

LUMINOUS 24'



100% Match

2024

The Luminous 24' brings with it interesting themes ranging from biodiversity to traditon and sports to law!

▶ Play

+ My List

From the Director's Desk

At Podar International School, we have been striving to promote a well-rounded education that equips students with the necessary technical, problem-solving, interpersonal and social skills required for success in the 21st Century.

By providing our students with the opportunities to excel in their areas of interest and to develop keen passion for the fields of the future, we prepare them to reach heights beyond our imagination. Therefore, we have always balanced our pursuit of knowledge within the academic disciplines with a research-oriented creative method of learning.

This enables students to develop holistically as individuals who are well-equipped and ready to create innovative solutions to real world problems.

The Student Community of Podar is built on a foundation of open-mindedness, inquiry, and communication, all of which is embodied by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme's (IBDP) continued legacy of the Luminous Magazine—a student-led initiative which effectively incorporates the various spheres of creative expression and international-mindedness that is central to the International Baccalaureate's vision.

In keeping with our mission of developing an inclusive environment for collaborative learning, each year, we support the Luminous Editorial Team in collating the art and writing of our students into a body of work that engages in cultural commentary, scientific inquiry, and analytical praxis. The magazine functions as a site for promoting intercultural understanding and developing newer ideas on topical areas of global relevance—spanning from ecology, science, technology, society and culture. By illustrating the learner portfolio and the school's pioneering vision, the magazine becomes a safe and stimulating environment for learning—where students from the secondary section worked collaboratively and built multi-perspective approaches to knowledge. Through centering the authentic student experience, this publication fosters an environment of wellbeing and upholds our core values of academic integrity.

This, the 7th edition, serves to address the global issues that our student community ponders upon and share the experiences that bond us together in a space of persistent learning. As a cornerstone of creativity, we believe in the potential of the Luminous Magazine, where the students' agency is prioritised and students' voices are at the forefront. This inclusive platform helps develop balanced, caring, and principled individuals, and, each year, we are always delighted to see the outcomes.



Director Principal

Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla

WHAT'S NEXT?



BIODIVERSITY



**TRADITION, CULTURE,
AND IDENTITY**



**SPORTS AND
RECREATION**



**LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION**



LAW AND LEGALITY



Luminous



BIODIVERSITY

▶ READ



99% Match 2023-2024

U/A

informative, intriguing

Episodes

Limited Series



S1: E1

Let it Flourish

- Aarav Bhardwaj, 6C

Diverse ecosystem composes the key fabric of life on Earth on which we all are dependent. Ecosystem services serves as a set of useful functions that are beneficial to human well-being. However, hostile human actions often diminish the richness of local ecosystem. Over the last 50 years nature's capacity to support us has plummeted. This really is an emergency! But conservation and preservation of biodiversity could to a certain extent restore the natural ecosystem- a way out of this alarming situation.

Biodiversity feature prominently across many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets as it maintains the ecological balance and contribute directly to human well-being and development priorities. Despite that, human activities such as deforestation, burning of fossil fuels, infestation of alien species, climate change, fragmentation of habitat have exposed the Earth's diverse biodiversity to the risk of extinction. Earth is a beautiful planet that has bestowed us with unique natural things which we must conserve. Strategies such as Education on importance of biodiversity, controlling population and pollution, reducing deforestation, evading wastage, needs to be adopted in order to encourage conservation. Biodiversity encompasses genetic, species and marine diversity of the ecosystem that allows nature to be productive and resilient.

Our challenge is that we accept, understand and realize that we are very much a part of the Earth's ecosystem and we must learn to respect and live according to the basic biological laws of nature. "Save, Survive and Support Biodiversity."

S1: E2

The crucial impact of biodiversity

- Shaurya Thakker, 6C

Biodiversity is the presence of different species of plant and animals on the Earth. Moreover, it is also called biological diversity as it is related to the variety of species of flora and fauna. Biodiversity plays a major role in maintaining the balance of the Earth.

Biodiversity is an integral part of culture identity.

Human culture co-evolves with their environment and conservation is a priority for cultural identity.

Biodiversity is used for medicinal purposes. Many plants and animals are used for medicinal purposes like vitamins and painkillers. It contributes to climate stability. It helps in controlling the efforts of climate change and managing greenhouse gases. Biodiversity provides more food resources. It supplies many vital ecosystems, such as creating and maintaining soil quality, controlling pests, and preserving habitat for wildlife. Biodiversity has a relationship industry.

Biological sources provide industrial materials including rubber, cotton, leather, food, paper, etc.

Furthermore, everything depends upon the biological diversity of different plants and animals. But due to some reasons, biodiversity is decreasing day by day. If it does not stop then our Earth could no longer be a place to live in. Therefore different measures help in increasing the biodiversity of the Earth.

S1: E3 Benefits of Biodiversity

- Keshav Balaji, 6c

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi. It encompasses the richness and variety of life across different ecosystems.

- **Helps in development of medicine:** Many medicines are derived from natural compounds found in plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms. Biodiverse ecosystems provide a rich source of these compounds, which have been used traditionally in various cultures medicinal purposes.
- **Protects against climate change:** Biodiverse ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands act as carbon sinks, sequestering carbon dioxide(CO₂) from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing it in biomass and soil. Forests, in particular, are highly effective in storing carbon, helping mitigate the greenhouse effect and reduce atmospheric CO₂ levels.
- **Ensures food security:** Biodiversity provides the genetic resources needed to develop resilient and productive crops, livestock and fisheries. Wild relatives of cultivated plants contain valuable traits such as disease resistance, drought tolerance, and nutritional quality, which can be bred into crop varieties to enhance their resilience to environmental stresses and improve their productivity.

- 
- **Fights diseases:** Biodiverse ecosystems tend to be more resilient and stable during disturbances, including disease outbreaks. Complex ecosystems with a variety of species are better able to recover from disturbances, preventing the emergence or spread of diseases associated with. disrupted ecosystems
 - 5. **Supports economic opportunities:** Biodiversity-rich ecosystems, such as coral reefs, rainforests, savannahs, and national parks, attract millions of tourists worldwide, generating significant revenue for the government through ecotourism, adventure tourism, wildlife watching and nature based recreation activities. These are only some of the benefits of biodiversity.
 - **Supports economic opportunities:** Biodiversity-rich ecosystems, such as coral reefs, rainforests, savannahs, and national parks, attract millions of tourists worldwide, generating significant revenue for the government through ecotourism, adventure tourism, wildlife watching and nature based recreation activities.

S1: E4

“Yuvraj Sharma, 6D”

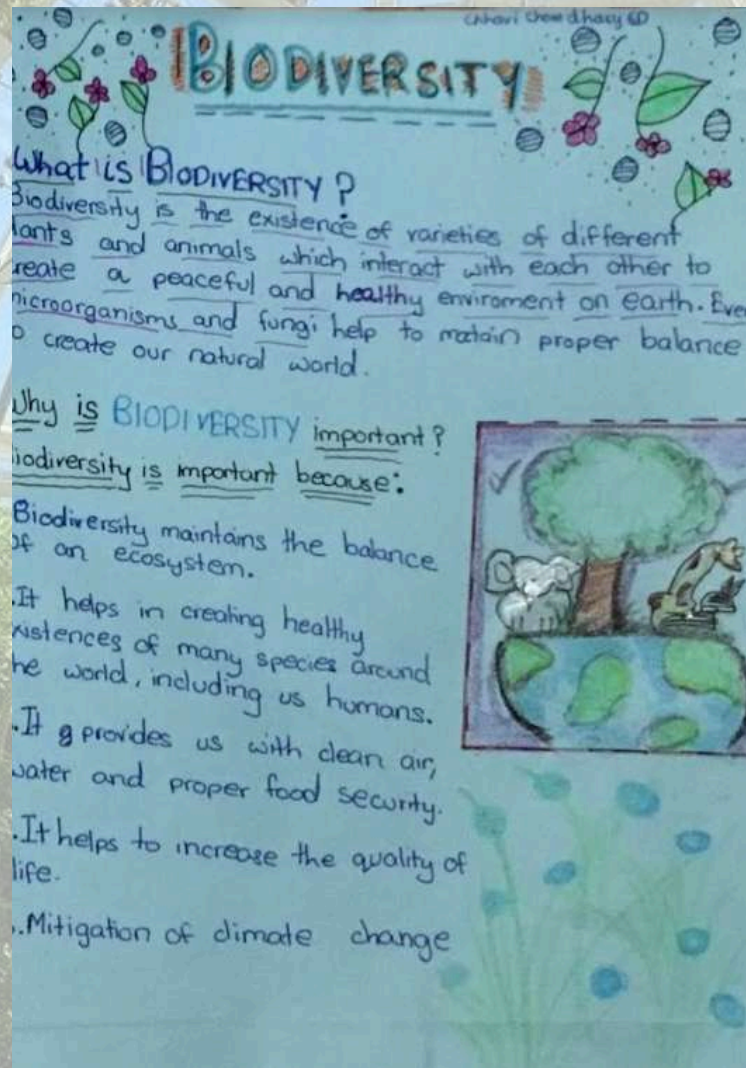


This vibrant painting captures an underwater scene with a sea turtle swimming gracefully among colorful coral reefs. Two pink jellyfish float nearby, adding a whimsical touch to the deep blue ocean background. However global issues such as climate change, pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction has significantly impact marine biodiversity.

Overfishing depletes fish populations and disrupts ecological balance, including coral reef degradation. These combined pressures diminish marine biodiversity, impair ecosystem functions, and compromise the ocean's ability to provide essential services to humans and the planet. Therefore it's very important to have harmony amongst all a peaceful coexistence.

S1: E5

“Chhavi Chowdary”



Biodiversity is a variety of different species living altogether in Earth's ecosystems. Biodiversity is very essential for maintaining and sustaining life as various plants and animals are all interconnected to one another for creating balance throughout the globe. Biodiversity is important in several ways which include conserving life processes so organisms can get all required necessities, preventing climate change and enhancing quality of life.

