



The Royalist

THE DIARY OF EVERY ROYALIST'S DREAM

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1ST QUARTER

A PROJECT BY THE PREFECTS' COUNCIL 2011/2012

3 MONTHS OF COLOUR, VIBRANCE, FESTIVITY AND SHEER BRILLIANCE



The Publication of "The Royalist" newspaper is the oldest paper in College which is an avenue for creativity . As you go through this diary of dreams you would find varied creations of the happenings of College.

The section on the interview is specially drafted for the upliftment of spirit among present Royalists. It was indeed an inspiration for us and we are sure that its impact on you would be the same. We have tried to incorporate every aspect of College be it the hostel or the academics.

As the co-editors of this paper we enjoyed every moment of compiling this diary of dreams, even through the ups and downs. We hope you too would enjoy every moment of reading it .

"Labor Omnia Vincit"

-Work Conquers All-

We look forward for your feedback. So let us know what section you like and sections we need to improve on in the next issue, so email us on the_royalist@hotmail.com.

Insaaf Nazeer Shehan Perera
Co - Editors

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SAGA

The legend of "SAGA"

"Saga : A heroic tale". That is what the meaning is all about. Yes, it is a heroic tale for each and every Royalist. Let me reveal from the beginning about this legendary tale.

Saga, is the grandest musical show ever done by a school in Sri Lanka, No doubt, but it is not an ordinary musical show. Though there are songs of various artists and other musical items, the main purpose of this grand extravaganza is to reveal the talents of the orchestra.

The birth of the Royal College Orchestra happened in 2003, with a collection of talented Royalists who loved music, with the guidance of Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara, who was the new Master-In-Charge of the Oriental Music Society. With time, they grew up with the experiences of an orchestra and they managed to maintain the 1st place in the All Island Orchestra Competition. These particular musicians felt that this was the time for a change in history and that they should do something remarkable. With that brilliant idea, the concept of "Saga" emerged with the nurturing of Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara and Mr. Aruna De Silva and it was guided and encouraged by the present principal Mr. Upali Gunsekara. After a great team effort, Saga was staged at B.M.I.C.H. on the 4th of November 2004, adding a new dimension to the history of Royal College that marked Royalty in the aesthetic arena.

Saga is known as the musical legend of the East and the West since it includes various sectors of music such as Indian Classical, rock, pop, jazz and folk music etc.

This musical show gives a great opportunity not only to the Royalists, but to the talented students in other respective schools and all over the country to take part in singing, dancing and drama items and to reveal their hidden talents.

By today, the Royal College Orchestra has come through a phenomenal journey and without a doubt, it is known as the best school orchestra in the island. It is guided by Mr. Ashoka Pushpakumara and Mr. Lionel Bandara and they do a dedicated job to make the annual event Saga, a success.

The role of the School Development Society should be mentioned here as they do a remarkable job in the financial area of this event. Saga paves the way for the S.D.S.

to strengthen the financial situation

to a healthy level.

Saga was staged for the 7th consecutive time recently at the "Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapakse" theatre on 2nd and 3rd of February 2012. I must mention the contribution of the Media Unit of Royal College as they gave their fullest support towards organizing Saga and making it a success this time.

Saga paved the way for many people to enter the field of music as top level performers who are taking part in massive musical events both locally and internationally. I'm very lucky to have experienced all the "Saga"s since it was started and yes, it is a true legend. May this legend continue, emphasizing the talents of Royalists and creating an audience, who really enjoy the real taste of music.

Heshan Vithanagama
Prefects' Council 2011/2012



Inter House Athletics Meet

The Inter House Athletics Meet was held on the 1st of March 2012 at the College Main Grounds and Dr. Dharshana Wijegunasinghe graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The event concluded with Hartley house emerging victorious under the able leadership of Bhasura Perera. The following articles were written by members of the Prefects' Council who were facing their last ever athletics meet.



The sports meet which takes place in this prestigious institution cannot be compared to any other sports meet. The reason for this notion is that the intensity which is obtained by it is due to the amount of enthusiasm, and commitment and the support, the participants of their respective sporting events deliver to the track and field events.

The sports meet which took place on the 1st of March, was without any hesitation the most prosperous meet which took place smoothly after a very long time span, and also this provided the impetus for my happiness since it was the last sports meet I was legally able to take part in. Once I entered the main grounds, I was overwhelmed by the colorfulness of the respective houses, since all the houses gave a very good competition to be chosen as the best decorated house, and eventually the effort made by all the students was not in vain.

The sports meet met the expectations of all the spectators, since it showed how talented in athletics the Royalists are, and also showed how brilliant the young up coming athletes of our school are, and that the future of athletics at our school is very bright. The present athletics captain, for the year 2012/2013, P.S De Silva, who is a 3rd year coloursman in the events such as discuss throw and put shot, made a great effort to make the day a success, the vice captain of athletics also shared the burden.

As I am from Boake house, I was actually, supporting my house, due to the fact that there were many athletes who had the potential to take the glory of the house to great heights. Nevertheless my house ultimately emerged second place, and I was very proud of it since I knew that the athletes gave their 100%. Danuja Gunasekara, the captain, of Boake house made sure that he inspired all his team mates, and his efforts did not go in vain.

In conclusion, without any hesitation I can state that this inter house athletic meet which concluded recently was very inspirational, enthralling, and it kept a lasting impression on my mind, which as a result makes it impossible for me to ever forget.

Anuk Edirisinghe
Prefects' Council 2011/2012



I walked onto the field as a prefect, as a former athlete of Harward House with a thrilling experience. I felt the cool dry Royal breeze blowing through the field. As usual I saw the houses, which were decorated in a hurry at the last moment.

Past memories & experiences suddenly filled my mind. I remembered how I hoisted the pink & grey flag on the "Takarang" roof of my house just before the School song and how we motivated our athletes to gain maximum points for our house.

The Royal College Inter House Athletics Meet, one of the most prestigious events of Royal College is also known for being one of the most competitive "School Athletic Meets." A strange feeling flew through my mind when it struck me that "Oh! Is this My final Sports Meet???" I still cannot believe that I spent 13 years of my life at Royal College my alma mater.

I still remember it like yesterday, how I competed in the 800 m & 1500 m races, and won 3rd & 2nd places in 2010 Inter House Athletics Meet. I can still feel my heartbeat at that moment, how excited and enthusiastic I was on that occasion. But more than winning, my main intention was to gain maximum points for my house "Harward".

While these memories flowed through my mind I entered the "Harward House Tent" and enjoyed the hard work done by the Harward House Committee. I should mention a special "Thank You" to the House Captain Shehan Perera and the Athletics House Captain Evishka Tibbatununuwe for their immense dedication that made this event a great success.

The main difference I saw in this meet was the "crowd", it was a larger number than many previous Inter House Athletics Meets. Being 1st was not the point, it was how hard they worked to gain that place. It was not only the commitment of the House Captains or The Committee that gains that place, each and every member of the house has to work hard. Be it Under 12 or Under

21 each and every athlete had to show their maximum skills on the field and that too on time to reach the top.

Anyway with a lot of effort at the end of the day Harward House became fourth. Credit should go towards all the students who worked 'Bokkenma' for their houses. They may have deserved more but that was how it went that day! Anyway sports teach us to tolerate our mixed feelings of both happiness and sadness.

I also take this chance to mention a special event which will go to the pages of the history of Royal College. It was the Prefects' race (100x4). There were 20 prefects from all 5 houses. Ameen, Heshoban, Malith and Methmal from Harward House; CK, Nadeera, Mario and Galapatti from Boake House; Vindula, Insaaf, Tharaka, Bhagya from Marsh House; Rasanjana, Lasitha, Ajmal and Chamal from Hartley House; Chathuska, Thiranjaya, Ratnapala and Boyagoda from Reed House. As every race it started very aggressively, everyone wondered what's gonna happen next. Then in the last lap Methmal (Harward), Galapatti (Boake), Chamal (Hartley), Bhagya (Marsh) took the baton and started running down their tracks. Suddenly they all stopped and turned back, Yes; You are correct it is for that fourth lapper from Reed House, for our very own gigantic Boyagoda. He tried his level best and we also supported him to finish the race. At the end point of the race, being watched and cheered by the Principal, Vice Principal, Invitees, Teachers & Parents they all ended up touching the finish line at once at the same time. As the Prefects' Council 2011/2012 of Royal College we displayed our unity and strength while conveying a strong message to all Royalists; "We may be in different houses; we may die hard for our houses; we may fight with each other on the field but as true Royalists we work under one brotherhood which is called..... "ROYAL".

Asanka Bandara
Prefects' Council 2011/2012

The feeling that you get when you're in the main grounds, with all eyes on you as you represent your house and give everything you can to achieve that moment of victory cannot be put in words. Therefore bare with me if the attempt I make to relive the experience does not truly capture the feeling of being there to experience the moment.

The moment you start running in any race there is a period of clearness in your head, however this moment was some or rather a completely a different one to me instead of that carefree clear mindset, due moments I commenced my event, there was a train of thoughts running through my mind.

The very first thing that hit me was that this was the last time that I will be attending a sports meet as a school boy rather than as an "old boy". The fact that this is the final stand at a sports meet and to bring that needed glory for my house and to my school.

This would be the last time I would hear all the loud chants that pumped my adrenaline which brought the best out of me for all these years and helped to surpass the hardest of tasks. Ironically, though writing this seems to take me forever all these flashed through my mind in a matter of a second.

As I was reaching the end of my race, the next flashback that hit me was the voyage that athletics has taken me on. From turning up at the sports meet as a little kid so many years ago, looking up to the feats of the seniors to finally reaching that platform. Realizing that as a senior your main obligation, more than to win, was to set an example for those who look up to you. To realize that to lead means taking the harder path and to ensure that you do what you, always do for the right reasons.

However to me, through this article there was more than one agenda to achieve. What I have been trying to show you through this article is that there are many avenues available for exploration at Royal college. Each of these avenues, from clubs and societies to sports will bring you different experiences. What matters is that you try to explore as many avenues as possible in the short thirteen years spent in this majestic institution.

The second agenda which I hope I achieved was to show you that the reasons as to why you do something are just as important as the actions itself. Do the best you can as a Royalist, to strive to repay the immeasurable debt you owe and above all strive to be a gentleman with morals in the race of life.

"WE WILL LEARN OF BOOKS AND MEN AND LEARN TO PLAY THE GAME"
Floreat!

Vindula Ganegoda
Prefects' Council 2011/2012

83rd Sinhala Big Debate

“A stunning display of wordplay”



The 83rd Sinhala Big Debate took flight on the 5th of March 2012 at the Royal College Main Hall, just days before the much awaited 133rd Battle of the Blues played out at the SSC.

Prior to 1930's, the educational and linguistics system followed in Royal and S.Thomas's College was heavily influenced by Victorian Traditions, with a prominent role given to languages such as English, Greek and Latin. At the time, Sinhala, the Lingua Pura (Mother Tongue) of Sri Lanka seemed destined to go the route of Sanskrit, Pali and other 'dead' languages. Around this time many were just beginning to realize the true value of Sinhala, especially within the educational institutions of the Country. The Royalists and the Thomians were no exception to this. This renewed interest led to the creation of societies dedicated to the reinvigoration of the Language through both literary means as well as activities such as debating. What would eventually become one of the most renowned and famous debates in Sri Lanka, began in the year 1936, as a friendly little battle of linguistic mastery between young debaters representing two of the Island's most prestigious academic institutions. The debate served not only as a platform for young talents to shine but also as a

reaffirmation of the already decade old fellowship and rivalry of the two institutions.

Throughout the years the Debate underwent many challenges, even being cancelled. However, the perseverance of the students and faculty saw it emerge not only unscathed, but better than before. Today the big debate is almost a pre- Big Match Tradition of the two schools, with generation after generation of debaters engaging in it before the annual cricket encounter. The 83rd Big Debate held this year was one of the most successful ever, with an audience of over 400 people comprising of Royalists, Thomians and fans alike.

This year the teams battled it out over the topic 'Innovation', with the hosts, Royal highlighting their National ICT excellence award, their recognition as the most innovative school in the world as well as their contribution to the sciences etc. The Thomians countered with the numerous accomplishments of their old boys. After a few hours of intense debating, both teams parted ways as friends, serving as a testament to the eternal fellowship, brotherhood and gracious rivalry between these two prestigious and renowned academic institutions.

