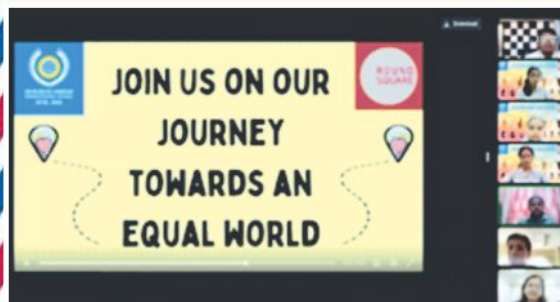


DAIS HOSTED ROUND SQUARE POSTCARD

'NEVER ODD OR EVEN'

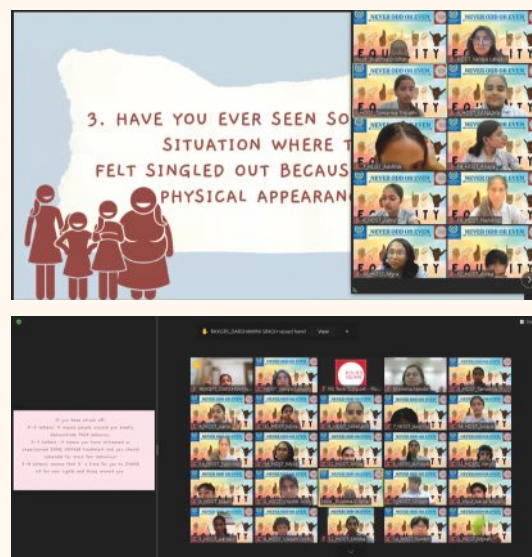


On 24 April 2024, DAIS student leaders from Grade 7 mentored by seniors from Grade 8, hosted their fifth Postcard with support of Round Square Central. The Postcard had a massive response from the global RS community with around 30 schools across 7 countries including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, UAE, and India attending the Postcard. This was a dream come true for three passionate Round Square Co-curricular students, who had conceptualized and conducted a module on the ideal of internationalism, which eventually took form as a Postcard. The Postcard themed - 'NEVERODDOREVEN', a palindrome annotated since it read the same backwards and forwards.

The core leaders reassessed the original module and designed experiences to evoke critical thinking as participant delegates assessed situations around them to gain insight into equality or inequality allowing students to reflect on the fair practices in a community. The Postcard addressed equity and equality with empathy and sensitivity to share many global issues which brought out diverse perspectives as responses to practices around the world.

The preparations extended to training 51 student leaders, who lead 17 breakout rooms, hosting over 200 delegates. Mock sessions with juniors and seniors, provided time for feedback and reflect on the final schedule for the 60-minute session. The leaders worked with senior mentors and teachers, to create extremely creative and thought-provoking interactions. Despite it being an extremely long road full of ups and downs, the students finally made it to the final day! The Postcard started off with an original composition on Equality as student and teacher delegates were welcomed by the DAIS Round Square Representative. A thought-provoking game – 'Put a letter down', enabled delegates to delve into deep thinking on the instances of situations in the society. An impactful introductory video set the tone of Equality for our Postcard.

In the next segment in breakout rooms, delegates had insightful discussions, diverse perspectives, and healthy debates on Equality. Back in the main meeting, delegates assessed situations on a scale of equality in a range of 1-5. This enlightened the students of unfair practices around them and the need to speak and stand up for Equality as the first step in the journey to a fair world.



Round Square International Conference 2023: "The New Africa"

2023
THE NEW AFRICA



ROUND SQUARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
BROOKHOUSE SCHOOLS, NAIROBI KENYA



The theme of the 55th Round Square International Conference 2023, 'The New Africa', allowed eight DAIS delegates to explore ways in which the continent has evolved and is defining its position in the 21st Century. Brookhouse Schools jointly hosted around 1,200 delegates from 160 schools from the RS community across their two campuses, Karen and Runda, in Nairobi.

Day 1: Opening Ceremony

The delegates began their day at the 'Bomas of Kenya' for the Opening Ceremony of the event, welcomed by Brookhouse students in cultural attire and inaugurated by Margaret Kenyatta. The ceremony featured musical and dance performances, highlighted African achievements, and celebrated Wangari Maathai's legacy, ending with a Kenyan Matatu-themed performance. The day was packed with cultural exchanges, discussions in baraza groups and a closing performance that blended traditional African culture with modern rhythms.

Day 2: Service Day and Cultural night

Delegates engaged in service activities at Brookhouse's community partner schools, including refurbishing and sports, then shared stories on the campus lawns, culminating in a cultural night where they showcased diverse music and dances, including a unifying flash mob in traditional costumes.

Day3: Adventure Day

During their adventure day, DAIS delegates visited Nairobi National Park, encountering giraffes, rhinos, zebras and lions and enhanced team-building skills through a tent-pitching activity. Post-lunch, they continued their exploration to see more wildlife. The day ended with a campfire and a traditional Masai dance, showcasing Africa's rich culture before retiring to their tents.

