

Schools tour: India
August- September 2016

Contents

1. Introduction
2. List of participating UK institutions
3. City-wise highlights
 - i. Chennai
 - ii. Coimbatore
 - iii. Ooty
 - iv. Bangalore
 - v. Ahmedabad
 - vi. Baroda
 - vii. Pune
 - viii. Mumbai
 - ix. Delhi
 - x. Kolkata
4. Feedback from delegates
5. Conclusion

1. Introduction

SIEM India team concluded its annual Schools Tour that began on 16 August and concluded on 9 September 2016. Schools tour is one of the most popular services offered by SIEM India and each tour is designed with a unique feature to benefit the participating UK institutions. This year the tour was packaged to provide comprehensive regional engagement opportunity to participating UK institutions by engaging with premium schools across key cities of India. UK institutions also had a choice to only participate in specific cities which were a part of their regional recruitment strategy.

Schools tours have been a successful recruitment opportunity for many UK institutions. British Council has been successfully delivering schools tours for the last 4 years resulting in an increase in number and quality of interactions between UK and local institutions. Over the last 4 years, through the schools tour we have engaged with more than 8,000 students and more than 200 schools across various cities of India. The tour has also been an opportunity for UK institutions to gain local market knowledge by meeting school counsellors across India.

This year the tour began in Chennai and travelled to Coimbatore, Ooty and then Bangalore in the South. The tour then continued to Ahmedabad, Baroda, Pune and Mumbai in West India. After a brief break the tour resumed in the month of September in Delhi and continued to Kolkata where the tour finally concluded.

The aim of the schools tour was to promote undergraduate courses in the UK and provide a platform for student interaction. The programme also included a brief interaction with faculty at each school to explore opportunities for recruitment and collaborative priorities between the participating UK and Indian institutions.

At each school, the programme included the following interactions:

1. A brief presentation highlighting each university profile (single slide introduction to the university) by each of the participating delegates
2. A table and chair exhibition for one on one student counselling
3. Interaction with faculty

The 2015 schools mission report is available [here](#).

2. List of participating UK institutions

| Sr no | University name | Chennai | Coimbatore | Ooty | Bangalore | Ahmedabad | Baroda | Pune | Mumbai | Delhi | Kolkata |
|-------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Sheffield Hallam University | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 2 | University for the Creative Arts | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Leeds Beckett University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 4 | University of Warwick | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 5 | NCUK | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6 | University of Birmingham | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | University of Southampton | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 8 | Bournemouth University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 9 | University of Worcester | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 10 | Middlesex University | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11 | University of Exeter | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 12 | University of Manchester | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Plymouth University | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 14 | University of Portsmouth | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 15 | Newcastle University | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 16 | University of East Anglia | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |

3. City wise highlights

CHENNAI

The Chennai tour was on 16 and 17 August 2016 where the delegation met over 200 potential students in 4 schools over two days.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Lalaji Memorial Omega International School, Chennai (www.omegaschools.org), curriculum: CBSE and CIS.

The school was founded by Shri. P. Rajagopalachari, in the year 2005 and has 5000 children today. The school currently offers the Indian CBSE program, the Cambridge University CIS program and starting this year, the school will be offering the IB Diploma program as well.

The school has a diverse student population, with children from a wide range of countries and ethnicities and offers languages electives including, French, German, Spanish and Chinese, other than the Indian languages. Nearly 50% student population from the school chooses to study abroad.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, Physics, Math, Economics, Biotechnology, Astrophysics, Management, associated Medicine, Creative courses, Micro Biology.
- There is an interest amongst the students in artificial intelligence and robotics
- Top destinations for higher studies include US, Australia, HonKong, Korea, Japan, UK, Singapore
- There are 250 to 300 students who reside at the boarding school
- The school has an agreement with Navitas
- The school suggested that first week of April, end of March and June are the best months to visit the school again.

Delegates met 40 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school.

- Hiranandani International School, Chennai (www.hus.edu.in), curriculum: CBSE, IGCSE and IB. HUS International is a new development in 2014, with an exciting modern approach to learning. The school provides IGCSE and IB and CBSE curriculum. Most of the students from IB school opt to go abroad for higher education, however, they will have their first batch graduating this year from IB board.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business and Management, Engineering, Science
- Top destinations for higher studies include US, UK, Australia and Singapore

Delegates met 75 potential students and 3 key contacts at the school

- M.C.T.M Chidambaram Chettyar International School, Chennai (www.mctmib.org), curriculum: IB MCTM International School is the only IB school which is located within the city limits of Chennai. The school conducts programs for career development and betterment of students' fitness. Almost 50% of the students from MCTM go abroad for their undergraduate degree.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Physics, Science, Economics, Business and Management, Psychology
- Top destinations include US, UK and Singapore. Students primarily go to the country where their respective families are based.
- The delegates were interested to know if the students found the transition difficult in terms of coping with the international curriculum after the state board
- Students from MCTM do often go to other countries for summer school programme
- There were no scholarship queries
- The school suggested that right time to visit the school for a follow up would be during March and December.