Vidura Gamage

The Annual Royal-Thomian English Big Debate



The Annual Royal Thomian Debate is an event of great pride, prestige and honor that is held between these two esteemed institutions. With a rich history as long as the Annual Royal Thomian Cricket Encounter, this event encompasses the great tradition and brotherhood between the two Colleges. In fact, since this is an annual gathering of past eminent debaters of both schools it is more of a family reunion than anything else. The debate also has importance in its own, as being not only the only debate of its kind but also the longest running debate between two institutions in Sri Lanka. This year the debate was hosted by Royal College as each year the chance to

host it is rotated. There was a sense of excitement brewing at the Main Hall on the 6th of March, when the debate was about to start, as it was not only right after the Prefects' Cricket Match, which was won by Royal College, but also 3 days away from the Big Match. The Thomian team consisted of Sanjith Dias, Pramokya Marambe, Aqeel Dean and B. Apiram while Royal College had Vinura Welgama, Narada Lokuhetty, Shechem Sumanthiran and Rashmin Tirimanne De Silva. As with all Royal Thomian Debates the topic is always for formalities sake as for other than maybe the first two speakers of each school the debate progresses into a friendly session of personal and public mudslinging of the two Colleges and even quotations and pictures of proof were used. The rivalry was also intensified as the two teams had met just a few days ago at the Sri Lanka Schools Debating Championship and the Thomians were out for revenge. The debate proceeded with occasional ovations and booing from either side of the house depending on what the speaker said. Before the two captains of the teams summed up the debate, the floor was open to members of the audience, and since this event is not open to the public,

Royalists and Thomians, to speak a few words. And it was evident that it was not only the debaters who were out to debate that day as the old boys followed suit in their own sessions of slinging mud and jokes. At the end of the day, with the debate over, it was heartwarming to see that even though the audience had sat divided during the debate they all came together as friends, sharing jokes, intermingling and conversing, some of whom hadn't seen each other for quite a while. So as always this prestigious debate not only stands for the togetherness and the friendly rivalry between these two great Colleges but also stands for something more. The spirit of the Royal Thomian. Unique to the two greatest schools in the world.

Rashmin De Silva



Hostel

Upcoming Event :

Miyesi Meerawaya, the most looked forward to event by the Royal College Hostel happening on the 10th of May @ the Navarangahala. DEFINITELY A NO MISS !!!!!!!!

For over a hundred and forty years, the Royal College Hostel has been a shelter for some of the greatest minds in Lanka. I am proud to say that I too had the privilege of being part of this hostel. To me it was or rather should I say "is" and "will" continue to be my only "home away from home".

I do not remember what happened on that first day I came to College. Undoubtedly I do recall my fearful footsteps taking their first through the hallowed corridors of college, but it is the great Victorian image of the buildings that are etched in the memory of my "First Day". Thus If someone asks me about my first day at Royal College, naturally my answer will be its buildings. I was a grade six scholar when I entered the college hostel. I did not know much about Royal College but those structures really did convince me that I had made the best decision of my life.

I do not hesitate to say that the hostellers are indeed different from "the other" school boys. You may ask me why this difference? Well the only reply I can give you is that unlike other boys our age, when we got sick we did not have our parents near us. There were only friends for every single thing. So we learnt to do things on our own. We had nearly forty members in our batch on the first day but in a month we became a bunch of forty brothers. It was not easy to be friendly with everyone as we came from all parts of the island with diverse cultural backgrounds. We were and still continue to be guys who are completely different from each other. But it is this common ground of difference that really brought us together as ironic as it sounds, and it is in turn this togetherness that made us learn and succeed.

Moving on to my hostel days, well all I can say is that they were full of memorable events. Apart from the daily rounds of inspection and the much awaited "meals" there were some annual events in the hostel calendar which we all looked forward to with enthusiasm.

The annual trip A.K.A "The Education Excursion" of the hostel which was the "traditional trip to Anuradhapura,

Katharagama and Nuwara Eliya" was the first event in the hostel calendar which was held in the end of the month of January. It was a great event that fostered our brotherhood and yes of course it was very "educative" indeed.

The bradby trip yet again was the same. We all pack up for a day's outing and head towards the hill capital of the country. Yet another event looked forward to is the "Big Match". We the hostellers looked forward to making our own flags and yes how could I forget the "Boys' Tent".

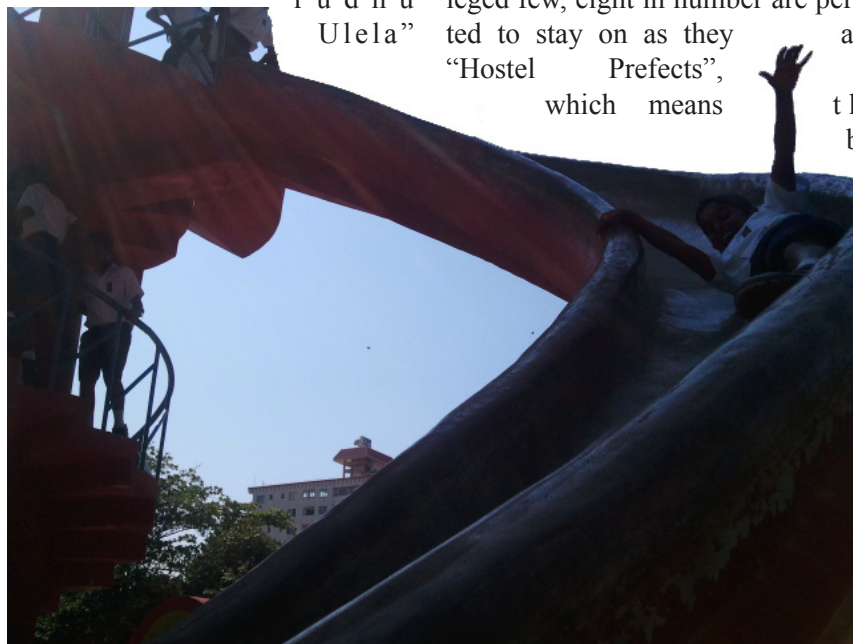
2007 was a very special year for the forty of us. You may ask what's with a year. Well it was in 2007 and for the very first time in the hostel history of College that

an "Aurudhu Ulela"

Because When we are in grade eleven, we have a great responsibility or should I say we "thought" it was great- The "Miyesi Meerawaya"- simply the most awaited and valued event for every "Grade eleven" hosteller. It is a musical show where hostellers sing, perform and act on the revered "Navarangahala" stage. I can proudly say that this is "our" event. But the mere Producing of a large scale musical extravaganza was far from why we considered that year to be life changing.



It was the last year in which the forty of us worked together as a family knowing that by the end of December we would go our own ways. The hostel only accommodates "students" upto Grade 11, and then only a privileged few, eight in number are permitted to stay on as they are "Hostel Prefects", which means that by



was held within the Hostel premises with the participation of all the hostellers. I was in Grade 10 and I was gradually moving into being a senior at the Hostel.

Time flew on and I found myself in Grade 11.

A year that changed all our lives. Why?

the end of our sixth year at college four fifths of us have to find a new "place". I refer to this as "place" because nothing compares to the hostel. The Hostel was our "Heart and Soul" it may sound Cliché to you but for us, it was and will always continue to be the only fountain of "inspiration and hope", in other words the Hostel had become a part of

us and leaving it was just unbearable. No doubt we were considered "seniors" and were expected to exercise the control of our emotions, but just put yourself in my shoes for a minute! In a moment of time we had to become a family under many roofs!!

Thus I am justified in terming the entire "Miyesi Meerawaya" episode of my Hostel life as "Life Changing". Moving on from my most stirred emotions, I would like to briefly present to you many improvements the junior hostellers experience today.

In the past, English was the main problem we had to face and yes we do admit it! There were no tuition classes for the hostellers below grade twelve and the absence of a music room for Miyesi Meerawaya practices, and a library for studying, were a huge disadvantage for the hostellers.

To minimize these problems the present Prefects' Council has decided to take action towards these problems. As a result with the actual implementation of these actions, tuition classes for main subjects such as Science, Mathematics, and English are being held for the hostellers. A music room is in the making, and the library is nearing completion. These are huge projects that were once a dream for us and now they are finally becoming a reality.

How can anyone put into writing the happenings of their home? They are deeply engraved memories that one can only reminisce. But since I have to, all i can say is that,

"The hostel was a great place where we spent half of our childhood. It was where we learned to live our lives and it was the place that made us who we are today and I know that every single hosteller is grateful to the hostel for that. It was the place that created our memories and after all Memories are all we have so we made them worth while holding on to."

Manodya Dilshan
Hostel Head Prefect 2011
Prefects' Council 2011/2012

Hostel New Year festival



Grade 6 hostel Trip



INSPIRATIONAL WORDS BY A FACE, SO WELL KNOWN...

1. All interviews start with “the beginning”, however we ask you of your last day in College as a student prior to your tenure of Prefectship?

I remember like it was yesterday; the day we got our admission for A/L was the last day I sat in a class room as a student before receiving the honor of Prefectship at Royal College. Honestly, I didn't feel sad as most of the other students did, because deep down in my heart I knew I will someday walk back into college and contribute towards its cause. I was certain not to distance Royal College from my life even though my College days were just about to end.

It wouldn't be wrong to say, that one would never be able to completely repay the debt we owe Mother Royal; However, I consider myself privileged to have been selected a member of the Prefects' Council. This indeed was an opportunity to at least serve my Alma-Mata in return for what it has given me.

The last day I wore my school uniform was the 3rd of December 2010. This was a heart-rending day for my fellow Prefects and myself; Although there was some kind of satisfaction by looking back at what we had done for the betterment of College during our tenure the grief of leaving College as a Student over took the satisfaction. There are no words to explain that feeling. It was definitely an end of an era in my life.

2. What are the different feelings you experienced when you became a Prefect?

I had a high regard and respect towards the Senior Prefects when I was a student and each and every one of them earned it, so as soon I was appointed I knew I could not be the same school boy I use to be. I had to earn the respect of the student fraternity.

The way you conduct your self when you are a Prefect will certainly set an example for the whole school. This meant a lot to me therefore I tried my best to be a good example to all the others.

I certainly cherished the responsibilities as a Prefect. The responsibilities always kept on pushing me to serve College in various ways.

3. Undoubtedly the role of “Head Prefect” is a milestone in any student's career. This role is a part of your memory. Your thoughts on being Head Prefect of Royal College?

Well without any doubt being appointed as Head Prefect is the best day of my life so far.

The exposure gained by being the Head Prefect of Royal College can not be put

in terms of a “value”. The interaction with exceptional Old boys who have excelled in society, the head of state, exceptional personalities etc are some of the many things I cherish.

The responsibility of being a Head Prefect is not all easy but weight on my shoulders was far more less because the Deputy Head Prefects and the rest of the Prefects was my strength. Handling a School which has over 8000 students and working with over 350 teachers is not an easy task.

Each and every one of the Deputy Head Prefects shared the responsibilities which made my life easy. The new projects we undertook as a Prefects Council was executed perfectly and the commitment shown by all Prefects made it easy for me to direct them. Our batch had some Prefects who had immense ideas for new projects though we couldn't execute each and every

one of the ideas the clubs and society felicitation ceremony and the assembly for the rugby players before the Bradby shield are a few things which we as a Prefects' Council inaugurated. I'm certainly proud to be the Head Prefect of the batch.

4. In life one always misses out on opportunities. Any opportunities you missed out on as a Council, you feel the present generation should catch on?

I was appointed Head Prefect in the Year Royal College was celebrating 175 years of success. We were involved in all of the events related to the 175th Anniversary celebrations. This gave us very little time to focus on issues which students face and to focus on restating the Royal Spirit which was slightly fading away from the students. Though we started the Royal Spirit Elevation Programme we could not focus or spend more time on continuing the programme and analyzing the progress of the students. This is something I should have given more priority.

The development of the Hostel and the Hostellers is an area which we spent very less time. The foundation was laid for many projects. We could not continue the projects due the time constraints. I'm delighted to hear that the current Prefects council is focusing

more on developing the Hostel.

5. On a more personal note, your stance on life at the moment and how your Alma Mater is a part of it?

I'm currently studying to become a Management Accountant. While studying I continue to swim and play Water polo professionally because that is my passion.

I'm involved with the Royal College Aquatic Sports programme which I will continue to help, with what ever



knowledge and expertise I possess I'm more than willing to share it with the current Royal College Aquatic Sportsmen. Going to coach the swimmers at 5am and Water polo players at 7pm is part of my life style now. This is one of the many ways Royal College is part of my life.

Where else playing for a Club, in my case the Sri Lanka Navy, the driving force is individual glory and individual agendas. I think this is common in Sri Lanka because the professionalism in Sport does not exist as the other countries do. Many good sportsman who excelled during their school careers do not continue the sport after leaving school due to the lack of professionalism the people who continue does it purely because of the passion.