Day 4: Democracy day and Homestay

DAIS delegates engaged in insightful discussions on societal norms and African culture with esteemed panellists, followed by a treasure hunt that emphasized teamwork, and experienced warm African hospitality during a night stay with host families, returning to campus with cherished memories.

Day 5: Closing Ceremony and Awards

The conference concluded with a motivational keynote by Paralympian Henry Wanyoike, urging delegates to pursue their passions despite challenges, followed by a Closing Ceremony featuring student performances, a tribute to King Constantine, addresses by Round Square leaders, and a live show by Sauti Sol, culminating in a heartfelt farewell and promises to stay in touch.

The conference offered a holistic Round Square experience, fostering closer connections among students and providing numerous new insights for reflection.



Our Reflections

Our homestay with the host families were a profound experience as we bonded with the delegates and their family members. It deepened our understanding of Kenyan culture and democracy. The host families were extremely warm and welcoming, making us feel comfortable and at home. Enjoying good food, playing games, enjoying music, watching movies and chatting helped us realize how different we were and yet so similar. We shared special bonds with our hosts and were left with a heart full of gratitude for their warmth and hospitality. An unforgettable experience of a home away from home.

DAIS Delegates: Anousha Singi, Anaya Bansal, Eklavea Shah, Heya Sanghvi, Krisha Singhal, Manit Pansari, Samika Jain, Sanika Daga

DAIS PARTICIPATION IN ROUND SQUARE POSTCARDS

Ashbury College Postcard

On Wednesday, 24th January, 2024, an enriching event was hosted by Ashbury College, bringing together representatives from a diverse student body, numbering approximately 170. This gathering was centred on exploring the principles of Round Square, a framework dedicated to holistic education. As part of this assembly, we were a group of six students from DAIS, participating actively in this learning experience.

Reflections:

"I found the experience fun and interesting. It was exciting to talk to people from different countries and get to know about their schools and how they work. During the exchange, I gained insights into diverse educational systems and approaches, which broadened my understanding." Yuv Singhal

"I interacted with a lot of students from different countries. We learned about diverse cultures, and it was an immersive experience. Through these interactions, I gained a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and discovered new perspectives on global issues." Ahana Dutt

"The Ashbury College postcard was insightful and informative. We had the opportunity to interact with various students across the world and learn their perspectives on the Round Square ideals. Hearing about their experiences reinforced my belief in the importance of international collaboration and understanding in education." Reina Kapur



Learning to unlearn consumption -

A Postcard by GEMS Millennium School, Dubai

On the 7th of February 2024, six students from DAIS attended the Round Square 'Postcard' hosted by GEMS Millennium School, Dubai. The Postcard provided a platform for students from 36 schools spanning 11 different countries to present diverse perspectives and opinions on the topic of 'Learning to Unlearn Consumption'. Consumption refers to the action of using up a resource, and this Postcard represented the objective of mitigating consumerism.

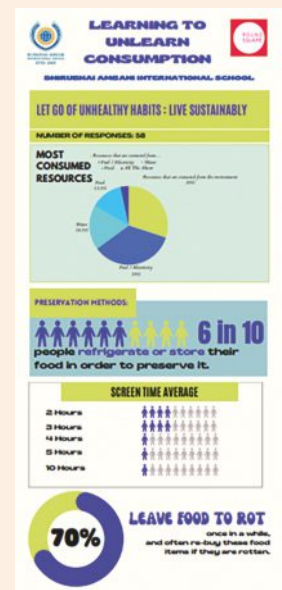
Reflections:

"It was a really captivating experience to listen and learn about the global perspectives of the topic of consumption."

"It was a great experience. It was amazing hearing many perspectives from around the world, discussing the topic of Consumption."

"Exploring ways to break free from the cycle of mindless consumption challenged my perspectives and inspired me to rethink my habits. It's not just about what we buy, but understanding why we buy it and its impact on the world around us."

DAIS Delegation: Avishka Parikh, Sanaa Adukia, Akshaj Panjnani, Jaisal Shah, Rayyaan Shetty, Riaan Mehta



St Andrew's School Postcard

On March 20th, 2024, six students and one adult from DAIS attended the Round Square Postcard titled 'Coping with Stress' by the St Andrew's School for Girls in South Africa. The event focused on exam anxiety and stress, with St Andrew's School counselors highlighting symptoms, causes, and coping mechanisms. Through discussions, debates, and breakout sessions, participants explored the effects of stress on performance, distinguishing between positive and negative stress, and shared personal strategies for managing exam-related anxiety, such as engaging with nature, music, family, and pets. The session concluded with insightful Q&A sessions where keynote speakers offered advice on procrastination, preparation for exams, and stress management. The DAIS delegates found the experience transformative, gaining practical strategies for dealing with stress and organizing their work, thereby enhancing their approach to handling exam anxiety.

DAIS Student Delegates - Aashna Agarwal, Aniruddha Chatterjee, Divna Manek, Sanaaya Joisher, Sia Agarwal and Vrushti Joshi.

