

ISA Activity (English) 2021-24 : Curtain Call: Giving Silence a Voice

“Chaplin made me laugh and cry without saying a word!”—Marcel Marceau. To communicate through silence is a link between the thoughts of man and as August Bournonville rightly said, *“The art of mime encompasses all the feelings of the soul,”* students of grade VIII, IX and XI experienced the quintessential flavour of acting, expressions, bodily movement, portraying a character and mood through this technique of art.

This year’s English ISA project commenced with students watching interesting Power Point Presentations and You Tube videos on the history of mime and pantomime in a Brainstorming session conducted in July. Discussions with teachers were held on the subject and students shared their experiences and prior knowledge during the online sessions conducted on Zoom and Google Meet. They participated in some warm up ice breaker activities too. An inter class Power Point Making Competition scheduled for the month of April which got postponed due to the unforeseen COVID-19 lockdown leading to closure of schools was conducted in July 2020. Each class submitted fascinating Power Point Presentations thereby showcasing their in-depth comprehension and knowledge on various mime artists from around the world, the origin of this genre from ancient Greece and Roman times and how this technique has become a global art form. The research conducted by them gave them an opportunity to understand human behaviour, emotions through body movements and facial expressions. The best Power Point Presentation was showcased in the Annual e-Exhibition of the School on You Tube and won much accolade from the viewers.

As part of the ongoing activities, an Inter House Mime Competition which was held in August ‘2020 saw students collaborate with their team members to make mime videos on the topic, ‘Depiction of Social and Ethical Issues through Mime.’ Students studied the social issues from the focus countries being Greece, Rome, France and India as well as the various techniques and nuances of this art form and presented their ‘stories’ keeping in mind bodily actions and movements, facial expressions, gestures etc . All the acts were a delight for the viewers and each one was different than the other in all aspects.

The grand finale of the ISA English Project 2021-24, came about with students of grades VIII, IX and XI collaborating with the Animation Club of the School to create an animated movie on the theme ‘Emotions.’ They chose the topic ‘Nepotism and Corruption’ to depict their ideas and thoughts. Skills such as forming an effective storyboard, organizing ideas, production quality, graphics, animation and a lot more was achieved by the group members who collaborated with each other on the virtual platform. The animated movie was uploaded on You Tube and highly appreciated by everyone. Students felt a great sense of achievement at the completion of the English ISA project, as the theme chosen was a unique, creative and an insightful one.



