



VVOGA Newsletter

VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
133, Vajira Road, Colombo 5, www.visakhavidyalaya.lk

June 2026

Editorial

Are We Productive or Just Busy?

There was a time when being busy felt like an achievement. A full calendar meant progress. Endless calls, unread emails, rushed lunches, postponed conversations and late nights became symbols of commitment. We learned to celebrate exhaustion as though it was proof that we were moving forward.



But somewhere along the way, many of us quietly began asking a different question.

Are we truly productive or are we simply busy?

Modern life moves at an unforgiving pace. We rush from one responsibility to another believing that constant motion equals purpose. Yet productivity is not measured by how occupied we are. It is measured by impact. It is found in meaningful outcomes, thoughtful decisions and the quiet satisfaction of knowing that our effort created value.

Being busy fills time. Being productive fulfills purpose. There are moments when we find ourselves completing countless tasks while feeling strangely disconnected from what truly matters.

We respond to messages instantly but delay conversations that require empathy.

We attend meetings yet struggle to find time for reflection. We work harder than ever though sometimes we are uncertain whether we are moving in the right direction.

Maybe the problem today is not that people are unwilling to work hard, but that we are surrounded by constant distraction. In trying to keep up, we often forget to ask ourselves whether we are moving with purpose.

Real productivity demands clarity. It asks us to prioritize wisely, to focus deeply and sometimes to slow down enough to think with intention. It is not always loud or visible. Often it happens quietly through consistency, discipline and the courage to choose quality over quantity.

At the same time, we must recognize that life cannot be reduced to checklists and deadlines alone. The most meaningful contributions are not always measurable. Encouraging someone during a difficult moment, supporting a community initiative, mentoring a younger generation or simply showing up with sincerity may never appear in a productivity report. Yet these are the moments that shape people and institutions in lasting ways.

As communities, workplaces and individuals continue striving for growth, perhaps we need to redefine success with greater honesty. Not by how overwhelmed we appear but by how purposeful we remain.

Is productivity about doing more?

Is it about doing what matters most with care, intention and heart? Can real achievement be not surviving busy days, but building meaningful ones.



Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

All members are warmly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting 2026 of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association, which will be held on Saturday, 4th July 2026, at Jeremias Dias Hall, Visakha Vidyalaya. The meeting will commence at 9.30 a.m.

Your presence and active participation will be greatly appreciated as we come together to discuss important matters of the Association.

Following the AGM, members are also invited to join the Fellowship Lunch at the Old Hall from 12.30 p.m. onwards. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, enjoy good food, fellowship, and live music in the company of fellow Visakhians.



VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2026

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association.

 SATURDAY,
4TH JULY 2026

 9.30 AM ONWARDS

 JEREMIAS DIAS HALL,
VISAKHA VIDYALAYA

Ayodya Rodrigo Ranasinghe/ Manika Weerawardena
Jt. Secretaries 2025-2026
Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association
133, Vajira Road, Colombo 04.



VVOGA AGM
.Fellowship Lunch.

GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY • LIVE MUSIC

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH 2026
@ THE OLD HALL, VISAKHA VIDYALAYA
FROM 12.30 PM ONWARDS

Come together with fellow Visakhians for an afternoon of fellowship, friendship and entertainment.

100 PAX • LIMITED SEATS
Price Rs. 2,000/- pp

Grab your seat before it's too late

 **Seuvandhi** (077) 765 0216 (For more details)

Upcoming Events

The 35th Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration – 2026



Preethi Herat Gunaratne
(nee Fernando)

The 35th Annual Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration will be held on 23rd July 2026 at the Jeremias Dias Hall from 5.15 pm onwards, in memory of the late Principal Mrs. Susan George Pulimood. This year's oration will be delivered by Preethi Herat Gunaratne nee Fernando PhD, John & Rebecca Moore's Professor in the department of Biology & Bio-Chemistry at the University of Houston, Texas.

Organized by the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association and the Susan George Pulimood Educational Trust to commemorate her birthday, the event focuses on the achievements of our alumni who have excelled in their chosen professions, bringing much credit to our alma mater.

