

The Charter School – Annual Report 2020-21

The Charter School, Kochi began in June 2016. We received the CBSE Affiliation in February 2020. Today we have classes from Pre KG to Grade 10 in -the Academic Year 2021-2022. It has been a gratifying 5 years, despite being challenging at times especially with setting up a school from the scratch.

The motto of the school is 'Limitless Possibilities' encourages the child's mind to soar into the numerous possibilities that life holds for them. The motto holds good for all associated with The Charter School - the Management, Teachers and Parents, challenging them to seek the possibilities, in their lives and decisions.

The campus is set in green and serene surroundings, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, yet close enough to travel to and fro.

At school, we persevere to empower our students with skills that will hone their potential, while giving room for their thoughts, imagination and creativity. We strive for holistic growth in our students, firmly believing in the fact that 'one glove does not fit all'

The cornerstones the school are -

Understanding that each child is special and has his/her rightful place in the world.

Committed teachers who are mentors to their students and facilitators of learning.

Enthusiastic parent community, who join hands with us in the growth and development of the students.

Annual Report for the Academic Year 2020 - 2021:-

It has been an extraordinary year, under extraordinary circumstances the world over. It pushed mankind to its limits, forcing us to retreat to within four walls. We were forced to find new and alternate ways of going about our lives. Work from home became the new mantra- stay home stay safe.

We worked from home

Teachers taught from home

Students learnt from home

And at the end of it we came out very differently exposed and experienced.

Coming to how the academic year unfolded for us- we had made plans for online classes for a month or maximum two, little realising that this would take us to the end of the school year !

The teachers underwent a 3 week training in the month of May for online teaching methodology and teaching resources.

Next we conducted a few **Orientation sessions for the parents** to get them acclimatised to this new normal. And school reopened on June 1st 2020. There was fear, doubt, anxiety in the minds of parents, students and teachers, but in time things settled down and gave way to better understanding and learning.

Before I move on, I must place on record my appreciation for the **Charter parent community** who backed us a 100% Without your steadfast support, the online mode would not have worked at all.

Next I applaud **my students** who excitedly welcomed this change and settled into the new routine very well, most importantly- happy to have the gadgets at their disposal !!

And finally to the **teachers**, who in a matter of weeks became adept at executing classes and lessons, in an engaging manner as well as ensuring successful learning outcomes.

Our next challenge was how to make online classes as close to the school schedule, with events, activities and co-curricular sessions... We persevered and our efforts bore fruit. There was greater enthusiasm and joy for the students and greater satisfaction for the teachers.

I will quickly take you through the year that was with a few slides to make it a visual treat. During the evening you will see short videos of the Year that Was -section wise.

In the month of **June** itself we celebrated special days like World Environment Day, World Music and Yoga day.

In **July** we reworked Talent Time as 'Spotlight on You ' an online presentation of individual talents. We had special events like Dress up Day and Green Thumb Day among others. Our first Online Assembly was flagged off with the Eid Celebrations. A presentation by the students of Grade 9.

In **August** we presented our next assembly - Hiroshima Day.

Independence Day was as patriotic and festive as we could make it online. Onam celebrations followed with pomp and fanfare. All events were presented with information and related activities.

Some of the other events were Peace Day, Freedom Friday.

Children went on **Virtual tours** of zoos and museums in place of actual visits.

Co-Curricular Activities were interspersed during the week with Art, Music, Dance, Theatre, English language activities, and ICT lessons, happening across the month. We introduced sessions on **Artificial intelligence** for the Senior students.

Something to look forward to for the juniors was '**Fun Friday**' activities !

Term 1 ended on August 27th.

As **Term 2** began in **September**, we began with the **Parent Teacher Sessions**. This helped parents and teachers understand better, what was happening on either side of the screen, which was our point of daily contact. Problems and issues were discussed and solutions found that paved the way for smoother learning and facilitation.

Some of the events in the month were - Hindi Diwas, World Ozone Day and Virtual Kitchen.

By the month of **October**, we realised that getting back to regular school was going to prolong and so we decided to start the **Online Assessment Plan** for the Middle and Senior School students. Till then they were engaged in brief testing methods like Google forms and similar formats.

Online assessments have their own share of issues and concerns but we did our best in bridging the gaps by seeking the support and help of the parents.

