do on trying to make the water in some of the rivers much purer so that the fish can come back into them. The supplies of blood for the hospitals needs to be checked for purity so that people who have blood transfusions do not risk catching diseases. Dhaka is trying to make its air more pure by banning the 2-stroke baby taxis. We all want purity in the world around us. We all want a nice, clean world.

But we also need to pray for purity in our own lives. Think of purity as being clean in thought, word and deed. I know that many of you do not like it if people use dirty language. It is something that can happen in a group of friends – slowly they start using bad language and one of them needs to say, "Let us stop using dirty language because it could become a habit with us and we could lose nice friends and even good jobs that way."

In sports too, there is a big clean-up movement. Some sports have become dirty through cheating, through taking drugs, cheating through match-fixing and some spectators behave very badly. I am ashamed to say that British football fans have a very bad reputation, mainly because of all the drinking of alcohol that the fans do. But some fans are now banned at the gates. There is a big clean-up going on in sports – and rightly so. If the world of sports is not kept pure, then sport is no longer fun – or fair.

Play clean! Don't play dirty! That is a good rule for life as well as sport. So we pray to God to make us pure.

God bless you.

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SCHOOL PRAYER 9. TRUE

Assembly 41. Thursday march 13th 2003

(Take a ruler and a plumb-line)

We have asked God to make us generous and brave and pure and now we are asking him to make us TRUE.

I think that most of you know the importance of speaking the truth, don't you? This means that you do not tell lies. Speaking the truth is indeed very important. If any of you have known someone who tells lies, you know how difficult it is to be friends with such a person. You can never believe what they say! They say one thing but mean another. They tell you seriously that something is true but later you find out that it isn't true at all. Such people are liars and they are playing games all the time – and we know that we cannot trust them. It is very important for each of us to try to be the sort of person who tells the truth because you cannot trust someone who tells lies.

But BEING a true person is even more important. Another word for 'true' is 'straight'. Do you know what a straight line is? You write the heading for a piece of work and then you take your ruler and make a nice, straight line under it. Well – actually – some of you don't. You try and draw a line under a heading with no ruler and it goes all wobbly! You have no guideline – nothing to keep your hand steady so that it does not go up and down. The opposite of straight is CROOKED. There is a children's rhyme that goes, "There was a crooked man and he had a crooked spouse (that is –wife') and they all lived together in a little crooked house." But it is very important not to have a crooked house or it will probably fall down. I wonder how people build a house in which the walls are not crooked but straight.

Do you know what this is – *(show plumbline)* – Do you know what its name is .....and do you know what it is FOR? .....Yes, it is used when you are building a wall. When you are beginning to build a house, the whole house will fall down, if the walls are not straight. The builder needs a plumb-line so that he builds the bricks up to the line. If God puts his plumb-line against your life and mine, will he find it straight or crooked?

Maybe someone says to you and me, "I want a straight talk with you!" That probably means that they are going to tell us exactly what they think. It may be painful but it will probably be healthy. They are going to tell us the truth as they see it. Straight talking is very important in all relationships.

Being straight – being true is a good quality of character and one that we need in friends, partners and family. It is very good that we ask God, every morning, to make us true.

God bless you.

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SCHOOL PRAYER 10. WORK AND PLAY

Assembly 42 – Sunday March 16th 2003

The very final phrase of the school prayer is 'in all our work and in all our play.' The whole sentence is 'Preserve us from sin and selfishness and make us generous and brave, pure and true in all our work and in all our play." I like this phrase because it tells us that, when you come to school you play as well as work and sometimes, just sometimes, a teacher makes their lesson SO interesting that you do not know whether you are working OR playing because it is such fun! Do you sometimes find that? That is very nice, isn't it? It is good when we enjoy what we are learning – when it feels really good to feel you brain cells turning over like the engine of a racing car! Or, maybe, when we are

doing creative work, when we are reading some lovely poetry or some really interesting book, or when we are making music or looking at pictures – or painting pictures – or acting in a drama – then our minds are playing happily in the presence of beauty. Is it work or is it play? We do not know!

But whether we are working or playing we should keep a good attitude. If you are pleasant and cheerful in the classroom but, when you get onto the cricket field, you have a very bad temper, then you need help to balance your life. In fact, you can learn a lot about someone on the sports field. It is quite a good rule – never to marry anyone unless you have seen them LOSE a match or competition. See how they behave! Someone who behaves badly every time they lose can be a big problem to live with. Good behaviour in play-time is just as important as good behaviour in class-time. Some of you are getting much better at eating your tiffin nicely but some of you still like fighting and quarreling in your free time, or whenever there is no teacher to supervise you.

I hope you all have some play-time when you go home in the afternoon. It is very important to play with your families. How many of you have little brothers and sisters? I hope you do not say, "I am now a student of the The British School, and I am MUCH too busy to play with you!" Especially if they are very little, I am sure that whoever has been looking after them all day, is very grateful when big brother or sister comes home and plays with the little one for a time. I am sure you know how important it is to allow little ones to win races and games by slowing down and making deliberate mistakes so that you lose and they win and so you let them feel VERY clever! It is nice when you have games you can play indoors as well as outdoors – apart from computer games. Maybe, in your classes, your Form Teacher can let you take it in turns to bring your favourite board game to school and show the other members of the form.

I like watching Animal Planet on TV – do you? And other animal programmes, too. Do you like pictures of young animals