Scholarships will also be awarded to deserving students who have excelled in the Advanced Level examination.

A Double Celebration - 110th Birthday of Visakha and 100 years at Vajira Road

2027 will be a momentous year for our alma mater as we celebrate its 110th Birthday in January. It will also mark the establishment of the Buddhist Girls' College at Vajira Road on the 21st November 1927, when it was re-named Visakha Vidyalaya after the illustrious female devotee of the Lord Buddha and spiraled into fame as the leading girls school in the island in the 1950's. A position she continues to enjoy today sustained with the love and support extended by the VVOGA.

To celebrate these double milestones, many exciting events are being planned. The 'Visakha Walk' will bring all our alumnae, present students, past and present teachers, parents and well wishes together in a grand finale.

The school will perform our very own 'Visakha Geetha Natakaya' – an operatic drama based on the inspiring story of Visakha Situ-devi in the month of May 2027. 'Visakha Geetha Natakaya' was first performed in 1959 and in 1967 to commemorate the 50th anniversary, and, has since been staged every 10 years.

Visakha Geetha Natakaya



Completed Events

Visakha Avurudu Pola with Carnival 2026

Visakha Avurudu Pola with Carnival 2026 held on 28th February 2026 at the Visakha Vidyalaya premises, brought together students, alumni, families, well-wishers and the wider community for a memorable celebration filled with joy, tradition and togetherness.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Mrs. Kumudini de Soyza Abeysiriwardena and Guest of Honour Mrs. Saroja Gunatilleke, both distinguished old girls of the school.

Welcoming over 5,000 visitors, the Pola featured more than 175 stalls alongside vibrant food courts, thrilling rides, a horror house, bouncy castles and interactive games for both children and adults.

The day commenced with a beautiful opening ceremony and Avurudu Sangrahaya, followed by lively Avurudu Kreedha and the much-loved Avurudu Kumara - Kumari competition for children.

As evening approached, the grounds transformed into a vibrant carnival atmosphere with music and entertainment continuing late into the night.



Despite the challenges posed by the prevailing fuel crisis and intense heatwave, the event emerged as a remarkable success through the dedication, teamwork and resilience of everyone involved.

The beautifully decorated pathways and colorful lighting added a magical charm to the celebrations, particularly during the evening hours.



Heartfelt appreciation is extended to all sponsors, vendors, volunteers and participants whose support and commitment made the event not only possible but a grand success as well.

Visakha Avurudu Pola with Carnival 2026 was truly an unforgettable celebration filled with happiness, unity and cherished memories for all who attended.



Completed Events



The Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) proudly presented the spectacular musical concert **WAYO YĀMAYA 'THEATER VERSION'** featuring the renowned Sri Lankan band Wayo, on 6th June 2026 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).

The event drew a distinguished and enthusiastic audience comprising current pupils and past pupils, parents, families, well-wishers, WAYO fans and supporters. The concert was a remarkable success, bringing together the Visakhian community for an unforgettable evening of exceptional entertainment, fellowship and celebration. All proceeds from the event will be dedicated exclusively to the development of the school's infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of its students. The funds will be utilized to create a safer, more conducive learning environment and provide greater opportunities for future generations of Visakhians.

Organizing Committee



Completed Projects

Electrical System Upgrade Successfully Completed

VVOGA is proud to announce the successful completion of the Electrical System Upgrade Project for the Grade 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 Classroom Building at Visakha Vidyalaya.

With an investment of approximately LKR 8 million, the project addressed the building's aging electrical infrastructure, improving safety and reliability for students, teachers and staff. The building accommodates 48 classrooms, four laboratories, an IT laboratory and staff rooms, serving a large number of users daily.

The upgrade included complete rewiring, installation of modern distribution boards and new main control panels, ensuring a safer and more dependable power supply for uninterrupted teaching and learning.



VVOGA sincerely appreciates the support of the Sri Lanka Army for providing manpower during the project and thanks all contributors who helped make this initiative a success.

This project reflects VVOGA's continued commitment to enhancing the school's infrastructure and creating a safe, supportive learning environment for present and future Visakhians.

