

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

"Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself." – John Dewey

1. A heart filled with aspirations is all that we knew since the very existence of the school and that's what gave us the ambition of marching forward till excellence is achieved in all our endeavours. This report is comprised of the achievements made during the year gone by and at the same time set the path for greater accomplishments in the years to come.

We began our journey 30 years back in 1991 as Varkey International Private School, which was a prominent Kerala Board affiliated school in the region. The school was shifted to the current premises in 2002 and was renamed as GEMS Our own Indian School in 2004.

From humble beginnings in this revered land that adopted us and gave us a home, we've come a long way enduring hurdle upon hurdle to build a fortress of holistic education. In our capacities as teachers and parents and well-wishers - we've been the facilitators of every bud that bloomed and authored his or her destiny within our sacred walls.

2. We celebrated our three decades of existence with an evening of nostalgia on April 1st, 2022. We premiered our first musical movie production 'OLLIE!', which was completely shot at the school campus.
3. I would like to take the opportunity to declare the new vision statement of the school: **'Nurturing dynamic learners in an inclusive environment'**, which was framed in collaboration with students, parents, and teachers.
4. The 9th of February, 2022 will always remain a special day for the OIS family as Her Highness Sheikha Sana Al Maktoum, member of the ruling family visited our school and interacted with students and staff. Her Highness, on her maiden visit to OIS, planted a tree and took a walk around the school.
5. Our students displayed exemplary performance in the Board Exams.

a) Here are a few highlights of the Grade 12 results:

- *Batch average – 92.1 %*
- *54 students scored a1 in all subjects*
- *73.6% students scored 90% and above*

Naveen Suresh Nair is the *Overall School Topper with 99.2%*.

b) Highlights of Grade 10 results:

- *Batch average – 83.7 %*
- *37 students scored a1 in all subjects*
- *32.1% students scored 90% and above*

Hessa Omar Malikka is *GEMS Topper with 99.6%*.

- c) The Diana Award recognizes and celebrates the work, which young people make to society – especially those who are young ambassadors, young leaders, young humanitarians, environmental campaigners, peer mentors and those who inspire others. Anson George, Nishita Pravin Katepallewar and Tanisha Pravin Katepallewar are the proud recipients of this prestigious award. They are a part of the living Legacy to Princess Diana’s belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better.

Change in the leadership team:

- d) **Mrs. Sajna Santhosh has been promoted as the Head of Assessment & Curriculum w.e.f. September 2021.** She has served OIS as the Head of Department (Mathematics), the Supervisor for Grades 3 & 4 and Supervisor for Middle School Girls.
- e) **Dr. Kapila Pawar has been promoted as the Head of Upper Primary & Middle School w.e.f. September 2021.** She has been associated with GEMS for over nine years now and has worked in various capacities in the Middle School in GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai, before taking over as the Supervisor for Upper Primary in GEMS Our Own Indian School in 2017.
- f) **Mrs. Meera Jayaraj has been moved to the Middle School Supervisor (Girls) w.e.f. September 2021.** She was the Teaching and Learning Supervisor prior to her new responsibility, which she took up in the year 2020, she coached and mentored her colleagues and brought new systems in place.
- g) **Mrs. Mini Merin Mijo has been promoted as the Upper Primary Supervisor w.e.f. September 2021.** In 2015, she took over as the **Head of the Department of Science** and accomplished the feat of improving the Department ratings to Outstanding in the KHDA Inspections.
- h) **Robin John Mathai** is a dynamic young educator invested in incorporating innovation and the globally accepted best practices of modern education into the section that he has been entrusted to head as the Supervisor Senior School Boys from this new academic year.
- i) **Mr. George James**, a strong academician for 40 plus years, joined OIS in the year 2011 as Supervisor for Senior Boys section. It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell, as he superannuates from service with effect from April 2022. As he retires from his position, please join me in wishing him the very best for the next phase of his life. We will miss an energetic, enthusiastic and a strong academic leader.
- j) GEMS Our Own Indian School collaborated with K R Mangalam World School, Gurugram to bring the best out of the students and shared innovative projects made by students from both the schools.
- k) On November 10th 2021, a book written by our student Arsha Suvithlal of grade 9B was published at the prestigious Sharjah International Book Fair.
- l) Geethanjali Vijay Kumar from class 11E was recognized by the South Indian Cinema Television Academy for winning the Best Short Film 2021 for her movie ‘Le Silence’, under the category ‘Pravasi’. The story throws light on a teenage boy who is unhappy with his life... She wishes to convey to her audience the message of strong family ties. This award is a motivation which will inspire her to make more movies on social awareness and human relationships.
- m) With a legacy of twenty-two years of hosting the Annual Inter-School Debate in association with the Consulate General of India, our school had the honour of organizing the Open Forum, an excellent opportunity to engage young minds in a lively public discussion. ‘Ignited Minds: A discussion on

Principles of Dr Kalam' was held on 15th October 2021 at the India Pavilion of EXPO 2020. Mr. Ramkumar Thangaraj – Consul (Education, Passport & Attestation) was the Chief Guest of the Forum.

n) The words *wellbeing, engagement, character strengths, resilience, positive education, the general capabilities, social and emotional skills* are often used interchangeably. These terms each refer to a broad set of skills that help people succeed in life. We at OIS acknowledge the fact that the strength and the success of any school depends upon health and happiness of its staff. Various physical fitness sessions were conducted in the to boost the morale and to celebrate the spirit of teamwork and togetherness. A badminton carnival and cricket match were the highlights of this initiative with participation of SLT, teachers, admin, support staff, and drivers.

Conclusion

I conclude my speech by thanking our parents for entrusting your faith in us with regard to the all-round development of your wards at OIS. Special thanks to the parent community for their continued support and cooperation.

I am truly grateful to the Ministry of Education and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority for their constant support and co-operation in ensuring that we continue to deliver quality at all levels.

I am eternally grateful to our Chairman, Padmashree Mr. Sunny Varkey a UNESCO goodwill Ambassador for having great faith in us. We are truly honoured to work for such a well-known educational entrepreneur and educational philanthropist.

A sincere thanks to our Mr. Michael Guzder, Vice President, GEMS Education for being an integral part of this institution and for his constant guidance.

I would also like to thank the members of our Local Advisory Board and the members of Friends of School for their critical inputs and support.

My report will be incomplete without the mention of my entire staff – teaching, non-teaching, and support staff who sustain my vision and drive to the school at every step and every moment

I sincerely thank my senior leadership team for standing by me through all the innovations, and successes.

I end with a few inspiring lines by Barabara Vance.....this is dedicated for all my students and staff

If you always try your best

Then you will never have to wonder

About what you could have done

If you have summoned all your thunder

And if your best was not as good as you hoped it would be

You could still say I gave today all that I had in me