

ASJA Girls' College

Learning in Harmony

At-ta'alum be-ta-aaluf





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We aim for excellence A message from our Principal

Assalaamu alaikum (Peace be unto you)

A blessing! That is how I describe ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna. It is an absolutely amazing place to be. It is a joy to work alongside competent professionals who are like members of family. We continuously learn, labour and laugh to-

I believe that there is no chance or happenstance in life; we all have divinely selected pathways. I thank Allah that my pathway has merged with the lives of so many who have enriched me as much as I have sought to enrich. Over the years, we have collectively built a reputation of discipline, high standards, achievement and care for students.

In 2000, ASJA Girls' College was established as a Government Assisted (denominational) secondary school under the Ministry of Education's secondary education modernisation programme (SEMP). Due to the foresight of the ASJA board, the building formerly used as the Haji Ruknudeen Institute of Islamic Studies was initially easily converted to a secondary school since there were already three classrooms and an auditorium. In 2003, a new building was annexed to the existing structure and new administrative offices, science and computer labs were built but space limitations did not allow for the accommodation of a sixth form.

However, the ASJA education board and the school are actively pursuing options for the construction of a sixth form wing.

When the school first opened its doors on September 4, 2000, there were only seven teachers, a principal (Naima Hosein) and 70 eager but apprehensive students. With a continued annual student intake of 70, the school reached its full capacity of 350 students in 2004. In June 2005, the first cohort of students wrote the CSEC examinations with great suc-

Tribute must be paid to Naima Hosein who led the school from its inception, until April 2012. Her vision of student-centred, value-laden education, discipline and high standards, all guided by the tenets of Islam is the vision that we still hold on to strongly today. Naima Hosein was instrumental in shaping the culture of the school. She practiced participatory leadership, engaging all staff members in de-

cision-making and encouraged us to set and maintain high-standards. She was the embodiment of what it means to be an excellent principal and I am honoured and humbled to have been granted the opportunity to follow in her footsteps.

At ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna, we aim for excellence (ihsan) in all that we do and seek continuous growth and improvement. We provide a disciplined, caring environment where every student can attain success. Staff cohesion and camaraderie is nurtured by the positive personal relationships and family-like bond that have been forged over the years. These relationships have served to strengthen and unify us in our goal of quality education.

Alhamdullilah (all praise to God), over the years, we have been blessed with many achievements both academic and non-academic.

In 2012, at a meeting with Ministry of Education officials, we were identified as the school that added the most value to students within the St George East education district, when comparing SEA and CSEC results.

Our students shine in large part because of the commitment and absolute dedication of staff including our astute acting vice-principal Aleeya Khan. Staff members continuously give of their best and go beyond expectations. They make many sacrifices for the benefit of our school and students. This is the attitude that pervades all that they do. Members of staff voluntarily serve on various committees which span a range of functions incorporating school based management practices. Staff members willingly give of themselves to ensure that students accomplish the best that they are capable

The development of students' academic, moral and emotional strengths requires the constant collaboration, input and support of many persons including all members of staff (teaching and non-teaching); our respective families; parents and the PTA; members of the ASIA education board (chairman Yacoob Ali, secretary Affieza Ogeer and other members including our school manager Feraz Mohammed); and of course the Ministry of Education via the St George East education district. I remain ever grateful for their sustained

about by the pandemic, our students give me great hope for the future of T&T.

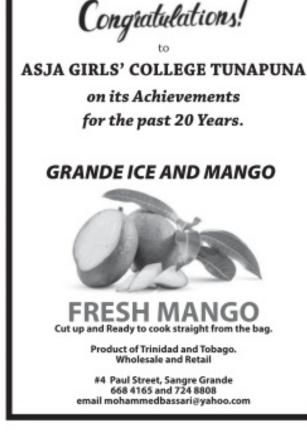
On behalf of the staff and students of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna, I extend Eid Mubarak greetings to all.

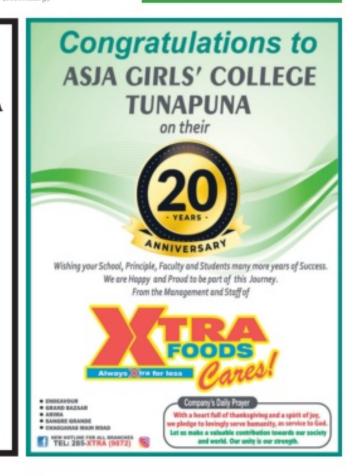
May Allah continue to guide, bless us and keep us safe.

