



STEPPING STONE SCHOOL (HIGH)

Rishra, Hooghly · Affiliated to CISCE (ICSE & ISC)
LEARN TO LEAD · SINCE 1991



INVICTUSSS

The Legacy of the Unconquered

ABHYUTHANAM 2026

35TH YEAR CELEBRATION

RULE BOOK

INAUGURAL INTER SCHOOL FEST

Thursday, 5th November 2026 · 8:00 a.m. onwards
School Field & Silver Jubilee Hall

THE LEGACY THAT REFUSED TO END

A Chronicle of Stepping Stone School

*“What begins as a single step, when guided by courage
and conviction, becomes a path for generations to walk.”*

In 1991, upon the western bank of the Hooghly, the School's four Founding Members — Alope Kumar Bhaduri, Partha Sarathi Daw, Chaitali Bhaduri and Sumita Daw — gathered in Rishra, bound by a single conviction: that children of ordinary families deserved an education that would teach them not merely to succeed, but to think, to question and to lead.

There was no sprawling campus, no inherited name, no certainty of what lay ahead — only seventeen students on the ground floor of the Daw Residence, a handful of devoted teachers, a community that dared to believe, and three words destined to become the institution's very soul: **Learn to Lead.**

Thus was born Stepping Stone School, conceived humbly as a preparatory institution — a first step upon a longer road. But the children had grander plans. Their flourishing summoned the guardians of Rishra back, year after year, bearing a single plea: do not let them go; carry them further; build the school they deserve. And so the founders answered — not with a leap, but with an ascent: one class, one classroom, one challenge at a time.

MILESTONES ALONG THE ASCENT

- 2004** ICSE affiliation from the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations — rising from preparatory beginnings into a full secondary institution.
- 2016** The Silver Jubilee. The Jubilee Hall was raised in tribute to the distance travelled, and the school became the first in the district to place a smart board in every classroom — honouring the future without forsaking its founding spirit.
- 2023** ISC affiliation — the school that had begun with Nursery could now walk beside its children all the way to Class XII.

*Every milestone was earned.
Every expansion answered a calling.
Every new height began with another step.*

Today, that journey is borne forward by a new generation — Debdeep Bhaduri and Rudra Prosad Daw, Managing Trustees — together with Ms. Tanusree Roy, Headmistress and Academic Head, who continue this unwavering pursuit of excellence. Thirty-five years hence, the ground floor has grown into a sprawling campus — and the founding promise stands unaltered. Yet the journey, three and a half decades on, has finally found an emblem worthy of its story.

INVICTUSSS

The Emblem of an Unconquered Spirit

A phoenix, ascending through the letter I — an emblem of renewal, of resilience, of a spirit that will not be tamed. **INVICTUSSS** is the very journey of Stepping Stone School distilled: thirty-five years of trials that did not break it, but forged it; thirty-five years in which every stone laid became a step for another young soul to rise upon.

And now, in this thirty-fifth year, Stepping Stone School (High) takes its boldest step yet — throwing open its gates, for the first time, to the schools of Bengal. This is no mere gathering, no mere celebration of talent, no mere competition. It is an invitation — to every young participant who passes through these gates — to become part of a story that began with little, endured much, and never once ceased to rise: a story built on courage, tempered by challenge, and carried from one generation into the next.

A STORY OF BEING UNCONQUERED

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

INVICTUSSS 2026 · Abhyuthanam

ABHYUTHANAM

“The Ascendancy”

Abhyuthanam marks the spectacular dawn of a new tradition — the historic first edition of our school fest — and derives from the Sanskrit word for “rising”. It is the ultimate stage where passion meets purpose: this first edition celebrates the limitless potential of students coming together to create, compete and shine.



Dear Principals, Teachers and Students,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to **INVICTUSSS**, the first Inter-School Fest of our institution — an initiative born from our belief that education truly comes alive when young minds meet, ideas intersect, talents find expression, and friendships transcend the boundaries of classrooms and campuses.

This inaugural edition, titled Abhyuthanam, marks a particularly significant milestone in our journey as we celebrate 35 years of our school’s inception. Abhyuthanam — the spirit of rising, awakening and moving forward — beautifully echoes the journey of our institution: rooted in values, enriched by experience, and ever willing

to embrace the possibilities of tomorrow.

As we commemorate three and a half decades of nurturing young minds, **INVICTUSSS** – Abhyuthanam is our way of looking ahead with renewed energy. It is a celebration not merely of competition, but of curiosity, creativity, courage, collaboration and character.

To all participating schools and their young ambassadors, I extend my warmest welcome. May you compete with integrity, create with imagination, perform with confidence, and celebrate one another’s accomplishments with grace.

