



# SPELL

St. Paul's Evocative Literary Newsletter

28/February/2025

Issue no. VI

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### Words From The Editor-In-Chief



I wish to thank our beloved, respected and hr-dil-aziz, principal, Mr. Leonard Dias, our conscientious section coordinators, and our tremendous teachers of all sections. It is because of these wonderful people that we are able to accomplish such fantabulous feats.

And now to my janis, my yaar-am, azizan-man, jāné dil-am, ātshe dil-am, my students, especially the editorial board of SPELL and the members of Societas Lectorum et Scriptorum of St. Paul's English High School. You are the best! Though some of you behave like the "Ghost of the Christmas Past", like David Copperfield or Edmund of Narnia but most of the time you are like Harry Potter, determined with magical powers to make it happen, to get things done with or without any resource. I wish you all the very best. Keep up the good work!

The Holy Bible says, "Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might." SPELL is not just a newsletter; it is the mirror that tells you not only what you are but what you will be. This newsletter highlights your achievements and casts a SPELL to encourage you to be what you are good at.

I would also like to thank all those who are associated with SPELL whether you are at St. Paul's English High School or outside. You are special to us.

# Author Of The Month

# C.S. Lewis

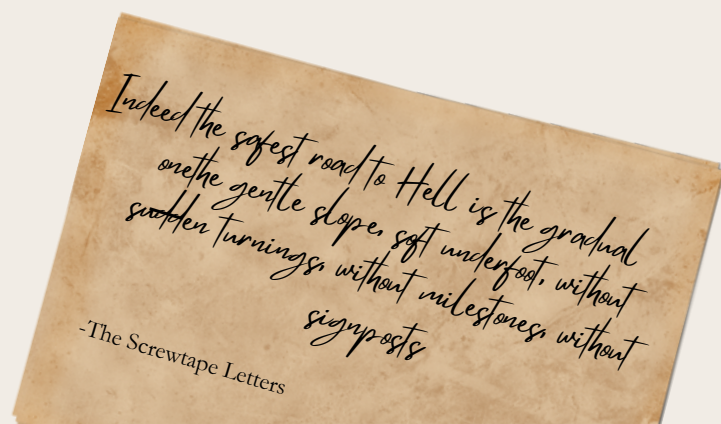


Clive Staples Lewis more popularly known as C.S. Lewis, born on November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland, was an Irish-born scholar, novelist, and author of about 40 books, many of them on Christian apologetics, including *The Screwtape Letters* and *Mere Christianity*. His greatest work may be *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a series of seven children's books that have become classics of fantasy literature. He on died November 22, 1963, in Oxford, Oxford shire, England.

## Famous Works Of The Author

### The Screwtape Letters:

*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a satirical novel written as a series of letters from a senior demon, Screwtape, to his nephew, Wormwood, who is trying to corrupt a human soul. The letters offer advice on how to tempt and mislead humans, exploring themes of pride, sin, and spiritual struggles. Through these letters, Lewis presents a critique of human nature and the battle between good and evil. The story ends with a moral lesson about redemption and the power of faith.



-The Screwtape Letters

# The Chronicles of Narnia:

**The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950):** Four siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy—discover a magical wardrobe that leads to Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter under the rule of the White Witch. With the help of Aslan, the great lion, they battle to free Narnia from her tyranny.

**The Magician's Nephew (1955):** A prequel to *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, this book tells the story of how Narnia was created by Aslan and how evil first entered the land through the actions of two children, Digory and Polly, and the villainous Queen Jadis.



## The Last Battle (1956):

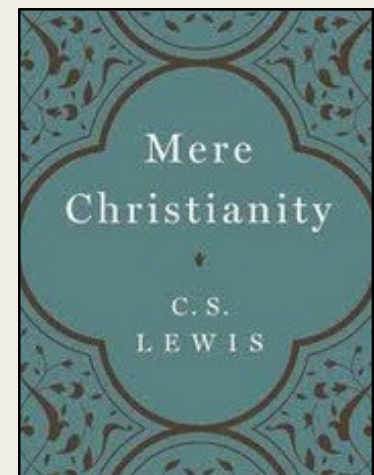
The final book depicts the end of Narnia, as false prophets and a deceptive ape lead the land into chaos. Aslan returns, and the true Narnians find their way to Aslan's Country, a paradise beyond the old Narnia.

## Mere Christianity:

It is a classic work of Christian apologetics, originally delivered as a series of BBC radio talks during World War II. The book seeks to explain and defend the core beliefs of Christianity in a rational and accessible way, appealing to both believers and skeptics. It is divided into four sections:

*The pain I feel now is the happiness I had before That's the deal*

~C.S Lewis



# Poet Of The Month

J  
A  
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A

Syed Hussain Sibte-Asghar Naqvi, commonly known by his pen name Jaun Elia, was a Pakistani poet and scholar known for his mastery of the Urdu language and his unconventional poetry. He blended classical traditions with modern themes, often touching on love, rebellion, and absurdity. His writing combined wit with intellectual depth, resonating with the common man, and cemented his status as one of the most influential poet of the modern era. His most notable works, include Shayad, Ya'ani, and Guman, and continue to inspire the next generation of Urdu writers and poetry enthusiasts.

## Famous Works :

Naya Ek Rishta Paida Kyun Karen  
Hum

نیا اک رشتہ پیدا کیوں کریں ہم

Shayad/شاید

Umr Guzregi Imtihan

Mein Kya/

عمر گزرے گی امتحان  
میں کیا

# Shayad/شاید

متاع دل متاع جان تو پھر تم کم ہی  
یاد آؤ  
بہت کچھ بہہ گیا ہے سیل ماہ و سال  
میں اب تک

سبھی کچھ تو نہ بہہ جائے  
کہ میرے پاس رہ بھی کیا گیا ہے  
کچھ تو رہ جائے

میں شاید تم کو یکسر بھولنے والا ہوں  
شاید جان جان شاید  
کہ اب تم مجھ کو پہلے سے زیادہ یاد آتی ہو  
یہ دل غمگین بہت غمگین

کہ اب تم یاد دل دارانہ آتی ہو  
شمیم دور ماندہ ہو

بہت رنجیدہ ہو مجھ سے  
مگر پھر بھی  
مشام جان میں میرے آشتی منداناہ آتی ہو  
جدائی میں بلا کا التفات محرمانہ ہے  
قیامت کی خبر گیری ہے  
یہ حد ناز برداری کا عالم ہے  
تمہارے رنگ مجھ میں اور گہرے ہوتے جاتے ہیں  
میں ڈرتا ہوں  
مرے احساس کے اس خواب کا انجام کیا ہوگا  
یہ میرے اندرون ذات کے تاراج گر  
جذبوں کے بیری وقت کی سازش نہ ہو کوئی  
تمہارے اس طرح بر لمحہ یاد آنے سے

