



NEWS, PRAISE & PRAYER HEBRON SCHOOL, OOTY

THE CELEBRATION WEEK- 125

Hebron School marked a monumental milestone this year by celebrating with over 200 alumni and parent visitors its 125th anniversary between the 30th March - 6th April. This newsletter attempts to encapsulate the vibrant, six days of festivities that not only commemorated its remarkable journey through time, but also hoped to show its unwavering commitment to excellence in education and community service. The celebrations were also a testament to the school's rich heritage, its enduring impact on generations of students, and its vision for the future.

The 125th anniversary celebration of Hebron School was more than just a reflection on the past. It was hoped to be a forward-looking event that set the tone for the future. It successfully fostered a sense of pride and belonging amongst the Hebron community, reinforced the school's values, and inspired current and future generations to strive for excellence.

The commemoration of its 125 years has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who participated, we hope ensuring that the legacy of Hebron School will continue to inspire and shape futures for many years to come. As the curtains close on this historic celebration, Hebron School stands poised to embark on the next chapter of its journey, with its sights set on nurturing leaders and innovators who will make a positive impact in the world.

The anniversary celebrations were planned to include a series of events that catered to the diverse Hebron community, including students, alumni, faculty, and local residents. Throughout the week, the campus buzzed with activities ranging from exhibitions showcasing students' projects and innovations, to drama and musical performances that celebrated the diverse backgrounds of the Hebron family. One notable part of the alumni reunion days was where we invited former students from across the globe to reconnect and share their stories, emphasizing the school's commitment to giving back to society. The celebrations reached their zenith with a banquet and formal celebration on 6th April.

VISITORS' HUB AT TITCH PITCH

The Visitors' Hub, a temporary, but sturdy tent erected to cover 'Titch Pitch', served as a welcoming haven for guests and alumni attending the anniversary. In this generously large, airy, and comfortable space attendees were able to reconnect, reminisce about their childhood adventures and forge new memories. Seats were arranged to encourage long, leisurely conversations among old friends, with plenty of laughter and the telling of nostalgic tales in evidence – a joy to watch. An array of memorabilia was made available for purchase, allowing all who wanted to, to take a piece of history home. Moddys, a beloved name among the alumni, contributed to the day's joy with a small stall offering a variety of snacks and refreshments. Hebron life was, is, and no doubt always be, about the snacks! We didn't want the anniversary celebrations to miss out on this vital aspect of any Hebron gathering.



HISTORY/ARCHIVE ROOM

In celebration of its 125th anniversary, Hebron School prepared a History/Archive room, a treasure trove of its eventful past, designed to take visitors on a journey through time. This carefully curated space housed in the former squash court is now home to an impressive collection, including old books and records, articles that have captured significant milestones, and uniforms that speak of the evolving ethos of the school. Each item tried to offer tangible connection to the generations of students and educators who have studied and served. Central to the room was a detailed timeline, elegantly charting the evolution of Hebron School from its inception to the modern day. This archive room stands not just as a repository of memories, but as a testament to the enduring legacy and the continuous journey of growth and learning at Hebron School.



JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

This day was filled with excitement and laughter, and an impressive display of athleticism and teamwork along with the spirit and talents of Hebron's young learners was on display. The morning commenced with an opening ceremony as students, dressed in their Blue/Gold house colors, walked onto the field, their faces beaming with pride and anticipation. They ended their performance with a human formation of the numbers '125'.

The Principal, Mr Naylor, delivered a welcome address, emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, perseverance, and camaraderie. The athletic events were a delightful spectacle, ranging from traditional races and relays to more innovative and inclusive activities designed to engage every child.



Highlights included the spirited 100-metre dash, the teamwork-centric relay race, and the much-anticipated award ceremony drew cheers and encouragement from spectators. The younger students also participated in fun races: the egg-and-spoon race, cricket ball-putt – and as always, the parents & staff group races brought a good degree of hilarity all round. Amidst the friendly competition, students demonstrated remarkable sportsmanship, cheering for their peers and showing respect for their competitors.



SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS DAY AND SWIMMING GALA

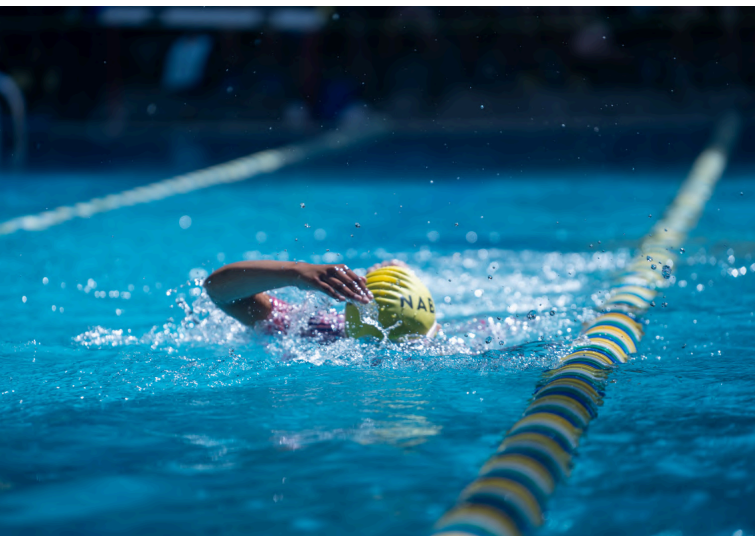
The 125th anniversary was also celebrated with a grand and certainly spirited Senior School Sports Day, with lots of visitors, parents and alumni watching both fondly and eagerly in the stands at the Breeks' ground. Hebron students' athletic prowess is exciting, sometimes even quite breathtaking to watch on any occasion; but it was also evident that the school's commitment to fostering fair play, teamwork, and physical fitness in its community continues to be a live concern.

The morning was filled with a vibrant array of events across various sporting disciplines. As the school band played, a ceremonial torch was lit, symbolising the love of sports that has always been a part of Hebron.

For track and field competitions, the athletes demonstrated excellent levels of skill, determination, and sportsmanship. 100m, 200m, and 400m races, the skillful precision of javelin and shot-put events, and the teamwork-driven excitement of the relay. The 4 x 100-meter relay, as always, had the spectators on the edge of their seats, cheering loudly for their houses. The spirit of friendly competition was palpable, with house flags waved proudly and chants filling the air.

Trophy presentations were met with applause and cheers, celebrating not just the victors but the collective spirit and achievements of the entire Hebron School community; this 125th year School Sports Day served as a fitting tribute to the school's 125 years of excellence in, and love of sports, and the character-building it plays so big a part in.





Similarly, the swimming gala stood out as a memorable highlight. Many alumni were impressed at the improvements that have been made to the Hebron pool and its surroundings since their time. This iconic Hebron event in the hot March sunshine had the usual range of races and events across all age groups, along with a lot of excitement and Blue-Gold competitiveness, more evidence of the school's continuing commitment to a well-rounded education, where academics are balanced with physical well-being and sporting excellence.

SELBORNE CAMPUS VISIT

The visit to Selborne Campus was a poignant journey for many alumni, stirring deep feelings of nostalgia as they set foot in the dorms where they spent formative years. Walking down the familiar central corridor, past rooms filled with stories from the past, revived memories of late-nights, laughter, and the forging of lifelong friendships. This carried a fairly emotional weight for some, returning to a place so integral to their personal growth, a sometimes-bittersweet reminder of the passage of time and the indelible mark of life lived together left on their lives.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

A prayer breakfast with alumni offered a unique opportunity to blend spiritual reflection with the rekindling of old friendships. Memories of past prayer breakfasts were shared, and the motivations that have inspired generations of students to get up extra early on a Tuesday morning to pray together were re-examined and celebrated. Through prayer and fellowship, alumni and guests found common ground, drawing strength from a shared heritage and renewing their commitment to live out the ideals instilled in them.

CRICKET MATCH

Also on the programme, the friendly cricket match brought together alumni, guests, and the school's own staff team in a spirited display of sportsmanship and camaraderie. The 'Big Pitch' was alive with the sound of cheering as players from the past and present merged and joined battle. In a game filled with light-hearted competition and memorable moments, it was the alumni and guest team that emerged victorious. No hard feelings, of course!



ART & TECH EXHIBITION

The 125th Anniversary of Hebron School was also marked with a spectacular Art and Technology Exhibition at the Graham Staines Memorial Hall, showcasing current students' work and was open to students, staff, parents, alumni, and the wider community. The exhibition featured an array of student art from the GCSE and A level classes, alongside woodwork projects from the Technology Department.



