

## Leadership Workshop

This year, in the first week after school had re-opened, we had the investiture ceremony where the students chosen to be leaders in Champion School by both the students and teachers, were invested into their office of leadership. Many of the leaders elected this year, including myself, were new to the school council and although we were aware of our duties, we were still going to be leaders for the very first time, and so obviously we were a little unsteady. But thankfully we were not left in this state of instability because of the leadership workshop organized soon after our investiture ceremony which really helped us realize how to be a TRUE leader.

There were approximately 40 students present for this workshop, but despite that it managed to go really smoothly. This workshop was a little different from what we anticipated, Most of us expected a very one sided workshop. But this time I was really surprised. The hosts of this workshop were four women who, from what I recall, had come from a drama school in England, which must have been one of the reasons as to why the methods they used were so different. The workshop was for four days, and basically we played games for these four days. But the games were not just so that we could have fun, but were focused at bringing out certain qualities in us, qualities important for every person, but are fundamental for being a good leader. The simplicity of the games allowed students to focus all their attention towards achieving certain goal. The activities involved mainly using one's hands, ears, eyes, and sometimes a ball. The qualities brought out were observation, listening skills, focus, teamwork, and most of all patience. The games were all followed by group discussion, but again it was not for the host to give us the answers to the question, but to make us think and on our own realize how we can be better leaders. At the end of the first and fourth days' the Champion students had to give presentations and the distinctive change between these two days was that focus shifted from rich and famous people, companies, and stories, to qualities and action with respect to our school, and it's students.

Many of us leaders call our duties, such as standing on the staircase or gate, 'degrading' but it dawned upon me that the qualities we learnt at the workshop can be utilized most when doing these small duties, where patience is mandatory when dealing with smaller kids. But the most important insight in my personal opinion, which was certainly brought out through this workshop was, being a leader doesn't necessarily mean being the one at the front, but effectiveness can be practiced with silence, even from the back.