Delegates met 34 potential students and 3 key contacts at the school

- Chettinad Hari Shree Vidyalayam, Chennai (www.harishree.org), curriculum : ICSE

The school is 12 years old following the ICSE curriculum and has worked with many global foundations and institutions including having global partnerships with 2 schools in the UK and have received many grants from UK bodies to facilitate exchange visits. The school has also worked with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation to connect their students with the world and give them a global perspective. The school has hosted student interns from AIESEC, the largest global youth network and students from Germany and Singapore.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- o Medicine, engineering, art and design, business and management, economics
- o Also included niche subjects such as Dance, theatre studies, social sciences and journalism
- o Earlier this year, the school has hosted an international education fair wherein 11 Universities from Japan participated. Furthermore, the school has participated in a Science competition in Japan
- o The school was interested to know the criteria's required to gain a scholarships and the procedures for the same
- o The delegates were interested to know why it was not mandatory for students to take up Math in the senior year as math is a requirement for studying Psychology

Delegates met 70 potential students, 10 parents and 2 key contacts at the school.

Snapshot

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Chennai Schools mission | |
| Total students | 217 |
| Total faculty | 10 |

COIMBATORE

The Coimbatore tour was on 18 August and the delegation visited two schools.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Manchester International School, Coimbatore (www.manchesters.in), curriculum: IGCSE and A Levels Students at the Manchester International School are given ownership of the learning process and are encouraged to set personal goals and practice on-going self-evaluation. Manchester International School offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) IGCSE, and the A levels. The school has innovatively engaged with various leading universities to help their students to choose the right higher education institution. The school is open to joining hands with leading institutions around the globe. Some of the popular subjects that students opt for their UG courses are: Science, English, Business studies, Engineering. From their first batch the students opted to go to the US, China, Singapore and prefer going to European countries and the UK.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- o Business, Engineering, Management and medicine
- o Delegates suggested school to create more awareness on requirements and that the students may have to undergo a foundation course in the UK to qualify to apply to a UK university for an UG degree
- o The school has 50% boarders and 50% students are from Coimbatore.

Delegates met 56 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school.

- Chinmaya International School, Coimbatore (www.cirschool.org), curriculum: CBSE and IB Chinmaya International Residential School and is home to 500 students from 23 Indian states and 19 countries from around the world. Engineering, Medicine, business, psychology, Mass communication are some of the popular subjects to students. They opt to go to US, UK, Singapore, HK, Netherlands, and Canada as their choice of destination.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Engineering, Medicine, Psychology, Arts, Music were some of the popular courses.
- The school discussed that the students do not have access to internet. They spend a lot of time at library referencing.
- It was discussed that students at this school were very creative. They set-up whole stage for fests in the school with what- ever materials they have as they do not get money to buy anything. This teaches students to be innovative and creative.
- The regular regime of students was discussed. The school management highlighted that students prefer more classes post evening and hence school has facility to take classes late evenings as well.

Delegates met 90 potential students and 3 key contacts at the school

Snapshot

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Coimbatore Schools mission | |
| Total students | 146 |
| Total faculty | 5 |

OOTY

The schools tour in Ooty was on 19 and 20 August. The delegation visited three local institutions.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Good Shepherd International School, Ooty (www.gsis.ac.in), curriculum: IB, IGCSE, ISC and ICSE
Good Shepherd International School was established in 1977, additionally the school been functioning as SAT 1/ 2 and IELTS centers for candidates in Ooty in the last fifteen years. Some popular study destinations for the school students are USA, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand, Czech Republic and Dubai.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, Medicine, Computer Science, Sports management, Creative arts, Architecture, Business management were some of the popular courses
- The school management highlighted that the students participate in various sports and extra-curricular activities as a part of their curriculum.
- The school informed delegates that they organise an international fair in month of October and invited UK universities to participate.
- The delegates were taken around the school campus.

Delegates met 230 potential students and 3 key contacts at the school.

- Hebron International School , Ooty (www.hebronooty.org), curriculum: GCSE
Established in 1899, Hebron is an independently managed International co-educational Christian Residential School.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Medicine, Architecture, Business, Arts and design, Engineering were some of the popular courses.
- Hebron follows a 13 year of schooling. This is the only school which follows this system.
- The school has more of expats students studying at Hebron.
- The school was eager to host guest lectures by UK academics at their school.

Delegates met 65 potential students and 3 key contacts at the school

- Lawrence International School, Ooty (www.thelawrenceschool.org), curriculum:

The Lawrence School, Lovedale is named for its founder, Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence. Sir Henry's idea was to establish a chain of schools to provide education to the children of the deceased and serving soldiers and officers of the British army dream. Following the same four such schools, known as Lawrence Asylum, were established in India: the first two during his lifetime in 1847 at Sanawar, the second at Mount Abu in 1856; the third in 1858 at Lovedale, Ootacamund and the fourth in 1860 at Ghora Gali, Murree, in present-day Pakistan.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Science, psychology, humanities, economics were some of the popular subjects
- The school is a partner of AFS Intercultural Programs promoting international understanding and world peace. As a part of this programme the school has exchange programmes with different countries around the globe. Currently have a student from France studying at Lawrence for 6 months and similarly students from Lawrence have been to different countries like Hungary, China, Japan, etc. for 6 months to 1 year programmes.
- The school is under the Indian Ministry of Human Resource. The school informed that students have to clear an admission test to gain an admission at Lawrence.
- The school informed that February is an ideal time to re-visit or Aug-Oct is second preferred option.
- The school showed keen interest in summer programmes at UK universities.

