



# ROYAL REFLECTIONS

VOL: XV | April 2024

## Cover Story

Reflecting back, the 11th of January 2024 marked a significant milestone in our educational journey as we unveiled our new nursery branch at Royal Institute Havelock Town. The atmosphere was electrifying, brimming with anticipation and the promise of boundless opportunities for our young minds. With gratitude to The Chairman, Mr. G.T Bandara, Academic Director, Dr. Nirodha Bandara and other dignitaries who graced us with their presence, we embarked on this visionary endeavor, laying the foundation for a future of excellence and growth.

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## Message from The Academic Director

It is heartwarming to be sharing my thoughts on the 15th issue of Royal Reflections and it brings immense pleasure to see this platform emerge with novel façades as a perfect medium of responsible expression. Royal Institute International School is very happy to share all its updates be them academic, sports, aesthetics, developments or achievements with the RI community as well as with those beyond the RI walls.

The current issue of Royal Reflections brings to you glimpses of numerous activities and events held at RI schools across this term, as part of providing wholesome education to all students. These valuable experiential learning sessions include 'Life Skills and Personal Development' programmes, 'KidsSafe' awareness sessions by Axiata Digital Labs, OL Way Forward 2024, 'US EdTour South Asia'- a US university fair, and 'Corporate World Skills' by Deloitte, which are organized by the RI Career Guidance Unit. Among other significant achievements are those made by young and dynamic sportsmen and sports women of RI under the training and guidance of RI Sports Department; the most recent include U - 14 Girls All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024, and U - 14 Inter International Schools Football Championship 2024. Simultaneously, as part of academic staff development, diverse programmes including Empathy's Role in Education, A Psychological Toolkit for Teachers, Cambridge Training and Level up Smart - Interactive Flat Panel Training were held within the term.

Updates are simply too many to be penned, but we are certain that you will be very excited to see them for yourselves. We sincerely hope that you will grab all these invaluable opportunities made available for your child and help them grow into happy and healthy well-rounded individuals that you dream of.

**Dr. Nirodha Bandara**  
Academic Director



## Students' Achievements

### Jahani Rathugama

Top in the country for Commerce

Jahani Rathugama, a student of Royal Institute Nugegoda, has received an award for being the top in the country in Commerce at the June 2023 Cambridge Examinations.

Currently, Jahani is aiming to specialize in software engineering as she wishes to contribute to the world of gaming and virtual reality.



### Ravindu Peiris

Top in the country for Additional Mathematics

Ravindu Peiris, achieved the highest score in the country for Additional Mathematics in the June 2023 Cambridge examination.

Ravindu prefers to focus on the journey rather than the final destination. Currently he is engaged in a pen-pal project in partnership with Royal Institute, which aims to develop international friendships between students at Royal Institute and Sweden, promoting global mindedness for everyone involved.



### Natasha De Alwis

All Island Under 14 Swimming Championship

Natasha De Alwis of Royal Institute International School, Maharagama branch has emerged victorious in the Under 15 All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024 organised by the Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU) earning 1st place in 50m, 100m and 200m Freestyle.

Moreover, she placed 1st in 50m Freestyle and Backstroke in the Under 14 Championship at the 16th Annual All Island Age Group Novices Swimming Championship 2024.





## Venturing on an Educational Revolution at Royal Institute International School



Unveiling our cutting-edge addition-the smart board which is meticulously designed to elevate learning experiences, transforming classrooms into hubs of innovation. Observe our students immerse themselves in dynamic lessons, interactive content, and collaborative activities, paving the way for a transformative era in education. Beyond being a mere tool, smartboards at Royal institute signifies a portal to a brighter, more interactive future - a catalyst for empowering minds and igniting brilliance.

## Inter-School Commerce Competition



In the pursuit of excellence, the Royal Institute Girls' School adorned the distinguished Inter-school Commerce competition at Ilma International Girls' School on January 12th, 2024. Unveiling their prowess in both artistry and business acumen, our students showcased a remarkable display of versatility. With profound pride, we emerged victorious, claiming 1st place for our captivating Artistry Advert and an admirable 3rd place for our mastery of business jargon. This triumph resonates with our unwavering commitment to excellence and the indomitable spirit of Royal Institute.

