



ENGLISH 2024-2025

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BENIN

EMBRACE THE EARTH



Designed and edited by: Preeti R. and Poorab K.

The Yearbook Committee



I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as Yearbook Club President this year. It's been a journey filled with creativity, collaboration, and a few inevitable ups and downs—but through it all, our team showed commitment, heart, and humour. Even when we faced delays or moments of doubt, we kept moving forward together. I'm also thankful to the teachers and members of our school community who supported us throughout the journey—with their patience, encouragement, and cooperation. They made this process smoother and a lot more meaningful. Leading this team has been an honour, and the memories we've created—on late afternoons, over endless edits—will stay with me long after the final page is turned.

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Photographer; Yearbook Editor**
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**Operations Assistant;
Writing Editor**
Richard
HOUNDONUGBO



Headteacher's Message

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

— Wendel Berry

It is not at all surprising that in recent times, several of our themes of yearly focus, collectively chosen, have revolved around the topic of the environment. Mother Earth has been calling out to us, and it has come to the point where it is impossible for us to ignore her plea. As we witness the extreme weather disasters of floods, storms, heat, and wildfires that have affected millions of people in many parts of the world, we acknowledge the abuse which has, over several decades, been heaped on our *Great Mother*.

Have we taken our planet for granted? Have we been thoughtful and appreciative of how she has always nourished us with air, water, food, medicine, comfort, and beauty for the eyes to behold? How fortunate we are to be part of a planet which is just the right distance from the sun, and with a magnetic field which gives protection from harmful solar radiation. With the optimal chemical ingredients for life and an insulating atmosphere, our Earth should be perfect for us. As author and environmental activist, Wendell Berry, wrote, we must "cherish what remains of it and foster its renewal."



We have made a promise at school to *embrace the Earth*, and we know that it is something about which we need to be intentional. We must encourage and remind one another to be faithful stewards of the Earth in order to counter the damage already done. Our opportunities to *embrace the Earth* come in many forms throughout our learning journey. In Science classes we study photosynthesis and feel grateful for plants in their production of oxygen, which is essential for our respiration intake. In Geography lessons, the primary drivers of climate change come into light and students reflect on their collective role to help suppress the effects. Our younger children enjoy learning more about the role of insects in the great web of life, gaining respect for our miniature fellow beings. Through this and more, we come to see clearly how environment and humans are interdependent, and why biodiversity earns our esteem.

So many of our Earth's precious secrets have been passed down through the generations. Others have yet to be tapped or revisited. Many of these secrets are like gold, with powerful wisdom coming from sage advice given thousands of years ago, such as that of The Hippocratic School of Medicine, which flourished in the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. Lauding traditional food which the Earth provides, the Hippocratic Corpus proclaimed, "Let food be thy medicine." There is still so much to learn today about medicinal plants and herbs, and about the value of traditional, locally sourced food which the Earth has on offer, and that which exists outside the industrial food pipeline.

There is a Native American proverb which says: "We are but one thread within the web of life. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves." Each form of life is integrated with every other life form. *Embracing the Earth* also means embracing one another, for it should follow that when we are more humane toward our environment, we are more humane toward one another. Our embrace extends to those who nurture us, those who inspire us and those who need our care. A global response is necessary to make amends to our Earth. We at E.I.S., as the global citizens we are and aspire to be, represent the world. We can help lead the way.

-Dr. Rebecca Khelseau Carsky-Stephenson



TEACHERS



Mrs. Pinki Gill
Playschool/Nursery



Mrs. Irène OLOU
Reception



Mrs. Rachael CHUKWU
Year 1/2



Mrs. Iman HIJAZI
Year 3



Mrs. Nouha AL SOUSSI
Year 4



Mrs. Magdalene MADUAGWU
Year 5



Mrs. Ebunoluwa AFOLABI
Year 6



Mrs. Simran GAJWANI
Year 7



Mrs. Nneoma MBAKA
Year 8



Mrs. Juliet ANIBABA
Year 9



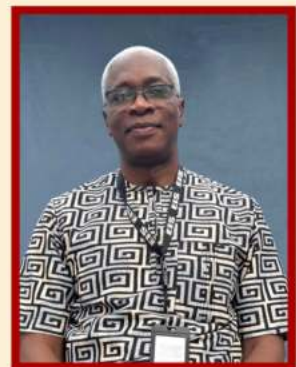
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Year 11



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Year 12



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Year 13



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Ms. Ivanna DJOUMESSI
Statistics



Mrs. Laetitia TOGBE
Early Years/
English



Mrs. Amani SALEH
French



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DAGNONHOUEYTON**
French



Mr. Eudes TESSY
French



Mr. Moussiliou SALOU
French



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KOSSOU**
Music



**Mr. Ornel DAGA-
KOSSOU**
Music



Mr. Zuls Nouwe
Games



**Mr. Mamadou
FASSASSI**
Games/Capoeira



Mr. David GNANHUOI
Art



**Mr. Carlos
DJOGBEHOUE**
Art



Mr. Ludovic GNANVI
Swimming



Mr. Hugues HOUNGA
Swimming



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**Amourath
BOUKARY**



**Anihouvi
BODJRENOU**



**Diane
HOUNKPATIN**



**Zayenab
INOUSSA**



**Eulodie
FANDOHAN**



**Lidwine
GLELE MELE**



**Cornelle Segnon
AGBONOUKON**

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Play School**



**Guardian:
Lower School**



**Guardian:
Middle School**



**Guardian:
Administrative
Building**



**Guardian:
Administrative
building**



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Gardener**



**Yvette ATIMBADA
Cleaner**



**Celestine AZIA
Cleaner**



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**Roland
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**Bernice AGUE
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**Martine DAGBA
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**Felicieenne
ATINDEHOU
Cleaner**



**Sabine
YELOGNISSEY
Logistic & Purchase**



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Support**



**Julien DJIVO
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SADISSOU
Driver**

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Simon COLLINS
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Inès Titilola ADJE
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**Stephania TCHEDE
HOUNSOUNOU**
Administrative Assistant



Adjarath T. TIAMIU
Secretary

THE STUDENT COUNCIL



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Vice

President: Jean-Philippe Golou;

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Treasurer: Priyansh Tahiramani;

Committee

members: Miriam Augustt,
Syntiche Soglonou, Lea Gaquere

A word from the President

The 2024–2025 school year has been an incredible journey of collaboration, creativity, and resilience. Leading the student council this year has been both an honour and a challenge one filled with moments of learning, growth, and meaningful impact.



Balancing academics and leadership was not always easy, but it was made possible thanks to a dedicated team that consistently worked with purpose. Every project we undertook came from a place of wanting to make school life more vibrant, inclusive, and supportive for our peers.

This year, we brought a variety of initiatives to life. From the energetic 3-Day Mufti Mayhem to the joy-filled Christmas celebrations with class games for the lower school and cookie decorating for the middle school we wanted each event to connect with students in different ways. We also focused on academics, creating a Discord study space where resources, tips, and encouragement were shared freely, easing the pressure many students felt during Checkpoints, IGCSE and AS exams.

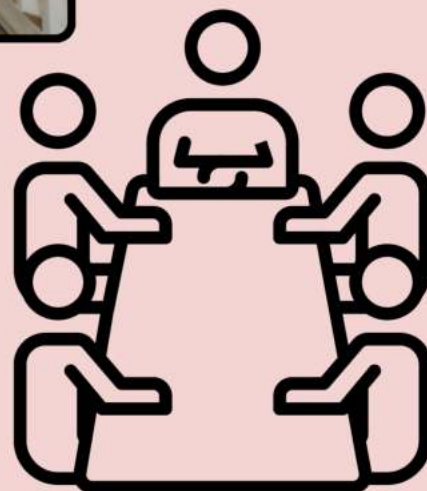
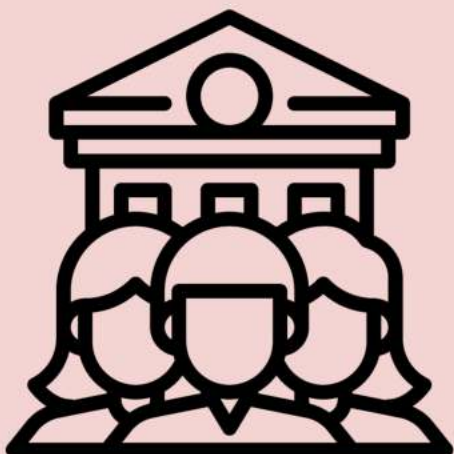
In response to student voice, we launched a school-wide poll and brought the Model International Court of Justice (MICJ) to life- a simulation that sharpened students' debating, critical thinking, and public speaking skills.

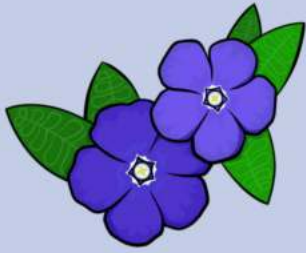
The Valentine's Day Bake Sale was a success too, even as we struggled to keep up with the unexpected turnout. I'm incredibly grateful to the peers who stepped in to help, showing once again how powerful teamwork can be under pressure. We also celebrated global culture with an International Day, filled with music, dance, and diverse foods.

