

# BEYOND THE STONE STONEHILL ALUMNI E-MAGAZINE



An Embassy Group Education Initiative



*Class of 2019 - Leavers' Assembly*

**MESSAGE**  
FROM THE  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

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**GRADUATION &  
UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES**

**STONEHILL NEWS:**  
SEMESTER - 2  
2020 - 2021

## Message from the Head of School

Namaste!

This has been one of the most challenging years and I hope that you have found ways to keep yourself active, healthy and well.

We opened the 2020-2021 academic year with the hope of reopening our school and getting back to some kind of normalcy. Unfortunately, due to a relentless and unforgiving second wave we could not fully reopen our campus.

Our Stonehill community proved to be resilient and made the most of our Distance Learning Programme. Our faculty found innovative and creative ways to engage with our students in spite of the pandemic challenges. Many after school activities, clubs, musical concerts, drama productions and talent shows went online. A beautiful graduation ceremony for our D2 students was also held virtually.



The expansion plan for our campus continues with the addition of a new library that is scheduled to be completed next year. The new library will focus on research, resources, digital technology, and spaces for collaboration and instruction.

Every year, we grow and learn from the feedback provided by our students, parents, faculty, and our alumni. Going into the thirteenth year since our inception as an international school, Stonehill continues to thrive as a school of choice in Bengaluru. We continue to build on the foundations set by our previous alumni, and we are grateful and very proud of the many success stories. We hope you enjoy this edition of our Alumni newsletter. Please keep in touch. We enjoy hearing from you, and would love to celebrate your journey and successes.

Wishing all our alumni a healthy and safe year ahead. Please visit us when you can and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Linkedin](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Best wishes,  
**Dr. Brian Brumsickle**  
Head of School

## We are Excited to Hear From:

### Matilde Foroni, Class of 2016



I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance at UNIBO, Italy. I plan to do a Master's in Finance. In the meantime, I am doing an internship at Banca Etica, a bank founded on ethical values, in Italy.

I have many good memories of Stonehill. I have vivid memories of the supportive and passionate teachers. They valued the cultivation of student-teacher relationships, which helped me open up and I later was able to build strong relationships with my university professors.

Another beautiful memory is related to the extensive sports programme at Stonehill. It brought students from different year groups together. It was always so exciting, not for the trophy but for the experience and the team spirit that surrounded it.

Stonehill has clearly passed on the importance of sports and sportsmanship as both an act of self-care and team building. Last but not the least, Stonehill allowed us to interact with children from the government school and engage in meaningful community service. This is another value that I have held close to my heart. It is because of this that I am now a volunteer at the Italian Red Cross.

### Alaina Madaya, Class of 2019



Stonehill was the perfect stepping stone to life at university. It gave me the opportunity to meet some incredible people from all over the world and create unforgettable memories. I felt like I was part of a community and Stonehill will always have a special place in my heart.

I'm in my second year studying Media and Communication at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. Being part of the Honours programme, I've met some really interesting people, heard their stories, and worked on real life projects. For example, I created a media campaign for the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra using storytelling. Right now, I'm a full time intern with the account/strategy team at TBWA\NEBOKO, an advertising agency in Amsterdam. My job can be challenging at times but I learn something new every day. I also plan on attending the University of Leeds this fall on an exchange programme, which I'm really looking forward to!



### Nisarga Shinde, Class of 2020

I think my favourite thing about Stonehill was the close knit community that it had. The class sizes were small, which was a great learning environment as we got a lot of one on one time with the teachers, who were all so helpful. I'm currently doing a BA in Architecture at Oxford Brookes University, UK.

**Fanny Passeport, Faculty, 2012-2015**

I enjoyed working with the French students in the MYP and DP. I had a great time at Stonehill as I was supported by great colleagues in my department and the DP Coordinator, at that time.

I appreciated the autonomy given to me as a teacher to design with technology and engage learners in projects of value to them. For instance, we had to use MinecraftEDU and we did some cooking together, all in French. We also created many videos in class and even published a few online.

I am currently an Educational Consultant and Founder of No Borders Learning. I recently reconnected with a few students to integrate their voice into my new online course on co-constructing healthy learning ecosystems.

