is usually used of a thing – a game. But, if you say that a person is a 'good sport' it means he or she plays their best but, if they win, they do not go all superior ("I won – you lost! Huh!") and, if they lose, they do not go all ashamed, sulky and upset. Good sports, whether they win or lose, do their best, enjoy playing the game and smile afterwards. They are good sports. I hope that this school is helping you all to be good sports. God bless you.

CHEAT!

Assembly 47 – March 23rd 2003

It is the time of year when we start using the air-conditioning – and many of you are getting colds. The same thing happens in September and October in British Schools in the UK when the central heating goes on! The air becomes more dry and pupils move from warm classrooms to the cold of the outside. Please try to wear a tea-shirt under your shirt or a little scarf or something that can protect you from the change of temperature. Look after yourselves.

Today, I want us to think about a very serious subject – cheating – *nokol*. In some groups of people in Bangladesh there is a cheating culture. It is taken for granted. Some people think cheating is normal.. They think that, if cheating puts more money in your pocket or is profitable in other ways, then it does not matter. SOME people even think it is a bit clever – even FUNNY – but it isn't! Cheating happens in every country but it is very serious in Bangladesh so it is very hurtful to the reputation of Bangladesh all over the world. It means that some of the examination results of Bangladeshi examinations are not really believed – which is why so many schools get their question papers from other countries and get people from other countries to mark the papers. It is

something about which I, for one, feel very ashamed. You should feel ashamed also. I invite all of you to decide to do all you can to change this cheating culture so that, by the time you are bringing your children to this school, or maybe your grandchildren, this horrible stage of your development has finished.

We take cheating very seriously in this school. Last Thursday, the Coordinators agreed on the format of a letter that will go to the parents of any child who is found cheating. You will not be given two or three chances. If you cheat ONCE, then your parents will be informed. It is a great evil and we are going to stamp on it – like a cockroach. Your teachers here are far too intelligent for cheating to succeed for very long. They assess your work all the time and if they see a big difference between the marks of the work that you do that is supervised, in the classroom or examination room, and what you do that is unsupervised, then they are immediately suspicious. It is also very *stupid* to copy someone else's work. In the examinations, you will not be able to do this, because you will be too far away from the next person, so what help is it to you?

In school or at home, if you do not understand something, then it is fine if someone else explains it to you - but that does not mean that your helpers do all your work for you, so that you do not have to think for yourself or practice your new skills! If someone offers to do your homework for you, or offers you their book to copy from, please say, "NO!" If you have a private tutor that comes to your home, do not ask him or her to do your homework for you! You cannot take your tutor into the examinations with you!

I know that schoolwork is often hard and that some of you do not like to get low marks but that is better than cheating! It is OK if you make mistakes when you are learning. That is natural. Learn from your mistakes and develop – improve! Cheating can become a habit – like a drug. It damages your character because cheating goes with lying and is a form of stealing. It will lose you

good friends because no one likes a cheat. Not cheating is part of being an honest person.

In later life, it may be very hard for some of you to keep yourself clean from certain forms of corruption, if you work in Bangladesh in some businesses. But we want you to learn, while you are in this school, to like being honest and good people, in an honest and good society so that you can go into the life of Bangladesh as people who will help to make it less corrupt and to have less cheating.

God bless you.

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FIRE DRILLS AND DISCIPLINE – 1

Assembly 48 March 23, 2003

I like your tradition of celebrating birthdays. I have eaten some very nice cake, have you? But I do want you and your families to feel free to celebrate your birthday in whatever way you find appropriate – *upojukto* – yes? If you do not wish to bring to school enough food to feed an army, then that is fine. If you do not wish to bring a cake, that is fine. Do not feel under pressure to do what everybody else is doing. Each of your family situations is different. Do not let us start a competition between pupils for who brings the most food! Birthdays are about being happy – not about people feeling under pressure!

As some of you may have noted, we are starting our fire drills. The first one, for the classes on the 3rd floor, illustrated very well the problems of beginning drills. The first thing that some pupils think is, "Oh, this is funny!" or "This is a special sort of playtime!" We all have to take this sort of learning much more seriously. You see, we are trying to train you in an important skill called 'how to behave in an emergency'. It is as much of a skill as

learning to do Maths or write Bengali. This is education for life. None of us can say that we will never be in an emergency situation, ever, in the whole of our lives. If just a few people know how to behave in an emergency, they can save a large group of people, if they exercise their leadership. Sometimes fires have broken out at parties and discos and many of the young people have died who could have lived, if they had known what to do. Let me tell you a story.

One day in the last century, a ship carrying passengers on a cruise had a serious accident in the engine-room. The boiler blew up. The ship sank and hundreds of tourists drowned. The world was very shocked. I think the name of the ship was 'The Lusitania'. But exactly the same accident happened in the Second World War in a cruise ship that was carrying soldiers. Again, the boiler blew up - but the only people who died were those in the engine-room who were killed in the accident. Why were not more people drowned? What was the difference between the tourists and the soldiers? The soldiers were disciplined. They did not shout and scream and run around in a panic. They were silent so that they could hear the orders that their officers shouted to them. They lined up properly by the life-boats. They did not panic.

I hope that, as we practice, so you will learn and you will begin to understand the reasons for the orders – in the classroom, turn off the fans and the air-conditioning and close any windows that are open. Do not rush, do not shout, move quickly but not too quickly. Line up outside quickly in form order and let someone check all your names. When all the names have been checked, THEN you can relax and chat. Actually, it would be much quicker to check your names if you lined up in roll number order but maybe you will have to practice that also.

In particular, you must be very careful on the stairs. I watched a line of Senior boys going down the stairs, each with a hand on the shoulder of the one in front. If the back one had fallen, they would all have gone down like a pack of cards! Remember, when