



CIS SPEAKS
AUGUST 2019 EDITION

Summer Internship Programme

Last summer, students of the current Grade 10 and IB2 batches participated in an Internship Program with an esteemed group of companies, such as NSHM, Lighting Lives School, Seagull Publishers and GOFIN Finance. We have a few students who would like to share their experiences of working as interns:

Jahnavi Garg (Grade 10):

I did my summer internship at NSHM in the marketing field. This project helped me understand how various educational institutions market their services and what makes them stand out. I did this by exploring and gathering information from their media sites. Marketing is all about creativity and out-of-the-box ideas and this activity helped me explore my imaginative faculty further. Initially, I had not the faintest idea about marketing and lacked confidence. However, towards the end I started to get a clearer understanding of my abilities, aptitude and interests. I thoroughly enjoyed this enriching experience. We all know that there is no substitute for experiential learning and internships give students the much needed hands-on experience. I feel that quality internships are necessary to develop key skills such as multitasking, communication skills and the like, which I acquired successfully. I would recommend all to opt for such internships at this institute.



Svarika Sonthalia (IBDP Yr2):

I worked at a nonprofit organisation called Lighting Lives. This was started by an enterprising lady who works tirelessly towards making the lives of underprivileged children better. I worked there for a week, during which I had to master the art of speaking in Bengali to a bunch of enthusiastic children- no easy feat. Due to monetary restrictions, only one teacher could be appointed per class, teaching all subjects including Literature and Environmental Management. My duty hours were from 9.00 in the morning to 1.00 in the afternoon. It was truly a heart-warming experience. This internship helped me realise the importance of patience and also taught me not to take things for granted. Furthermore, my respect for my teachers increased manifold after seeing the hard work one has to put in for such a profession. It was endearing to



see the kids smiling with the desire to learn. I would definitely recommend all to volunteer for a truly enriching experience at Lighting Lives.

Ashna Chamaria (Grade 10):



From the 14th to the 18th of May, I spent quality time at Seagull Publishers Pvt. Ltd. - a publishing house of repute. I explored an interesting field of work -transcription. Transcription is typing out what you're listening to in a word document. Although it took me four rigorous days of work, I think what I learned through the deadlines, the atmosphere, the content of the work was definitely worth the time and effort. "History with Peace" – an initiative of Seagull Publishers Pvt. Ltd is a wonderful idea. I would urge all those who take pride in their heritage to join their programmes.

Viraj Sonthalia (Grade 10):

I worked at a company called Gofin Finance. I partook in work related to accounts, such as opening e-wealth accounts and making a comparison of growth over the years. I also learnt about the various ways to invest money profitably like investing in mutual funds. I quite enjoyed my stint but I look forward to greater scope of work in future engagements. However, all-in-all it was a good experience and I'd recommend the company for anybody with a deep interest in finance.



College Preparation Sessions

College applications are stressful, to say the least- mostly because we don't know what to expect. Our lives, at this stage, are characterised by uncertainty since we don't know where we're going to end up. We don't know what college will be like, or whether our choices are realistic - and if not, how we can make realistic choices. We have no guarantees.



So, to give us a better picture of what to expect, on a Wednesday during the zero period, our career counsellor, Mrs. Poddar, arranged for some ex-CIS students to share with us their experiences at college and tips on college applications and beyond.

The ex-students are now spread across the globe, in India, Canada, USA, UK and more.

The main lesson I took from the session is that the struggle doesn't stop after getting into college. Once there, we have to keep working to maintain a good GPA and ensure we do well there as well. The major challenges lie in competing with fellow students who are just as competent, if not more and dealing with living alone for the first time.

We were advised to apply in colleges where we think we would be happy and be able to cope. Rankings aren't the only factor to consider; food, lodging and location are the other things we need to look at before applying to a university.

The ex-students talked about a much wider range of topics as well- financial aid, scholarships, and ways to acquire social skills. This could be done by joining societies or clubs at the colleges we ultimately attend.