TIME CAPSULE

As part of the grand celebrations, an event that captured everyone's imagination was the unsealing of a time capsule deposited by the Student Council in the year 1999 as part of the school's centenary celebrations. Some alumni from that batch were there to do the honours. Items from 25 years ago were brought to light in front of the whole school community. In turn, the current 2024 batch took the step of gathering and selecting items to be sealed in a new time capsule. This capsule, a treasure of the present, is set to be unveiled during the 150th anniversary celebration in 2049, promising to be a testament to the enduring legacy and evolving story of Hebron School.



SCHOOL GROUP YEAR MEET

Multiple generations of former students representing seven decades gathered again over lunch at the Visitors' Hub on the 'Titch Pitch'. It was a heart-warming gathering! The highlight of the meet was undoubtedly the sharing of stories and memories that painted a vivid picture of the past, connecting everyone at a deeper level. These narratives, filled with tales of mischief, triumphs, camaraderie – and of course some sadness and reflection, served as a reminder of the indelible mark the school had left on its students.

The event culminated with a delightful lunch, where the conversation flowed as freely as the food. This gathering was not just a celebration, but a testament to the lasting bonds forged within its walls. It was a day filled with laughter, nostalgia, and a shared love for a place that, for many, felt like coming home.





TRIP TO OLD HEBRON AND BROOKLANDS

As part of the celebrations, many visitors and alumni took the opportunity to take a journey back to the origins of the school way back in 1899, to Hebron Coonoor. The event began with a visit to the original sites of Hebron School at Old Hebron and Brooklands, where the foundation for generations of academic excellence was laid. It was a poignant moment for many as they walked through these historic locations, with many memories and stories free-flowing among the attendees. The air was filled with a sense of friendship, and wistfulness, as alumni interacted with one another, reminiscing about their time spent at Hebron and reflecting on the journey the school has taken since its inception.



Added to this, guests were treated to a delightful array of snacks and lunch, offering a moment of relaxation and fellowship. The return journey was no less spectacular, as guests boarded a specially chartered Nilgiri Mountain Train. This unique travel experience allowed everyone to soak in the breathtaking scenery of the Nilgiris, a picturesque finale to an already unforgettable day. The journey on the historic mountain railway, known for its steep track and scenic views, provided a serene backdrop to reflect on the day's experiences and the legacy of Hebron School. The blend of longing, fellowship, and the breathtaking beauty of the Nilgiris made for an unforgettable celebration, truly honoring the spirit of Hebron School.



DRAMA AND MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Of course, there had to be drama! Our current students proudly presented two monumental drama productions which in true Hebron tradition were first rate entertainment. Audiences were immersed in the world of "Beauty and the Beast," a production that saw over 70 talented students from Std 9-13 taking on the roles of cast, crew, and band to breathe life into this beloved Disney classic. With its dazzling performances and a feast of visual and auditory delights, this production not only showcased Hebron's rich talent in music and drama, but was also a fitting tribute to Hebron's love-affair with the arts and the spirit of joy and creativity.

The school then invited attendees to experience a second production: "Deo Supremo: A Passion Play," a profound thanksgiving performance that commemorated Hebron's 125 years of history. This powerful play retold the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, intertwining the narrative with stunning choral music, compelling drama, and captivating narration that movingly blended Hebron's past with the greatest story ever told. It was not just entertainment but a reflective journey through faith and history, making it a fitting tribute to the school's remarkable milestone.

Together, these productions felt like an extraordinary celebration of Hebron's legacy, artistry, and community spirit, marking a significant chapter in the school's history with grandeur and creativity.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Hebron School hosted a heartfelt thanksgiving service, marking another milestone of excellence and community. The event saw a remarkable gathering of former principals, alumni, parents, guests, and staff, all coming together to honor the school's rich history and enduring legacy. The older students contributed to the festivities with an inspiring musical performance, encapsulating the life, death, and sacrifice of Jesus, while the junior school added a contemporary twist with their unique blend of singing and rapping. This momentous occasion not only celebrated the school's past achievements but also its continued impact on the lives of its community, fostering a sense of pride and unity among all who have walked its halls.