S1: E6

“Better Together, Aarit Ranjan 7D”



Two divers dive into the deep and beautiful sea only to find that it has been polluted by humans and all the beauty has dissipated. Although they are from different countries they must work as one to rid the sea of all the pollution. They pick up the trash one by one and cleanse the sea. The sea's color returns as the divers return home. On their way back, the fishes come to thank them for their deed which will serve as a reminder not to pollute the sea and that the fishes also deserve clean habitats to live in.

S1: E7

“Darsh Golecha, 8E”



The photograph is the essence of the beauty of life in the oceans and seas of our planet, capturing just how diverse and phenomenal animals really are.

This photograph also conveys the message of saving these precious creatures and preserving their biodiversity so they do not get extinct.

S1: E8

“Praket Mahapatra, 9B”



Marine life is connected to us in important roles that are necessary for our daily lives. Oceans keep absorbing carbon dioxide and heat which helps reduce the effects of climate change. They provide food for people and their livelihoods depend on the oceans. Keeping them safe can enhance our well being.

S1: E9

“Richness of Marine Life, Zanna Bhagat 9F”



The black and white section may represent the diverse cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds found across the globe, while the colorful section symbolizes the richness and vibrancy that comes from embracing these differences. Together, the two sections show us the interconnectedness of our world, reminding us that despite our distinctions, we are all part of the same global community.

S1: E10

“Shreya Prasad, IBDP 1”



My artwork blends urban landscapes with oceanic life, showcasing submerged buildings and roads alongside marine creatures and sea plants. This exaggerated flood scenario, a result of climate change, underscores global issues impacting us all. It emphasizes the theme of Global Perspectives and Interconnectedness by revealing the effects of rising sea levels on diverse ecosystems and societies, illustrating that actions in one part of the world can have far-reaching consequences, affecting environments and communities globally.

S1: E11 Recycle Revolution

- Schanna Muliyl, Ira Gupta, IBDP 2

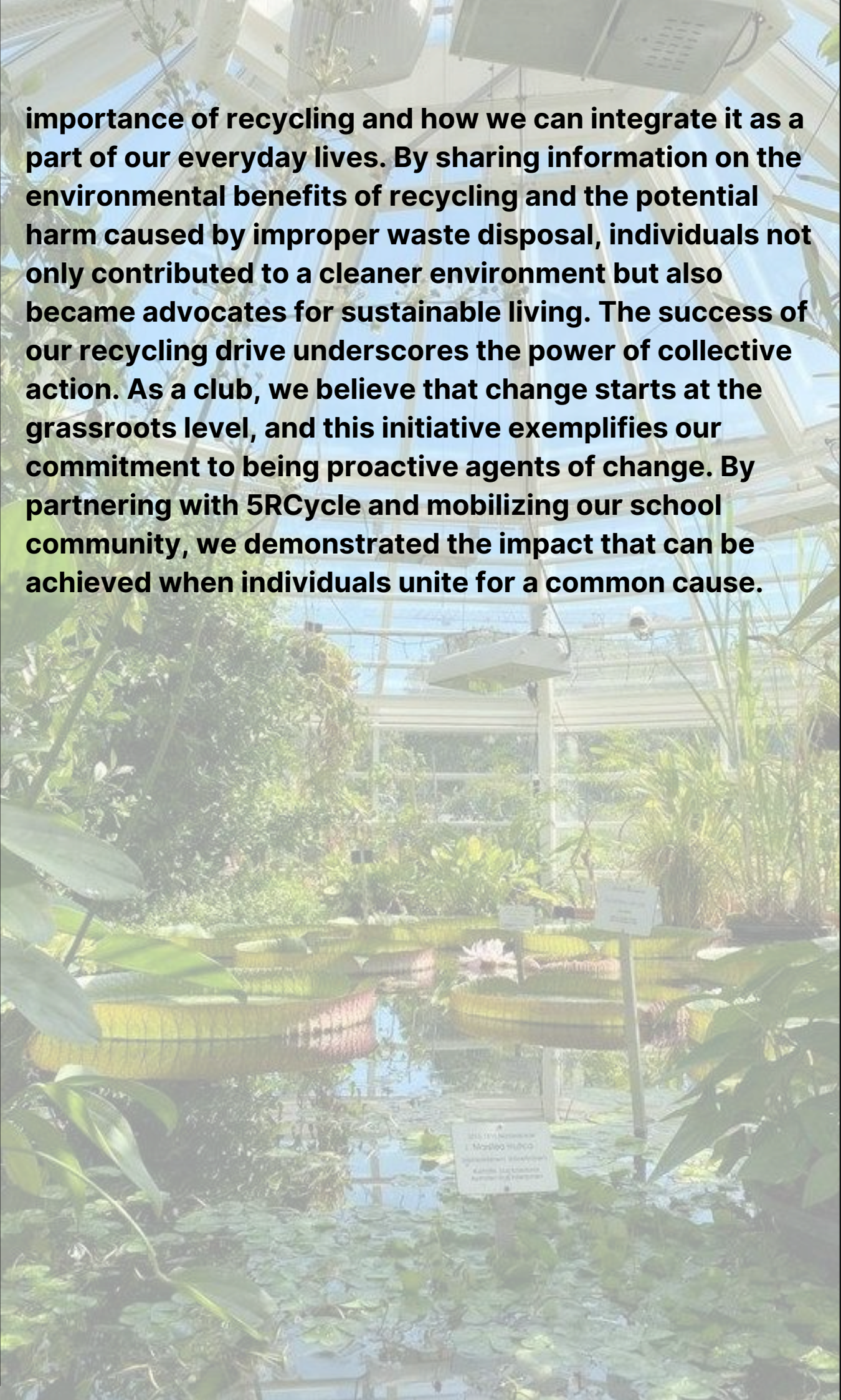


In the spirit of commitment to environmental stewardship, the Podar Climate Action Club ended 2023 with a three-day recycling drive in collaboration with 5RCycle. This endeavor aimed not only to raise awareness about the importance of recycling but also to take a practical step towards reducing our environmental footprint. The result? A staggering 115 kilograms of paper, plastic, foil, glass, and electronic waste were collected, marking the success of our collective effort to make a positive impact on the environment.

For three consecutive days, our dedicated team of IBDP and IBCP students took to the gates of our school armed with boxes and bags, ready to collect all kinds of recyclable materials. The drive served as a beacon, inviting students, teachers, and staff alike to actively participate in the recycling movement. The response was overwhelming, with the school community wholeheartedly embracing the opportunity to dispose of their waste responsibly.

The success of this recycling drive was measured not just by the enthusiasm of our organisers and participants but also by the tangible impact we made. Over three days, we collected a whopping 115 kilograms of recyclable material. This included paper, cardboard, plastics, and more—each piece is a small contribution to a larger, more sustainable world.

importance of recycling and how we can integrate it as a part of our everyday lives. By sharing information on the environmental benefits of recycling and the potential harm caused by improper waste disposal, individuals not only contributed to a cleaner environment but also became advocates for sustainable living. The success of our recycling drive underscores the power of collective action. As a club, we believe that change starts at the grassroots level, and this initiative exemplifies our commitment to being proactive agents of change. By partnering with 5RCycle and mobilizing our school community, we demonstrated the impact that can be achieved when individuals unite for a common cause.



Luminous original series

Tradition, Cultures and Identities



Play



2023-2025

informative

fascinating

historical

Episodes

1



2



3



Let's ignite creativity and inspire positive change!



S2: E1

“Ram Mandir, Mahi Agarwal 6B”



The Ayodhya Ram Mandir, a cultural and architectural marvel, reflects India’s rich heritage and spiritual ethos. Moreover, this mandir is potrayed in a traditional warli style heightens the spirit of tradition that lingers behind this architectural monument.