RABIA MOHAMMED-KHAN Principal (Secondary)

Despite the current uncertainty brought









A blessing and a source of happiness

Message from our Vice Principal

In September 2000, ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna quietly opened its doors on a literal back street in Tunapuna.

Twenty years later, our milestone anniversary also passed in silence as we were masked by a global pandemic. Perhaps, this was most fitting, as we focus on happiness and gratitude, not accolades.

In the closing stages of 2000, I was asked the question, "How can you be so happy after an entire day of teaching?" My response was and continues to be the same, "Because I am!"

I often reflect on how happy and grateful I am for having the opportunity to be at ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna, and I wholeheartedly acknowledge the many factors that have contributed along the way.

Allah Knows Best. Almighty God places you where you must be and when you must be there, and if one is cognizant of that fact, then one is content. 2 I have been fortunate to have superb leadership from day one, starting with Naima Hosein and continuing today under Rabia Mohammed - Khan.

3 Inclusion. The decision to accept the responsibilities of Vice Principal (Ag) was made easier because of my inclusion in the many planning, managing and decision-making processes at our school. This collaboration and support started in September 2000, when our entire staff of seven women were able to design and give birth to the school culture which we felt would best serve all stakeholders.

Thankfully, we have been able to maintain an ethos built on quality, dedication and responsible service which, in itself, offers a high level of contentment.

4 The relationships formed are the

backbone to the happiness which pervades our halls. The ability to sit, share a joke and laugh with people who are your friends whilst at work is priceless. As is the many impromptu staff cooks, the spur of the moment photo shoots (because we all wore colour coordinated outfits), the spontaneous chow breaks, the sharing of personal triumphs, and tests, and the unsolicited counsel which comes at just the right moment.

The relationships we also build with our many 'daughters' is genuine and enduring. As a team of women, we have an innate drive to nurture and protect whilst supporting their educational goals. The privilege given to add value to their lives is something we take seriously, and one for which we know we are ultimately accountable to God.

I pay tribute to my family, with whom I have the most valued relationship. Without their unwavering support, spot on advice,

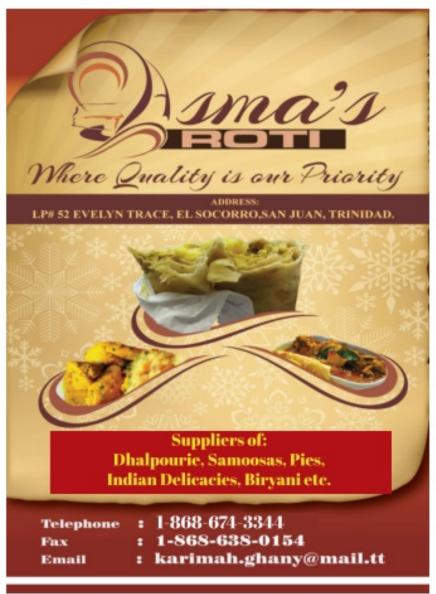


Aleeya Khan

care and love I would not be where I am today.

After two decades and nines years as The Acting Vice Principal, I am proud of who we are as a school and I am ever grateful that Allah has placed me here. Alhamdulillah (Praise God) for this wonderful gift of being part of a school that truly cares about service to mankind. This 20-year journey has indeed been a blessing and a source of happiness for me.

ALEEYA KHAN Vice Principal (Ag) ASIA Girls' College, Tunapuna



Greetings from the ASJA Education Board of Management

he Anjuman Sunnatul Jamaat Association (ASJA) has been involved in education since 1953 for the benefit of Muslim children of the nation to promote their academic, spiritual and moral development to enable them to recognise their own intrinsic values as human beings with the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Five primary schools were established in 1953 followed by one in 1956 and another in 1959.

The need for higher education led to the opening of the San Fernando Boys' College in January 1960 and San Fernando Girls' College in 1962. The doors of four other colleges: Barrackpore Girls', Charlieville Boys', Charlieville Girls' and Tunapuna Girls' were opened on September 4, 2000.