Each event came with its own set of obstacles but we faced them head-on, and always together. These experiences taught me that leadership isn't about having all the answers, but about being willing to listen, adapt, and work with others to find a way forward.

To every member of the student council, thank you for your commitment and passion. To Mrs. Carsky, all the teachers and students who supported us, your enthusiasm was our motivation. And I hope the years ahead may be even more ambitious, inclusive, and inspiring.

With gratitude and pride,
Arya .H. Patel
President, Student
Council





PLAYSCHOOL

-The start of something quietly beautiful.

Peniwinkle



Yuki MOCHINAGA



Yuri OBA



**Noa DUPONT DE
CLERCK**



Ali EL DORR



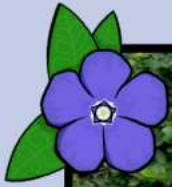
Darsh SHARMA



**Noham KARIMOU
ASSOUMA**



Kona OGASAWARA



Our Fun...





NURSERY

-Soft steps, sweet starts, and a future already blooming.

Jasmine



**Kashya KARUNAWANTHA
GEEKIYANAGE**



Mateo HOUSSOU



Ilyan KOUNOU



Lea ANANI



Nolan TOGBEDJI



Jawad THLAIJE







RECEPTION

Water Lily

-Still waters. Quiet roots. Steady bloom.



Tiffany AMOUSSOU



Ilan HOUSSOU



Grace DAYOU



Amal KUMAKO



Mirai OBA



Abubakar SOW



Victoria QUASHIE



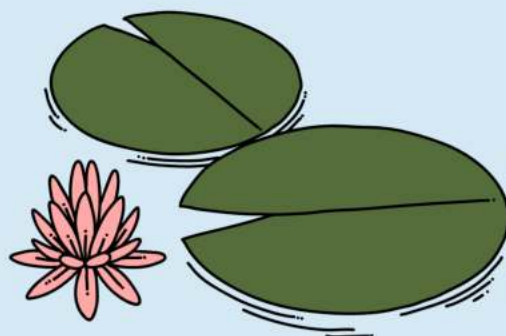
Prakshi AKUL



**Pierre-Olivier
WADAGNI**



**Ichiha
OGASAWARA**



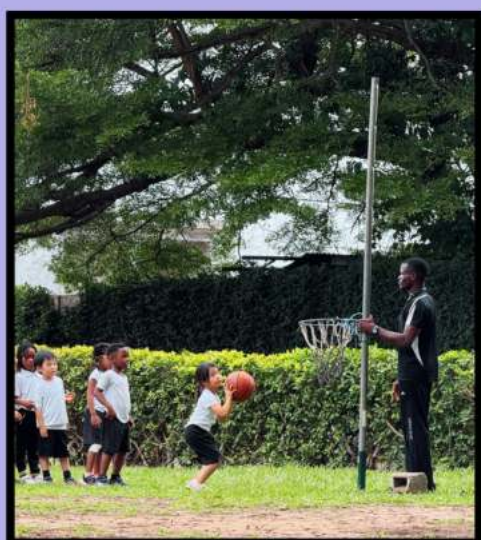
flicker of moments...



Little singers, loud smiles!



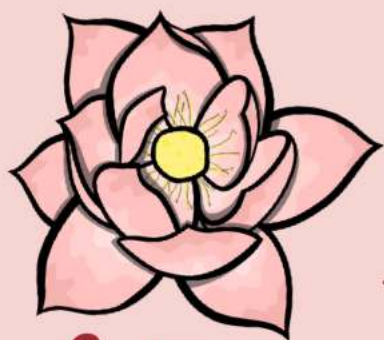
Flour, fun, and lots of giggles.



Eyes on the goal...



And there it goes!



Lotus

Year 1

-We may be small, but like petals on still water, we're learning to float with grace.



Heaven BILLIET



Yaelle CODJO



Charline CAPIAU



**Boris Alexandra
SCHINKEL**



**Soraya ADAMOU-
NDIAYE**



Saavi SHARMA



**Elie Dominique
TOGBE**



**Elian IMENA
MUGISHA**



**Satya Gautham
TEEKALA**



Maëlle TEEKEN





YEAR 2

Daisy

-We're small and bright—growing gently, one petal at a time.



Emna BA



Luc CHADARE



Keren HODE



**Karthikeya
KOMALLAPALLI**



**Kafui Army
LAKOUSSAN**



**Anael Babatunde
OLIHIDE**



Maya-Rose QUASHIE



Charbel SEMAAN



Rita SEMAAN



**Avyaan
TRIPATHY**



**Yacine Osseni
ALLADJI**



**Elom Rock
DAYOU**



Ayush LOHANA



**Alyssa Sasha
Kouassele WADAGNI**



**Shammah Digne
SHIMWA**



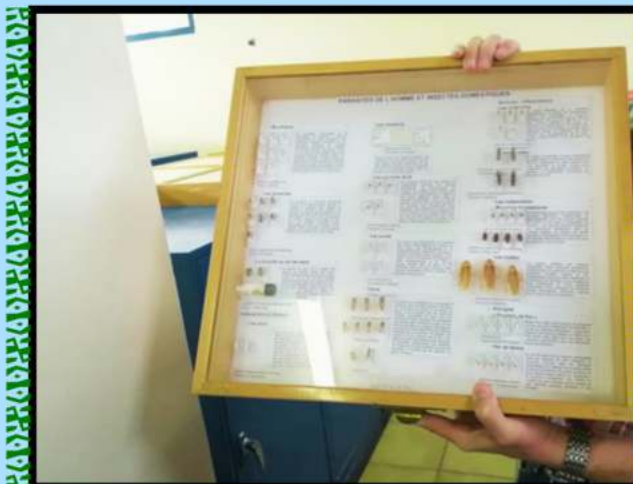
Career Day Assembly



Field trip to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)



"Transforming African Agriculture"





YEAR 3

Tulip

*-Rooted deep, blooming early—we're learning
to stand tall.*



Emery AKPONA



Hayden BILLIET



Joseph KLAIME



Prisha CHACHLANI



Saisha LACHHWANI



Ayushi PATI



**Ellah
SHIMA MUGISHA**



**Selome
MCCRACKEN**



**Christopher
EL NAJJAR**



Obi Fela ANANI



Muhammad SOW



Alice COLLINS



Miral MASSRY



Frederike SCHINKEL



**Yanis
ADAMOU-NDIAYE**



Pansy LOHANA





A quick glance...



Our field trip to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)



IITA
Transforming African Agriculture





YEAR 4

Marigold

*-We don't just brighten the room—we own
the light.*



Tahirah ADDA



Danielle ADETOLA



Anaya AKUL



Perla ANANI



**Kemiji TANKPINOU
ZOUMENOU**



Zainab DADANI



Ronit KUMAR



**Emmanuella
DAYOU**



Ouways LOGDALI



**Lishwanth
CHANDRASEKAR**



**Soraya
PETER-OHONS**



**Dhakshin RAJESH
KUMAR**



Emilie SEBLIN



Roshitha TEEGALA



Amar MOUSSA



Jessie SESSOU



Elie HODE



Rahel GRENISH



**Prophet-Amos
SIKOUVI**

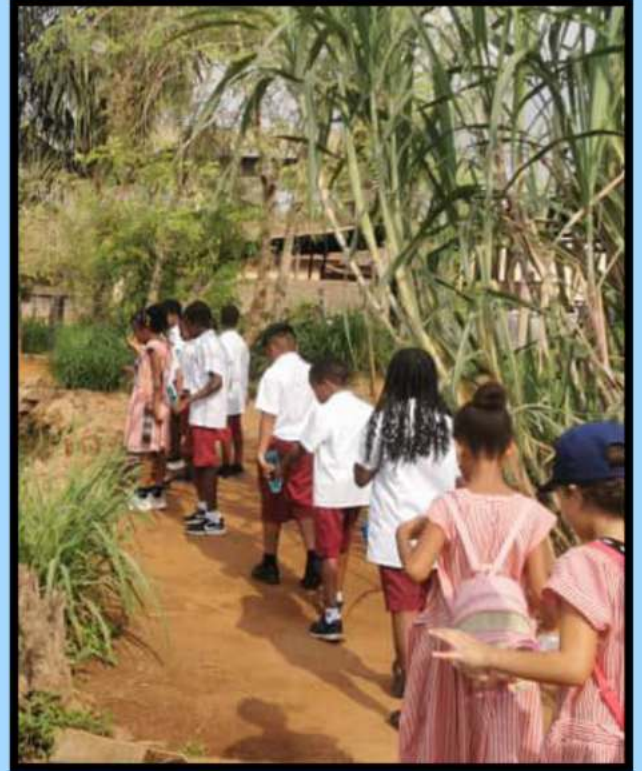


Nael CODJO



Our trip to Songhai

On Tuesday 21st January 2025, the class of Year 4 visited Songhai. We went there at 8:30a.m, and we were dropped by the school minibus. When we arrived we were welcomed by Mr.Peter. He brought us to see chickens in a cage. He said that they use the chicken's waste to fertilize the soil. Then we saw goats, sheep, cows, dogs, ducks, fishes and grass cutters (a type of rat). He showed us how they make palm oil and rice too. He also said that they use the chicken waste to make gas, which I found interesting. Another thing we did, was feed the fishes and ostriches which was really fun. After this, we got to eat our snacks before leaving. Soon, we went back to school and ate our lunch. We arrived at 12:35p.m. I am happy that we went on this field trip because, I used to think that chicken waste was useless but now I know that it fertilizes the soil to give us good fruits and vegetables to eat.