S2: E2

Cultural Tapestry

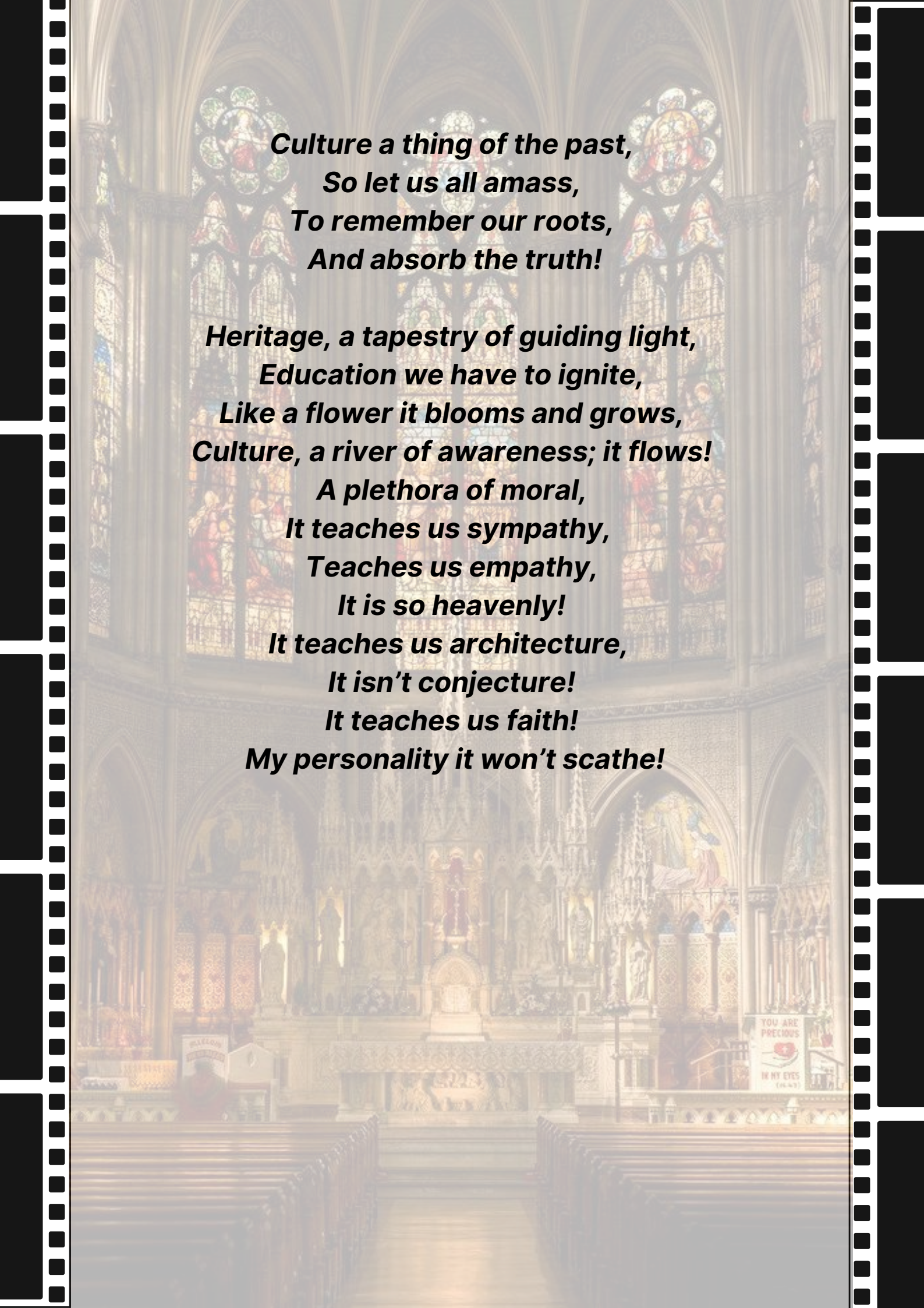
- Khwati Swain, 6B

***Culture, a word full of pride,
Why does she need to prove her might?
From the snows of the North,
To the fleece of the South,
From the trees of East,
To the sands of the West.
Only one thing stays intact,
Inanimate from the past,
CULTURE IT IS!***

***From the time of the Harrapans,
To the era of technology,
People kept everything,
But forgot one thing,
CULTURE!***

***It is a word with a million meanings,
With diversity and faith, it is teeming!
A global perspective can be nurtured,
If only culture is preserved,
Our conscience won't be shattered,
Let us not leave CULTURE unobserved!***

***Perspectives both local and global,
Cultural heritage titled noble.
An approach towards this concept,
A valiant attempt let us all accept.***



***Culture a thing of the past,
So let us all amass,
To remember our roots,
And absorb the truth!***

***Heritage, a tapestry of guiding light,
Education we have to ignite,
Like a flower it blooms and grows,
Culture, a river of awareness; it flows!***

***A plethora of moral,
It teaches us sympathy,
Teaches us empathy,
It is so heavenly!
It teaches us architecture,
It isn't conjecture!
It teaches us faith!
My personality it won't scathe!***

S2: E3

Preferring Heritage

- Krishiv Gogia, 6B

The importance of tradition, culture and identity are like the roots of a tree, while helping us grow into the future.

Preserving our heritage is the only way of remembering where we come from, but it also shapes who we are where we are going.

Firstly, the preservation of heritage connects us with our ancestors. Imagine a world without the stories and rituals which were passed down from generations to generation. Our traditions are full of lessons and knowledge that have stood the test of time. We keep our history alive like this.

Tradition and Culture provide us with a strong sense of belonging. Think about a family gathering or even a community celebration. These moments create bonds that go beyond just being blood related or living in the same neighborhood.

Cultural identity is like a fingerprint, unique to each person and community. It reflects the values and customs that make us who we are. It is not about closing ourselves off from the world, but about celebrating our uniqueness and appreciating differences around us.

In conclusion, tradition, culture, and identity provide roots, a sense of belonging and a unique identity. By preserving our heritage, we not only honor our past, but also live a richer and more connected future.

S2: E4

Tradition & Culture

- Ayaan Sharma, 7

Tradition and culture are like the special ingredients that make a recipe unique. They're the things that people in a group do, believe, and celebrate together. Imagine you have a secret handshake with your best friend – that's a bit like a tradition, something special shared between you two.

Traditions are like time travellers. They pass down stories, customs, and celebrations from grandparents to parents, and then to you. Maybe it's a family game night every Friday or a special meal during holidays – these are traditions that make your family, well, yours.

Now, culture is like a big, colourful mosaic. It's not just about what you do; it's also about how you talk, what you eat, and the stories you tell. Culture is the music you dance to, the language you speak, and the art you create. It's the unique way your group expresses itself. Imagine a world where everyone liked the same things and did everything the same way. It might be a bit boring, right? That's why having different cultures and traditions is so important.

It's like having a box of crayons with every colour imaginable. But, here's the thing – just like you wouldn't want to lose your favourite crayon, we don't want to lose our special traditions and cultures. In our big world, where people from different places meet and share, it's important to learn from each other while still keeping the things that make us who we are. So, whether it's celebrating birthdays, telling stories, or enjoying special foods, traditions and cultures make our world a vibrant, exciting place. They're the spice in the soup of life, making everything a little more interesting and colorful.

S2: E5

Life in Rajasthan

- Selvi Somani, 7D

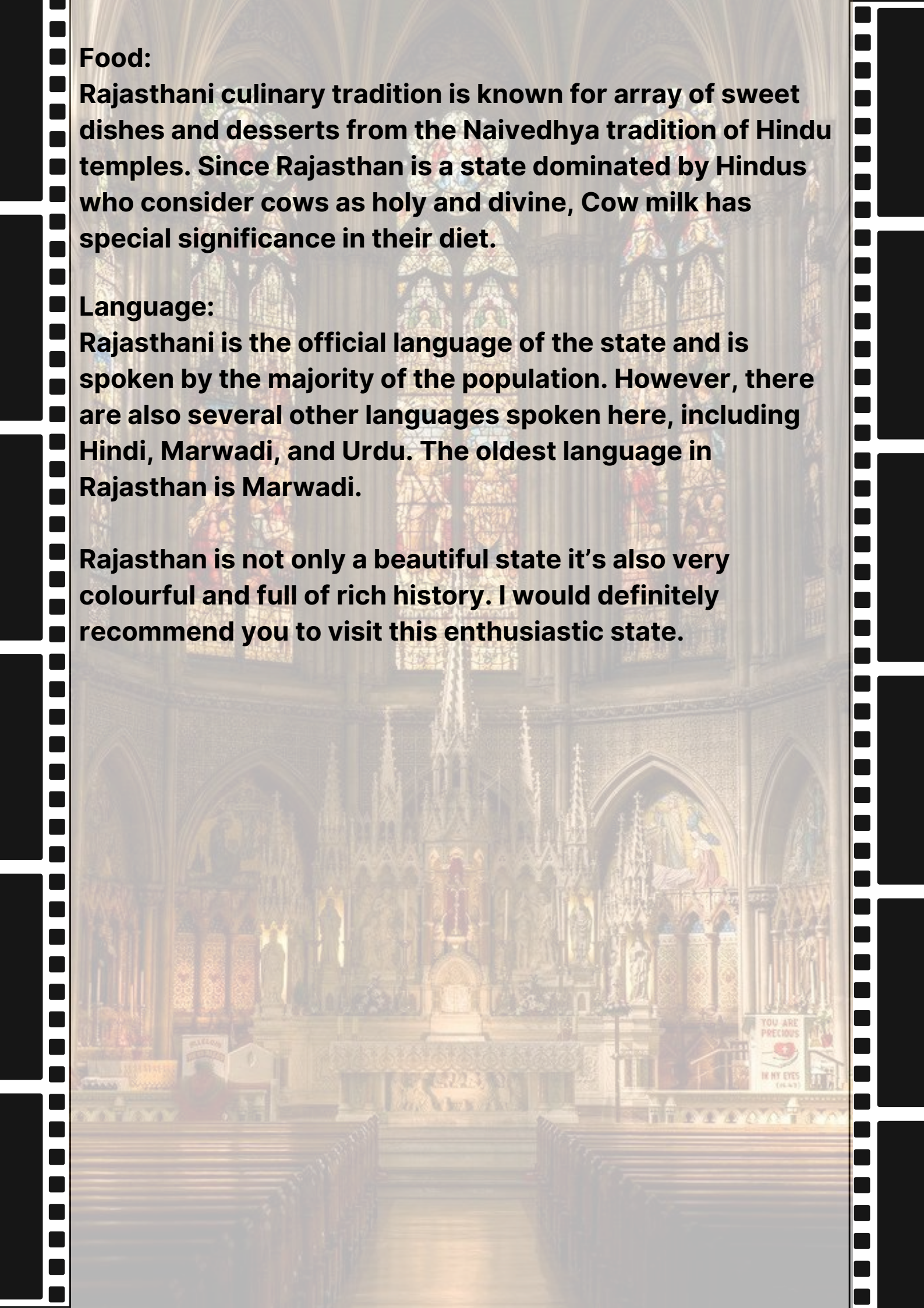
I am from Rajasthan and you may know that state as a dry desert. However Rajasthan is much more than that, it is the largest state of India with vast culture, authentic tradition and beautiful architecture. It is home to many cities and forts. Including Jaipur: The pink City and Jaisalmer Fort which is an exquisite and one of the most famous forts in Rajasthan. There are over 250 forts and over 50 cities in Rajasthan.

Culture and traditions:

Rajasthan has a rich tradition of folk music and dance, with each region possessing its unique style. The music has strong religious undertones to it and is sung with devotion. The Ghoomar dance from Jodhpur and the Kalbeliya dance of Jaisalmer have gained international recognition. Folk music is a vital part of Rajasthani culture. Bhopa, Chang, Teratali, Ghindar, Kachchi Ghor, Tejaji, and Parth dance are examples of traditional Rajasthani culture.

Clothing:

Some of the traditional dresses of Rajasthan are the colorful Ghagra and Choli for women and Dhoti and angarkha for men, with Jootis or Mojris for both of them.



Food:

Rajasthani culinary tradition is known for array of sweet dishes and desserts from the Naivedhya tradition of Hindu temples. Since Rajasthan is a state dominated by Hindus who consider cows as holy and divine, Cow milk has special significance in their diet.

Language:

Rajasthani is the official language of the state and is spoken by the majority of the population. However, there are also several other languages spoken here, including Hindi, Marwadi, and Urdu. The oldest language in Rajasthan is Marwadi.

Rajasthan is not only a beautiful state it's also very colourful and full of rich history. I would definitely recommend you to visit this enthusiastic state.