**Daksha Ponappa, Class of 2020**

My two years at Stonehill were some of the best years of my life. I miss being in the art room with my friends, and being able to sing in the choir. I was also in the boarding which I really loved as it gave me a chance to make some memories that I will always hold close to my heart.

I am currently taking a gap year. I worked as an intern for 6 months and I am now working a full time job at the same company as a Program Coordinator. I will be joining Wheaton College, Massachusetts in September 2021.

**Venkateshwaran Shobha Chandrasekharan, Class of 2020**

I am currently doing my undergraduate studies in Governance Leadership and Ethics and Honors in Business at Ivey Business school at London, Canada. I am part of the student council in my university and everything is online now.

I was part of the graduating Class of 2020, and I miss my mates. Last year made it hard to accomplish a lot of things but Stonehill boarding was fun and I wouldn't trade it for anything else.



## Alumni Speak

It would be great to hear from you! We encourage you to share your achievements, articles, or snippets of how life beyond Stonehill has been for you and we will be happy to feature these in the next edition of Beyond The Stone Newsletter and the Stonehill website. Fill out this [FORM](#) to receive some cool Stonehill merchandise. Please email Anju Abraham at [alumni@stonehill.in](mailto:alumni@stonehill.in)

## Alumni jackets available now!

Check out Terence and Daksha in their super cool Alumni Jackets!

Get in touch with us if you'd like one of these!



Fill out this [FORM](#) and get your Alumni Jacket absolutely free!

## Stonehill Celebrates Outstanding IB Results With Three Perfect Scores!

Stonehill's IBDP score remains above the world average, for the ninth consecutive year. This year, with a 100% pass rate, Stonehill students have yet again outdone themselves.

The average IB score for Stonehill students was 37 points against a global average of 33.02 points with three students achieving a maximum of 45 points each. Of the thirty six students enrolled for the Diploma Programme, 28% scored 40 points or more, which puts them amongst the world's top 9% of IB students. Stonehill students had record breaking A grades in Theory of Knowledge (ToK) and in the Extended Essay. Seven students were awarded Bilingual Diplomas in Dutch, French, Korean, German and Danish.

We are especially proud of the Stonehill Graduating Class of 2021 as they faced many unique challenges due to the global pandemic. They have proved to be resilient and we are sure they will go on to achieve great things.

## Every End Has a New Beginning



Stonehill International School hosted a virtual graduation ceremony for the Graduating Class of 2021 on May 22nd. Though the graduation ceremony was not what they had envisioned, it was a bright spot in yet another challenging year, bringing together the Stonehill community to celebrate the students and their accomplishments.

The virtual ceremony started with a special tribute video to all the students, followed by memories shared by each of them. The ceremony included a message from the Secondary Principal, Mr. Joe Lumsden, "At Stonehill, one of the values we promote is confidence and in today's world you will need plenty of it to navigate the complex situations that you will be faced with. So take this confidence out into the world, take responsibility, make tough decisions and try to improve people's lives in some way..."

The class of 2021, a unique generation of learners, had the benefit of learning from school as well as from life. Never has a graduating class been called to step into the future with more purpose, vision, and hope. Click [HERE](#) to see a few pictures.

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## Globe Tripping With Stonehill's University Acceptances

University acceptances for Stonehill's Grade 12 students have been overwhelming. It is so amazing to see students get accepted into some of the best universities around the world! Watch the [VIDEO](#) to see where our students are going!



## A Message to the Entire SIS Community at the End of the Academic Year - Stand by Me!

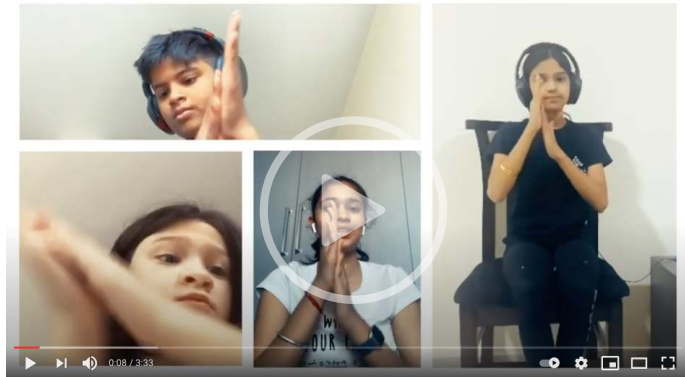
The Stonehill community is proud to have stood by each other through these trying times.