9. What in your opinion is the driving force behind your success?

I have always been honest to my self in what ever I do. Making decisions based on a rationality doesn't always work. At times you must make decisions based on gut feel, which I have done.

The dedication and passion to achieve the goals in your life is really important. If I set my mind on a target I make sure I work hard towards achieving it and never give up until I do.

I have always done what I felt was correct to do and always followed my dream. My parents always encouraged me to make my own decisions in life and backed me in all instants to follow my dreams and my friends and team mates have always been beside me during hard times and good time.

6. Your fondest memory of College?

The memory of being a Prefect is what I will cherish the most. The time spent with my fellow Prefects serving College doing new projects will never be forgotten.

7. What does it feel like to be the only double Crownsman in the history of College?

This was one of the proudest moments in life. The pinnacle of a Sportsman's career at Royal College is certainly receiving the Royal Crown. Being able to achieve this twice and to be the only sportsman in the history of Royal College is overwhelming, but the first Royal Crown I received will always be more significant than the second.

8. Your take on the difference of experiences gained by playing Water Polo for College and for the Navy?

A Sportsman in Royal College or even a sportsman in Sri Lanka will always cherish the experiences gained by playing for College. The enthusiasm, the love for the sport and specially the love for the College will be the driving force when playing for College.

10. And finally as all interviews conclude, your message to the student body of Royal?

As I said earlier set targets and goals in life and never stop at any cost until you achieve them.

Some people say it's a waste of time to serve as a Prefect of Royal College as you have to spend an extra year in School. I think otherwise, being a Prefect at Royal College is the best investment you can make in life.

Finally keep in mind Royal College is not the Buildings or the structure, Royal College is all about the students so act as Royalists in order to sustain the image of College.

“Royal College is not the Buildings or the structure”

RoSE

There were quite a few questions being raised all over School, around the corners, in the corridors, in the Lobby. Many were baffled as to what 'RoSE' meant, and if it was indeed in reference to the flower, why it was spelled with the lowercase 'o'. Word got around though, as it usually does, that the Prefects had commenced a programme to address the problem of indiscipline and low Spirit within the present boys at College. The Prefects' initiative was timely indeed, and was aptly named 'Royal Spirit Elevation', RoSE.

Recognizing the importance of having a healthy Royal Spirit, the Prefects Council of Royal College conducted a massive and phenomenally successful campaign to promote the standards of the Good Old School. Traditions and standards which have stood the test of time, survived World Wars, aerial bombings by the Japanese, outbreaks of life-threatening diseases, just to name a few that come to mind.

A major reason for the urgent need for the upheaval of the Spirit for School is most probably the immense number of boys presently on roll at College. The amalgamation of Royal Primary and Royal College in the latter half of the 20th Century did, almost immediately, bring about the colossal task of administering thousands of students throughout all Grades. Boys do have a tendency of slacking when it comes to maintaining the high standards of this prestigious institution as an individual student is one of very many to be supervised and guided by the Academic Staff, Prefects and Senior Students. The unhealthy mindset of wearing the Crest on the breast pocket simply because it is a School regulation and not because it represents a deeper meaning, has become, very tragically, the order of the day.

The true meaning imbibed within wearing the Royal College Crest on the top right corner of the breast pocket of every School Shirt is to remind the wearer and the on-looker that the Royal Spirit; which awoke in Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Five, and flourished beneath the sway of Marsh and Boake, and made way for Lanka's learning to thrive; is still carried on, many decades later, in the proud hearts - as sound as oak

- of every single young lad within the walls of College. And the message of the Prefects was amply clear; either you wear the Crest on the shirt together with Her Spirit in the heart, or take the Crest off and walk out the Boake Gate.

Sessions were conducted for the Senior Students where it was explained that it was high time they started repaying the debt they owed to School and the best place to start with being the inculcation of much needed Royal Spirit within the heart.

A young man passes out the Boake Gate, walks up Reid Avenue and takes his route home armed with a sound education, life-long friends, an armoury of contact networks in the field of Government, academia, business, media, medicine and engineering and that indescribable quality of goodness and chivalry, honesty and integrity, truthfulness and straightforwardness, camaraderie and humanitarianism together with a never say die spirit of character - no doubt gained within the Beautiful School. It was therefore imperative; it was felt, to make sure the young chaps understood the severity of the responsibility of displaying the colours Blue and Gold. The life experiences one gains though participating in the various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities through the various student organizations found within College are priceless indeed.

It is mightily heartening to note that there exist some students who do not even know what House they belong to. Whilst this situation may appear abnormal to an outsider, we at Royal know that it is so simply because a Royalist isn't from Hartely, Harward, Marsh, Boake or Reed. He's simply from Royal. And these petty division only exist for a little fun and games during the Athletics Meet and then to be forgotten for an entire year or so. It is indeed a sorry state some other institutions find themselves in, where there exist ill-feelings between those who pursue the various different academic streams for the Advanced Levels. Not so at Royal. Many of the more enterprising young fellows are hardly seen to be in their own classes. Commerce students are found in Chemistry Labs chatting with old time friends. Mathematics students are found in the IT Labs challenging their friends in

computer games that haven't been blocked yet, and the list continues.

Every young Royalist's time spent in School from the cage-like classes of Grade 1, to the sacred precincts of the hallowed Main Hall where the Advanced Levels are taken, is a cherished period of unending joy and happiness. The warm welcome extended to the wizards of the Grade 5 scholarship exam who enter College in Grade 6, and then those individuals who have the good fortune to enter School to follow Advanced Level classes are among the long standing and cherished Traditions of this Institution. The amount of Spirit and passion generated for the School especially by those who enter Royal only for the last two years of school life does indeed speak volumes of the good standing this School enjoys.

Enough said. It is time now then to ask oneself some important questions.

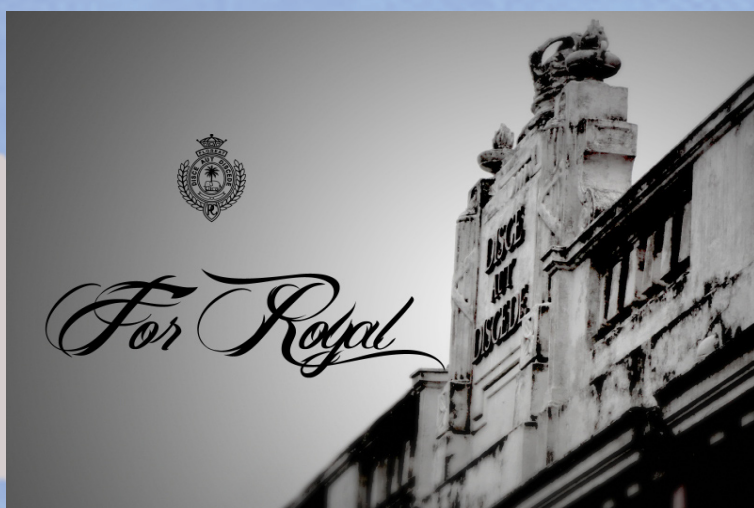
- Does your heart beat for Royal?
- What have you done to repay your debt?
- What changes are you going to make as an individual to uplift and elevate this Institution?

It might not auger well to wait for the perfect moment, it is therefore imperative that this very moment is grabbed and made perfect, For Royal.

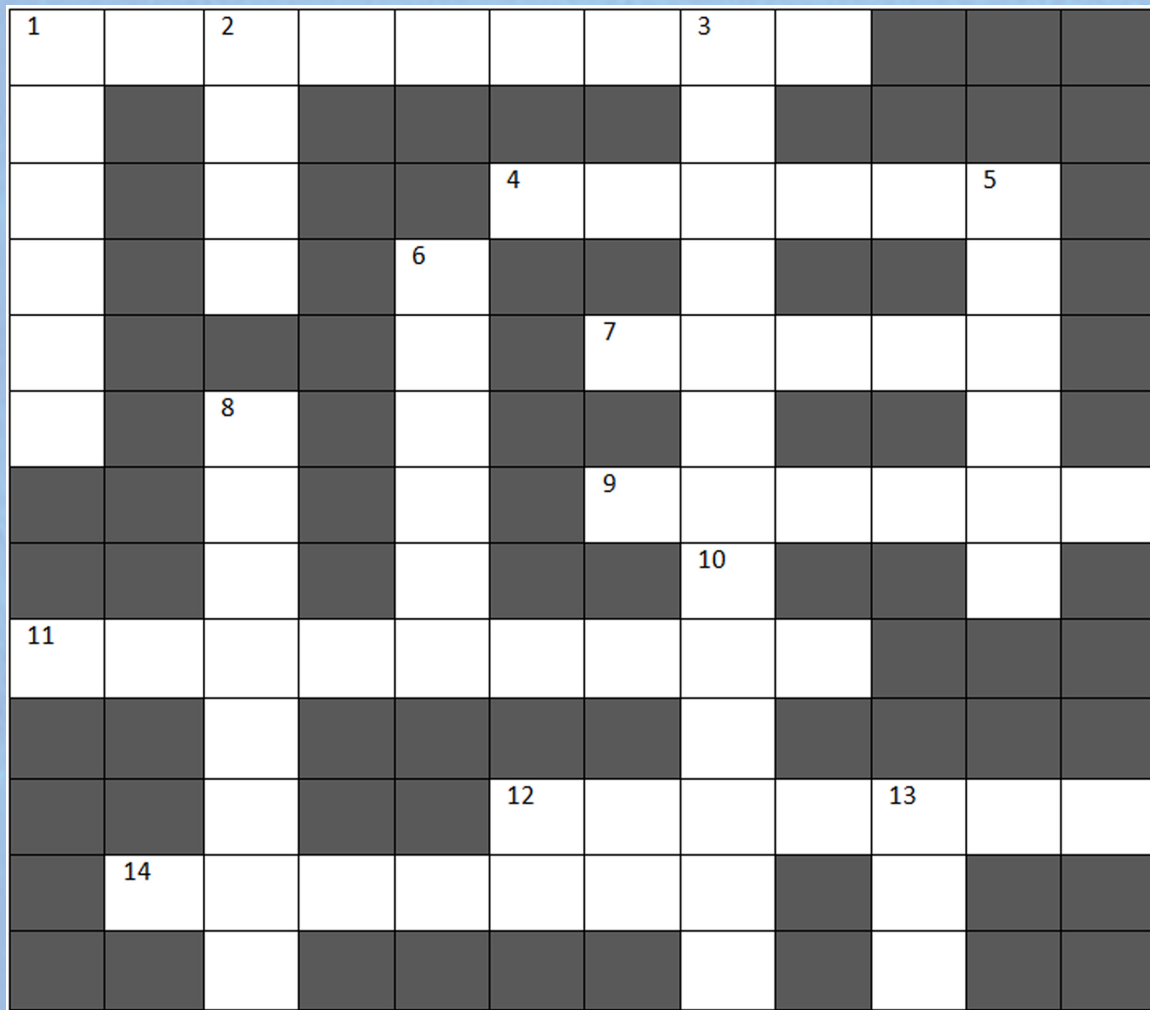
Is Royal on
your shirt
pocket?

or is it in your
HEART?

- RoSE



Crossword



Across

1. One of the most prominent Royalists, he was a medical surgeon, a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, Dean of Medical faculty of Ceylon, first Ceylonese vice chancellor of university of Ceylon, a senator and the president of senate; and a knight bachelor as well.
4. The first Principal of Royal College (as his predecessors were called head masters) who became the youngest Principal when he assumed the office at the age of 28.
7. He made the largest single donation ever for Royal College. In the colours awarding ceremony, scholarships are awarded in his name for outstanding sportsmen.
9. Wreaths of _____ can be seen around the shield in the present College crest.
11. This Royalist brought fame to our country when he won the gold medal for Boxing (featherweight) in the 1938 Sydney British Empire (Now Commonwealth) Games, thus the first international gold medal for Ceylon.
12. Name of a Scholarship awarded at the Prize Giving.
14. _____ teak was specially imported for construction of the present main building of Royal College.

Down

1. One of the Houses in the Hostel
2. College colours, Royal blue and gold were introduced and the motto was first mentioned in this Principal's era.
3. Middle name of the Principal whose some of most important initiatives include awarding colours for sports, Prefect system and introduction of new College crest.
5. "School of our fathers" made its debut in Schools singing competition for _____ shield, which won by Royal College consecutively through our Principal Reed's regime.
6. This person, who promoted Cricket in Royal College, was the captain of Royal team in the first Royal-Thomian cricket match played in 1879.
8. Middle name of the Principal who altered the name of Colombo Academy to Royal College.
10. When the World War II broke out middle section of Royal College was shifted to _____ road, which is now known as Dharmapala mawatha.