Preservation and Improvement of the Archives Room

The Archives Room recently underwent important improvements to enhance the preservation and functionality of the space. Pest control measures were carried out to protect valuable historical documents and records from insect damage, helping to safeguard important information for future generations.

In addition, the old carpet flooring was replaced with new carpeting to improve the appearance, safety, and overall environment of the Archives Room, while also providing better sound absorption and comfort for users.



Completed Projects

Your Future Begins Here - Career Guidance Program 2026

Career Guidance Program '26 was successfully held on 23rd January at the school premises for students completing their O/Level and A/Level examinations and their parents.

With the participation of representatives from over 20 local and international universities and educational institutions, the programme provided valuable insights into higher education opportunities, scholarships, study abroad options and career pathways. Students and parents actively engaged with institutions, making the event an informative and inspiring platform for future educational planning.



A Music Workshop to Relax and Unwind....

A lively and engaging music workshop was held on 7th April for the hostellers.

The students enthusiastically participated in the session and enjoyed the opportunity to explore their musical talents in a fun and interactive environment. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Rusari Jayasuriya who generously shared her time with the youngsters.



Hostellers' Movie Night 2026

The Hostellers' were treated to a Movie Night on 29th April at the hostel dining hall.

Students enjoyed an entertaining evening featuring a movie screening accompanied by popcorn and refreshments. Adding to the excitement of the evening was a hoppers station.

Completed Projects

Sports Medical Screening Programme

Our medical subcommittee continues to monitor, advice and support the health and wellbeing of our young sports women.



A Sports Medical Screening Programme was successfully conducted on 22 December 2025 and 2 February 2026, covering 140 students from various sports teams. Participants represented Cadetting, Swimming, Wushu, Squash, Netball, Badminton, Karate, Athletics, and Taekwondo. The programme was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Thiwanka Gunawardena, Acting Consultant Sports Physician, with the objective of supporting student health and athletic performance.



Annual Medical Camp

The Annual Medical Camp 2026, organized by the Medical Subcommittee was successfully held on 10th May 2026 from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm at the school premises. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. Nalika De Silva, Consultant Paediatrician at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children.

Around 400 past and present teachers benefited from this initiative, which provided a range of free medical services including medical consultations, laboratory investigations, and health screenings. The camp was supported by a dedicated team of doctors, medical students, and volunteers, making it a meaningful and impactful service to the Visakhian community.



Blood Donation Programme

"Give Blood – Give Now", organized by the Religious Subcommittee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association, was successfully held at the National Blood Bank, Narahenpita, on 7th March 2026, with 63 generous donors contributing blood.

The initiative reflected the Visakha community's enduring spirit of compassion, unity, and service.

Giving Back to the Place That Gave Us So Much

A GIFT OF GRATITUDE

Standing with **VVOGA**

Visakha has been a part of our journey for far longer than our years at school. It lives on in the **friendships** we treasure, the **values** we uphold and the **memories** that continue to bring us together.

As we celebrate reunions, share laughter with old friends and reminisce about our growing years, perhaps we can also take a moment to **remember** the place that made it all possible.

A small gift—whether **Rs. 1,000, Rs. 5,000** on a special occasion, or any contribution from the heart—is a meaningful way to express our gratitude and support the work of VVOGA in serving our beloved Alma Mater.

Together, even the smallest gestures can help ensure that Visakha continues to inspire generations to come.

♥ *For all that she has given us, perhaps it is our turn to give a little back.*

THREE WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

1



ONLINE DONATION

Visit www.vvoga.lk and make your contribution directly online.

2



BANK TRANSFER

Account Name:
Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association
Bank: Commercial Bank – Wellawatte Branch
Account No: 6411290
SWIFT Code: CCEYLKX
After the transfer, please send your payment confirmation.
WhatsApp: 077 787 2332 (Lilani – Assistant Treasurer)
Email: donatevvoga@visakhavidyalaya.lk

3



IN-PERSON CONTRIBUTION

Visit the Treasurer's Office at the school premises during regular school hours, from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Grateful for Yesterday. Giving for Tomorrow.

