

Schools go virtual to recognize students' talents, distribute prizes

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Kolkata: After online classes, tests and extra-curricular activities, the latest normal is the virtual prize-giving ceremony.

The difference between the physical events in auditoriums and the ones held in the cloud was that there were many more audience with whole families joining in online. Of course, the thunderous claps and shouts weren't there but the encouragement the students got via comments and emoticons in the chat box were no mean achievements.

The lockdown prize-giving ceremonies, in fact, are extra special with celebrities and well-known personalities taking part and giving motivational speeches to help students out of quarantine blues. All eyes were online when Amish Tripathi, author and director, London's Nehru Centre, joined the annual prize distribution ceremony of South Point School live from London. It was webcast live on the school's Facebook pages.

Addressing the students of South Point who "have had very high quality alumnus like Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee", Tripathy said: "Never has world totally shut down like this... I think not many countries are as resil-

WIDENING HORIZON



Students participate at the online prize-distribution ceremony of South Point

- St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore, had prize ceremony on May 31 and June 6
- St Augustine's Day School, Shyamnagar, had theirs in June
- MP Birla Foundation HS School will do it after board results are out
- La Martiniere Schools may take a call soon

ient as ours...those are the qualities we must have in our students. Be tough, be resilient." Krishna Damani, trustee, South Point Education Society, said: "It was our duty to make the students feel that all they had achieved in the last academic year have not gone to waste." Pratik Gupta, Class XII student of South

Point, said: "I got a special talent award, but what was most rewarding was the inspiring speeches we heard."

Eminent cardiac surgeon Kunal Sarkar, who presided over the senior prize day of St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore, reminisced his fun days at St Xavier's School and had the students glued to their computers at their homes. Nearly 200 students were recognized for their academic and other achievements. Said actor Riddhi Sen, who was the chief guest for the annual prize distribution ceremony of St Augustine's Day School, Shyamnagar in early June, "Events like these are keeping the students connected and giving them a feeling of belonging even as this pandemic is keeping them away from their schools."

For St Augustine, Barrackpore's junior school programme, Debiprasad Duari, director of MP Birla Institute of Fundamental Research, was the chief guest. He advised the students to remain united to combat the pandemic. "The flow of the programme was exactly how it would have been if conducted physically, with an opening prayer, welcome song by students, principal's report, announcement of winners, chief guest's speech and vote of thanks," principal Jhuma Biswas said.