Currently, the ASJA schools are run in accordance with the Education Act and the Concordat established in 1960 with the Government of T&T and the Association of Denominational Boards of Education.

The ASJA education board is a sub-institution of ASJA charged with the responsibility of the operations of the schools under their jurisdiction.

All our schools have and continue to provide a strong foundation to the future leaders by inculcating good study attitudes, moral values, self-discipline, honesty, respect for others and taking responsibility amongst other great qualities to assist them through their educational journey and beyond.



Affieza Ogeer , Secretary, ASJA Education Board. Ogeer is the recipient of The Medal For The Development Of Women (Gold) Award for National Service (2013)

We commend the ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna for their remarkable resilience, dedication, commitment and perseverance as educators and especially in responding to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

On behalf of the executive of the ASJA education board of management and the president general and chairman Haji Yacoob Ali, we pay tribute to all past and present students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders for the strides of the ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna from its inception to date in providing first class secondary education to the young girls of our nation.

We take this opportunity to extend Eid Greetings to all.

AFFIEZA OGEER

Secretary, ASJA Education Board





NAIMA HOSEIN

First Principal of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna (from September 2000 to April 2012). She created the foundation for the success of the school. Hosein is now the current Director of School Supervision.



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There are no endings... the story continues... Past principal's message

Assalaamu Alaikum May the Peace and Blessings of Almighty God Be with You

n April 16, 2012, the beautiful story of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna continued but with a change in the person who held the leadership role. Rabia Mohammed-Khan assumed the role of principal then and continues to strengthen the power of the message "Learning in Harmony."

In September 2000, I was blessed with the opportunity of creating an environment where teaching and learning were enjoyable activities to teacher and student alike. During my 12-year tenure as principal, I was further blessed with a dedicated staff who shared my vision and, with parents and students who willingly came on board. At this institution which epitomises harmony, we acknowledged that each day was the first day of the rest of our lives and recognised the importance of "to learn as though we were

to live forever and to live as though we were to die tomorrow." The staff and I were ever mindful of the fact that the choices we made in the conduct of our duties impacted on the lives of those in our care. We understood and accepted that in meeting the needs of others we were earning the pleasure of our Creator.

For those like myself who have left this noble institution, know and remember that the story continues, that the memories that we have created are harmoniously interwoven with each new memory that is being created by others. For those who are left behind, know that the story lives in our hearts. My heartfelt gratitude to those who have enriched my life and to those who continue to take ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna, to greater and greater heights.

May you continue to be guided on the right path and to be amongst those on whom God bestows his choicest favours.

NAIMA HOSEIN







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Women of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna, on guiding their girls forward

ARYANA MOHAMMED

"They are all girls, and we are all women," says Reisha Andrews-Dick, a teacher at ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna. Andrews-Dick hints at the underlying responsibility held collectively by the all-female staff towards their all-female students at the institution.

The vice-principal Aleeya Khan elucidates, "What we want to see from our girls, our students, is what we have to show them." Being a teacher inevitably requires one to be a lifelong learner. As the years pass, teachers must consistently evaluate their behaviours and attitudes when determining what they would like their students to model.

Khan notably mentions that students, more so than before, hold teachers accountable and that self-awareness is key in teaching and interacting with students.

As women and educators, the staff at ASJA Girls' College is increasingly aware of the societal challenges that women face. To prepare the students to become strong, independent and assertive women to deal with these challenges, the staff has ensured that they are well-equipped to teach the complex, hidden curriculum.

"If you pass by my class, and I teach Math, you may hear conversations about issues affecting women at that particular



point in time," says Andrews-Dick. After losing one of their past students Shannon Banfield, to gender-based violence, the teachers understand the need for starting the conversation and advocating for women's rights.