## Invigilator Training - March 2024



Invigilators are the people in the exam room responsible for the conduct of an exam. They make sure the exam follows relevant regulations so that candidates can show what they know and can do, keep the exam secure before, during and afterwards, prevent and report suspected malpractice and prevent administrative errors.

Royal Institute International School is a certified centre for Cambridge and Pearson Edexcel examinations and our own teachers are selected as invigilators. On 28th March 2024, Invigilator training was held at RI Havelock Town branch to provide a comprehensive idea about duties and responsibilities of an invigilator. This training will help to carry out June 2024 examination series smoothly.

## Leading with Diplomacy & Determination

The first RIMUN Introductory Workshop in club history was held at RIC, organized by Royal Institute Girls' School. Students participated in a highly informative and engaging session, with even an entertainment session at the end to round off the days events! The workshop was highly successful, resulting in countless students eagerly signing up as members of Royal Institute Model United Nations Club.



Royal Institute MUN delegates won

- 4 Honorary Mentions • Best FPS Award • Best News Agency Award (x2)
- at **LISMUN23**.

Best News Agency Award – Kaina Abdulla – 9A – Royal Institute Girls' School

Best News Agency Award – Iman Hamidon – 10B – RI Havelock

Best FPS – Praminda Kudahettie – 10A – RI Havelock

Honorary Mention – Yuthika Gamage – 11C – RI Nugegoda

Honorary Mention – Awish Jayawardane – 11FM – RI Nugegoda

Honorary Mention – Hirun Wijesinghe – 11C – RI Nugegoda

### Project Helping Hands

Project Helping Hands encompassed a compassionate initiative focused on fostering meaningful connections with the community. During the initial phase, our dedicated team embarked on a visit to an orphanage called Balika Niwasaya, Rukmalgoda with the noble intention of offering an enriching experience to the children residing there.

Our mission was to provide a delightful afternoon snack, thoughtfully curated with an assortment of fruits, sweets, and more, to bring joy and warmth to the lives of these young souls.

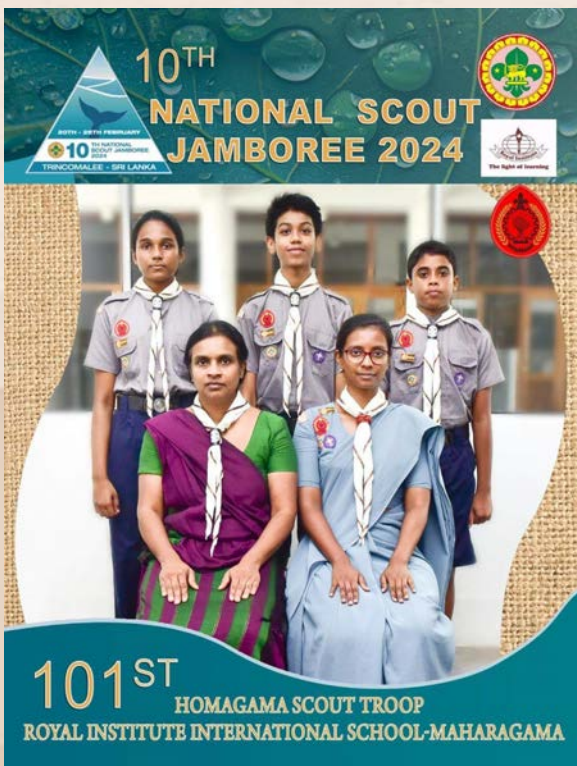




## Celebrating Excellence

### Royal Insitute Cub Scout Badge Ceremony

At Royal Institute, the spirit of Scouting thrives, as young minds embark on a journey of exploration, learning, and service. Among the cherished traditions of the institute is the Scout Badge Ceremony, a momentous occasion where Scouts are honored for their dedication and achievement.



Three Scouts of Maharagama branch participated in the 10th National Scout Jamboree - 2024 from 20th to 26th February in Trincomalee.





