

SENIOR SCHOOL SPEECH & PRIZE-GIVING DAY

FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2025 PRIMARY BLOCK 2:00 PM



ROGERANNIA PROPERTY OF THE PRO

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Jaanai Odotei (F3W) Prarthana Gopakumar (F4A) Yoofie Ainuson (F4E)

OPENING PRAYER

Odoma Obeng (F3E)

SCHOOL HYMN

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mrs. Josiane Chammas (Head of Senior School)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF TRRS ALUMNI

Class of 2010

GRADUATION SERVICE PROJECT

Class of 2025

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Christine Abbey (Senior School Prefect - L6E) Shraddha Gupte (Head Girl - L6W) Selasi Agbosu (Head Boy - L6W)

SPEECH PERFORMANCE

Malavika Santhosh
(The Young Debaters 2025 1ST RUNNER-UP)
Maame Abenlema Amihere
(The Young Debaters 2025 WINNER)

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Year Group Leads

PRINCIPAL'S HONOUR ROLL PRESENTATION

Mrs Valerie Mainoo (Principal)

ASSISTED BY PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

Mr Titus Adjei

Mr Daniel Kalevor

Mr Charles Akotua

AWARDING OF SPECIAL PRIZES & AWARDS

Ms Anna Mensah (CAREERS & GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR)

- Harvard Book Prize
- Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

MESSAGE FROM ACADEMIC BOARD

Nana Osim Kwatia II (Member of Academic Board) On behalf of Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee (CHAIR, ACADEMIC BOARD OF GOVERNORS)

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Mr. Frank B. Adu, JNR (CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

TRRS TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2024/2025

Nana Osim Kwatia II (CHAIR, SELECTION COMMITTEE)

VOTE OF THANKS

Klenam Asem (F5W)

SCHOOL ANTHEM

Led by the Lower 6 Year Group

CLOSING PRAYER

Raina Adjei (F4W)

Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright:
he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have the right
to be a pilgrim

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away;
he'll not fear what men say
he'll labor night and day
to be a pilgrim

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION SERVICE PROJECT

Lt is a privilege to share the story of a project that has defined not just our final year at TRRS, but also our values as a graduating class. Our academic year was guided by the theme: "Kindness is free to give but priceless to receive."

This simple yet powerful truth led us to a cause that touched our hearts deeply—supporting the young warriors of Lifeline for Childhood Cancer Ghana.

In November, we launched our campaign titled "Brave Hearts, Bright Futures." What began as a modest fundraising booth at the Christmas Bazaar soon blossomed into a full school-wide initiative. Our Chocolate Day became a beautiful celebration of friendship and kindness—but we knew we could do even more.

On International Childhood Cancer Day, the entire TRRS community came together for a sponsored walk, each step a symbol of hope and solidarity. The charity bazaar that followed was bursting with energy and purpose—every handmade item and snack sold brought us closer to our mission.

Thanks to your generosity, from bake sales and purchases to personal donations, we reached our target of GHC 90,000.

This donation has gone to Lifeline for Childhood Cancer Ghana, helping to fund diagnostic tools, nutritious food, and school supplies, so these brave children can continue to learn and fight with dignity.

To our parents, teachers, staff, and fellow students—we, the Class of 2025, offer our deepest gratitude.

Behind every contribution is a child whose future is worth fighting for. Your support has shown the immense compassion, unity, and strength of the TRRS community.

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION SERVICE PROJECT





CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION SERVICE PROJECT







CHRISTINE ABBEY

SENIOR SCHOOL PREFECT

REVIEW OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

Good afternoon, distinguished guests, members of management, dedicated staff, proud parents, and fellow students. It is with great joy that we welcome you to this year's Speech and Prize Giving Day — a moment where we pause to reflect and to honour the tremendous efforts and achievements that have defined this school year.

We began the year with World Literacy Day, using poetry, skits, and presentations in both French and English to promote understanding through multilingual education. Soon after, the PTA's Back-to-School Health Walk energised us under the theme "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies," and we honoured our teachers on World Teachers' Day with messages and a thrilling student-teacher volleyball match — which the students proudly won.