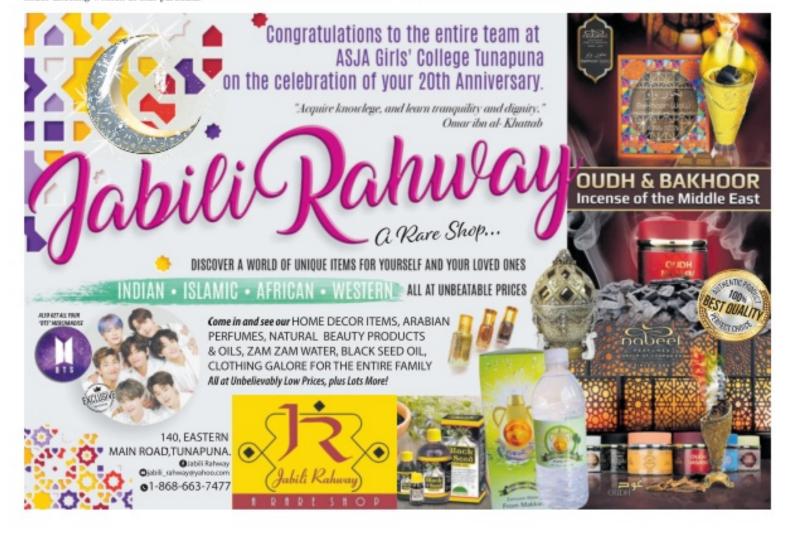
So, what else does this hidden curriculum include? The principal Rabia Mohammed-Khan explains, "I feel compelled to impart the importance of faith, the importance of being independent and standing on your own two feet, and the importance of believing in yourself."

Still, there is only so much one can do in their role as a teacher. Therefore, some teachers have made the sacrifice and commitment to function in multiple roles. "Some of the students may not have a maternal figure in their lives. So, I take it upon myself and I treat them as my own," says Shireen Khan-Alexander.

ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna aims to provide a holistic education but to do this it is necessary for the staff to collaborate and cooperate as a unit. Dispelling the notion that working in an all-female environment is stressful, Aleeya Khan states, "We work together, we thrive together, and we challenge each other to be better." Likewise, for Rabia Mohammed-khan, the experience is truly fulfilling as she identifies the staff as a sisterhood that motivates and inspires her.

Not too long ago, our Trinidadian women had to fight for a place in the education system. Now, they are leading it. The women who came before are the ones who carved the footpath for those who will come after, and the teachers at ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna have taken their place as guides to those who walk behind.

Leaving behind a few words of wisdom for her students, Aleeya Khan offers, "Education is not burdensome. It is a gift, a means to many great things, and for that we must be grateful."





SITAL College congratulates ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna

e have been friends of ASJA Girls', Tunapuna from 2005 when we began our series of career sessions at their school. It has since been our pleasure to provide an annual scholarship to a deserving CSEC graduate, and to also welcome other ASJA Girls' College graduates to pursue higher education.

ASJA Girls' graduates have distinguished themselves by their values, which we are sure is due, in no small part, to the school.

We therefore congratulate the principal, staff, students and parents, for not only celebrating this 20th anniversary milestone, but for also producing the calibre of your young women over the years.

Your motto Learning in Harmony strikes a chord with us. We, too, believe that students learn best in a harmonious and understanding environment that really seeks to look after their needs and career ambitions

That nurturing approach to education also makes for compassionate and emotionally intelligent employees, business owners and business leaders that are so important in a challenging and uncertain

There are many opportunities available in higher education now, and we would encourage your CSEC and CAPE graduates to continue learning and to continue to upskill themselves to reach their full potential.

Young people do face challenges, but we know that your students are in good hands.

We wish your college many more years of success, and once again congratulate you on your 20th anniversary milestone!

From the directors, staff and faculty of SITAL College of Tertiary Education Ltd









Get in touch with one of our dedicated student advisors:
Call 226-5085 | Whatsapp 290-2117
Email info@sitalcollege.edu
Or connect with us via our website & on social media:
sitalcollege.edu.tt | @sitalcollege





Reisha Andrews-Dick, Mathematics Teacher



Reinette Williams, Computer Science/ CVQ Teacher



Shireen Khan-Alexander, Mathematics and Physics Teacher



Our Staff

Rabia Mohammed-Khan, Principal



Paula Ramnath-Nagassar, English Teacher



Pavita Sirju, Spanish Teacher



Waheeda Mohammed, POA/POB Teacher



Aleeya Khan, Vice Principal (Ag)



Lauren Singh, Mathematics/ Physics Teacher



Salma Hoosaney, Computer Science Teacher



Melissa John, Spanish Teacher



Juliana Ramroop-Ramnath, Head of Department (Ag)

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Priscilla Patiram-Gyan, Head of Department