May this first edition become the beginning of a cherished tradition — one that grows with every passing year and brings together young minds in the true spirit of learning and fellowship.

With warm wishes for a memorable and enriching journey,
Yours sincerely,

TANUSREE ROY

Headmistress · Stepping Stone School (High)

CORE COMMITTEE*INVICTUSSS 2026***HONORARY EXECUTIVE OFFICER****Ms. Tanusree Roy***Headmistress & Academic Head***TEACHER MEMBERS**

Ms. Tapasi Majumder
 Ms. Saswati Mukherjee
 Mr. Barnendu Chakraborty
 Ms. Aparna Jhawar
 Mr. Soujit Banerjee
 Mr. Sridhar Nayak
 Ms. Poulami Chowdhury

Ms. Sharmistha Chatterjee
 Ms. Sumana Bandyopadhyay
 Mr. Swarupjyoti Ghosh
 Ms. Varsha Sikaria
 Mr. Subhomoy Mukherjee
 Ms. Banani Dhar

STUDENT MEMBERS

Nilesh Ojha
 Vaibhav Singh
 Subhayan Saha
 Mansa Soni
 Shreya Shah
 Rohan Dey
 Modassir Sadique

Aaradhya Singh
 Gargi Mishra
 Paramveer Singh
 Ridhhi Farmania
 Rohan Pathak
 Divyansh Dubey

MANAGING TRUSTEE OFFICE COORDINATION

Mr. Gautam Bhandari & Ms. Surela Banerjee

STUDENTS-IN-CHARGE

Nilesh Ojha · Aaradhya Singh

For queries and clarifications, please contact the Teacher-in-Charge of the respective event. For general queries, write to invictusss2026@gmail.com.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE*On Stage & Off Stage*

EVENT	CLASSES	TEAM	DURATION	TEACHER-IN-CHARGE	PAGE
ON STAGE EVENTS					
SWARANGAN <i>Group Song</i>	6 – 12	14	8 min (incl. 3 min set-up)	Ms. Saswati Mukherjee	5
NRITYADHARA <i>Eastern Dance</i>	6 – 12	10 + 2	6 min + 2 min	Ms. Sumana Bandyopadhyay	5
MOVES & GROOVES <i>Western Dance</i>	8 – 12	10 + 2	5 min + 2 min	Ms. Sumana Bandyopadhyay	6
DUEL D'IDÉES <i>Debate</i>	8 – 10	2	2 + 2 min (per speaker)	Mr. Barnendu Chakraborty	6
OFF STAGE EVENTS					
CODE QUEST <i>Coding</i>	9 – 12	2 students	2 h 30 min	Mr. Swarupjyoti Ghosh	7
BITE CRAFT <i>No-Flame Cooking</i>	8 – 12	2 students	1 h 30 min	Ms. Aparna Jhawar	7
RESURRECTION <i>Brand Revival</i>	11 – 12	3	3 – 5 min	Ms. Varsha Sikaria	8
GREENOVATE <i>Green Project</i>	8 – 12	2 – 3 students	2 h	Mr. Sridhar Nayak	8
HERITAGE HUES <i>Kulo Painting</i>	8 – 10	2	2 h	Mr. Soujit Banerjee	9
INK AND IMPULSE <i>Calligraphy Poster Making</i>	9 – 12	1 + 1	1 h 30 min	Mr. Gautam Kumar Choudhury	9

GENERAL RULES

INVICTUSSS 2026

- 1 All schools must report at the Registration Desk by **8:00 a.m.** The Opening Ceremony begins at **9:00 a.m.**
- 2 Schools must share their confirmed list of participants by **28th October 2026.**
- 3 School uniform and Identity Cards are mandatory for all participants.
- 4 Student representatives reporting at the Registration Desk must be accompanied by a teacher from their school.
- 5 Once inside the campus, no student may leave unless accompanied by their school's teachers.
- 6 Participants are expected to maintain decorum and team spirit throughout the Fest.
- 7 Participants must show the utmost respect towards fellow participants, judges and organisers.
- 8 In the spirit of sportsmanship and mutual respect, no negative commentary or criticism of the host school, the participating schools or the Fest may be posted on social media at any time.
- 9 No photos, videos, comments or similar content about any school's performance may be uploaded to any social media platform.
- 10 Only official photographers may take photographs.
- 11 No boys, male teachers, choreographers or make-up artists may enter the room allotted to girls on the day of the event; all requirements there must be handled by the accompanying lady teachers. If participants from girls' or co-ed schools are accompanied by a male make-up artist or choreographer, the host school must be informed by a letter from the Principal of that school, submitted at the Registration Desk on the day of the event. No exceptions will be made without this letter.
- 12 No one other than the student participants and one student assigned for music may be present backstage during a performance.
- 13 Requests from teachers or students to change event slots will not be entertained.
- 14 A student may take part in only one event.
- 15 No electronic gadgets are allowed inside the auditorium, except those required for the events.
- 16 Musical instruments and other required instruments must be brought by the participating schools. The host school will provide only one drum set.
- 17 The host school is not responsible for loss of or damage to props, musical instruments or gadgets; each participating school is responsible for its own belongings.
- 18 Any misconduct by students, or vulgarity in any item, will result in the disqualification of the school concerned from that event.
- 19 Teams that do not adhere to the rules and regulations of an event may be disqualified.
- 20 The decision of the judges is binding on all participants and cannot be questioned or challenged.
- 21 Audio and video for different events must be carried on separate pen drives — MP3 for audio and MP4 for video with audio.
- 22 The school's name and the event must be written on the pen drive cover.
- 23 Every teacher representative and school representative must be present in the auditorium for both the Opening Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony.