دل سہما ہوا سا ہے تو  
پھر تم کم ہی یاد آؤ



# Naya Ek Rishta Paida Kyun Karen Hum!

## نیا اک رشتہ پیدا کیوں کریں ہم

نیا اک رشتہ پیدا کیوں کریں ہم  
بچھڑنا ہے تو جھگڑا کیوں کریں ہم

خموشی سے ادا ہو رسم دوری  
کوئی بنگامہ برپا کیوں کریں ہم

یہ کافی ہے کہ ہم دشمن نہیں ہیں  
وفا داری کا دعویٰ کیوں کریں ہم

وفا اخلاص قربانی محبت  
اب ان لفظوں کا پیچھا کیوں کریں ہم

سنا دیں عصمت مریم کا قصہ  
پر اب اس باب کو وا کیوں کریں ہم

زلیخائے عزیزاں بات یہ ہے  
بھلا گھائے کا سودا کیوں کریں ہم

ہماری ہی تمنا کیوں کرو تم  
تمہاری ہی تمنا کیوں کریں ہم

کیا تھا عہد جب لمحوں میں ہم نے  
تو ساری عمر ایفا کیوں کریں ہم

اٹھا کر کیوں نہ پھینکیں ساری چیزیں  
فقط کمروں میں ٹہلا کیوں کریں ہم

جو اک نسل فرومایہ کو پہنچے  
وہ سرمایہ اکٹھا کیوں کریں ہم

نہیں دنیا کو جب پروا ہماری  
تو پھر دنیا کی پروا کیوں کریں ہم

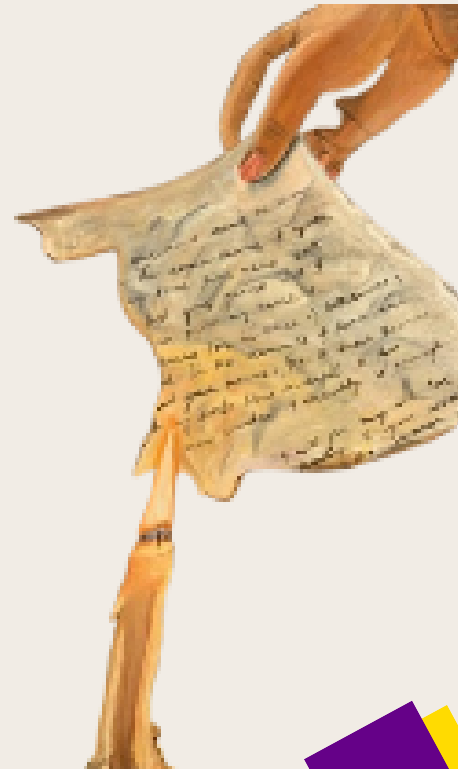
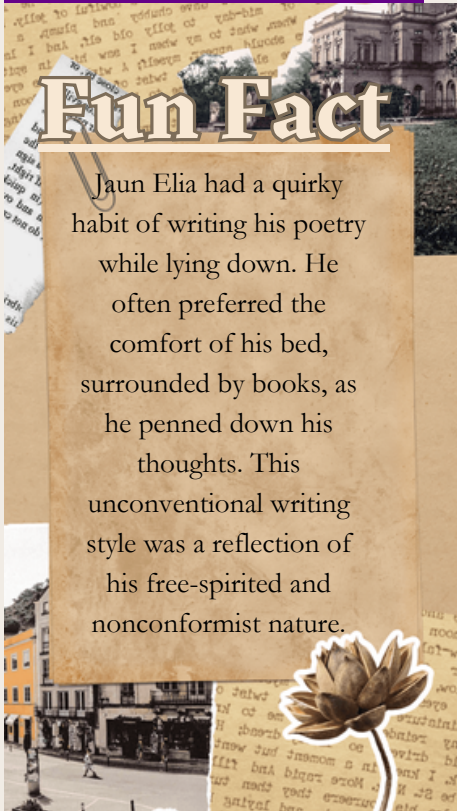
برہنہ ہیں سر بازار تو کیا  
بھلا اندھوں سے پردہ کیوں کریں ہم

ہیں باشندے اسی بستی کے ہم بھی  
سو خود پر بھی بھروسا کیوں کریں ہم

چبا لیں کیوں نہ خود ہی اپنا ڈھانچہ  
تمہیں راتب مہیا کیوں کریں ہم

پڑی رہنے دو انسانوں کی لاشیں  
زمین کا بوجھ ہلکا کیوں کریں ہم

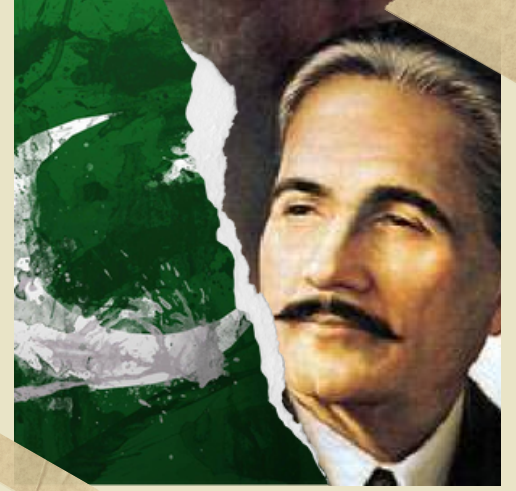
یہ بستی ہے مسلمانوں کی بستی  
یہاں کار مسیحا کیوں کریں ہم





# Reflections on Iqbal at St. Paul's

A boy born on November 9, 1877, in Sialkot, Punjab, British India (now Pakistan), had a dream that became a reality. His dream was about the separation of two states, "India" and "Pakistan". This boy would grow up to be a philosopher, Pakistani poet, lawyer, and politician. Yes, I am talking about "Allama Iqbal" (Mufakkir-e-Islam).



As we know, November 9th is the birthday of Allama Iqbal. To commemorate this occasion, the teachers of St. Paul English High School, Campus A, decided to organize an Iqbal Day to pay tribute to this remarkable individual. The teachers selected a group of students to portray roles related to the life of Allama Iqbal and also conducted quizzes to test the student's knowledge about his life.





The primary objective of this event was to inspire students to emulate the exceptional qualities of Allama Iqbal in their own lives. The organizers of this event were teachers from the Cambridge section, along with some matric teachers. Special thanks goes to Shabaz Uncle for his exceptional management skills and to all the workers who contributed to the event's success.

During the event, students performed various roles that reflected different aspects of Allama Iqbal's life, including his poetry. The first performance, a dance to Pakistan's national anthem featuring 12 students, was well-received. The second performance was a poetic play showcasing two of Allama Iqbal's poems: "makra aur makhi" and "pahar aur gilehri". The students delivered outstanding performances, donning relevant costumes, and received appreciation from the audience.



# وہ کیا بات ہے کہ سننے کی

یہ نام کوئی کام بگڑنے نہیں دیتا  
بگڑے بھی بنا دیتا ہے یہ نام

# مُظاہرہ قرآن و بعدِ مُشاہرہ

Mikail Shakeel-9F



## Christmas at St. Paul's:

# The Celebrating of birth of Yeshua HaMashiach

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6) marks the birth of Jesus Christ, which Christians celebrate as Christmas all over the world. It is a time of joy, generosity, and reflection when families and friends come together to share warmth, happiness, and kindness.



On 16 December 2024

At St. Paul's English High School, it was like that, the students and teachers gathered to welcome Christmas with their hearts full of devotion and enthusiasm.

The school auditorium was beautifully decorated and symbolizes Merriment, elation, and the birth of Jesus Christ. The atmosphere was full of Bliss, carols filled the air and the spirit of Christmas reminded us of the true essence of this season.



The auditorium buzzed with excitement as students and teachers were dressed in traditional biblical costumes, all students participate with determination and dedication. They all took their places to perform dance, drama, and especially grade IX who brought the story of Jesus' birth to life.



From the birth of Jesus Christ to his resurrection, every act was performed with great passion and elevation with the help of Sir Faheem. The students of primary classes performed a dance on jingle bells and performed a tableau, while the secondary classes displayed moral drama, sang hymns, and performed dance on seasonal carols.