Shabanna Ali Hosein, Dean





Aryana Mohammed, Drama Teacher



Salma Rahman, History Teacher



Salisha Sasha Mohammed, Biology/General Science Teacher



Melissa Ramsaroop, Social Studies Teacher



Lee Lutchman, Visual Arts Teacher



Safeeya Baksh-Gyan, English Teacher



Asiah Joseph, Teacher's Aide (Spanish)



Karishma Mohammed, Teacher's Aide (Science)



Sevona Mulrain, Teacher's Aide English



Leslie-Ann Farfan-Cooper, Guidance Officer



Dulcie Sinanan-Mungalsingh, Lab Technician



Motielal Koonj Beharry, ICT Technician



Tynika James, School Social Worker



Danielle Tannis, Trainee Lab Assistant



Melissa Maxine Kangal, Clerk Typist I



Anthony Rivers, Security Officer



Parasram Singh, Security Officer





Pooran Sooklal, Security Officer



Michael Brice, Security Officer



Taheed Mohammed, Security Officer

Members of staff not pictured: Faa'iza Karim-Juman (Teacher), Camille Bartholomew-Vincent (Visual Arts Teacher), Natasha Mohammed (Computer Science/ IT Teacher), Kristal Ramoutar (English Teacher), Amirah Mohammed (CVQ Assistant), Karen Phagoo (Clerk III Ag), Aneisha Khan-Simon (Library Assistant II), Trevyssa Singh (Library Assistant I), Jankey Surrattan (Janitor), Dulari Mohamed (Janitor), Ashmead Damree (Security Officer), Charles (Security Officer), Shaliza Hosein (Cafeteria Operator), Zameel Hosein (Cafeteria Operator).



Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary



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What current students think of the College

Rebekah Outridge - Form 1

"The teachers have been so very helpful, kind and welcoming. They have made my transition into Secondary school online a wonderful experience. They truly care."

Ariel Mohammed - Form 3

"I would just like to say the teachers are the best at teaching and helping out. The school is nice; everyone at the school is kind and you can always talk to any of the staff members."

Hanna Ali - Form 4

"My experience thus far at AGCT has been one of the best in my life. Every single member of the staff is very student oriented and willing to assist."

Jerlece Phillips - Form 4

"In my four years at ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna, I have had the opportunity to be taught by some of the most patient and understanding teachers. They never fail to create a comfortable learning environment for me and my peers alike. They also work very hard by trying to fit their ways of teaching to accommodate every student so that each one of us can have the opportunity to learn at a pace we're comfortable with."

Maryam Khaleelullah - Form 3

"My three years at ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna has been tremendously enjoyable thus far. The staff is always ready and able to assist in the betterment of our education. The friendships and memories that I've made will stay with me forever."

Kayla Auguste - Form 3

"I am a Full Gospel Christian attending a strict Muslim school. My first thoughts were, 'Am I going to survive here?' 'What if I can't take the rules?' In a 'quick minute' my thinking was transformed. I have grown to understand and respect not just the faith but how steadfast my teachers and classmates hold to it. I appreciate why the uniform and wearing it properly is important, why it is important to express how I feel with respect and humility, why it's important for girls to work together and take every opportunity afforded to them in a male dominated society; most importantly the friendship. I value the friendships I have found at ASJA. It is truly a reflection of the calibre of girls and teachers at the school."

Zarah Wanzer - Form 5

"More than just a school but a home filled with amazing role models as teachers who do everything in their power to help us become sophisticated and well-rounded women. Happy Anniversary ASJA Girls' College."

Nikkita Lochan - Form 3

"ASJA Girl's College Tunapuna has a group of the most dedicated teachers. They continuously push their students to make them better women!"

Victoria Boodoosingh - Form 4

"Attending ASJA Girls' College is like having another home away from home for me. I miss and appreciate all the physical interactions and especially staff members. As a student of 4H, I am only currently motivated by my beautiful and determined teachers during this online process. My school proudly continues to learn in harmony."

Shalini Persad - Form 4

"As a current student at ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna, it has truly been and will continue to be a tremendous journey with these innovative, dedicated and passionate principal and teachers through both physical and virtual school. This school fulfills all the needs of their students; meaning it is well equipped with all the tools needed to foster and encourage learning. At this school, no student is left behind. The school does its best to provide a space for all students to thrive. Happy 20th Anniversary."