For queries and clarifications, please contact the Teacher-in-Charge of the respective event. For general queries, write to **invictusss2026@gmail.com.**

SWARANGAN

Confluence of musical expressions

ON STAGE

EVENT Group Song (Indo–Semi-Classical Folk Fusion) **CLASSES** 6 – 12

PARTICIPANTS 14 (maximum 10 vocalists; musicians included) **DURATION** 8 minutes (including 3 minutes of set-up)

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 The song must be Indo semi-classical (e.g. light classical, raag-based Bollywood).
- 2 Regional Indian languages and Hindi are permitted; appropriate traditional compositions are encouraged.
- 3 Live singing only — no lip-syncing.
- 4 Karaoke or instrumental tracks are not allowed.
- 5 Live instruments such as harmonium, tabla, keyboard, tanpura, violin and guitar are permitted.
- 6 Only the host school's sound system and drum kit may be used — no personal mics.
- 7 All participants must be in school uniform.
- 8 No distracting props or background dancers — the performance must focus on music and expression.
- 9 Proper aalap, taan or classical variation is encouraged.
- 10 Song selection must be approved by the school/organiser before the event.
- 11 Lyrics must be clean, culturally respectful and school-appropriate.
- 12 The teacher or accompanist may not prompt lyrics during the performance.
- 13 A medley of songs is allowed.
- 14 Exceeding the time limit will result in disqualification.
- 15 One percussionist may be a teacher or any other person; he or she will not be counted as a participant.
- 16 The judges' decision is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Ms. Saswati Mukherjee **CONTACT** 87777 97874

NRITYADHARA

Dance beyond boundaries

ON STAGE

EVENT Eastern Dance **THEME** Mythological story from 'Dasavataram' **CLASSES** 6 – 12

PARTICIPANTS 10 + 2 (as a team) **DURATION** 6 minutes performance + 2 minutes set-up & exit

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 The central theme of the presentation must be based on the Dasavataram — the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
- 2 Each school must depict any three of the ten avatars, chosen as it wishes; they need not be presented in chronological order.
- 3 Exceeding the time limit will lead to deduction of marks.
- 4 The stage must never remain unoccupied during the performance; an empty stage will lead to disqualification or negative marking.
- 5 Film music (Hindi, Bengali, Tamil or animated) is strictly prohibited.
- 6 Dance styles must be Indian classical or semi-classical.
- 7 The music must be classical or instrumental, in keeping with the chosen dance style.
- 8 Any vulgarity in costume, choreography or expression will not be tolerated on stage and will lead to disqualification.
- 9 A separate pen drive, carrying the background score and the video backdrop, must be submitted by each participating school on the day of the event.
- 10 Each pen drive must be clearly labelled with the school's name and the event's name.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Ms. Sumana Bandyopadhyay **CONTACT** 98310 17506

MOVES & GROOVES

Feel the beat, own the floor

ON STAGE

EVENT Western Dance **CLASSES** 8 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 10 + 2 (as a team)