-Danielle Adetola





Songhai is a bio-farm. They don't use chemicals or toxic items. They have chickens, geese, ostriches, ducks and many other animals. We fed the fishes, the telepins, and catfishes. We also saw donkeys and Mrs. Nouha entered the cage. Then we went to the ostriches and fed them. We learned that they are harmful though. After all the fun and learning, we went to the restaurant and we ate there. Lastly, we took a group photo and returned back to our lovely school.

-Tahirah Adda



-Rahel Grenish



Year 5

*Pride of
Barbados*

-Strong roots, warm colours, open hearts.



Pharrell TOE



**Sumayya
MUKHOPADHYAY**



Ved PANSERIYA



Mathilde RICHTER



Anna SEMAAN



Raghav HRIDHANK



Melyna HOUNKPEVI



**Ketsia
TEPA-YOTTO**



Vivaan TEKWANI



Ariel LAKOUSSAN



Fenou MCCRACKEN



Cehwe MCCRACKEN



Tejai NAGPURE



Vanya TEKWANI



Lea TCHANGO



Museum of Promise



Did you ever imagine that a simple leaf, a bit of clay, even alcohol, charcoal, or a painting could have so many incredible stories? I definitely didn't until our class went to the Foundation Zinsou Museum! The bus ride was a blast – everyone was chattering with excitement. We couldn't wait to get there, and it turned out to be way more amazing than we ever thought. When we finally arrived, our guide, Mr. Leone, took us to the first room, which was full of bottles of alcohol. We were all scratching our heads about why they were so important. Mr. Leone explained that alcohol can make us lose track of what's happening around us, and that this is just a natural thing. Then, he led us to a dark room with dry palm tree leaves. He told us that the palm tree is full of secrets! After that, we went to a room with mirrors. Mr. Leone said that when we look in a mirror, it can remind us of promises we've made and make us think about questions we have.

But the most astonishing thing was a sculpture of stairs with a horse at the very top! The artist, Mr. Jeremy, told us he made it by feeling Joel's pulse. He said that while he felt Joel's wrist, he imagined a staircase connected to Joel's heart, which the horse represented. The room with an invisible pianist playing a song called "PROMISE" was very scary and captivating.

Later, we went to Jardin Dessai, where we saw beautiful nature and had our lunch under a cool bamboo tree. When it was time to leave, it was so hard to say goodbye, but we had to go!

-Anna Semaan

Using nature for Artistic Expression.



*Cashew leaves
represent time.*



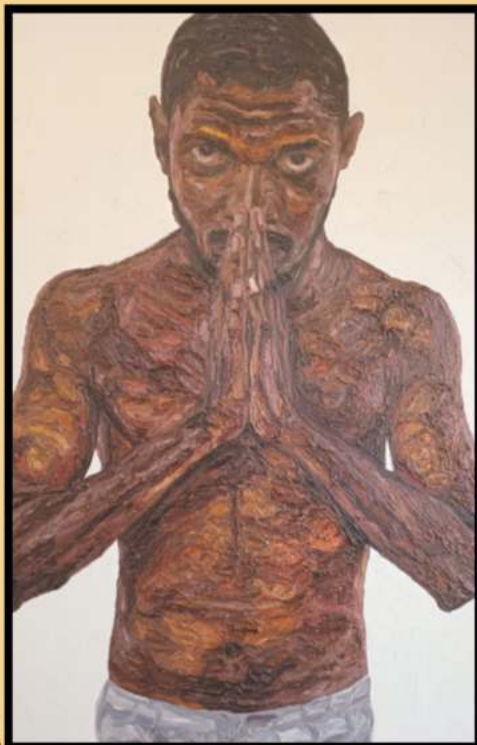
*Made with turmeric, by
French artist: 'Losene'*



*Bouquet of palm; The
Mystery of the Palm
Tree*

At the 'Atlantic Art Gallery'

Self-portraits:



"UNCERTAINTY"



"THOUGHT"

‘Mirror of the Earth’ , from which we make promises.

Made from mica



How we can use nature to promote our art.



‘Promise of intoxication’



‘Women warriors- strong and fragile’

Storyteller from Institut Français, Benin





Year 6

Hibiscus

*-We bloom with colour and confidence—ready
for what's next.*



**Lokabhi Ram
ANUMALASETTY**



Tiana EL NAJJAR



Yohaani GAJWANI



**Fidel
HOUNDJAGOH**



**Michael Sedjro
KPANOU**



**Zoé LADOUCE
ESSONO BANA**



**Priyanshi
TAHILRAMANI**



**Eva Marie
Glenda SEBLIN**



Khadijah SOW



FIELD TRIP TO... SITE PATRIMONIAL TOURISTIQUE



On the 28th of April 2025, my class and I went to Porto-Novo to explore its rich history and tradition. We were accompanied by our teachers: Mrs Afolabi and Mr. Fassassi in the school bus. We left for Porto-Novo at around 8:30am and it took us one hour to reach there.

When we reached Abessan, our guides: Mr. Ferdinand and Mr. Lionel, welcomed us. First, my class and I saw a temple that only descendants of the three hunters, responsible for the creation of the town, could enter. Speaking about the three hunters, the guide told us a myth about them. One day, while hunting in the forest, they met a monster with nine heads. The hunters' names were: Akpakpo, Anata and Ogbon.

Next, my class and I went to the palace of the King of Porto-Novo. It looked very nice but it was smaller than I expected. When we entered the palace, we had to sit on a rug and the attendant of the king told us that when the king comes, we needed to bow before him. Suddenly the king walked in and we bowed to him to show our respect while he sat on his throne. We began asking the king questions and he answered all our questions. The king's name is Toffa IX and he is 68 years old.

Later on, we went to the museum which was the former palace built two centuries ago. In the former palace, twenty-five kings lived there during their reigns. Inside, there were many rooms and many doorways that were very small. They looked like they were meant for dwarfs and our guide explained that it was built intentionally that way. People had to postern each time they used the doors and this showed submission to the king. We then saw a vast garden behind the museum where the villagers and the king celebrate their ceremonies. We left the garden and were back at the entrance of the museum.

After the museum, we visited a mosque that looked like a church. This was built by slaves who returned back from Brazil over a century ago. Since they didn't know what a mosque looked like and they wanted to do something to thank the local people for welcoming them in their town, the only reference they had was the churches in Brazil so that is what they built.

All in all, I found this field trip very interesting. Porto-Novo is a city full of rich culture and fascinating architecture. This will remain a memorable trip in my mind.

-Yohaán Gajwani



MAKING EDIBLE ROCKS

Making Edible Rocks!

On Wednesday the 5th of February, Year 6 pupils were surprised by our class teacher, Mrs. Afolabi, making the rock cycle. All of us were more excited than ever.

The materials we used were:

- Three different types of chocolate (dark, white and milk chocolate)
- Five glass cups
- Foil
- Three graters
- Extremely hot boiling water
- An oven
- Gloves (for safety and to not get dirty)



The first thing we did was put on our gloves, and our teacher showed us how to grate the three chocolates into bowls to show weathering – when igneous rocks are broken down into pieces of different sizes. We imagined that the white chocolate had fossils because of the cornflakes in it, so it formed sedimentary rocks.

After a long time of grating, we stacked the grated chocolate in order to show the movement that happens when tiny rock particles fall into the lake or sea with the help of wind, rain, or ice, which is called erosion – but in a glass cup. Then, when this keeps happening, it causes layering and becomes sedimentary rock.

Lastly, Mrs. Afolabi boiled water and heated the oven. When it was nice and hot, she carefully placed two of the glass cups into the hot water and three in the oven to show when a rock is melted by extreme heat.

-Khadijah Sow



Rock Cycle

On Wednesday, 5th February 2025, we planned to go to the lab, but Mrs. Afolabi decided that we should improve our understanding of the rock cycle. So, she decided that we would go to Playschool instead. We strolled to Playschool, and on the way there, our mouths started running. We also tried to guess what we were baking, but our guessing skills weren't good enough to figure it out!

When we arrived, we went into the kitchen and put on some gloves first. After that, we were given different graters, and we took the different kinds of chocolate and grated them. Then, we put them in layer by layer—milk chocolate on the bottom, white chocolate in the middle, and dark chocolate at the top.

After the process was completed, we took a pot and filled it with water. Then, we switched on the gas cooker and put the pot on the stove to boil.

We strolled back to middle school and waited for home time to eat it!
Thank you, Mrs. Afolabi!

-Fidel HOUNDJAGOH



OUR FIELD TRIP TO THE PORT

On Monday, May 27th, 2025, Year 6 pupils, along with their class teacher, Mrs. Afolabi, and the assistant, Miss Immaculee, went to the Port of Cotonou to see how they were improving the port by expanding it.