The school's emphasis on wellbeing continued with the Anti-Bullying Campaign on the International Day Against Bullying. Students led powerful discussions, presentations, and activities focused on kindness, reflecting our theme, "Kindness is free to give, but priceless to receive". We also celebrated the International Cultural Showcase and French Day, which offered vibrant displays of global culture through food, fashion, and language. Ghana's Independence Day and Africa Union Day were marked with music and activities that deepened our connection to heritage and identity.

MAAME AKUA ASARE-DANQUAH

SENIOR SCHOOL PREFECT



REVIEW OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

In promoting sustainability and innovation, Sixth Form students engaged in a session with Wahu Mobility, exploring electric vehicle technology and inspecting the Wahu Bike. Form 4 and 5 Geography and Economics students also attended a seminar on Africa's industrial future, learning about sustainable waste management. Form 3 students visited the only Organic Fairtrade Certified Cocoa Cooperative in Ghana in Suhum, gaining firsthand knowledge of Fairtrade practices, which they later presented in class projects.

Leadership and student voice were strengthened through a revamped Buddy Activities Programme that featured storytelling, sports, and games. New initiatives like 360 News kept us informed through peerled current affairs segments, while the Clean It Up Campaign encouraged class responsibility with weekly competitions and inspections with certificates given to the winning class.

The Learning Through the Eyes of Our Learners publication celebrated student reflection and achievement each month. Our Careers and Guidance Department played a crucial role this year, organising multiple university fairs featuring globally recognised institutions. These events guided students in thinking about life after TRRS. The department also coordinated work placements for Form 4 and 5, with Lower 6 students set to begin internships in July. Alumni from the TRRS Class of 2019 visited to share advice with Sixth Formers, rounding out a truly enriching academic experience.



REVIEW OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

On the academic front, we marked International Pi Day with quizzes across all year groups each having a special round dedicated to a Pi recital.

In sports, we proudly participated in ISSAG competitions in football, basketball, badminton, tennis, handball, and athletics. Highlights included a 3rd place finish for our Girls' Basketball Team, The Best Overall Award for the Girls' Badminton Team, and a Shot Put gold medal at ISSAG Athletics. Our Under-15 Girls' Basketball Team also brought home first place from the Accra Conference Tournament hosted by Dynamics School League.

Our own Inter-house Sports Competitions were full of energy, with Sharks, Bears, Hawks, and Cobras facing off in basketball, football, volleyball, and floor hockey. At the Inter-house Athletics Competition at the University of Ghana Sports Stadium, the Sharks sprinted to overall victory — a true highlight of the term.

None of these activities would have been possible without the relentless support of our teachers, coaches, parents, and the entire TRRS community. On behalf of the student body, we extend a heartfelt thank you.

May we carry the spirit of learning and unity into the future.

Thank you, and enjoy the celebration.

HEAD BOY



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



lessons, but through the values, skills, and curiosity we cultivate every day. The Student Spotlight offers a glimpse into the remarkable achievements of our students—both within and beyond the classroom. Some of these successes have emerged through school-led initiatives, others through competitions and opportunities our students pursued independently. In all cases, however, the confidence, discipline, and creativity that shaped these accomplishments are rooted in the learning environment TRRS strives to provide. From academic challenges to sports tournaments, international conferences to creative writing, our students continue to apply themselves with dedication, courage, and a desire to grow. Today, we proudly recognise those efforts.

The Lancaster Business Challenge offered an exciting opportunity for Lower 6 students to engage in real-world problem-solving through the lens of technology and innovation. This year's theme centred on the Internet of Things (IoT), challenging participants to design smart solutions—from digital payment systems to traffic management tools—that could improve everyday life. A total of 18 students, grouped into three teams, participated in this high-level challenge, supported by dedicated mentors: Mr Regan Afari, Ms Ruth Tetteh, and Mr Theophilus Adams-Ashun. Though many found the task daunting at first, the experience quickly became a springboard for teamwork, confidence-building, and creative expression. Students refined their ideas, developed pitch presentations, and tackled the complexities of tech-based business solutions with growing confidence. Beyond learning about IoT, this experience highlighted the practical value of the business studies, ICT, and communication skills embedded in our curriculum. It reminded us that innovation is not only taught—it's lived. We commend every participant for their commitment, and we invite them to stand and be recognised with a round of applause.