Sunny Days

On a certain day in February with the advent of the 'Big Match hype' it struck me to start something that hasn't happened since 2009. I called up a fellow Prefect Khan (Imran) and told him what I thought and he instantly agreed and he said "We'll call them up". As a result Imran Khan decided to call Sachin Pieris currently a Prefect at S. Thomas' College and he directed us towards Shelan De Livera the current Thomian head prefect. Although there was a lack of interest initially on their part, our constant persuasion resulted in the gaining of their favour towards the event we were about to undertake and possibly the birth of a long lasting friendship between the two Prefect's Councils of our two prestigious institutions. Thus "OUR" plan of restarting the tradition of the Royal-Thomian Prefect's Cricket encounter came to fruition.

The next plan was of course to build the squad with Waruna Dissanayake at the helm of it. The squad to play the match was as follows. Shanaka, Dimuthu, Nadeera, Sachitha, Ragaventhana, Chathuska, Chathuranga, Minura, Imran, Chamal, Insaf, Ameen, Abbad and myself (Thilina Galappatti). Whilst the practices for the match were going on smoothly, Imran and myself handled the organizational activities such as turf preparation, lunch and refreshments, audio facilities etc. on a personal note the organization of the event itself resulted in me getting to know and understand my Thomian counterparts much better as well. I have to add here Aadil Jabbar and Tharuka Manawadu provided invaluable assistance for the organization of the match without whose efforts the match would've possibly not taken place.

Shanaka, Dimuthu and Nadeera being baseball players themselves proved to be very adept at cricket due to the similar skills shared in both sports. Chathuska, Chathuranga, Abbad were very dependable when it came to the batting department. Considering the bowling side we had Shanaka, Ameen, Nadeera, Chamal, Ragaventhana and Sachitha, which formed a very formidable pace battery and to go along with that myself and Insaf being left arm spinners to give

the opposition batsmen a torrid time. Day by day the practice sessions improved our skills and friendship with one another and confidence levels were I would say extremely high though not overconfident. The date was set to 7th March 2012 at the College Main Grounds. One day before the mega event the '133rd Battle of the Blues'.

Coming into match day we came to the field and warmed up and the Thomians arrived a tad later lead by their captain Akeel Deen. The coin was tossed and we decided to bat 1st upon winning the toss. Minura



and Chathuranga opened the batting but we were off to a dismal start initially as there was an early strike with Minura being dismissed without bothering the scores. But Chathuranga went on to make 49 with Shanaka and Dimuthu making formidable contributions to aid the cause. But like any cricket match a few quick strikes resulted in the match turning towards the Thomians favour but Chathuska coming in at 4 down took on the challenge and with Abbad, provided a valuable rearguard action and finally upon the reaching of his half century our innings was declared at 196 runs for 7 after 25 overs.

Since there was time for lunch the Thomians were put into bat with a target of 197 off 30 overs. The Thomian openers provided staunch resistance and

were able to hold off our pace attack until lunch and went into lunch at 22 for no loss.

After a brilliant lunch (which resulted in quite a bit of overeating) the match commenced again albeit us being fairly sluggish on the field courtesy of the earlier mentioned lunch. After a few testing overs we were able to make a breakthrough with Imran Khan taking a splendid catch in the slip cordon to dismiss the opener, Upon which their batting order soon started to crumble under the pressure applied by us. Their captain Akeel Deen managed to show some resistance with sweet timing and placement. But upon his dismissal we were heading for an easy win by dismissing them for just 97 runs and I'm proud to say that I played my part in it by putting up a stellar effort at cover point with a catch off Ragaventhana's bowling and managing to end up with figures of 1-0-1-1 which translates to 1 over 1 run and 1 wicket. On a side note I would also like to say our performance as a fielding unit where we managed to take all catches offered to us which included quite a few stunners (guess all the hard work paid off!) would even make the 1st XI team proud. 6 catches were taken in all with Khan and Sachitha taking 2 each and Shanaka and myself taking 1 each.

My personal thoughts after the dust had settled and the bags packed were that we managed to build an even stronger bond with our

Thomian brothers with whom we have shared much over the past many years. This also resulted in us getting to know them personally on a better note and not to mention the memories and the bucket loads of fun we had and I'm sure this will not be forgotten till the day the Royal-Thomian traditions end (translates to NEVER). With great pride in my heart I chant the words 'Floreat' and 'Esto Perpetua'.

Thilina Galappatti
Prefects' Council 2011/2012

Mini Battle

The most wonderful time for any school boy dawns in the month of March where there's colour, excitement, parading and so many other fun filled endeavours taking shape to prepare for the Battle of the Blues.

While most eyes are on the Roy-Tho 'Big Match' a few young lads prepare for a battle of their own. It's the same sport, the same two schools but different This battle is a traditional encounter played for over 80 years between the 2nd XI teams of Royal College and St Thomas' College.

The Mini Battle is a tradition which is not given that much prominence but the experience that the 22 players gain during those 2 days on the field is unmatched.

Although not much prominence is given to this encounter, players tend to take this very seriously as it is the final chance to get into the big match playing 11. This fact was evident when in this year's Mini Battle Prabath Sampath scored a magnificent 151 which got him selected to the Big Match squad and he finally ended playing the Royal Thomian Big Match which enabled him to earn him his College cricket colours.

In the eyes of a school boy it's a totally different school day where all work is stopped and everyone is sent to the main grounds to support their team and beloved College at a fun filled atmosphere where a papare band keeps the whole grounds alive. The

mini battle itself is a sort of a warm up game for the students where the atmosphere changes from a busy working school day to an exciting venue surrounded by song and dance.

With a respectable season, this year's 2nd XI team was very experienced with three coloursmen and many players who had gained 1st match experience and we went into the game with a very positive mind set with the year 2002 being the year we won the mini-battle and losing the 2009 encounter which I too was a part of we were eager to make this year's encounter encounter to be remembered.

With a good start by winning the toss we elected to take first lease of the pith and put up a competitive total with Sampath de Silva ending up as the top scorer with 151 runs and myself missing out on a half century by 10 runs. With our declaration on 280 runs the Thomians seemed to be struggling to face our vastly experienced fast bowlers Gaurav Deva and Anjana Kudahetti. They were 80 for 3 wickets but ended up scoring 230 runs.

With a lead of over 50 runs we took the pitch to present a competitive target for the Thomians but unfortunately we lost wickets in quick succession yet, playing my last inning in the name of college I was touched and was determined to finish off my college cricketing career on a grand scale and I couldn't ask for a better farewell when I scored my final half ton for College and most of the audience present were the Prefects, Stewards and friends, who ran on to the

middle to congratulate me which brought tears to my eyes. It has always been a memorable experience to play for college but at the end it was "THE" most memorable experience when was carried out of the grounds and R-O-Y-A-L given with the team mates and everyone else was a moment. I'll always remember.

In years to come this tradition will be continued and will always provide a school boy to not only learn books but to also. Learn to play the game.

Floreat!!!

Chirath Devasurendra
Prefects' Council 2011/2012



A Sea of Blue and Gold

Out of the many traditions associated with the legendary Battle of the Blues that a Royalist has the privilege of experiencing during his tenure within the hallowed portals of Royal College, there is one experience that stands out among the rest. Admittedly it may not be one of the most exciting events in the Big Match Calendar but to a person who stands at the edge of the JR Jayawardena Pavilion looking out upon a sea of Blue and Gold it sure is one of the most awe inspiring ones.

The Annual General Assembly of Royal College which usually takes place on the day prior to the Big Match is possibly the largest gathering of students in college. It is of vital importance in our annual calendar as a set of symbolic functions of paramount importance is conducted on this day. To an individual who looks upon the event from a third party perspective it shows the sheer might and power that Royal College possesses. Anyone who witnesses the numbers gathered at the pavilion or hears the passionate cry of ROYAL coming from 8000 voices in unison would immediately know that Royal College is a force to be reckoned with.

If by any chance you plan on applying for the post of Steward or Prefect and face interviews anytime in the future I suggest you read this next bit very carefully as I am about to divulge some important information

which sadly, many students in College do not know. Among the many important items in the agenda of the general assembly there are six items of utmost importance which can be even termed as traditions of General Assembly. Firstly the Captains and Vice Captains of all Sports are introduced to the student population in College. Secondly the Senior Prefects are given their badges and also the Top Board for the respective year is announced. In order to formalize their appointment. Point number three and four are two speeches made on this day which are the speeches made by the Principal and The Head Prefect respectively. Also a lesser known fact about this grand event is that the first ever publication of the Big Match souvenir is given to The Principal on this day and lastly but most importantly the much loved first XI Cricket team is announced to the whole of College.

All in all the General Assembly is an event that embodies the true spirit of Royal to coincide with the Battle of the Blues and the atmosphere that comes along with it. I have had the privilege of seeing many a wonderful site in my years in college but trust me when I say this that the one chance I got to look down from that pavilion is a site parallel to no other. If any visual image could even come close to showing the true Royal spirit that would be it. And above all else the sense of gratitude that over whelms you for this

wonderful family that you have been given by this institution is unforgettable because you know that there will be 8000 brothers alongside you in the darkest of moments...To bleed Blue and Gold...To breathe Blue and Gold and above all else to BE THE BLUE AND GOLD.

Rajika Aluwihare
Senior Deputy Head Prefect
Prefects' Council 2011/2012



Cycle Parade 2012

The Cycle Parade is a tradition that coincides with the Royal – Thomian Cricketing Encounter 'Big Match', better known as the 'Battle of the Blues'. It is an event that is looked forward to by the student fraternity as it facilitates an opportunity to parade around the streets, and cheer for the College team, with papare bands and waving flags.

Traditionally, the route of the Cycle Parade depends on the location of the Captain's house, as this is where the participants are greeted by the Captain, and the College cricket team, however, due to many logistical reasons; this year's Cycle Parade had to take a different route; ending with a fine treat sponsored by the Captain Imal Liyange.

Organizing the Cycle Parade is no easy task, since there has to be several logistical decisions and effective communication, and delegation of work is of utmost importance. Coordinating with the Police, explaining the route, involving Sports Teams and Clubs and Societies, providing refreshments, organizing buses and Vehicles, allocating Papare Bands and informing Students are some of the many tasks that have to be looked into before the start of the Parade.

Having got permission from the school admin-

istration, the Prefects' Council proceeded onto facilitating the above mentioned necessities for a successful parade. A special mention must be made on the professionalism and the assistance given by the Cinnamon Gardens Police, who did an amazing job in regulating and directing the traffic during the parade.

On the 5th of March, the scheduled date, over 50 Cycles lead the parade which started at around 10.00 a.m. followed by the 1st XI Cricket team which had a special double decker bus decorated in Blue and Gold. Students above Grade 6 were able to participate in the parade provided that they carried written permission from their parents. A few sports teams were asked to bring Papare Bands to create the atmosphere for this colourful event. In total, over 5000 students participated, the dress code being strictly college uniform gave a message which signified unity, and added another dimension to the parade.

Halfway through the parade, water bottles were distributed to quench the thirst of all the participants, who endured a two and a half kilometer walk thus far. The whole parade was filled with Cheers of R.O.Y.A.L., and students dancing to the music played by the Papare Bands. The parade managed to gather a huge audience on either side of the road who were thoroughly enter-

tained by these scenes.

Finally, the parade ended at College, where the students made their way to the College Main Grounds, for the refreshments provided by the Captain. All in all, the Cycle Parade was a huge success and gave out positive vibes of inspiration to the 1st XI Cricket Team for the Big Match which was to be played on the 8th of March 2012.

Ameen Mohamed
Prefects' Council 2011/2012



Teachers vs Prefects Cricket Match



Students from all grades flocked to witness this much anticipated pre Big Match event.

The Prefects walked into bat first and amassed a total of 149 with a brilliant knock by Dimuthu Liyanage the teachers in return was bowled out for 99 resulting in a 50 run win for the Prefects

Date : 07.03.2012

Time : 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Venue : Royal College Junior Ground

A chain of thoughts....