When we arrived, we had to show a picture of our passport due to protocol reasons. When we entered the port, we were introduced to Mrs. Essono (Head of Safety Measures). She took us for a huge tour in the bus before taking us to the Effage office for further explanation about the project they were working on



When we got into the office, we were introduced to another person who also works at the Port. His name is Mr. Ludovic, and he is an engineer. He showed us a model of their project on many complicated apps using a projector. He also showed us the Port's plan for the future. After this, Mrs. Essono gave us some snacks before we left to explore more. We had snacks such as sandwiches, chocolate-covered marshmallows, and candy.

As we left the office, we were left safety gear- helmets and safety jackets. When we got in the bus, we were accompanied by another person called Mr. Gerald who also took us for a tour. We went to a place where workers worked with steel bars. They bent the steel bars not with their hands but with a strong machine. The steel bars were very hard to bend with our hands- we tried.

Lastly, we visited the site where the extension was happening. It looked big and amazing. Mrs. Essono told us that sometimes divers go down in the water and check to see if everything is alright. Sometimes they find turtles, which they give to her. She makes sure that they get sent to Mr. Isaac (The Saviour of Turtles in Cotonou).

When we arrived back at school, it was already past home time so we quickly packed our bags and went home. The trip to the port was surprisingly fascinating and I will definitely go there again.

-Khadijah Sow







Year 7

Dahlia

-A bloom of quiet confidence, layered with promise.



Aydiine KONATE



**Ryan-Jayden
ISMAEL**



**Janelle Louise
MANNA**



Abigael MAMA



Estrid SAMBIENI



Fatimah SOW



**Nehemiah Karl
ADDA**



Berenice METO



Sephora ABOUDOU



Dayan MOUSSA



Alice MATHIEU



Eliakim TIDJANI



Ella RICHTER



Rayane ZOUMAROU



**Jeremy
TEPA-YOTTO**



Ridim VASWANI



Lea CODJIA



Hulda ADETOLA





Joas AKPONA



**Junior G. N.
AGBATCHI**



Himank BHOJWANI



Farell COOVI



Exhaussee DAYOU



CLASS PROJECTS





Damon and Pythias



Pythias

ACTED BY YEAR 7, VOICED BY YEAR 11



Damon



Year 8

*-We lift our heads to the light—growing taller
with every turn.*

Sunflower



Amour AKON



Leo CODJIA



**Daaiwik
PARYANI**



**Sarah
GAQUERE**



**Serena
HOUNDONUGBO**



**Betty Reine
KPANOU**



**Fairy
MENGHANI**



**Lorena
MASSRY**



Fiona EBO



Our trip to 'École Supérieure des Metiers des Energieis Renouvelables' (ESMER)

On Monday, 21st October 2024, my class, our class, accompanied by our class teacher Mrs Mbaka, and our art teacher, Mr David, went on a school trip to ESMER (Ecole Supérieure des Métiers des Énergies Renouvelables).

We left at around 8:30a.m in the school mini bus and arrived at around 9 a.m. ESMER is located in Calavi. The people there greeted us with open arms and we were very excited that we chose their school.



The first thing that happened was that we were led into what seemed like the school's conference room where we met the director and a teacher. My classmate's mother was also present and introduced us to everyone there. We also had an interpreter to translate from French to English. They talked to us about the purpose of the school opening and their enthusiasm to make a change through younger generations.

After a brief overview about the school, it was time to start exploring. Before going anywhere though, we all got safety helmets to wear, since the area is mostly practical. We first went into a classroom full of learning students and the interpreter started explaining different renewable resources, such as solar energy, wind energy and geothermal energy. Next we moved to the rooftop of the building. What we saw up there were several solar panels, all together, called a solar grid that powered the whole building. He explained to us that when it is night time or the sun isn't out, there are batteries that store all the energy produced.

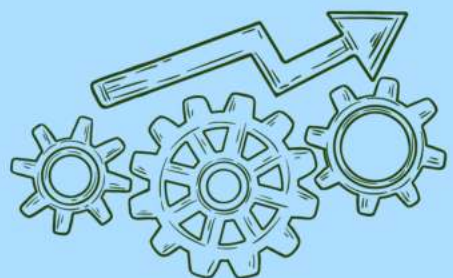
The last thing before leaving the university was to visit the lab. This was where they carried out experiments and tested things. Students could go there when they have a practical assessment. The teacher also included that those who graduated from the school could work as Electrical Engineers at the SBEE (the company dealing with electricity in Benin), or any other establishment. The whole academy is powered without relying on the SBEE but just on the solar energy produced

Moving on, we left the university side of the school to the high school part. This was where the students would get their formation and basics down. We visited another classroom that was studying solar energy conversion and conservation. Their class teacher described the process they used in an electrical circuit. Later on, we were taken to another side of the class that had mostly material for practical projects. The students themselves created some really nice things, including a fully functional engine-powered bicycle.



Finally, our educational adventure came to an end. We all thanked the staff for having us and spreading good intentions through youngsters like us. They thanked us back by giving everyone gifts consisting of a pen, a notebook, a ruler, and a leaflet advertising a summer program for young, aspiring engineers like us. Everyone, including me, was very pleased and fascinated by what we had learned.

-Serena HOUNDONUGBO



VISIT TO THE CITY OF PORTO-NOVO

On the 12th of May 2025, our class went on a field trip to explore the city of Porto-Novo. The purpose of the trip was to discover Porto-Novo's rich history, cultural diversity and their traditions. Do you know that Porto-Novo is the capital of Benin? Have you ever wondered why Porto-Novo is so named? Portuguese traders named this city Porto-Novo, which actually means 'New Port', to distinguish it from the many other trading ports that existed at that time.

We were accompanied by our class teacher, Mrs Mbaka, and the dance teacher, Mr Emmanuel. First, we went to the Musee, followed by the Royaume de Hogbonou Adjatche and then the Botanical Garden. We had an opportunity to explore the ancestral kingdom of King TOFFA I. We learned about different movements and wars to conquer territories. We saw the home of TE-AGBANLIN, the founder of the Royal dynasty of Hogbonou. We saw many other sections of the kingdom also.

Before we went to the king's court, we visited the first mosque in Porto-Novo. It was designed as a church because when the slaves came back from Brazil, they only knew how to build churches as there was no mosque in Brazil. Then we went to the palace of the current king of Porto-Novo who is Sa MAJESTE DE-GBEZE AYONTINME TOFFA IX. During our questions and answers session, he narrated his life and achievements as a king. He became the king in his adolescence.

Finally we proceeded to the Botanical Garden where we wove baskets and mats. This trip made us learn about the great history and traditions of Porto-Novo.

-Sanjit LACHHWANI



Our trip to the Ste. Omsa Sarl



On Monday, 25th November, our class paid a visit to OMSA, a soap factory. We are accompanied by our class teacher Mrs Mbaka and Mr David. We wore our nose masks on arrival and were divided into groups of four for a tour around the factory. We were shown the different machines used in making soap. The best discovery is that they use natural resources in the production of soap. These include palm kernel oil, red oil, silicate, ethanol and water. Some of the ingredients used in the factory are locally produced in Benin, while a few others are imported from India.

The first step they showed us is to mix palm oil, red oil and steering oil in a large rectangular container, and then heat the mixture. Then they mix caustic soda, water, sugar and silicate, after which the heated oil is transferred through a hose into the container with caustic soda, water and silicate. The mixture is converted to soap in a process called saponification. The soft soap is kept for 24 hours to harden and dry. This hard soap is transported to a mixer where perfume and ethanol are added, and the soap crushed again and malleated well. The final product, which is called SAI soap, is then passed through a rolling ball that gives it shape and cuts it in bars. Nothing is wasted. The particles of soap that fall off from the machines are taken back to the mixer.

The trip was a special moment of sharing knowledge through the help of the Director, Mr. Bharat Rajsahu, who emphasised on the factory's use of natural resources to save the environment. At the end, the Director gave us soap and gift bags. I really appreciate Ste OMSA sarl for this wonderful opportunity.

-Sarah Gaquere



Rose

Year 9

*-Soft in bloom, strong in root—we've got
thorns that show we're learning.*



Ghadi EL HAJJ



**Yoann Ethan
ZEKENG**



Kenza YESSOUFOU



**Farhanath
TESSILIMI**



Maryam SOW



Priyal THAKOR



**Princesse
SIKOUVI**



Ayan PATI



**Charles-Olivier
RAY**



Laryn MASSRY



Océane TEEKEN



**Elisa MUGISHA
IMANZI**



Sarah ABOUDOU



Moses AUGUSTT



**Syntiche
HOUNKPEVI**



Camilla ABOUDOU



Nelson MAMA



Yitong ZUO



**Nathanael
INEGBENIJIE**





A glimpse...



Future scientists loading...



Holding each other up!
(literally)





Cactus

Year 10

-Tough, thoughtful, and built to thrive.