S2: E6

Cultural Perspectives

- Rashi Chawan, IBDP 1

"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of the people"

Family is one of the greatest bindings of human kind. It brings together people through support and love. Regardless of any circumstances, family accompanies us throughout. Whether it is a happy family or a family based on memories of ancestors, everyone has relatives bound by intricate blood ties, intertwined relationships and cultural heritage.

As documented by numerous professionals, culture plays a key role in defining a particular group of people. From physical objects to different ways of thinking, culture adds significance to human life and unites people with similar views and interests. Described by several anthropologists, there are approximately 3814 distinct cultures, each with their own beliefs, tradition, language, history and art forms. The species as a whole exploits the tendency to diverge through cognitive systems which marks differences between communities, forming different cultures.

Cultural identity is used as a reference to the way a group of people lead their lives. Culture also greatly influences communication. Communication varies in different cultures creating a barrier between groups of people. As such, what is deemed acceptable by one culture or community may not be accepted by another.

There are a myriad of beliefs and customs which differ between different cultures. The mere concept of love marriage is not acceptable among many Muslims whereas it is encouraged in the American continents. According to the Islamic religion, the concept of 'love before marriage' is not inherently haram, but rather the expression of romantic or intimate love outside the framework of marriage is considered haram. Even with marriages, many cultures have unique ways of celebrating weddings.

The basic forms of greeting also differ between cultures. 'Namaste' is commonly used to express deep respect and greetings. It is a formal salutation used not only in India but also in Nepal, by Hindus, Jains and Buddhists, and many continue to use this outside the Indian subcontinent. Bows are the traditional greeting in East Asia, particularly in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China and Vietnam. On the contrary, in continents other than Asia a simple firm handshake is used to show greetings.

The frequency of cultural and population differentiation also relates to the probability of a boundary, natural or social, forming between two communities. High levels of diversity of cultures are more likely to occur where there is a high probability of geographical isolation, and where there is a high gradient in resource availability between habitats. Culture is what shapes us and our identities. Culture is a treasure trove of richness and diversity and a reflection of our shared human heritage that is both fascinating and beautiful.

S2: E7

Threads of Tradition

- Ira Gupta, IBDP 1

In a world that will never stop evolving, keeping connected to one's roots and heritage is of utmost importance. Having a cultural identity provides a strong connection not only to our heritage but also to our ancestry, which further allows us to understand and appreciate our roots.

Knowing where we come from gives us a sense of pride and belonging, we become part of a larger cultural community. It's about finding that balance between embracing change while simultaneously holding onto our roots.

Cultural identity also plays a vital role in preserving our traditions and culture. These customs and beliefs are not just part of our history; they shape who we are as individuals and how we behave in today's society. Being a cultural ambassador is not just an option; it's a responsibility.

When people share memories, traditions, and holidays in a society that might feel divided at times, it becomes a way to promote understanding between all.

Maintaining a cultural identity is not about resisting change it's about influencing the present with knowledge of the past. It's a promise of a future where so many cultures can live together in harmony.

S2: E8

“Mandala Heart, Gunjan Pithwalla IBDP 1”

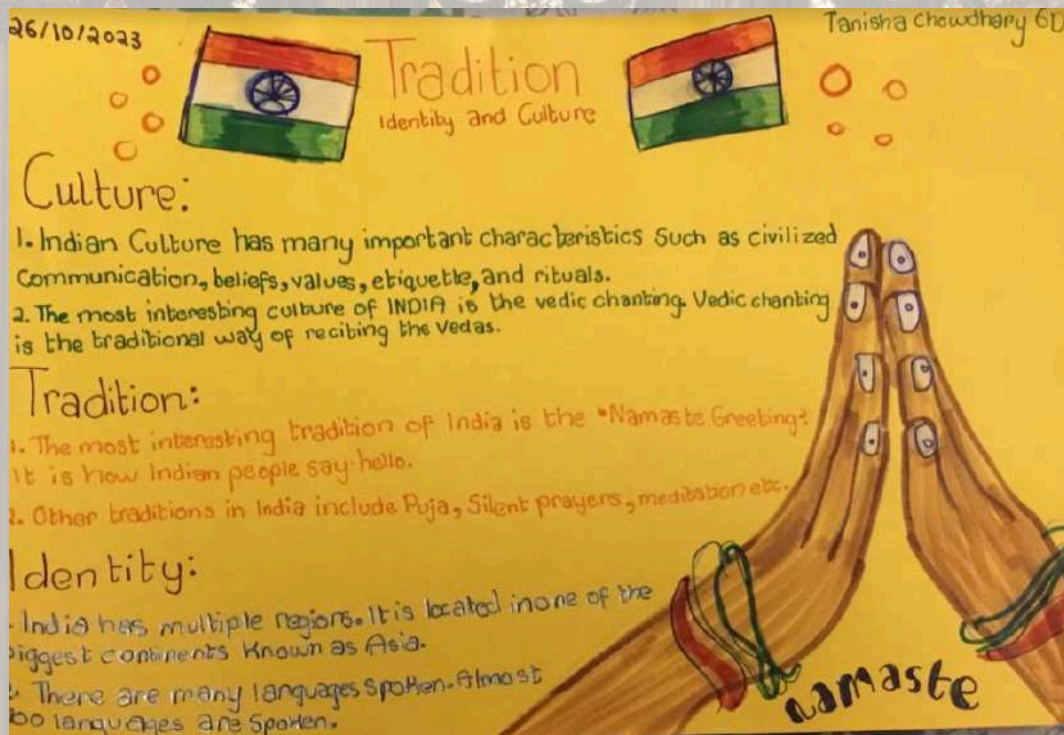


This artwork shows a human heart with mandala designs inside of it, it is a beautiful intricate art piece which is also comforting to one. This drawing creates a harmonious balance between emotional depth and spiritual symmetry.

It symbolises love, inner peace, and the interconnectedness of all things. Overall, a heart drawing with a mandala would be a captivating and meaningful piece of art, inviting contemplation and reflection. The heart here signifies love, affection, unity to our spiritual soul, courage and strength and the heart is often associated with healing and compassion, both for oneself and others. It symbolizes the ability to heal emotional wounds and show empathy towards other's pain. Mandala designs are rich in symbolism, with each element carrying a specific meaning. Over here it is trying to show that we should know where we originate from.

S2: E9

“Tanisha Chowdary”



India is known for its numerous cultures. One of them includes Vedic chanting. This chant has been known and practiced 3000 years back and it is India's oldest culture.

India also has many traditions. The most prominent one is the 'Namaste Greeting'.

This greeting showcases veneration, worship and reverence. India's identity is shown by its national flag and its multiple regions

LUMINOUS ORIGINAL SPORTS AND RECREATION



S3: E1

Roblox, Bringing Everyone Together

- Shiv Chatterjee, 6B

Roblox is an online multiplayer game released in 2006. This game allows users to play and create their own game. It was created by David Baszucki and Erik Cassel. This game also has its own currency called "Robux" which you can use buy gamepasses.

The beta version of Roblox was originally under the name "Dynablocks". After the testing of the demos, the game was renamed as "Roblox". The game was officially launched on September 1 st of 2006. The game has had many updates over the years, and you can also play it in VR. There are also a dozen of experiences that you can be able to play with the click of a button, the two most popular games on Roblox is Brookhaven Roleplay and Adopt Me.

Roblox currently has about 164 million users and has grown rapidly in 2019 because of the COVID- 19 pandemic. This game allows users from different country's to play, connect and be friends with each other. The game also helps the users chat with each other. Users can also make their own experiences with the Roblox Studio app. I got into this game because my friend was playing it on his computer, and whenever we play it, we have fun and it helps remove our stress. The game has also received a lot of praise by critics and audiences alike.

Technology can help us make other games like Roblox. Technology also allows interconnectedness because it helps us play together on different platforms. When we play together on the game we share different feelings like happiness and sadness and fun. Interconnectedness helps us play to play, build communities and understand each other.

S3: E2

“Henriqua Patel, 6C”



This artwork is a vibrant representation of various sports, divided into four quadrants each depicting a different sport with silhouettes: soccer, field hockey, tennis and cricket. At the centre is a trophy, symbolising achievement and the competitive spirit common to all sports. The use of bold colours and dynamic silhouettes captures the energy and diversity of athletic activities, celebrating the passion and skill involved in each sport.

S3: E3

Dancing with the Ball, Messi!

- Aadi Vij, 7A

*In the stadium, he dances with the ball.
like a maestro in a concert hall.*

*The name is Lionel Messi,
the greatest of all!*

*Messi has magic in dribbles and kicks,
he can put any opposition in a fix.
His passes are as sharp as a knife,
which makes the game come to life.*

*His passion is unmatched,
it shows in his match.
With his dedication,
he plays for his nation.*

*Messi has an exceptional teamwork,
it makes the team a dreamwork.*

*Messi loves his fans
and his fans love him back,
that's something that only legends can have!*

S3: E4 Character Building Through the Realm of Sports

- Ashvat Rawat, 7A

Many associate sports with only competition with medals and trophies. While that isn't wrong, sports are also an extremely good and proven way to build character through camaraderie, sportsmanship and more.

Sport offers many different paths to learning various skills like teamwork, problem solving, resilience, perseverance and many more. However, because not every skill is related or assists in character building, it's important to narrow down the ones that do. The first, above all others, is sportsmanship. A great example of a complete sportsman is Virat Kohli. He is always focused on being the best version of himself, on and off the field. Whenever his team wins, he can always be seen applauding and acknowledging not only his teammates but also the opposing team and telling them 'Well played.' Even if he loses, he congratulates the other team and finds no shame in admitting that they were the better team on that day. He is a true sportsman in every sense of the word. He shows grace in the face of defeat and humility in victory.

Sport teaches you perseverance, discipline and patience too. It is a great analogy for life as well, both with their highs and lows, and the need it creates to navigate through confidence and belief in oneself and their team.

S3: E5

The Ballon D'or Heist

- Nirvaan Mathur, 7C

This year, as it has been for the past 4 years, Lionel Messi has taken home yet another Ballon D'or. In a video shared on Inter Miami's YouTube Channel it shows Messi without a care about his eight Ballon D'or, holding it with simply one hand! Messi has won another Golden Ball but does he deserve it?