In September 2024, eight TRRS students were selected to represent the school at the DPS International Model United Nations Conference, an esteemed platform that simulates the workings of the United Nations. Guided by Mr Emmanuel Gbedemah, TRRS Teacher of the Year 2023/2024, and Mr Theophilus Adams-Ashun, the delegates underwent weeks of virtual and in-person preparation to sharpen their research, diplomacy, and public speaking skills. This international forum brought together student delegates from across the region to debate pressing global issues, draft resolutions, and embody the collaborative spirit of international diplomacy. Our students embraced the challenge with confidence and integrity, contributing meaningfully to a variety of committees. While the MUN experience was student-driven, the poise, clarity, and confidence displayed throughout the conference reflect the impact of our humanities curriculum and student-centred programme, where discussion, critical thinking, and global citizenship are encouraged daily. We proudly recognise the following participants for their efforts and growth.

This academic year has seen TRRS athletes grow from strength to strength—on the court, on the track, and beyond. Across multiple competitions, our students demonstrated discipline, teamwork, and determination, proving that physical education at TRRS is as dynamic and impactful as our academic programme. At the ISAAG Games, TRRS formed a new handball team and continued to build on its basketball strength, with commendable performances. In track and field, James Badu (U6E) sprinted to gold at SOS School, while our badminton squad soared to victory with Pearl Osei Poku, Shraddha Gupte, and Mahi Gajjar securing a triumphant Badminton Gold.

Meanwhile, at the Accra Conference Tournament (Dynamic Sports League), our under-15 girls' football team made an unforgettable debut—winning all their matches and clinching first place. Their commanding presence on the pitch set a high bar for future competitions. The boys' team also showed exceptional commitment and sportsmanship, laying a strong foundation for the seasons ahead. Every game, every medal, and every effort in between speaks to our belief in developing well-rounded individuals—those who push boundaries not only with their minds, but with their hearts and endurance.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (QCEC) remains the world's oldest international writing contest for schools, and this year, TRRS made history—emerging as the top-performing school in Africa and leading globally in participation with 622 entries. Organised annually by the Royal Commonwealth Society, the competition challenges young writers to explore themes of equity, global responsibility, and sustainable futures. In 2024, our students rose to the occasion with creativity, depth, and conviction. TRRS students earned 231 medals, including 20 Gold Awards, 78 Silver Awards, 129 Bronze Awards. Four of our students also advanced as Gold Finalists, placing them in contention for the global prize. This outstanding performance is not only a testament to their talent, but to the strength of our English and Humanities departments, which continue to inspire confidence in the written word and critical thinking beyond the classroom.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's leading youth achievement programme and a recognised Head of State award scheme. It equips young people with the confidence, resilience, and life skills they need to find their purpose, passion, and place in the world.

Open to individuals aged 14-24, the Award encourages participants to take part in volunteering, physical activity, skill development, and adventurous journeys—all designed to foster holistic personal growth. Offered at Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, each stage of the programme presents new challenges and deeper commitments. This year, our TRRS participants are in the final stages, with their journey expected to conclude in December 2025. We commend their dedication and wish them every success as they approach the finish line of this transformative experience. At The Roman Ridge School, we value the power of expression and the courage to speak up for others. That is why we proudly celebrate Angel Ababio of Form 3E, whose poignant piece on streetism was featured in a national newspaper. Her article sheds light on the lives of children living on the streets and draws attention to the responsibilities we all share in building a more compassionate society. The clarity of Angel's writing and her advocacy through language are testaments to the strength of our English curriculum, our focus on current affairs, and the platforms we provide for students to express themselves confidently. Angel's success reminds us that our classrooms are not confined by walls—they are gateways to real-world impact.