**Navid
ADAMOU-NDIAYE**



Laura AKOBI



Hyunyul CHA



Sanaya TEKWANI



David SIKOUVI



Priyanshi TEKWANI



Emeryc SAMBIENI



**Shanya
LAKOUSSAN**



Benet LOKOSSOU



Ryan
PETER-OHONS



Shilo FANOU



Véra
HOUNDJAGOH



Michele KLAIME



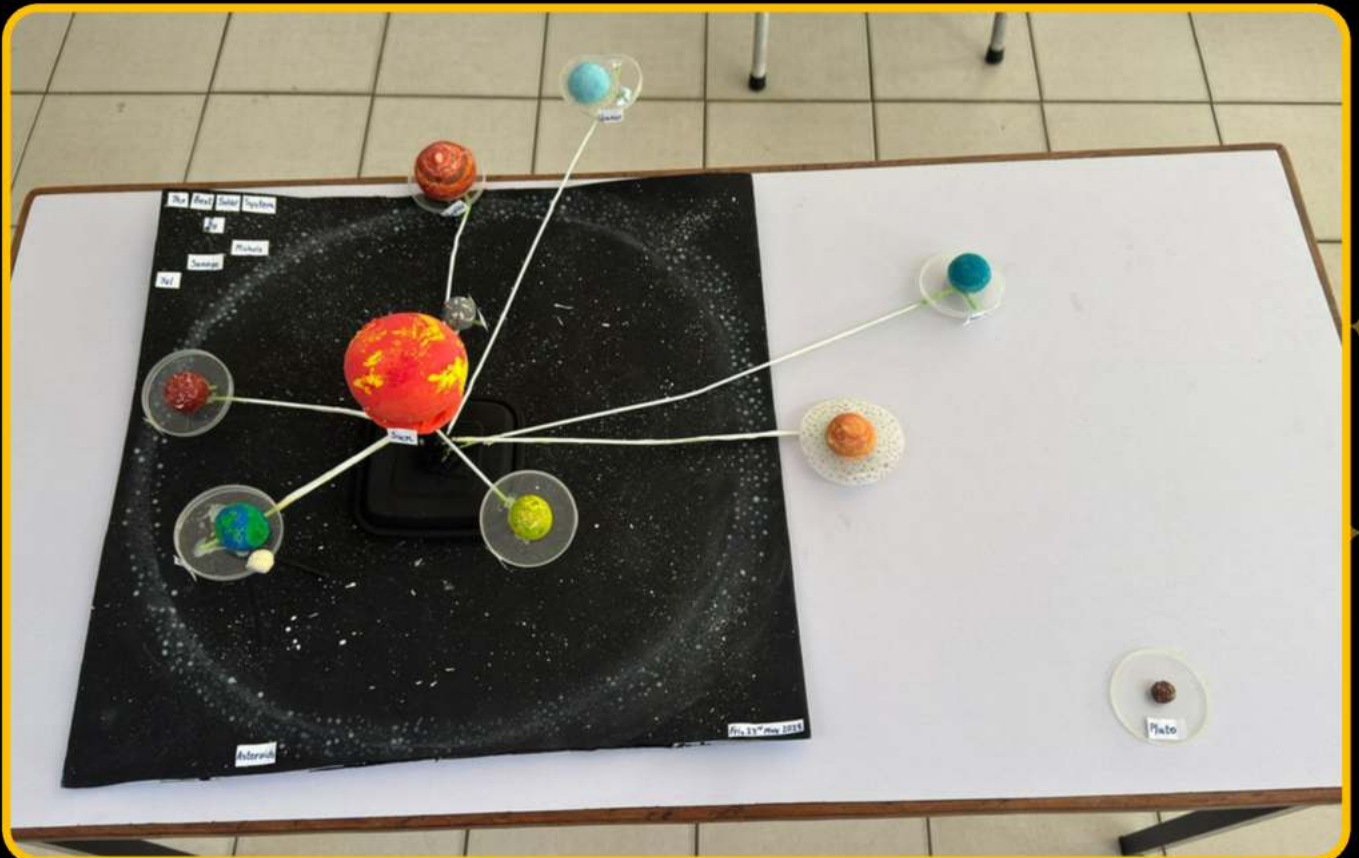
Lea GAQUERE



Wafiq ZOUMAROU



Our Solar System project





YEAR II

Lavender

-Fragrant with focus, grounded in calm.



**Priyansh
TAHILRAMANI**



Sheryl ZEKENG



Kristyne PANSERIYA



Gift MASWIKANENG



Daryl MAHOUHO



Vansh KUMAR



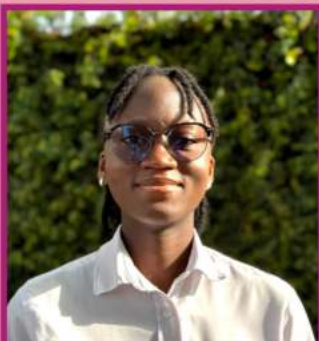
**Harry
HOUNDONUGBO**



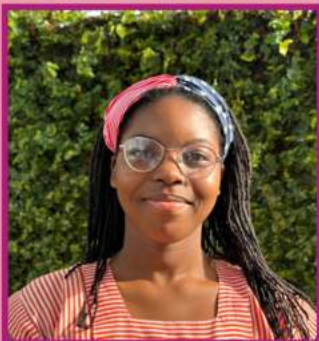
**Grace Ariane
GBEDEY**



Eugene ELENDU



**Magnificat
DOSSOU-TOGBE**



Miriam AUGUSTT



Nousra BA



**Antoun ABOU
SAMRA**



Melvyn ADDA



Sarah ABOUDOU



**Sacha KEZA
MUGISHA**



FIELD TRIP TO INSTITUT

FRANÇAIS, BENIN



Looking back, this trip was full of relaxation and enjoyable moments. We, the class of Year 10 and 11, went to Institut Français to read books on a Tuesday. I wasn't expecting much from this field trip; to me, it was just a chance to finally go somewhere with my classmates.

When we arrived, everything looked chic and newly renovated. I still wasn't used to the modern look of the Institut Français. First, we ordered lunch—and brunch for those who wanted—and then headed straight to the library.

Several French books were neatly arranged, placed in various categories. Our search for books was exhilarating as we made jokes and helped each other return books to the right shelves. One of my friends even found the French version of a book I had read in English and handed it to me. I felt my eyes twinkle with excitement.

Sitting in the cozy reading area, I felt more than comfortable. The cushions, colors, and peaceful atmosphere made it feel almost like home.



Lunchtime was another highlight. We laughed, shared stories, and enjoyed tasty food—though I wished there were more dessert options!

Time flew by, and soon it was time to head back to school. I definitely enjoyed my time there, and I'm grateful to Mme.Pélagie, Mr.Tessi (our French teachers), and Mr.Julien for organizing this wonderful trip.

-Miriam AUGUSTT



YEAR 12

Zinnia

*-A bloom that carries the weight of time
with grace.*



Faadiath TESSILIMI



Paul FUERTE



**Manish Brian
MASCARENHAS**



Batoul KAFAL



Luc ADJAH



**David
ADEOYE-LANIYAN**



Macey COLLINS



Fifame COOVI



Patrick DUONAH



Mayank KITHANI



Arya PATEL



Tarun PANNEM



**Jean-Philippe
GOLOU**



**Mahfouz SALIHOU
MAMADOU**



**Poorab
KHUBCHANDANI**



Mariella GANKPA



**Richard
HOUNDONOUGBO**



**Darren
NTIHEMUKA**







YEAR 13

-A chapter closed, a thousand doors open.

Forget-Me-Not



Lauri AKOBI



**Manav
CHHABLANI**



Harsh RAMWANI



**Preeti
RAMCHANDANI**



**Marie-Perside
DOSSOU-TOGBE**



Ruoyan LI



**Syntiche
SOGLONOU**



**Aditya
NAWANI**



Graduating Class of 2025



"Successfully complete a
course of training"

*-Not just the end of a chapter, but the start of
everything else.*



A new beginning...



Ruoyan LI

*"Still don't know what I want to
do in the future. Maybe never
will, but we still move on."*



Preeti RAMCHANDANI

*"Be someone's reason to try- I believe
that's a victory in itself."*



**Marie-Perside
DOSSOU-TOGBE**

"Life is short, but so am I."



Syntiche SOGLONOU

"Saved by grace, but definitely got tested."



Faadiath TESSILIMI

"I can't complain about having a lot on my plate when my goal is to eat"



Paul FUERTE

"What does 'Yovo' mean?"



Manav CHHABLANI

"Failure is never a full stop- it's just a comma before you work harder and fail again..."



Harsh RAMWANI

"Face your failure until your failure fails to face you."



Aditya NAWANI

"The road to success is always under construction."



David ADEOYE-LANIYAN

"Visionary"



Lauri AKOBI

"Life is all about balance."



Mayank KITHANI

"To get something you never had, you have to do things you've never done."

HALLOWEEN





HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT



On the 24th of October, our school rooftop became the perfect setting for a Halloween Movie Night, hosted by the Visionaries Team. Organised in just two days, with help from our classmates, the event brought together students from Years 10 to 13 for an unforgettable movie night. With a perfect amount of suspense, snacks, and anticipation, the night was a huge success. We're especially thankful to our chaperones—Mrs. Afolabi, Ms. Jasmine, and Mr. Serges—for their support. We ended the evening with the team cleaning after the attendees. This event was proof that even last-minute plans could be turned into something special.

—The Visionaries Team



The organisers



MUFTY MAYHEM

TWIN DAY



Men In Black



CHARACTER DAY



FAVOURITE ARTIST DAY.



This isn't goodbye...



