



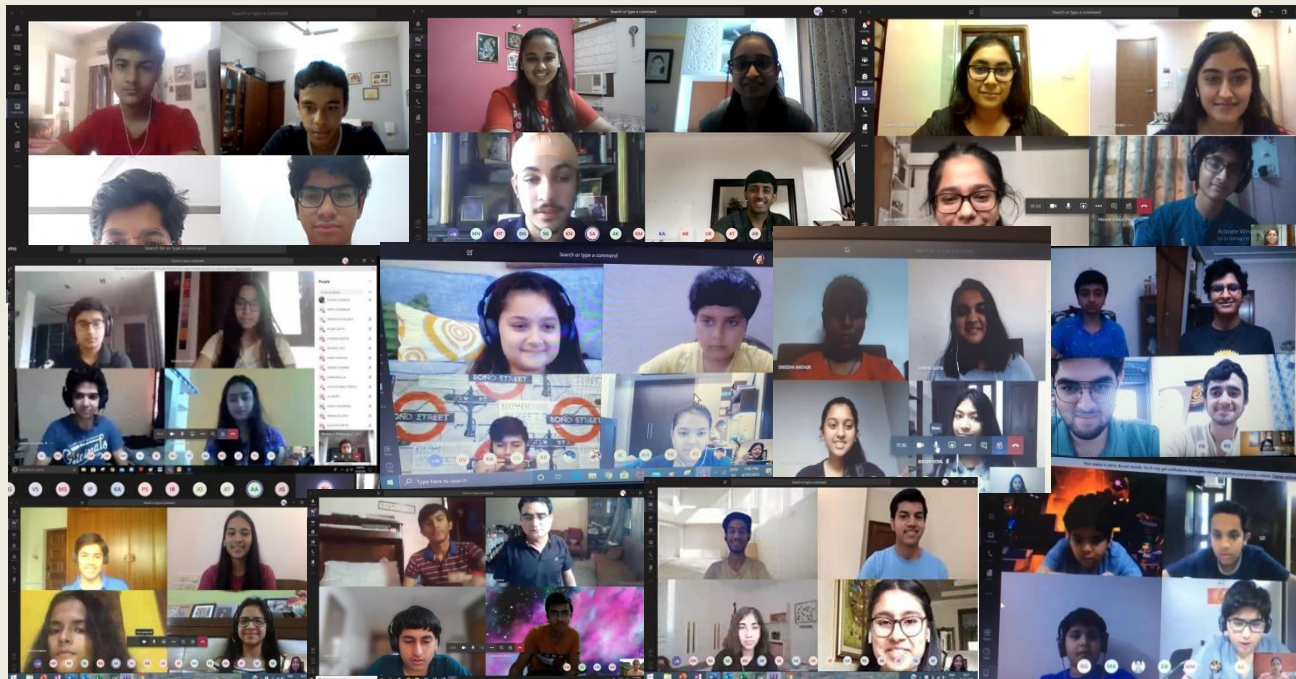
# THE MODERN SCHOOL CHRONICLE

## THE LOCKDOWN ISSUE

MODERN SCHOOL BARAKHAMBHA ROAD

www.modernschool.net

Est. in 1920



*THE REAL VS THE VIRTUAL*

### WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

### COVID-19 - THE LOCKDOWN SAGA

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While the School was busy in its last phase of result compilation, the news of the lockdown immobilized all processes and brought everything to a halt. But as they say, "Necessity is the mother of invention," in the wake of the lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak, teachers and students at Modern School Barakhamba Road, moved seamlessly from the physical classroom to online learning ensuring no gap in their students' education.

Concomitantly, an enterprising Modern School Barakhamba Road, sought to empower its staff and children with technology and invested in the best possible state-of-the-art, robust, virtual learning environment through Microsoft Teams.



## **FROM REAL TO VIRTUAL - THE SHOW MUST GO ON!**

“Under the guidance of a strong general, there will never be weak soldiers”.

