



ENCORE



The illustration features a dark blue background. At the top, two large, grid-patterned Christmas ornaments hang from thin lines. The left ornament is blue and the right is pink. Both have a small yellow star on their surface. Scattered around the ornaments are several yellow four-pointed stars and small blue and pink dots. Below the ornaments, two musical notes are visible: a blue one on the left and a pink one on the right. The word 'ENCORE' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters across the center. Below the text, there are two bright, diagonal beams of light, one blue on the left and one pink on the right, pointing upwards. At the bottom, a crowd of people is shown from the chest up, with their heads in silhouette and their arms raised in the air. The hands and arms are colored in shades of blue and pink, matching the overall color scheme.

EDITORIAL

Staff Editor:

Miss Rodrigues

Student Editor:

Alyssa Vora

Writers:

Vedika Shah

Shriya Kothari

Inaya Vora

Anvika Nevatia

Amara Putcha

Sanaa Seksaria

Anaya Vazirani

Jia Laud

Anaya Meghani

Pia Shah

Varsha Reddy

Sanaya Kotecha

Laxmi Santhanam

Raina Kothari

Aryana Putcha

Gaurika Chhabria

Ananya Kanodia

Vanika Bubna

Hazel Sonawala

Designers:

Pia Shah

Trisha Sharma

Anaya Vazirani

Akshat Sanghi

Anishka Harlalka

Every school has its traditions, but few have grown into something as beloved and eagerly anticipated as Encore. For years, this musical event has lit up our stage, bringing together the best of Cathedral's talent, creativity, and spirit. This year, as we celebrate an extraordinary 165 years of our school's legacy, Encore 2025 feels more special than ever.

There's always a certain feeling in the air as December approaches, an unmistakable mix of excitement, chaos and the realisation that the year really *is* ending. You can hear students debating which band will get the loudest applause, groups scrambling to put together their backing tracks, and juniors buzzing at the thought of their first real Encore night. Suddenly, every school day starts to feel like a countdown.

Within these pages, you'll meet the performers who give Encore its charm: bands whose chemistry lights up the stage, singers who can blow away audiences with a single note, and dancers who make every step look effortless. You'll also find the behind-the-scenes heroes: the organising committee that ensures every detail comes together, the decoration team who make every corner of the school look magical, and the teachers who somehow keep everything running smoothly while cheering us on every step of the way.

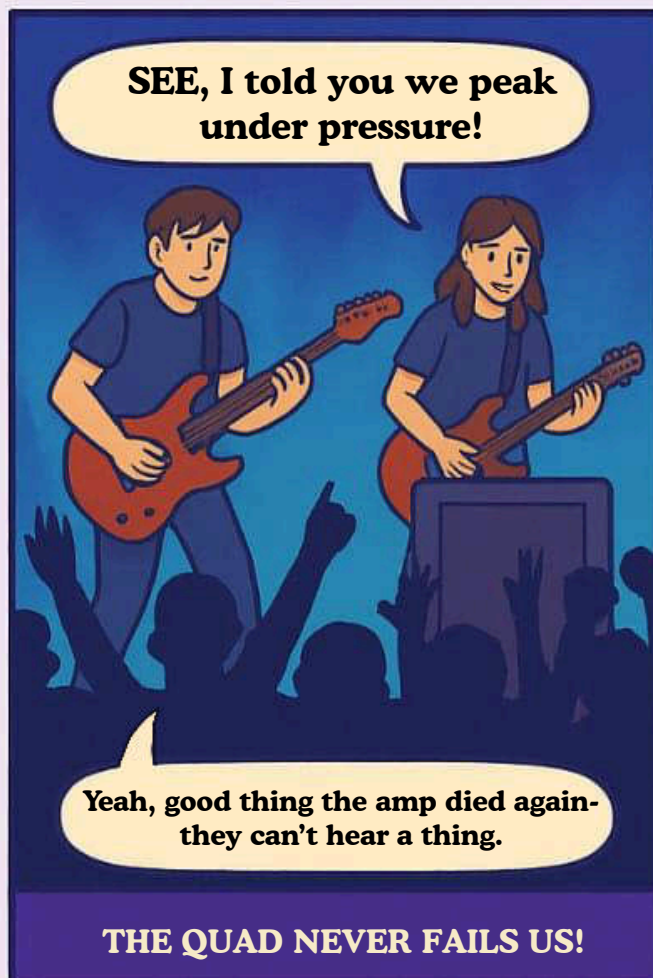
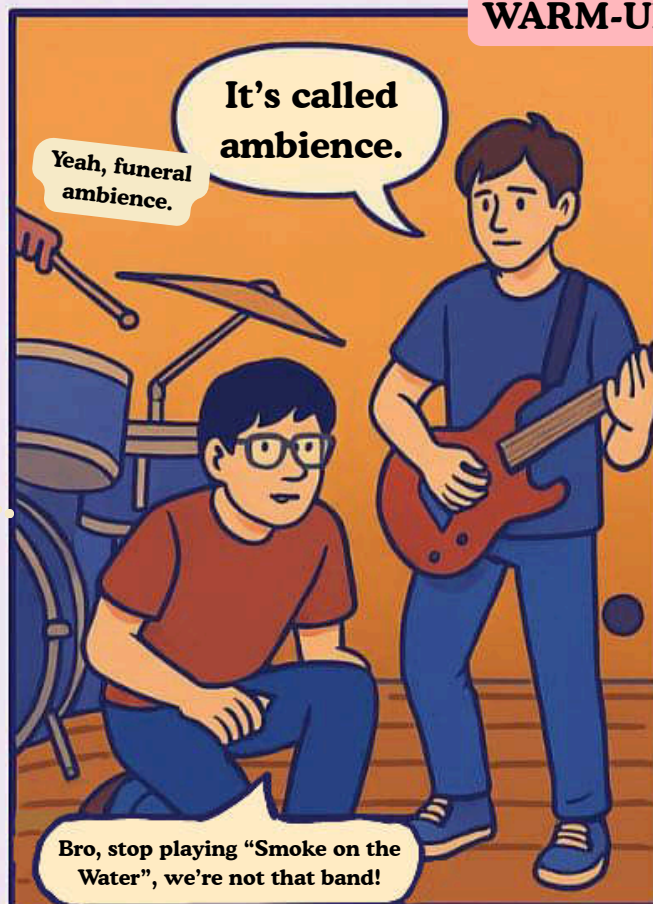
What makes Encore stand out, year after year, is how it brings us together. Whether you're performing under the lights, dancing across the stage, or clapping till your hands hurt, Encore is a night that stays with each of us long after the speakers have turned off. See you there!

