekshmi, Ms. Supritha, Ms. Dolly, Mr. Sunu, Mr. Khalil.  
Ms Ashwini & Ms. Marshanil.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**Primary:** Harib Muhammad (6M), Fiona David (6H)  
**Secondary Girls & Boys:** Erfan Firouzi (10B3), Aliza Muzaffer (11G4), Celia Maneia (11G4), Aminah Patel (11G4), Arjit Praveen Kumar (11 B1), Mohamed Shamel Raeez Jaldin (11B7)  
**Sixth Form:** Ikya Oshadhi (12C), Joshua Antony (13B)

**Edited By:**

Zahra Ali (10G2) and  
Ms. Ashwini Deshpande

**CONTACT US!**

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