*Mrs. Beatrice's
Retirement Party*



*Ms. Jasmine's
last day*

...this is simply "see you later"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Little voices saying,
"Thank you, Santa.." —
pure holiday magic!



Lower School's
Christmas play;
"Babushka"

Tiny chefs, big
competition, even bigger
mess!





Ballet Performance: "Snowflakes"



-Emmanuel Osahon

The title of the performance was 'Snowflakes', inspired by the popular classic ballet Swan Lake.

This piece was very important to me, particularly because it was the first time the students were to perform a dance like this. I had to work on both their bodies and their minds, reminding them that they could do anything they set their hearts on, whether it was new or not. Through this piece, the students learned to trust themselves even more.

Moving forward, I hope to share my art and the gift of dance with the community in Cotonou, encouraging students to develop their socio-behavioral skills, such as creativity and self-esteem, while continuing to excel in their academics.

I want to thank the English International School for the incredible opportunity to share my gift with the children.

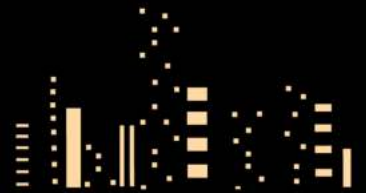




Winter Formal '24

Celestial Dream

-City Lights



THE STUDENT COUNCIL

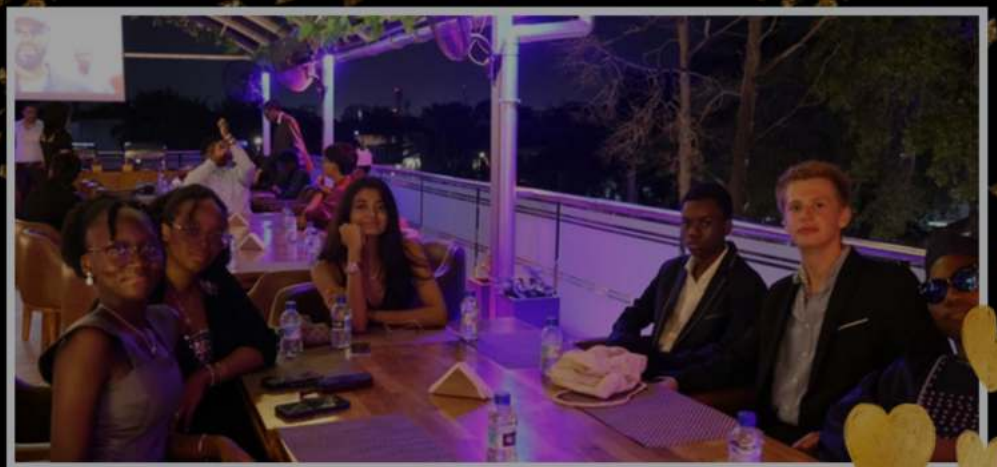


THE VISIONARIES TEAM

On Friday, the 13th of December, students from Years 10 to 13 gathered for Winter Formal 2024, themed 'Celestial Dream: City Lights'. The evening began with starters on the rooftop before moving down to the lounge for games, dancing, and karaoke alongside the main course. It was an interschool event, with students from other schools joining the fun. With support from chaperones, including parents and Mrs Afolabi, the night was a memorable celebration from start to finish. A big thank you to the teams behind the scenes who worked tirelessly to bring the night to life.

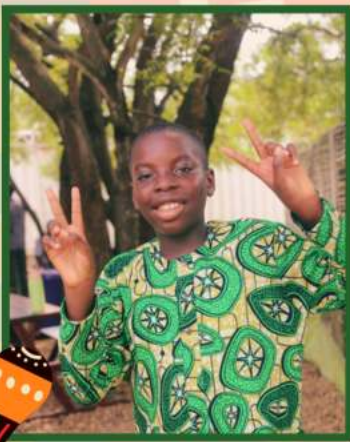
-ORGANISATORY TEAMS





INTERNATIONAL DAY







Many cultures, one celebration.



For International Day, each classroom was transformed into a continent, turning the school into a mini world tour. Students brought in traditional dishes from their assigned regions, sharing flavors and stories that highlighted the beauty of their cultures. Music, dances, and national anthems filled the air, creating an electric vibe of unity and pride. It was a day full of laughter, good food, and unforgettable moments that celebrated the diversity that makes EIS so special.

-POORAB KHUBCHANDANI, YEAR 12



MODEL INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



In order to break away from the usual routine and trigger more interest in global affairs from students, this year's initiative allowed the introduction of the Model International Court of Justice (MICJ). A stimulation inspired by the usual Model United Nation, still focused on geopolitical conflict management.

The cases required students to argue on both defensive and offensive sides. This encouraged students to sharpen their critical thinking and understanding of another layer of justice and diplomacy. Each of these cases was carefully selected to reflect pressing issues in today's international landscape. Drawing inspiration from both the Model United Nations and the real International Court of Justice, we designed the MICJ to simulate not diplomatic debates, but legal trials—where students were not just delegates, but lawyers, arguing their case with evidence, legal reasoning, and persuasive delivery.

The topics were drawn directly from real-world geopolitical tensions, turning headlines into legal arguments:

- Nigeria VS. Cameroon focused on territorial disputes, mirroring the Bakassi Peninsula conflict.
- Russia VS. Ukraine addressed complex issues around genocidal claims and warmongering, encouraging students to navigate humanitarian law and conflict responsibility.
- USA VS. China took on the topic of human rights violations, exploring ideological tensions, censorship, and global accountability.
- North Korea VS. South Korea centered on nuclear testing, military threats, and regional security in East Asia.

By turning these major international conflicts into courtroom trials, we challenged participants to move beyond opinion and develop reasoned, structured arguments grounded in fact and law. Each trial demanded not only research and preparation but also the ability to think on one's feet, rebut opposing claims, and deliver compelling closing statements.

This event was judged by the organisers—Poorab Khubchandani, Syntiche Soglonou, and Arya Patel—who oversaw the proceedings, along with a rotating panel of jurors assigned to each case. The outcomes were determined based on the quality of argumentation, factual accuracy, and overall courtroom performance. The final winners were Russia, China, Nigeria, and North Korea—each securing a legal victory through strategic presentation and sharp legal framing.

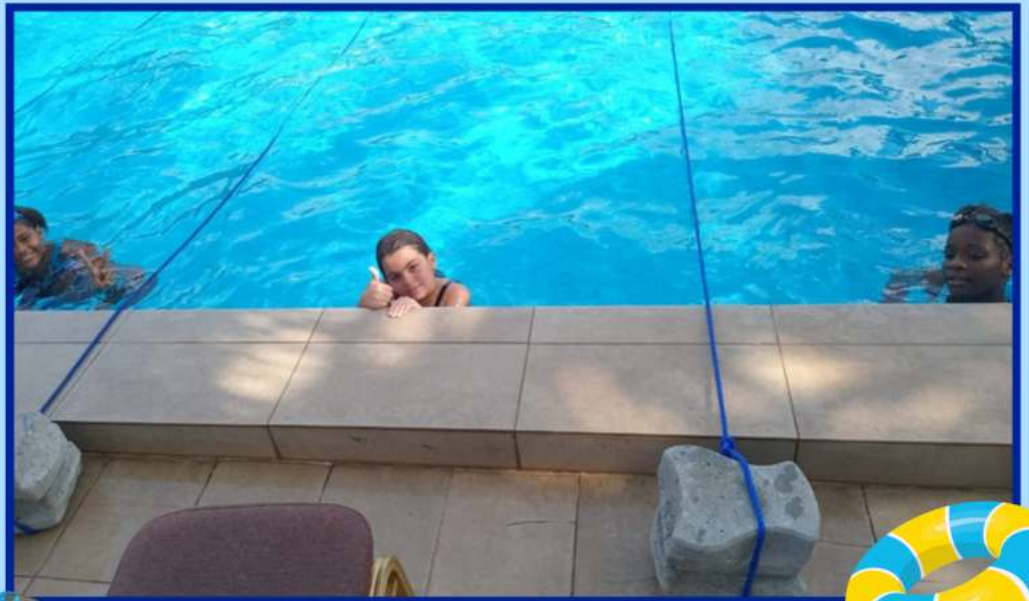
The MICJ was more than just a school event. It was an experience where students learned to see global issues not just as news, but as challenges demanding logic, fairness, and justice. It reminded us all that the pursuit of international peace often depends not only on diplomacy, but on the ability to argue for what is right.

-The Organizing Committee





SWIMMING GALA



WINNERS!