It's been an honour,
Happy reading!
Alyssa Vora



Band Practice: The Quad Chronicles

WARM-UP



SOLOS

Interviewer: How would you describe yourself?

Liana: I'd say I'm loyal, helpful, and fun. I come off as shy at first, but once I'm comfortable, I can talk endlessly and usually end up making everyone laugh at the most random moments. I do have this habit of laughing at the worst possible times though.

Interviewer: What does music mean to you?

Liana: Music has always been a space for me to express my feelings and emotions. My comfort song is Yellow by Coldplay; it can lift my mood instantly and I always feel better after listening to it.

Interviewer: Do you have any artists or performances that inspire you?

Liana: Definitely. I look up to artists like Billie Eilish and Taylor Swift. My dream venue would be Wembley Stadium in London; the energy there is unmatched, and the idea of performing where they once stood feels unreal.



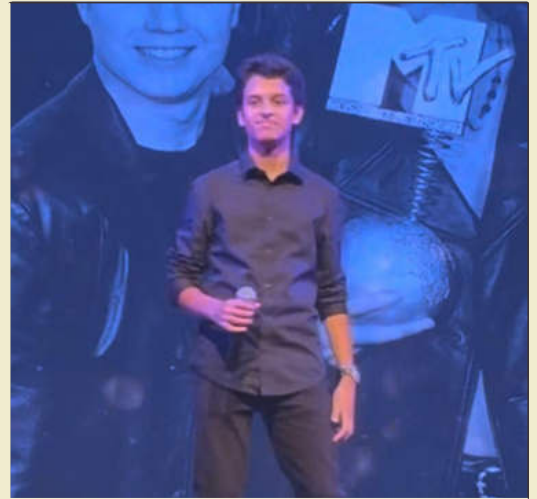
Liana Advani



Annika Nair

You've probably - no, definitely heard Annika perform on stage before, maybe at Studio 165, last years' Encore or her melodious Instagram music covers. Annika Nair's voice is nothing short of angelic - soothing, perfect pitch and extremely sweet, like how she is on the outside. She's warm, gentle and kind and her polite personality is amplified by her voice. Annika is taking us through a short blast from the past, a medley of 'Ain't no Mountain High Enough' by Marvin Gaye and 'My Girl' by the Temptations. Make sure to catch her performance. She takes inspiration from many artists, especially Olivia Dean; she finds her music unique and fun to listen to. She also loves pop artists like Coldplay, Fleetwood Mac, Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars as well as old music and jazz!

Meet the talented Zayn Marker, who will be performing 'Circles' by Post Malone this year. When asked why he chose the song, he said, "It's a song everyone connects with; it's chill and just a vibe. It's smooth, catchy, and although it's not a new song, it's a timeless hit." However Zayn's passion for music doesn't just stop at singing: he plays the piano, drums and even the ukulele! It's clear that music has been a part of his life from the very beginning, with his first solo performance at just six years old. Outside of music, Zayn's hobbies include sketching, table tennis and badminton. Described by his friends as funny, chill and kind, Zayn is someone who puts his heart and full effort into everything he does. With his mix of talent and creativity he is sure to bring something special to the stage this year!



Zayn Marker

Avantika Bhagat

Interviewer: What song will you be performing at Encore 2025?

Avantika: If I Ain't Got You by Alicia Keys.

Interviewer: Why did you choose this song? Do you have any special connection to it?

Avantika: It's a very well known song and honestly, it fits my voice pretty nicely. It suits my range and I genuinely enjoy performing it! Also, I love Alicia Keys: she is truly an amazing artist!

Interviewer: Did you face any challenges while preparing it?

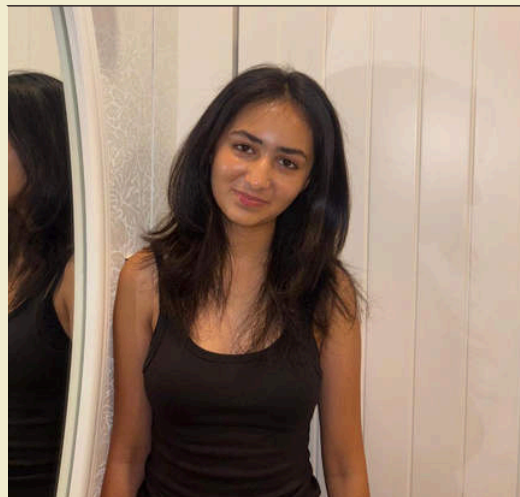
Avantika: Oh, absolutely. I realised that the original key I was singing in was way too high for me to sing in chest voice. Once I lowered the pitch, it was perfect for my voice!

Interviewer: Avantika, how do you deal with nerves before performing?

Avantika: I imagine the performance being over already! It's weirdly helpful. I remind myself that I have practiced and that it will be over before I know it!



Whether it's athletics, instruments, or singing, Renee's got it covered. She's been an avid reader since she first picked up a book, ranging from Harry Potter to historical fiction. Her beautiful voice is easily complimented by her incredible talent on the guitar. Even with a busy schedule, she finds time for her hobbies, from crocheting to spending time with her two cats. Although she hasn't participated in Encore before, this definitely isn't her first performance. When asked what song she would be performing, she said, "I'm doing Vienna. The first time someone performed it, I was in awe and I knew it would be my song for this year." Renee's passion for her music is what makes her so genuine and dedicated. She brings heart to every stage she performs on. So keep an eye out for Renee Motwani, a performer you won't be able to forget!