I cried when I first walked in
All I wanted was to leave that place
I never thought that at the end
I'd be begging for a few more days

It all began with so many strangers
Unknown faces, no one to call a friend
I wanted out, to turn and go home
I just can't believe, it's all about to end

Slowly and surely, I found my way
I made friends, thought I was here to stay
The reality just hit me, a painful blow
It's time for me to close the door

The paths we trod, trees sat under
The smiles, the laughter, my memories wander
The colors of my life, the Blue and Gold
Will run in my veins, 'til my years grow old

The silent corridors, centuries old
To the MainHall, names written in gold
I never realized what it was all about
Now that I do, my time's run out

You taught me of books, you taught me of men
We brought the Lions down in their own den
Taught me of games, of ups and downs
And how never to give up, our golden crowns

You kept my back straight, my head held high
Showed me that a will is all you need to touch the sky
This won't be easy, it'll take a lifetime or more
But I promise to repay the debt I owe....

Senal Siriwardena
13 MSE

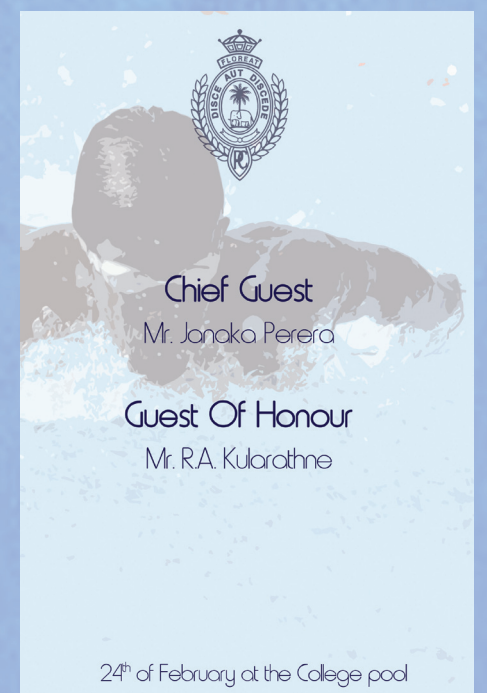
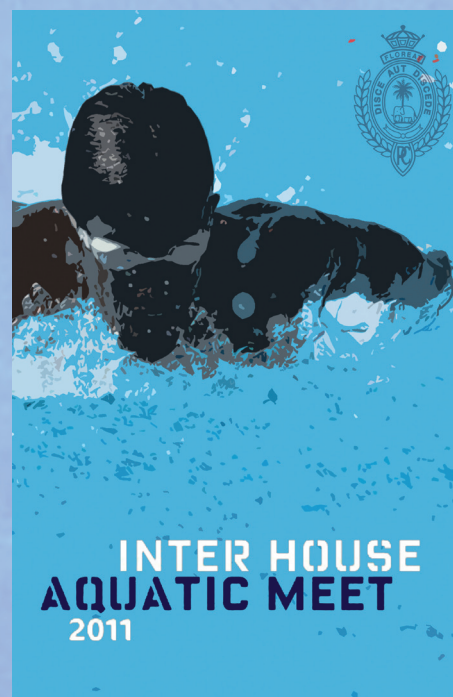
Mustangs Trophy

The 37th ODI between Royal College and S. Thomas' College better known as the Mustangs trophy was played at the SSC grounds on the 17th of March. The Royalists having won the toss and decided to bowl first and the Thomians were able to put up a total of 238/9. Royal in reply managed to score 134 runs in 29 overs before the rains came down which then brought Duckworth Lewis system into play. Royal was then asked to score a controversial target of 258 runs in 35 overs (124 runs in 6 overs) Royal failed to meet

this requirement which resulted in S. Thomas' winning the match and regaining the trophy. However at a press conference held about a week after the organizing committee announced that the trophy will be shared between the two Colleges as there had been an error in the calculation of the revised scores.



INTER HOUSE AQUATIC MEET



Pictures taken from the Souvenir of the Inter House Aquatic Meet for the year 2011 which was held in 2012. The meet was won by Marsh House and Reed House was adjudged as the best decorated house.

133rd Battle of the Blues
8 - 9 - 10 March 2012





This year we as a Prefects' Council made an effort to create a huge hype and atmosphere in school throughout the days leading up to the 133rd Battle of The Blues and we can proudly say that we surpassed our expectations and we would like to thank the following parties who made this all possible

Firstly we would like to thank the Principal, Vice Principal, Deputy Principals, Assistant Principals, Senior Games Masters, Sectional Heads and Teachers for all their support.

Also a special thanks goes out to each and every student for supporting us one way or another, be it donating money or decorating their class rooms or both

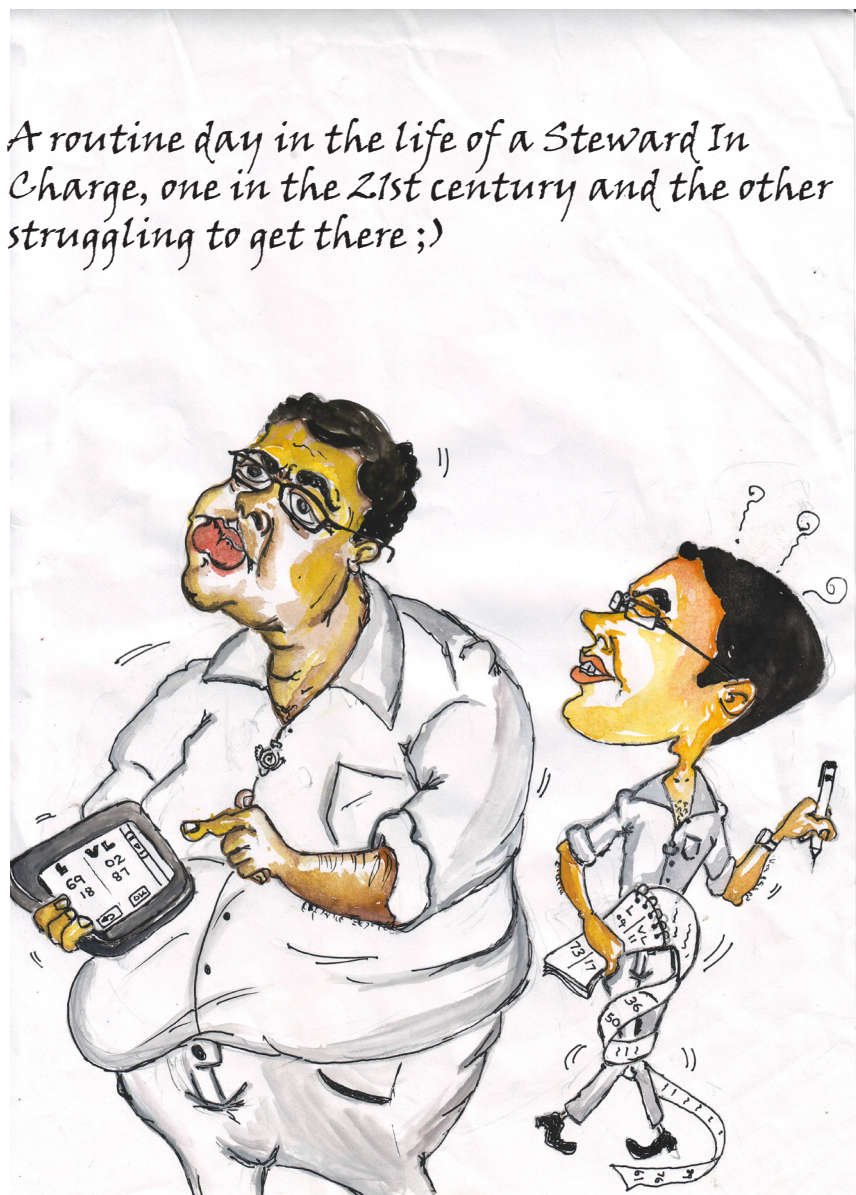
A special mention goes out to the grade 11 hostellers who helped us with our Big Match promotions by working day and night to design 3 epic posters.



FROM THE SKETCH BOARD



Making the all important transition from the thrilling cricket season to the intense Rugby season with a mission and a purpose to bring the Bradby Shield back to where it belongs



"Cut Cut Shave & Polish" !@#\$\$%^&



A typical scene @ the much loved & cherished SIYAMBALA GAHA

IT

The Importance of Information Technology at Royal College.

Information Technology is the latest trend in the global sphere. In the 21st Century, technology is omnipresent in day to day life. From the latest mobile phones where various functions can be done using just your fingertips, to high tech computers that can be used to create an entirely different virtual environment. Technology is growing to be the driving force in world politics and economics.

Royal College having a student fraternity of over 8000 students, 350 teachers, and thousands more in its alumni which by no means is a small number has a constant circulation of information among its stakeholders. Since there is a large number of information that needs to be circulated among a sizeable amount of individuals, Information Technology is one of the main facilitators to make sure this information is circulated accurately, and is received by the stakeholders concerned. Websites serve the function of bridging the gap between the school and external stakeholders, and is one of the main methods of circulating information. With the invention of Facebook, information is circulated among the users, through pages and groups, since there is a huge fraternity on this social networking website, it makes the task much more easier and user friendly, where individuals can respond and leave feedback on various updates.

Looking beyond the circulation of information, there is also the need for effective communication, and again Informa-

tion Technology facilitates this through electronic mails, which are used to send information to many individuals within a space of a click. This makes administrative functions at Royal College much easier, since it is faster and more reliable than the conventional 'snail mail', and is also cost effective in comparison.

The availability of the Internet and the access to the World Wide Web is nowadays near compulsory, since extra material for academic purposes is present in educational websites. Royal College being a premier academic institution provides facilities through the many computer laboratories as well as the Wi-Fi Zone where individuals can access the internet after school hours, to further fulfill their academic endeavours.

Further more, with the introduction of the Digital Notice Boards (DNB), school notices and various updates from the clubs and societies as well as sports, are displayed on a screen in the form of videos, posters and animations. This creates a more visually effective method of creating interest among students to participate in various functions, and also is a more eco friendly method, considering the fact that there will be less wastage of paper and other printing material.

Information Technology is the very reason as to why a database of over 8000 students could be maintained so accurately, and could be accessed with a few clicks. Through this database, the user will be able to extract an amazing amount of details that could benefit administrative and statis-

tical functions.

The above mentioned facts are just a minute amount of examples that highlight the importance of Information Technology at Royal College. And as technology improves, the need for it increases as well, eventually improving the efficient functioning of Royal College.



Clubs and Societies

Big Match, Colours night, Cycle Parade, Athletics meet, Inter house swimming meet! the first 3 months of 2012 has indeed been dedicated to sports and the glorious traditions relating to it. Whilst feasting upon the adrenaline pumping action that has been taking place on and off the sports circuit, there has been a certain section of College that has been quietly but tirelessly and efficiently working 24/7 to make College a better place and to bring its name much glory off the field of sports. If the reader is still wondering as to what this section may be, well I won't keep you in suspense any longer, it is the Clubs and Societies of Royal College. The past three months has been so tightly packed with some of the school calendars most anticipated events that most of us Royalist have forgotten that there are 57 clubs in College that have been working most passionately for the sake of College. In this little I shall do my best to relate to you some of the main events that has taken place in College during the time you were busy decorating your class rooms for the 133rd Battle of the Blues encounter.

Most importantly what should be mentioned is that this is generally the time in which most of the clubs and societies have their Annual General Meetings during which the old board bids adieu and a new board is ushered in and I am happy to say that the Prefects' Council even though burdened with many other functions were able to be present at each and every one of these meetings.

The Prefects' Council also conducted a special seminar for all the secretaries of college on the 23rd of February at the RCU main Auditorium. This is the 1st of a series of seminars we intend on holding for the clubs and societies of College. In our tenure so far one of the main problems that we were able to identify within the system of clubs and societies at College is that many of the students have the want and are willing to do work but lacks the technical knowledge to accomplish the work due to the fact that the training which the seniors were supposed to provide was not done so in a methodical manner. Due to this before the end of April we intend on conducting seminars for the Presidents and Treasures as well, the dates will be informed in due time. Depending on the response of the students the Prefects' Council intends on doing more advanced seminars on varied topics within the span of the next three months.

On the 23rd of February the Red Cross Society held its Annual Blood Donation Campaign which as expected was carried out with much pomp and pageantry. Even though this is yet another blood donating campaign a special note must be made in recognition of the very special achievement these young men were able to make this year which was, that they broke the previous record of

the highest number of participant's at a school blood donating campaign in a single day.

The Interact Premier League organized for the fourth time by the Interact Club was held on the 20th of February at the CH & FC grounds. The matches commenced at 9A.M sharp and saw close to 20 Interact clubs participating to win the coveted title and the Prefects par tradition fielded a team as well. To the delight of many a Royalist and to the dismay of the Hindu College boys at the grounds the Prefects were crowned champions of this annual event and were even given a trophy for their efforts.