Perhaps a lot of people found the session intimidating and would prefer to push these things to the back of their minds temporarily. Well, I can't say I wasn't fazed, but I was grateful nonetheless for the tips.

Taneesha Datta (IBDP Yr2)

An encounter with the Kolkata Cloud Chasers

Who chases clouds, you may ask? You've heard of chasing bats, balls, cats, dogs, maybe even friends, but clouds?

A very interesting group, the Kolkata Cloud Chasers (known as the KCC), visited our school on a Wednesday. All students



of the middle section gathered in the AVR to watch and listen to their presentation, unsure what to expect.

So what are cloud chasers?

They are a group of passionate photographers, who like to take pictures of extreme weather. They love to photograph cloud formations and storms. In this manner, they inform people about climate change and extreme weather.

In their presentation, the group of 4 trackers: Phoenix, Goodboy, Thunderman and Roadrunner, introduced us to their group and explained how they track and chase storms and share the information.

They introduced us to the different types of clouds, and showed us breathtaking pictures they had taken of Shelf clouds as tall as tsunamis, lightning that lit up the sky like natural fireworks creating a beautiful glow and of spectrum of colors that fills the monsoon sky. Who knew nature could be so beautiful?

How does KCC physically chase a storm and how do they know its path?

The cloud chasers mentioned that they track a storm and its predicted path using satellite data of the IMD (Indian Meteorological Department). They also use apps on Google Play and IOS that interpret satellite data on maps. However, the inferences leave us in uncertainty since storms may veer away from their path. The KCC therefore need to be on their toes while storm chasing.

As the session continued, the excited audience continued to ask several questions such as how they keep safe while chasing the storm system.

KCC stated they get information about the storm before venturing out to take photos and are very careful about the storms with lightning bolts as nature can be very destructive.

We were told that they had special cars named Storm and Cloud Intercept Four-wheelers. These are fitted with GPS along with CB radios and dashboards.

One of the highlights of their efforts was to go out into the countryside and capture the joy on the faces of the farmers and villagers who are dependent on the rains for their crops.

It was an insightful and absorbing presentation and we learnt a lot not only about clouds and storms but the fun ways in which one can be involved with learning about climate change and the dangers it presents.

Isabel Archment (6B)



A Tryst with Newspaper Editing

Kiron Deb, a student of AS, has joined the voices - a supplement of the Statesman newspaper - as a student coordinator. Two of his pieces were published in a recent edition dated Thursday 8th August 2019:

Cherishing the connection

Friendship — a beautiful sentiment that is imperative to mental well-being - has a wholesome day dedicated to it with the ever so lovable Winnie-the-Pooh as its ambassador. Like Mothers and Fathers Day, Friendship day is a celebration of bonds and affection.

However, the bonds of friendship are very different from those of family; friendship is built upon compatible dispositions and similarity of interests while family on innate affection. Indeed, there are some things we prefer to share with friends rather than with family.

Friends are people with whom you can have fun and connect with on a deep level. Unsurprisingly, it is not that simple to make friends, at least not very close ones. A deep friendship is one where you can mock each other for fun. If you're always nice to someone, you're not that close. Perhaps this may sound ridiculous at first, but think about it - aren't the friends whom you can tease and joke with the closer ones? A real friend will joke and be casual most of the time, but will become supportive and serious if a genuine problem arises.

Try to imagine a world without friends - it would be mind-numbingly boring; just going to school or work and spending hours like automations.

Friends make our everyday lives interesting and entertaining. They are one of the prime reasons that we look forward to work or school. It is hence apt to recognise and celebrate this relationship once every year.

Kiron Deb, Coordinator, Class XI, Calcutta International School



- Kiron Deb (AS)

Snow-clad sublimity

KIRON DEB

The frosty temperature in Solang Valley coupled with an exhilarating terrain makes it a perfect holiday destination

every 20 minutes, we took a small break to relax our muscles, admire the sight, and capture pictures of ourselves with the snowy terrain.