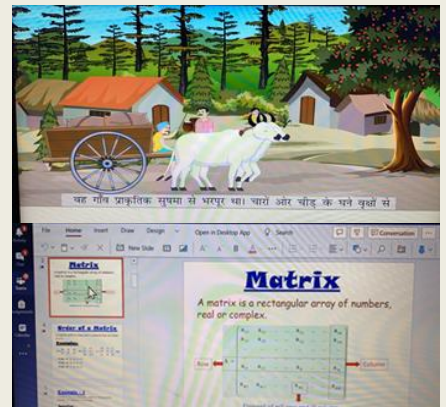
In a school that begins with the Principal’s spelling out high standards and rigorous learning goals, the transition from Real to Virtual, an epic moment, under the strong leadership of Dr Vijay Datta, was simply effortless. An excellent exemplar of instructional, organizational and change management skills; with the switch from traditional methods of teaching to more innovative pedagogies, he ensured a cutting-edge professional development for the teachers.

The teachers have an incomparable duty towards nation building which became all the more important during this pandemic. We never thought it would happen. But it was time to evolve past the archaic model that we’ve had for centuries. The teachers had to find ways to carry on studies without them or their students being physically present in class.

Apropos, rigorous online training for the teachers lead off, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2020 till 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, under the tutelage of Ms Anjali Gupta Chhabra, Teams Co-ordinator, with different time slots for the three blocks- Middle Wing, Secondary Wing and Senior Wing- in order to ensure a comprehensive understanding of ‘Live Teaching’ and uploading of resource materials. Each training session lasted for almost about four hours. Meanwhile, the parents had been informed by the school about the modalities of running online classes and the study timetables were shared. Having taken care of that, we were good to begin and launched our Virtual Classrooms for grade S5 and S7, first, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, keeping in mind the Board class considerations. Separate training sessions were curated for the Creative Wing and Sports department.

It was a formidable challenge for teachers who had been pushed into this situation, but they rose to the occasion remarkably. Videos, Power Point presentations, subject-wise weekly tasks like assignments and other reference materials were shared with the students. Lessons were also being recorded for those with poor or no internet connectivity. It also gave the attendees an opportunity to review the sessions later. To reinforce a routine, teachers had to create a calendar event in which the classes could be fixed for a week, about which the students would get notified through Teams.

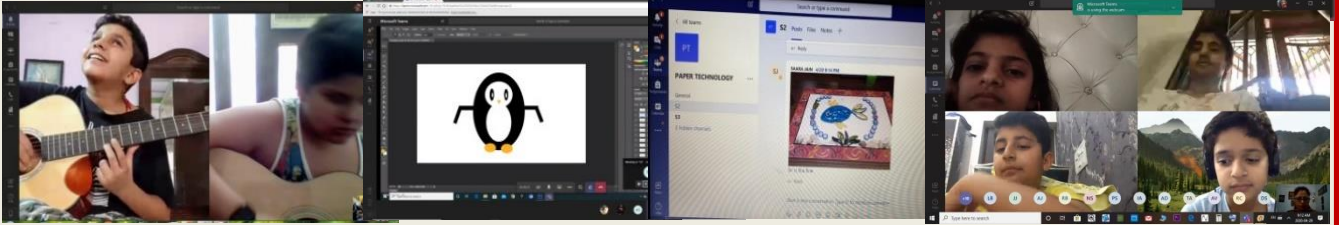
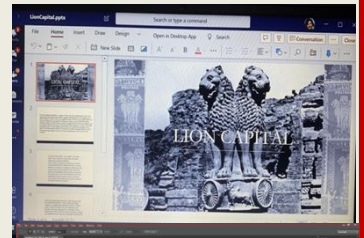
Teachers were constantly helping students by sending content, worksheets, videos, presentations and solved questions. To make teaching and learning more convenient, teachers were available to clear doubts. Class-wise groups were made and channels created, where students could post their assignments and queries, if any. As the dire need of the hour was to stay safe, the teachers were consistently working to adapt and make learning fun, effective and imperative through virtual classes.