The stats say no. Haaland had 53 goals in the 2022/23 season while Messi had a mere 36. Haaland won a domestic double (Premier League & FA Cup) along with the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Super Cup while Messi has won the FIFA World Cup and Ligue 1. Even though Lionel Messi has paled in comparison to Haaland this season, the Man City marksman reacted like a sportsman when Leo won the award.

Another thing to lament about France Football is their unfair treatment to the backbones of any successful team, the defense. In its history, the Ballon D'or has been awarded to only 3 defenders and this motivates up and coming footballers to choose to play midfield or attack because every footballer wants individual glory and when you are in defense you have to sacrifice that.

Something funny that just recently happened is that Inter Miami had organised a friendly to honour Lionel Messi's record extending eighth Ballon D'or against a US Team.

And they lost 2-1 to New York City FC, in Miami! Instead of honouring Messi they humbled him.

S3: E6

Celebrating Interconnectedness

- Aayush Sing, 8B

Sports are a testament to the interconnectedness of the human experience. They bridge cultures, transcend borders, and bring people together in the pursuit of physical excellence. Whether it's a group of friends playing a casual game of basketball at the neighborhood park or the world's elite athletes competing on the grandest of stages, sports provide a common ground where people from all walks of life come together.

On the surface, sports are about competition, physical prowess, and entertainment. But beneath the surface, they offer much more. They promote social interaction, teamwork, and camaraderie. In the world of sports, one's identity, background, or beliefs matter less than their dedication and skill. This shared pursuit for excellence creates bonds that defy differences and reinforce our interconnectedness.

Sports figures, too, become role models. Their dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship inspire the next generation, teaching values that extend far beyond the playing field. These athletes exemplify how the pursuit of greatness can lead to success and inspire others to reach for their own potential.

In this interconnected world, sports serve as a universal language, breaking down barriers, fostering friendships, and uniting people with a common passion. Regardless of where you come from, sports provide an arena where everyone is welcome, and where the bonds formed through competition and shared experiences strengthen the ties that bind us all.

S3: E7

Vanquished Glory

- Mahi Shah, 9A

An ode to the interconnected beliefs that shaped the
ICC Men's CWC 2023

*In the fervour, our country strives,
To my school, the trophy arrives.
Hand in hand, we cheer for our country, confident,
A symphony of pride, a collective sentiment.
Witnessing firsthand, the heartbeat of a nation,
Interconnected cheers, a harmonious elation.*

*Matches unfold, global battles commence,
Patriotisms dance, an intricate sequence.
Interconnectedness unveiled on the playfield,
A medley of nations, woven tight, revealed.
Proud host country, amid the echoing cheers,
Each match, a sentiment of shared years.*

*Undefeated streak, a triumph untold,
Ten matches in a row, history unfolds.
Proud and excited, hearts in unison beat,
In the realm of sport, victory's rhythmic feat.
Each match, fuelling our pride,
In the chase of triumph, dreams coincide.*

*In the semis', records are set,
But what lingers most is mutual respect.
Cheers echo, not just for the runs netted,
But for the bows exchanged, a virtue embedded.*

***Nations salute nations, in the spirit of the game,
A timeless honour, not constrained by fame.***

***Finals are lost, despair blankets the air,
Yet, hope prevails, a resilient affair.
Proud of the journey, lessons sewn in the soil,
Sportsmanship prevails in turmoil.
In this interconnected realm of wins and loss,
The world of sport triumphs, a shining gloss.***

***Lessons learned, memories etched in the field,
A universal language, in triumph and yield.
For in each cheer, in every shared tear,
The world of sport whispers, "we are all near."
In victory and loss, the interconnectedness
thrives,
A celebration of life, where the heart of sport
survives.***





... L U M I N O U S ...

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION



S4: E1

My Motherland

- Mahi Shah, 9A

**In childhood dreams, I sought distant shores;
Beyond my motherland, where dialects
explored;**

**A world of voices, a symphony grand;
Outside my borders, in a foreign land.**

**In teenage years, within school's embrace;
I learned the languages, a linguistic chase;
Verbs and syntax formed a classroom toil;
Knowledge blossomed, like flowers in soil.**

**As an adult, with savings in hand;
I traveled wide, to places unplanned;
Learning languages, embracing the land;
A global dialogue, diverse and grand.**

**Yet, in the end, a truth steadfast;
I return to roots, where memories last;
My motherland, with cultures in hand;
A mosaic of worth, in each grain of sand.**

S4: E2

Woven Through Semantics

- Navya Raghu, IBDP 1

The symphony had been alive from the beginning but only now can you feel it.

The sound has simmered over time through different mediums but the lay man had chosen to ignore it for it pushed their very comfortability of taking in new creation. A very nonsensical move indeed for what is life without the intake of knowledge, regardless of what tongue it is given birth from.

Put simply by Bong Joon-Ho while receiving a dual Oscar for Best Picture and Director, "Once you overcome the one-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films." This need not only be put through cinematography of course but the fact of the matter is that the average individual should not think that the process of consuming language has to be binary, or put simply, communicated through English!

This millennial and it's previous generations of course have provided gems which have lived up to [Bong] Joon - ho's words and have created the proper domino effect to let talents from across the world shine. Proving that the performance of universal emotions need not be held as a monolith because humanity is one which should allow the growth and not the stagnancy of linguistics.

With that, the cursor ends here alongside the reader. So tell me, who so ever glances at this mere narration, can you hear it? Can you hear the music?

S4: E3 Voices Unique

- Schanna Muliyl IBDP 2

**Actions echo louder than words in
the air**

**Hands of care,
bridging the unknown
Small gestures where love is
subtly shown**

**Love knows no borders,
conquering fears
A message clear,
where everyone is dear**

**Diversity in languages,
an art untold**

**Let the beauty of unity,
in thy heart unfold**

**Let humanity speak,
in voices unique.**

LUMINOUS ORIGINAL

LAW AND LEGALITIES



Luminous dives into the theme of law and legality.



PLAY



2023-2025



S5: E1 Peace & Conflict

- Aarav Bhardwaj, 7C

In today's age of globalisation, even the giant leap in the field of science and technology have failed to create a "culture of peace" – be it in the individuals, in society or among nations. The key reasons that has impacted peace building process thereby, making it challenging are conflicts, insecurity, weak institutions, limited access to justice and poor economic performance. They pose a threat to sustainable development as poor people as well as the underdeveloped nations are getting side-lined.

It is true that global economic integration is creating opportunities for people around the world, but it is also leading to widening the gaps between the poorest and richest countries which is a major root cause of wars. The identification and understanding of sources and causes of conflict will definitely be a key factor in reducing the incidence of conflicts, thereby establishing global peace. The concept of conflict, peace and security has undergone a sea change over the decades and the need is to usher in a more humane concept of peace and security, where individual rights and liberty are safeguarded and socio-economic inequalities are reduced. By respecting human rights in the time of crisis, we will build effective and inclusive solutions. Human rights put people at centre stage which result in preserving human dignity.

If the sources and core causes are eradicated and grievances of conflicting parties are addressed, conflict resolution will become a much simpler process leading towards the fulfilment of sustainable development goal (SDG).

S5: E2

Quantum Computing

- Schanna Muliyl IBDP 2

In the eternal tussle between human innovation and malicious intent, technological progress often serves as both a guiding light and an augury of ethical predicaments. Today, while quantum computing holds the potential to revolutionize our world, we are also confronted with the reality of its potential embezzlement.

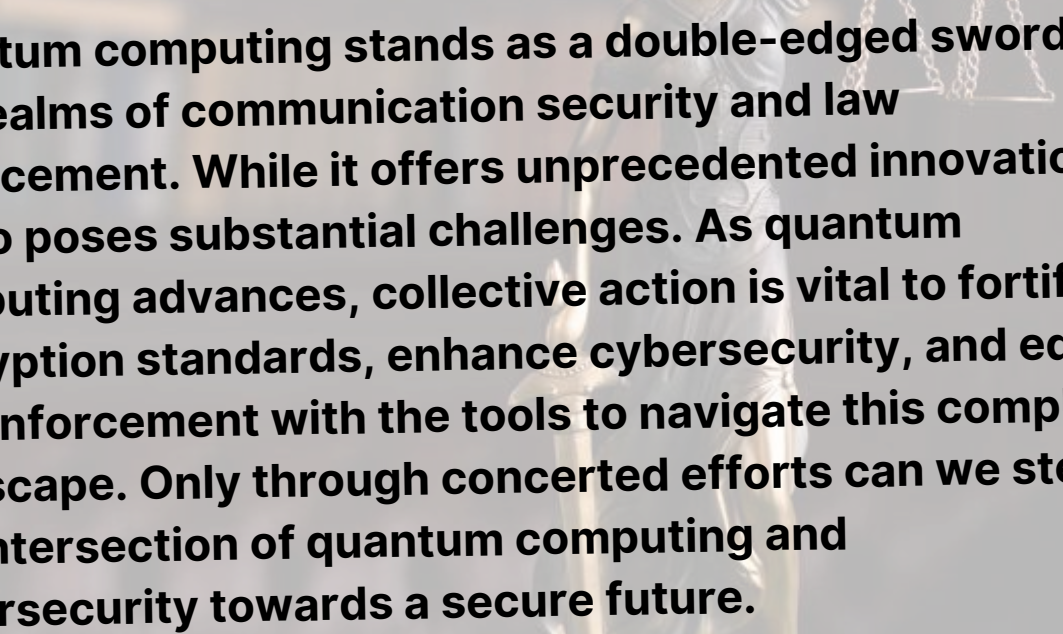
One significant development in computational ability is quantum computing. Unlike classical computers that operate on binary bits, quantum computers leverage quantum bits, or qubits, which can exist in multiple states simultaneously. While still in its early stages not yet widely accessible, quantum computing's potential for exponentially faster calculations is undeniable.

Yet, this unprecedented power poses a formidable threat to cybersecurity. Traditional encryption methods, reliant on the difficulty of solving complex mathematical problems, may falter against quantum algorithms like Shor's algorithm. While these threats remain largely theoretical, the possibility of cryptographic protocol breachment raises concerns. Efforts to develop quantum-resistant encryption techniques are advancing, but their efficiency remains uncertain.