Teachers and staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes, guiding students to perfect their performances. That morning was a blend of drama, music, and dance, symbolizing the cheerfulness that Christmas brings into our lives. As part of Christmas celebrations, a quiz was also organized to test student's knowledge about the life and birth of Jesus Christ. The quiz aimed to construct an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas while adding pieces of leisure and entertainment, they were also rewarded with appreciation and gifts.

The dedicated teachers of St Paul's played a crucial role in sculpting the student's performance. They trained the students, helped with costumes, and ensured every element was perfect. Their hard work reaped rewards when the students rendered flawless and heartfelt



performances. Even the school teachers joined in the celebration, presenting a play that added more bliss to that morning. The principal, Sir Leonard Dias, and deputy-principal, Sir Roman Rodrigues praised the effort of all the teachers, students, and staff, acknowledging the dedication that made the play a major accomplishment.



Then, the event came to an end, and the message of Christmas remained in the heart of everyone present there. The Christmas play was not just a performance, it was a heartfelt recognition of the birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone shared joy and happiness, for as the bible says "This is the day that lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. { Psalm 118:24 }

**Jerome Emanuel.E-9F**



# "Brain Teaser"

The "Brain Teasers" competition, organized by WEEDS, challenges students in vocabulary, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Designed to enhance communication and cognitive abilities, the event saw enthusiastic participation from Paulians for the second consecutive time under the mentorship of Ms. Sidra Kamran.

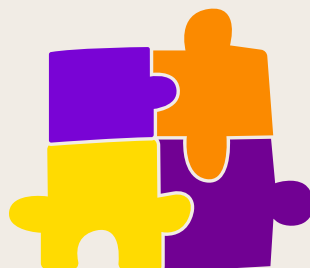


The competition consisted of two rounds. In the first round, students showcased their intellect and analytical skills, striving for a spot in the finals. Their dedication paid off as several students advanced to the final stage.

Among the winners, Hamza Ali Khan (Grade 6-F) secured a laptop, Tajammul Kareem (Grade 4-D) won a smartwatch, and Shomeer Gill (Grade 8-F) received a Bluetooth speaker. Their achievements highlight the talent and perseverance of Paulians in academic contests.



Mirza Ali Baig-9F



# THE DESCARTES MATHEMATICA CLUB: INSPIRING THE ABSTRACT WITH SIMPLICITY



The Descartes Mathematica Club of St Paul's English High School beginning with its journey with the Math Bee Competition in January 2024, advanced with its second event held in January 2025. The Mathletes League '25, as demonstrate from past research that engaging and encouraging climate for learning mathematics provides positive experiences and helps learners develop dispositions, such as curiosity, imagination, flexibility, inventiveness, and persistence, which contribute to their future success in and out of school. It is due to this undeniable significance of mathematics that it has been treated as the mother of all subjects and remains he core of all curriculum s for all times to come.

The Descartes Society has always been focused on optimizing a range of desirable outcomes that include conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, strategic competence, and adaptive reasoning, enhancing a range of social outcomes beyond math classrooms. The society does not only aim to explicitly emphasize the substance of mathematics but also its nature and epistemology, which assumes that students must be actively involved in constructing their own understanding in discovering and inventing mathematics.



To make this happen, it was imperative and critical to come up with a selection of quality tasks that could influence how learners come to think, develop, use, and make sense of mathematics. Therefore, the society came up with the of blending the conventional and contemporary equations of worthwhile tasks that could stimulate motivation and interest among the diversity of learners, both in the Matric and Cambridge streams, to register for the competition.

The driving force behind this running circuit and the person responsible for carrying the ball for the last few laps was our dear Principal, Sir Leonard Dias. The journey would not have been possible without his faith in us. With the consent of our dear principal, the promising members of our society, and the indispensable founding member of the club, Tushar Mahesh—the Star of St. Paul's—started the venture of The Mathletes League.

The first challenge was the restricted time for registration, but we succeeded in registering 399 students in two weeks, encompassing students from the Lower Secondary, Matric, and Cambridge Sections.

The registered participants were divided into four categories with the development of the syllabi for each category. The most crucial part of the job was designing and constructing the three rounds of the competition: The Elimination, The Bingo, and The Final Round. The Bingo round, with its peculiar nature and process, along with its sound system, was the spice of the show captivating the interest of the participants and keeping them charged.



The final round was unique in its own way, ensuring that our learners not only involved themselves in high-level mathematical thinking but also took intellectual risks.

All the rounds of the competition justifiably varied in purpose and format but shared a commonality—they should be problematic for the learners and, at the same time, leave a mathematical **learning residue**, something of mathematical value to them.

Throughout the journey, it was the unconditional presence of our boss, Tushar, online and onsite, keeping up our spirits with his motivational words:

**"Don't worry, Miss. We have nothing to lose, but definitely an experience to gain."**

Wow!! What an overwhelming feeling it has been to work with such a gem of a student. St. Paul's is truly blessed.

I am extremely indebted to our Vice Principal, Incharge of the Cambridge Section, and the Co-Patron of our Descartes Mathematica Club, Sir Roman Rodrigues, for his endless encouragement, patience, and wisdom that kept us going through the toughest of times.

My heartiest gratitude to Miss Sidra Kamran and her MGS team for keeping us in the limelight. Special thanks to Sir Zaeem ul Hassan for his utmost support, time, and guidance throughout; Miss Pushpa and her team for showing up and helping us manage discipline during the event.

The Mathletes' League was a successful event, leaving an indelible and lasting impact, laying strong foundations for a constructive platform for the love and learning of mathematics.

Miss Ume Hafsa,  
Physics teacher,  
(Cambridge  
Section); Patron of  
the Descartes  
Mathematica Club



# Synergy: The Intersection of Art and Innovation

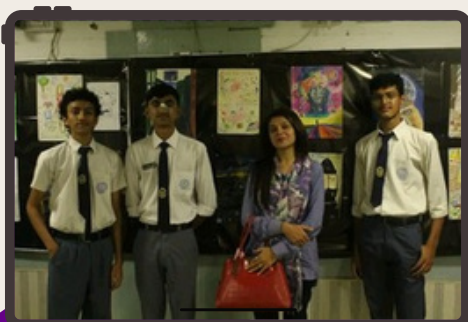
The Synergy Cambridge School community recently hosted an enthralling art exhibition at St. Michael's Convent High School, where talented students showcased their creative interpretations of artificial intelligence's impact on daily life.



Ten schools made it to the final round, presenting over 80 impressive entries highlighting the artist's perspective on the digital age.



In the end, the top 10 finalists were announced, and our very own St. Paul's School also secured a spot among the esteemed winners. Congratulations to our talented students on their outstanding achievement! The exhibition was a resounding success, celebrating the creativity and innovation of young talents



Sohaankumar-7F

# Elocutions-Unleashing Young Voices

St. Paul's is a place where academic excellence combines with co-curricular activities. A place where echoes of intellectuality blend with the echoes of public speaking and the corridors where students aren't just armored with knowledge but also possess a natural knack for debating.

To bring these young minds in front of the entire school, the English Literary Society, under the indispensable guidance of Ms Pushpa Manatunga, organizes English Elocutions for grades 1 to 11th annually, which gave the students an exciting platform to demonstrate their exceptional debating skills. The Elocutions commenced on the 8th of January, 2025, and lasted for a fortnight. Though, now over, the event wouldn't have marked its triumph without the unwavering commitment and dedication of the members of the English Literary Society, who sacrificed their sleep and bore countless reprimands for missing their integral lectures.



