



Activities of the Department of English 2024-25

Open Air Class on Romanticism.

Date: September 15, 2024

Objective: The objective of conducting an open-air class on Romanticism was to foster a deeper understanding of the movement's core tenets through experiential learning.

An open-air class on Romanticism was held on September 15, 2024. By moving the classroom environment outdoors, we aimed to transcend the limitations of traditional lecture-based learning and immerse students in the very landscape that served as both inspiration and subject for Romantic artists and writers. This approach cultivated a more profound appreciation for the Romantic emphasis on emotion, imagination, and the sublime by directly exposing students to the sensory richness and evocative power of nature. Students were encouraged to observe, reflect upon, and critically analyse the natural world through the lens of Romantic ideals, exploring themes of individualism, the rejection of Enlightenment rationalism, and the spiritual connection between humanity and the environment. Furthermore, this pedagogical strategy promoted active learning, encouraging students to connect theoretical concepts to tangible experiences, stimulating critical thinking and facilitating a more enduring comprehension of Romanticism's historical significance and continuing relevance. Ultimately, the open-air class instilled in students a lifelong appreciation for the beauty and power of nature, encouraging them to embrace the Romantic spirit of inquiry and imaginative exploration in their own lives.

Outcome: Students demonstrated an enhanced understanding of Romantic ideals through lively discussions and thoughtful analyses of selected texts, inspired by the natural setting which mirrored the movement's emphasis on nature's sublime influence.



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Open Air Class on Romanticism

Workshop on Creative Writing in Mass Media

Date: October 5, 2024

Objectives:

- To introduce participants to the role of creative writing in journalism, advertising, public relations, and digital media.
- To teach writing styles for newspapers, magazines, online platforms, radio, television and social media.
- To provide hands on exercises and case studies to improve practical writing skills.

The Department of English, St. Bede's College, organised a workshop on "Creative Writing in Mass Media" in the seminar hall at 11.00 a.m. The speaker for the day was Ms Ritanjali Hastir who is currently working as the Publishing Editor with Himachaltonite.com (news portal). She shared insights on harnessing creativity in various media forms. The event aimed to inspire participants to enhance their writing skills for engaging storytelling in the digital landscape. The workshop began with an overview of the essential elements of creative writing emphasizing the importance of storytelling in capturing audience attention. Participants engaged in interactive



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exercises, exploring techniques for writing for print, online, and broadcast media. Overall, the workshop fostered a cooperative environment, encouraging creativity and networking among aspiring writers.

Outcomes:

- The participants will develop stronger storytelling, scriptwriting, and content creation abilities.
- Students learnt how to craft engaging, original, and persuasive content.
- They gained knowledge as to how writing differs across print, digital, broadcast, and social media.



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Workshop in Progress



Workshop in Progress

Reading Week

Date: November 11-16, 2024

Objectives:

- To encourage students to develop a habit of reading for academic and personal growth.
- To enhance critical thinking, by analyzing and interpreting texts.
- To introduce students to a variety of genres, authors, and cultural perspectives.
- To promote reading culture.

The Department of English St. Bede's College in collaboration with the library committee organized the "Reading Week." It commenced with the inauguration on November 11, 2024 at 10:40 a.m. in the library. The activity incorporated students as well as teachers of various departments.

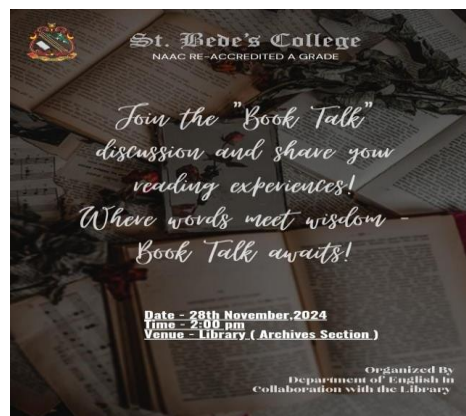
A book was selected by each one taking part, which was to be read on a daily basis and at the end of the day, a review was to be given along with the number of pages read. The main



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objective of this activity was to encourage students to develop a habit of reading for academic and personal growth.

The closing ceremony was held on 16 November, 2024 it was marked by the presence of the prolific writer, artist and cultural critic Dr. Siddharth Pandey as the esteemed resource person. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the principal, Prof. Sr. Molly Abraham and Sr. Grace who were a constant support throughout this event. Dr. Pandey shared his experience and expertise, encouraging everyone to explore the vast world of literature. An interactive session with the students and faculty along with valuable book recommendations further enriched the experience.



Felicitation of Dr. Sidharth Pandey



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Participants of the Reading Week

Mock Interview

Date: November 28, 2024

Objectives:

- To prepare the students for real interviews.
- Enhance communication skills, verbal and non-verbal skills, including clarity, confidence, and body language.



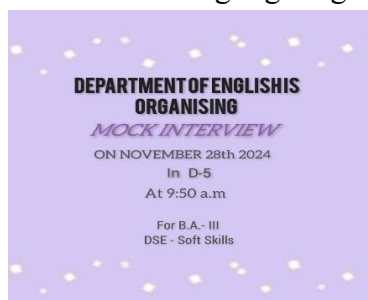
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- Help candidates get comfortable with interview setting and reduce nervousness.