Renee Motwani



Akshat Sanghi

Interviewer:. How do your friends describe you?
Akshat: Chaotic, funny, and book smart but street dumb. My friend calls me AkS47 (yes like the assault rifle). I also love cracking Brooklyn 99 jokes in the middle class and being told to shut up. It's not my fault they don't have a sense of humour. All jokes aside, without Ashhita, Nishant and Aryansh, I honestly wouldn't be here today. Oh also, I forgot to mention, I make the notes for each GK test. Without my notes our whole grade would practically fail them. I'm not trying to boast here, just being honest.

Interviewer: Tell me a bit about your musical journey.

Akshat: I've actually written, recorded and produced an original song which I'm gonna release soon, so that's really cool. My dream venue to perform at has got to be the Emirates Stadium, London, which is Arsenal's stadium. I am Arsenal's BIGGEST fan so performing there would be insane.

Interviewer: What are you performing at Encore ?

Akshat: I'm performing 'I Think They Call This Love' at Encore this year. This song is so unique because it was released last year but if you listened to it, you would actually think it's from our parents' generation.



Interviewer: What's going through your mind when you think about your upcoming performance at Encore 25?

Anushka: A mix of excitement and nerves. I'm performing 'Die With a Smile', which is such an emotional song. I love slower songs, probably because I'm usually so exhausted from playing pickleball.

Interviewer: Tell me a bit more about yourself.

Anushka: Well, I play 3 instruments and even compose my own music. Besides music, I love playing pickleball and tennis and I've participated in multiple competitions. I also love public speaking and participating in elocution competitions. If you can't find me, just check CCI, you'll find me at the pickleball courts!

Interviewer: Wait, you play pickleball and perform on stage?

Anushka: Yeah. I'm actually representing India at the Pickleball World Cup 2025 in Fort Lauderdale. It's been a crazy journey balancing both, but I love having both in my life. I honestly can't imagine life without music and pickleball.



Anushka Chhabria



Meher Singh

Interviewer: So, what song are you singing this year?

Meher: She Will be Loved by Maroon 5

Interviewer: Okay, bold choice. Why that one? Did it pick you or did you panic-scroll through Spotify the night before auditions?

Meher: I was panic scrolling through Spotify the night before auditions and landed on it.

Interviewer: What's your pre-performance routine?

Meher: Honestly just hoping and praying that I don't completely mess up

Interviewer: If you could say one thing to the audience before you start singing, what would it be?

Meher: Ummm, I hope you like my performance?

Interviewer: First question, who or what inspires your music the most?

Ayesha: Well, I've been singing since I was a kid, and have always been encouraged by my family, so probably them. My friends also always support me and make singing a lot more fun.

Interviewer: If you had to pick a favourite artist, who would it be?

Ayesha: I would probably pick Tate Mcrae, She inspires my music quite a bit.

Interviewer: What has been your most embarrassing memory from singing rehearsals?

Ayesha: Well, my friends always make rehearsals funny somehow, but one particular time I was singing and midway through I started to sing the wrong song from my previous performance, so that was definitely a bit embarrassing for me.



Ayesha Advani



Garvit Sood

Interviewer: Why have you decided to Encore this year?

Garvit: I watched it last year, and thought it would be really, really fun to, you know, perform in front of my friends. This year, I thought I should participate in more events, so I just decided to do it.

Interviewer: What are you doing and how do you feel about it? Have you ever been on a stage before?

Garvit: So, I'm singing. I was a bit nervous before my audition, but I practiced the song, so I felt comfortable with it. I'm singing Sunday Morning, by Maroon 5. And yeah, I've been on a stage many times before. I did Studio 165 this year, too. So not too nervous right now.

Interviewer: Tell us a bit about yourself. Do you have a plan for performing?

Garvit: I like singing, as well as speech and drama. I normally prefer doing duets, but this time my partner backed out, so I'm doing a solo.



Interviewer: What song are you performing for Encore, and why did you choose it?

Sara: I'm performing 'Hero' by Mariah Carey. I chose it because it's a song that needs a lot of technique and I've performed it before, at other concerts too, so I feel really confident with it. I really like the song in general too.

Interviewer: When did you start singing?

Sara: I started singing at 5 years old. When I was younger, I would listen to songs by Katy Perry and Taylor Swift and that's really when I felt connected to music. I started singing professionally and joined my first band when I was 8 years old.

Interviewer: What's the first song you ever performed in front of people?

Sara: The first song I ever performed in front of people was 'Enchanted' by Taylor Swift. I was 8 years old and performing at the NCPA for the very first time.



Sara Deshpande



Interviewer: What are you most looking forward to this Encore?

Trisha: The whole experience, really. I'm more excited for the other performers than my own performance, to be honest.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to choose this song?

Trisha: I love pretty much everything Olivia Rodrigo. I also just chose something that I think suited my voice and was well-known.

Interviewer: What made music special to you?

Trisha: I've always loved to sing, and I'm a big fan of music. Eventually, it got to a point where I'd start picking up things from movies and soundtracks, so I began playing a few instruments, and failed horribly. (laughs). But now I play the guitar, and I love it so much.

Interviewer: Besides the guitar, what instrument would you most want to learn?

Trisha: The violin. I want to desperately play the violin, but I don't think I'd ever be able to master it.



Trisha Sharma



Interviewer: What song are you performing this year, and how did you choose it?

Saisha: The song I'm performing this year is *Steal My Girl* by One Direction. I actually chose it just two days before the audition! The original song I had planned to sing was already taken by someone else. One Direction happens to be my absolute favourite band, so I figured why not go with something I really love singing. The track is upbeat and fun and it always gets me excited whenever I perform it.

Interviewer: Outside of singing, what are some of your other interests?

Saisha: Besides singing, I really enjoy playing the piano, reading books, and getting out for some badminton. Music has always played a major role in my life, the piano gives me another way to express myself.



Saisha Mehta



Shivam Hemchand

Interviewer: Firstly, just to start off, introduce yourself, your act and your musical journey.

