

To
The Principal

7th November 2016

Chennai
Dear Sir/Madam

Sub: Research Science Initiative (RSI), Chennai
Summer Programme 2017 (SP 2017)

We would like to thank you for the excellent co-operation extended to us for making the RSIC Summer Programme-2016 a grand success. We received overwhelming response from schools and excellent feedback from the students and their parents. Students who participated in the programme were immensely benefited by the interaction they had with the experienced professors of IITM and other prestigious institutions.

The RSIC Programme has been running in its present form since 2010. Over the past seven years, the programme has grown from strength to strength, and it has helped to initiate, encourage and nurture interest in science and scientific method in a large body of alumni who have gone to higher studies in many reputed institutions.

We are happy to inform you that we have already started planning the RSIC Summer Programme 2017.

We are enclosing a copy of the Application Form to be filled by the student applicant. We are also sending herewith guidelines to the teachers who will be giving the recommendation letters to the students. We request the teachers concerned to go through these carefully, as the letters play a crucial role in the selection of the students to the RSIC programme.

We wish to highlight the following points in this regard.

1. Please send the Application forms duly filled on or before the **1st of December 2016**.
2. A school can send a maximum of **EIGHT** Applications only.
3. Application forms along with the **three recommendation letters** from teachers should be attested by the Principal and be sent to the following address:

The Dean & Director

PSBB Group of Schools

15, Lake First Main Road, Nungambakkam,

CHENNAI- 600 034

4. Application forms and other details may be downloaded from our website:
www.psbbschools.ac.in
5. In this connection we would like to inform you that the selection procedure and criteria will be on the same lines as last year. Selection is based on the following:
(i) Academic performance (ii) Participation in extracurricular and community service activities (iii) Achievements in competitive examinations like NTSE, KVPY, National Olympiads etc. (iv) Participation and achievements in national and international competitions.

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b. A short essay on why science interests the applicant- The ideas expressed should be the student's own, and expressed in his/her own words.

c. Recommendation letters from teachers: A lot of importance is attached to these letters and hence they should reflect objectively the strengths and weakness of the students, their aptitude and attitude towards studies with particular reference to the science subjects. Their areas of special interest and interesting projects done, if any, may also be mentioned.

Please note that routine certification of the student (e.g., statements such as "he/she carries out allotted duties diligently") **will not be helpful for the purpose at hand**, and need not be emphasised. Nor should marks/grades scored in examinations be the sole criterion for the students you recommend for the programme.

We are looking for that 'special something' about the student, if any, that may have caught your attention or struck you as noteworthy.

d. The short listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel of experts and the final selection will be based on the results of the interaction.

More information regarding the programme is enclosed herewith for your reference.

If you need any other clarification please contact Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Srivatsan, at 9840025670

Looking forward to your school's participation in the programme.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Dr.(Mrs)Y.G.Parthasarathy
Dean & Director, PSBB Group of Schools
& Chief Patron, RSI Chennai

Mrs.Vijayalakshmi Srivatsan
Mentor(Academics)PSBB Schools
& Chief Co-ordinator, RSI Chennai

RESEARCH SCIENCE INITIATIVE – CHENNAI SUMMER PROGRAMME, MAY-JUNE 2017

Much concern has been voiced of late about the state of science education in India. An important aspect of the larger problems and issues involved here is the need to clearly identify, suitably encourage and carefully nurture the bright children of today, in order to ensure that the country takes its rightful place at the forefront of the knowledge-based society of the future. As we are indisputably in the age of Science and Technology, it is essential to ensure that adequate numbers of the best and brightest are attracted to these areas at an early stage.

The **Research Science Initiative–Chennai** is a new endeavour that seeks to fulfil, in a modest yet serious way, some of these needs. It is associated with, and modelled on, an on-going programme in the USA, the Research Science Institute, that is sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education based in McLean, Virginia, USA and run in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This is an annual programme in which about 80 selected students who have just graduated from high school spend 6 weeks in an intensive research programme under the guidance of mentors who are established scientists. The participants are required to submit a project report at the conclusion of the programme. The programme is fully residential, and is multi-faceted, including lectures on the sciences and other subjects as well as some extra-curricular activities over and above the project undertaken by each student.

The Summer Programme of Research Science Initiative–Chennai is envisaged along similar lines, but with some significant differences, owing to the different circumstances prevailing here. The programme is being organised under the auspices of the PSBB Group of Schools, with Dr. (Mrs.) Y. G. Parthasarathy, Dean & Director, PSBB Schools, as the Chief Patron. Along with her Prof.M.S.Ananth, former Director IIT Madras and Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy, Director IIT, Madras are also Chief Patrons who are lending valuable support to this programme. The summer camp is run in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, SASTRA University, Thanjavur, Chennai Mathematical Institute and IMSc, Chennai. Other Patrons of RSI–Chennai are: Prof. C. S. Seshadri, Former Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute,

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, Sastra University, Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, Mr.K.V.Rangaswamy (L&T), Mr. Gopal Srinivasan (TVS-Electronics), Mr.B.Santhanam (Saint Gobain Glass Ltd) and Mr. R. Seshasayee (Ashok Leyland). The Summer Programme will be conducted by the academicians from IIT Madras (IITM), The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), Anna University, SASTRA University and senior administrators from PSBB SSS.