Here's a wonderful rendition of the chartbuster classic, Stand By Me, sung by Stonehill's Extended Music Programme students. This Ben E. King original, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, has been an anthem of love and hope across the decades.

Today, our young musicians remind us that music has the power to break down boundaries and overcome distances between people.

Let's remain united and continue to support and stand by each other.

Sing along [Stand By Me](#)



#StonehillInternationalSchool #Bangalore #SISchools  
Stand By Me | Cover | Stonehill International School

## Art Meets Reality at the DP Visual Art Exhibition



Our talented Diploma Programme Art students showcased their work at the Diploma Programme Visual Art Exhibition that was held in March. We saw some amazing work by these young artists, covering a variety of themes. Most of the pieces explored the intersection between the personal and the social. The paintings delved into issues of freedom and liberation, themes that have clearly been on the minds of many students during the past year of endless restrictions and lockdowns.

It's been a tough time for many students. Stonehill continues to find ways for them to express their individuality, challenge issues that need attention, and communicate who they are and what they want out of life.

The exhibition ends with a hopeful image of a young girl riding on a Baku, a Japanese mythical creature that eats children's nightmares.



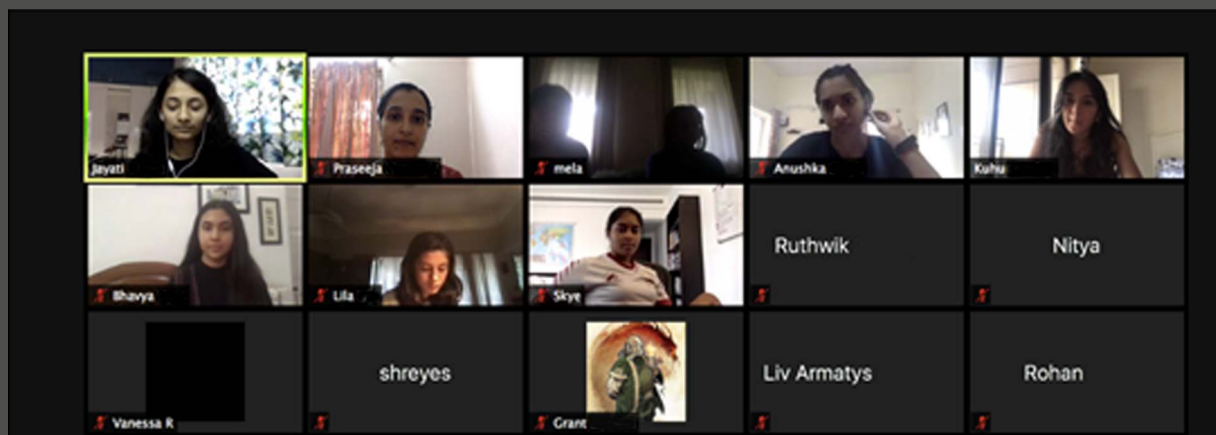


Click [HERE](#) to view more pictures.

## Talk College With Alumni

The "Talk College with Alumni" is a monthly zoom series that aims to bring Stonehill graduates back to School to guide high school students with their application process.

For the inaugural episode, Jayati Gupta and Bhavya Vyas, Class of 2020, met with the secondary students. The session focused on tips to earn scholarships in the top tier universities abroad.





Jayati Gupta, currently at The University of British Columbia, Canada, is studying Computer Science. She shared her story of getting admission into the top 20 universities in the world and also gave our students some important tips and resources on scholarships.



Bhavya Vyas, currently studying Law at King's College London spoke about choosing the right fit college. She shared her journey of applying to Oxbridge, UK and talked about ways to work on profile presentation.

This session has given Stonehill the impetus to invite other alumni to help current students get prepared for college early on. Please write to us [@alumni@stonehill.in](mailto:@alumni@stonehill.in) if you wish to participate.