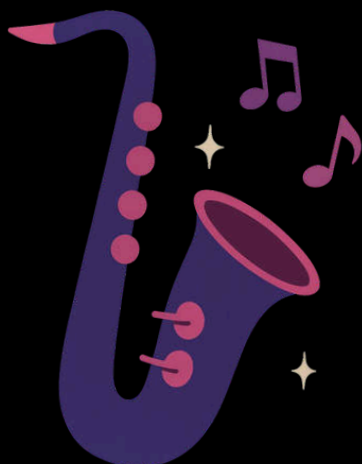
Shivam: My name is Shivam Hemchand and I'm in the 12th grade. My friends like to call me Shivam Hemchand because I'm him. So, I'm performing 'Night Changes' as a solo act, which makes me quite happy since I'm the only solo act in the 12th grade. I started singing in the 5th grade, went into singing class, and have been doing Trinity exams for vocal pop and rock since then. I'm currently on Grade 7, and it's my first time performing in front of a big crowd so I'm excited.

Interviewer: What's your favourite song at the moment?

Shivam: Wait, let's read my playlist....Let's see.... Lowkey it changes everyday. But today I'm feeling "Is There Someone Else" by The Weeknd.

Interviewer: Lastly, what's your favourite memory from encore?

Shivam: Probably when Abhinav Shah started dancing in the crowd in the 10th crowd. Everyone formed a circle around him and he literally became the act, he became the centre of attention. He looked crazy. It was hilarious because the actual act was still on stage.



Meet Riddhima, multi-instrumentalist, Laufey superfan and incredibly talented vocalist. She's loved music for longer than she can remember, some of her favorite artists are The Marias, Paramore and of course, Laufey. She adores all genres of music from soul to hard rock, in other words, you can always go to her for incredible song recommendations. Among her many talents, Riddhima is an academic weapon (but she'll do everything she can to deny it) and you can count on finding her in a classroom studying in break and lunch every single day even though her friends spend 10 minutes trying to convince her to stop. The only way you'd be able to get her away from her work is to bribe her with a lifetime's supply of boba and then some or you could always lure her away with a good Agatha Christie book (good luck trying to find one she hasn't read yet) and some true crime.



Riddhima Shukla



Ira Jain



Interviewer: First off, introduce yourself and tell us what song you're performing.

Ira: My name is Ira Jain, and I'll be singing 'Orange Coloured Sky' by Nat 'King' Cole

Interviewer: What are you the most excited for at Encore this year?

Ira: I'm the most excited to see the bands perform together. There's always such good energy when everyone's on stage at once.

Interviewer: Do you have any pre-performance rituals you can't go without?

Ira: Before performing, I always drink honey-ginger-lemon tea to soothe my voice and do a few quick warm-ups to get my voice going.

Interviewer: Finally, why did you want to perform at Encore?

Ira: I've always heard a lot from my seniors about Encore being our school's most exciting event, so that's why I am so excited to participate and sing this year!

Born with a mic in hand and mentally choreographing a dance routine, music has always been the soundtrack to Laxmi's life. Thanks to her dad, she was exposed to rock classics from an early age, and still holds a soft spot for old rock. Her dedication to music shines through every Sunday, as she sets off for church to uphold her prized choral scholarship, equipped with her hymnal and 3 hours of sleep. She prides herself on discovering underground artists; any Backseat Lovers reference is the quickest way to earn brownie points with her. The aspiring therapist is also a living paradox: she needs constant words of affirmation to get through one Math HL block. This year, at her 3rd Encore, we'll have the pleasure of hearing Laxmi sing Rihanna's classic, 'Love on the Brain'.



Laxmi Santhanam

Anaya Chopra

Interviewer: First off, what song will you be performing this year?

Anaya: I'll be performing Set Fire to the Rain by Adele.

Interviewer: Is there something about this song that made you want to choose it?

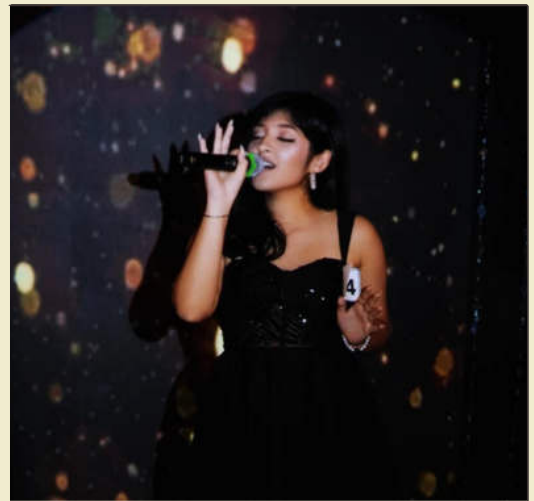
Anaya: I like this song and I think it has a very impressive vocal range which is definitely not easy but I wanted to challenge myself.

Interviewer: Who would you say are your biggest supporters?

Anaya: (laughs) I'd have to say either Sana or Advay. They'll be hyping me up way too much before my performance.



Meet Nazneen, friendly, funny and an unbelievably talented soprano who uncannily sounds just like Sabrina Carpenter. She's performing an old Justin Bieber classic, 'Eenie Meenie', but in a new style. Along with football and debate, singing was just a hobby for her before it grew in the last 7 years, and now makes her happiest. When asked about her feelings for Encore this year she replied, "I'm extremely excited because it's my first Encore as a new student. After participating in Studio 165, I'm so excited to share the stage with so many talented singers again." Inspired by the music careers of artists such as Adele and Billie Eilish, we're certain her performance will be electrifying, so make sure to look out for her!



**Nazneen
Lokhandwala**



Shanaya Kacheria

Interviewer: So, first things first, what are you performing?

Shanaya: I'm performing Somebody to You by BANNERS.

Interviewer: What's your favourite lyric from the song?

