

WINGS

TRIP TO INDIA

Earlier this month, the winners of the Wings of Hope Achievement Award travelled to Southern India to visit the school which we support in Pondicherry. The 9 boys from two teams (joint winners this year) jetted off for this incredible prize to see the educational development project that Wings of Hope fund. Rohit, Tej and Rikin tell us about their thoughts and experiences:

"The trip to India this year was truly remarkable for two reasons. Firstly, it allowed us as friends to relax and enjoy the beauty and heritage of such a historic country and, secondly, it allowed us to truly appreciate the material items and the life we have back in Britain."

"In our first 3 days, we worked in a nearby school where we taught ages 7 - 16. Smart boards were set up in some classrooms, a true testament to the work of WOHA for



Pictured from left to right: Vishaal, Rikin, Anand, Paraas & Rohit.



Shivankit pictured working with students.

funding such advanced technological equipment."

"Before we paid our last visit to school, a culture variety show was performed by both the WOHA winners and the school. It was beyond doubt that we were outshone in style, flair, costumes, speech and anything else not included in the list. Although our 7 minute sketch did receive a few chuckles for brief moments, it was no comparison to the dramatic tale by the school".

"During the teaching experience, it was incredible to learn the difference in the student-teacher relationship in India and Britain. Within India, the students would address us as sirs and would stand up to answer a question, whereas in Britain, lessons prove to be a little different."

My Dear Friends,

I write to you on my return from India with the winners of WOHA 2010 -11. The boys have had a real adventure, experienced another culture and had a unique chance to see how their fundraising over the past year has made a lasting difference to their contemporaries in our Indian school.

For me, this trip has been an opportunity to report to you on the progress the school has made. I'm delighted to watch the programme grow from strength to strength; next year we aim to provide 50 more girls with education in our Indian project.

As we approach September, we embark on an exciting new year of WOHA. It is so heartening to see yet more schools kindly and enthusiastically come on board.

Thank you for helping us aim for new and ambitious goals. With your help, we will continue to change young people's lives across the world.

Best wishes,



Mrs Rajni Sriram, CEO & Co-Founder

TRIPS AND VISITS



Pictured from left: Karan, Shivankit, Anand, Tej, Rikin, Michael Nithavrianakis, Mrs Rajni Sriram, Dr Sri Ram, Vishaal, Paraas, Rohit & Amar

"In Chennai, we also visited the Deputy High Commissioner of Britain, [Michael Nithavrianakis] (pictured left), where we discussed economics, the bright future of India's economy, and the not-so-bright future of the Indian Cricket team.

Furthermore, we were very privileged to have visited Tata Consultancy Services. The area was daunting as it was so grand, the biggest I have ever seen in my life, with beautiful architecture and greenery. The trip was inspirational, and made us want to work harder in order to aspire to that level."

"We then flew to Delhi and visited a private school as a comparison to the Wings of Hope school in Chennai. Staying in the principal's personal apartment was an honour for some, excluding Vishaal who found a lizard in his room and started screaming and unsuccessfully chasing it for 30 minutes. We met the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Delhi which was a great opportunity. He explained how India is a very open country, and they are encouraging people with a background in India to return there in order to contribute towards its rapid economic growth. We were flattered after the worldwide magazine - Indian Empire - wanted to publish an article about our group."

PROJECT PROGRESS



We are delighted to report on the progress of our Indian educational project: SSS Institute of Educare (pictured left).

Trips and Excursions

On 11th August, a field trip was arranged for all of the 'Hostel' students, where they visited the Thiruvannamalai temple.

Health Care

At the school, the children's health and wellbeing is of utmost importance. On 3rd July, the school organised a medical check by a skin specialist. On 19th August, 341 students had eye tests and 29 students were given prescription glasses.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amar Sehgal tell us about his placement, one of the WOHAAs prizes, at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):

"The work experience at TCS was a fun, memorable and fulfilling experience. This has taught me potential area for growth in the future in terms of a career. We engaged with issues of global importance by identifying what TCS can do to be more eco-friendly in the future. We also learnt basic presentation skills during the week. I am very glad I took part in the TCS work placement as I met wonderful people and got to work as a team and present in front of seniors in the organisation." *Amar Sehgal, WOHAAs winner 2011.*

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

The Wings of Hope team are currently taking bookings to visit school assemblies after the summer holidays. We would be delighted to tell students about our Wings of Hope Achievement Award (WOHAAs) which is a completely free social enterprise scheme for students in years 9 - 13.

Students (in teams of up to 6) are challenged to fundraise in lots of wonderfully wacky ways - the more creative and innovative the better! Along the way, students have the chance to attend industry skills workshops, win work experience placements and even win the trip to India! Teams are shortlisted to present their projects to a panel of judges at the House of Lords and we then announce the winners at a glitzy award ceremony in April. The scheme encourages creativity and innovation, and develops teamwork skills - all great additions to CVs and UCAS forms!

COMING UP...

Very soon, we will launch our **brand new website** so don't be scared if you are directed somewhere unfamiliar. We're @ the same address www.thewingsofhope.org

We are taking bookings to visit **school assemblies** in September and October. If you want us to visit your school, email us!

Do you have a business? Could you offer industry skills workshops or **work experience placements**? We'd love to hear from you.

The **5km Santa Run** in London is coming up soon - why not sign up now to enjoy guiltless mince pies during the festive season?! Registration fee is only £20 which includes a free Santa costume!

EVENTS IN BRIEF

On Sunday 10th July 2011, a team of runners (pictured right) participated in the London 10k run. In an impressive effort, everyone completed the race. We all enjoyed a well-earned pub lunch afterwards! Congratulations and thank you!



Good luck to our enthusiastic team of 9 volunteers from Capco who are taking part in a sponsored cycle from London to all the way to Paris on 9th September. We hope it goes well and we'll be thinking of you!

If you want to get involved, let us know! We currently offer:

- Sponsored skydives from 10,000ft up in the air, all year round. Our next deadline is Friday 23rd September.
- Places for the Santa Run in Greenwich Park on Sunday 4th December 2011. Registration fee is only £20, including a free Santa costume for you to wear!

CONTACT US

We love to hear from people who have been involved in WOHAAs and Wings of Hope. If you have any ideas, want to get involved, would like more info, or just fancy a chat, please get in touch!

There's also heaps of information on the website: www.thewingsofhope.org

Email us: info@thewingsofhope.org
 Phone us: 020 8438 1598
 Write to us: Wings of Hope, 12 Iron Bridge Close,
 Great Central Way, London,
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An easy way to stay in touch with the Wings of Hope team.