GIVE BACK • SUPPORT VVOGA • STRENGTHEN VISAKHA



A Journey

OF 100 YEARS

VISAKHA CENTENARY PUBLICATION

This special centenary publication captures 100 years of Visakha's rich heritage, remarkable achievements and enduring legacy.

Featuring

- Rare and historic photographs
- Significant milestones from 100 years
- Inspiring stories and achievements
- A treasured collector's keepsake for every Visakhian

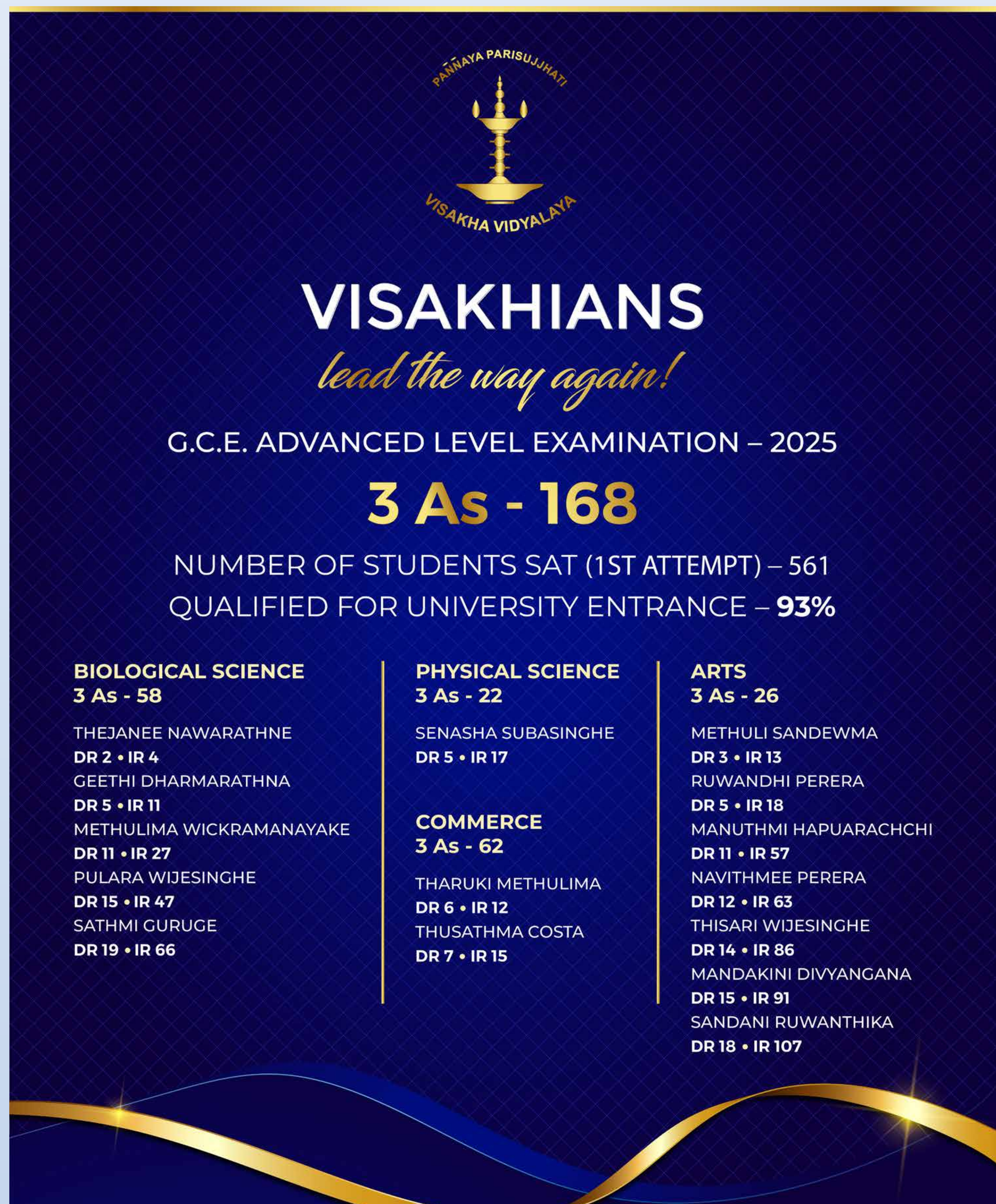
Own a Piece of Visakha's History!