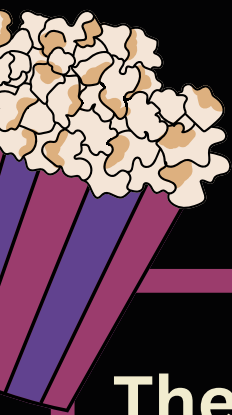
Shanaya: 'The kingdom come, the rise, the fall, the setting sun above it all, I just wanna be somebody to you.'

Interviewer: What usually goes through your mind when you're on stage?

Shanaya: Honestly, I just feel this rush of confidence. Performing gives me this completely different feeling, like, I'm just in my element.

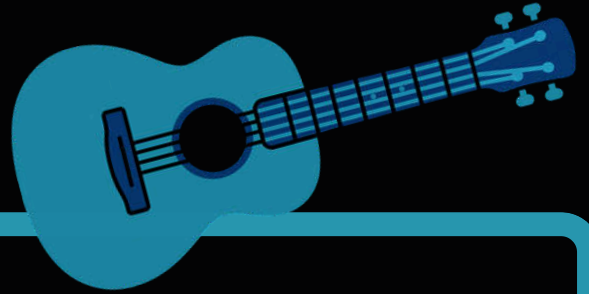


ENCORE BINGO



The Snack Seeker

Loading up on coupons and spending the evening by the food stalls, we all know somebody who camps out in the stilted area during Encore.



The Ballad Belter

Heartbroken, lonely, and ready to shriek their sorrows away, you can find them in the front row during a slow, acoustic song, belting every lyric.



The Cheer Captain

The ultimate supportive best friend to every performer, this person dances, claps, cheers, and sings along for every act, having the best time hyping others up.

The Encore Veteran

Loyal to tradition, they shows up to the gate an hour early, claiming their usual spot and reminiscing about how last year's crowd just hit different.





The Front Row Fans

Every Encore comes with a group of people standing right by the stage, screaming every lyric (they know them by heart) and embodying the true spirit of Encore.

The Paparazzi Parent

Cameras in hand and balancing on a chair to record, each year an enthusiastic parents can be found cheering the loudest and embarrassing their kids just the right amount.

The Rockstar

There's always that one performer channeling his inner Axel Rose, whether on vocals or guitar or even drums, owning the stage as the crowd goes wild with every note!

The Group Act

Whether it's a dance circle or a band of multi-talented friends who, without any practice, still manage to pull it together, this group guarantees there will never be a dull moment when they take the stage.



Rehearsal Rituals



We all stand in a circle and chant the lyrics of the song we are going to perform. It helps us stay calm and remember the lyrics. Our vocalists both pop a pack of cough drops each, and our drummer bangs the wall to the tempo of the song.

— Meher Singh, Dhruv Anand, Elisha Rajpal, Yohaán Mathur, Samvir Sujan

We play 'Just Dance' to warm up.

—Vritika Sampat, Samaya Vaidya, Kimaya Agrawal, Nysha Karnavat, Niharika Dujodwala, Aneesha Vora



For our band, it's all about syncing our energy and ironing out the small details that make a big difference. We always run through the tricky parts, especially the transitions between two songs, until they flow seamlessly. Our drummer has this hilarious (but effective) ritual of shutting his ears to lock into the beat, while the rest of us focus on catching each other's cues.

— Nyrika Mehta, Zreh Adajania, Saniddhya Jain, Ranveer Chainani, Krish Chandra, Arjun Dugar

I usually look straight at my friends, I look for them in the crowd, and usually they're annoying but it's nice to see faces cheering me on, calms my nerves.

— Akshat Sanghi



DUETS



**Annika and
Anvika**



Interviewer: What song are you two singing this year, and how did you land on it?

Anvika: Last year we decided on our songs at the last minute, so this year we wanted to be prepared in advance, so we could get a song we liked.

Annika: So this year, we are doing a medley of 'Locked Out of Heaven' and 'Can't Take my Eyes Off You' and I came up with this idea while randomly listening to this song. I thought that the two merged perfectly and sounded like one, and both the songs are very well known and popular.

Interviewer: What's the funniest or most random thing that's happened during a rehearsal?

Anvika: One time during rehearsal, Annika completely blanked on the lyrics, so she just started making up lyrics on the spot. I was trying so hard not to laugh while still playing the sax.

Annika: Hey! It was pretty good.

Interviewer: So, how did you two decide to perform together?

Zreh: Arnav's a big fan of mine, so he asked me to perform together after my performance last year.

Interviewer: What's the hardest part about singing as a duet?

Zreh: (annoyed) Arnav can't rap at all, so he needs to be coached...

Arnav: Hey! I'm not that bad.

Interviewer: How many times did you two argue during rehearsals or the tryout?

Arnav: We argued about the songs quite a lot. Zreh even made me try out a few of them for him, but at the end of the day he could beat me up, so I had to listen.



Zreh and Arnav



Interviewer: Firstly, why did you decide to perform together?

Dhruv: Honestly, I only agreed because Yohann's paying me to perform with him. I'm a gold digger at this point.

Yohann: That's really not true. I just thought that we would have insane aura together, right

Dhruv?

Interviewer: Describe your Duet partner in one word

Dhruv: Overconfident. He messes up with confidence; it's actually pretty (hard) impressive. He hits a wrong note but covers it up so well you don't even realise he messes up.

Yohann: (offended) Off-beat.

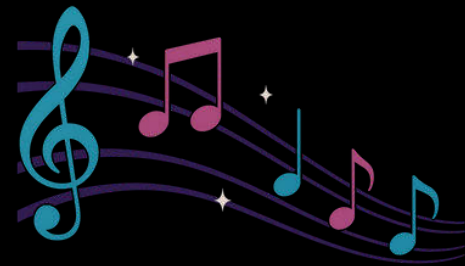
Dhruv: Are you crazy? I'm the most on-tempo person ever. You're just jealous.

Interviewer: What's the hardest part about performing together?

Dhruv: Me. Apparently I 'lack stage presence'. Whatever that means. Also, my amp never works.

Yohann: It works. He just forgets to turn it on every single time...

Dhruv: Lies. Technical malfunction.



Natasha and Zaarah

Interviewer: What's your duet name?

Natasha: We haven't really thought of one.