DURATION 5 minutes performance + 2 minutes set-up & exit

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Each school must choreograph a dynamic performance reflecting the central theme, *The Legacy of the Unconquered*, using any pure western dance form.
- 2 The total time allotted is 7 minutes, inclusive of set-up and exit; exceeding it will result in deduction of marks.
- 3 Only Western and Bollywood music tracks are permitted.
- 4 Every performance must include at least 2 minutes of Bollywood music and 2 minutes of Western (English) tracks.
- 5 The tracks may be ordered as the team chooses — at the beginning, middle or end of the performance.
- 6 At least 8 performers must be on stage at all times during the performance.
- 7 Each team must incorporate at least three different western dance styles, declared to the organisers before the performance begins.
- 8 Costumes must be in sync with the theme and the dance styles performed.
- 9 Vulgarity, inappropriate attire, obscenity, offensive gestures or disrespectful content in choreography, lyrics or costumes will lead to immediate disqualification.
- 10 Teams must report at the venue at least 15 minutes before their scheduled slot.
- 11 The judges' decision is final and binding.
- 12 A separate pen drive, carrying the background score and the video backdrop, must be submitted by each participating school on the day of the event.
- 13 Each pen drive must be clearly labelled with the school's name and the event's name.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Ms. Sumana Bandyopadhyay

CONTACT 98310 17506

DUEL D'IDÉES

Where words sail into battle

ON STAGE

EVENT Debate **CLASSES** 8 – 10 **PARTICIPANTS** 2 **DURATION** 2 + 2 minutes (per speaker)

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 The motion will be announced exactly one hour before the event.
- 2 The sequence of the teams will be decided by lottery on the day.
- 3 Each team has two participants: one chooses to speak for the motion, the other against it.
- 4 Each speaker is allocated 2 minutes.
- 5 No written or printed material may be used during the speeches.
- 6 Mobile phones, internet-enabled devices, books and other reference material are strictly prohibited.
- 7 Participants must draw on general knowledge, basic reasoning, real-life examples and thought-provoking analysis to build their arguments.
- 8 A separate rebuttal round of up to 2 minutes per speaker will follow each speech.
- 9 The moderator decides the number of questions per team; cross-questioning and follow-ups are not permitted.
- 10 Penalties, including disqualification, may be imposed for exceeding the time limit or for speaking under the time provided. Participants must refrain from unparliamentary language, personal attacks, irrelevant arguments or any behaviour that undermines the spirit of the debate.
- 11 Participants must maintain a respectful and professional attitude throughout the competition.
- 12 Participants may wear only formal attire during the competition; they must, however, report in school uniform and produce their school ID card at registration.
- 13 The decision of the moderator and the judges is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Mr. Barnendu Chakraborty

CONTACT 86177 33688

CODE QUEST

From curiosity to creativity — through code

OFF STAGE

EVENT Coding **CLASSES** 9 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 2 students (as a team) **DURATION** 2 hours 30 minutes

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Every school may send one team of two students, who compete together and may discuss with each other while solving the problems.
- 2 Each team will be allotted one computer.
- 3 All problems must be attempted within the given time limit.
- 4 AI tools and online compilers are not allowed.
- 5 The Internet, mobile phones and internet-enabled devices are not allowed.
- 6 Only the Java programming language is allowed; BlueJ will be the IDE.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Mr. Swarupjyoti Ghosh **CONTACT** 98305 58139

BITE CRAFT

Goodness in every bite

OFF STAGE

EVENT No-Flame Cooking **CLASSES** 8 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 2 students (as a team)

DURATION 1 hour 30 minutes

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Participants must prepare one vegetarian dish and one drink or dessert. Onions and garlic may be used.
- 2 Table cloth, cutlery, utensils and all necessary ingredients must be brought by the participating school.
- 3 Each team must name the dish and briefly explain it, its nutritional value and the ingredients used.
- 4 Prepared items must be for two serving sizes.
- 5 A tray of approximately 12 × 8 inches must be brought by the participants.
- 6 Participants must wear gloves, cap, apron and mask.
- 7 All chopping, slicing, peeling and mixing must be done at the venue.
- 8 Manual tools such as hand blenders, choppers, knives, peelers, graters, whisks and rolling pins are allowed.
- 9 Electric appliances such as hand mixers, grinders, microwaves and blenders are not allowed.
- 10 No storage or refrigeration facilities will be provided.
- 11 Processed ingredients are not allowed; boiled ingredients are permitted.
- 12 All condiments and sauces are allowed.
- 13 Artificial colours and harmful ingredients must be avoided.
- 14 Pre-cooked items, pre-cut fruits or vegetables, intoxicating ingredients and ready mixes are not allowed.
- 15 All marination must be done on the spot.
- 16 Heating in any form is not permitted.
- 17 Emphasis will be on creativity, table layout, presentation and hygiene.
- 18 Participants must clean their respective workplaces after the competition.
- 19 The decision of the judges is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Ms. Aparna Jhawar **CONTACT** 94339 78945

RESURRECTION

Dead to desired

OFF STAGE

EVENT Brand Revival (Revive • Reinvent • Relaunch) **CLASSES** 11 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 3

