



SAINT JOHN'S ACADEMY, PRAYAGRAJ



EXCELSIA 2026

A Celebration of Ideas and Expression

Wednesday & Thursday, September 9–10, 2026

Last date for registration: Monday, August 31, 2026

Excelsia – A Celebration of Ideas and Expression is the festival of Saint John's Academy, envisioned as a platform for students to showcase their abilities, exchange perspectives, and gain meaningful exposure. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration through a wide range of activities. By fostering participation and healthy competition, Excelsia provides young minds with an opportunity to learn beyond the classroom and celebrate the spirit of togetherness.

Message from the Directors

Saint John's Academy has always believed that a school's finest lessons are learned outside the examination hall — in the friendships forged, the risks taken, and the confidence earned on a stage or a scoreboard. Excelsia is where that belief comes alive.

Each year, this festival grows a little further beyond our own campus — bringing together schools, ideas, and young voices from across Prayagraj. We are proud to watch it become something students look forward to, and something our staff pour real care into building.

To the schools joining us this year, thank you for making Excelsia bigger than any one institution. To our students, staff, and organizing committee, thank you for the hours of preparation behind these two days.

We wish every participant a memorable, spirited, and rewarding Excelsia 2026.

Mr. & Mrs. C.V. Innes

Directors, Saint John's Academy

Message from the Principal

"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." — Albert Einstein

It is my privilege to welcome every participating school to Excelsia – A Celebration of Ideas and Expression. True to its name, this festival is a stage where curiosity meets confidence, and where clear thinking finds a clear voice.

Across debates, discussions, and creative pursuits, our students learn something no textbook can teach alone: how to listen with an open mind, argue with conviction, and create with imagination. These are the habits that shape thoughtful, capable individuals long after the applause has faded.

To every participant stepping onto this platform, I say — compete with spirit, learn with humility, and carry forward the confidence this experience gives you.

My warm wishes to all the schools joining us, and my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Excelsia team for bringing this celebration to life.

Dr. Zareen F. Rizvi

Principal, Saint John's Academy

General Guidelines

1. Eligibility & Categories

- Category A: Classes XI & XII
- Category B: Classes IX & X
- Participation is strictly limited to the classes mentioned for each category.

2. Team Composition

- **Each school's total delegation for Excelsia 2026 must not exceed 20 students — a maximum of 10 from Category A and 10 from Category B.**
- Each school may send only one team per event per category, unless otherwise specified.
- For individual events, one participant per school per category is allowed.
- In case of team events, all members must be bonafide students of the same school.
- Group Dance participants are drawn from, and counted within, each student's respective category delegation (A or B), even though the event itself is open to both categories together.

3. Registration

- Schools must confirm participation by **Monday, August 31, 2026**, the last date for registration.
- The list of participants for each event must be submitted by the registration date communicated after confirmation.
- Substitutions will not be permitted after final submission, except with written approval of the organizers.

4. Event Rules

- Each event will have its own specific rules and judging criteria, which must be strictly followed.
- The event-specific rules are binding on all teams/participants.
- In case of contradiction, event-specific rules will override general rules.

5. Code of Conduct

- Respect for judges, fellow participants, and organizers is expected at all times.
- Use of offensive language, political or religious remarks, or derogatory statements will lead to disqualification.
- Any attempt at unfair practices (plagiarism, external assistance, tampering, or misconduct) will result in immediate disqualification.

6. Time Management

- Participants must adhere to reporting and performance times.
- Late arrivals may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the event in-charge.
- Exceeding time limits in events will invite penalties as per event rules.

7. Judgment & Results

- Decisions of judges and the organizing committee will be final and binding.
- Marks/criteria will not be disclosed or altered once results are announced.
- In the event of a tie in an event, specific tiebreaker rules of that event will apply.

8. Materials & Equipment

- Participants must bring their own stationery, instruments, or special materials as required.

- For technical events (e.g., Programming, Robotics, Presentations), participants must ensure compatibility of their files and devices.
- The organizers will not be responsible for loss of personal belongings.

9. Discipline & Safety

- Students must remain in designated areas during the events.
- Any damage to school property or event infrastructure will be charged to the respective school.
- Safety regulations (especially for Robotics, technical, or performance setups) must be strictly observed.

10. Certificates & Awards

- Certificates will be awarded only to participants who attend and complete the event.
- Prizes will be awarded to the top three positions in each event.
- Overall school performance will be recognized at the valedictory ceremony.

