

NORTHFIELDS



THE ALUMNI

Issue 1 - February 2020

The Inaugural Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MRS PHYLLIS PHILOGÈNE



It is such a pleasure to write to you all as Principal of our great school. I have been so fortunate to be part of Northfields from the very beginning and to have known each and every one of you as students over the years. The knowledge that you have moved on to further studies and exciting careers after leaving us is what makes us teachers very proud and gives us the inspiration to help guide our students today along similar routes to success.

Some of you would have graduated quite a few years back and will see that Northfields has grown and changed substantially since your days here. Others might have just left us and would have experienced more of our more recent developments. Either way, I do hope you can look back fondly on your time with us and the friendships you have made along the way.

This first issue of our Alumni Newsletter is aimed at filling many of you in on how Northfields has continued to grow in recent years and also to reflect back on some happy memories through our photo archives. We would love hearing from you if you would like to contribute in any way to our future issues through sharing news about yourselves or thoughts about your time at Northfields.

Our hope is that through the Alumni Newsletter, you can catch up with each other as former students and also hear how our current students are continuing on in the Northfields tradition of Virtus et Honor.

Happy reading!



THE ALUMNI

The Evolution of Northfields

From its small beginnings in 2001 with 9 students and renting a small house, Northfields has grown to over 450 students housed in more than 5 000 sq. metres of buildings.

Slowly, Northfields grew and managed to offer to its students their own building in 2003 and dedicated floodlit full size rugby and football fields as well as cricket nets and pitch. Northfields also has its own 25m swimming pool which incorporates an Olympic size water polo pool.

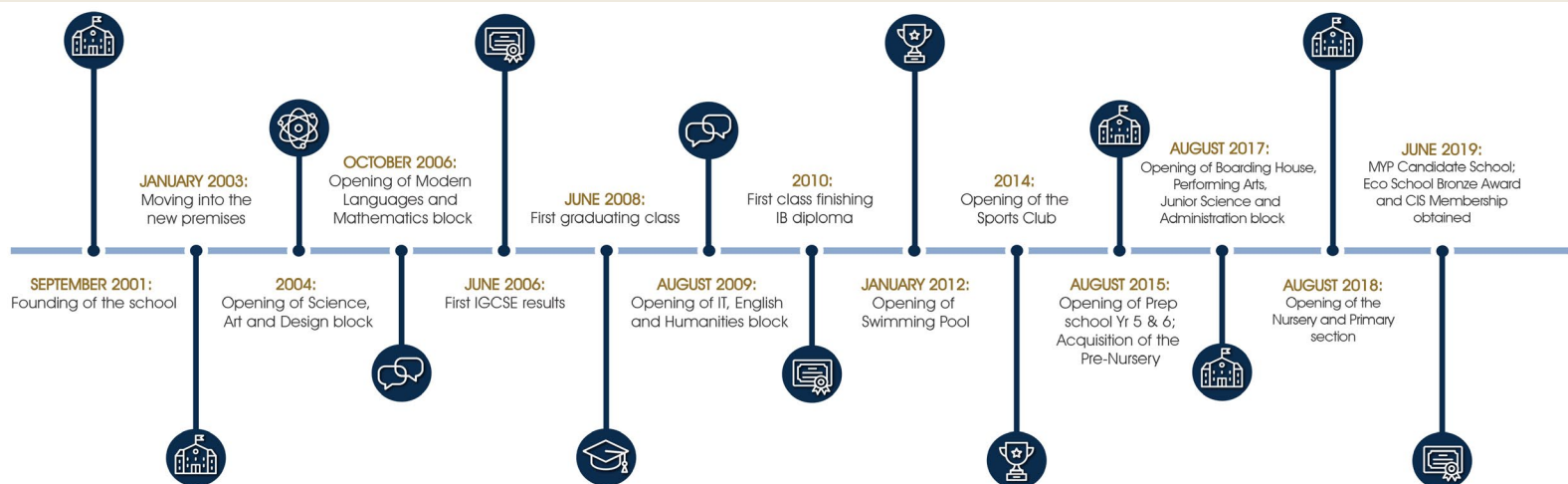
In 2014 and 2015 Northfields under took a strategic review and decided to realign its educational offering into 2 schools, Preparatory and Senior. Northfields thus rebranded its "forms" to "Years", and consequently the prior Form 1 became Year 7.