Another dazzling showcase is Nigel Laapo of F4W. When Nigel Laapo joined TRRS less than a year ago, he brought with him a history of academic distinction—and in March 2025, as a full-fleged Form 4 TRRS student, that promise was nationally recognised when he received the Presidential Award as one of Greater Accra's top three BECE candidates from the previous academic year. This award, bestowed annually on Ghana's most outstanding young scholars, reflects Nigel's relentless pursuit of academic excellence. Today, we celebrate him not only as a national achiever, but as a full member of the TRRS family. He is now thriving in our Cambridge programme, surrounded by equally ambitious peers and supported by a curriculum that demands both depth and rigour.

Nigel's journey speaks directly to the heart of our mission: to attract, nurture, and elevate learners who are ready to meet their potential—and to raise that bar, together. Another shining example of passion meeting preparation is Kayla Naa Ardua Tagoe (Form 4W). In her very first national competition—the Ghana National U-15 Scrabble Championship held in June 2025—Kayla placed an impressive 6th nationally, earning her a place among Ghana's top ten young players. She will now go on to represent the country at the African Youth Scrabble Championship in Kenya. Kayla's strategic thinking, vocabulary command, and calm under pressure have been sharpened within the very classrooms and enrichment sessions at TRRS. We are immensely proud of her, not just for what she has achieved, but for how her journey reflects the great works of our English department and the spirit of academic adventure we foster here every day.

RoboFest is a global robotics competition that challenges students from around the world to design, build, and programme autonomous robots to complete specific tasks. Organised annually by Lawrence Technological University in Michigan, USA, the competition is open to students from primary through to senior secondary levels and aims to promote STEM education through hands-on learning. At RoboFest 2024, Rehan Ashfaq (Form 3 Atifi) achieved a double victory, placing 2nd in both the Autonomous Taxi and Unknown Mission Challenge categories. This is not Rehan's first venture into competitive tech—but it is among his most impressive yet. His success demonstrates deep mastery of computing concepts, logical design, and problem-solving, all of which are central to our ICT and Computer Science curriculum. At TRRS, students are not simply taught to code—they are taught to think, adapt, and create. Rehan's ability to compete at such a high level—under time constraints, with little room for error—shows that our computing labs and theory lessons are not isolated skills, but seeds that blossom when real-world problems demand solutions.

At The Roman Ridge School, we believe in preparing students not just for exams, but for the world beyond. Our Careers and Guidance Department plays a central role in helping students connect their classroom learning to real-world opportunities—including highly selective international programmes. The Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) programme is a flagship initiative for high-achieving African students. It offers intensive university preparation, academic exploration, and leadership training. Similarly, the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) programme brings together over 2,000 students from more than 150 countries for a rigorous two-week academic experience in the United States, spanning STEM, the humanities, and social sciences.

Each year, these programmes attract thousands of applicants from around the world. At TRRS, our students responded to the call for applications, putting forward compelling academic records, original essays, and thoughtful reflections on their passions and potential. With support and encouragement from our Careers and Guidance team, they consolidated the very skills we cultivate every day—critical thinking, global awareness, self-reflection, and leadership.

Lower 6 students who made it into the YYAS programme are Heidi Selassie Nordjo, Christine Abbey, Ursula Amoako, Chanelle Manu-Fofie, and Jormor Adjei. We are especially proud to share that Mame Adwoa Ayeyi Dsane, another Lower 6 student, has been awarded a prestigious 85% scholarship, valued at 5500 USD to attend YYGS 2025—an achievement that speaks volumes about her calibre and the values we foster at TRRS. To all our YYAS and YYGS students, we wish you continued success as you represent our school on the global stage.

The Chairman's Bursary was established in 2014 by the TRRS Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Frank B. Adu Jnr, to recognise excellence at a globally competitive level both academically and in sports. Recipients must successfully achieve all A's and A*'s across every single Cambridge IGCSE examination at TRRS. These academic scholarships cover a full term's tuition fees towards their Sixth Form College studies at TRRS, valued at 2300 USD. Five (5) of these students were awarded The Chairman's Bursary for exceptional personal performance and were celebrated during a Special Ceremony on Wednesday 30 April 2025, in the presence of their proud Parents, Teachers and peers. These students are Chanelle Fofie- Manu (8 A* and 1 A), Shraddha Gupte (8 A* and 1A), Mame Adwoa Ayeyi Dsane (6 A* and 3 A), Maame Akua Asare Danquah (4 A* and 4 A) and Heidi Nordjo (2A* and 6A). Congratulations to the recipients of The Chairman's Bursary 2024. Your hard work and commitment to excellence continue to inspire us all!