Zaarah: Yeah, how come?

Natasha: Because you were too focused on whether ur chest voice or head voice sounded better

Zaarah: Hey! It's a valid question.

Interviewer: Which song are you guys performing?

Zaarah: Riptide

Natasha: By Vance Joy.

Zaarah: (side-eyes her) Everyone knows who sang Riptide

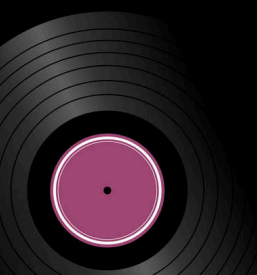
Interviewer: What are practices like?

Natasha: We take a break every five minutes to eat or gossip.

Zaarah: Yeah, I don't think we took them seriously enough.

Natasha: And whose fault is that?

Zaarah: (rolls her eyes)



Interviewer: So, how did you both decide to perform together this year?

Akaisha: We...actually, I don't even know.

Anushka: We were both friends, and we both like singing, so I guess we just decided to do it together.

Akaisha: We thought it would be a fun experience performing together.

Interviewer: And what about the song? How did you pick that?

Anushka: The process for picking the song was crazy

Akaisha: Yeah, every other song we wanted was already taken, so we thought of 'We Don't Talk Anymore', and it just worked.

Interviewer: Every duo has a dynamic. Is there a funny one? Or a bossy one?

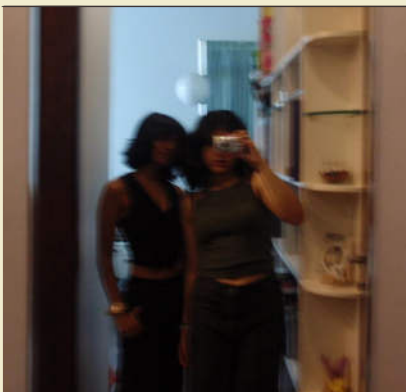
Anushka: I don't think so?

Akaisha: (points to Anushka and laughs) No, but Anushka's actually really sweet and chill.

Anushka: Hmm, nice save. Akaisha's super sweet too, and I have fun with her.



**Akaisha and
Anushka**



**Divya and
Nyriicka**

Interviewer: What song are you guys singing?

Divya: (they both look at each other conspiratorially) It's a surprise

Interviewer: Why did you guys pick this mystery song?

Nyriicka: I'm gonna be so honest with you, I was just scrolling through my Spotify and we both found a song we liked.

Interviewer: What are practices like?

Divya: (looks confused) Practices??

Nyriicka: Yeah, we've had two practices so far.

Divya: You mean the ones before the audition?

(Nyriicka has no comment)

Interviewer: Who's most likely to have a nervous breakdown before the performance?

Divya: Honestly, both of us

Nyriicka: Yeah, it's a problem. Hey, we can add a little extra surprise to our duet and have a meltdown mid-performance.



Interviewer: What song are you performing and why did you choose this song?

Aadhya: We're singing 'The A Team' by Ed Sheeran.

Maya: It took really long to come to decide because we were trying to find something that the crowd could enjoy and sing along to while not being too dull or too hyped up. We tried out around 7-10 songs and landed up with this.

Interviewer: What is it like working together?

Maya: It's really great working with Aadhya because we both know how to compromise and take each other's ideas into account.

Aadhya: Yeah, working together is super fun.

Interviewer: What are you most excited about for encore?

Maya: I'm most excited about the band performances. I feel that they get everyone really excited and they're the most entertaining. Honestly, every single performance during Encore is so much fun to watch.

Aadhya: Yeah, and I'm excited to have a good time with my friends!



**Maya and
Aadhya**



**Raina and
Myra**

Interviewer: To start, which song have you guys decided to sing this year?

Raina: So, that's an iffy topic, but 'Electric Love'. Wait, by who?

Myra: By Børns.

Raina: Oh yeah, with the slashed 'O'.

Interviewer: What made you choose this song?

Myra: Because we had no other option.

Raina: Yeah, we decided a second before the Google Sheet closed.

Interviewer: How would you describe the dynamic between you two?

Myra: (pauses) We genuinely don't like each other.

Raina: Yeah, it's not even a love-hate relationship, we just hate each other.

Interviewer: Describe each other in 3 words.

Myra: (laughs) What do I even say?

Raina: Perpetually always injured.

Myra: (clearly offended) Shut up, Raina. Yeah, those are my 3 words. Shut up, Raina.





Aditi and Divija



Interviewer: Okay, so first off, what will you all be performing at Encore this year?

Aditi: Mamma Mia.

Interviewer: Who's more likely to mess up and pretend it's all part of the act?

Divija: Me.

Aditi: 100%

Interviewer: What's one thing you've learned from each other through this?

Aditi: Like, teamwork and understanding each other, probably.

Divija: That-that's so idealistic. I love it.

Varsha: Is there anything you plan to do before getting on stage? Like, a pre-performance ritual?

Aditi: Yeah, I think we're gonna do-

Divija: I think I'll probably just start crying.

Interviewer: To start with, which song have you guys decided to sing this year?

Laxmi: We're singing Teenage Dirtbag.

Ananya: By Wheatus.

Interviewer: What made y'all decide to sing this?

Laxmi: We couldn't find anything else.

Ananya: Our mutual love for the song.

Interviewer: Who's the perfectionist and who's the chill one?

Ananya: I think both of us are chill.

Laxmi: Too chill. We haven't practiced.

Interviewer: Describe each other in one word.

Ananya: Weird.

Laxmi: (heavy on the sarcasm) Aww, you're so sweet. Studios.

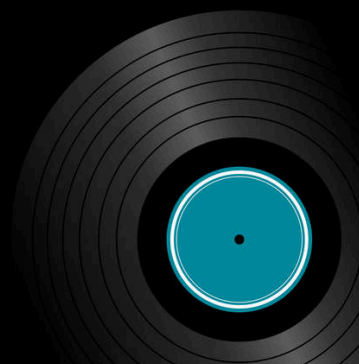
Interviewer: Describe the dynamic between you two in one word.