Note: In case of any clarification please feel free to contact Mr. Vinay Singh at +91-94152 14667 or vinay.singh@saintjohnsacademy.com

Point System for Overall Championship

1. Per Event Awards
 - Each event will be judged independently. Winners will be declared for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
2. School Points Allocation
 - For the purpose of the Overall Championship, schools will be awarded points as follows:
 - 1st Place – 10 points
 - 2nd Place – 7 points
 - 3rd Place – 5 points
 - Participation (no place) – 2 points
3. Team vs. Individual Events
 - Regardless of team size, the above points will apply per event per school.
 - Example: If a team of 3 wins 1st place in Robotics, the school earns 10 points (not multiplied by team size).
4. Tiebreakers for Overall Trophy
 - In case two or more schools are tied:
 - The school with the higher number of 1st positions will be declared winner.
 - If still tied, the school with more 2nd positions will be declared winner.
 - If still tied, the decision of the Organizing Committee will be final.
5. Special Awards
 - Judges may also confer Special Awards (e.g., Best Speaker, Best Performer, Best Innovator) independent of the point tally.
6. Group Dance – Exception
 - **Certificates and a Special Trophy will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in Group Dance, but points earned in this event do NOT contribute to the Category A/B point tally — it will instead be used for the Overall Championship.**

Category A (Classes 11 & 12)

Onstage Events

1. JAM (Just a Minute)

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Rules:
 - Topic given on the spot.
 - Speak continuously for 1 minute without hesitation, repetition, or deviation.
 - Challenges allowed; if upheld by judges, the challenger continues.
- Judging Criteria: Fluency, spontaneity, coherence, humour, adherence to rules.

2. Mitchell Memorial Debate Competition (English)

- Participation: 2 participants per school (1 for, 1 against).
- Theme: "Morality".
- Topic: The exact motion will be given one hour before the event.
- Timing: 4 minutes each (warning bell at 3 minutes) (opening speaker gets +1 min); 1-minute rebuttal after each speech.
- Rules: No reading from pre-written material; address the chair; no personal, political, or religious remarks.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Content – 20, Delivery – 20, Rebuttal – 5, Impact – 5.

3. मिचेल मेमोरियल वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता (हिन्दी)

- प्रतिभागिता: प्रत्येक विद्यालय से 2 प्रतिभागी (एक पक्ष में, एक विपक्ष में)।
- थीम: "यथार्थवाद बनाम आदर्शवाद"।
- विषय: अंतिम विषय कार्यक्रम से एक घंटा पूर्व घोषित किया जाएगा।
- समय: प्रत्येक वक्ता को 4 मिनट (3 मिनट पर चेतावनी घंटी)।
- प्रश्नोत्तर: 1 मिनट; केवल उत्तरों पर अंक दिए जाएंगे।
- अंक विभाजन (कुल 50 अंक): विषय-वस्तु – 20, प्रस्तुति – 20, प्रति-तर्क – 5, समग्र प्रभाव – 5।

4. General Quiz

- Participation: 1 team of 2 members per school.
- Content: GK, Science, Math, History, Geography, Current Affairs, Sports, Entertainment, Famous Personalities.
- Format: Multiple rounds; may include buzzer & AV.
- Rules: Quizmaster's decision final.

5. Group Discussion

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Format: 1 minute introduction per participant; 15 minutes open discussion on the topic.
- Rules: Respect for all viewpoints; this is a discussion, not a debate; the moderator ensures fairness and equal opportunity.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Content – 15, Communication – 15, Listening Skills – 10, Collaboration – 5, Leadership – 5.

6. Verbal Quadrathlon

- Participation: 1 team of 3 participants per school. All three members play through all four rounds together.
- Round 1 – Dumb Charades (90 seconds): One team member enacts a word/phrase given by the moderator (no speaking, sounds, or mouthing words) while the other two guess. 10 points for a correct guess within time.
- Round 2 – Pictionary (90 seconds): One team member draws clues for a given word/phrase (no letters, numbers, or verbal hints) while the other two guess. 10 points for a correct guess within time.
- Round 3 – Etymology Quiz: The team is asked questions about word origins and meanings within a time limit; 10 points per correct answer.
- Round 4 – Spell Bee (Buzzer Round) : The teams will be asked questions related to Correct (British) Pronunciations, One Word Substitutions, Jumbled Words, etc.
Scoring: Cumulative points across all four rounds; highest total wins. Tie broken by a sudden-death word (spelling or etymology, moderator's choice).
- Rules: No prompting from teammates outside the acting/drawing member's turn in Rounds 1–2; only the chart paper/marker provided may be used for Pictionary — no props; total event time capped at approximately 15–20 minutes per team; moderator's decision on acceptable guesses/answers is final.