This year, The Roman Ridge School was honoured to participate for the first time in The Young Debaters (TYD) competition—Ghana's premier national public speaking challenge for senior school students, aimed at selecting representatives for the International Public Speaking Competition in London. Schools across the country were invited to nominate six speakers—and for our debut, TRRS stepped forward with six powerful voices: Nana Akua Nshirah Ainuson, Maame Abenlema Amihere, Maame Akua Asare Danquah, Malavika Santhosh, Christine Abbey, and Zada Nudo. Not only did all six make it through the preliminary rounds, but all six advanced to the national finals, where TRRS speakers made up 60% of the Top 10 Finalists—a remarkable feat. From that group, Malavika Santhosh was named First Runner-Up, and Maame Abenlema Amihere emerged as the National Winner, and Global semifinalist.

This success was no accident. It reflects weeks of preparation, mentorship, and coaching from our dedicated staff—Mr Emmanuel Gbedemah, Ms Ruth Tetteh, Mr Daniel Dodoo, and Ms Irene Konadu—and a culture where communication, confidence, and conviction are intentionally nurtured. In our very first year of participation, TRRS not only showed up—we led. This achievement is a bold reflection of who we are as a school: ambitious, articulate, and prepared for the global stage.

These achievements—whether on the national stage, in international programmes, or through our own house competitions—represent far more than medals, certificates, or accolades. They speak to the spirit of excellence, integrity, and growth that we nurture here at The Roman Ridge School. Each student recognised today is a reflection of what is possible when passion meets purpose, when curiosity is matched with courage, and when learning is guided with care. Whether they've represented Ghana abroad, developed tech solutions, spoken truth through debate, or written their way into global conversations, they carry with them the values, voice, and vision of TRRS. To every student who stepped forward, took a risk, represented us, or simply dared to try—we say: well done. You inspire us.

Heep growing.

Thank you





Teen chat with Angel Ababio, Roman Ridge School, Accra

Save children living on the streets

Streetism in Ghana is not just a word — it is a painful reality.

As a 14-year-old growing up in a more privileged corner of society, I've always found it heartbreaking to see children like me on the streets instead of school.

These children are everywhere on the street— selling sachet water in traffic, begging on pavements, sleeping on cardboard boxes or even getting involved in crime. It is easy to look away, but if you stop and think deeply, you'll realise that they didn't choose this life.

There's a saying that, "When you are born in a burning house, you think the whole world is on fire." This is the story of many children on the streets of Accra, Kumasi and other big towns across Ghana. These children grow up in pain, hunger and fear. They don't know what it's like to sleep peacefully or wake up to a loving family.

For them, survival is the only goal, and it starts very young. Some of these children are taught to steal at very early ages — not because they are bad, but because no one taught them better.

How can they understand right from wrong when all they've known is struggle? Hunger drives them to take risks, and sadly, the world punishes them instead of helping them. The danger is everywhere. Street children are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. They can be used by older criminals, forced to work unfair jobs or manipulated by adults who take advantage of their desperation.

There is no one to defend them. No one to report to, It's as if they are invisible — children with no protection, no voice, no choice.

The streets are also especially dangerous for girls. Many are raped and some end up pregnant. These girls, who are still children, get pregnant and are forced to become mothers before they begin to understand life fully. Imagine having to care for a baby when you're barely a teenager yourself. It's unfair. It's terrifying. And it's real.

Streetism also puts boys and girls in bad company. Gangs are everywhere, offering "protection" and fast money. But it all comes at a cost — violence, drugs and even jail.

Street children also suffer physically. They live in dirty environments, with no clean water, no toilets and no healthcare. They are constantly exposed to diseases —malaria, cholera, rashes, fevers. When they fall ill, there is usually no one to help. No hospital, no medicine, no relief, just pain.

These children remain trapped in suffering and no one seems to care.

It feels like once people have money, everyone else no longer matters. Those in power look away.

Those with influence forget. Those who could help don't.