Delegates met 175 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school

Snapshot

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Ooty Schools mission | |
| Total students | 240 |
| Total faculty | 5 |

BANGALORE

The tour in Bangalore was a two day programme, the delegation visited four schools from 22 to 23 August.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Candor International School, Bangalore (www.candorschool.edu.in), curriculum: IGCSE and IBDP
The school offers the IGCSE and IBDP curriculum. All the students of grade 11 and 12 study the IBDP and more than 87% of the students take the IB diploma. Since its inception, the school has grown to student strength of over 500 students. The secondary school section has 30 teachers who cater to more than 100 students from 10 nationalities. After completion of the IB degree, the students have been placed successfully at institutions from countries such as US, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Physics, literature, animation, film making, engineering, arts and design, fashion, psychology, computer science, bio-sciences, medicine, mechanical engineering, photography, forensic sciences, journalism were some of the popular subjects.
- Principal informed the delegates that the school has started its own entrepreneur programme. It was informed that IB and A levels have started only from this year. The total strength of students at this school is 580.
- Delegates discussed with principal that students should hold a diploma in IB as IB diploma is of higher value than certificate. Delegates gave an understand that IB Diploma will enable students to get into business and management courses or it would also help in courses such as psychology with law.
- There were discussions regarding job prospects for students in production field. Bournemouth University proposed for a direction or a production project to be done in this school.
- The principal informed the delegates that if any of the universities have any alumni in Bangalore and wishes to the visit school, he would be happy to host them.
- Discussions regarding IELTS and entry requirements were discussed.
- School informed the delegates that most of the students who studied were from South India; however they did get students from other parts of India as well

Delegates met 85 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school.

- Sarala Birla Academy, Bangalore (www.saralabirlaacademy.org), curriculum: IGCSE and IB
Sarala Birla Academy, the first international school of Aditya Birla Group, set up in June 2004 and is a fully residential boys' school. The school has more than 380 students and nearly 80 staff. Their students have excelled in the national as well as international exams and have been placed in several prestigious institutions such as Shri Ram College of Commerce, HR College, St. Xavier's College, Christ University and in universities abroad such as John's Hopkins Medical University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Georgia Tech,

Purdue University, University of Cardiff, Michigan State, Penn State University, Singapore Management University etc.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, management, business were some of the popular subjects
- The school had invited grade 8-11 students to meet the delegates
- The delegates met the principal who informed that a lot of US universities visit SBA. The trend at the school is inclined towards US education. He informed that this is particularly because the US universities give unconditional admission to students compared to UK universities.
- Principal informed delegates that he is interested in students choosing the right country. He highlighted that sports is popular amongst students. He informed that the school is 12 years old school and they offer IB since 2009.
- The school offers visual art and performing art as a subject. Internet access is given to IB students.

Delegates met 35 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school

- Bangalore International School, Bangalore (www.bangaloreinternationalschool.org), curriculum: CIE-IGCSE

Bangalore International School (earlier called American Community School) was started in 1969 and offers International Education for K-12. BIS is a small school spread across 4 acres and has around 500 students. Majority of the staff is Indian, but the school also has teachers from other countries including Spain, Germany and France. BIS graduates opt to study at universities in US, Canada, UK, Europe and India.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Psychology, Culinary, engineering, arts and design, sports were some of the popular subjects.
- There were questions from the school to the delegates on why the Cambridge results are not announced late as this hampers students' decision on applying to any UK universities.
- Discussion on how Brexit would affect India was raised by students/ parents and teachers.
- Some of the parents who visited felt that they received useful information from delegates.
- The school highlighted their support for women in Kashmir who were affected by floods.

Delegates met 110 potential students, 4 parents and 2 key contacts at the school

- Trio World School, Bangalore (www.trioworldacademy.com), curriculum: IB

TRIO World Academy educates students as per Cambridge IGCSE, AS, A-Level and IB Curriculum. They are a co-educational international day and boarding school with around 260 students from Nursery to Grade 12. 70 percent students from the school go abroad. The students have been accepted or received offers from a majority of universities in USA and UK. They have also received offers from institutions in Canada, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and Belgium.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Management, Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine were some of the popular subjects at the school.
- The school has a mix of expats and Indian students studying at high school.
- Some of the parents who visited were keen to send their kids to the UK for higher education.
- The school informed the delegates that they are open for them to revisit the school and was happy to host an academic as well for guest lectures.

Delegates met 35 potential students, 3 parents and 3 key contacts at the school

Snapshot

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Bangalore Schools mission | |
| Total students | 265 |
| Total faculty | 10 |
| Parents | 7 |

BARODA

The tour in the city of Baroda was organised as a one day programme, where two schools were visited by 3 UK institutions.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Navrachana International School, Baroda (www.navrachana.ac.in/), Curriculum: CBSE and IB