Offstage Events

7. Poster Making

- Participation: 1 team of 2 participants per school .
- Theme: Given on the spot. Time: 2 hours.
- Rules: Participants bring their own materials; must reflect the theme creatively; chart paper will be provided.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Composition – 15, Creativity – 10, Colour Scheme – 10, Theme Interpretation – 15.

8. Computer Programming Contest

- Participation: 1 team of 2 participants per school.
- Languages: Java / Python. Format: Problem statements of varying difficulty given on the spot. Time: 1 hour.
- Rules: No internet access; only offline editors/compiler are provided; logical efficiency and style matter.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Correctness – 20, Logic & Efficiency – 15, Code Style – 10, Documentation/Comments – 5.

9. Poetry Writing (Versify)

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Format: A theme will be given on the spot. Participants write an original poem in English within 45 minutes (minimum 12 lines).
- Rules: No pre-written or pre-memorized content; participants bring their own writing materials; plagiarism will lead to disqualification.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Theme Relevance – 15, Creativity & Originality – 15, Language & Expression – 10, Structure & Rhythm – 10.

Category B (Classes 9 & 10)

Onstage Events

1. HAM (Half a Minute)

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Rules: Topic given on the spot; speak for 30 seconds without hesitation, repetition, or deviation; challenges allowed, if upheld by judges the challenger continues.
- Judging Criteria: Spontaneity, confidence, humour, adherence to rules.

2. Mitchell Memorial Debate Competition (English)

- Participation: 2 participants per school (1 for, 1 against).
- Theme: "Media Literacy".
- Topic: The exact motion will be given one hour before the event.
- Timing: 4 minutes each (Warning bell at 3 minutes) (opening speaker gets +1 min); 1-minute rebuttal after each speech.
- Rules: No reading from pre-written material; address the chair; no personal, political, or religious remarks.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Content – 20, Delivery – 20, Rebuttal – 5, Impact – 5.

3. मिचेल मेमोरियल वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता (हिन्दी)

- प्रतिभागिता: प्रत्येक विद्यालय से 2 प्रतिभागी (एक पक्ष में, एक विपक्ष में)।
- थीम: "साहित्य का बदलता स्वरूप"।
- विषय: अंतिम विषय कार्यक्रम से एक घंटा पूर्व घोषित किया जाएगा।
- समय: प्रत्येक वक्ता को 3 मिनट (2:30 पर चेतावनी घंटी)।
- प्रश्नोत्तर: 1 मिनट; केवल उत्तरों पर अंक दिए जाएंगे।
- अंक विभाजन (कुल 50 अंक): विषय-वस्तु – 20, प्रस्तुति – 20, प्रति-तर्क – 5, समग्र प्रभाव – 5।

4. General Quiz

- Participation: 1 team of 2 members per school.
- Content: GK, Science, Math, History, Geography, Current Affairs, Sports, Entertainment, Famous Personalities.
- Format: Multiple rounds; may include buzzer & AV.
- Rules: Quizmaster's decision final.

5. Monologue

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Format: A prepared monologue (from a play, film or any literary piece) of 2–3 minutes, in English. Questions will be asked, by the judges, related to the character played. Use of proper costume is mandatory.
- Rules: Must be performed from memory (no reading); use of props limited to whatever the participant wishes to bring on their own; no background music or sound effects.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Selection & Relevance – 10, Expression & Voice Modulation – 15, Body Language & Stage Presence – 10, Diction & Clarity – 5, Answering Skills – 5, Overall Impact – 5.

6. Verbal Quadrathlon

- Participation: 1 team of 3 participants per school. All three members play through all four rounds together.
- Round 1 – Dumb Charades (90 seconds): One team member enacts a word/phrase given by the moderator (no speaking, sounds, or mouthing words) while the other two guess. 10 points for a correct guess within time.
- Round 2 – Pictionary (90 seconds): One team member draws clues for a given word/phrase (no letters, numbers, or verbal hints) while the other two guess. 10 points for a correct guess within time.
- Round 3 – Etymology Quiz: The team is asked questions about word origins and meanings within a time limit; 10 points per correct answer.
- Round 4 – Spell Bee (Buzzer Round) : The teams will be asked questions related to Correct (British) Pronunciations, One Word Substitutions, Jumbled Words, etc.
- Scoring: Cumulative points across all four rounds; highest total wins. Tie broken by a sudden-death word (spelling or etymology, moderator's choice).
- Rules: No prompting from teammates outside the acting/drawing member's turn in Rounds 1–2; only the chart paper/marker provided may be used for Pictionary — no props; total event time capped at approximately 15–20 minutes per team; moderator's decision on acceptable guesses/answers is final.

