

British Council and South City International School celebrate success of new English Language Centre model

- Over 900 working professionals, college students and children from Kolkata exposed to greater opportunities through English at new partnership centre
- Kolkata model to inspire further school partnerships across India

Kolkata, 19 September 2019: British Council, the world leader in English language training, and South City International School Kolkata are celebrating the one-year anniversary of their partnership English Language Centre in India. Through the partnership the British Council aims at reaching out to working professionals, college students and children across South Kolkata, helping them improve their English proficiency in a convenient location. The partnership also aims to benefit the students of the South City International School (SCIS) by providing them easy access to the British Council offering and includes professional development for its teachers by British Council teacher training modules.

British Council is a world leader in English language training and seeks to create global opportunities through internationally recognised qualifications and assessments. English is a focus area for the British Council as it creates better education and enhanced career opportunities for individuals, equipping them to be more successful globally and in India. In Kolkata, the British Council has been delivering English language classes across age groups through its English Language Centre since 2010. In the last year, over 4,000 individuals have taken English language courses at the Kolkata English Language Centre for their various needs such as better employment opportunities, English language tests for academics and immigration or personal development.

The courses delivered by British Council **include English courses for Children, English courses for Teenagers, Spoken and Everyday English courses for Adults and Professionals, Business English skills, English for Employability skills, Creative writing courses, IELTS Preparatory Classes, Summer Programmes and bespoke workshops.** The classes are delivered by Cambridge qualified CELTA and DELTA level teachers.

Over 900 working professionals, college students and children from Kolkata studied at the SCIS classes. SCIS teachers took part in workshops on continuous professional development to further build and strengthen the teachers/teaching quality in SCIS. Given the success of the partnership, British Council expects to extend the partnership model across West Bengal, and even India.

Through the Indo British Scholars' Association Scholarships, 10 deserving students from humble backgrounds got access to greater opportunities through English.

Barbara Wickham OBE, Country Director, British Council India, said "We are extremely happy with this partnership. As the world's largest English language institution, we believe the onus lies on us introduce individuals to the possibilities and opportunities the language provides. Our partnership with South City International School has allowed us to serve a larger base of learners across Kolkata. We look forward to the next phase of our association

with SCIS, taking our internationally-recognised and world-class teaching material and practices to a larger number of ambitious individuals across the city.”

John Andrew Bagul, Principal Founder, South City International School in Kolkata, said, “The world of learning is evolving and as educators we are responsible to find newer ways of preparing youngsters and setting them up for success. The partnership with British Council has been mutually beneficial and our teaching staff involved with this programme have gained as much as the youth from different corners of Kolkata. We look forward to making a bigger difference to the youth through the partnership in the coming years.”

On successful completion of the course, **Avirup Das’ father shared his experience** as, “The most intriguing aspect of the British Council is its excellent teachers who are so friendly that my son always felt comfortable in the classroom. I can very well notice that my son has improved majorly in pronunciation as well as increased his vocabulary to a great extent. Also, the location of the South City International School is quite convenient for us to avail. I would love to continue this journey with the British Council.”

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