Navrachana International School, Vadodara is a Day-cum-Residential coeducation school in the state, which offers complete K-12 education including international/national curricula and pedagogies to students. Secondary school section offers the IB curriculum and the CBSE curriculum which has a total strength of around 150 students from over 14 nationalities. After completion of their degree, the students have been placed successfully at institutions from countries such as USA, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Dubai, Germany, Switzerland, other European countries.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, Business, Liberal Arts, Economics, Law, Theatre, Pure Sciences, Communication / PR, Dual degree programs, Sports, Biomedical Sciences, Robotics, were some of the popular subjects.
- The Principal informed the delegates that the IB school students the Navrachana International Model United Nations event every year since 2011 which is a completely student-driven activity and is well attended by students across schools in Gujarat. The same was taking place in the subsequent week in the school and students were currently busy with that.
- The principal also informed them that they have big delegations coming over to their schools from US and other countries unlike UK and trend is towards the US and Canada however there are focused students who apply to UK too.
- The counsellor spoke to the delegates informing them that the students are guided according to their choice of program and country of choice and all of them complete their application process well before the deadlines.
- The counsellor also spoke about how the students undertake a career counselling test which enable them to realise their subject choices.
- There were discussions regarding courses offering placement opportunities as part of the program as well as the scholarships which are being offered on merit to students (though money is not an issue with these students).
- Discussions also revolved around the feasibility of students being allowed to stay back for work experience which is a strong selection point for some of the students.
- There were discussions regarding IELTS and IB / CBSE entry point requirements too.

Delegates spoke to around 125 students during the presentation and met around 75 potential students during the table and chair exhibition and 2 key contacts at the school

- Vibgyor High, Baroda (www.vibgyorhigh.com/vadodara-padraroad.php), Curriculum: CBSE, IGCSE and A/AS Levels

VIBGYOR High one of the best boarding schools at Vadodara provides the perfect learning environment. The campus has residential facilities with centrally A/C rooms and modern amenities. The school prepares students for CBSE, IGCSE and A/AS Levels and currently has a strength of around 1000 students.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Art and design, Business/ Management, Pure Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Dual degree programs were some of the popular subjects
- The delegates met the principal who informed that students look at countries which have work opportunities as well as course flexibility. They have a fewer percentage of students going to study abroad but those who do are focused and can afford it.
- The Principal also said that comparatively a smaller number of students study the A level curriculum compared to the CBSE curriculum in the school.
- Students at this school do not undergo any kind of dedicated counselling and are open to apply where they choose too. There is no dedicated counselor in the school at the moment.

Delegates spoke to around 120 students during the presentation and met around 40 potential students during the table and chair exhibition and 1 key contact at the school

Snapshot

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Baroda Schools mission | |
| Total students | 245 |
| Total faculty | 3 |

AHMEDABAD

The tour in the city of Ahmedabad was organised as a two day programme visiting four schools by six UK institutions

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Ahmedabad International School, Ahmedabad (www.aischool.net/), Curriculum: GSEB, IBDP
AIS is a Gujarat State Education Board (GSEB) approved school following the GSEB curriculum, using NCERT books. Along with IBDP, the school also offers Cambridge International Examination is affiliated with Trinity College of London, which offers exams in communication skills, drama and music.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, Art and design and management were the popular subjects students aspired for in higher education overseas.
- More than 20 to 25 % of the students explored education overseas with US and Canada being the top choice amongst students. The rest of the students opted for higher studies outside the state for varying degrees of specialisations.
- The school hosts delegations from other countries as well and noticed that the frequency and the periodicity of the UK delegation visits was much less compared to the others.
- The students were keen on exploring avenues where scholarship options were available. The school did mention that institutions from other countries have scholarship options in plenty which attracted the student population aspire for those countries.

Delegates interacted with 124 students and 3 faculties at the school.

- Mahatma Gandhi International School, Ahmedabad (www.mgis.in/) Curriculum: IBDP

The school breathes innovative pedagogy. It creates a conducive environment for teaching and learning through project based education, differential pedagogy, use of diversity and real life learning in the class-room

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Sciences, Engineering, management and design courses were popular amongst the students.
- The top destination of choice is USA followed by Australia. The UK and Canada follow the order.
- Students from different economic backgrounds enrol in this school and the system of education is more activity based
- Some students were looking at scholarship options for higher studies overseas.

Delegates interacted with 40 students and 1 faculty at the school.

- J G International School, Ahmedabad (www.jgcampusindia.com/), Curriculum: ISCE, CIE and IB
JG International School is one of the oldest educational institutions in the city managing 20 odd colleges and schools.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Management, Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine were the popular subjects amongst students at the school
- The top destination of choice was USA, Singapore and Canada. UK as a study destination is still finding its way amongst the student population at this school. The frequency of the UK delegation visits would need to increase to create the necessary level of awareness.
- The school was keen to explore partnership options in the form of academic linkages with Middlesex University. The head of international relations and delegates from Middlesex University had preliminary discussions to set the platforms for establishing links
- Students needed a greater understanding of UCAS and its application procedures.

- The students were keen on exploring scholarship avenues across UK institutions who participated.

Delegates interacted with 278 students and 4 faculties at the school.

- Anand Niketan School, Ahmedabad (www.anandniketan.org/) Curriculum: CBSE, CISCE, IGCSE and AS / A level curriculum.

Anand Niketan Satellite Campus was founded to create a place where young enthusiastic learners can develop their individuality in a cognitive and socially acceptable environment, for the benefit of the society and future generations. On 1st June 2015, the school completed a decade in the pursuit of excellence. Today, Anand Niketan Satellite is a name to reckon with in the field of quality education.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, psychology, design, biosciences and management were the top subjects of choice amongst the students.
- The students primarily opted to study at Canada, closely followed by Singapore and USA. Around 15 % of the students opted to study in the UK as well
- Students were keen on understanding scholarships options across various subjects at the UK institutions.