The diligence of the members not only contributed to its success but also demonstrated that students of St. Paul's aren't just academically rigorous but, are "multifaceted." From managing 250-300 students in the auditorium each day and maintaining a level of decorum among them wasn't a piece of cake. Their eyes were a testament to it.



However, keeping this aside, the event had marked its triumph, when a 6-year-old child showed the courage to stand confidently in front of 300 people and recite a poem or when a student gave an eloquent speech on "Whether the voting age should be reduced to 16 or not." It aroused a knack for debating among students, gave them the confidence to speak in front of a large audience, trained them to be a better speaker, and eradicated the fear of public speaking.

To conclude, Elocutions are the pathway to guide students and help them discover the hidden knack of debating. It was a platform for the students to demonstrate their talent in front of the entire school and with the diligence of the members of the English Literary Society, the event attained its milestone.



Guarav Kumar  
Haryani-9E

# The Echo of Regret

It's been a long time since incident! Of course, I have Besides, I have found new might sit with them, laugh with them, but my soul forever haunting, forever will ever laugh again you laughing in the back desert, one I can never reach.

My thoughts always circle back with the traces of your memories. by the images of your face, so I did, even in slumber. Perhaps this is why it is the only true escape from the conscience and the abyssal depths of one's

I wish I could stop this feeling. I desire to change history to birthing this crushing guilt and remorse. People say regret outweighs

I have never been one to think rationally; my heart has always led the soul. That day, when it wandered to you, my guide was aching. In my up causing you pain, which, I realize, is my greatest tragedy.

the moved on. company. I with them, walk still lingers over you, yearning. I don't believe I without getting an image of of my mind, like a mirage in a

to you, and my heart is scarred Even my dreams are haunted cannot escape from what I some choose death over life, as relentless weight of mind.

prevent the incident from ever love. I think they are right.

way for my wandering moment of pain, I ended

Sarah Fatima-10  
SCIL, barki  
road branch

# I'm Lost

People scare me.  
Feelings scare me. Reality  
scares me.

I don't blame anyone for  
this mess—I made it  
myself. I shut people out.  
I retreat to the corners of  
my room, keeping my  
distance, building walls so  
high, that even I can't tear  
them down. The fortress I  
built to keep everyone  
away has now trapped me  
inside.

The voices in my head grow  
louder daily, drowning out  
everything around me. I lie on the  
sofa, staring at the ceiling, trying  
to untangle my thoughts. It's hard  
to explain. Nothing is pulling me  
down, but something is holding  
me back. No matter how fast I  
run, I never seem to move  
forward.

I'm stuck.  
I'm lost in the chaos, I created,  
and I don't know how to get out..



Tasveeb Shaikh-  
Bachelor in Textile  
Design

I've always been lost, wandering through life, never quite fitting in, never finding myself. I am tangled in the chaos I built in my head, and I know there is no one else to blame but me. The reasons, the walls, the weight—they're all mine.

I spent so long trying to fit in, only to realize I did not belong anywhere. Too quiet for the loud ones and too noisy for the quiet ones. An introvert to the extroverts, an extrovert to the introverts. Too bold for the simple souls, too simple for the bold. A perpetual misfit, searching for a way out.

Maybe that's all I've ever done—run. I've been running from reality for as long as I can remember, hiding under my blanket with a book in hand, escaping into a world that doesn't exist. People tell me to face the real world, but reality feels like a storm, and I'm terrified of getting caught in its center.

# The Heart Beats the Same

In twilight's hush, where shadows play,  
Two creatures roam, in disparate sway,  
One, a pampered pet, with fur so fine,  
The other, a stray with heart divine.

We lavish love  
With treats and the  
But turn a blind eye  
Leaving them to



on the former's face,  
and a warm, safe space,  
to the latter's plea,  
scrounge, in misery.

Oh, the irony of  
That beats with love for  
For both are animals,  
Both hunger, thirst and,

our selective heart,  
one, and apathy's cold art,  
with feelings true,  
in all they do.

Yet, can we not see, beyond the surface and breed?  
Can we not love and care, for all that's in need?  
Let us widen our circle, of compassion's gentle might,  
And embrace all creatures, in the warmth of love's pure light.

Miss Durdana Arsh-  
Science Teacher  
Cambridge Section

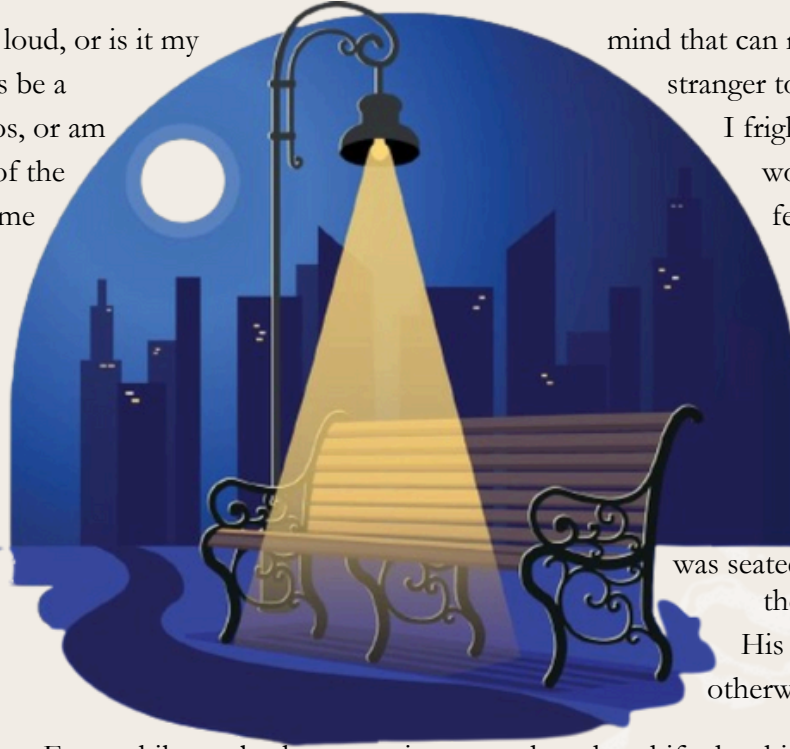
# WHISPERS IN THE SILENCE

The coffee shop had witnessed it all: folks chitchatting, cups clinking, staff rushing between the tables to take orders, steam rising into the air, and a dance of entrances and exits. As I sat there, watching the swirl of movement around me, I noticed something: the world never stops. This chaotic environment around me led me to question myself:

Why am I so quiet in the midst of all this?

Why am I so introverted?

Is it the world that feels too loud, or is it my mind that can not settle? Can I find my place in this world, or will I always be a stranger to its clamor? Am I afraid of being swallowed by the chaos, or am I frightened of finding who I am in it? Am I resisting the noise of the world, or am I unable to be part of it? Does the world make me feel invisible, or is it my unwillingness to be seen?



completely untouched, and was wandering, lost in my thoughts. I moved forward and saw a stranger still lost in my thoughts. He was seated there, out of nowhere, I saw the way forward. He stood as if His movements were peculiar, and otherworldly

I stood up, my coffee being walked towards the door. I introspective musings. I cozy street-side bench near thoughts, I sat down. As I the appearance of a stranger on misplaced from another world. his clothes seemed strange and

completely untouched, and was wandering, lost in my thoughts. I moved forward and saw a stranger still lost in my thoughts. He was seated there, out of nowhere, I saw the way forward. He stood as if His movements were peculiar, and otherworldly

completely untouched, and was wandering, lost in my thoughts. I moved forward and saw a stranger still lost in my thoughts. He was seated there, out of nowhere, I saw the way forward. He stood as if His movements were peculiar, and otherworldly

Coincidentally, he sat beside me. For a while, we both were quiet as my thoughts shifted to his strange personality. Suddenly, he began to utter, "As I looked at you, I realized that there are ideas in your mind, and all of them are mistaken. "This isn't where you are supposed to be." I was suspicious of who was speaking such things and why his nature seemed divine, and I was still confused.