One trek, in particular, was spine-chilling: we walked on a narrow path on the edge of a mountainside with no ropes or safety nets! It was not as hazardous as it sounds, for the trek was voluntary and only the more competent trekkers took on this daunting challenge.

In addition to this, the instructors were meticulous and made sure that we were safe. Moreover, the tiny element of risk and peril made it all the more exhilarating. Every so often, we gazed down at the ubiquitous valleys and took a deep breath, my heart racing with frisson. Activities other than trekking included skiing, ATV rides, and zip lining. Although the skiing slope was not steep or large enough for proper skiing, it was good enough to get acquainted to the massively popular sport.

On our last night in Solang Valley, we enjoyed a campfire around which everyone huddled for the soothing warmth. Feeling the warmth of a fire in a frosty place is truly one of the most satisfying sensations one can experience. The following day, we grabbed our souvenirs from the shops in Manali and began our descent in coaches. As we looked out the window, we bid adieu to the celestial land with a bittersweet sentiment:

Earlier this year, a valiant group of high-school students decided to quench their thirst for adventure by embarking on a journey to the frigid Solang Valley located in Manali, Himachal Pradesh. This was one of the bi-annual expeditions arranged by an organisation affiliated with our school.

Perhaps, the most anticipated feature of the trip was the snow. To the residents of the sweltering city of Kolkata, snow has always been something ethereal and other-worldly; a beautiful contrast to the mercilessly hot and humid climate of the city. As we boarded the train and looked out of its window, we wondered whether we would catch a glimpse of this peculiar white phenomenon, known as snow.

The train voyage was exceedingly long, though relaxing. The internet connectivity was painfully slow, and hence, we were compelled to socialise and not be unhealthily immersed in our mobile phones.

After several hours of sleeping, playing cards, and several more hours of travelling, we arrived in Manali. As we entered Solang Valley in jeeps, there was no trace of snow whatsoever. Dejected and fatigued, we quickly checked into a hotel and went to bed. However, the



following morning when we looked outside, to our wonder, everything was blanketed in this pristine white substance that amplified the already

majestic panorama of the mountains.

But this sight of beauty came at a hefty price: glacial, unforgiving temperatures. Even with several layers of clothing, including thick gloves and caps, we were shivering, and suddenly found the heater to be mankind's greatest invention.

Every morning, we had to wake up and exer-

cise to warm up our bodies for the strenuous trek that was to come. The instructors advised us to take off our gloves so we would acclimatise to the cold. We also needed to cover our faces to combat the icy wind. Trekking in this weather was certainly not easy, but the azure blue skies, snow-clad mountains and unadulterated air's sheer magnificence kept us on our feet.

Approximately,

happy to escape the arctic weather, but sad knowing that I won't come across such beauty for many days to come.

Coordinator, Class XI,
Calcutta International
School



A visit to East India Pharmaceuticals

On the 11th of July, the students of IBDP Yr-2 went on an educational trip to the East India Pharmaceuticals. The main purpose of the trip was to explore the various links between the subject areas, such as Business Management and Biology. The private limited company we visited is a manufacturing and quality assurance firm. It consists of various departments and manufacturing plants producing medicines.



The entire experience was rather enriching, given the fact that all of us were exposed to areas in which we weren't previously familiar with. Moreover, it was interesting to learn about how two distinct subjects integrated with each other. We observed the production process, the packaging process and how they check for quality of the medicine. Overall, it was an exciting experience and I look forward to more of these trips.

Sanjana Majumdar (IB2)



The East India Pharmaceuticals

Bottle Gardening Workshop with the middle school...

On the 22nd of July, IB2 hosted a bottle gardening workshop with the middle school



First, the students got their hands dirty, filling their bottles with mud



And then, with some guidance...



And some teamwork ...



They planted seeds of all kinds into their bottles



BOTTLE GARDENING – A CAS INITIATIVE BY IBDP Yr-2

(Atreyi Ghosh, Ileana Pal and Padmaja Bose)