LKR 4,000/-

0777 289 389 Renuka

School Events

Academic Excellence at G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination 2025



VISAKHIANS
lead the way again!

G.C.E. ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION – 2025

3 As - 168

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SAT (1ST ATTEMPT) – 561
QUALIFIED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE – **93%**

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE 3 As - 58	PHYSICAL SCIENCE 3 As - 22	ARTS 3 As - 26
THEJANEE NAWARATHNE DR 2 • IR 4	SENASHA SUBASINGHE DR 5 • IR 17	METHULI SANDEWMA DR 3 • IR 13
GEETHI DHARMARATHNA DR 5 • IR 11		RUWANDHI PERERA DR 5 • IR 18
METHULIMA WICKRAMANAYAKE DR 11 • IR 27	COMMERCE 3 As - 62	MANUTHMI HAPUARACHCHI DR 11 • IR 57
PULARA WIJESINGHE DR 15 • IR 47	THARUKI METHULIMA DR 6 • IR 12	NAVITHMEE PERERA DR 12 • IR 63
SATHMI GURUGE DR 19 • IR 66	THUSATHMA COSTA DR 7 • IR 15	THISARI WIJESINGHE DR 14 • IR 86
		MANDAKINI DIVYANGANA DR 15 • IR 91
		SANDANI RUWANTHIKA DR 18 • IR 107



Congratulations!
THEJANEE NAWARATHNE
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
G.C.E. ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION – 2025

**IR-4
DR-2**

Senior Deputy School Captain
Student Ambassador - National Child Protection Authority
Secretary - General Knowledge Club
Secretary - Capital Market Club

Our congratulations to Thejane NAWARATHNE on achieving Island Rank 4 and District Rank 2 in the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination 2025 under the Biological Science stream. Her exceptional accomplishment stands as a testament to dedication, perseverance and academic excellence.

Visakha Vidyalaya once again recorded outstanding results at the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination 2025. The remarkable achievement by students across multiple streams reflect the school's continued commitment towards academic excellence and holistic education.

Visakha Debaters Crowned Champions

The English Debating Team of Visakha Vidyalaya emerged Champions at the Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar Memorial Debating Championship 2025 organized by Trinity College.

The team's exceptional performance, confidence and analytical skills brought pride and recognition to the school.



School Events

Rowing Crew Shines at National Championship

The Visakha Vidyalaya Rowing Crew excelled at the 2026 Indoor National Rowing Championship, winning the Overall Junior Girls' Championship and the Overall Senior Women's Championship. The team brought home 6 Gold medals, 6 Silver medals and 1 Bronze medal, showcasing outstanding teamwork and sporting excellence.

Visakha Triumphs at Junior Taekwondo Championship

The Visakha Vidyalaya Taekwondo Team emerged Overall Champions and Junior Girls' Champions at the 15th Sri Lanka Schools Junior Taekwondo Championship. This outstanding achievement reflects the dedication, discipline and team spirit demonstrated by the young athletes throughout the competition.

Visakha student delegation represents Sri Lanka at UNESCO symposium

Eighteen students of Visakha Vidyalaya, together with Principal Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne, represented Sri Lanka at the 7th World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium held in Athens, Greece, from 22nd to 26th April 2026. Organized by the Hellenic Cultural and Education Club for UNESCO under the theme "The Unknown Heritage", the symposium brought together 540 students from 30 schools across 19 countries.

Members of the school's United Nations Club, the Visakha delegation presented "Degal Doruwa Raja Maha Viharaya" in Kandy, advocating for its recognition as a World Heritage Site. At the closing ceremony, the students also performed a tableau depicting the construction of the Sigiriya rock fortress, which was well received by the audience.



The symposium provided students with valuable opportunities for cultural exchange and visits to historic sites including the Acropolis, Parthenon and National Archaeological Museum.