The Summer Programme in 2017 (SP2017) is aimed at exceptionally bright students who have completed Std. XI and are about to enter Std. XII. It is planned to select about 30-35 students for a fully-residential, intensive, five week-long programme to be housed at IIT Madras during the period May - June 2017. The students will be selected

on the basis of their personal statements of purpose, curriculum vitae, academic performance and potential, letters of recommendation from their teachers, and an interview. For the present, practical considerations necessitate restricting the programme to schools (catering to all Boards) in Chennai. The selected students will be provided free lodging and boarding for the programme, as well as a stipend. There are no marks or credits for participation in the programme, nor is the programme intended to be any sort of tuition course for any examination or entrance test. The aim is to channelise the interest, energy and enthusiasm of bright students in an appropriate direction with the help and guidance of experts, active in the subjects concerned. Each selected student is expected to participate in SP 2017 **in its entirety**.

The focus of SP 2017 will be on the basic sciences, namely, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, as well as other interface areas and interdisciplinary areas based on, or bridging, these subjects. The programme is meant to impress on young minds the essential unity of science and the close links and inter-relationships between its different parts, and will comprise:

- A set of lectures on selected topics in each subject by experts.
- Visits to laboratories and institutions of special interest.
- Special lectures by distinguished scientists.
- Entertaining/Educative Cultural programme (extramurals) in the evenings.

A significant component of SP 2017 will be a project to be undertaken by each student. Each student will be assigned a mentor for his or her project work. A project report written by the student will be submitted towards the end of the programme, and each student will make a short presentation based on his or her work.

It is envisaged that individual attention will be paid to the students, and close academic interaction between the students and faculty will be achieved. Above all, the aim of SP 2017 will be to impress upon students the fact that scientific discovery is an on-going, ever-expanding and exciting enterprise in which they, too, can take part meaningfully.

Application for selection to the programme is to be filled out by the student. Each application must be endorsed by, and forwarded through; the Principal of the school concerned, and must be supported by three letters of recommendation from the teachers of the applicant, one from the class teacher and two from the science/math teachers. **Applicants should only be from the current class XI.**

RESEARCH SCIENCE INITIATIVE–CHENNAI SUMMER PROGRAMME, MAY-JUNE 2017

APPLICATION FORM

To the student applicant: Please type or write neatly and legibly, *in the space provided below each header.* This form must be submitted through the Principal of your school. It must be accompanied by *three* Recommendation Letters from your teachers, including (i) your Class Teacher (ii) your Mathematics Teacher and/or your Science Teacher.

Name and address of your school:

School telephone no.

School E-mail ID

Name in full (write your first name and last name, or write your initials followed by your name, in capital letters. For example, C.V. RAMAN or RABINDRANATH TAGORE)

Sex :

Date of birth :

Parent/guardian's name :

Home address :

Phone number(s) :

Res. Landline :

Mobile Number: Father/Mother :

Student Mobile Number :

E-mail Id Father/Mother :

Student E-mail Id :

Subject of interest: Select the subject of greatest interest to you (as of now!), scoring out the rest. This is for our processing purposes. Even if you are interested in more than one of the subjects, select the primary one and score out the rest, and elaborate upon your interest in greater detail below. For example, if you like mathematical physics or astrophysics, select physics; if you are fascinated by biochemistry, select chemistry; and so on.

MATHEMATICS / PHYSICS /CHEMISTRY/BIOLOGY

Elaborate, **in a few lines**, the reason(s) for your choice above. Please avoid vague generalities to the extent you can.

Your marks or grades in Std. X in Mathematics and in Science

(an attested copy of the mark-sheet or grade card must be submitted with your application):

Standard XI group: What is the group you have chosen in Std. XI?

Core and optional subjects of study in Std. XI:

Awards, scholarships, prizes (including NTSE, KVPY, Olympiads at the State, National or International levels, etc.) obtained, only during the last 3 years. As “olympiads” and similar events have proliferated, if you mention any such you must expand all initials and abbreviations and state precisely which organisation’s olympiad you are referring to.

School level:

City level:

State level:

National:

International:

Community service and social work done, if any (brief description):

Extra-curricular activities (list and describe these in brief):

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Short essay: In the rest of this page, write a very short essay in your own words on why science interests you, what you have done so far on account of this interest, and what you would like to do in the future. The essay should be a personal, spontaneous statement. Please avoid vague generalities such as “Science benefits humankind” (we’re already agreed upon that!) and cliches such as “I’ve been fascinated by the cosmos ever since I was born” (we know it!). Below the essay, sign your name and write down the date. Do not exceed the space provided for your essay.

Endorsement by the School Principal (sign)