Harasara Pranama which is the main project of the Sinhala Drama society was held this year for the 7th consecutive occasion at the Navarangahala on the 10th of February. This year as well the Tamil Dramatic Society played a key role in the organization of this project. An Interesting feature about this event is that this is the only awards ceremony in Sri Lanka which presents awards for all three languages on the same day at the same time on the same stage for the achievements in the field of Drama. This year the make-up artists in the drama circles in Sri Lanka were felicitated for their tireless commitment in the art of make-up in the field of drama in Sri Lanka.

The Islamic Society on the 21st of February held its annual intergrade competitions at the grade 10 block. They ranged from Calligraphy, Islamic Songs, Essays and many more. A notable feature in this year's competitions was that the judges who conducted the competition were all from various reputed Islamic Institutions. The much anticipated Inter School Competition which is of national renown is hinted to take place in May.

The Annual Royal-Thomian Big Debate in the Sinhala and English Languages were held during the build up to this times Cricket encounter and as expected both parties held nothing back in dishing out insult after insult during two of the most enjoyable afternoons in the month of March. As with tradition even though no winner was decided the challenges so confidently issued from one party to another ensured that the stage was set for an epic battle once the cricket encounter commenced.

Even though the Clubs and Societies of College are an entity of its own it should be mentioned that they were very much interested and even significantly contributed to the Big Match hype the Prefects were trying so ardently to create. During the Cycle parade many a club travelled in the parade, where some clubs went to the extent of bringing Pa-pares to the parade. The Photographic Society and the Red Cross Society also put up stalls in the Boys tent and provided the students with various facilities ranging from the customized photos to medical aid during the course of the

Big Match.

During the Colours Night the Sinhala Dramatic Society, The English Drama Society and the Western Music Society played a key role in making the entertainment acts a possibility and contributed tremendously in making the theme of the event relatable to the audience. Their sheer dedication and commitment on such short notice must be commended, the fact that this was all done within 4 days of the conclusion of the Big Match should not be forgotten.

With the Big Match coming to an end and exams looming around the corner school has indeed quietened down, but this is not an excuse for the Clubs and Societies of College for the work they do is not restricted to just a time period but it is one which spans the duration of the whole year and without doubt it can be promised that the best of Clubs and Societies for the year 2012 is yet to come... and with many a hope I bid adieu, hoping once more brief you during the next term.



Sports

A special attachment will be published on the Colours Awarding Ceremony with the next issue

In Ancient times Men fought Wars. Wars formed such an important and integral part of their Lifestyle and Culture. He had to fight using his Strength, Speed, Size and Wit (instead of Bullets, Missiles, Grenade), that he had to keep his body in shape and stay fit. For that he had to work hard and sacrifice a lot of Time and Energy. Just as Wars were something, he took great pride in, the modern man has great pride in Sports.

“Learnt of Books and Learnt of Men
And Learnt to Play the Game”
-Mr.H.L.Reed (Principal, Royal College)

...Says the chorus of our mighty and beloved Alma mater’s anthem. Although some Interpreters suggest that the phrase ‘Game’ refers to the ‘Game of Life’, the general opinion is that it refers to the fact that a True and Complete Royalist is someone who not only works hard academically and studies the ways and means of People, but is someone who strives hard in the field of Sport.

Royalists young and Old have always borne testimony to this. Our records, not only in the field of Academics but also in the Sporting arena speaks volumes about the truth in Mr.H.L.Reed’s interpretation of ‘Whom we should be’.

The years 2011/2012 have been no different in this regard. Our Sportmen have thrived from the Cricket grounds to the Swimming Pools, From the Rugger fields to the Basketball Courts – Our Boys have done their Alma mater proud.

“They have repaid the Debt they owed,
They kept thy fame inviolate “
Mr.H.L.Reed (Principal, Royal College)

We have won numerous Trophies (Most of them Champions trophies) in various Sports. And one of the more notable things is the fact that we haven’t lost a Single Royal-Thomian Encounter. And only the Roy-Tho Cricket Bigmatch ended in a Draw. Royal ended up in the Winners seats in all the other encounters (A dreadful fact that our Mt.Lavinia Brothers would want to put away and move forward).

Having said that I end this message of mine by expressing my utmost confidence that this great Sporting tradition would continue at Royal College, Colombo-07, And that our Boys clad in Blue and Gold would always Deliver.

Shehan Pathirana
Deputy Head Prefect of Sports
Prefects’ Council 2011/2012

Gymnastics Results:

Sahan Thejana Peiris was ranked 36th out of 62 participants at the 12th Junior Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championships In Thailand this year.

Rowing Results: Open Regatta-March

Gorden Armstrong Sculls:
Shanaka Ediriweera - Champion
Aman Sideek - Runner up

Vanlangenberg Pairs: Champions
Chamal Gomes and Amrith Fernando

Swimming Results:

National Short Course Meet - Runners Up
Annual 2 Mile Sea Swim-
Overall 3rd place
Kanitha Munasinghe 8th
Visal Poornaka 15th
Chandula Fernando 22nd
Kanishka Fernando 25th

All Island U-19 Badminton Tournament

Group Matches.
RC VS St. Anthonies won in 3 Singles matches
RC VS Dharmaraja College Won in 3 singles matches

RC VS Ananda College ‘B’ Won in 3 singles matches

SemiFinals
RC VS Ananda College Won 1 singles match and 2 doubles matches

Finals
RC VS St.Peters College Won 2 singles matches and 1 double match

Overall Champions of the tournament

Volleyball Results:

The Royal College Volleyball team emerged champions at the Circuit and Zonal Meets in all three age groups.

The Royal College under - 19 Elle team emerged Champions of the Circuit and Zonal meets.

Rugby Fixtures

Team	Home/Away	Date	Venue
DS Senanayake College	Home	Sat Apr 21	RCS
Vidyarta College	Away	Sat Apr 28	Nittawela
Science College	Away	Sat May 12	Mount Lavinia
St. Joseph’s College FC(TBC)	Away	Sat May 19	CR &
St. Anthony’s College	Home	Sat May 26	RCS
Kingswood College	Away	Sat June 2	Bogambara
St. Peters College	Home	Sat June 9	RCS
Trinity College (1st leg)	Home	Sat June 16	RCS
Isipathana College	Away	Sat June 22	CR & FC
Trinity College (2nd leg)	Away	Sat June 30	Pallakelle
St. Thomas’ College	Home	Sat July 14	RCS

Athletic Results:
Champions of Circuit Meet



505

Royal College, which was founded in 1835, was first known as Hill Street Academy and was situated in Wolvendhal Street Pettah. Initially, the student population was around 20. Since then, this institution with humble beginnings, expanded to be an establishment which produced an alumni of absolute quality that has taught the value of 'learning of books, men and the way you should play the game of life'. This school has undoubtedly influenced many things in our motherland Sri Lanka, and also around the world.

In 1836, Hill Street Academy was renamed Colombo Academy up until 1878, where Principal J.B. Cull changed it to Royal College as we know it. When considering the building and locations, there have been 4 locations (excluding the World War II period) before the present one at Reid Avenue, which eventually became our permanent home since 1923. The present main building is a structure of pure architectural brilliance, and the main reason for this to that is definitely because it was designed by the Queens Architectural Staff at that time. Interestingly, this building is also symmetrical, and could be folded into exactly half if it was a design on a piece of paper. The value of this building is unimaginable due to the constituent factors in the making of it.

As much its history adds to the value that Royal College possesses, the core of it is in the individuals who attend this hallowed institution. This is because; every individual is part of this legacy of over 175 years and still growing stronger than ever before. With over 8000 students, the core principals are built upon the school motto and the school song. 'Learn or Depart- Disce Aut Discede', 'Learn of Books and Learn of Men, and Learn to Play the Game', 'They have repaid the debt they owed, They kept thy fame inviolate'. These three aforementioned lines are engraved in every single one of these students.

'RoSE' or the Royal Spirit Elevation programme as it is known, is an initiative of the Prefects' Council to make sure that these aforementioned values are cemented in the student fraternity. It is a programme that makes students understand the value of their environment, the value of the history they are part of, the value of being a Royalist and most of all the value of being human. These programmes went on to touch on subjects like protecting the main buildings, making sure garbage was dumped in an orderly fashion, ensuring that cleanliness is a practice and went on to also elaborate the necessity for the 5S structure of Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu and Shitsuke, which is a Japanese practice to achieve orderliness and efficiency. Even though these taglines were used in the pro-

gramme, the message behind it was definitely conveyed to the students who attended this programme.

After these programmes, the Grade 12 students who attended the programme understood the need for orderliness and the need for preservation of these extremely valuable buildings which were being somewhat neglected due to ignorance, took matters to their own hands and engaged in activities and projects to make sure that they could contribute in whatever way they can to fix any shortcomings in their surroundings.

To acknowledge the efforts made by these students and to encourage them to do more, the Principal together with the Prefects' Council held a Felicitation Ceremony.

At this ceremony, a video was shown highlighting the difference they had made at their Alma Mater and these students hard work was acknowledged by the Principal in front of the whole grade.

Our Council hopes that this spirit will spread even more among students in school and these 175 years of spirit and unity, will not diminish but go on for another 175 years to come.

Floreat!



Projects Completed

Windows Renovation Project

The 5S Committee within the Prefects' Council 2011/2012 identified that the money donated in 2009 by the East Coast Old Boys of Royal College in United States which was used to replace and renovate the windows in the East Wing of the Main Building was in excess, and took responsibility in using the excess funds to further maintain these windows. As a few of them were not in very good condition, the excess funds will be used to replace these windows.

Quality Circle Competition

Quality Circle Competition is scheduled to be held twice a month in Grade 6. This competition will be judged by Mr. Rohan Wirasekara and the 5S committee of the Prefects' Council of 2011/2012 and the batch of Scouting Instructors of the year 2012 who will be guided by the respective grade head. The best Quality Circle in each respective month will be awarded prizes at the end of the month.

- The Main Objectives :

The objective of this competition would be to uplift the qualities in students as well as to promote better standards in this academic institution. This will teach students to identify problems and find solutions to them. This will also enhance their abilities to plan and work as a team which will benefit them in the future.

- Goals

To promote Quality Circles in Royal College.
To uplift the standard of college.
To promote team work.
To create a better academic environment.

The Process

Step 1

Create a number of small Quality Circles(Team) in your class. Each Quality Circle should have about 8 students but definitely not more than 10.

Step 2

Give a name to your Quality Circle and choose Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Remember to have a book to record what happened at your meetings.

Step 3

The 1st period of every 1st & 3rd Monday of every month would be the period for the class Quality Circle meetings. During this period each team (Q.C) must meet separately and think how your class, grade, school could be improved. I suggest that you start with your class before going any further.

Step 4

If may be that your class is not properly lit, windows broken, no proper cleaning done or having a boy who is weak in his work etc. your Q.C will now prepare a list of problems to be solved or improvements to be made.

Step 5

Once your Q.C has prepared this list you must prioritize & identify what the most urgent requirement is. You will also check with other Q.Circles in your class to prevent duplication.

Step 6

Now you must closely examine the selected problems/improvement and discuss & plan what you as a small team could do to solve it. This could be divided into 4 areas.

- Things that you could do on your own (Eg.Keep the class clean, have charts, colour codes).
- Things where you need the help of the class teacher.
- Things where you need the help of your parents.
- Things where you need the help of college authorities.

Step 7

You may be able to divide this task into a number of sub-tasks & assign your members the sub-tasks to be completed by a specific day. Another method commonly used is

- Identify the problem.
- Identify the the cause of the problem.
- Discuss & investigate the options that you have to eradicate the problem.
- Use the best & the most efficient option to eradicate the cause of the problem.

Step 8

At the next meeting or at a prior date your Q.C must meet & find out how successful you were in your task. Here you will have to think about the following.

- How far were we successful?
- What action helped us to succeed?
- How far were we unsuccessful?
- What actions led us to failure?
- Shall we try it again with the newly gained data/experience using different methods?

Cleaning the School Premises with the Late Comers

The students who come to school after 7.30 a.m. will be used to clean the school premises and the surroundings. This includes cleaning notice boards, dried leaves and various plastic and polythene bits and disposing them in to the specific waste baskets.

Upcoming Projects

Poster Campaign

A poster campaign which will be under the specific theme of 5S will include a cartoon series illustrating the importance of 5S and also the ways and methods of going along with the 5S system. This cartoon series will address even the younger students to engage in these activities.