Saesha Lewis - Form 4

"It's a great joy to attend ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna. My experience has been exceptionally pleasant with dedicated teachers, upholding discipline and displaying leadership qualities."

Abibi-Africa Williams - Form 1

"My experience as a Form I student in ASJA Girls' College has been amazing. Teachers have put a lot of effort into working with us. They make things understandable when the topic/subject isn't clear to us/inc. They have done their best and put their best foot forward with everything that they're doing. I thoroughly enjoy ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna."

Selina Marie Mohammed - Form 3

"As a student, my overall experience at ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna has been very positive. All members of staff are friendly and have never failed to assist me with any challenge that I have faced. My school has a warm and welcoming atmosphere. I always feel encouraged to do my best to succeed."

Emily Reyes - Form 1

"The teachers are all very kind and help me with the work I struggle doing. I am honoured to attend this school."

Shivani Tobas - Form 5

"I'm truly blessed to be a part of the ASJA family. My teachers, cleaners, staff and security have been extremely nice to me and I would never regret passing for this amazing school."

Alisha Mohammed - Form 5

"ASJA is home away from home in a small, disciplined, clean family environment. Nurturing mothers from 8am to 2:30pm and beyond. Impactful teaching prepares us for life."

Soriah Gopaul - Form 5

"It is a very good choice for a school. Some may think that the school is boring but NO there are some really interesting and fun activities."

Marissa Singh - Form 2

"The staff were always friendly to everyone. I have to say they always promote positivity and are always quick to help a student who is in need with assistance."

Zaara Shaffie - Form 1

"As a Form I student, my experience so far has been great. The school is very family oriented. The teachers are willing, helpful and hardworking. In ASJA we aim for excellence but do so in harmony. Traits I will strive for as I move forward."

Aaliyah Lara - Form 5

"My experience at this school has been an amazing one. The teachers here, I can confidently say, are some of the most hardworking and dedicated. They go out of their way to make sure every child understands."

Hope Pierre - Recent graduate

"I am proud to say that I attended ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna as my time there has shaped me into the young woman I am today."





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Guided Lessons: A Past Teacher's Perspective

66 nor sixteen years, my daily commute took me from Freeport to Tunapuna and back. It ranged anywhere from two to three hours a day, but it provided for me the opportunity to learn, grow and give the best of myself to those in my care. Leaving ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna behind, for good, was one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do.

"Being able to work with such a strong and supportive staff was indeed a blessing. Not only was I able to forge deep friendships and acquire 'sisters' over the years, I was also able to learn from these wonderful women and recognise that our purpose was far beyond the standardised curriculum and written assessments.

"What mattered more to us was being able

to guide these girls into becoming responsible, independent and caring members of society. We wanted them to be appreciative of the efforts of others, to value integrity and honesty, and to remember that hard work brings great rewards. These were not just words for us -- we walked the talk, and I continue to live by these principles to this day.

"For me, having the opportunity to guard and guide is priceless. No matter where I might be, ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna remains in my heart. I am very proud to have been a part of this school's history.

Congratulations on a fulfilling 20-year run and may Almighty God continuously pour blessings upon your future!"

—RISHMA RAJKUMAR



Congratulations to

ASJA GIRLS COLLEGE TUNAPUNA

on celebrating their 20th Anniversary

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HAKEEMAH ABDUL-LATIF - 2008 Medical Doctor

During my studies and life in general, whenever I feel I am being mediocre, I would tell myself I need to go into "ASJA Mode", which to me means discipline, diligence and putting my best foot forward.



SHADANE ALEXANDER - 2016 Associates Degree in Culinary Management

ASJA taught me that with God, humility and love I can conquer and become anything that I want to be and for that I am forever grateful!



SANAASHA ALI – 2018 National Open Scholarship Winner 2018

An outstanding school that perpetuates great values with dedicated teachers who care for each student. Truly grateful for the lessons learnt and the memories made!



ALIMA ALEXIS - 2007 Attorney-at-Law

My experience at ASJA Girls' College taught me the value of hard work and perseverance. Discipline was instilled in us and it has shaped me throughout my legal career.

Congratulations to ASJA GIRLS' COLLEGE TUNAPUNA

20th Anniversary

in celebrations of its



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Reflections from



SARAH BENJAMIN-PAUL - 2006 Freelance Makeup-Artist

I've always admired my teachers for their hard work and dedication they've put in the classroom. They have always propelled us towards excellence and I'm forever grateful for that experience.