Delegates interacted with 35 students and 1 faculty at the school.

Snapshot

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Ahmedabad Schools mission | |
| Total students | 477 |
| Total faculty | 9 |

MUMBAI

The tour in the city of Mumbai was a two day programme, nine UK institutions visited four schools in Mumbai.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- SVKM's J V Parekh International School, Mumbai (www.jvparekhintl.ac.in/) , Curriculum: ICSE, CBSE and IB

SVKM's J V Parekh International School has been an IB World School since May 2008. It offers the IB Diploma Programme. It also offers the A level program at the school. They have over 1500 students studying at the school offering the international curriculum. They are part of the SVKM group of institutions and are housed with students studying the ISCE, CBSE curriculum and local state board curriculum. Overall the school campus has over 4000 students studying across the various boards. SVKM International School has made a substantial commitment in terms of infrastructure, human resource and research facilities to ensure that all students are groomed in an environment that fosters excellence. The school offers "Smart Start" Program in the Pre-primary, the CIPP program at the Primary Level, Checkpoint for Grade 8th and IGCSE for Grade 9th & 10th.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business / Management, Art and Design, Fashion, Psychology, Biosciences, Medicine, Law, Actuarial Science, Interdisciplinary Programs were some of the popular subjects.
- The school is part of the SVKM group which offers a variety courses to the students from primary school right till research level; offering both the Mumbai University programs as well as programs offered by SVKM's NMIMS Deemed to be University.
- Their students have a vast choice of study options both internally within the group as well as amongst countries outside India. The popular countries are USA, Canada, UK, Australia and Singapore. USA has always been a popular study destination however they have observed that the number of students looking at studying in Canada has increased substantially. They are happy to study at colleges there.
- UK is not very popular as students do not get the opportunity to stay back after their graduation for work experience.
- Students in the school are highly networked and move in the same kind of social circles so they are well aware of programs / countries of choice
- Most students come from a business class background so are financially sound and 50% parents prefer study options within the city / country.

- Discussions regarding placement programs, scholarships, IELTS and entry requirements were discussed.
- They ensure that all their students study Maths at the IB level so that all program options are open to them.

Delegates met 90 potential students and 1 key contact at the school.

- Jamnabai Narsee International School, Mumbai (www.jnis.ac.in/), Curriculum: ICSE, IB
Jamnabai Narsee School, founded in 1971, situated in the western suburbs of Mumbai, has been established as a premier institute of learning in India. It provides quality education, right from the Pre – primary school years to the Indian School Certificate Examination (ISC). It is affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (ICSE), New Delhi, and facilitates open schooling through the National Institute Open Schooling (NIOS) at the Secondary level. It has also adopted an International Curricula from Grades 1 to 12 along with the existing IGCSE curriculum and IB Diploma Program. They have overall student strength of over 5000 students.

80% of their students studying the international curriculum look at studying outside India across countries like USA, UK, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Switzerland.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Economics, Business / Management, Psychology, Law, Humanities, Design, Architecture, Interdisciplinary programs were some of the popular subjects
- The school had invited students from ISC as well as DP program.
- The counsellor informed the delegates that USA is the first choice for students as they are allowed to stay back for work experience. Canada is also popular with the students. There are students who also look at UK as a study destination however UK has lost out on its popularity as there are no work options available after graduation.
- However courses with placement year options / sandwich programs are gaining popularity and they do have students looking at UK universities offering those courses.
- Students are from affluent business families and thus the student would like to study and gain some work experience before they join their family business back in India.
- No matter what subject the student chooses, they try to link a business program to the same.
- IELTS, Scholarships and entry requirement across the various local boards were discussed.

Delegates met 40 potential students, 5 parents and 2 key contacts at the school

- Singapore International School, Mumbai (www.sisindia.net/), Curriculum: IB
Singapore International School is located in the midst of nature, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of Mumbai life. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, it is the only co-educational institution in Mumbai that provides term, weekly and day boarding facilities. SIS offers a comprehensive programme structured in four levels. From Kindergarten through Grade 6, learning is anchored in the Singaporean curriculum. The Reggio Emilia approach has also been used within the framework of the IB Primary Years Programme. SIS enjoys recognition from the following state education departments and affiliation with Singapore, the Cambridge Examination Board and the IBO
70% of their IB students look at studying outside India across countries such as USA, Canada, UK, Singapore, Australia.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Engineering, Psychology, Visual Arts, Film studies, Medicine, Biosciences, Law, Fashion Design, Architecture, Environment Sciences, Dual Programs were some of the popular subjects.
- The Head of IB section informed the delegates that students are interested in studying in the UK because they have family / friends there as well as the fact that UK is closer to home in terms of travel time and the degrees are for shorter duration.
- There are currently 200 students studying the 2 year DP program
- It was also highlighted that students end up applying to both US and UK universities and then end up choosing US universities over those in the UK because USA offers them a confirmed offer letter based on their predicted grades and SAT scores in the month of March itself unlike the UK universities that wait till mid- July to make an offer. Also the UK universities lay a lot of stress on the predicted grades and don't look at any other scores (e.g. SAT) unlike the US universities who are more open.
- The inability of students to stay back further in the UK for work related opportunities is another major drawback for students.
- The local contact requested if universities could relook at the application process so as to benefit both the student as well as the UK universities.