Hat Parade





Winners! 🏆



EIS CHARITY COMMITTEE



TERRES ROUGES





NEIGHBOUR'S KEEPERS



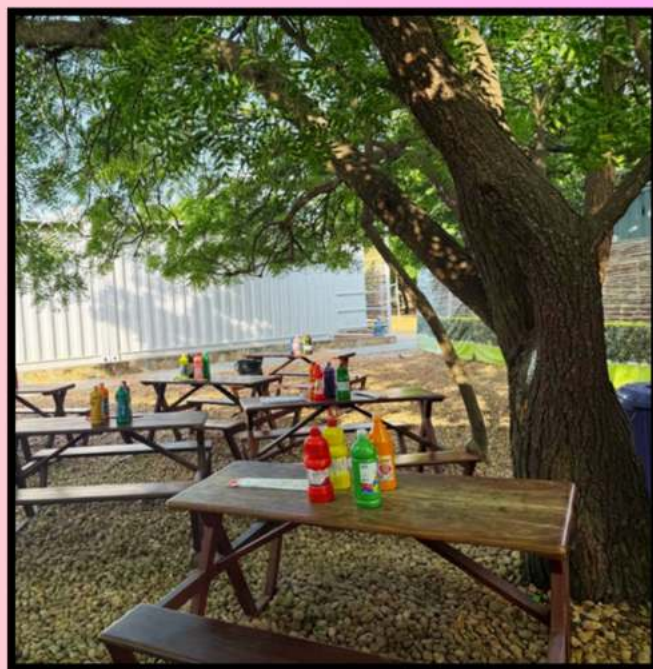
Bloom 'N Brush



Organising Bloom 'N Brush was one of the highlights of my year. With the theme 'Embrace the Earth', we invited students from Years 6 to 9 to bring in items from home-cups, plates, jars, and turn them into art. It was colourful, chaotic, and genuinely a heartfelt experience watching everyone express themselves while promoting sustainability and creativity. A big thank you to the EIS Charity Committee for making it possible.

-Preeti Ramchandani, Year 13





Musical Fest '25



Bringing the Musical Fest to life for a second year was nothing short of incredible. It was held on the 30th of May—the last Friday of the month—and it featured performances from every class in Years 1 to 6, along with our teachers who brought their own flair to the stage.

Despite a few technical setbacks, the spirit never dropped. I'm especially grateful to my classmates who stepped in right when it mattered most—handling setup, sorting the sound system, and being there, which made all the difference.

A huge thanks to Mr.Dag Jack, Mrs.Carsky, our teachers, and everyone who made this happen. A fest I'll always remember.

-Preeti Ramchandani, Year 13



ACTIVITIES:

DANCE



DRAMA



“Alibaba and the 40 thieves”



“Embrace the Earth”





Our mural



Work in progress...



World Book Day

"A BOOK IS A FRIEND YOU
CAN OPEN AGAIN AND
AGAIN."



Our theme this year:

EMBRACE THE EARTH



Embrace the Earth

Green lungs that breathe for the earth.
That flow with the wind.
Mountains that threaten the line of space.
Animals that roam the land, slamming their
paws
their claws
and their feet as they enjoy life
the only thing out of bounds being
the cerulean sky above

Until they came. Humans!
Their greedy minds, who plan to surpass the
sky and succeed
who conquers what is theirs! Humans who
kill their own!
Humans who punctured the green big lungs
humans who damaged the animal's habitat
swallowed them whole with their machinery
and their steel hearts

however, some of these humans have a beat
in their heart
It pumps love
It pumps indignation for their very kind
they try and resurrect the earth's lungs
they try and restore the land, they left a
graveyard
they weep for the lives stolen in the name
of 'expansion'
But empathy is never enough
so, what will we be?
who will stop these beasts?

*-Sarah Hakeem and Sarah Aboudou,
Year 9*



Embrace the earth

Slight wind whipped my hair,
A new day comes to there.
Wanted to go dream again,
Screaming drags me to the reality.

Hunters come again.
blood displaces grassland.
My family goes far and far.
Will I come back again?

Pollution, rubbish and smell
Wake me from my daze.
Ash reflects the end
Will the sun rise again?

Before the knife cut off my head,
I want to see the world again.
How warm will it get on earth land?
Change the world now with our hands.

*-Yitong Zuo and Yoann Zekeng,
Year 9*

Embrace the Earth

The sky bruises purple
before the sun splits—
a wound too bright to heal.
Leaves curl like lips
forgetting how to pray.
The wind has stopped
writing love letters in dust.
Roots pull back
from poisoned thirst,
and rivers choke
on their own reflections.
This is not silence.
It is the sound of breath
unlearning itself.
Somewhere, a flower
blooms in the wrong season,
petals trembling
like an apology too late.
Ash falls
like snow that's forgotten
how to be pure.
And still
the earth turns,
willing to cradle us
even as we set fire
to her hair.

-Fifame Coovi, Year 12

Embrace the Earth

Once was a forest tangled in bloom beneath the waves
Coral-stitched, anemone-laced, hair coiled with time

We loved her like a myth. Entirely.
It swallowed her roots in a salt-spell, turned her lungs
to gills.
She sang to the fish, in a tongue no sailor remembered,
wove clouds from jellyfish ink, and wept pearls when
storms clawed at her skin.
But nature is cruel to the beautiful.
The ice crept in silent, silver-fanged.
Boats carved scars in her body.
Even the moon turned its face.
She begged the tide to bring her name back, the one
she buried in roots and rain,
but the sea just hushed her, rocking her gently.
Now, she drifts. A ghost of green things.
A legend told by tidepools to gulls too young to care.
And when the waves sigh at night, they speak her name
not loud, but enough for flowers to bloom in
shipwrecks.

-Fifame Coovi, Year 12

Embrace the Earth

Earth is always the best choice
Life is just a fleeting moment
so enjoy and comment
as the leaves fell from the tree
was an old man aged 93
with a cane in his hand
and lots to amend
with a weight on his shoulders
that hits him like a boulder
In every walk with nature
one receives far more than he seeks
his story far greater than any peaks
as he takes his last shot
the whispers a final farewell
as the sunsets
he knows his time has come
he remembered his past
the lushes forests humming with vitality
the crystal-clear rivers shimmered like
gemstones
the lovely singing of birds
he took it all
the man couldn't bare
if only he had something to spare
the trees he cut down
that gave nature a frown
a businessman he once man
a hotel owner with money
but at what cost
guilt strangled him
he is the reason people are suffering
he is the reason our future is dim
At last in his final moment
he embraced his mistakes Life is like a
dance
It ends when the music stop
Live life without regrets

*-Moses Augustt and Ghadi El Hajj,
Year 9*



Embrace the Earth

Energy conservation is a topic that has attracted more attention in recent years. But have you ever wondered what it truly is and why its importance is constantly emphasized?

Energy conservation is the concept of ensuring the availability of energy in the future by making a conscious effort to reduce the wasteful use of energy. Energy is not only required in many sectors in industries but also in everyday life like in transportation to power vehicles and in houses for heating and cooking. So, it is basically impossible for a society to grow and innovate without a constant and reliable source of energy. There are many sources of energy: solar, nuclear, hydro, wind, geothermal, natural gas, coal, biomass, and oil. However, energy conservation is mainly concerned with non-renewable resources like coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear.

Mainly, to conserve energy is to use energy efficiently or reduce the amount of energy that you use. There are many ways to do this both on a communal scale and on an individual scale. In a community, you can promote the use of renewable sources of energy and educate other individuals of energy conservation. On your own, you can use energy efficient appliances, mindfully use energy by turning off lights and appliances when they are not needed, and alternate between using public transport, cycling, walking and using your own vehicle to reduce the amount of fuel that you use.

But why is energy conservation so important? Well, energy conservation helps us all participate in reducing our dependence on finite energy sources such as coal. This, in turn, reduces carbon dioxide emission and participates in the management of climate change and global warming. It decreases pollution linked to greenhouse gasses and waste caused by overconsumption. It not only positively impacts the environment but it also allows us to save money on utility bills.

So, participate in saving nature and ensure that the future generations are provided for by taking steps to conserve energy.

-Magnificat Dossou-Togbe, Year 11

Embrace the Earth

Technology has skyrocketed over the past century. Because of technology, we can instantly send messages across the globe. We can travel to the moon and even save lives. All this is because of technology, a necessity in our daily lives - or is it? Imagine a world without technology, your favourite cat videos, TikTok, and social media as a whole. How would it be?

A few centuries ago, there were no video games for children to play, from dusk to dawn. They would not be glued to their screens, rather; they would be asleep. They would play with sticks or run around in a park, enjoying their childhood. Life without technology was easier in some ways because there was no hacking, catfishing, or stealing of identities online.

Technology has its dark side. Because of this, global warming has destroyed many places. Multiple factories produce great amounts of smoke, polluting our environment. The more we try to advance our civilisation with technology, the more we suffer. People are being laid off as machines are taking over their jobs. Back in the day, people ate healthy unprocessed foods. Nowadays, people are fighting obesity, diabetes, and even cancer. This is an example of how technology has disrupted nature. Scientists have developed genetically modified foods to increase productivity, create new vanities, and extend shelf life.

Before our needs were simple: food, shelter and sleep. Nature gave us everything we needed, but human greed cannot be contained. Life was cheap and easygoing; there was no need to buy the latest iPhone or a new car. Back then, people would sit down, relax, and enjoy life.

Technology, however, has heavily impacted us for the better and the worse. Yes, we now have better healthcare and entertainment. Yet nothing beats living freely without the dangers of social media or nuclear bombs. When technology was not here, everything was just better.

Life without technology was not all that bad: less pollution, stronger family bonds, healthy diets and so much more. It is not too late. It is time to Embrace the Earth and go back to Nature.

-Moses Augustt, Year 9

ARTWORKS!



