

To

14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

The Principal

Chennai

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Research Science Initiative - Chennai (RSIC)  
Summer Programme 2020 (SP 2020)

Greetings!

We would like to thank you for the excellent co-operation extended to us in the past years for making the RSIC Summer Programmes a grand success. We have received overwhelming response from schools and excellent feedback from students who have attended this programme earlier. They were immensely benefited by the interaction they had with the experienced professors of IITM and other prestigious institutions.

RSIC as you are aware is the brain child of the late revered Dr. (Mrs) Y.G. Parthasarathy, founder of the PSBB Group of Schools. The RSIC Programme has been running in its present form since 2010. Over the past ten years, the programme has grown from strength to strength, and it has helped to initiate, encourage and nurture interest in Science and scientific temper in a large body of RSIC alumni. It is gratifying to note about 300 students of different schools have participated in the RSIC summer programme since 2010, and it is heartening to know that many of them subsequently opted for programs in pure Sciences and research in their higher education and have joined IISERs, CMI and other leading universities across India and abroad. We believe that the RSIC programme has certainly helped them channelize their interests in the right direction and to make informed choices of their academic pursuits. In addition it has also given the participants a wider perspective of Science and its inter-disciplinary connections. This programme is highly enriching, nurtures young curious minds, entuses them to view academics through a different lens and instills scientific thinking.

We are happy to inform you that we celebrated the decennial year of RSIC last summer. With great satisfaction, we can say that RSIC is a popular and much sought after programme. All this has been possible by the invaluable guidance and support we received from our beloved Founder Late Dr. (Mrs.) Y. G. Parthasarathy, The PSBB Management is keen that her legacy is continued and her brain- child and pet project RSIC will continue its activities with the same vigour and enthusiasm. We are happy to inform you that we have already started planning the RSIC Summer Programme 2020.

We are enclosing a copy of the Application Form to be filled by each student applicant. We are also sending herewith guidelines to the teachers who will be giving recommendation letters to the students.

We wish to highlight the following points in this regard.

1. Please send the application forms duly filled on or before the **6<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.**
2. A school can send a maximum of **TEN** applications only.
3. Application forms along with **three recommendation letters** from teachers should be attested by the Principal and 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 also be downloaded from our website:

[www.psbbschools.ac.in](http://www.psbbschools.ac.in)

In this connection we would like to inform you that the selection procedure and criteria will be on the same lines as last year.

**5. Selection is based on the following groups of inputs.**

- (i) Academic performance
- (ii) Achievements in competitive examinations like NTSE, KVPY, National Olympiads etc.
- (iii) Participation and achievements in national and international competitions.
- (iv) Participation in extracurricular and community service activities
- (v) Responses to the questions posed in the application form

**6. Recommendation letters from teachers-** Your recommendation letter will play a significant role in the selection process. As a teacher familiar with the applicant's strengths and weaknesses, you are in the best position to give your considered opinion on the suitability of the applicant for this programme. Please state how long you have known the applicant, and in what capacity. You are requested to comment on the applicant's general attitude, motivation, and perseverance, level of preparedness, aptitude, initiative and drive. Specific comments would be more helpful than generalities. If the student has any qualities or abilities that are not reflected in his or her marks and grades, make a mention of these. We wish to reiterate that 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 area of special interests and interesting projects done, if any, may also be mentioned. Please note that routine certification of the conduct of the student will not be considered as valid recommendation. Please also avoid few - line letters such as "the student is sincere, motivated and a highly performing student....". Kindly take the time to explain what observations and activities of the student make you think so. Marks/grades scored in examinations may not be used as the sole criterion for the students you recommend for the programme. In summary, we would like to know from you the qualities and proven aptitudes of students.

Separate recommendation letters should be given to each student by three different teachers. Please place each recommendation letter in an envelope with the applicant's name on it. The sealed envelope is to be submitted along with the application form.

7. 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,

Mrs. Sheela Rajendra  
Dean & Director,  
PSBB Group of Schools  
& Chief Patron, RSI -Chennai

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

Encl.: as above

**RESEARCH SCIENCE INITIATIVE – CHENNAI  
SUMMER PROGRAMME, MAY-JUNE 2020**

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 (RSIC)** is a new endeavor that seeks to fulfill, in a modest yet serious way, some of these needs. It is associated with, and modeled 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. RSI-USA 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. This programme was envisioned by the late Dr. (Mrs.) Y. G. Parthasarathy, and it has been running under her guidance and patronage for the past ten years under the auspices of the PSBB Group of Schools. 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 (CMI) and the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai. The Summer Programme will be conducted by the academicians from IIT Madras (IITM), IMSc, CMI, SASTRA University and senior administrators from PSBB SSS.

The Summer Programme 2020 (SP2020) 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 an intensive six week-long programme to be housed at IIT Madras during the period April - June 2020. **RSIC-2020 will run as a non-residential (day) programme.**

The programme will start on **the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 and conclude on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2020**. The students will be selected on the basis of their personal statement of purpose, curriculum vitae, academic performance and potential letters of recommendation from their teachers, and an interview. At present, practical considerations necessitate restricting the programme to schools (catering to all Boards) in Chennai. The selected students will be provided free lunch and tea / snacks on working days 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 who are active in the subjects concerned. **Each selected student is expected to participate in SP 2020 in its entirety.**

The focus of SP 2020 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) Lectures by experts on selected topics.
- b) Visits to laboratories and institutions of special interest.
- c) Entertaining/educative cultural programmes (extramurals).
- d) Physical training classes / sports
- e) A mini 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, involving close academic interaction between the students and faculty. Above all, the aim of SP2020 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. The Application Form 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 (Science stream).**



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11. Father/Mother's email ID:

12. Your mobile no.;

13. Your email ID:

14. Your marks or grades in Std. X Mathematics & Science (an attested copy of the mark sheet or grade card must be attached to your application ).

Mathematics:

Science:

15. Group you have opted for in Std. XI:

16. What are your core and optional subjects of study in Std. XI?

CORE

OPTIONAL

**Academic proficiency (Do *not* attach any certificates.)**

17. Did you attempt the official NTSE at any stage? What was the result?

18. Did you attempt to qualify in the KVPY at any stage? What was the result?

19. Have you qualified for the DST INSPIRE Scholarship? If so, in which year?

20. Have you participated in any **officially recognized** / organized Olympiad at any level? What was the result? (Do not list olympiads run by private / commercial organisations.)

21. List any *academic* awards, scholarships and prizes you have received in the last 3 years.

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**Extra-curricular activities** (Do not attach any certificates.)

22. List the titles and authors of up to 3 **non-fiction** books that you have actually read, and that have made a deep impression on you. Do not list any textbooks or supplementary reading prescribed for your course of study, or books of a political/polemical nature (e.g. *Mein Kampf*)
23. Give a **brief description** of any community service or social work you have done in the last 5 years.
24. List your extra-curricular activities (including sports, music, debating, etc.) and any notable achievements in them.

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29. Place the following subjects in your current order of preference / interest / liking (number them from 1 to 4 in the brackets).

( ) Biology      ( ) Chemistry      ( ) Mathematics      ( ) Physics

State, in brief, the reason(s) for your first preference.

30. As of now, what are your career ambitions and goals? (These may change, of course, as you acquire further knowledge in the coming years.)

31. Explain in brief why science interests you, and what you have done so far as a result of this interest.

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**Endorsement by the School Principal (Signature with seal)**