The event concluded with delegates signing a declaration on the protection of world cultural heritage.



Past Visakians in the Spotlight



Honouring Mrs. Seelaratna Kottegoda De Silva on her 100th Birthday

Warmest wishes to Mrs. Seelaratna Kottegoda De Silva on this remarkable milestone. A proud Visakhian who joined the school in 1931 and spent her hostel years creating treasured memories, your journey continues to inspire generations. Wishing you good health, happiness, and peace in Toronto, Canada.



Captain of Sri Lanka Women's National Football Team

VVOGA proudly congratulates Imesha Warnakulasuriya (Batch of 2020) on her appointment as Captain of the Sri Lanka Women's National Football Team for the SAFF Women's Championship 2026.

A talented athlete and current Coach of the Visakha Vidyalaya Football Team, Imesha continues to inspire young players while bringing pride to her alma mater. We wish her and the national team every success in the championship.

Dr. Udayangani Samarakkody Honoured With New Zealand Order Of Merit



Dr. Udayangani Kumudu Sriya Samarakkody, known as Udaya, an alumna of Visakha Vidyalaya, has been appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the King's Birthday Honours 2026 for her services to Paediatric Surgery and the Sri Lankan community in New Zealand.

A consultant paediatric surgeon and paediatric urologist at Waikato Hospital for over 30 years, she has contributed to paediatric care, medical education, healthcare equity, and access for rural and Māori children, while training over 50 surgeons. She has also co-founded the Sri Lankan Doctors and Dentists Association and delivered the 34th Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration in July 2025. The Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association warmly congratulates her on this honour.

Source

<https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/kb2026-mnzm#samarakkodyud>

Appointed Ambassador to Ethiopia



Ms. Nirmala Indumathie Dias Paranavitana, a Grade I Officer of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, has assumed duties as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the African Union. She is a proud Visakhian from the 1995 batch of Visakha Vidyalaya.

The Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association warmly congratulates Nirmala on this distinguished appointment and wishes her continued success as she represents Sri Lanka on the international stage.