Technology as a tool is quickly adapted by criminals. While the potential for quantum computing's malevolent exploitation is theoretical, concerns persist. Criminals could leverage quantum capabilities to decrypt communications, steal intellectual property, or even perpetrate financial fraud. Moreover, the advent of quantum computing may birth new, evasive forms of ransomware and malware.

The advent of quantum computing presents a dual challenge for law enforcement. While it may hamper traditional interception methods, it also offers potential benefits in data analysis. However, the borderless nature of cyber threats complicates regulation and oversight efforts.

Quantum computing stands as a double-edged sword in the realms of communication security and law enforcement. While it offers unprecedented innovation, it also poses substantial challenges. As quantum computing advances, collective action is vital to fortify encryption standards, enhance cybersecurity, and equip law enforcement with the tools to navigate this complex landscape. Only through concerted efforts can we steer the intersection of quantum computing and cybersecurity towards a secure future.



A background image of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black mortarboards are flying through the air, creating a sense of celebration. Below, a crowd of graduates in gowns is visible, with many raising their hands and holding up smartphones to capture the moment. The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

from the **ALUMNI**

▶ Play

2024 1s 4ep ^{HD}

Read enriching pieces from our excellent alumni in the 6th season of Luminous 2024!

Cast: Manasi Kanojia, Nikoleta Kayya, Rhea Mehta, Ananya Pathak

Genres: Biodiversity, Culture and Identity,



S6: E1 Celebrating Biodiversity

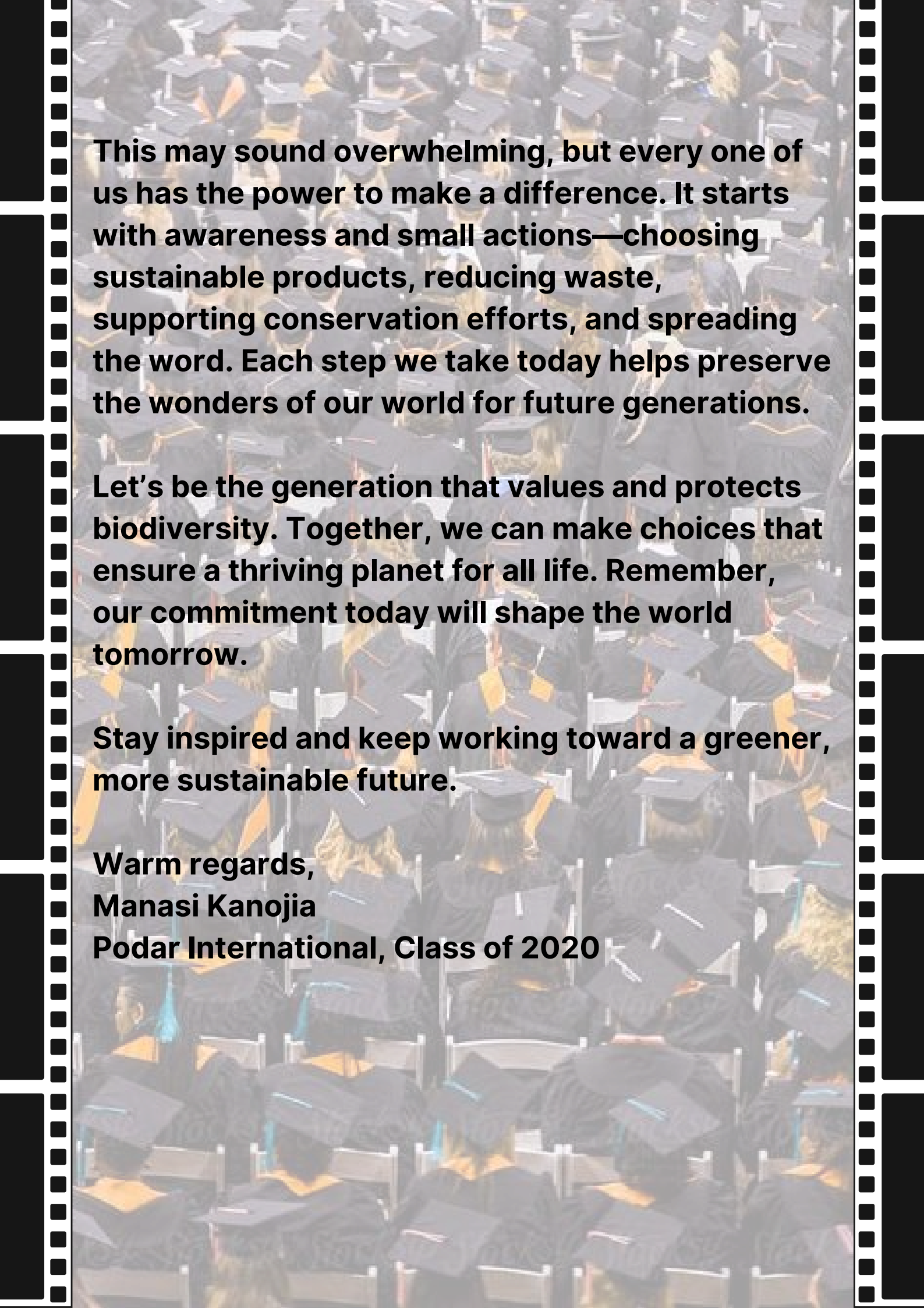
-Manasi Kanojia, Class of
2020

Dear Podar family,

As a proud Podar alum from the Class of 2020, I'm thrilled to reconnect and share some thoughts on an essential, urgent topic—biodiversity. Our planet is an intricate, interwoven web of life, home to millions of unique species. Each one, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, plays a vital role in maintaining the natural balance that sustains life as we know it.

Biodiversity provides us with everything from the air we breathe to the food we eat and the resources we rely on every day.

But our planet's biodiversity is under severe threat. Habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and unsustainable practices are driving countless species toward extinction at alarming rates. When we lose even one species, we lose part of Earth's resilience and beauty.



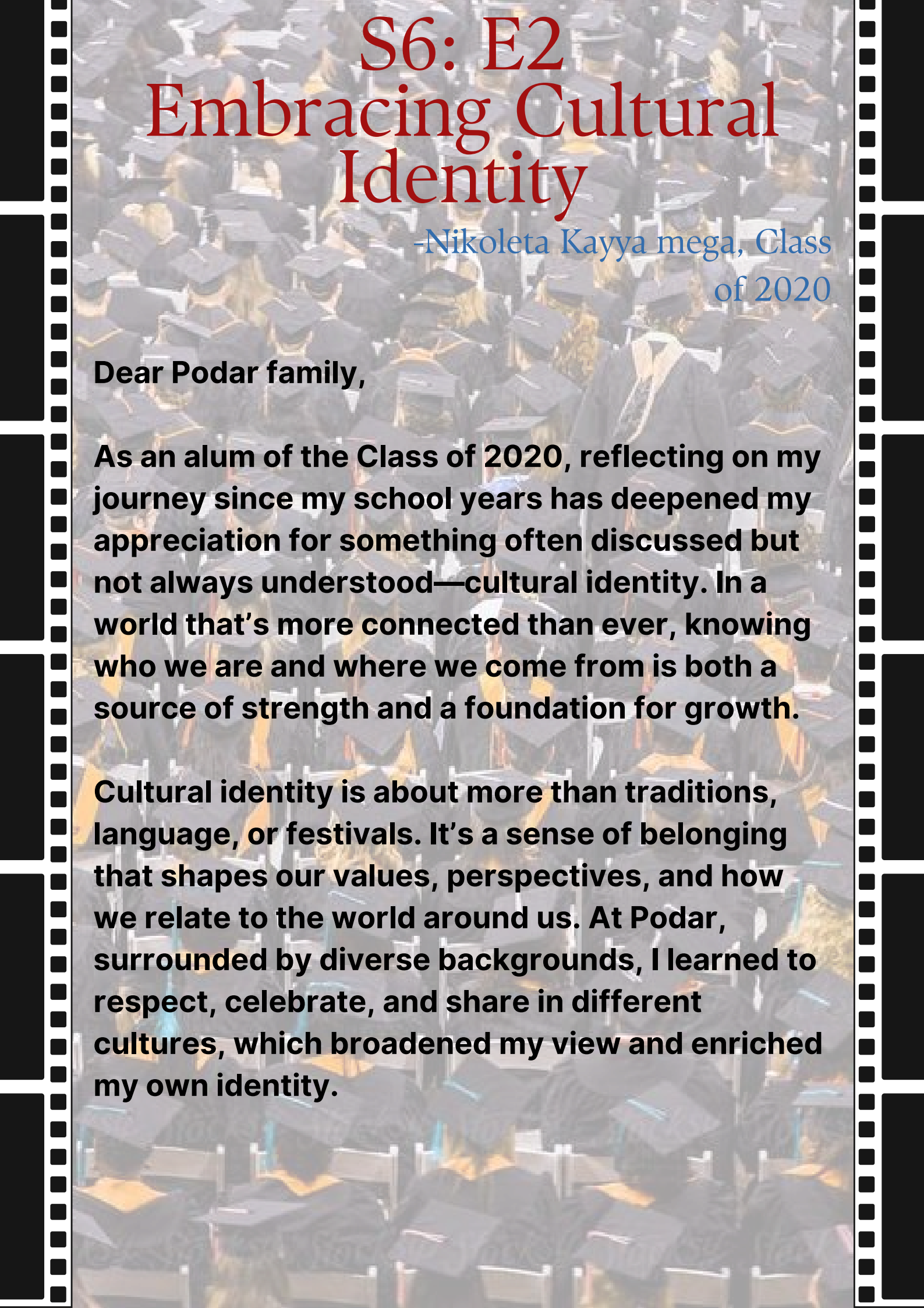
This may sound overwhelming, but every one of us has the power to make a difference. It starts with awareness and small actions—choosing sustainable products, reducing waste, supporting conservation efforts, and spreading the word. Each step we take today helps preserve the wonders of our world for future generations.

