

The thrill of taking part at THIMUN meet

Anna and Romir

AT YCIS Shanghai Puxi Secondary, we take part in the Model United Nations (MUN) co-curricular activity, led by our teacher, Alison Hall.

MUN is a simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy, and the United Nations agenda. The most exclusive MUN conference is The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN). THIMUN is deemed a prestigious conference because of its location, at the Hague in the Netherlands. Students from our school attended THIMUN

from January 27 to February 1.

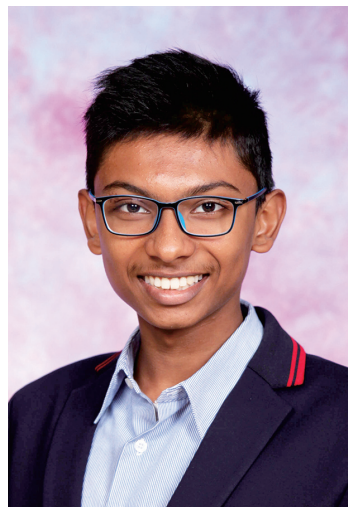
This year, our MUN director, Ms Hall, received an invitation to one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in the world at The Hague. It took four years of waiting on an exclusive waiting list before we could attend. We traveled with 12 delegates. The preparation by YCIS delegates was extremely successful, as every one of us had a resolution written. Everyone from YCIS had at least one chance to speak during the four days of debate. After years of planning, discipline, and determination, we accomplished what we had set out to do and achieved our dream!

On receiving the news that

we had the opportunity to attend this conference triggered so many emotions. I was so ecstatic to get the opportunity to travel to the Hague as this was the conference that everyone knew of, yet rarely experienced in person.

The conference itself was a challenge. I pieced together all my knowledge and past experience, leading to the creation and merging of a resolution regarding the "improvement of agricultural methods to reduce forced child labor." After long hours of speech writing and heated debate, it passed!

In addition, I had the opportunity to meet marvelous people from all over the world.



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Parents and kids: art of communication

Arundhati Gore

EVERY day, when I come home from school, I'm greeted by my mother who always asks me the same question, "How was your day?" And I invariably give her an extremely generic response, "It was okay."

The dinner script that follows includes me asking the question back to her. In contrast with my one-word response, I get an excessively long winded reply addressing every tiny detail of her day: What the neighbors did, which aunt called her and who was annoying at work. When I stop to think about it, I realized that we, teens, never

really answer our parents truthfully. Is it because we believe that our parents will be repulsed by who we are? Or worse, will we have to watch their eyes well up with disappointment. At the same time, a question pops in my head from time to time — Would they even care? Do our parents realize that they know next to nothing about who we actually are, our interests, our dislikes, our pet peeves, our flaws?

Parents always say "Friends never last, family will be there for you forever." After falling out with some friends, I thought maybe this was true. But then I have a talk

where my mom says "Pop culture is all about Micheal Jackson" and thinks Kendrick Lamar is a race car driver.

Their futile attempts to communicate with us, using slang and emojis and calling us "Bro," have the opposite effect, pushing us further away from them. Frankly speaking, it's quite depressing. Maybe someday, they can find out more about who we are, through our half-false and one-word answers. Maybe, we could stop hiding in our shells and make it easier for them. And who knows, maybe one day, we might just get used to them calling us "Bro."

Swimming in support of a noble cause

Edward Thomas Arditti

IN early January, I took on the challenge of competing in the Tampa Bay Frogman Swim. This annual event supports severely wounded or deceased Navy SEALs and their families through the Navy SEAL Foundation.

I was driven to take on this event so I could give back to the service men and women who have given everything. They have made the ultimate sacrifice for my country; not for what we see on the news,

not for the hatred and racism, not for the left versus right, not for greed and money; but for freedom.

I swam for the people who fought and died for the greater good, the things that you don't see on TV, or read in the newspapers. I swam to say thank you to the brave men and women who fought to protect the foundation of America: freedom. The freedom to choose any religion, to decide what you want to do, to have your voice heard and not be censored or covered up. I swam to show my support to the families that lost their

sons and daughters, husbands and wives, moms and dads. I swam to prove their sacrifice will not be forgotten and what they have done will not be overlooked.

When I was swimming and wanted to quit, I didn't, because I knew that what I was doing was greater than me. I knew that the people I was swimming for didn't give up, they kept fighting to the last breath for me and my country. I swam knowing that I was doing something for those who did everything, giving my time and effort for those who gave everything.



Edward Thomas Arditti is a Grade 9 student at Hangzhou International School.

School uniforms give students a sense of solidarity

Cherry and Maria

UNIFORMS have always been an integral part of Dulwich life, from blue frocks and red shirts at DUCKS to the red kilted skirts and gray shorts in the senior school. However, are they truly necessary? How does something that seems so inconsequential make such an impact on our daily lives?

A uniform affords each and every student at the school a sense of solidarity, a feeling that they truly do belong. It creates an environment based on monetary equality, all students, regardless of their background, will feel as though they are part of a team, a community. It also portrays the image of a united front, the idea that all of us together, as a school, can face anything which can also drive change for the

better in our community.

Dulwich promotes its image as a school that upholds traditions and respects etiquette. Our uniform projects this — the tie and blazer combination creating a sense of formality. Simply by wearing the uniform, you instantly feel like a part of the Dulwich community, not only because you are wearing the same clothes as every other student, but you are also integrated with the school's values and mottos.

Uniforms can play a huge part in both your school and social life, from the "cliques" you're accepted to the respect you're given. A sans-uniform atmosphere causes your daily worries about your appearance to amplify tenfold. An environment that lacks a uniform will provide one that enunciates not

only disparities in wealth but also individual tastes, which can be subject to scorn depending upon whether the outfit is "acceptable" or "mainstream" enough, opening up more reasons for bullying. With everyone wearing the same set of clothes, no one needs to think twice about whether their outfit is acceptable for school or would invite judgement.

However, this also brings to light the fact that individual tastes are a way of expressing one's personality. Having uniform confines everyone to the same style, the same look, the same image. No one is given a chance to express who they really are. And this goes further than just personality and character — it restricts our ability to voice our opinions, views and culture. Shouldn't

we be able to show the world our likes and dislikes, what we believe in and what we are staunchly against?

In this day and age, the traditional set of rules defining genders stating that girls must wear skirts and guys must wear trousers is blurred. These standards are an outdated concept that do not take into account what clothing students feel most comfortable in and student's personal preferences.

Dulwich is already making a good move toward breaking these rules, by introducing trousers fitted for females. This is a positive and progressive step toward a final goal: allowing students more comfortable, confident and proud in their school uniforms.

(Cherry and Maria are Year 12 students at Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong.)