In 2015 an opportunity also arose to acquire an early learning centre for children aged 18 months to 3 years and in August 2017, Northfields inaugurated the new boarding school which is a 'home away from home'. It is the only Boarding facilities available on the island.

Then in August 2018, to further increase its academic offering, Northfields opened its Nursery and Primary section, making it the only school on the island offering education to children from 18 months till 18 years old. Northfields is and will continue to be a shining star of the beautiful island of Mauritius, tucked away in the lush green sugar cane fields, with its gorgeous grounds and beautiful coastal breeze.



Timeline





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Presentation from Alumna Alexandra Childs

On Thursday 12th December 2019, we welcomed back a Northfields alumna, Alexandra Childs, together with Rémi Demarthon. They presented to the Northfields community their most recent film about marine life intelligence and conservation.

The film, which is in French, addresses the question of consciousness in marine life. Following the film, they gave an outstanding presentation on key aspects of the film and answered excellent questions posed by our students.

It was an illuminating and thought provoking morning and we are proud as a school that our alumni are making a difference in the world we live in.



Northfields gets the Eco-School Silver Award

It is with great honour and pleasure that we would like to announce that Northfields International School has been awarded the Silver award for the Eco-School program. We have worked closely with every stakeholder of the school to assess our environmental impact and to develop projects that will mitigate those impacts.

As a school, this is only a milestone, as we would like to instill a green culture in the DNA of the school. As for the next step, The Green Flag, we have already laid the foundation for a successful plan towards achieving this award.

Our eco-leaders are an integral part of the success story and they will be asked to contribute further in order to reach the GreenFlag award.

We will update you of any upcoming projects and we hope to have your cooperation in these actions.



Performing Arts Faculty



Very recently, we introduced Drama as part of our curriculum. The importance of drama and performing arts in education is significant. Whether children have the opportunity to perform in productions or help out behind the scenes, studying Drama and Performing Arts not only engages with the creative side of the brain, it also provides an ideal balance in students' patterns of study.

Our ultimate aim is to provide students with a well-rounded education, which means Drama and Performing Arts will be a strong focus for Northfields well into the future.



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Teacher Feature



As I look back at the number of years I spent at Northfields International School, I realise that I have been teaching here for nearly 11 years now and have known the school for 14 years as I trained to be a teacher at Northfields during my university days. Spending more than a decade at a workplace isn't something normal given that the average length at a job is approximately 5 years as per different surveys. A long tenure at a company may also give the impression that one isn't interested in growing's one career. It gets even more interesting because potential employers start to think that one may not be flexible or open minded for success in a new role.

Hence, this leads to a very big question. Why? Life isn't about growing a career and getting titles next to your name. Think about one thing. When you die, people will think about you for a few days and move on. Hence, what is important? It's simply being self-aware and hap-

py. Each person is born with specific talents and the person has to be self-aware about these strengths and use them to create a life where they are happy. To me, happiness in life can be equated to someone being able to fully express himself or herself in any situation. In my case, it happens to be teaching because it's something I could do endlessly without getting tired.

So why did I stay at Northfields for so long? Northfields happen to be a school which is constantly changing, creating and having new objectives and this is fascinating as new experiences bring new perspectives and make the people around the school always grow.

To finish, I would like to share some of my best moments at Northfields:

- Watching Mr Adam teaching for the first time and telling myself that I wanted to be a teacher like him.
- Preparing students for their A levels within a term after joining and making them succeed.
- Becoming the head of Eagles and maintaining the winning trend.
- Being appointed as Head of Mathematics after a very strict and scary interview by Mr Vincent.
- The smiles on the faces of students when they graduate from the school and are able to do what they want to do.
- Constantly influencing the process of supporting young people to be better, healthy and happy human beings.

Mr Geerish Ramgoolam

IT Innovations

At Northfields, we are constantly innovating and keeping up with the latest technology trends for our classrooms. Our teaching and learning has evolved from the time some of you attended Northfields.. This year we have implemented the Bring Your Own Device programme, commonly known as BYOD to support our commitment towards providing a technology based learning environment that creates opportunities to support and extend learning and teaching. Our aim at Northfields is for students to learn with technology, rather than learning from technology. BYOD allows students to make use of digital textbooks, Moodle and Microsoft tools at school and also from home after school hours or during vacation.