Delegates met 115 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school

- Aditya Birla World Academy, Mumbai (www.adityabirlaworldacademy.com/), Curriculum: IB
At Aditya Birla World Academy in Mumbai, the endeavor is to provide world class education to the students by training them under the CIE (Cambridge International Examinations) from pre-primary to Grade X, and under the IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) and A Levels for Grade XI and XII.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business / Management, Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Law, Architecture, Design were some of the popular subjects at the school.
- The counselor informed the delegates that 50% of the students studying the international curriculum opt to study outside India in countries such as USA, Canada, UK. From this nearly 40% look at studying in the UK.
- The students are very focused during their applications and apply either to the US or UK and not to both countries.
- The school is happy to have the delegates writing to them directly with regards to their programs, scholarships, entry requirements as they do not work with educational consultants.

Snapshot

| Mumbai Schools mission | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Total students | 281 |
| Total faculty | 6 |
| Parents | 12 |

PUNE

The tour in the city of Pune was a two day programme, where five UK institutions visited four schools.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Vikhe Patil School, Pune (www.vikhepatil.org/vpmspune/), Curriculum: CBSE

The school offers the CBSE curriculum. After completion of their CBSE degree in commerce and science stream, 20% of their students have been placed successfully at institutions from countries such as US, UK, Germany, Canada.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, Music, Business, Law, Dual programs, Pure Sciences, Product design, Fashion, Marketing, Environmental Sciences, Architecture were some of the popular subjects.
- Principal informed the delegates that school has a policy where ex-students of the school are given a platform to share their experiences with the current students. Thus based on the positive message given out by their alumni students look at going to study at that particular foreign country / subject. Thus it was discussed that if they have any Vikhe Patil alumni at their universities, they should ask them to visit school and talk about their university experiences.
- Availability of scholarships as well as an opportunity to stay back for work experience are factors that students look at. Thus countries like USA and Canada are more popular. They also have big delegations from US universities visiting their school.
- Discussions regarding IELTS and entry requirements were also discussed.
- A lot of their students are toppers and end up getting admissions into IIT and other prestigious institutions locally.

At this visit the delegates met 150 potential students and 1 key contact.

- Symbiosis International School, Pune (www.symbiosisinternationalschool.net/), Curriculum: IGCSE

Symbiosis International School was founded in 2005. It offers students a 12-year education, starting with primary (PYP), a specially developed Middle School program (MSP), IGCSE and diploma programs (DP). The school shares a campus with Symbiosis International University. 60% of their students look at studying outside India. The most popular choice is the USA as students have an opportunity to stay back for work experience. Besides the US

the other popular countries of choice are Canada, UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and other European countries

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- o Business, Actuarial Sciences, Economics, STEM courses, Engineering, Humanities, Liberal Arts were some of the popular subjects
- o Almost every student at the school sits the SAT exam.

During this visit the delegates met 65 potential students, 13 parents and 1 key contact

- Mercedes Benz International School, Pune (www.mbis.org/), Curriculum: PYP, MYP and the DP program
The school offers all the facilities and amenities necessary for top class education in the world and has a richly diverse international community and a low student-teacher ratio. The student and staff population at MBIS represents 30 nationalities. 80% of their students look at studying outside India in countries such as USA and within Europe (including UK).

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- o International Relations, Law, Humanities, Economics, Design, Fashion, Business, Biomedical Sciences were some of the popular subjects.
- o There were questions from the students on how Brexit would affect them as quite a few of them were European passport holders.
- o Students also enquired about scholarships and IB scores they require for the program of their choice.
- o The new Director of the School, Eileen Niedermann and the new College Counsellor, Tim Getter came around to meet the delegates during the table / chair exhibition.

The delegates met 65 potential students, 1 parent and 2 key contacts

- Indus International School (www.indusschoolpune.com/), Curriculum: IB
The Indus International School was founded in 2008 and the curriculum offered is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Year Programme from Prep to Grade 5, and the Middle School Programme from Grade 6 to Grade 8, culminating in the University of Cambridge's International Examination in Grades 9 & 10, where students are awarded the International Certificate of Education (ICE) after Grade 10. The school offers IB Diploma Programme for grades 11 and 12.

With an infrastructure that supports excellence in all areas, Indus International School provides a wide array of world-class facilities in academics, sports, IT, and habitat. The sprawling 40-acre campus overlooks the Manas Lake in the city of Pune. The school currently has over 1000 students across 30 countries.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- o Business, Management, Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Law, Medicine, Design were some of the popular subjects at the school.
- o The school has a good number of students from Korea / Thailand studying in their school. This is mainly through word of mouth of parents / students and a bit of marketing done by the school.
- o Students also enquired about scholarships, IELTS and IB scores they require for the program of their choice.

