



IBNE SINA COLLEGE

Rector's Report

24th Founders Day 5 February 2011

Our Founders Day last year was held inside the Muinuddin Hall. Due to shortage of space in the Hall attendance was limited and the children's hand work was not exhibited that day. No one liked that arrangement. This year we are less fearful for our security and are back outside as in the past. This year there are two exhibitions of students' work for you to see, art and handwork in the hall and projects in the library. Insha Allah, other things will also get back to normal in Pakistan soon. I do not believe that the current nation wide state of depression is permanent. As our student representative has said in his speech today, the coming generation will put Pakistan back in its rightful place of honour in the world. Next month we will be starting our 25th year in service as a school. Hopefully, the Silver Jubilee year will be as good as, or better than, the first 24 years for all stake holders in this institution.

O Level Examination Results

In summer 2010 we sent up our third batch of students for the University of Cambridge International O Level examination. All of the students (100%) sent up passed, 41% of them getting A grades in 6 or more of the 8 subjects in which they were examined, and 60% of their subject papers were graded A* or A. These results were as good as the results of our students in the Secondary School examinations from 1991 to 2009, which had consistently kept Ibne Sina amongst the top most schools of Lahore. All of the students (100%) sent up in the 16 Matric and 2 O Level Examinations passed. 90% of the students matriculating passed in the A+ or A grades. 46% Of the O Level candidate got A grades in 6 or more of the 8 subjects and 58% of the papers submitted by them were graded A+ or A.

Comparing our results with those of other schools has been almost impossible this year because nearly all schools keep details of their O Level results secret, and do not disclose them to anyone, even to their own staff. Also, a meaningful comparison is not possible because of the following differences between Ibne Sina and most others schools: Our students complete the O Level syllabus in 10 years, the others take 11 years. Our students are taught the First Language Urdu syllabus, the others teach the easier Second Language Urdu syllabus. Our students appear for all of the 8 subjects taught here altogether in one examination session at the end of Class X, and not in 2 parts in Classes X and XI as the others do. Our weaker students are not sent up as private candidates. However, based on the criterion of how many students in an entire batch sent up by a school, get 6 or more A grades, this year Ibne Sina's 44% compared favourably with SICAS's 42%, Defence Public – Girls 39%, Beaconhouse Defence 30% and Defence Public – Boys 11%. This is a small sample and may not reflect the whole picture, but it is encouraging to know that we remain amongst the better O Level teaching schools in Lahore.

Honour for an Ibne Sina Student

Another indicator of having maintained the high standard set by our first two O Level batches is the happy news received this week that our student Asif Yasir who took the Cambridge International O Level Examination in June 2010 had been declared one of the 53 students world wide who took the Cambridge International O Level, A Level, IGCSE and AS Level examinations in that session, and obtained the highest marks in a single subject. Asif Yasir is the only student from Pakistan to get the Top in the World Award for Chemistry. In comparison, other students from Pakistan got 13 Top in the World Awards for Mathematics Syllabus D, 13 for Additional Mathematics, 2 for Physics and 2 for Biology. You may remember that in the 2009 O Level examination one of our students was 1 of 4 in Pakistan got a Top in the World Award for Physics, and in 2008 O Level examination one of our students was the only one in the region to get the Top in Lahore Award for Physics.

Punjab Education Commission Examinations

The Punjab Government has ordered that starting April this year (2011) students of all schools must pass the Punjab Education Commission examinations (“PEC exams”) for Classes V and VIII to qualify for promotion to the next classes. Students who do not do so, will not be admitted to Classes VI and IX in Government schools. Private schools who prepare students for the Matric as well as O Level examinations have responded in the following manner: Some of them have sent up students for the PEC exams this year. Some of the larger private school systems like BPS and LGS, on the basis of an assurance by the education department that the order will not apply to them up to 2011, have not sent up any student for the PEC exams this year. Private schools, including Ibne Sina, who do not prepare students for Matric and do not teach the Punjab Text Book Board syllabus on which the PEC exams are based have not complied with the order this year for the reason that it does not provide for students who do not intend to matriculate from Government schools. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved this year.

Mission Statement and Motto

Keeping with the times, the College has formally declared its Mission Statement, which is as follows.

“We shall strive to bring our children to the highest level of their own potential. The College will aim to provide equal opportunity education to all students in all the three aspects – intellect, character and physique that make up a complete individual. Pakistani nationalism and the county’s needs as an ideological state will be of paramount importance in formulating any educational plane, and the College will offer an academic programme based on acceptance of the both of these requirements. The Ibne Sina College’s way of education will also amalgamate the best of the indigenous Pakistani system as well as the best of international developments in the pedagogy of teaching.”