Remembering

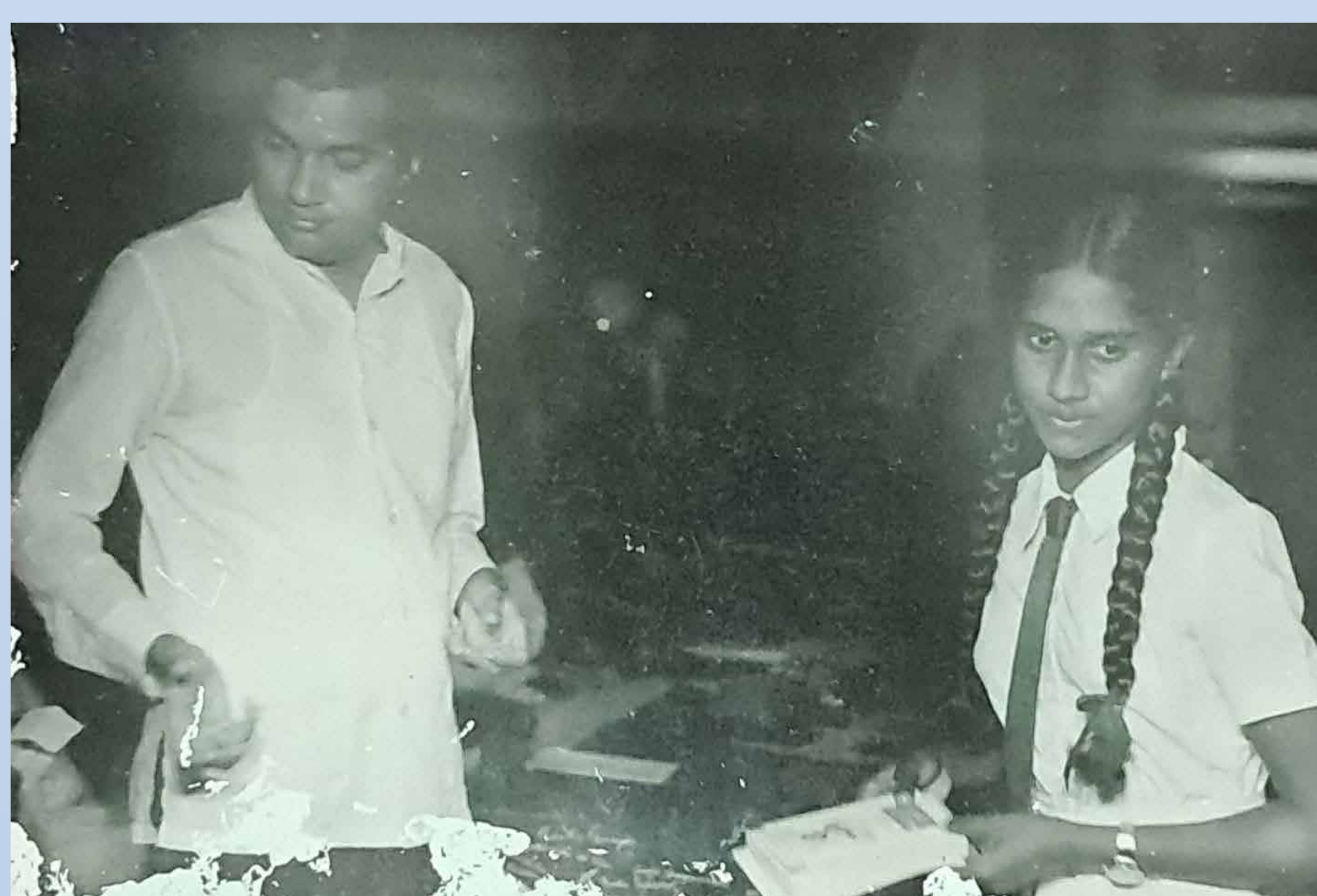
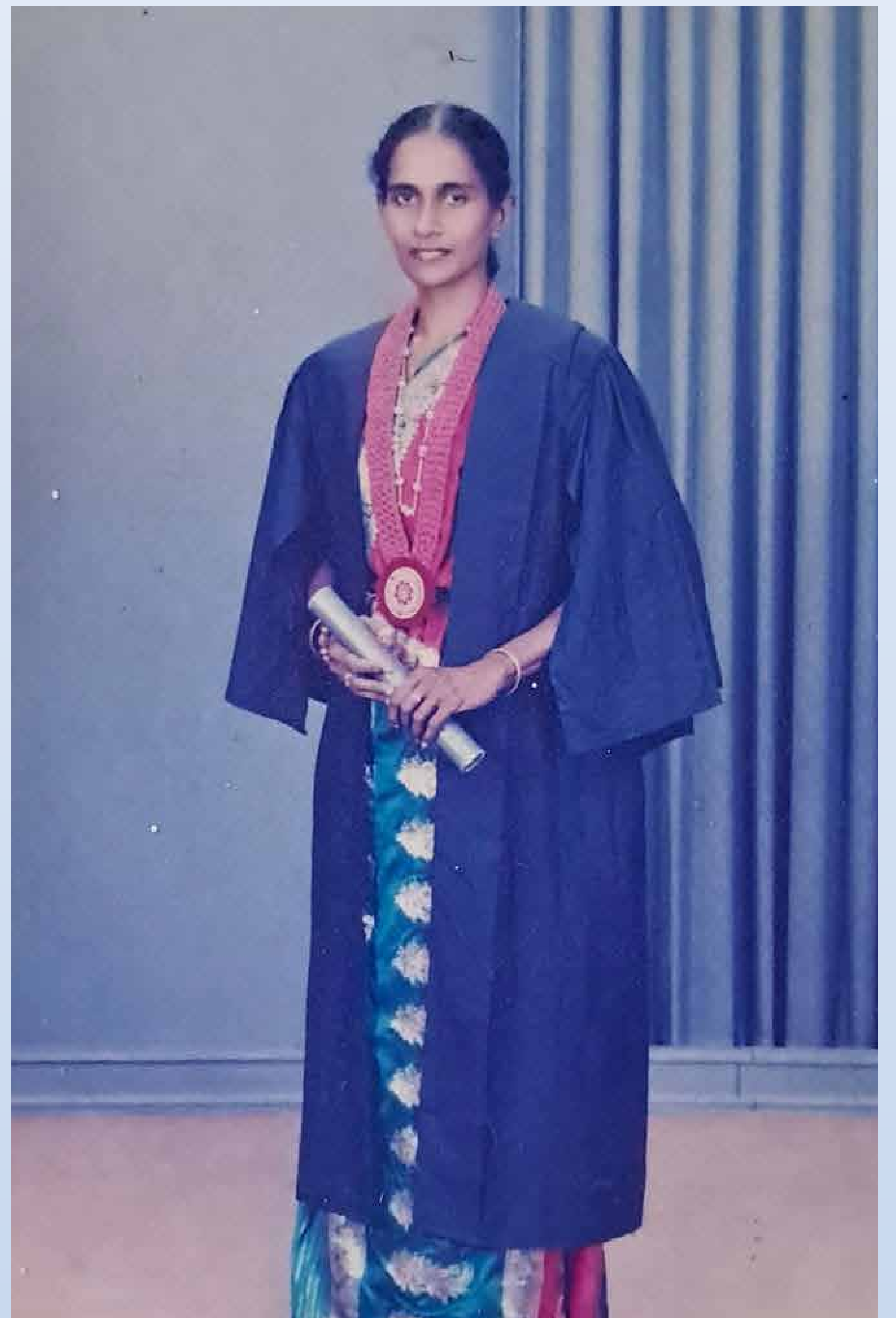
Ms Kalani Suriyapperuma – Former Deputy Principal