At this visit the delegates met 60 potential students and 1 key contact

Snapshot

| Pune Schools mission | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Total students | 340 |
| Total faculty | 4 |
| Parents | 13 |

DELHI

The Delhi schools tour was a two days programme, where four UK institutions visited four schools in Delhi.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- Indian School, Delhi (<http://theindianschool.in/>), Curriculum: CBSE

The Indian School prepares students for the CBSE curriculum. The School has state-of-the-art labs for Computers, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics. Specialist teaching rooms are there for Environment and Social Sciences, Entrepreneurship and Business Studies, Fashion Technology, Engineering Graphics, and computerised Teachers' Resource Centre to keep pace with multi-learning methods of the future and develop the full potential of every child.

The School has a unique English Language Lab and a Video Conferencing room where groups of students can communicate with school children across the world. The School is digitally enabled with Smart Class Technology, Multimedia-linked smart boards, internet-based learning, and subject laboratories and cross curricular approach.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Literature, science, robotics, animation, engineering, arts and design, fashion, psychology, computer science and medicine were some of the popular subjects. .
- Discussions regarding IELTS and entry requirements were discussed.
- There were discussions regarding a SPOC for dealing with all the queries pertaining to studying and living in UK.
- School informed the delegates should look forward to participating in some competitions wherein few students from UK can come to Indian School for participation and vice versa.

During this visit the delegates met 160 potential students and 1 key contact at the school.

- Ahlcon International School, Delhi (www.ahlconinternational.com)

Ahlcon International School is a progressive, liberal, English medium, co-ed, Senior Secondary with 2600 students and staff strength of 200.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, business, design, fashion, psychology and management were some of the popular subjects
- The school had invited grade 11-12th students to meet the delegates
- The delegates met the principal who informed that there has been few students who have been going to UK every year though the numbers have not been encouraging
- The school wanted to come up with an arrangement where an exchange of students happen from both the schools

The delegates met 120 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school

- Amity International School, Delhi (www.amityinternationalschools.com/), Curriculum: CBSE and IB

Amity Schools run two curriculums – CBSE and IB. Education is provided to students with an objective to empower them to make decisions, to find creative solutions to problems and make them aware about international cultural ethos. The students have found admission to leading professional colleges of India and abroad such as University of Penn, Wharton, Nanyang Technical University, Waterloo University, Texas University, University of Melbourne, BHU (India), Symbiosis (Pune- India), IIT, BITS (Pilani- India), DCE, LSR, St. Stephens, Hindu and SRCC (India) to name a few.

The Schools have tie up with University of Cambridge (International Examinations) and IB.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Psychology, engineering, arts and design, management and sports were some of the popular subjects.
- There were questions from the school on how Psychology has come up strongly over the last few years
- The school also discussed the possibility of a virtual support center where the school counselor will be having a login credential which will connect them to a support back at the University which will offer all the help at the application process and any important requests.

The delegates met 110 potential students and 1 key contact at the school

- Genesis Global School, Delhi (www.genesisglobalschool.edu.in), Curriculum: CBSE and IB

As an international school, they are now part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young individuals who will be ready to negotiate their future successfully and make contributions resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world. They have international collaborations with Clifton College, Middlesex University, Gredos San Diego (Spain).

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Business, Management, Robotics, Psychology, International Politics, History and Photography were some of the popular subjects at the school.
- Majority of the kids here were keen to go abroad for higher education.
- The school also highlighted that they are keen to have academics on regular basis.

At the school the delegates met 80 potential students 1 key contact

Snapshot

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Delhi Schools mission | |
| Total students | 470 |
| Total faculty | 6 |

KOLKATA

Four UK institutions participated in the Kolkata Schools mission and visited four local institutions.

The highlights of the visit at each school are as below:

- South City International School, Kolkata (www.scis.co.in/), Curriculum: ICSE & ISC

South city international is English medium, co-educational, day school. It is an ICSE & ISC affiliated school with 2000 students. The school uses state of the art teaching and learning methodology. They are encouraged to develop a global, liberalised mindset, and passionately engage in socially relevant issues like gender equality, public morality, equity and justice, issues of anti-racism, multiculturalism and environment.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Art and design, science, engineering, medicine, management, hospitality, social sciences, economics etc were the usual suspects when it came to popular subjects. There were also some queries on courses for pilots and flying.
- There was equal emphasis from students on humanities and creative and design subjects.
- The school has sent their students to countries like Thailand, China and Australia on study tours. They are keen on more such opportunities.
- Students were very keen on knowing more about the UK and opportunities and had lots of questions. The students attending were from XI and XII.

The delegates met 80 potential students and 2 key contacts at the school.

- La Martiniere for Girls, Kolkata (www.lamartiniereforgirls.co/), Curriculum: ISC

Established in 1836, La Martiniere for Girls is a 179 years old premier institution known not only for its academic excellence but also a plethora of extra-curricular activities it offers and its contribution to the society. It is affiliated to the Council for ISC Examination, New Delhi and has been ranked India's No. 1 Girls Day School in 2014 by the Education World School Ranking. Students of La Martiniere work closely with NGOs and institutions and also funds and administer a training unit named SEOMP (Self Employment Oriented Multi-Purpose Project) which gives vocational training to adults.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Engineering, business, economics, marketing, management, art and design, hospitality, fashion, computer science.
- Only students who were interested in studying abroad were invited. It was a smaller group but highly focused students who had very specific queries for the institutions. They were from XI and XII.
- Students had questions about other UK universities as well and were keen to know more about the holistic UK offer.