These children are not bad. They are lost. They need guidance, love and a place to belong. And then there is the lack of education. Without school, there is no future. No certificates, no skills, no way to break the cycle of poverty.

As a young person myself, I can't help but imagine: what if it was me? What if I was born into that life? Would I have survived? Would I have become a thief just to feed myself? These questions haunt me because I know that street children are just like me — human beings with dreams, feelings, and potential.

So what can we do? We can raise awareness. We can show compassion. We can pressure leaders to invest in shelters, education and healthcare for these children. We can volunteer, donate and speak up.

Most importantly, we can see these children not as a problem, but as people, because every child deserves a home. Every child deserves to feel safe. And every child — including those on the streets — deserve a future. We should all lend a helping hand to save the children living on the

streets.

A LOOK AT STREETISM IN THE JUNIOR GRAPHIC

We proudly celebrate Angel
Ababio of Form 3 East, whose compelling article on
Streetism was published in the Junior Graphic. Through her thoughtful writing, Angel powerfully highlights the harsh realities faced by homeless children in Ghana, using her voice to advocate for awareness and change on a deeply important social issue.



VICTORY AT THE INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS OLYMPIAD

Rehan Ashfaq of Form 3 Atifi, along with two other members built RAPGO (Robotic Assisted Precision Garden Orchestration). This team not only impressed the local judges they also competed on the global stage at the World Robot Olympiad in Izmir, Türkiye. This project, which started in a junior researcher bootcamp, would mean a major breakthrough in food security, urban sustainability and economic prosperity in a country where the average household spends up to 50% of their income on food.



TRIUMPH AT NATIONAL SCRABBLE COMPETITION

Kayla Naa Ardua Tagoe (Form 4 West) made an impressive debut at the Ghana National Under-15 Scrabble Competition, held on 14th June 2025. In her very first national tournament, Kayla dazzled with her skills and strategy, finishing with an outstanding 6th place national ranking!

This remarkable performance has earned her a coveted spot in Ghana's Top 10 U-15 Scrabble Players, and she will now be proudly representing Ghana at the African Youth Scrabble Championship in Kenya this August!

This is a moment of immense pride for the entire TRRS community.

We are glad to celebrate Kayla's brilliance, dedication, and trailblazing spirit.

We can't wait to see her shine on the continental stage!



BECE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Nigel Laapo (Form 4 West) has been chosen as one of the top 3 candidates from Greater Accra Region who came top in last year's BECE and received the "Presidential awards" on the 5th of March 2025.

The "Presidential awards" are given every year to top 3 students from every region in Ghana who get high scores in the BECE, and it is usually awarded on the 5th of March, a day before the Independence Day celebration.







Yale Young Global Scholars

Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) is an academic enrichment program for outstanding high school students from around the world. Each summer, students from over 150 countries (including all 50 U.S. states) participate in one interdisciplinary, two-week session at Yale's historic campus.



MAME ADWOA AYEYI DSANE



Yale Young African Scholars(YYAS) is an intensive academic and enrichment program designed for African secondary school students who plan to pursue tertiary education and wish to make meaningful impact as young leaders on the continent.



CHRISTINE ABBEY



TSEOFELEJORMOR ADJEI



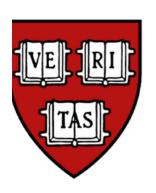
URSULA AMOAKO



HEIDI NORDJO



CHANELLE MANU-FOFIE



The Harvard Club Of Ghana

The Harvard Prize Book is awarded to outstanding students in the next-to-graduating class selected by the Executive Board of the Harvard Club of Ghana, based on academic excellence, exceptional personal qualities,



MAAME AKUA ASARE-DANQUAH

significant contribution to school or community and a written response to an essay prompt. Each winner receives a personally inscribed copy of "The Harvard Book", an anthology of essays written by Harvard alumni spanning three centuries.



ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award (formerly the Young Women in Public Affairs Award) recognizes young women, ages 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes, and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

The program operates at the Zonta club, district and international levels.

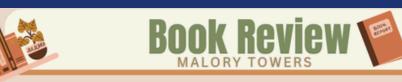
Zonta International offers 37 international awards of US\$5,000.

