

SOME INTERESTING READING !!!!

Subject: FW: BBC report on Royal College being Eton !

Read the BBC report - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8500520.stm

On Tue, Feb 9, 2010 at 1:33 AM, Dilsiri Dassanaiké wrote:

Dear Milinda,

The BBC as usual has got it all wrong!!! This is not surprising at all as they appear to be getting everything wrong about Sri Lanka in the recent past. The Eton of Ceylon and now Sri Lanka was and still is S.Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia. The founder of S.Thomas', The Rt. Rev. James Chapman D.D, born 1799 (a distinguished Etonian himself) the first bishop of Colombo of the Church of Ceylon had a vision. It was indeed to conceive and give birth to a school in Ceylon on the absolute traditions of that great school in England, Eton. Consequently, on his arrival in Ceylon, he gave birth to his dream in 1851 and went about making his dream an actuality. The rest is history!

Whilst Royal is indeed a great and highly rated educational institution, with tremendous traditions and is about 15yrs older than STC, lets get our facts right.

1. Royal is a government funded school.
2. It never was referred to as Eton because it is predominantly a buddhist school and had no connections to Eton whatsoever.
3. Royal now has in excess of 8500 students and if I remember correctly it was the late president H.E. J.R. Jayawardena himself who referred to his alma mater as "Royal Village." (Private schools like Eton and STC as a rule and indeed a tradition have a very much smaller attendance).
4. STC is a predominantly christian school although many non christians have attended and will continue to attend this wonderful school and one of the pride and joys of STC is that all denominations have and will continue to enjoy this great academic institution as brothers, as we all did.
5. STC is a privately funded school and is also part of the constitution of Sri Lanka.
6. Isn't it absolutely mind boggling, has been and will continue to do so that, more than 8500 students still cannot get the better of us 2300 students. This is an approximately 4:1 ratio advantage to Royal. They still can't do it??????
7. It is indeed clear that whilst Royalist pride themselves in the learning of books, etc. we at STC pride ourselves in a more rounded education ie books, sports and above all, "being men and gentlemen always." This is indeed a Thomian tradition.

8. The creme a la creme is that, the present warden of STC(The Rev. John Charles Puddefoot M.A.(Oxon) B.D.) an absolute scholar, is himself an ETONIAN!!! Need I say more!

In conclusion, I would say that all reporting must be absolutely accurate, otherwise the truth is distorted. To Charles Haviland of the BBC I say

The only Eton of Sri Lanka has and will always remain S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia Sri Lanka. I also say to him, please do visit our website,

www.stcmount.sch.lk

ESTO PERPETUA / DISCE aut DISCEDE

Dilsiri Dassanaiké