The College has also adopted the following words “LEARN, UNDERSTAND, IMPLEMENT” as it’s Motto. This Motto and the Mission Statement together convey the method and purposes of the College’s service to students.

Shorter Academic Year

The College’s current academic year (2010-11) was shortened by 3 weeks by the Government’s order that all school summer vacations be extended upto 13 September 2010. Another 6 weeks had to be cut to comply with an earlier Government order that all schools start their annual sessions in April, instead of in September. The current academic year started on 14 September and will end in April 2011. To make up the 40 school days lost by classes Playgroup to O1 this year, the College extended it’s 5 school days a week schedule to 6 days during the year for all students in these classes. This saved 20 of the 40 days they lost. Students in Classes O2 and O3, who were already on a 6 days a week schedule, also saved 20 days by extending their summer vacation special classes this year from 4 to 8 weeks. More teaching time was gained by suspending House meeting periods and reducing the time taken for elocutions, debates, term examinations and the winter vacation. Through these measures it has been possible to complete the year’s syllabus in the time available. We shall revert to the 5 days schedule for Classes Nursery to Class O1 from 25 April 2011, when the next academic year starts.

Charity

The people of Ibne Sina responded generously to help provide relief to flood victims last summer. In October the College’s students and staff donated Rs 600,000, which together with a matching sum donated by the owners of the College made a total donation of Rs 1,200,000 which was given to the Eisaar Trust to provide roofing materials for 80 houses re-built upto roof level by the house owners themselves in Kot Addu. Subsequently, in response to an appeal by Imran Khan our students collected, and donated, a sum of Rs 676,200 to the Imran Khan Flood Relief Fund. To date a sum of Rs 1,872,200 has been donated for flood relief through Ibne Sina College. I thank all parents who, as enjoined by Allah Ta’ala, enabled their children to take part in this “co-curricular activity” of the College, which is an essential part of their “Tarbiat” here.

Iqbal's Message

The message of Allama Iqbal is not included in any of the books in our syllabus. To correct this situation the College has started a 15 minute presentation of selected verses of his poetry, once each fortnight, in the weekly morning assemblies. The verses are explained and their message is illustrated through short stories written and presented by our Senior Urdu Teacher Mr. Rana Suleman.

Sports

This year we reorganized our sports activities. Three new qualified and experienced sports teacher were employed who, together with our lady sports teacher, have made the College's sports and games more interesting and intensive. Several foot ball and basket ball matches were played with other schools, most of which we won. Our Girls Basket Ball Team won the Trophy, and the Boys team stood 4th in the Punjab Olympic Association Games for Secondary Schools in Punjab. A member of our Girls Team was declared the best girl basket ball player in the Games.

Teacher Training

A 2 days workshop was conducted by Portal Education, a teachers training organization, during the summer vacation. Seventy teachers participated in this workshop which taught them how to effectively manage student behaviour in the class room. Earlier in the year a 3 days workshop was conducted by PERD, another teachers training organization, which taught 22 teachers how to more effectively teach Urdu and Mathematics in the Preschool Classes. The College's In House Teachers Training conducted by our senior Teachers in English, Urdu, Maths and the 3 Science subjects is a continuous activity. Teachers are also sent to attend seminars and workshops conducted for O Level teaching by the British Council.

Staff

The success of Ibne Sina College lies squarely on the shoulders of its employees, some of whom have been with us for the past 24 years. Last year several employees who were past the retirement age were retired and those whose services were considered essential were given a one year extension in service. During the year the College's Service Rules were amended to provide the following additional benefits for employees.

1. The retirement age of employees, excluding those performing manual services, has been raised from 60 to 63 years.
2. The service period required for entitlement to receive gratuity at the end of service has been reduced from 5 to 4 years.
3. Employees performing manual services have been entitled to the reimbursement of up to Rs 1,500 per month, of their cost of educating their children.
4. The family of an employee performing manual services will be paid a "Death Grant" equal to 1 month's salary on her/his death in service.
5. The children of an employee who are receiving free education at Ibne Sina College at the time of their parent's death in service will be entitled to continue to avail this facility upto the time they leave Ibne Sina College.
6. The following additional leave privileges have been allowed:
 - 15 days paid Bereavement Leave on the death of a male employee's wife.
 - 7 days paid Bereavement Leave on the death of an employee's child.
 - 30 days paid Haj Leave for an employee's first Haj.
 - All unavailed Sick Leave and 50% of an employee's Earned Leave has been made encashable.

To help employees meet the rapid increases in their cost of living, for the third consecutive year, they were given an advance annual increment in July 2010 followed by the final annual increment for the year in January 2011.

I take this opportunity to thank all of the present College staff, as well as those who have left us, for their loyal and competent services to the College without which we would not be in the satisfactory position that we are today.