Drainage System

The canteen is used by over 4000 students per day, however, the drainage behind the canteen is not in good condition, and causes discomfort due to the smell from it. The 5S committee has planned and estimated the cost to renovate this drainage system, and will be implemented soon.

Feedback page and the Info Royal page

A page will be created on facebook and awareness among people about the 5s projects that are being implemented in Royal College. This page will also feature information regarding upcoming events.



Academics

G.C.E A/L Examination 2011

Royalists who made it to the islands top 100

Bio Science Stream

Name of Student	Index No.	Physics	Chemistry	Bio Science	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
P.S. Ruwanpathirana	1056204	A	A	A	3.0334	1	1
M.C.P. Madurapperuma	1056506	A	A	A	2.8429	4	5
I.S. Gajanayake	1056816	A	A	A	2.6099	12	27
L.H.P. Kodithuwakku	1056093	A	A	A	2.6067	13	29
M.J.C. Gunarathna	1059202	A	A	A	2.5239	24	52
C.D. Balasooriya	1056018	A	A	A	2.4582	33	87

Mathematics Stream

Name of Student	Index No.	Physics	Chemistry Mathematics	Combined	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
N.M. Seneviratna	1057910	A	A	A	3.1158	1	2
B.A.V. Perera	1057229	A	A	A	2.9262	5	11
T.D. Welagedara	1056980	A	A	A	2.7929	7	22
S.N. Jayasundara	1058169	A	A	A	2.7265	12	29
D.M.P.N. Dissanayaka	1057928	A	A	A	2.6797	15	41
G.I. Hettiarachchi	1058177	A	A	A	2.6148	22	52
C.N. Sooriyarachchi	1059700	A	A	A	2.6010	23	60
T.R. Samaraweera	1057189	A	A	A	2.5953	24	62
K.A.D.B. Priyadarshana	1058592	A	A	A	2.5460	28	80

Commerce Stream

Name of Student	Index No.	Business Studies	Economics	Accounting	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
G.G.D.D.C. Chathuranga	1060295	A	A	A	2.8755	5	10
N.M.J.T. Piyadasa	1060387	A	A	A	2.8284	7	14
N.G.D.K. Kamalanath	1060309	A	A	A	2.6181	29	57
L.S.N. Silva	1060236	A	A	A	2.5055	47	100

Arts Stream

Name of Student	Index No.	Geography	Art	Sinhala	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
K.M.L.M. Karunarathna	1062247	A	A	A	2.2798	5	22
Name of Student	Index No.	Economics	Business Studies	Art	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
I.S.P. Pushpakumara	1060775	A	C	A	1.1209	7	23

Bio Science Stream (Repeaters)

Name of Student	Index No.	Physics	Chemistry	Combined Mathematics	Z score	District Rank	Island Rank
B.M. Gunawardhana	7032862	A	A	A	2.6279	10	24
P.P.B. Wijeratna	7030622	A	A	A	2.4610	31	82

My Education at Royal College

Education is the most important and valuable gift which a person can get in his life. Throughout the history, many institutions around the world have given birth to great minds that diverted the path of the human race. Likewise our Royal College, the premier educational institution has produced most of the prestigious citizens in Sri Lanka. What makes Royal so special? As a Royalist I would like to take some of my wonderful memories at Royal to show what I personally think about it.

I still remember my first day at school. On that day my grade one teacher said a sentence which I kept in my mind throughout the past 13 years. She said "Take everything from Royal as far as you can and be a person who can change the world". From that moment I realized that I was given a rare opportunity to be a part of this great

institution which I shouldn't miss. Unlike in many schools we were taught not only the basic subjects but also good habits and social skills. I wasn't a scholar and I didn't sit for the grade 5 Scholarship exam but I was able to be at the top in studies throughout my school career. We had all the facilities to learn every subject and we took the most from our highly sophisticated computer labs. Teachers did their best to educate us by using various methods of teaching. I was able to balance my academic and extracurricular activities while engaging in Table Tennis both locally and internationally where I was awarded Royal College colours twice and Sri Lanka school colours once.

After passing my O/Ls with all 9 'A's for all subjects I entered the A/L science section of Royal College which has the most systematic and organized education process in the whole island.

There were two teachers for each main subject and because of that we were able to cover a vast syllabus within a short period of time. We did all of our experiments in the well equipped Physics, Chemistry and Biology labs compared to other schools in the country. We also improved our knowledge from libraries which contained a number of valuable books. Because of our Teachers' involvement to take our academic levels into a higher standard, I was able to make my school very proud by being the All Island 5th in Bio stream with 3 'A's at the 2011 A/L examination. It is the best honor which a student can ever bring to his school in return.

For the past 175 years Royal has been producing many sons who are both educated and disciplined. As a senior prefect I would like to see more and more brother students like that. I'm proud to say that I have done ev-

erything that a true Royalist can ever do to his alma mater. I couldn't have done all these things without the support of our principal and the teachers but I'm really sad that I have to leave my school which took care of me for the past 13 years.

SO FELLOW ROYALISTS!!! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.... MAKE THE BEST OF IT AND MAKE MOTHER ROYAL PROUD!!!!

FLOREAT!!!!

**Chirath Priyanga Madurapperuma
2011 A/L Bio Island 5th
(Prefects' Council 2011/12)**

DISCIPLINE

Wealth Should Be Measured Not From What We Have, But From Who We Are!

At a glance the word 'discipline' seems very simple. It is usually taken very lightly. Among the many thoughts that may come to mind as a student when reminded of discipline are some such as haircuts, clean shaven, proper uniform, punctuality, obedience, punishments and probably Masters and Prefects. At a glance it doesn't seem too appealing and seems nothing but a load of regulations once broken that leads to punishments.

Discipline among many other things means regulations, standards, control, obedience, respect etc. As individuals we all want to succeed in what we do. Although taught, learnt and practiced in numerous ways, discipline is without doubt a key to success. Every successful individual and enterprise practices certain norms and works within certain boundaries; in essence regulations, standards, restraints, obedience and respect in the relevant fields.

Current ways are such, that as students most of us look at discipline the wrong way and hence see it incorrectly. To most of us it's a pain, something we do (discipline ourselves) to avoid punishments or warnings. It has come to a point that most of us discipline ourselves not because we want to but because we are forced to. Those who are forced to, most often stand out in society for all the wrong reasons. On the other hand those individuals, who discipline themselves out of want, stand out in society for all the right reasons. Such is the influence and significance of discipline on life.

As a student of Royal College I firmly believe that we should be of the highest standard and discipline should not be something we need to be taught. As a fellow student I believe that it is something we all should be, we all should be disciplined. To be precise it should be in us, to be proper.

It's important that as individuals we start making an honest commitment towards making ourselves, our homes, our schools, our cities, our countries and finally our world the disciplined and proper society we all wish for. It's of no use to expect others to do the right thing, if we are not going to commit ourselves first. I hope that all students of Royal will be wise, smart and strong enough to make a change.

My honest wish is that within the next couple of years Royal College will be able to truly live up to the reputation it is known for and that Royal College would be the ultimate benchmark for everyone, be it academics, sports, clubs, discipline and in general as an institution. We might be the best in what we do right now but the best is not good enough for Royal standards and hence I wish that we achieve those true Royal standards in the near future. I wish that future Royalists would be able to be proud of their history just as we are today. If we as present students do not make an honest commitment towards making Royal truly ROYAL, we would leave no history to be proud of for our future generations.

These standards may seem unrealistic and they will be until such standards are achieved. There always has to be a first. I understand that creating the kind of quality with 8000 students would be a real task. I do not expect to compromise quality for 8000 students neither do I expect us to compromise 8000 students for quality. Royal stands for majestic, stately, noble, magnificent, splendid and extravagant. Royal symbolizes power, the best, class of its own and most of all means ABOVE ALL.

For example take any Royal Family in the world. They stand for the very best, the most and the highest in any and every way. So should we as Royal College. Queen Victoria granted permission for the then Colombo Academy to be renamed with the title 'ROYAL' in in recognition of the high standards maintained at the time. I believe it's our duty to maintain and bring back those standards that we were recognized for and justify calling our self Royal College.

If we are to be Royal we need to live up to what it stands for, this means very high standards, optimum quality and ideal discipline. I wish that from the Principal, right down to the youngest student of Royal College, we will be able to live up to what Royal truly stands for and justify our glorious history.

Being disciplined is being right, so be true to yourself and you shall be disciplined.

Let us start with the very basics –

- Proper Uniform
- Decent Haircut
- Clean Shaven
- Punctuality
- Commitment
- Team Work
- Honesty
- Truthfulness
- Modesty
- Respect

Chirath Karunanayake
Prefects' Council 2011/2012

Did you know ?

- The Main Hall was constructed by the Queens architect at the time, and the Navarangahala was Sri Lanka's first National Theatre.

- Almost a hundred Royalist were killed in the First World War and the Big Match remained uninterrupted through this time.

- It was at Navarangahala that the first constitution of Sri Lanka was signed by Hon. Sirimavo Bandaranayake and the Sri Lankan flag was hoisted on the flag pole outside Navarangahala. It is still one of the best open air theaters.

- The Main Building is constructed facing the North and it is symmetrical.

- The 3rd oldest boat race in the world is the Royal –Thomian boat race.

- The school library started in 1837 and is one of the oldest school libraries in Sri Lanka.

- The Battle of the Blues is the oldest Big Match in Sri Lanka and the second oldest in the world.(1st ashes)

- The Main Gate through which the senior students enter is known as the "Boake Gates" and it was named after Principal Dr.Barcroft Boake, who on the day of his retirement was given a sum of money with which he bought a silver tea pot and gifted back to school. And since then it has been handed down from Principal to Principal.

- Houses of Hostel ...Anghie...Beleth...Bradby...Corea

Stewards

Some days stay Gold forever

“What is it that makes a Royalist complete?” The Golden question some might call it. “What needs to be done in order to be a TRUE Royalist?” is also often asked by many people who would one day like to call themselves a true Royalist and have that significant title of a “Royalist” under their belt.

According to many old Royalists, being a Royalist is all about the life altering experiences that we go through, be it sports or any extra-curricular activity which is done in College. The memory of senior students of College asking us to join various clubs, sports or societies is a memory we as a batch will never forget. We were always told that the experiences we go through will be golden and unforgettable. The fact of the matter is, no matter how much we are made to understand, the experiences will be treasured and never forgotten only by going through it, and we as a batch, have gone through many such experiences in style.

The Battle of the Blues, or better known as the “Big Match” is one of the oldest sporting events not only within the history of schools, but within the history of history itself. It is the root cause for all the hype in the two schools during the month of March. To this date, the rivalry and the spirit between the two schools Royal College and St. Thomas’ College is 133 years old, and it stands as the oldest, uninterrupted Cricketing encounter in the history of Cricket. When it comes to the Big Match, both schools have a major part to play, not only in playing the game, but in working for everything that needs to be done in order for this grand event to take place. Since the start of this significant encounter, two significant activities have stood out in both schools during this time. These two activities have and will continue to contribute towards the betterment of the encounter in the years to come. These two historic activities are the Boys’ Tent and the Big match Souvenir which is done by both schools, in support of their respective Cricket teams for the year.

Of course, two big acts of support of this nature, requires an immense amount of dedicated work in order for it to be a success, and we as a Steward batch, have been lucky to have 10 such stewards involved in making both the Royal College Boys’ Tent and the Royal College 133rd Battle of the Blues Souvenir a success. Being a member of the Souvenir Committee as well as being a Steward places one with a huge responsibility of committing to both the Boys’ Tent and the Souvenir, and in all honesty, balancing the duties of Souvenir Committee and the duties of a Steward will be a memory that a few of us in this batch will cherish and one day look back and think “those were the days”.

The work for both the Boys’ Tent and the Souvenir usually starts around mid-January and everything is usually done and dusted by about the first week of March, and we as a batch know, that the experiences we gain in these two months are the memories that will last forever. When it comes to the souvenir, from procuring advertisements to going on sponsorship hunts and going to the printers daily and the bond we have while working for it is a truly remarkable experience which will not be forgotten easily. Likewise, when it comes to the Boys’ Tent, the same sort of strong bond is created within us as a batch, through all the things that we have to go through to make it a success. Looking for banners to submit, meeting company executives and

looking for sponsorships and, of course, the night we put up and decorate the tent will never be forgotten for various reasons, but surely for all the right reasons.