Our Moodle page has also been redesigned with a more user friendly layout and is now always accessible as it is hosted on the cloud. The login process has been simplified through the implementation of single sign on

whereby the school login, email address and Moodle share the same password. To further simplify the login process, we will soon shorten the email address length which is currently in the format of `firstname.lastname@student.northfieldsinternational.school` to `firstname.lastname@s.northfields.school`. We are also in the process of providing dedicated parent's login on Moodle through which parent can monitor their child's homework and communicate with teachers.





THE ALUMNI

Spotlight on Alumna, Clément d'Unienville



"I really appreciate how the school values each and every student. Carry on this way! I wish you the very best for the future academic years."

How did your experiences in Northfields help prepare you for life after graduation?

At Northfields, I learnt the importance of having to work hard to be able to get what you aim for. Having done A-levels, I was determined to achieve the maximum work by myself, my teachers were there to teach me, but only I could make myself understand the concepts. Thus working independently is something I learned throughout my years spent at Northfields.

Who was the most influential teacher or administrator to you as a student in Northfields? Why?

First of all, I liked each and every one of my teachers, they all contributed in making myself feel proud to be a student at Northfields, and I thank them all for this.

There is however one who will remain an example for me, it is my Business teacher, Mr. Bundhun. Not only was he a good teacher, but he was also a good friend. The mood in his class was always at its best, he would make a few jokes to make your day better, and the fact that he used real-life examples during his explanations were making me understand the concepts of Business more easily... Mr. Bundhun is also a very wise teacher, he had a very good approach when it came to talking about "life", and somehow, it would make me see what is waiting for me in the real world. I was very glad to have him as a teacher during my IGCSEs and my A-levels.

Do you have any favourite memories from when you attended school in Northfields?

I keep in mind lots of memories at Northfields, but my favourite ones remain the interhouses and my class trip to It-

aly, to attend the Rome International Model United Nations.

There was always this feeling of intense competition during interhouses. During my 2 last years, the "spirit cup" was introduced, bringing even more cheering in the stands, and the final scores were always close! Losing my voice was something I was getting used to! Come on Phoenix!

The RIMUN trip was an extraordinary experience, having a chance to go on a class trip with friends is a marvelous adventure, discovering the city of Rome was wonderful, and debating for our cases during RIMUN was challenging, and lots of hard work was put in.

Would you recommend Northfields to friends and family? Why?

I would strongly recommend Northfields to friends and family, as being a student, in the eyes of every teachers and staff, you feel valued, you are not just a random student, you are a Northfields' student, you are proudly wearing the uniform because you know that each school day will be a good day.

In addition to this, the teachers are qualified and each have different ways of teaching, they always make sure that you understand what you are being taught, and you are not just in the classroom to warm up the chair!

What Advice would you give the students still enrolled at Northfields?

For all the students still at Northfields: Even the smallest achievements pave a way to great success. Each little step that you take will make you go forward. Sure, sometimes you will feel demotivated, sure, sometimes all you'll want to do is just let go, but don't! If you fall, it is just so you can climb higher. Dreams are not given, they are achieved through success, and success is achieved through hard work and determination. Strive to achieve what you want the most, give yourself goals, as it's with goals that you achieve your aims.

I therefore wish every student dreams never ending, and the urge to make a few come true, I wish them passions and silences, I wish them to respect the difference of others, because the merit and value of each are often to be discovered.

Finally, I wish them never to give up research, adventure, life, love, because life is a wonderful adventure and no reasonable person should give up without a tough battle.

Clément



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Memories



Graduating Class of 2014-2015



Camp 2013



Art Exhibition 2015



Whole School Photo of 2008-2009



Interhouse Cross Country 2006



Christmas Carols 2005

Interested in Joining the Northfields Team?

Northfields is always looking for caring and motivated educators and staff to join our team. Should you be interested in a career with us, or know someone who does, please send in your application to careers@northfieldsinternational.school.

Please also visit our website <http://northfieldsinternational.school/working-at-northfields/> for more information on our current vacancies.