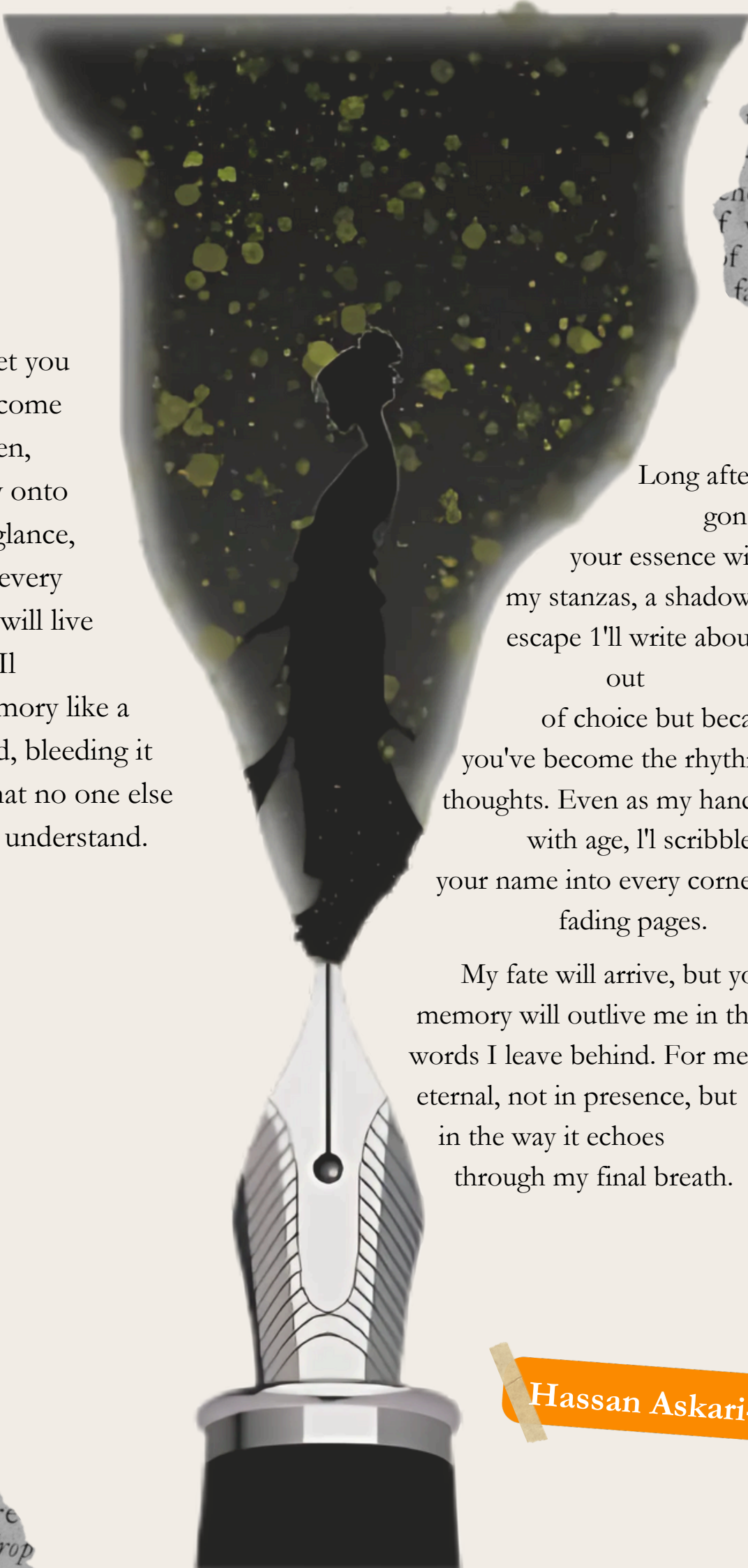
aren't quite, instead, you are ones that are heard, but in and complex inner worlds. reflections that aren't processing the world silence doesn't define profound.

He led his words to flow once again and stated, "You unique. It is often said that the loudest voices are the reality, the quietest people can possess the most profound. Being quiet means a mind full of thoughts, ideas, and vocalized. Introverts spend a great deal of time analyzing and around them, often observing and listening more than they speak. The quiet person's internal world is a place of endless exploration, imagination, and depth. So, moment not to be sorrowful, instead, to be proud." After he had finished speaking, I began to think about what he had said: "You aren't quiet, you're unique." His words painted in my imagination, and I wondered, "Am I genuinely different?". As soon as I decided to question him—who he was—I turned to look beside me, and there was neither a man nor any trace of presence or standing. And I remained stunned.

Chris Luke-9E

# WHISPERS ON THE PAGE

I will never forget you because you've become the ink in my pen, flowing endlessly onto the page. Every glance, every word, and every silence you shared will live on in my verses. I'll carry your memory like a hidden wound, bleeding it into poems that no one else will ever fully understand.



Long after you're gone,  
your essence will haunt  
my stanzas, a shadow I cannot  
escape I'll write about you not  
out  
of choice but because  
you've become the rhythm of my  
thoughts. Even as my hands tremble  
with age, I'll scribble  
your name into every corner of my  
fading pages.

My fate will arrive, but your  
memory will outlive me in the  
words I leave behind. For me, love is  
eternal, not in presence, but  
in the way it echoes  
through my final breath.

Hassan Askari-10F

# The Fall and the View

Once a star in golden glow,  
A name the world had come to know.  
The laughter soared, the cameras spun,  
Yet even then, the light felt done.

The years had passed, the highs had stayed,  
Yet joy had long since been mislaid.  
Through empty drinks and fleeting nights,  
He blurred the wrongs, he dimmed the lights.

A tale was told—a life unmasked,  
A writer's hand, a question asked.  
Yet ink and truth could not defend  
The steps that led toward the end.

A golden chance—a fleeting role,  
To cleanse the cracks within his soul.  
Yet every step toward the crown  
Became the road that led him down.

A girl, once young, now lost, now still,  
A moment seized, a shattered will.  
Her voice now whispers in the tide,  
A weight too great, a choice denied.

He ran from guilt, from love, from fate,  
But found no hands to bear his weight.  
The doors all closed, the voices thinned,  
The walls caved in, the light grew dim.

The world awoke, the echoes spread,  
The past had come for what he fled.  
A reckoning, a final cost,  
A truth once buried, now uncrossed.

A final night, a thought, a door,  
A choice he'd danced around before.  
A hand, a reach, a step, a fall,  
A moment stretched—a silent call.

The air was thin, the wind was black,  
The past could never call him back.  
Yet halfway down, the truth was clear,  
The end was not what he held dear.

A gasp, a cry, a light, a shore,  
A waking breath—yet nothing more.  
The stars looked down, the world moved on,  
But he was gone. But he was gone.

Muhammad Ali-9F

# How Bridges Don't Break - The Magic Behind Bridge Design

Bridges are often perceived as rigid, unchanging structures. However, they behave more like dynamic entities, continuously adapting to varying loads, environmental conditions, and external pressures to remain functional. In extreme cases, much like humans facing trauma, bridges must react to severe events such as accidents, explosions, fires, earthquakes, and hurricanes to maintain their integrity.