- It was interesting to see charts and reports of foreign university visits which were displayed on the walls. Last year's schools mission was also part of this display.
- USA is a big draw for students in this school and they often host large delegations from other countries.

During the visit the delegates met 30 potential students and 1 key contact

- Calcutta International School , Kolkata (www.calcuttais.edu.in/), Curriculum: IGCSE, GCE and IB
CIS is a well-established, reputed, co-educational, international school situated at Kolkata serving both local and expatriate communities. CIS is a member of the Council of International Schools, following its standards and benchmark. The IB Diploma Programme has commenced from September 2012 and has flexible systems - Edexcel and CIE.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Psychology, art and design, biomedical sciences, natural sciences, offbeat courses in science, economics, business, developmental economics, liberal arts, and direct courses were some of the popular subjects.
- Again, there was keen interest in art and design courses.
- Students were a mix of expat and Indian students.
- Most students at this school are looking for higher education options abroad, especially in the USA. They had very specific questions and were a focused group. Students were from XI and XII.

At this visit the delegates met 70 potential students and 2 key contacts

- Delhi Public School, Megacity, Kolkata (<http://dpsmegacity.in/index.php>), Curriculum: CISCE Board (ICSE and ISC).

The school promotes a holistic learning system which caters to an all-round development of its students, and provides challenging environment to students to reach their optimum potential. The school was established on 25th April 2004 and It is a sprawling campus of 15 acres with state of art building and facilities like a tennis court, football ground, basketball court, cricket pitch, shooting enclosure, a swimming pool of international standard, a yoga room, science Park etc. and a special play area for the Pre Primary students. It is a coeducational school with over 5000 students equipped with modern technology.

Popular courses and highlight of the visit:

- Science, medicine, engineering, humanities, law, economics were some of the popular subjects at the school.
- There was a long and useful interaction with the principal and faculty here, where we discussed possibilities of a more sustained engagement, starting from lower classes. We discussed possibilities of partnerships and collaborations to enable teachers and students to visit UK institutions on study tours, before they start deciding on higher study options.
- Students were keen to ask lots of questions to the delegates and also had generic questions around studying in the UK. Students present were from XI and XII.

At this visit the delegates met 150 potential students, and 6 key contacts at the school

Snapshot

| Kolkata Schools mission | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Total students | 330 |
| Total faculty | 11 |

4. Feedback from delegates

- We received feedback from 13 UK institutions representing 80% of participation from the UK sector
- Feedback from all delegates indicated the schools tour had met their objectives
- 43% delegates mentioned that the 'quality of institutions visited' was 'Excellent' and 58% delegates ranked the 'quality of institutions visited' as 'Good'
- 50% delegates in their feedback mentioned that the 'interaction at local institutions and programme' was 'Excellent' while 50% ranked the same as 'Good'
- 86% delegates mentioned that the 'support provided by the British Council during and after the event was 'Excellent'
- 50% delegates 'gave an 'Excellent' rating for the 'Overall the schools tour'.

- Likewise 50% delegates 'strongly agreed' in their feedback that they 'have acquired more knowledge about the market and institutions' through this tour while 43% 'agreed' on this point.
- 100% delegates remarked that they would like to attend similar events in the future
- Some more feedback by participating delegates:
 - *I am very pleased with the institutions visited in Chennai, Coimbatore, Ooty and Bangalore. Perhaps we can look for different institutions in Ahmedabad.*
 - *All schools visited were really good and I met a number of prospective applicants. I will go back to 80% of the schools visited.*
 - *It was a good mix of Schools and was an overall successful event. The model of the presentation at each schools where the BC staff spoke about the UG education in the UK (along with the videos at some schools) and introduced each University where the delegate was given 3 to 5 mins to speak about the key courses and about their University was a well thought of idea and it gave the students an insight into each of the participating Universities.*
 - *I attended the Schools Tour in Pune, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. I found the tour overall a great success. This is not something we have participated in before, but the contacts I have made with schools I'm sure will be highly beneficial and allow us to market ourselves to potential undergraduate students with a lot more confidence.*
- Some feedback for the British Council to improve future such events:
 - *British Council is doing good work!*
 - *I believe the school tour has met my objectives, however in future if in some schools where higher percentage of students were choosing to go overseas were allowed to be in the second half of the day, we could spend more time with those specific students.*
 - *Organise three visits to the same school in a year.*

5. Conclusions

- The aim of organising the August/September 2016 schools tour was to enhance the UK brand in the schools sector across key cities in India, and also to give an opportunity to school students and faculty of Indian schools to have a face to face interaction with UK institutions. As per the feedback, this was achieved.
- This platform created a focus on increasing engagement for undergraduate recruitment for participating UK institutions.
- Some institutions expressed interest in collecting student databases. The schools in India are not open to student database collection hence it is recommended that the UK institutions should get in touch with the respective school counsellors for any follow up or dissemination of information.
- Some UK institutions have requested for a travel gap between the tours, we shall be considering the same while planning the future visits.
- Most delegates have commended the mix of schools and the organisational support for this tour. Some institutions have also given feedback about arranging for faculty visits to these schools for more in-depth engagement.
- This year, we incorporated all feedback provided at the last year's school tour which included an introductory presentation by the British Council at each school, smaller presentations by all delegate among others. The change has attracted positive feedback from most UK participants this year.

Pictures taken at various schools