Ananya: Sidequesty. We go on random sidequests.

Laxmi: Yeah, we started doing karaoke instead of practicing.



Laxmi and Ananya





**Juhi, Sanaa,
and Maya**



Interviewer: Why did you guys decide to perform together?

Maya: Sanaa and Juhi discovered how well their voices go together during school play auditions. Since we're all huge music fans and also good friends, we decided to do this together

Interviewer: What are your practices usually like?

Sanaa: Just chatting mostly.

Juhi: And Maya testing out the piano while Sanaa and I dance to random songs.

Maya: There's also usually a lot of eating

Interviewer: Have there been any incidents during practice?

Maya: The broken C on Juhi's piano made things interesting during one practice.

Juhi: Yeah, we also sent the wrong track for auditions and sent Maya the wrong scale to learn chords on.

Interviewer: What song will you be performing this year?

Both: Mirrors by Justin Timberlake.

Interviewer: Any reason for choosing that song?

Raghav: I sent him a picture of my playlist and he rejected literally every song. Then, he just suggested 'Mirrors' so I agreed.

Ansh: Yeah, Raghav was so bad he couldn't sing anything else.

Interviewer: Okay, next tell me a fun fact about each other.

Raghav: Ok, so Ansh is basically a vampire. He sleeps, like, three hours every four days and then he just comes to school completely normal.

Ansh: Raghav is insanely obsessed with perfumes and he claims he was the first one to start liking perfumes

Raghav: Yeah, I mean I was.

Interviewer: What are you expecting your performance to be like?

Ansh: Everyone will probably be chanting 'Auraghav' and they better be singing with us.

Raghav: Yeah! We'll be better than you and Maira for sure!



**Ansh and
Raghav**





Vir and Fia

Interviewer: If you two were an iconic duo, who would y'all be?

Fia: We've thought of this before.

Vir: I think that duo from Camp Rock. Those two. Shane Gray and...

Fia: Mitchie Torres!

Vir: Yep, them for sure.

Interviewer: Who first approached the other to sing together?

Vir: I told Fia.

Fia: He said, "We're singing at Encore."

Vir: Yeah, I didn't really ask her.

Fia: I basically had no choice.

Interviewer: What made you two decide to sing with each other?

Ansh: So you know how there's a limit of two acts right? So apparently, in the 10th grade I promised Maira that I would sing with her at Encore in the 12th, and I've been held to that promise ever since.

Maira: Yes

Ansh: (looks pointedly at Maira) This has restricted me from performing in other acts.

Interviewer: What is the best part about performing together?

Ansh: Uhhhh

Maira: (sarcastically) He sounds so good, everybody is going to be so touched by his singing!

Interviewer: What's the worst part about performing together?

Ansh: I have to sing with Maira.

Maira: He thinks I'm really bad

Ansh: No, she's not actually, she's been practicing

Maira: I have been practicing

Ansh: So she claims

Interviewer: If you had to perform with any artist or band

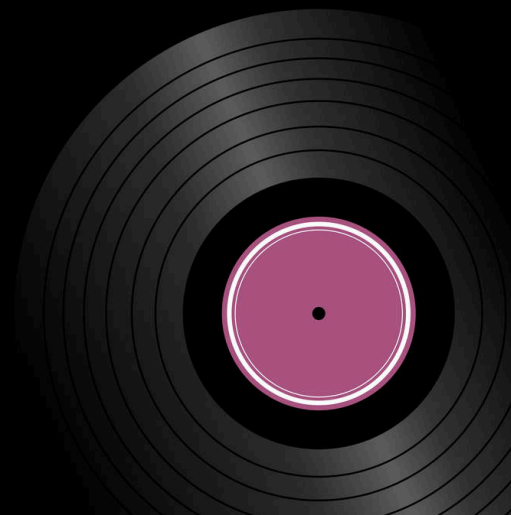
who would it be?

Ansh: Raghav and Ansh

Maira: So mean!



Ansh and Maira



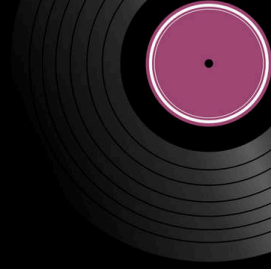
Mira and Aarna are ready to light up Encore 2025 with their performance of 'Birds of a Feather' by Billie Eilish. Their friendship, which began in sixth grade, forms the heart of their music. Mira, a singer since age four, balances singing with badminton, playing the piano, School Play rehearsals, studies and lots more. Aarna, who began singing seriously in the second grade, balances singing with football, cultural activities, baking and many other things. Their extracurricular lives are quite busy, yet they manage to carve out time for practices weekly.

Sometimes they practice during breaks to perfect their performance. They have 'half fun and half serious' practice sessions, complete with voice recordings to perfect their harmony. Yet, there are times they get distracted by karaoke sessions and pranks calls. Their song choice definitely reflects their bond and connection. "It's about friendship," says Aarna, "and really connects to people because everyone can relate to having someone special." Mira adds, "It's also super fun and sounds amazing when we perform together."



Mira and Aarna





Debunking Encore Myths

Every year, the whole school buzzes in anticipation of Encore, but with the growing excitement comes some rumours. Who's performing? Who actually practices? So let's debunk some common Encore myths.

Myth #1: Everyone has their song picked months in advance.

This is true, if by 'months' you mean 'two days before auditions'. No matter how talented or prepared a performer is, choosing a song is probably the hardest part of putting an act together. Whether it's a trending song from your Spotify playlist or a Coldplay/ Maroon 5 classic, finding the perfect song takes time. But, one thing's for sure, whatever song they end up with, every performer delivers it with style and confidence.