## Life Skills Programme

RI Career Guidance Unit (RICGU) has implemented the Life Skills programme across all branches for A-Level students, aiming to enhance their soft skills and foster independence, preparing them to become well-rounded members of society. Students participated in informative and interactive sessions focusing on health, nutrition, and the physical well-being.



## Elevating Inspiration

A session was organized to explore the concept of motivation, identified personal motivators, and learned strategies to maintain motivation throughout their academic journey.

## Training for a Safer Tomorrow

'Safe from Harm' was organized by CGU. Dr. A. I. Vidanagama, District Medical Officer of DH Maligawaththa and U.L. Miral Priyanga Ariyapala, the Assistant District Commissioner Media PR and IT of the Sri Lanka Scout Association, Colombo District Branch attended, aiming at educating students on recognizing and preventing potential dangers, along with basic first aid skills.



## Digital Defence



Axiata Digitals conducted workshops for Cambridge grade 8 and National grade 9 students on 'Online Safety,' addressing pertinent issues in today's technological landscape.



Continuation of the Cover Page article

## Sprouting Seeds of Wisdom and Wonder:

### RI Nursery blooms in Havelock Town

The inaugural intake of RI Havelock Town was held on 11th January 2024. The day began with a dhamma sermon, filling our little learners' hearts with peace and kindness.

From exploring vibrant spaces to building colourful towers, our nursery buzzed with laughter and discovery. It was a day filled with smiles that seemed to dance on every face, creating a symphony of joy and happiness.

**Welcome to RI Nursery family, little ones!**



## Tiny Troopers in Red

The recent red day celebration on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024 saw children participating in fun activities, while dressed in vibrant shades of red.



## Healthy Bites, Happy Hearts

The fruit day brought the little chefs together to create a delicious fruit salad encouraging teamwork and creativity among the students.

We believe these engaging activities not only serve entertainment, but also enrich in the overall development of our young ones in the nursery.





## O/L Way Forward 2024

Embarking on the O-Level Way Forward! The day's enlightening event unfolded a wealth of career insights from the Director of Employability and Qualifications at Edexcel South Asia. Students and parents explored dynamic career stalls, gaining invaluable perspectives for their journey ahead. From key speakers like Dr. James Abdey, a Statistics Lecturer, providing insights on specializing in skills and different skill types, to Edexcel's global advantages, it was an eye-opening experience, shaping not just grades but futures.



## Independence Day Celebrations

We honored our nation's rich heritage, diverse culture, and remarkable journey towards freedom as we came together as one community and celebrated this occasion.

Royal Institute International Schools celebrated Sri Lanka's 76 years of liberty by showcasing independence through empowering and heartfelt songs, dances, and dramas, honouring those who fought for freedom.



## In the arena of competition, Moments define destinies!

CyberTech'23, The IT Day hosted by the IT Society of Royal Institute International School, was successfully concluded at Royal Institute of Colombo on the 18th of December 2023.

The atmosphere was alive with joy and excitement, making the event truly electrifying.





## Mother Goose: Timeless Rhymes, Endless Smiles

"Mother Goose in Nursery Land" concert brought it all back on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at Royal Institute of Colombo Auditorium!





# Champions Crowned



**Natasha De Alwis**  
(Maharagama)

- 50M, 100M, and 200M Freestyle 1st place (U-15)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)
- 50M Freestyle and Backstroke 1st place and (U-14) Champion  
16th Annual All Island Age Group Novices Swimming Championship 2024



**Minurya Perera**  
(Havelock Town)

- 50M Breaststroke 2nd place (U-15)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)
- 50M Breaststroke 2nd place (U-16)  
16th Annual All Island Age Group Novices Swimming Championship 2024



**Lithuka Jayakody**  
(Nugegoda)

- 50M Freestyle and Backstroke 2nd place (U-11)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)
- 50M Freestyle - 1st place  
50M Backstroke -3rd place (U-10)  
16th Annual All Island Age Group Novices Swimming Championship 2024



**Anuhas Rupanjana**  
(Nugegoda)

- 50M Freestyle and Backstroke 1st Place  
100M Freestyle 3rd place (U-15)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)



