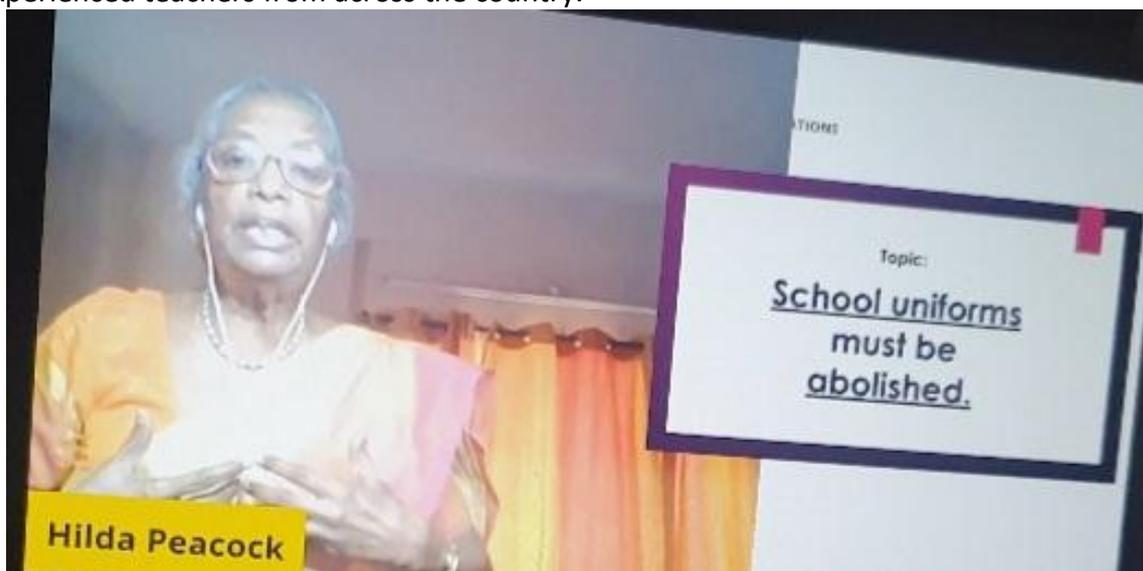


Inaugural Session of the 'CISCE VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES'



The CISCE has taken an initiative to restart its live teaching sessions and live streaming the lessons through the platform of Youtube, wherein it plans to reach out to its schools especially those located in semi-urban and rural areas. The inaugural session of 'CISCE Virtual Learning Series' was held today.

The session began with the Welcome Address by Mr Gerry Arathoon, Chief Executive and Secretary, quoting how the current situation of pandemic is unrelenting. He was all praises for the schools and teachers who have adopted the new way of teaching but showed his concern for the schools that have not been able to do the same. He pointed out the reason for CISCE's initiative of launching the virtual series so as to make the sudden shift from the classrooms to the online teaching much more comfortable for the students. The students would be able to revisit the sessions anytime, anywhere and each session will be led by experienced teachers from across the country.



The session was presided over by Mrs. Hilda Peacock, Director, GEMS Akademia International School. She apprised the students and teachers about the steps of Writing an Argumentative

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Essay. Ms. Peacock introduced the Argumentative Essay and life skills attached to it. In today's world it is very important for everyone to have an opinion as having opinions reflects one's knowledge, awareness, versatility and exposure. Through Argumentative essay, students are not only taught to have opinion but also how to voice their opinion in a convincing and polite manner. They learn how to present an argument, effectively.

The basic rules of word limit, punctuation and vocabulary remain the same for all the five types of essays. If a student chooses to attempt Argumentative Composition, the following six steps would help him to attempt it in a better way. The steps were explained through an example: *School Uniforms must be abolished.*

1. **Evocation:** It refers to the outburst of emotions inside you when you read the topic. It can be positive or negative. In life, you cannot sit on the fence. So you need to choose a side.
2. **Explanation:** Explain the main words of the topic. In this case, it would be- school uniform and abolished.
3. **Exposition:** This is the heart of the Argumentative Essay. The word expose refers to opening up. Here, you address the WHY and BECAUSE of the topic. School uniforms should not be abolished because it gives us the sense of belongingness, equality and loyalty.
4. **Examples:** Quoting examples from real life. Eg: Armed forces wear uniforms which unites them.
5. **Exception:** Every coin has another side. Similarly, students should respect other's opinion too.
6. **End:** It refers back to beginning where you firmly state your point of view and close the argument.

Students also posed questions to the subject experts on the chat window which were addressed immediately after the lesson was complete.

The English department attended the inaugural session, and felt that it was a very educative session especially the way Mrs Hilda Peacock connected life skills with the curriculum.