DURATION 3 – 5 minutes to present the idea

THE CHALLENGE *The brand is forgotten. The market has changed. Can you bring it back to life?*

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Each participating school will be allotted a brand by lottery, conducted by the host school three days before the Fest.
- 2 Teams must identify the reasons for the brand's decline or loss of relevance, and develop a fresh target audience, positioning and value proposition.
- 3 The brand must be resurrected for today's generation through innovative ideas.
- 4 The idea must clearly communicate why consumers should reconnect with the resurrected brand.
- 5 PowerPoint presentations, props, posters, placards, interactive activities and other unconventional marketing techniques may be used.
- 6 The idea should be creative, innovative, engaging and feasible, with emphasis on ideas rather than expensive resources.
- 7 Each team gets a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 minutes to present; exceeding the maximum will result in deduction of marks.
- 8 All participants must be actively involved in the presentation and in school uniform.
- 9 The resurrected brand must retain a connection with its original identity while gaining a fresh, contemporary appeal.
- 10 All concepts, scripts, music and promotional material must be original; plagiarism, use of AI or copying existing advertisements will lead to disqualification.
- 11 Hazardous materials, damage to property, or any activity that may cause harm or discomfort is strictly prohibited.
- 12 Vulgar, offensive, discriminatory, political or religious content will lead to immediate disqualification.
- 13 Pen drives of the presentations, marked with the school's name, must be submitted by all participating schools on the day of the event.
- 14 The decision of the jury is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Ms. Varsha Sikaria **CONTACT** 90620 38355

GREENOVATE

Smart innovation, arrest pollution

OFF STAGE

EVENT Green Project **CLASSES** 8 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 2 – 3 students **DURATION** 2 hours

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Every school may send one team only, of 2 – 3 members who work as a team.
- 2 The model must address an environmental issue and offer a creative, practical and sustainable solution.
- 3 Originality and innovation will be given high priority.
- 4 Use of recycled or eco-friendly materials is encouraged.
- 5 No harmful or non-biodegradable materials are allowed.
- 6 The presentation must include a working model or demo model with a well-prepared explanatory poster.
- 7 All materials must be brought by the participating school.
- 8 Participating schools must inform the host school by e-mail, 5 days before the event, of: (i) the topic of the model; (ii) requirements such as electric plug points, if any.
- 9 The decision of the judges is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Mr. Sridhar Nayak **CONTACT** 62913 59729

HERITAGE HUES

Tradition in every stroke

OFF STAGE

EVENT Kulo Painting **THEME** My Bengal, My Pride **CLASSES** 8 – 10 **PARTICIPANTS** 2 **DURATION** 2 hours

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 Every school may send one team only, of 2 students who work as a team.
- 2 Participants must paint on the kulo (traditional bamboo winnowing tray) provided.
- 3 Participants must bring their own colours, brushes and other necessary materials.
- 4 Originality and creativity will be given high priority.
- 5 The painting must reflect Indian heritage, culture and traditional values.
- 6 Participants must clean their respective workplaces after completion.
- 7 The decision of the judges is final and binding.

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Mr. Soujit Banerjee **CONTACT** 98314 44998

INK AND IMPULSE

Where words meet imagination

OFF STAGE

EVENT Calligraphy Poster Making **CLASSES** 9 – 12 **PARTICIPANTS** 1 + 1 (as a team)

DURATION 1 hour 30 minutes

RULES OF THE EVENT

- 1 The theme will be given on the spot.
- 2 Only the drawing sheet/chart paper (A3 size) will be provided by the host school.
- 3 Participants must bring their own stationery (calligraphy pens, sketch pens, pencils, colours, rulers, etc.).
- 4 The poster must be created entirely by hand.
- 5 Printed material, stencils, tracing or pre-prepared work is strictly prohibited.
- 6 The poster must prominently display the given theme through creative calligraphy.
- 7 Participants must maintain originality and creativity in their work.
- 8 Innovation will be given the highest priority.
- 9 The decision of the judges is final and binding.

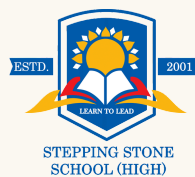
TEACHER-IN-CHARGE Mr. Gautam Kumar Choudhury **CONTACT** 98316 25686



KNOW MORE ABOUT INVICTUSSS

Scan the QR code for event updates, schedules and the complete Fest details at www.steppingstoneschoolhigh.online. The Core Committee may be reached at invictuss2026@gmail.com.

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LEARN TO LEAD

Stepping Stone School (High) · 89/90/1, Bangur Park, Rishra, Hooghly – 712248 · Since 1991