Let's be the generation that values and protects biodiversity. Together, we can make choices that ensure a thriving planet for all life. Remember, our commitment today will shape the world tomorrow.

Stay inspired and keep working toward a greener, more sustainable future.

**Warm regards,
Manasi Kanojia**

Podar International, Class of 2020



S6: E2 Embracing Cultural Identity

-Nikoleta Kayya mega, Class
of 2020

Dear Podar family,

As an alum of the Class of 2020, reflecting on my journey since my school years has deepened my appreciation for something often discussed but not always understood—cultural identity. In a world that's more connected than ever, knowing who we are and where we come from is both a source of strength and a foundation for growth.

Cultural identity is about more than traditions, language, or festivals. It's a sense of belonging that shapes our values, perspectives, and how we relate to the world around us. At Podar, surrounded by diverse backgrounds, I learned to respect, celebrate, and share in different cultures, which broadened my view and enriched my own identity.



The friendships and conversations I had, whether about customs, beliefs, or family stories, helped me understand that our differences don't divide us—they deepen our understanding of humanity.

Today, as we navigate an increasingly global society, it's important to hold onto our roots while remaining open to others. Embracing our cultural identity reminds us of who we are, and at the same time, allows us to connect authentically with others. For me, being rooted in my culture has been an anchor, helping me stay grounded as I grow, explore, and make my mark in the world.

To all current students: honor your heritage, be curious about others', and carry your cultural identity proudly. In doing so, you'll find strength, resilience, and a sense of belonging that travels with you, wherever life may lead.

**Warm regards,
Nikoleta Kayya
Podar International, Class of 2020**

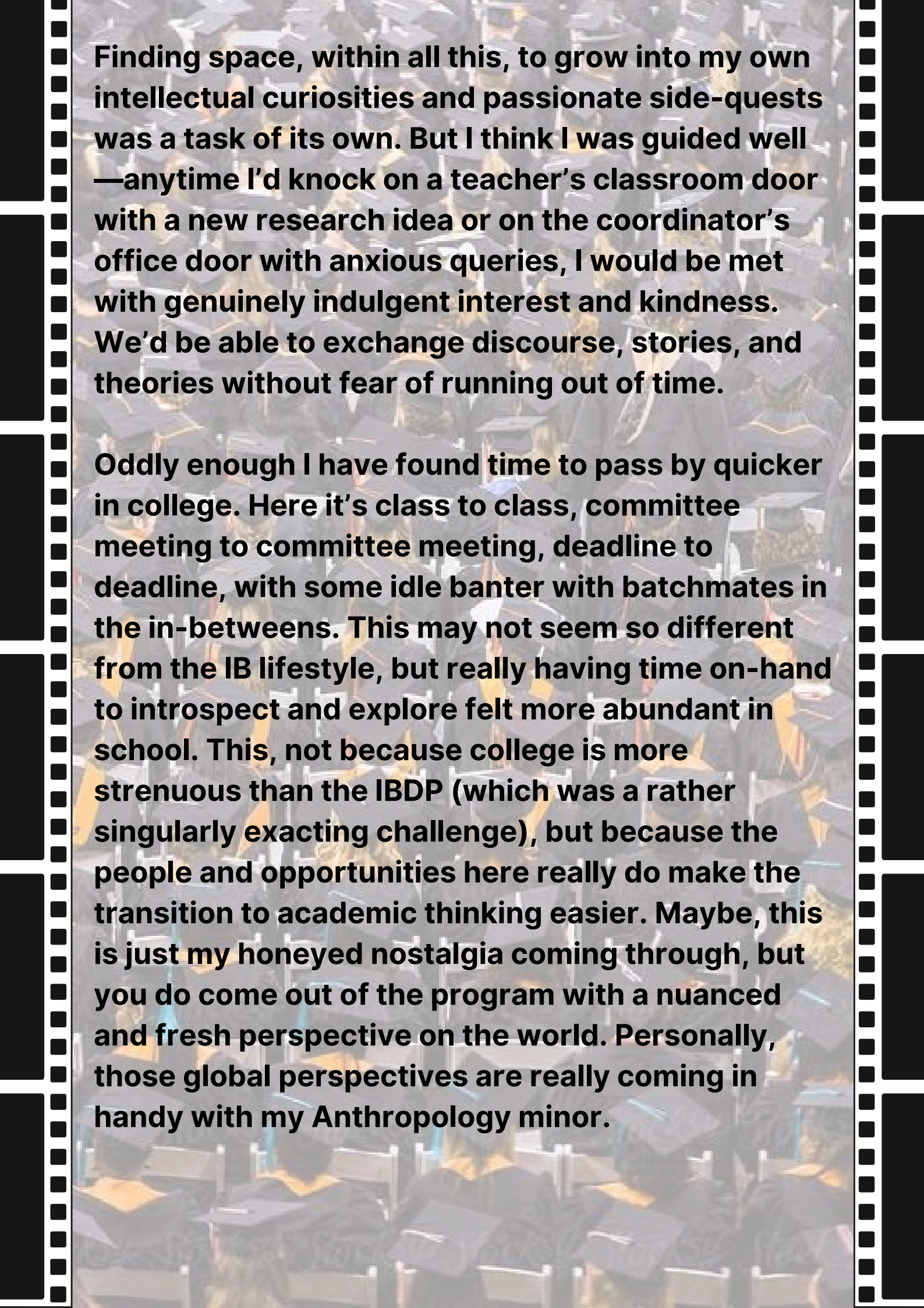
S6: E3

Alumni Experiences

-Ananya Pathak, Class of
2024

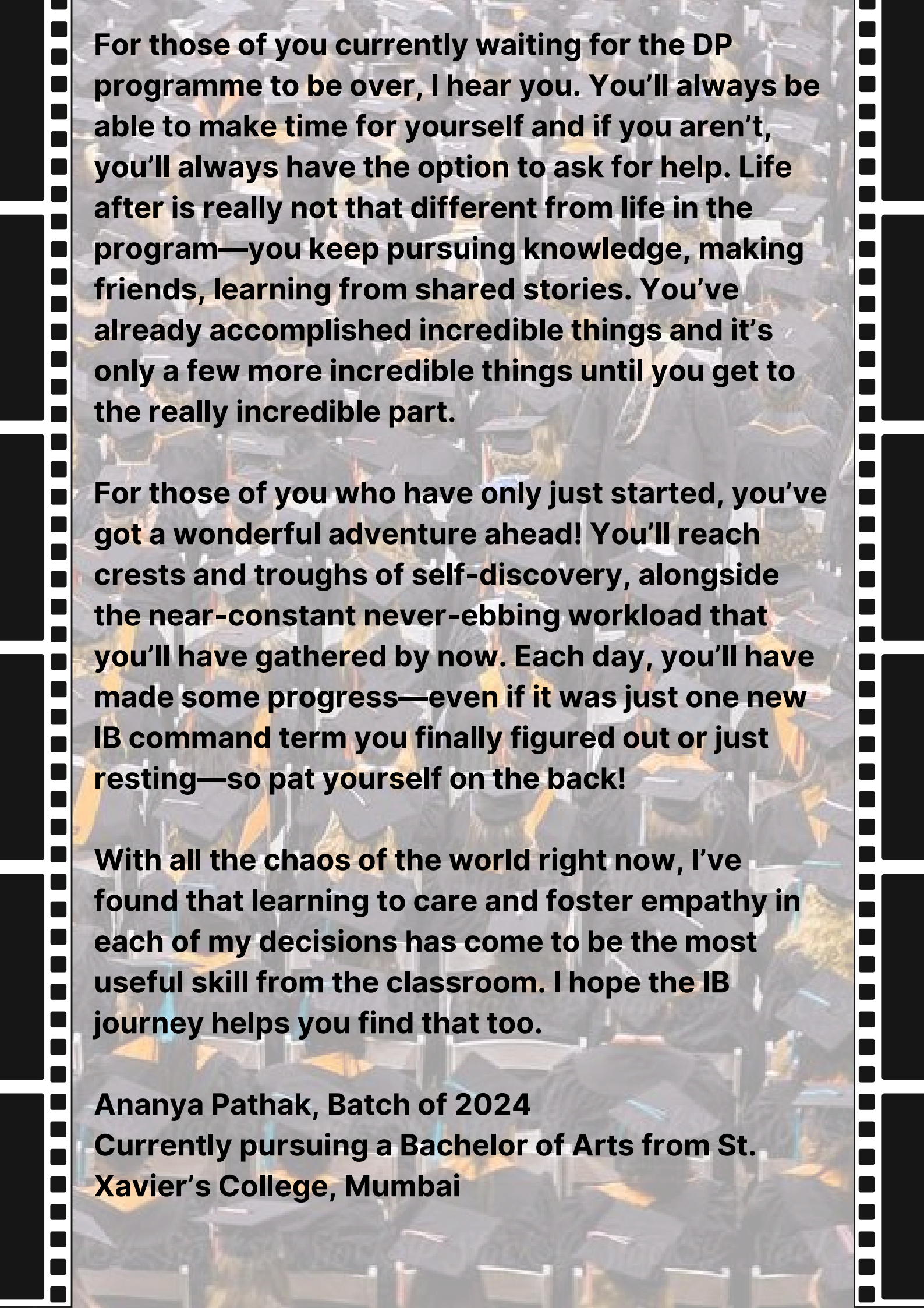
Another year, another Luminous Magazine Edition! It's incredibly gratifying to witness this magazine live on and to have had the opportunity to contribute several times—both when I was still a Podar International School student and now that I have graduated. I'm grateful to the coordinators, the teachers, and the editorial team of 2024 for creating this space.

As an English Literature major, I ought to be well-equipped to concisely describe those two years well-spent—drafting more IA drafts than should be humanly possible, co-creating more club activities at every turn, running late to class with garishly-coloured hands from dyeing my latest art piece. Not to mention putting together a theatre production of Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, repotting the Climate Action Club's plants between classes, and working through an endless number of Extended Essay revisions. Yet, when I try to think of a singular moment or metaphor to represent my IBDP experience, I can come up with none. It was always a journey of multiples, juggling uncountable commitments with more to squeeze in as and when they came my way.