Each district may submit one applicant for consideration for an international scholarship. The five largest districts may submit a second applicant for a total of two applicants.



ELHAM HAMZA

STUDENT WORKS





boarding school series that follows Darrell Rivers through her adventures, friendships, and lessons at an all-girls school by the sea. It's full of fun pranks, heartwarming moments, and personal growth.

While some parts feel a bit dated, the themes of friendship, honesty, and growing up still hold strong. Perfect for younger readers or anyone craving a nostalgic, feel-good read

Rating: 4/5



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

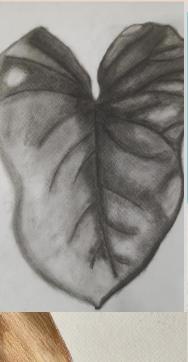
Ways Students Can Contribute to Protecting the Environment



Get Involved in Green Projects



Promote Eco-Friendly Transportation









MALAVIKA SANTHOSH THE YOUNG DEBATERS 2025 1ST RUNNER UP

Greetings everyone,

What do you see when you look at yourself today? Maybe it's your strengths—your talents, your achievements. Or perhaps, like me on my first day playing badminton, you see someone still figuring it out—a person with potential but not quite there yet. Let me take you back to when I first picked up a badminton racket during the lockdown. I imagined myself soaring through the air, weightless and unstoppable—just like that electrifying moment when PV Sindhu unleashed her powerful smash during the 2016 Rio Olympic finals, sending the shuttlecock across the court with precision and fire. But reality quickly humbled me. I spent more time chasing the shuttlecock than hitting it. My backhand serves? A disaster. My smashes? Okay let's not talk about them.

In those early days, it would have been easy to write myself off as "just not good enough." But every wild serve, every failed smash, and every single stumble was part of a process, a process that was shaping me into something more, even if I couldn't see it then.

And this brings me to someone who inspires me: Cindy Etornam Tornyenyor. Cindy didn't start out as a champion. She began as a young girl with a racket and a dream, in a country where resources for women in sports, especially badminton, are limited. Her journey rose from the National schools all the way up to the Commonwealth Games. She refused to let her present circumstances define her. She worked, she fought, and she believed in her potential.

By 16, Cindy was representing Ghana at the Commonwealth Games. Today, she's ranked 6th nationally in singles and 1st in women's doubles. But her story isn't just about titles or rankings. It's about transformation. It's about how every moment she spent training and failing, every time she picked herself up after a setback, she was building the foundation for the person she would become. In a country where female participation in sports is still growing Cindy sets as a perfect role model for the upcoming generations.

Her journey reminds us that greatness isn't something we suddenly arrive at, it's something we create through mental resilience, determination and teamwork. Think about a caterpillar. It doesn't wait to become a butterfly to begin its transformation. With every leaf it eats and every step it takes, it's already preparing for what it can be. It doesn't see its limitations as the end—it sees them as a part of the process.

Badminton taught me a similar lesson. Every time I picked up that racket, even when I failed, I was preparing for the player I could be. Though I may always complain about the muscle pulls or the intensive training session, in fact it is during those times when you realise how long 5 minutes actually is. Those frustrating moments of missed serves and clumsy smashes weren't just failures—they were steps forward, shaping me into someone who could grow, persevere, and embrace the unknown.

Each of us is on our own journey of transformation. And while we may not always see the full picture, every decision, every effort, and every step we take today brings us closer to the person we're becoming.

So, whether you're picking up a racket, pursuing a dream, or navigating life's uncertainties, don't let where you are now hold you back. You are capable of more than you realise.

Cindy didn't let the odds define her. I didn't let my early failures stop me. And neither should you. The racket is in your hands. The future is yours to shape. So go on—take that next step, let's keep smashing those boundaries and who you may become is waiting.



MAAME ABENLEMA AMIHERE
THE YOUNG DEBATERS 2025
WINNER

Jou are walking through a bustling amusement park, excited screams echoing all around you. You stumble across the most talked about attraction - a rollercoaster ride. But what really captures your attention is how people describe the most thrilling part - the end. Intrigued, you buy your ticket, wait in line, buckle up and brace yourself.