## The Challenge of Gravity

Gravity is the most influential force acting on bridges, persistently pulling them downward. Unlike buildings, which benefit from the ground's consistent support, bridges span open spaces that provide no inherent resistance to gravity. Longer bridges are more susceptible to gravitational effects than shorter ones, and heavier structures face a greater risk of succumbing to gravity's pull. Despite these challenges, bridge collapses are rare. Their stability is achieved by carefully balancing compression (a force that pushes inward) with tension (a force that pulls outward). This equilibrium is maintained by directing the load (the total weight of the bridge and its contents) to the abutments (supports at each end) and piers (supports along the bridge's length). Various bridge designs—including beam, arch, suspension, cable-stayed, truss, and cantilever bridges—distribute these forces in different ways.

## Forces Beyond Gravity

The stability of a bridge is further complicated by ever-changing factors such as fluctuating loads, environmental influences, and unforeseen accidents.

**Variable Loads** – If the weight on a bridge remained constant, its construction would be significantly simpler. However, bridges must accommodate widely varying loads throughout the day, from trains, cars, and trucks to pedestrians and utility infrastructure. These fluctuations alter the live load, influencing both tensile and compressive forces. For example, when a train crosses a bridge, the structure flexes and bends, then returns to its original form once the train has passed.

## Environmental Impacts

Bridges must also endure the relentless forces of nature. Water, one of the most powerful natural elements, exerts significant pressure on bridge abutments. Engineers often incorporate openings in abutments to allow water to pass through, reducing resistance. Wind is another critical factor; modern bridges are designed to be lightweight and aerodynamic, allowing wind to flow through them rather than causing excessive movement. In earthquake-prone areas, seismic activity can shake bridge components violently. To counteract this, engineers install dampers to absorb vibrations and bumpers to prevent sections from colliding. Extreme weather conditions, such as hurricanes and freezing temperatures, pose additional threats. Protective barriers shield vulnerable bridge sections, while flexible materials help accommodate expansion and contraction caused by temperature fluctuations.

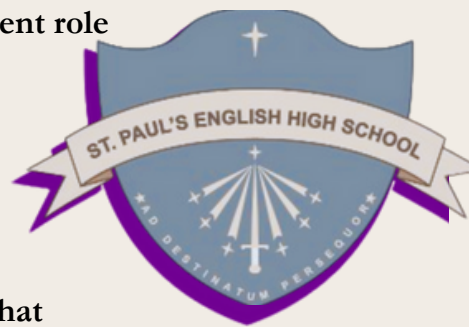
## Accidents and Unpredictable Events:

Collisions, explosions, and other unforeseen incidents can place immense stress on a bridge and potentially lead to failure. To mitigate these risks, engineers use durable, fire-resistant materials and implement structural isolators to limit damage caused by such events. Conclusion While some forces can cause immediate destruction, others contribute to gradual deterioration over time. Like living organisms, bridges exhibit signs of stress that engineers, inspectors, and maintenance teams must recognize and address. By closely monitoring these indicators, professionals can ensure the safety of existing bridges and use their observations to design even stronger, more adaptable structures in the future.

Dr Abbas Haider-  
Lecturer  
Department of Civil  
and Environmental  
Engineering  
Brunel University of  
London

# From St. Paul's to Success: A Journey of Discipline, Perseverance, and Achievement

Reflecting on my journey from St. Paul's English High School to my current role as a Senior Production Engineer at Mari Energies Limited, I realize that my school years laid the foundation for all my achievements. My time at St. Paul, from 1999 to 2008, was more than just a period of academic learning; it shaped my character, work ethic, and ambitions, making it possible for me to thrive in my professional life today. St. Paul's English High School was not just a place for academic learning; it was a school that



instilled in me values and life lessons that continue to guide me today. From the discipline instilled through regular PT classes by Sir Philips to the teamwork and camaraderie I experienced during extracurricular activities, my school years were a period of character-building. My teachers, including Miss Sonia, Miss Rubina, Miss Aslam, and Miss Shazia, played an instrumental role in shaping my academic outlook. Miss Aslam's Biology class and Miss Shazia's Chemistry

lessons played a transformative role in shaping my passion for science. Sir Lenny's meticulous Mathematics and Physics classes helped me build a strong foundation for my career in Petroleum Engineering. Their guidance instilled in me the values of perseverance, commitment, and focus qualities that have been fundamental to my professional success. One of the most significant factors that contributed to my growth at St. Paul was the guidance from my teachers and mentors. Sir Leonard Dias, in particular, students.

*Class*  
*Of* **2008**

He instilled in us not only a deep understanding of academic concepts but also the invaluable principles of hard work and determination. His extra classes, even on Saturdays, were a testament to his commitment to our success. The strong foundation of discipline and mentorship at St. Paul enabled me to excel academically, earn a gold medal in Petroleum Engineering from NED University of Engineering and Technology, and secure a position at Mari Energies, one of Pakistan's leading oil and gas exploration and production companies. Reflecting on my time at St. Paul, I realize that the academic and life lessons I gained there have profoundly shaped my career decisions and work ethic. The discipline I developed during school, along with the time management skills I refined while balancing extracurricular activities and studies, proved invaluable when I entered the professional world in 2015. I learned to approach



challenges with determination, like achieving the highest CGPA in my batch or managing complex projects as a Senior Production Engineer. The principles of teamwork and collaboration that I embraced in school have been essential in my career. As I led business continuity projects at Mari Energies, I relied on my ability to work with diverse teams, manage multiple tasks, and focus on long-term goals, skills I had learned early on in school. My success in the industry highlighted by The Outstanding Achievement Award I received for leading key projects, stems directly from the strong foundation I built at St. Paul. Reflecting on my journey, I feel deeply grateful for my time at St. Paul and the invaluable lessons I gained there. Today, as a proud alumnus.



My journey from St. Paul's English High School to becoming a Gold Medalist with the highest CGPA in Petroleum Engineering at NED University of Engineering and Technology, and later achieving success at Mari Energies Limited, is deeply rooted in the foundation laid during my school years at St. Paul. I developed critical values such as discipline, perseverance, and teamwork through experiences like physical training classes, extracurricular activities, and extra

lessons with dedicated teachers like Sir Lenny, who made subjects such as Mathematics and Physics both engaging and challenging. His extra classes, alongside mentorship from teachers like Miss Sonia, Miss Rubina, and Miss Aslam, played a key role in building my academic rigor and instilling a love for learning.

The time management, problem-solving skills, and work ethic, I honed at St. Paul were crucial when I excelled at NED University and earned my Gold Medal. These qualities have been instrumental in my 10-year career at Mari Energies, where I led key projects and earned the Outstanding Achievement Award. The values and lessons I learned at St. Paul continue to guide me throughout my life. I remain dedicated to giving back to the school community which played a pivotal role in shaping my journey.



Mubeen Ashraf-  
Senior Engineer  
Alumnus  
Old Paulian Society

# "Silver Jubilee: Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in ST .PAULS "

" I WANT TO SEE STUDENTS OF ST .PAUL'S BRIGHT AS A STAR"



**Mr. Pancha, a diligent and industrious member of St. Paul's English High School, has completed his silver jubilee of service with pride. As the school auditorium peon, he has been instrumental in making its smooth functioning possible for numerous events, performances, and functions. His dedication, dependability, and warm presence have endeared him to students, teachers, and staff members alike.**

**1. When did you step into this school, and how would you document your journey?**

"I joined this stunning institution in 1999, and it has been an amazing journey of hard work and dedication. It is with gratitude that I reflect on my 25 years of service at St. Paul's English High School."