JERVEENA POLLUCKSINGH - 2007 Represented Trinidad and Tobago in cricket at all levels

ASJA and its staff genuinely gave me a foundation; taught me that its fine to not be perfect as well as shaped my personality and success. Thank you! Happy 20th anniversary!



NABILA AKALOO - 2007 MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

ASJA has taught me that making mistakes is okay as we learn from them and move on. That foundation has helped me become a better person in society.



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Fred's Marketing would like to congratulate

ASJA Girls' College on 20 years of educating

our future leaders.

Happy 20th Anniversary!



our past students



SARAH BOODRAMSINGH - 2013 Currently Employed at First Citizens Bank. Performed missionary work in Latin America

My teachers were always genuinely invested in the academic accomplishments and overall well-being of their students and always instilled values of integrity, character and good morals.



RAADIYAH MOHAMMED - 2017 Bachelor of Laws LLB student; Published author in the STALA Law Society Magazine

My experience at ASJA was one that I would never forget. The love, courage, motivation and care will stay with me forever and made me who I am today. I am extremely glad to be an ASJA Tunapuna girl.



TONYA NERO - 2005
Professional Marathon
Runner. In 2012, Tonya set a
National Record but missed
the Olympic qualifying
standard for the marathon by
14 second

At ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna, I learned the importance of discipline. This has helped me to build character throughout the years.



NADIYAH KAMARRA BAKSH - 2006 Bachelors in Marketing & Human Resource Management, MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table) premium insurance qualification, President Award, War on Poverty, Activity Award - Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited

ASJA was my home away from home! I learnt discipline, ethics, humility and faith in a place of peace and kindness. The support of my teachers and friends there have paved the way for my evolving success in both my life and career!

KARISHMA RAMHARACK - 2012

I've had many life learning

etched in my mind forever! I've

definitely learned that, "There

you have to take the stairs!" In

whatever you do, hard work and determination bring the results!

are no elevators to success;

West Indies Cricketer

teachings that have been



CHANTAL GEORGE - 2013 BSc Marine Biology

The five years I spent at ASJA has moulded me into the person I am today. I had wonderful teachers who were always caring and compassionate, some of whom became lifelong friends. I am happy to have had the opportunity to grow in such a place with people who care about your self-development as well as academic standing.



ALIYAH MOHAMMED - 2005 Secondary School Teacher (Social Studies/Sociology)

ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna has been a second home to me. It has helped to instill in me selfdiscipline and compassion, and has given me a strong Islamic foundation.



GENEVIEVE MOHAMMED - 2017 Bachelor of Laws (LLB) -Student

ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna; an institution of excellence forwarded by a family of dynamic women, a school I'm truly proud to call my Alma



DR KARISHMA HARRILAL-MAHARAJ - 2011

Doctor (MBChB) University of Bristol, Open Scholarship Winner 2013

I will forever be indebted to the staff of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna for moulding me into the individual that I am today. Thank you for providing me with the tools needed for success.



ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna on its 20th Anniversary



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LEANNA KALLOO - 2018
Pursuing a degree in
Chemistry and Physics. Earned
8 Grade Ones at CSEC 2018

My journey at ASJA Girls' College was truly phenomenal and will forever be engraved within me. All courtesies must be extended to all the hardworking staff.



MARYAM MOHAMMED - 2007 Secondary School Teacher (English)

It was a safe space for many of us coming into our personalities and discovering who we are. There is an understated proficiency in how they handled our education which created a unique essence.



It's difficult to fail in a place like ASJA'

Q&A with past pupil, Christiann Gaines

What period did you attend ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna?

I attended ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna from 2003 to 2008.

What is/are your greatest achievement(s) since leaving ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna?

 Graduating with honours with my Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry and receiving the American Chemical Society award for the most outstanding Biochemistry student.

 Continuing to pursue art during my undergraduate schooling where I received the 1st Place award for Best 3D Sculpture at the Claffin University Senior Art Exhibit in 2013.

 Being accepted into six different doctoral programmes at various universities in the US.

Which institution(s) did you attend after leaving ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna?

After leaving ASJA I obtained a full scholarship to Claffin University in South Carolina where I pursued my Bachelors of Science degree in Biochemistry.