Some of the days celebrated were- Gandhi Jayanti, Navaratri, National Unity Day

Events in the month were- World Post Day, World Mental Health Day, World Food Day, White Cane Day, World Handwashing Day !

These topics helped bring insight to social problems faced by us and our role in addressing these issues. We had special invitees speak to the students on Mental health as well as Facing Disability.

Stage 1 - (Grades K1, K2, G1, G2) proudly presented their very first **Online Learning Expo**. It was a pleasure to watch the students showcase their projects.

November was ushered in with Kerala Piravi. Also Children's Day- we wanted to make it different and special. We organised a story telling session by Kathalaya for the juniors and seniors separately. It was a wonderful session which left the students inspired.

As part of the Science and Math week celebrations we conducted STEAM activities. Children enjoyed these multifaceted activities in Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics.

Other special days were -Diwali, Origami Friday, Thanksgiving

On various occasions. Children complained of missing regular school, their friends and especially Physical Education classes ! There was little we could do online. After a brainstorming session, we came up with the **Inter House Fitness Challenge**.

Age appropriate physical challenges and activities were chalked out to be done on a weekly basis for which they would get points. There was an incentive - they would get additional points for Parent Participation !! At the end of four months we tallied the House points as follows-

In the month of **December** we conducted Term 2 assessments for all grades, in a manner that was appropriate for each age group. It was important for us to understand the quantum of learning that was happening and then work to bridge the gaps in suitable ways.

We had introduced a novel concept called '**My Learning Journey**' in the online year. Students presented and expressed their learning in the different subjects in innovative ways - drawings, cartoons, still or moving models, music, theatre, power point presentations etc It was very interesting to see their creativity and expressions.

Early in the Academic year we had introduced **RazPlus Reading Programme** for the students of grades 3-5. This exposed them to more than 50,000 books in fiction and nonfiction sections. The reading programme provided scores based on reading which was motivating for the students.

A lot of firsts happened in the year 2020 - the first online Nativity programme for Christmas was presented. We did not want virtual or online to take away the essence of Christmas which is ' **sharing and caring**' Students were encouraged to explore 'Acts of Kindness' keeping in mind the Covid protocols. The teachers and staff contributed towards Gift Hampers for the inmates of Sneha Sadan In Pukkattupady - a home for destitute women.

January 2021, ushered in hope for normalcy. New year resolutions were done virtually !

We continued with our online sessions. Lessons and curriculum have been progressing as per plans. After the second Term assessments we introduced **Remedial classes** for students who needed extra support.

Republic day was celebrated, as also, Pongal and Sankranti
Special events were about Road Safety and Martyrs Day.

Grades 3-5 presented the Online Learning Expo in the month of January. It was a resounding success.

In the month of **February**, we conducted Language activities in English, Hindi and Malayalam and also an Inter House Math and Science Quiz which saw keen competition and a keen virtual audience.

We did a special session on Online Safety for the students- a need of the hour.

Coming to **awards and prizes** won by our students during this year of online classes.

Participation in the **Climate Action Project 2020**, by the students of grade 7 and their Geography teacher Ms. Aishwarya. Teachers and students collaborated on a Global scale to discuss pressing climate issues of our times.

Thursday 11th March 2021, marks a year since the WHO declared Covid 19 as a global pandemic. We have certainly come a long way from where we set out.

I have a lot of people I am grateful to, from helping, supporting, holding hands through it all, working shoulder to shoulder, and also providing moral support all along the way.

I am greatly indebted to our parent community who have been our greatest support and our brand ambassadors. I take this opportunity to thank the parents and students who have been with us right from inception. Thank you for your faith and trust in us.

Another round of appreciation for my team of teachers, who have proven again that 'together we can ' Special words of gratitude to my team from Year one - Kaushi, Latha and Sherin. Thank you for being there. I am indeed grateful to the coordinators Kaushi , Sameera and Latha. None of this would have been possible without our teamwork.

To the Admin team, who can be counted on our fingers. You have proven that 'everything is possible with teamwork ' Thank you for being there for anything and everything.

I thank the support staff who work quietly behind the scenes.

And finally to speak about - my lovely students. You all have great potential. Thank you for bringing joy into our lives. We are eagerly waiting to see you back in school soon.

Molly Cyril
Principal & Dean