ALUMNI INTERACTION

During the 125 week, our A level students had the opportunity to interact with many alumni, especially two distinguished alumni, something which clearly acts as a bridge between the past achievements and future possibilities within the Hebron community. Visiting the school this week were two such alumni, Lord Karan Bilimoria, a British Indian businessman and member of the House of Lords, and Kynan Darius Chenai, an accomplished Indian shooter in the Trap discipline. Their engagement with students brought a wealth of experience and insights. Lord Bilimoria, as the Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, shared his journey from education to entrepreneurship and public service. Meanwhile, Kynan Darius Chenai's dedication to his sport and his ability to compete at the highest levels offered a unique perspective on discipline, perseverance, and the importance of pursuing one's passion. Their interactions with A-level students were not only inspiring, but also provided tangible examples of where dedication and education can lead. We hope to encourage students to dream big and work hard towards their goals.



INFORMAL TEA FOR FORMER STAFF

As part of the celebration, an informal tea gathering was organised at the HOZ lawn, serving as a bridge between eras. This event stood out as a momentous occasion, providing a rare and cherished opportunity for both expatriate and national staff, past, to reunite. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the lawn, laughter and nostalgic tales flowed freely, as attendees reminisced about the "old days," sharing stories of past challenges, triumphs, and the enduring spirit of camaraderie that has always been a hallmark of the Hebron School community. This occasion served to cultivate stronger connections among its diverse members. This bolstered a sense of unity and common purpose, which has been instrumental in guiding Hebron School throughout.



BANQUET AND FORMAL CELEBRATION

The 125th anniversary celebration of Hebron School, culminated with a grand banquet and formal celebration and a luncheon that was as memorable as it was significant. Distinguished guest Lord Karan graced the event, sharing his profound memories of the institution that has stood the test of time. With eloquence and nostalgia, he spoke of his experiences, highlighting the unyielding zest and spirit that Hebron continues to embody. His words painted a vivid picture of the school's enduring legacy, its commitment to excellence, and the sense of community that has been its hallmark through the generations. It was an event that not only celebrated the past but also looked forward to the future with hope and anticipation, embodying the essence of Hebron's remarkable journey through the years.



IN CONCLUSION...

As we brought our 125th anniversary celebrations to a close, we were filled with a deep sense of gratitude and reflection. This milestone was not just a testament to the enduring legacy of Hebron School but also a celebration of the countless individuals who had contributed to its rich history. We extended our heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished guests who honored us with their presence, sharing in our joy and commemorating this significant occasion. Their support and goodwill had added immeasurable warmth and distinction to our celebrations.

To our esteemed alumni – your return has rekindled old memories and forged new ones. Your journeys, achievements, and the diverse paths you had taken since leaving Hebron School served as a beacon of inspiration for our current students. The bonds that were reaffirmed during this anniversary week reminded us of all of the shared experiences and values that are the foundation of our school community.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the past 125 years as well as excited for the future. We pray that the unwavering spirit of unity, excellence, and innovation that has characterised Hebron School since its inception will continue to guide us. Thank you, once again, to everyone who had been a part of this remarkable journey.

FEEDBACK FORM

As we celebrated the 125th anniversary of Hebron School, we kindly invite you to share your thoughts and experiences by filling out our feedback form. Your input is invaluable in helping us continue to grow and improve our engagement within Hebron community. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey!

Please access the feedback form [here](#).

PRAISE

1. We give thanks to God for His blessings on the successful completion of our 125th anniversary celebrations.
2. We express gratitude for the travel mercies bestowed upon all guests who attended the 125th anniversary, ensuring their safe journeys.
3. We acknowledge and appreciate the dedicated efforts of the 125th year planning committee and the school staff whose hard work made the anniversary a memorable event.
4. We are thankful for the successful completion of Parents' Week, where unity and community spirit were profoundly strengthened.
5. The staff enjoyed the restful and rejuvenating break, and we reflected on our work and prepared for the last term with renewed energy.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for the transitioning staff at Hebron School, that those leaving may find new paths filled with blessings and those arriving may adapt seamlessly and contribute positively.
2. Seek support and clarity for students preparing for and writing exams, so that they may be diligent, retain knowledge, and perform to the best of their abilities.
3. Ask for guidance and wisdom for the graduating students, so that they may step confidently into their future endeavors and continue to grow in knowledge and virtue.
4. Pray for the school's leadership, so that they may lead with integrity, insight, and inspiration, fostering an environment of excellence and care.
5. Pray for the entire school community during these times of change and milestones, that they may remain united and strong in purpose and spirit.





Thank you for your interest and prayers.



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