*Remote learning in lockdown*



What is worth mentioning here is that a seamless transition from Real to the Virtual, even in sports and co-curricular activities, was the order of the day. We were now fully equipped to provide remotely our learners with not just all the core classes that are mandatory in the National Curriculum, but also a number of co-curricular and extra-curricular classes. As many as sixteen different kinds of Creative wing activities, which included music, art, animation, robotics, etc., were to be conducted through the virtual platform.



*Redefining how education is resourced and consumed*

### **HOW THE MODERN FRATERNITY RESPONDED?**

The Principal, Dr Vijay Datta, in the Marathon Broadcast session on News X, on the switch from 'Real to Online Teaching- the challenges during Covid-19', evinced that we are experiencing a very rare event and that this experience will leave an indelible impact on all of us. He said, it's possible that the coming weeks and months will change the face of education, but the decisions we make and the approach that we take during this crisis will be defining for who we are as an institution. He also added that we continue to be guided by our values and doing the harder right over the easier wrong. As a result we will need to be agile, to adjust and adapt as we face the unprecedented choice. Hence, any such handicap cannot mar our spirits and this too shall pass. On being asked about the challenges, he pointed out that the only technical glitch that we'll ever face is the internet speed or the erratic power supply. Nevertheless, we will get through this together and be a better and stronger fraternity as a result of it.



*The Principal, Dr Vijay Datta on NewsX*

### **WHAT THE EDUCATORS APPREHEND?**

“Learning is a continuous process. What better times than these, that manifest the validity of this statement. As the COVID -19 pandemic impacts the institutions of learning, it is heartening to see dedicated faculty equipping themselves to take to virtual classrooms, ensuring no gap in their students education. My dream to teach through technological aids will now become a reality; I sincerely hope that the students will continue to be deeply involved with the same level of enthusiasm and stay inquisitive in the classes.”

Ms Meera Malhotra



“COVID-19 pandemic has augured well for online teaching to be the face of education and that we all need to change our ways of thinking and teaching.

Beyond doubt, it assures to enhance my skills, open new doors of online resources and will give me an opportunity to use technology to teach students. Although, I’ll miss the face to face communication with my students, I hope that I can device methodologies to make online classes more interactive.”

Ms Anuradha Bahl

### THE CHILDREN’S RESPONSE

“We are living in the most unusual time; COVID-19 has turned into a pandemic. Generations have never witnessed such a thing. In order to prevent the virus from spreading further, all the schools, colleges, malls, and many other places of mass assembly have been shut down. But one thing that can never be stalled is the teaching-learning process. Thanks to the technology and the hard work of our teachers, we are soon to begin with our virtual classes. I really appreciate the initiative taken and the efforts of our Principal Sir and of our teachers, for an uninterrupted learning, even in these challenging times. Years later, I will cherish this experience of virtual learning from the comfort of my home.”

Arshia Goel, S3 E

My online classroom learning experience has been a revelation to me since it has been a journey from apprehension to appreciation of the latitude of its achievement. Teaching imparted using innovative and imaginative techniques have brought to fore our Principal Sir's ingenuity and the teachers’ commitment to the cause. Interactive sessions enthuse students’ participation and kindle their spirit of enquiry. Not only has the new way of learning taught me self-discipline, it has also given me a seamless clarity of the concepts being taught.

Parinistha Surya, S6 E

### THE PARENTS’ RESPONSE

Modern School, Barakhamba Road, has risen to the challenges and under the able leadership of its Principal Dr Vijay Datta, the School authorities and teachers have been quick to adapt to the lockdown. The School started the online classes in March itself. Considering online classes are not the norm in India, the efforts of the School are commendable, says the Parent body.

“We were worried as to how the classes would be conducted amid the lockdown. But, the teachers must be lauded for their exceptional skills and courage to tackle the situations,” remarked an S3 parent.

Meanwhile, an S4 parent praised the teachers, and the Principal himself for having taken the matters into their hands. He narrated, “It’s remarkable to see how they have adjusted to the circumstances in such a short duration. They have been successful in inculcating time-management skills in our children as each one of them is being catered to individually. Hats off!”