Finding space, within all this, to grow into my own intellectual curiosities and passionate side-quests was a task of its own. But I think I was guided well—anytime I'd knock on a teacher's classroom door with a new research idea or on the coordinator's office door with anxious queries, I would be met with genuinely indulgent interest and kindness. We'd be able to exchange discourse, stories, and theories without fear of running out of time.

Oddly enough I have found time to pass by quicker in college. Here it's class to class, committee meeting to committee meeting, deadline to deadline, with some idle banter with batchmates in the in-betweens. This may not seem so different from the IB lifestyle, but really having time on-hand to introspect and explore felt more abundant in school. This, not because college is more strenuous than the IBDP (which was a rather singularly exacting challenge), but because the people and opportunities here really do make the transition to academic thinking easier. Maybe, this is just my honeyed nostalgia coming through, but you do come out of the program with a nuanced and fresh perspective on the world. Personally, those global perspectives are really coming in handy with my Anthropology minor.



For those of you currently waiting for the DP programme to be over, I hear you. You'll always be able to make time for yourself and if you aren't, you'll always have the option to ask for help. Life after is really not that different from life in the program—you keep pursuing knowledge, making friends, learning from shared stories. You've already accomplished incredible things and it's only a few more incredible things until you get to the really incredible part.

For those of you who have only just started, you've got a wonderful adventure ahead! You'll reach crests and troughs of self-discovery, alongside the near-constant never-ebbing workload that you'll have gathered by now. Each day, you'll have made some progress—even if it was just one new IB command term you finally figured out or just resting—so pat yourself on the back!

With all the chaos of the world right now, I've found that learning to care and foster empathy in each of my decisions has come to be the most useful skill from the classroom. I hope the IB journey helps you find that too.

Ananya Pathak, Batch of 2024

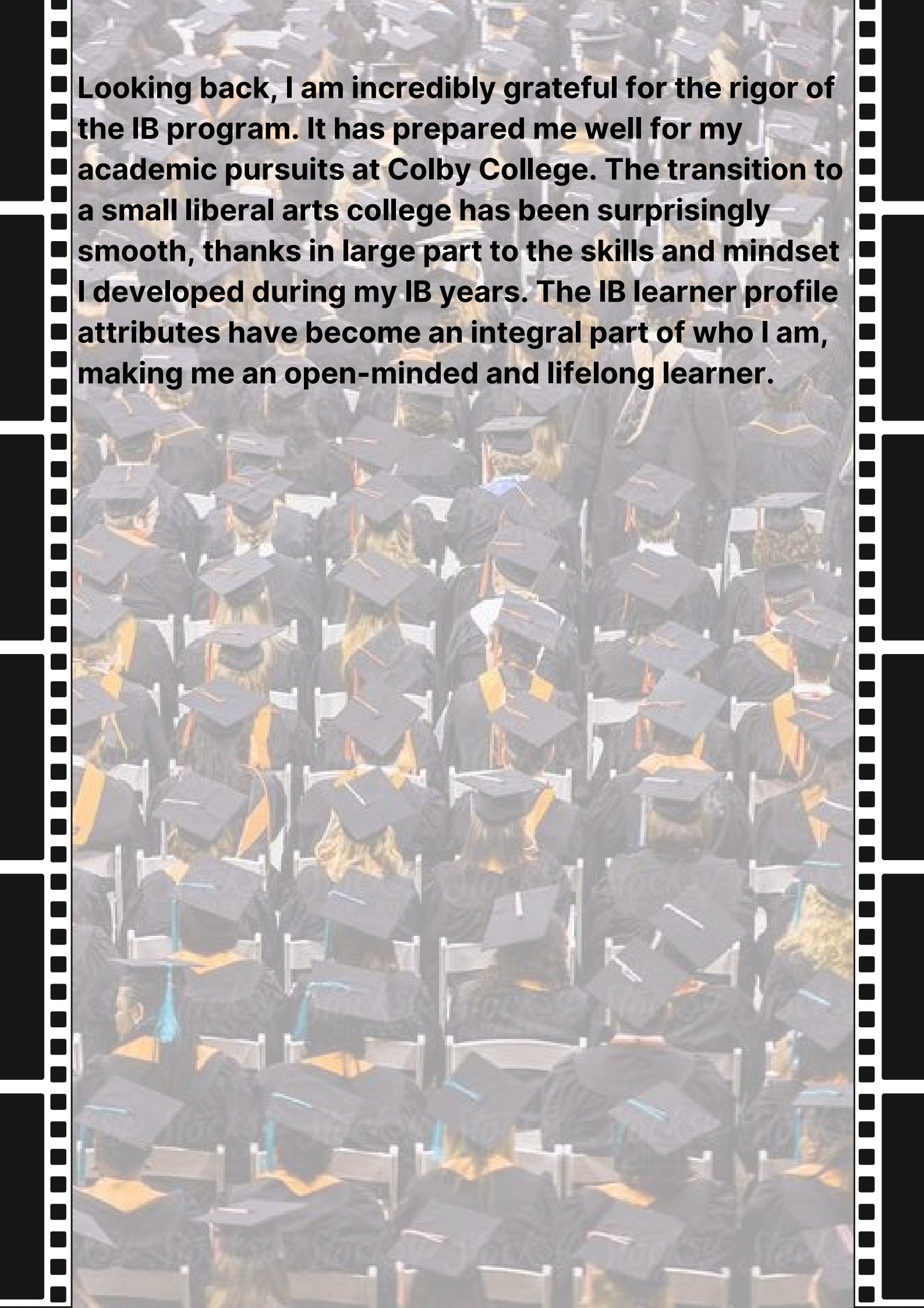
Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

S6: E4 Alumni Talks

-Rhea Mehta, Class of 2024

In the 14th century, the most ambitious merchants embarked on a two-year journey from China to Rome. In the 21st century, the most ambitious learners embark on a two-year journey to earn the IB Diploma. Both journeys are fraught with challenges, but the rewards far outweigh the hardships. For the merchants, the reward was valuable goods to trade. For IB learners, the reward is a resilient mindset and critical thinking skills that equip them to navigate the complexities of the real world.

Reflecting on my own IB journey, I recall countless moments of intense focus and intellectual stimulation. Whether it was the late nights spent rewriting my Extended Essay or the countless hours delving into the intricacies of economic theory, every challenge honed my critical thinking skills. There were undoubtedly moments of doubt and frustration, but I was fortunate to have the support of the Podar community. The faculty and fellow students formed a network of encouragement, helping me persevere through the toughest times. Student organizations and events, such as the Podar Climate Symposium and PMUN, provided opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals and gain fresh perspectives.



Looking back, I am incredibly grateful for the rigor of the IB program. It has prepared me well for my academic pursuits at Colby College. The transition to a small liberal arts college has been surprisingly smooth, thanks in large part to the skills and mindset I developed during my IB years. The IB learner profile attributes have become an integral part of who I am, making me an open-minded and lifelong learner.

A background image of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black graduation caps are flying through the air, creating a sense of celebration. Below the caps, a crowd of people is visible, many with their hands raised in the air. Some people are holding up smartphones to capture the moment. The overall atmosphere is festive and joyous.

from the **TEACHERS**

▶ Play

2024 1s 2ep ^{HD}

Read enriching pieces from our excellent faculty in the 7th season of Luminous 2024!

Cast: Ms. Pinki Panchal, Ms. Rushali Shah

Genres: Culture and Identity, Education

S7: E1

Fearless You

-Pinki Panchal, IBDP Faculty

**Can you be so dear?
One who cannot feel fear, with you
my dear
May the stars feel shy; to appear in
the sky
But you can be so bright; Just like a
sunlight
May the orcas feel shy; to deep dive
But you can be my dear one; with
whom I can always smile.
You can be my hive; where I can
deep dive.
In the ocean of stones and all curse
loves
Be with no one but you; I can always
survive.**

S7: E2

The Power of Experiential Learning in Economics

-Rushali Shah, IGCSE faculty

As an Economics teacher, I firmly believe that learning extends far beyond textbooks and theoretical discussions. In today's dynamic world, it is crucial for students to connect their academic knowledge with real-life situations. This is where experiential learning plays a pivotal role.

Economics, at its core, deals with decision-making, resource allocation, and understanding the forces that shape our everyday lives. By integrating practical experiences into the learning process—through case studies, simulations, field visits, or even class discussions on current economic events—students gain a deeper understanding of how economic principles operate in the real world.

For instance, when students analyze the local market or participate in budget simulations, they aren't just memorizing definitions; they're developing critical thinking skills and learning how to apply economic theories to actual scenarios. This hands-on approach not only makes learning more engaging but also equips them with the tools they need to make informed decisions in their personal and professional lives.

Incorporating experiential learning allows students to see Economics not as a distant, abstract subject, but as a living, breathing part of their everyday existence. And that, I believe, is how we prepare them to be insightful and responsible citizens of tomorrow.



The background of the slide features a close-up of a person's hand holding a pen, poised to write on a lined notebook. The entire scene is framed by a black film strip border with white sprocket holes. The text is overlaid on this background.

S7: E3

What Football is Not

-Hyginus D'souza, IBDP faculty

A goal is built up in a matter of seconds; it's scored in a fraction of one.

Yet, football is not about that fraction of a second. It's about the endless hours, days and years spent worshipping the game.

All those tiring laps on hot days; the repetitive drills that pay no immediate dividends; staying home when your best friends are living it up on late night outs; even looking away from that comforting donut that's crying for your attention.

Football is not about a spark of brilliance, it's about the fire that burns inside you, driving you to be the best person you can be.

Credits

Grade In-Charges

Aalia Contractor

Chantelle D'Amello

Rahi Shah

Riddhi Kwatra

Saisha Nimbalkar

Editors

Hrishika Sangharajka

Manasi Mehta

Muskaan Patel

Schanna Muliylil

Designers

Aalia Contractor

Ira Gupta

Kamya Ramachandran

Pearl Kothari

Shoyongdipto Choudhary

Design element: Canva, Adobe

A decorative border resembling a film strip runs vertically along both the left and right edges of the page. It consists of a series of black rectangular frames separated by white perforations.

THANK YOU

until next year!