**2. How has your experience evolved over the years?**

"Throughout the years, I have had the privilege of working with some of the most committed and gifted students, and I am thankful for the respect and encouragement I have been given by both students and teachers. Students and staff have always been there to assist and encourage me throughout my time here. Looking back on the past, I am optimistic about the future of St. Paul's school."

**3. How did you feel while joining the school and when did you realize that this was the right place for you?**

"Joining this school was a great experience for me. Right from the start, I felt at home and comfortable in the atmosphere. The caring teachers, friendly peers, and interesting activities made me know early on that this was where I belonged. That's why I am excited to spend a few more years here, creating more memories and learning even more."

**4. What was your favorite event or activity during the past years?**

"My most cherished activity in school has been elocution in all classes. Being one of the people in charge of the auditorium during such sessions, I get to see the amazing ability of the young speakers. It surprises me how boldly they convey their ideas, presenting strong speeches full of zeal and lucidity. Seeing all ages of students on the stage, clearly speaking their minds, and holding the audience spellbound is inspirational. It makes me love the craft of public speaking even more"

**5. Who are some people you admire here and what are your hopes for the school's future?**

"I have immense respect for Sir Augustine and Sir Lenny. Their commitment, advice, and support have always been motivating, and I am truly grateful for their efforts towards the school. I also give my blessings to all the students and wish that they keep growing and excelling in all their activities. My dream is to see the school continue to develop, touching new levels of excellence and becoming even greater than it is now. I wish it continues to be a center of learning, development, and inspiration.



Ms. Shazia Yousuf, a committed and enthusiastic teacher, has been associated with St. Paul's English High School's Cambridge section for the last 25 years. Being an experienced biology teacher, she has enlightened generations of students with her rich knowledge, dynamic teaching techniques, and unrelenting dedication towards academic excellence. Marking her silver jubilee, Ms. Yousuf's inspiring career is a testament to her commitment to developing young minds and instilling a passion for the sciences.



**1. What is your best memory at school?**

"The best memory, I think, was in the beginning years when I was very excited about teaching. That interaction with the students for the first time was the best moment. I enjoyed interacting with teachers, and at that time, students saw me as very friendly. But gradually, I became stricter with students".

**2. Was St. Paul's was your first school?**

"Yes, I have only taught in St. Paul's, nowhere else. Interviewer: That's interesting. How long have you been teaching here? Teacher: This is actually my 27th year here. For the first two years, I was a substitute teacher, so as a permanent teacher, I have completed 25 years".

**3. What inspired you to join this school?**

"Actually, my father was working here as a supervisor for the lower staff, so I was already living here. The principal at the time, Bishop Max, called me to substitute for his sister, Miss Margaret, who was a primary teacher and had fallen sick. After she returned, another teacher left, so I continued substituting. After two years, Bishop Max offered me a permanent teaching position, and I accepted".

**4. If you were not a teacher, what would you be?**

"A doctor. I always wanted to be a doctor".



## Rapid Fire Question Round

**1. Favourite day in school?**

"Friday, since its a short day".

**2. Favourite student from the last batch?**

"Inam".

**3. Best friend in school?**

"Miss Ambreen. But she has left now".

**4. Favourite personality in school**

"Sir Lenny".

**5. Best thing to eat at the canteen?**

"Nothing in particular".

**6. What do you love to do in your free time?**

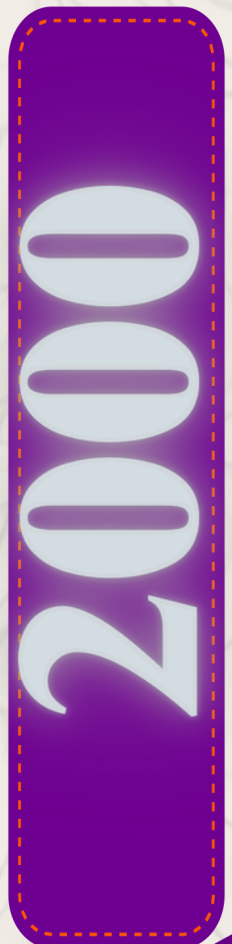
"Watch reels".

**7. What school event do you like the most?**

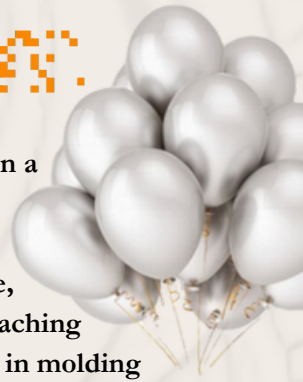
"The Christmas party the staff one. We have games, and I'm very active in that".

**8. Favorite sport in school?**

"Staffing".







Ms. Sharon D'Souza, a dedicated and caring teacher, has been a guiding light of St. Paul's English High School's primary section for the last 25 years. Marking her silver jubilee, she is a shining example, having guided young minds with patience, imagination, and unflinching commitment. With her lively teaching approach and genuine dedication, she has been instrumental in molding the early years of many students, imparting to them a lifelong passion for learning.

**1. What is your best memory in school?**

“My best memory, I would say is when I was welcomed by the senior staff members warm hearted and was guided as if it was their duty to guide me and the other new teachers. Their encouragement left a lasting impact on me.”

**2. What inspired you to join St. Paul's English High School?**

“I always wanted to be a teacher. As a child, I would pretend to be a teacher while playing with my siblings and friends. Teaching has always been my passion.”

**3. When did you realize that this school was the right place for you?**

“This school is my second home. During difficult times in my life, my students helped me accept challenges and move forward with a smile. Their support made me realize I belonged here”.

**4. If given the choice, would you prefer to teach higher secondary students?**

“I wouldn't mind, but my heart is with younger students. I find that I can relate to them more and enjoy nurturing their growing minds”.

**5. Who is your best friend in school?** There are many people I cherish because this school is like my second home. “However, I can always rely on Ms. Christabel, who supports me despite my shortcomings”.

**6. Miss, would you like to give some book recommendations?**

“A Reading is a continuous process, and if it's a true hobby, it never stops. Books open our minds and give us a broad horizon on different aspects of life. I highly recommend exploring different genres to gain new perspectives”.



Interviewed by: Syed Shahzain Haider

**Mr. Santosh exemplifies dedication and hard work in his role at the school. Despite not being a teacher, his contributions make him an integral part of the school community. His commitment to his responsibilities and the overall well-being of the institution has set him apart.**



**1. What is your favorite day of the week?**

Monday! A fresh start to the week, full of new opportunities

**2. Which school event do you like the most?**

The 14th of August celebrations! It's a day filled with patriotism, excitement, and unforgettable moments with friends

**3. In this school, what thing holds you to complete your 25 years?**

The environment and the respect this school gives me. My grandfather once told me, "If you are working at a place, keep working there--it will give you respect." His words inspire me to stay connected to this school for many years to come.

**4. Who is your best friend in school?**

Without a doubt, Pashotam! A true friend who makes every school day better.

**5. Who is your favorite personality?**

Miss Edelstein!, from the very first day, she has given me respect and a supportive environment. She is a true leader with great discipline

**6. What is your favorite spot in school?**

The 9th and 10th-grade corridor! It's the best place to relax, have fun, and make great memories



**Interviewed by: Syed  
Shahzain Haider**

# Golden Jubilee: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence and Dedication

“I have spent 50 brilliant years in St.Paul’s “

Ms. Agnes Fazal, an icon of devotion and sagacity, has fulfilled an unprecedented 50 years of service at St. Paul's English High School's Secondary division. Marking her Golden Jubilee, she is an inspiration to generations of students and teachers alike. Through her unrelenting passion for teaching and academic excellence, Ms. Fazal has influenced countless young minds, leaving behind a lasting legacy of knowledge and mentorship.