The take off is exhilarating. The twists and turns are breathtaking. However, the whole time, you are fixated on the end - convinced it would be amazing. And then, before you know it the ride comes to a halt. Instead of feeling enthralled, you feel empty. You've spent so much time waiting for the big finish that you forgot to enjoy the thrill of the journey.

This is how many of us live - always waiting for the next big thing and forgetting to savour the moments that make life meaningful.

We often tell ourselves, "I'll be happy when I crush that exam" or "I'll finally feel fulfilled when I get that job, that car, that promotion". And yet, when we reach those milestones, they feel less magical than we imagined. The future becomes the present, and we are already thinking about the next goal. In the process, we trade the joy of today for the uncertainty of tomorrow.

Reflect on this: What motivates you to prepare for your future? Is it success, happiness, or validation? As a student nearing my final year of secondary school, I've often obsessed over career paths and university decisions. Then I realise: what's the point of worrying about these goals if I neglect the learning, the growth, and the friendships that shape me today?

Paul Ninson, Ghanaian photographer and founder of Africa's largest visual photo library, didn't come from a priveledged background. In 2021, he was a single father and struggling photographer chasing a dream - to build what is now the Dikan art centre in Accra, Ghana.

Instead of fantasising about his dream, he hustled. He gained admission to the International Center of Photography in New York and started collecting photography books from public libraries and private art book collectors. People saw his story on Humans Of New York and appreciated his devotion for photography, even when times were hard. They donated a whopping \$1.2 million towards the Dikan art centre. Now, Dikan holds 30,000 books and employs over 70 people. Ninson has gained remarkable success, but it's his journey - his passion, hustle, and belief - that built a home for photography in Ghana.

We also find happiness by living in the present. Across continents and cultures, young people are told to wait - wait until we are older, wait until we have more experience, wait until someday. But 'someday' is not a day on the calendar. 'Someday' is today.

When Grammy award winning, South African musician Tyla, was in high school, she always dreamt of being a global star. Encouraged by her parents to focus on her studies, she found a way to balance schoolwork with her passion for music - sharing original and cover songs on her Instagram. Hoping to have fun and garner attention. Her debut single caught the attention of many, including the record label, Epic Records. Today, with her hit song, "Water" winning the Grammy for best African Music Perfomance, she's living her dream - because she embraced the journey and did not wait for someday.

Whether you're 16 or 60, life is a ride that doesn't wait for anyone. The beauty isn't in the final destination - it's in the twists and turns, the ups and downs, and the sudden stops along the way.

Happiness isn't a future destination we'll someday arrive at. It exists in the moments we choose to embrace, the risks we take, and the joy we find in today. So buckle up, throw your hands in the air, and enjoy the ride.













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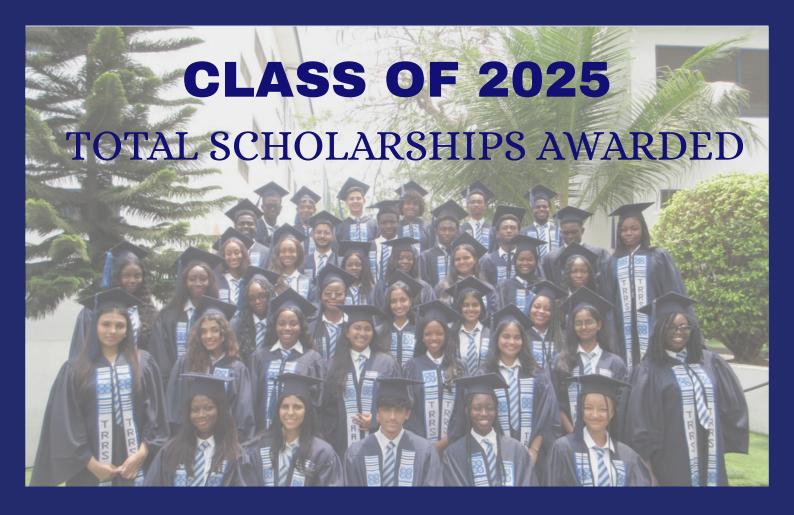








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