## Girl Up Stonehill - Uniting Girls to Change the World



So proud of Arzoo, a D1 student, for setting up Girl Up Stonehill, a subsidiary of GirlUp, a UN Foundation initiative started in 2010 to support adolescent girls. Girl Up Stonehill helps girls advance their skills, rights and opportunities. Arzoo is on a mission to bring the Stonehill community together to overcome gender stereotypes. Read more on [TheNewsMinute](#).

GirlUpStonehill hosted a dress down day, in honour of International Women's Day! The purpose of the event was to challenge gender stereotypes through clothing choices. The entire Stonehill community came together to support this cause and participated in this fun event! Click [HERE](#) to see some great photos and give them love and support [@GirlUpStonehill](#)!

## Living in the Boarding Bubble



The 2020-2021 academic year will be a memorable year for many reasons. The year was all about taking care of each other and staying safe. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to come together as a community.

The first group of M5 and D2 boarders arrived on campus in January after ten months. There was great excitement as they were seeing each other after so long. Then came the other grades including 12 new boarders in February. With that, we had 65% of M3-D2 boarders back on campus. The boarding house was full of chatter and it was lovely to see friends reuniting to swap lockdown stories. I was impressed with their resilience and maturity.

We felt like we were just getting settled and then we had to deal with a second lockdown in April!

In the second semester, many of our traditional events and activities were cancelled including the graduation ceremony and the annual boarding



dinner. But we made the most of living amidst a global pandemic. For e.g. cinema trips were replaced with in-house movie, pizza, and games nights.

The four-day exeat weekend in February was a different experience for our boarders. Boarding staff organised lots of entertaining outdoor and indoor activities and special meals so that it didn't feel like a normal weekend. They played dodgeball, a traditional Indian game "Lagori/Pithu" popularly known as seven stones. The Head of School BBQ was an excellent way to come together as a boarding community. This was followed by a big screen movie night experience on our boarding lawns which the boarders thoroughly enjoyed.





On weekends, they used the excellent facilities at school to keep themselves engaged and motivated. They played volleyball, badminton, cricket, tennis and futsal.

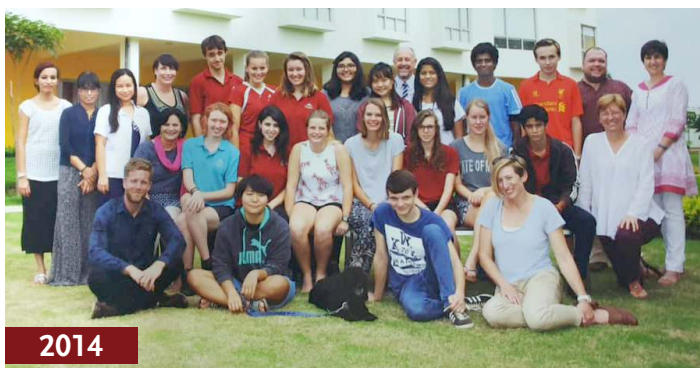
We had 14 boarders graduate this year. They did an amazing job staying focussed this academic year. We are so proud of their amazing college acceptances and scholarship offers. We wish them all the luck and success. We know they will go on to do amazing things in the future.

As June comes to an end, so does an unforgettable school year. While this time has been difficult with the many challenges, there have also been silver linings and useful lessons learned. I believe that the challenges that we overcame this past academic year have made us stronger as a community.

Stay connected: We capture special moments from our boarding programme. Follow Stonehill boarding on Twitter [@BoardingSIS](https://twitter.com/BoardingSIS).

Stay safe and well!

**Glen Johnson**  
Head of Boarding



Boarding in 2014 vs 2020. So great to see our boarding family growing year after year!





## Embassy Cares

Stonehill International School, an Embassy Group initiative, is proud of the Group's Covid-19 relief measures.

At the very core of Embassy Group's ethos is support for their communities. Throughout and post the national and state lockdowns, Embassy Group has worked to bolster those disproportionately affected by the virus – the poor,

the marginalised, migrant workers, daily wage earners, and frontline and healthcare workers.

Under their Corporate Connect program, they were able to mobilise their business park corporate occupiers to partner with them, committing 82 lakhs towards their wide-reaching collaborative relief initiatives. Their commitment and support will go a long way.



Handover of gloves & face shields to Bengaluru Traffic Police



Handover of oxygen concentrators in Pune

### Newly set-up ICU for Covid-19 patients at Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bangalore



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