



Seniors Sit for ‘College Interviews’ on RIS/RIST Campus

by Simon L’Huillier

On the morning of Monday, October 5, students of English 12 sat for their mock college interviews. These interviews were conducted by members of Ruamrudee’s administration and faculty from all sections of the school who generously donated their valuable time for this activity. Each interviewer was allotted six students to interview and each meeting was approximately ten minutes long. Students were expected to arrive early for their scheduled time, to bring detailed Curriculum Vitae containing both a resume as well as documentation illustrating their achievements and/or awards, and to be smartly dressed in either the RIS uniform or formal attire. Students had spent much of the first quarter accumulating material for their resume and were also drilled extensively on proper interview etiquette. This involved everything from responding positively to questions about themselves to correct body language and things to avoid during the interview.

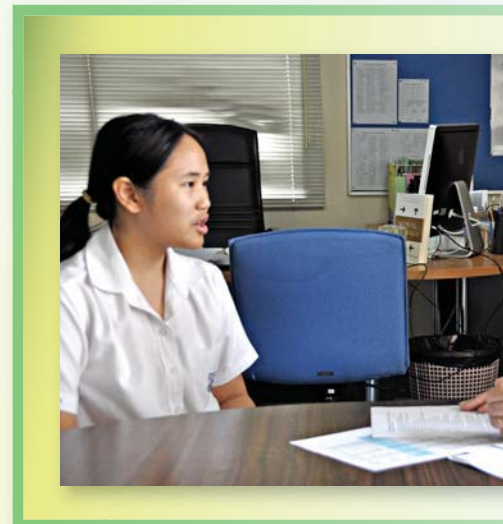
Students were deliberately put under stress to simulate ‘real-life’ conditions as much as possible. This involved everyone rushing to the interview immediately after assembly; then

having to wait their turn while their peers were being interviewed. In spite of this, most students agreed that the feeling of relief afterwards made the experience both rewarding and enjoyable. Interviews followed formal structure and most, if not all, were conducted in an office which had a waiting room nearby. A list of generic questions that college admissions officers generally ask was given to each interviewer although were free to ask any questions they felt appropriate to the situation.

The original motivation behind this activity was to present seniors applying for college in a more professional manner and showcase many of their best qualities which are often overlooked by students themselves. The fact that most of our students are multi-lingual, computer literate, classically trained in music, have extensive experience in theatre or who dominate in regional mathematics competitions are often overlooked because they are taken for granted. It is unlikely that the majority of western students, some of whom our students will be competing with for applications, would have the same qualifications. More seriously, some Thai universities had rejected several

RIS applications because the students did very poorly in the interview.

Both students and interviewers agreed unanimously that they enjoyed the activity and see it as a valuable experience before exiting RIS. They also provided valuable feedback in regards to how the activity might be improved - one of which was to do the interviews twice throughout the year. Currently, only English 12 do this activity although the school’s Director, Father Peter, who was one of the first



to volunteer for this activity, inquired "if all seniors had this opportunity and hoped it would be made available to IB Diploma students as well."

Other administrators also responded positively, many of whom have agreed to act as interviewers for next year. Mr. Robert Conley, one of the few interviewers that participated in this activity several years ago commented that "the students were well prepared, looked smartly dressed either professionally or in their school uniform. I felt that they were focused and that they responded honestly and openly to the questions I asked. This is definitely a worthwhile experience for students."

The High School Principal, Mr. David Miller, said, "It's wonderful practice for students, and I was particularly impressed with their ability to handle the situation gracefully under pressure. I do feel that they need more practice with correct register in how they respond to questions during an interview as some of their responses were too informal."

The teachers and seniors of English 12 would, once again, like to express their gratitude for making this logistical nightmare a reality. We would especially like to recognize Mr. Matt Sipple's efforts who not only helped recruit interviewers but also undertook the task of creating a time-table that would allow all the students to be interviewed by the end of first block.



High School Launches Edline

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new password protected software program at the High School called EDLINE, which allows students and parents to check grades, comments, and upcoming assignments. The program works seamlessly with our existing GradeQuick and AdminPlus software packages, and teachers have already begun exporting grades and comments to the website. While over 630 students and 88 parents have already activated their accounts, we would love to see 100% participation by the end of the year, and strongly encourage parents and students who have yet to do so to activate their accounts as soon as possible. Please contact Ms. Leovy in AD 302F (Ext. if you have lost your activation instructions).



Dr. Brooke MacNamara affirmed "The mock interviews provided a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the excitement, pressure, and preparation needed for an interview. I think that each student benefited greatly, but for those of us interviewing, we may have benefited even more. It was a fantastic way for administrators to get to know our students better and as a group they are quite impressive. Participating in the mock interviews was a delightful experience, made all the more so because of the amazingly talented students that attend our school."