I did a joint two-year post baccalaureate programme between Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research and Harvard University. I also attended the Massachusetts Institute for Technology for one year in partnership with my post baccalau-



Christiann Gaines

reate programme.

I am currently attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to pursue my doctoral degree in Neuroscience.

Who was/were your favourite teacher(s) and why?

I feel like I will get some serious backlash if I don't answer this question correctly. With that being said, I believe that every teacher I encountered added some value to me as a student. My natural sciences teachers allowed me to think about science in a logical and systematic way that wasn't restricted or confined to the use of formulas. This strategy helped me tremendously in my college science courses, and I still use their methods of figuring out lab math daily. My art and literature teachers helped me to really enjoy and appreciate work outside of my main field. I believe it was because of them that I pursued sculpture and literature courses in college. My computer science, English and math teachers are the reason I was able to survive rigorous college coursework. Many of these teachers I am still in contact with today and more importantly they transitioned into mentors that I continue to seek advice from. During my time, these teachers made me believe that I could explore and attempt any educational field and be successful. It was that mindset that I believe allowed me to

In two words how would you describe your experience at ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna?

Nurturing Environment

Reflection: If it wasn't for the compassionate community at ASJA, I wouldn't have had the resilient foundation I needed to be successful in obtaining my degrees.

What advice can you give to present ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna students?

In every institution that I have attended post-ASJA, not one of them completely satisfied my needs as a student as much as ASJA did. The teachers, the students, the encouragement, and the supportive environment are like no other. Enjoy and take advantage of the openness and willingness of the teachers and their selflessness to support you and the next steps in your career. Be aware that this institution is the most nurturing place you will probably attend in your entire educational walk. Be open to the teachers here that will become your mentors even after you graduate. Have fun, work hard, and everything else will fall into place. It's difficult to fail in a place like ASJA.



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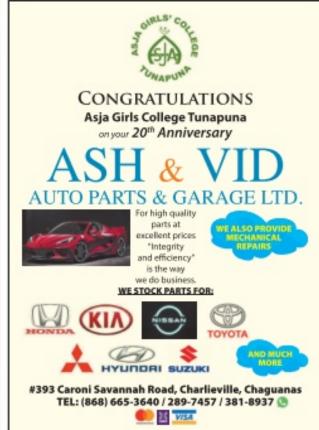
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Congratulations to ASJA Girls' College Tunapuna on your 20th Anniversary!

"Acquire knowledge and impart it to the people."

Prophet Muhammad (phuh) Al-Tirmidhi. Hadith 107















Child rights ambassador Ronia Swan

he Gender and Child Affairs Division in the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with UNICEF selected Ronia Swan, a form five student of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna, as one of the top five Child Rights Ambassadors.

In 2020, Ronia entered the Child Rights Ambassador competition and won both the Popular Choice and u-report challenge. Her winning video in the competition can still be viewed at https://www.instagram.com/p/CIX3IjpHt7k/?igshid=-1fiOvwuiSljms.

As a child rights ambassador, she is a member of the T&T national child policy committee.

Since her appointment as an Ambassador, Ronia has been busy promoting children's rights. She was interviewed on the CNG Morning Brew as part of its Child Abuse Prevention month in April. Ronia has also appeared on a video against child abuse for the Children's Authority.

This is Ronia's reflection as a current form five student of ASJA Girls' College:

"I feel honoured and privileged to be a student of ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna. We are a close-knit family. During my five-year journey at the school, I have been treated well by everyone from the principal to the security officers. Being a student of ASJA, I have been an all-rounded student.

"Besides academics, I have grown spiritually, participated in extracurricular activities and followed my dreams. These years have been the best and I will forever treasure them."



Please help us construct a sixth form wing

In spite of the many successes of our students, ASJA Girls' College, Tunapuna does not have a sixth form due to space limitations of our existing building.

As a result, our students are forced to leave our school after form five and compete with other students for a chance to pursue CAPE.

The only option available is to construct a sixth form wing at the front of the present school.

Anyone who wishes to contribute towards this project as a form of charity or sadaqatul jarlyah can contact the principal or vice-principal via email at: asjagirlscollegetunapuna@gmail.com WhatsApp message/call 662:3447.

"Those who in charity spend of their goods by night and by day, in secret and in public, have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve" (Holy Qur'an, 2:274).



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