The Department of English, St. Bede's College organized a 'Mock Interview' session to aid students in preparing for future job opportunities. This initiative was designed to equip participants with essential interview skills, boost their confidence, and familiarize them with the formalities and expectations of professional interviews. The session started with an introduction to interview techniques, students provided insights on effective communication, appropriate body language, and the significance of research and preparation before interviews. Practical mock interviews were conducted by students themselves, simulating real-life scenarios to test and refine their skills in responding to challenging questions. Each participant received constructive feedback from their peers, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring a collaborative and supportive learning experience. The session was met with enthusiastic participation, and students appreciated the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer learning.

Outcomes:

- Students became more confident and articulate in their responses.
- They felt more comfortable handling high pressure situations.
- Students were given a strategic approach to face interviews.
- The students focused on improved body language and tone.
- Feedback was given to each student which highlighting their strengths.



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Mock Interview



Students Participating in Mock Interview

Secret Santa

Date: December 19, 2024.

Objective:

To foster a sense of community and levity during a potentially stressful time.

The Department of English at St. Bede's College, Shimla, organized a 'Secret Santa' event to celebrate Christmas on December 19, 2024. The activity aimed to foster a sense of selflessness among students. The gift exchange event itself, was well-attended and characterized by a lively and enthusiastic atmosphere. Overall, the Secret Santa event was a resounding success, contributing positively to student morale and fostering a sense of community within the college environment. Participants enjoyed interactive games that allowed them to get to know each other better. The day concluded with a gift exchange, snacks, and music, creating a joyous and festive atmosphere.



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Outcome: The students celebrated participated in Secret Santa and learned more about the spirit of Christmas.



Students Exchanging Gifts

Book and Film Review Fridays

Date: Last Friday of every month.

Objective:

To foster critical analysis of books and films and to cultivate in the capacity for insightful and nuanced interpretation in students.

For the 2024-25 academic session, the English Department at St. Bede's College organised "Book and Film Review Fridays" under the auspices of their departmental club, "Afterthoughts." This initiative provides a platform for students in the second and third years of the English Honours program to engage in critical analysis of literary and cinematic works. Each month, designated students will dedicate time to reading a selected book and will subsequently present their reviews on the final Friday, fostering intellectual discourse and enhancing their analytical skills.

The books, films and series reviewed by the students are as follows:

1. Better Than The Movies by Lynn. Painter
2. A Thing Beyond Forever by Novoneel Chakraborty
3. The Broken Wings by Khalil Gibran



4. Love hypothesis by Ali Hazelwood
5. Twisted Love by Ana Huang
6. The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie.
7. Haunting Adeline by H.D. Carlton
8. Wish I could tell you by Durjoy Dutta
9. The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
10. The fault in our stars by John Green
11. Bulbul (film)
12. The Haunting of The Hill House. (series)
13. KGF (film)
14. Om shanti Om (film)
15. Animal (film)
16. Never have I Ever (series)
17. Enola Holmes (film)
18. Heermandi (series)
19. Maharaja (film)
20. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Outcome:

The book and film review sessions with the students has yielded promising results in fostering critical thinking and analytical skills.



Book and Film Reviews Fridays

Convocation Ceremony

Date: February 18, 2025

Objectives:

- To recognize and celebrate the successful completion of the online self-study English language course by 66 students.
- To highlight the collaboration between the Department of English and Newlimits Learning in enhancing students' language proficiency.

The Department of English, in collaboration with 'New limits Learning', celebrated its Convocation Ceremony on February 18, 2025. This event marked a significant milestone in the department's efforts to enhance students' English language proficiency through a pioneering partnership with LSI Portsmouth, the UK's leading English Language Training Institute.

This collaboration introduced students to an innovative online self-study English language course via Sensations English. The program was designed to consolidate, refine, and elevate their English language skills. A total of 66 students successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates in recognition of their achievement.

The ceremony was graced by Mr. Gagan Aggarwal, India Associate of NPTC Group of Colleges, who, alongside our esteemed Principal, presented the certificates to the students.



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In addition, Mr. Aggarwal engaged in an insightful interaction with the 1st and 2nd-year students, introducing them to the diverse range of English language courses offered by LSI Portsmouth. These courses cater to varied abilities, needs, and aspirations, opening up new opportunities for students to enhance their linguistic competencies

Sensations English is a unique online platform that provides engaging lessons based on current news videos and articles. This resource allows students to independently develop their English proficiency by improving listening, reading, vocabulary, and grammar skills in real-world contexts. The diverse range of topics available ensures a comprehensive and immersive learning experience.

This one-year course represents a crucial step in our students' journey toward mastering English, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

The convocation ceremony was a testament to the department's commitment to academic excellence, celebrating the hard work and dedication of students as they advance toward a future of enhanced linguistic competence and career opportunities

Outcomes:

- Students were awarded certificates, acknowledging their achievement in completing the English language course.
- Participants gained exposure to advanced English language learning methodologies through Sensations English.



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Mr. Gagan Aggarwal Addressing the Students