All these wonderful memories and experiences are well worth going through, but the better memories involving both the Souvenir and the Boys’ tent are had on the three days of the Battle of the Blues Encounter. When the Souvenir is finally shown to the committee members, the applause around the Main Hall and the excitement each and every member feels to finally see what the souvenir looks like is a thrilling experience. Wearing both the legendary hat and the badge and walking around the perimeter of the SSC grounds selling the souvenir, might not sound very exciting, but once again, in order to know what the experience is like and how it will be useful in the future, it has to be experienced personally.

At the same time, all the hard work which has gone into making the Boys’ Tent pays off when the stewards personally experience the feeling of managing the Boys’ Tent and keeping the spirit within the tent alive and cheerful, while seeing the smiles



on the faces of the boys, big and small. This makes certain, that the effort gone into to making it a success is fully worth it.

All in all, switching between selling souvenirs and coming to the Boys’ Tent is a fantastic experience in all aspects. The people you meet, selling souvenirs, taking shifts at the Boys’ Tent are all unforgettable. But the emotions that a Member of Souvenir Committee who is also a Steward will feel when he gives one of the loudest “R” is heard at the Boys’ Tent can’t be matched with any other feeling. We as a batch are proud to be a part of two such prestigious parts of a historic occasion and we will cherish the memories forever.

Being a Royalist does not mean solely excelling in your studies, or being a good sportsman. It means having a balance in both, giving back to school in every way possible and through it, gaining those life changing experiences whilst making unforgettable memories that would last a lifetime; THAT is what makes you a true Royalist.

Truly, I can safely say, some days, most definitely stay GOLD FOREVER.

**Priyesh Perera,
Probationary Steward 2012**

The Boys Tent Experience

It all begins with being selected as a probationary Steward for College. The feeling you get once you know you are amongst the few privileged who have been chosen to serve College as leaders next to the prefects is amazing. From the very beginning the prefects kept telling us that one of our greatest tasks as stewards would be the big match..... the organizing of the boys tent, to be more specific. Nipuna and Ashan being appointed as the two people in charge for the boys tent, most of the burden was entrusted upon their shoulders. I took on the post of Finance, as I was requested to.

We began work close to three weeks prior to the big match. The banner forms were printed and handed out to the stewards of our batch, along with our humble request to find banners as fast as possible. Putting together the boys tent for the big match is no walk in the park. We needed every possible helping hand we could get a hold of. The design we needed for the tent was drawn up by some of our fellow stewards. An open forum was held and all the stewards came up with their ideas for the tent. Consequent to much deliberation,

we were able to finalize our plans for the tent.

Once we had it all planned out, it was only a matter of putting it together..... or at least that’s what we thought. The first meeting was held with the Big Match organizing committee. I was unable to attend it due to unavoidable circumstances but Nipuna, Ashan and a few prefects from the council did attend. That very evening my batch mate Nipuna calls me up with the first bottleneck..... the organizing committee does not approve of the design and our plans almost entirely!!! We as stewards found it so hard to agree with their reasoning, because we know how much our stewards went through to put this plan together! How on earth are we going to tell our batch mates that their efforts have gone to waste? We brought the matter up at the next steward meeting and broke the news to the guys with great reluctance. We had already decided that we weren’t going to let our plan be taken away that easily. A few days from then, Nipuna and I decided to give it one last shot. We knew from the very beginning that prefects council will always be there for us. We spoke to the Head Prefect, Shehan Gomez and described the situation and asked for their help. He consented to come along with us and persuade the organizing committee to agree.

It was a Tuesday and one of the longest Tuesdays ever! Nipuna and my self sat down waiting for the organizing committee to arrive.....minutes felt like hours that day.....waiting to give one last shot..... hoping and praying that our plan will pull through. Finally it was time. We walked into the room... ..sat down and began to discuss the problem. I’m not sure for how long we spoke....and I can’t explain how hard we fought to go ahead with the plan our batch mates came up with.... but it all ended shortly....the committee had made their final decision and “NO” was their response, with many reasons as to why. With only one week for the match, we walked out angry and sad.. trying to wonder how on earth do we break this news to our batch mates! We stood there for a while... speechless...but I knew it was not over. I had already made my mind up. Maybe they made our boundaries smaller than before. But we are going to do every single thing humanly possible, within those lines of restrictions!! And we as a batch would not rest until the last minute of the last day of the big match comes to an end.

We began to work twice as fast and twice as hard as time was a luxury we did not have. Adding coal to the fire, the artwork for the face of the tent was rejected based upon some arguments raised by authorities. We also realized that we were finding it hard to obtain the finances required to implement our plans. But after what we have been through, bad news was no stranger to us. No matter what the problem is, “so what?” was our thinking now. Nothing was going to stop us! The moments you ask your self if its worth going through it...you look around for an answer. To be honest the bottle necks will push you to “QUIT!!”. But it wasn’t long before I found my answer which has and always pushed me to go on...”For Royal”.... the motivation that these two words can do.. can only be experienced by a devoted Royalist. When you have no reason to go on but every reason to let go..these two words will be your pillar of strength. We pushed every steward to their limits and beyond...and through thick and thin we stuck together and managed to put up that tent for our fellow Royalists!!

I can’t explain the feeling... the experience of being in that tent and “Rocking the boys tent”, as our stewards in charge would say. It was our duty to see that every individual within the boys tent had a smile on their face. We as a batch worked hard to achieve that. As the steward in charge of Finance for the boys tent, I can share the most bitter experiences one could go through. But I’ve always taught my self that, amidst going through all this hardship, trying to achieve satisfaction by attempting to pay back our debts to college...was our reward...and most importantly enjoy it all. I am proud to be a part of our steward batch! Mostly... I am proud to say that.. “I AM A ROYALIST” and always will be.

Floreat!!

Message from the Principal

The art of writing is one of the most elevated forms of self expression. What makes writing more important is the impact it bares upon each and every human being. Thus I consider it a great pleasure to pen a few words for the first quarter of "The Royalist" newspaper -2012.

A part of the proud heritage of College is its approach towards the development of students in all aspects. Royal College not only emphasizes in academic excellence but also seeks to develop students both spiritually and morally. A publication of this nature further widens the existing pathways of creative expression. It also serves as an essential tool in the identity of college keeping us on par with the globe. It is an opportunity for students to express them-

selves and I am sure that this has enabled them to identify and pursue their hidden talents in the sphere of writing and the creative arts.

The responsibilities undertaken with great effort, to make a publication of this nature a success by our sons of Royal College is Commendable and I congratulate them in their accomplishments today.

I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Upali Gunasekara
Principal.

Message from the Head Prefect

It is with great pleasure and pride that I contribute this message towards the first edition of 'The Royalist' magazine for the year 2012.

This magazine was last published in the year 2005 and we as a Prefects Council took the initiative to revive its publication due to the fact that we believe that it is one of our duties to enlighten every party who is interested in the happenings of College.

This edition covers all the activities that took place within College during the first three months of the year. In addition to write ups on all the major events it also covers the main activities that our Prefect's Council has carried out under our main committees which are discipline, academics, sports, clubs and societies, IT and 5s.

The initial period of the year 2012 has been a very action packed one not only for the Prefects' but for the Academic staff as well as the students. A brilliant example for this was the month of March. Apart from being a month of immense enjoyment and festivity it also brought about unimaginable levels of exhaustion as we undertook the task of organizing events such as the Cycle Parade and the General Assembly along with the tedious task of finding the necessary funds to make our dream of a brilliant boys tent a real-

ity. In addition to all of this we took up the responsibility of organizing our College Colours Night on the 14th of March which was just a few days after the Battle of the Blues.

In my opinion a race run with many obstacles in your path is a lot more memorable than one without any at all. With this attitude we as a council surged forward to make sure that nothing would stop us in our quest to make these events unforgettable for everyone who was a part of this great journey. But none of this would have been possible if not for the following groups of people. Firstly I would like to thank the Principal and the Academic staff, RCU, SDS and the SDC for always being there to support and guide us throughout all our ventures. Secondly I would like to thank my fellow Prefects'. What we achieved so far was not because of anybodies individual brilliance. The main reason why we got as far as we did was because we functioned as one team and most importantly as one family. We understood each others strengths and weaknesses which enabled us to achieve an output close to perfection almost all the time. So I hope we can maintain this bond not only throughout our term as Prefects' but throughout our lives because family is family for ever at the end of the day. Lastly I would like to thank all the students of College for their continuous support.

"A vehicle is of no use without any

fuel and it was your passion, drive and commitment that helped us move that car forward to a level which we thought was unattainable."

As far as this magazine goes, I would like to thank the two editors Insaaf Nazeer and Shehan Perera for their tireless efforts in making this magazine the success that it is and I would also like to thank those who gave of their time to contribute articles, Ideas and thoughts which made this magazine a much more colourful and interesting one.

I would also like to leave all you present students with a few thoughts. With every second, minute, hour and day that passes by our time in this great institution draws to a sad close. Everything that we are involved in has the potential of being yet another addition on to what we like to call our 'List of Lasts'. The two latest additions being our last year at the boys tent in our college uniforms and our last colours night as students. In a few more months we'll merely become a fragment of the great history of this institution that has taught us to learn of books and men and how to play the game. YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF ROYAL COLLEGE. It is you that has the potential to either make or break Royal. Unfortunately for an institution as great as ours there is no halfway mark so do whatever it takes to 'make' Royal. Give of yourselves to

Message from the Master in Charge of Prefects

It is with immense pleasure that I contribute this message to the newest issue of "The Royalist" magazine which comes out to welcome the year 2012.

Among school magazines in Sri Lanka, The Royalist has reached the upper most position because of its supreme standard. The members of the Prefects' Council 2011/2012 stepped forward to publish it again as they have felt the importance of this publication and their endeavor should be immensely appreciated. A magazine of this type provides a rare opportunity for the students to publish their creations and to get enlightened about what is really happening

in their alma mater.

I would like to convey my immense gratitude to the Principal for granting permission for the Prefects' to go ahead in this venture. I am of the opinion that every present day Royalist will be able to reap the benefits of the magazine and pave way to become a befitting Sri Lankan. I wish everybody the very best !

**H.D.R. Hemachandra
MIC- Prefects'**

Mother Royal and make the best of the time you have left because the sad truth is that time flies and most importantly don't leave any room for any regrets because you'll have to live with that for the rest of your lives. Make sure that when the day comes for you to leave those Boake Gates that you can proudly say 'I AM A ROYALIST' because that is the greatest prize a Royalist can achieve and remember only 'Those Who Deserve It Bear the Prize' (Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat)

**Floreat!
Shehan Gomez.**

Arts Arts and Away

“The Arts is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things.”

-T.S.Eliot.

The Arts and Man are inseparable. This is an undisputed fact. Those who accept this truth of life are in complete control of their emotions. For those who don't, well, the problem is to see not life in terms of the Arts, but Arts in terms of life.

In our great history of over a hundred and seventy five years, we “can” or rather should we say “must” take great pride in the fact that we are (or rather have been), Lanka's foremost institution that patronizes the Arts. The mentioning of “must” in the above line is by no means a command, but a gentle re-

minder to our valiant Royalists that we have a right to be proud of what our Alma Mater has given us, instead of just glancing over the Arts as would be the custom of modern society.

As the literary genius Shakespeare himself says, “Man should be pleasant without scurrility, witty without affectation, free without indecency, learned without conceitedness and novel without falsehood”. Of course it is by no means a “must” that one should be acquainted with Shakespeare to possess these general principles of life, a simple understanding of human emotion is all that is needed, but the expression of these basic emotions are made possible through the arts, thus taking us back to the inseparability of Man and the Arts.

Every Royalist must take pride in the fact that College was one of the pioneers in the fields of Western Classics. Latin and Greek were of a high standard in College despite them being “Dead” languages in

the west. French was taught and spoken on par with those in France and Milton and Shakespeare were discussed with great poise and enthusiasm. College is still the best of the few state schools to pursue with classical studies. One must by no means forget that high standards of Sanskrit and Pali were maintained apart from our mother tongue Sinhala.

We need not therefore condemn this Artistic age of ours but take inspiration and great pride from the symbolism of Ibsen and Yeats, from the destructive irony of Shaw, from the artistic brilliance of Shakespeare, from the complicated ideas of Eliot, and look forward to an artistic and literary development from our own College.

OUR COLLEGE.

God gave us Royal from of old
And adorned her panels with glory,
He gave her stalwarts, strong and bold
To shine in song and story.

In this great province of Ceylon
Stands Royal's situation,
Its noble walls, its stately halls,
Compel our admiration.

Long flourish Royal, may she stand
Erect and strong for ever
And may her sons on every hand
Be spurred to high endeavour.

No Royalist can read without thrill
Of Royal's advancing glory,
And may her gallant victories still
Be told in song and story.

-R.S.

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