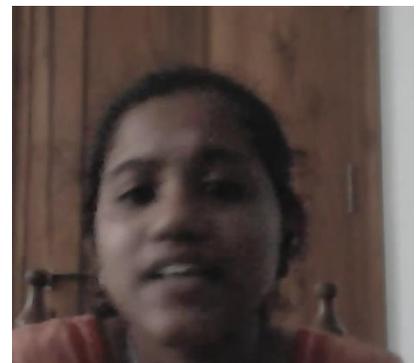


A launch pad for The Close Encounters of the Eloquent Kind

“Without debate, without criticism no administration and no country can succeed, and no republic can survive”, said the former President of the US, John F. Kennedy. To aggrandize students’ skills on such an important activity, the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Siruseri virtually inaugurated the debate club on the 1st of October 2020. Mr. Sanjay Pinto, Advocate, Columnist, Author and Former Resident writer was invited as the Chief Guest. The event took place in the august presence of the Dean & Director, Mrs. Sheela Rajendra, the Executive Trustee, Mr. Y.G. Rajendra, the Principal, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Raman, and the Headmistress, Mrs. Kamala Krishnan.

An euphonious prayer song was sung to invoke the blessings of the Almighty. Hasikaa Ravindran and Ashwajit Singh from class XI took part in the inaugural debate on the statement ‘This House believes that remote teaching has enhanced proximal learning’. The debate began with Ashwajit speaking for the proposition, bringing up the increase in convenience, innovation in teaching and improved participation that has come in with remote teaching. Hasikaa, speaking for the opposition, pointed out the lack of social interaction and the absence of practical lessons. This was followed by a minute of preparation time for the rebuttal, during which the audience were shown lighthearted memes to keep their spirits up. Ashwajit then began his rebuttal, pointing out that adjusting to any change took time, and that while in-person learning allowed for social interaction, it made one less keen to participate. Concluding the debate, Hasikaa explained how she felt remote learning could not replace the memorable journeys to school and the joy of interacting with peers.



Mr.Sanjay Pinto gave a galvanizing speech on debates and guidelines on how to master the skill of debating. The five elements to keep in mind -

- ANALYZE EVERY WORD OF THE GIVEN TOPIC
- RESEARCH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE SPEECH ENTHRALLING
- FOCUS AND DON'T LOSE TEMPER AT ANY POINT
- WATCH DEBATES TO ENRICH DEBATING METHODS
- ADD POLITE SARCASM AND HUMOUR



The Executive Trustee Mr.Y.G. Rajendra reiterated the fact that Mr.Pinto an ace debater was the apt guest to inaugurate the club and gave further tips on how to hone the debating skills. He talked about the importance of keeping the debate civil, friendly, and also



emphasised the role of humour The vote of thanks was rendered, and the event concluded with a prayer. Thus, the debate launch was a grand success with the blessings of our beloved Y.G.P ma'am and the Almighty.

Shutterbugs

Preethi Manasa R.(XI)

Gayathri(IX)