**1. How long have you been at this school?** “I’ve been part of this school since its very beginnings. My mother was one of the first four teachers here, and her dedication inspired me to join despite other opportunities offering far greater financial rewards. Our family’s connection to the school runs deep it’s not just an institution to me, but a legacy of love, learning, and community.”

**2. How was your experience?**

“My journey here has been filled with cherished moments and profound challenges. From the warm welcome I received when I joined to witnessing my son win his first 200 meter race, these memories are irreplaceable. The school has also been my anchor during difficult times, like when my brother passed away, my son underwent heart surgery, and I lost a child shortly after birth. The unwavering support from colleagues, students, and families during these traumatic periods strengthened my bond with this community. Every moment joyful or painful has taught me resilience and gratitude.”

**3. How can students improve overall?** “Students thrive when they embrace curiosity, discipline, and empathy. Academics are important, but holistic growth comes from participating in sports, arts, and collaborative projects. For instance, alumni like Najib Ullah (the voice of ARU Sports), Sharjeel, and Tabish excelled because they balanced studies with passion and teamwork. I encourage students to seek mentorship, ask questions fearlessly, and support one another. Small acts of kindness and perseverance go a long way in shaping not just their futures, but the future of the school.”



**4. What do you see as the future of the school?**

“I envision this school continuing to be a sanctuary of excellence and compassion. With teachers like Mr. Gill—who inspired generations through his dedication to physics, math, and moral guidance—we can nurture leaders who value knowledge and humanity. I hope to see expanded programs in sports, technology, and creative arts, while preserving the close-knit community spirit. The school’s legacy lies in its ability to adapt without losing its core values of integrity and inclusivity

**5. Do you still remain in contact with your old students?**

“Absolutely! Alumni like Marcus, my dearest friend, and others often return to share their achievements and mentor current students”.

**6. How do they feel about the current condition of the school?**

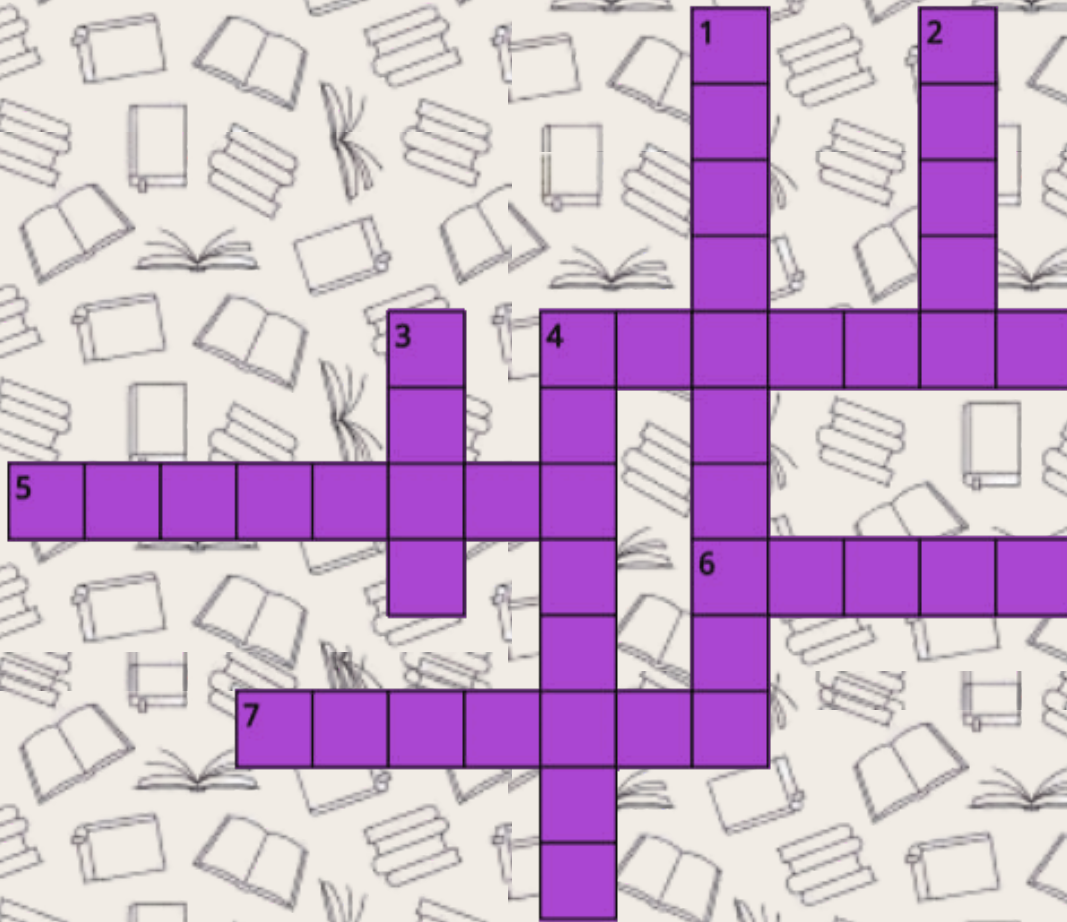
“Many, like Najib Ullah, express pride in how the school has grown while staying true. They appreciate the continued emphasis on holistic development but also urge us to modernize facilities teaching methods. Their feedback is Invaluable it reminds us that while traditions anchor us, innovation us forward”.

## Final Reflection:

“Every day here is a testament to the power of community. From my mother’s pioneering days to the students who now carry the torch, this school is a living story of resilience and gratitude. I thank God for the life He’s given me and this institution that turned sorrow into strength and individuals into



# RAULIAN PUZZLE



## HINTS

### Down

1. A deep feeling of sympathy and kindness for others. 2. The organ that symbolizes love and sincerity. 3. A strong connection between people, often built on trust. 4. A symbol often associated with the moon.

### Across

4. A selfless act of giving to those in need. 5. The ability to endure hardship with perseverance. 6. The meal that breaks the fast at sunset during Ramadan. 7. A source of light, often used decoratively during Ramadan.

# Upcoming Events



5 March- Ash Wednesday

April-HRCA Megaevents quiz

28th March onwards- Eid Holidays

12 April- Cambridge grade 11 Farewell

16th April- Passion of Our Lord Jesus  
Christ Stage Play

25 April- Cambridge Final  
Examination

# Spell Team

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# Significant contributors to SPELL Issue 6

**ST. PAUL'S  
MEDIA  
GRAPHICS  
SOCIETY**



Dear Paulians, Alumni, and Readers of SPELL Everywhere,

Welcome to the latest issue of The St. Paul's Evocative Literary Newsletter or SPELL for short. SPELL is more than a newsletter; it is a space where ideas take shape, literature is celebrated, talent shines and the spirit of our school comes alive.

In this issue we bring you a diverse collection of literary submissions from our talented students, alumni, faculty alongside a coverage of school events from November to February. We encourage every student to take part in shaping SPELL by sharing their thoughts, stories, and artistic expressions. Making this newsletter a true reflection of our school community. Share your creativity with us at [submissions.spell@gmail.com](mailto:submissions.spell@gmail.com)

A heart felt thank you for all our contributors, teachers and dedicated spell team for making this issue come to life. Your passion and creativity is what makes SPELL truly special.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

**Regards,  
Editorial Board**