**Sithuka Jayakody**  
(Nugegoda)

- 50M Freestyle - 3rd Place (U-17)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)
- 50M Freestyle - 3rd place (U-18)  
16th Annual All Island Age Group Novices Swimming Championship 2024



**Hansara Nishil**  
(Maharagama)

- 50M Breaststroke - 3rd place (Under 13)  
All Island Novices Aquatic Championships 2024  
Organized by Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU)





## Revisiting Memories

### Alumni Reflect on her Transformative Journey

Dr. Kishani Udugampola, proud alumni of Royal Institute family embarked on a journey with passion for education and social empowerment. Her remarkable journey from her student days at RI to her current initiatives in Sri Lanka showcases a strong commitment to making a difference in the lives of underserved youth.

Dr Kishani's transition from RI to the United States was marked by international exposure and proficiency in English, essential for her aspirations. Her time at RI instilled a deep appreciation for multiculturalism and adaptability which navigated her academic and professional pursuits abroad. Back in her homeland, Dr Kishani initiated a health and Peer Mentoring Program in Sri Lanka. This initiative pairs underprivileged youth with national and international mentors, fostering friendships and providing support in some areas such as education and health. Inspired by her own experience and motivated by a desire to break barriers for the youth, Dr Kishani envisions an opportunity for children where everyone has equal rights.

Supported by her colleague abroad and her alma mater, Royal Institute, Dr Kishani's initiative has gained momentum. Looking ahead, Dr Kishani's goals for the program are ambitious yet achievable. Following an inaugural in-person mentoring camp, she plans to expand the initiative, creating a sustainable mentoring environment. Both mentors and mentees will embark on a journey for growth, contributing to a brighter future in Sri Lanka.





## Empowering Progress Through Modern Facilities

In a bid to enhance interactive learning experiences, RI has integrated state-of-the-art smart boards across its branches, revolutionizing traditional teaching methods.

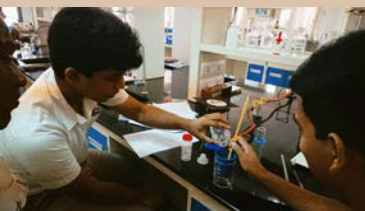
The Nugegoda branch is presently undergoing construction aimed at enhancing and expanding its facilities.

RI Maharagama is proud to announce significant progress in its ongoing renovation endeavors. The institution is poised to unveil modernized facilities. Among these developments is the introduction of a new Career Guidance Unit room, offering invaluable resources to empower students in their academic and professional pursuits.

Two Royal Institute International School students Raheel Imthad and Iman Hamidon, have authored a blog post delving into the laboratories at the school's Havelock Town Branch. The article explores the diverse research conducted in laboratories and the dedication of researchers.

Their state-of-the-art laboratories provide an ideal environment for students to apply theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills, enabling students to grasp complex ideas.

Royal Institute International School Havelock Branch, was thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new kindergarten section, and the Maharagama branch expanded its recreational offerings with the introduction of a vibrant sand pit as well as a groundbreaking outdoor classroom.





## Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC)

A center of academic excellence for 40 years, RIC offers a wide range of renowned Degrees and Certificate programmes to suit your specific needs.

Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC), offers the opportunity to read for Degrees and Graduate Diplomas from leading universities in the UK and Australia that are of international standard and repute- all at an affordable cost while studying in Sri Lanka, providing a cost-effective alternative to studying abroad. The qualification awarded will be the same as an undergraduate student who is reading a degree in the UK and Australia.

RIC aims to provide students with life changing opportunities through intellectual transformation, and use knowledge, skills and attitudes in order to serve the world and go on create greatness.



## Royal Institute Smart Academy (RISA)

Royal Institute Smart Academy (RISA) is an online school which utilizes cutting edge technology to make learning effective and more engaging. Officially recognized by Cambridge, RISA offers courses for O-Levels, AS-Level and A-Level students of age 14 to 21.

RISA has utilized a wide range of practical and explicit strategies that blend the best of what is currently done in classrooms. It allows students the opportunity for independent learning whilst having genuine human touch with qualified teachers and other inquisitive and bright students in order to succeed in the 21st century, RISA strives to empower younger learners with boundaryless learning.