Offstage Events

7. Collage

- Participation: 1 team of 2 participants per school.
- Theme: Given on the spot. Time: 2 hours.
- Rules: Only scissors, glue, paper cuttings/newspapers/magazines allowed; no pre-prepared material; chart paper will be provided.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Creativity – 15, Neatness – 10, Theme Relevance – 15, Overall Impact – 10.

8. Robo-Race

- Participation: 1 team of 3 participants per school.
- Robot: Must be built from scratch (not pre-assembled kits); battery powered; autonomous or remote-controlled.
- Track Obstacles: Width of the track will be 12 inches — inclined bridge, shallow water, sand patch, marble heap, sharp turns. Time: Max 5 minutes per run.
- Scoring (95 + 5 bonus): Completion Time – 20 (–1 per 30s after 5 min), Obstacle Handling – 50, Robot Design & Stability – 15, Team Coordination – 10, Bonus – +5 if fully autonomous.
- General Rules: No external touching/assistance; start and finish at designated lines; judges' decision final; safe wiring, no hazardous materials.

9. Poetry Writing (Versify)

- Participation: 1 participant per school.
- Format: A theme will be given on the spot. Participants write an original poem in English within 45 minutes (minimum 12 lines).
- Rules: No pre-written or pre-memorized content; participants bring their own writing materials; plagiarism will lead to disqualification.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Theme Relevance – 15, Creativity & Originality – 15, Language & Expression – 10, Structure & Rhythm – 10.

Group Dance (Category A & B Combined)

An event open to students of both Category A and Category B, performing together as one school team.

- Participation: One team per school — minimum 6, maximum 12 participants, comprising students of Category A and/or Category B.
- These participants are counted within, and must not exceed, each student's respective category allowance under the overall 20-student delegation cap (max. 10 from Category A, max. 10 from Category B).
- Theme: Cultural Fusion.
- Duration: Maximum 8 minutes, including entry and exit.
- Rules: Own choreography and music track (to be submitted in advance); costumes and content must be appropriate for a school audience; props allowed within safety norms, but must be arranged by the participating team itself; no vulgarity or inappropriate gestures.
- Judging Criteria (50 Marks): Choreography & Creativity – 15, Synchronization – 15, Costume & Presentation – 10, Energy & Stage Presence – 10.

Note: Certificates and a Special Trophy will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in Group Dance, but points earned in this event do NOT contribute to the Category A/B point tally — it will instead be used for the Overall Championship.



EXCELSIA 2026

A Celebration of Ideas and Expression

Registration Form

Please fill the form using BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS. Last date for registration: Monday, August 31, 2026.

School Name	
Accompanying Teacher's Name	
Accompanying Teacher's Mobile	
Accompanying Teacher's Email	

Note: Each school's total delegation must not exceed 20 students (max. 10 from Category A, max. 10 from Category B). Please be mindful of parallel events when selecting the participants.

Category A (Class 11 & 12) — up to 10 participants

Sr.	Name of the Participant	Class & Sec.	DOB	Event Code(s)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Category B (Class 9 & 10) — up to 10 participants

Sr.	Name of the Participant	Class & Sec.	DOB	Event Code(s)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Group Dance Team (min. 6, max. 12 — may combine Category A & B students)

Sr.	Name of the Participant	Category (A/B)	Class & Sec.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

Event Code and Names

Category A	Category B
A1. Computer Programming	B1. Collage Making
A2. English Debate	B2. English Debate
A3. General Quiz	B3. General Quiz
A4. Group Discussion (GD)	B4. Monologue
A5. Hindi Debate	B5. Half A Minute (HAM)
A6. Just A Minute (JAM)	B6. Hindi Debate
A7. Poster Making	B7. Robo-Race
A8. Poetry Writing (Versify)	B8. Poetry Writing (Versify)
A9. Verbal Quadrathlon	B9. Verbal Quadrathlon

Combined Event (Category A & B)
G1. Group Dance — points do not count toward the Category A/B tally; counted toward the Overall Championship only

Principal's Seal & Signature