Miss Kalani Suriyapperuma, born on 20th January 1964, was a proud Visakhian who dedicated her life to the field of education. After completing her studies at Visakha Vidyalaya, she began her teaching career in 1984 as a Science teacher in Anuradhapura.

She later qualified as a trained teacher, earned a BSc from University of Kelaniya, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, and an MEd from University of Colombo.

Entering the Sri Lanka Education Administrative Service, she served in several key educational roles before being appointed Deputy Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya in 2012. During her decade of service, she was admired for her dedication, leadership, and commitment to students and staff alike, even while battling ill health. In 2023, she was appointed Principal of Viharamahadevi Balika Vidyalaya.

Her untimely passing leaves a lasting void in the field of education. The Executive Committee and members of the VVOGA remember Miss Kalani Suriyapperuma with deep respect and gratitude. May she attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana.



Obituaries

Mrs. Rukmani Gunasekera - Former Head Prefect 1951

Mrs. Leela Gunawardena – Past Teacher

Mrs. Malini Wijayaratne - Past Teacher

Next Event



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VVOGA Registration Help Desk

On 28th April 2026, the New Members Subcommittee conducted a VVOGA Registration Help Desk programme for the outgoing A/L batch.

The initiative aimed to create awareness regarding the benefits of joining the Association together with the available registration pathways.

The session provided students with guidance on remaining connected to their alma mater while helping future alumnae transition smoothly into the VVOGA sisterhood.

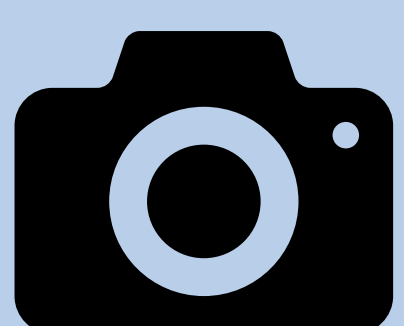


Photo Credits

With thanks to the respective owners of the photographs.

Projects seeking support

The Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association continues to support the welfare and education of deserving students through several meaningful initiatives. We invite our members and well-wishers to contribute towards:



Scholarship Fund

Assisting academically deserving students facing financial difficulties.



Hostel Meal Fund

Supporting meals for students residing in the hostel.



English Education Fund

Enhancing students' English learning opportunities.

Your generous support can make a lasting difference in the lives of Visakhians and help them achieve their full potential.

Ayodya - 0773389709

Manika - 071474 3074