## Royal Institute Centre of Skills (RICS)

At RICS, we pride ourselves on offering a diverse portfolio designed to cater to every student's requirements. From widely sought-after languages and traditional courses to avant-garde programs focusing on skill enhancement, we ensure a comprehensive range of options to meet varying educational needs.

Our commitment to expertise and innovative pedagogy has consistently distinguished the learning experience at RICS. Operating under the esteemed brand Royal Institute, we continue to uphold our legacy of excellence, providing students with unparalleled opportunities for growth and development.





## Talent Corner



**Methuli Sasethma**  
7 Cambridge  
Gampaha



**Hirundi Gamlath**  
Grade 5NB,  
Havelock Town



### Celebrating Ananditha Shivane

A rising literary star

RI is thrilled to shine a spotlight on the remarkable literary talent of Ananditha Shivane, a seventh-grade student at the Cambridge Gampaha branch. With the publication of her own book of short stories entitled "Power of Unity," Ananditha has carved her name as a rising star in the world of literature.

Within the pages of "Power of Unity," Ananditha showcases her creative prowess with five captivating moral stories, each intricately crafted from the depths of her imagination. Through her storytelling, she weaves narratives that not only entertain but also inspire, leaving a lasting impact on readers of all ages. Ananditha's dedication to her craft and her ability to breathe life into vibrant characters is truly commendable.



## The Tsunami

By **Sachithma** - Grade 9 National, (Maharagama)

The Tsunami came,  
The tidal wave.  
Lasted for minutes,  
But gave a tragic end.

Along the coast,  
Around it went.  
Taking lives,  
For its pleasure.

He took a lot of lives,  
Making everyone cry.  
He made the cities wet,  
And made everyone  
remember this time.

Now everyone commemorates,  
The higher rate,  
Of lives it took,  
And the tragic end

## Teacher Spotlights

### Ms. Shehara Kanaka Halaldeen

We are delighted to celebrate Mrs. Shehara Kanaka Halaldeen, an exemplary educator who has illuminated our school community with her dedication and achievements. With 25 years of service at Royal Institute International School since 1997. Her recent appointment as the "Assistant Head Quarter Commissioner" of the Sri Lanka Scout Association, marks a historic milestone, making her the first lady International School Teacher in Sri Lanka to hold such a prestigious position.



## Parents' Involvement

At Royal Institute we strive to create numerous avenues for parental involvement, recognizing that each family brings unique strengths and perspectives to our community. From volunteering in classrooms and participating in parent-teacher meetings to joining parent advisory committees and attending school events, there are various opportunities for parents to contribute to the educational journey of their children.



## The Editorial Board



**Dr. Nirodha Bandara**  
(Academic Director)

**Ms. Windya Tennakoon**  
(Head of Press Club)

### Editors:

Ms. Nadeera Gunasekera  
Ms. Chathurika Perera

### Content Writers:

Celeena Widiyaratne  
Aaqib Muwahid  
Alaaniya Hathif  
Kaina Abdullah  
Sidhra Shiham  
Aamina Irfan

### Layout & Design:

Mr. Pathum Athukorala

## We are located in...

### RI Havelock Town:

191, Havelock Road, Colombo 5.

+94 77 770 1557

+94 11 259 2747, +94 11 259 2748

### RI Girls' School :

No.163, Maya Avenue, Colombo 6.

+94 77 252 8282, +94 11 255 2268

### RI Nugegoda :

No.10, Chapel Road, Nugegoda.

223, Stanley Thilakarathne Rd,

Nugegoda.

+94 11 282 3082, +94 11 281 7397

+94 77 144 8282

### RI Gampaha :

Hansagiri Junction, Yakkala Road,  
Gampaha.

+94 77 235 2030, +94 33 222 2828

### RI Maharagama :

No.11, Apeksha Hospital Road,  
Maharagama

+94 77 511 8282, +94 11 284 0666



The light of learning

# Royal Institute International School

 [www.royalinstitute.org](http://www.royalinstitute.org)


 [info@royalinstitute.org](mailto:info@royalinstitute.org)




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School re-opens for students on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024