Eva Seblin, Year 6



*Priyanshi Tahirramani,
Year 6*



Year 5



Year 5



Year 5



*Sumayya Mukhopadhyay,
Year 5*



Sarah Gaquere, Year 8



Fairy Menghani, Year 8



-Eva Seblin, Year 6



Fiona Ebo, Year 8



Lorena Massry, Year 8



*Zoe Ladouce Essono Bana,
Year 6*



Eva Seblin, Year 6



Eva Seblin, Year 6



LAST YEAR'S PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY



and the winner
is...EINSTEIN!





ALUMNI



I joined EIS in 2009 at the age of six in Year 2 and graduated in 2020 after Year 12. In that time, EIS became more than just a school- it was a space that shaped me. It gave me the freedom to grow, both academically and personally.

Some of the closest friends I have today were the ones I met at six years old. Even after parting ways at seventeen, they've remained a constant part of my life- proof of just how special the EIS community is.

Post graduation, I went on to study at Michigan State University, earning a BA in Criminal Justice with a minor in Law, Justice and Public Policy. University was one of the best experiences of my life-something I genuinely hope every EIS student looks forward to. I believe the confidence, independence, and curiosity that made it so fulfilling were planted during my years at EIS.

In March 2025, I started a new chapter at Le Cordon Bleu Paris, pursuing Le Grand Diplôme and a Diplôme in Culinary Management. Growing up in Benin, with time spent in France, cooking was never something I considered seriously- at first, it felt more like a duty than a passion. But over time, especially after leaving home, cooking became a way to express love, create joy, and bring people together.



Now, my goal is to open a cultural fusion restaurant in the U.S., blending West African traditions with global flavours. Cooking has become my way of honouring family, culture, and connection-values EIS taught me to cherish from the start.

To current students: embrace every moment. The things you learn, the people you meet, and the memories you make will stay with you far beyond the classroom.

-Neyna Ama Orji-

My name is Nnedi Hirnet, I'm 22 years old, and I'm a former ELS student, just like you.

I grew up travelling the world, due to my mother's job. This led us to Cotonou in 2019, which was also the year I began my studies at ELS. I was in Year 11 at the time and had no previous contact with the British school system, so my experiences at ELS were fairly new and unique.

I only spent a year at the school, before I moved back to Germany, however that year was filled with unforgettable memories, life lessons and indispensable experiences.

Being marked by a global pandemic, 2019/20 was a very confusing school year, leaving many students uncertain about their future, specifically their academic future



Fast forward to the year 2025, I am now well through my first year of medical school and on my way to becoming a doctor in the medical division of the German military. Had anyone told me this is where I would find myself 5 years after leaving Benin I wouldn't have believed it.

I often find myself reminiscing about that year at ELS and I am grateful for the friends it brought me. The tight-knit community that this school offers, supplied me with a lifetime of close friends, people I have managed to keep in touch with, up until this day, despite being spread across the globe, thousands of kilometres apart.

I would like to leave you all with this little message:

It's alright not to have your entire future planned out, just as much as it is okay to know exactly what you want to achieve in the next 5 years.

Don't lose your cool if something happens that throws you off that path or nudges you in a direction totally unfitting to your expectations of the future. Embrace the journey that will undeniably lead you to your goal, and if that goal changes along the way, there's no shame in it.

Don't be afraid to explore the thicket, surrounding that clear cut path to your final destination.

-Nnedi Hirnet





I joined the English International School of Benin with no knowledge of English, but in less than three months, I was able to speak it fluently—thanks to the immersive and supportive environment at EIS. The school gave me much more than academic knowledge; it taught me life skills like discipline, independence, and perseverance. These qualities helped me later on to balance internships/jobs, and even start my own clothing brand, Tonton Lionn. Some of my favorite memories include the family teams—especially Mandela team, which I still think is the best! Competing during sports day and earning merits together taught me valuable teamwork and leadership skills.

I'll always remember the small class sizes that allowed teachers to really support each student, and of course, moments like struggling with physics problems while Mr. Armand laughed and told us how simple they actually were. Haha. EIS truly gave me a strong foundation, and the best piece of advice I'd give to any current student is: take every opportunity, because what you learn here stays with you forever. I am pretty sure I have heard Mrs. Carsky repeat these exact words to me back then, and as you guys can clearly see, they do stay with you forever.

Since graduating from EIS in 2019 with AS levels in mathematics, physics, and chemistry, my journey has taken me through several countries and fields. I originally planned to study engineering, but when I got to Lancaster University Ghana, I shifted to computer science due to the department change. I completed my degree between Ghana and the UK, eventually specializing in databases and networking. Along the way, I completed internships at ASSI Agency, Sodson Corp, and Comtel Technologies, and even worked briefly as a Full Stack Developer at my university in the UK.

Today, I'm a professional intern at Moov Africa Benin, working under the Chief of Agencies and Franchises to develop technical solutions. Outside of tech, I founded Tonton Lionn, a clothing brand that blends authenticity and power—the name itself combining “Tonton,” a symbol of warmth and reliability, with “Lionn,” representing strength, courage, and transformation. It's been a journey shaped deeply by the roots I planted at EIS.

-Cornelio Kedowide



I have spent two separate parts of my childhood in EIS. My time there stays vibrant in my memories—the little beginnings from when I was five with the entirety of school life ahead of me, and then the start of teenhood, my last years in Cotonou. Coming back to EIS gave me the chance to rekindle my old friendships from reception, and make new ones that have lasted ever since, despite the time and distance.

It's been 9 years now since I left, and life has changed so wonderfully. I still cherish the memories I made, still remember it all like it hasn't been almost a decade since.



Life is passing by fast. Just yesterday I was 13, university a lifetime away, with no idea what I wanted to do, and all the time in the world to decide. I'm 22 now, I've recently graduated with a BSc Honors in Psychology from APU, Malaysia, and I'm currently pursuing my Master's in Clinical Psychology at UCSI, Malaysia. Somewhere between then and now, I find I've grown up.

-Jerusha Manoj Issac



I'm Fatoumata Jarjusey, and I attended EIS from year one through high school graduation, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in finance from Penn State. One of my fondest memories of EIS was International Day, where we celebrated each other's cultures. It reminded me that EIS was a home away from home, and the teachers, students, and staff were like family. As you navigate your own journey, I encourage you to take time to appreciate the people and experiences that surround you.

-Fatoumata Jarjusey



I am currently at Saint Mary's College of Maryland, majoring in Psychology and minoring in English. While it has only been a year, it sure was an experience.

I joined EIS in 2019 and it holds a lot of fond memories for me, especially seeing as it was where I spent all of my time when I wasn't at home. I grew up with a lot of my friends and we stuck together from lunch breaks to exams.

In the midst of teary goodbyes, I left in 2024 to pursue my bachelors degree here in the USA and while it has been hard, I hope to be able to work even harder and persevere, up until my PhD. I've met so many different people, professors and friends alike, who have all taught me so many different things but with every passing day I'm here I only yearn more for my friends and family back home.

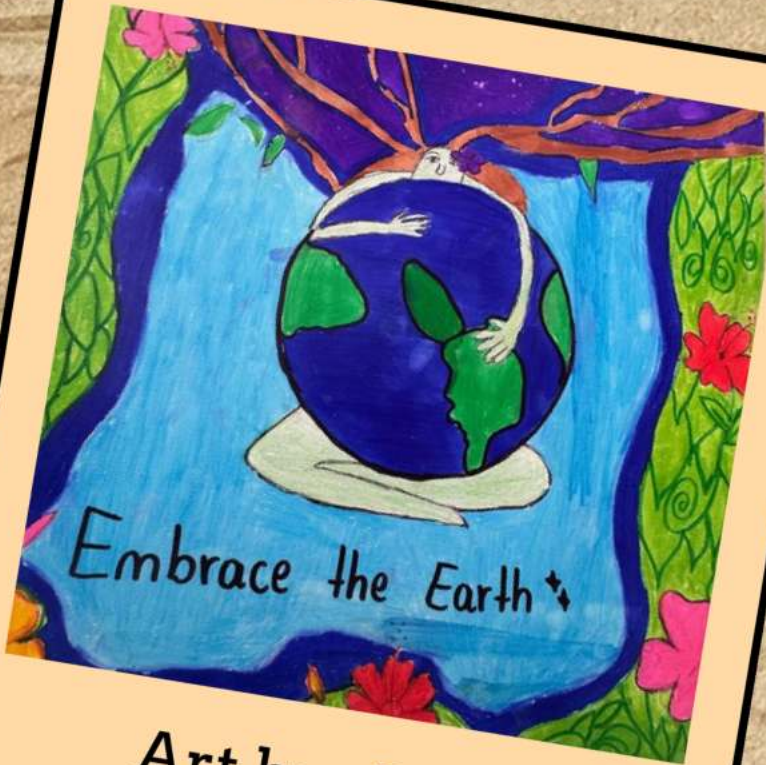
A piece of advice I have, and wished I took is to aim for the stars. There really is nothing holding you back and you can make just about anything happen so long as you really want it.

-Ella Mahouho



AUTOGRAPHS





Embrace the Earth ♡

Art by: **Fairy Menghani**



The Earth gives us everything. All it asks is that we care.



Art by: **Priyanshi Tahilramani**