Myth #2: All the bands rehearse regularly before Encore

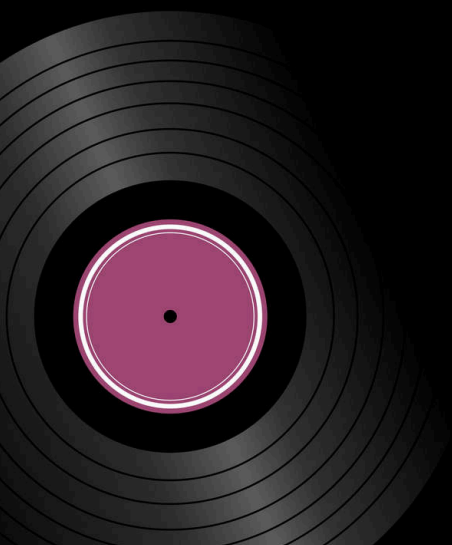
It's almost guaranteed that every band rehearsal will start off with the same questions: 'So, what song did we finally pick?', or 'When's the food getting here?' It's definitely not a bad thing: performers need fuel to go all out, but in all honesty, less than 50% of the time of 'band practice' is actually spent practicing. After a few solid runs, most bands end up just hanging out, gossiping or tracking their food delivery. Somehow, though, they always pull it together at the last minute and deliver a showstopping performance.

Myth #3: Teachers don't enjoy Encore

No matter how much effort teachers put in to organize it, you'll always see them smiling and dancing on the day of Encore (while keeping a watchful eye out for anything suspicious). After all, seeing their hard work pay off and their students making famous songs their own, makes it an unforgettable event for everyone!

Myth #4: The MCs improvise their lines

They do. And that's the problem! One former MC said, "We have a whole script. We just... never follow it." Another admitted, "Half the time, I'm smiling because I've completely forgotten what I'm supposed to say next." Truth be told, most MCs have a plan for about 10 seconds. After that, they've probably forgotten their lines. What's actually happening is two people arguing over who's speaking next! A teacher watching from backstage summed it up: "They look confident. That's how you know they're lying."





Encore Superlatives

The curtain hasn't risen yet, but the excitement for Encore 2025 certainly has. Amid the chaos December inevitably brings, students across the school have shared their thoughts on the upcoming performances. From the most anticipated act to the most dramatic one, here's the inside scoop.

When asked who the crowd favourite might be, the 12th grade boys' dance group dominated the votes. Consisting of Aaditya Agarwal, Aarush Sanghvi, Abhinav Shah, Ishaan Taparia, Kavish Pathak, Mirhaan Patel, Raghav Subandh, Neev Agarwal, Aarav Sagar, Shivam Hemchand, Vihaan Gupta, Vyom Gupta and Vir Gogia, this group was also declared the most likely to lose a shoe mid-performance.

Of course, no Encore is complete without a few surprises. Students voted Juhi Toprani, Sanaa Sakseria and Maya Dhawan as this year's most unexpected talent. Having performed at Encore before, their voices are sure to impress once again.

The title for best choreography was claimed by an 11th grade dance group featuring Hrida Kothari, Ishanvi Deshmukh, Ananya Surana, Kaina Vora and Ahana Bakliwal. Performing a beautiful medley, they're expected to have the crowd cheering from start to finish.

Finally, for overall best performance, one group stood out unanimously across nearly every grade. Tentatively named Inferno, this band, comprising Saniddhya Jain, Arjun Dugar, Krish Chandra, Ranveer Chainani, Zreh Adajania and Nyrika Mehta, has been recognised as one of Encore's most promising acts. Their explosive energy and commanding stage presence are sure to make their performance unforgettable.

As the countdown to showtime begins, Encore 2025 is shaping up to be much more than just a school event. With every act bringing something unique to the stage, it's set to be a night the audience won't forget anytime soon.

BANDS



THE COCONUTS

Interviewer: What songs are you doing this year, and how long did it take before someone said, “Guys, let’s just do Coldplay”?

Band: We’re doing ‘Cake by the Ocean’ and ‘Hard Times’. It took us a while to decide what songs to do but eventually we all gave up and chose these. Nobody actually suggested Coldplay, but the big debate was whether to do a Maroon 5 song or not.

Interviewer: Describe one band practice.

Band: We all show up and get in about 30 mins of half hearted practice after which all of us were done. For the next hour we basically just sat and gossiped and did absolutely no work knowing our audition was in a week.

Interviewer: Who’s the control freak? Who’s always late? Who shows up, sings one note, and claims they’re “saving their voice”?

Band: Tarini is 100% the control freak because she needs everything to go perfectly. Shriya is always late: I mean, I don’t think there’s been one practice where she’s been on time. And then there’s Alekha, who perpetually either has a cold or is saving her voice.

Meher, Dhruv, Elisha, Yohan, Samvir

Interviewer: Firstly, what song will you guys be performing at Encore 2025?

Dhruv: ‘That’s What makes You Beautiful’ and ‘This Love! We wanted to do something

nostalgic songs that take us back to our childhood that everyone knows!

Yohann: (grinning at Dhruv) Yeah, sure... some of us were definitely not thinking about someone special while singing.

Interviewer: What do your practice sessions usually look like?

Meher: Honestly? It’s mostly chaos, laughter, and zero productive work!

Dhruv: (laughing) Meher that is literally just YOU. I genuinely don’t think I have ever seen Meher with a straight face during practice!

Elisha: Right before every single practice, we buy three packs of lozenges, and they have all been eaten by Yohann before we even start!

Yohann: Sorry, it’s called vocal maintenance!



EXCALIBUR

Interviewer: If your band had a theme song, what would it be?

Mudit: Personally, I think Jana Gana Mana (also known as the National Anthem)

Zayn: That's not—that's not really applicable...

Mudit: The story is, on 26th January in Cooperage Bandstand, one of our first big performances. Aman had an incredible time playing Jana Gana Mana (still doesn't know the correct name) on his guitar in front of like 300-400 people...

Avantika: Basically Aman hadn't practiced and he played it really badly.

Mudit: It sounded nothing like the National Anthem.

Interviewer: Who is the biggest drama queen during rehearsals?

Avantika: (immediately) Aman.

Zayn: Mudit or Aman.

Aman: Why is this all directed at me! It has to be Ahaan!

Ahaan: That was one time!



Interviewer: What are band practices usually like?

Aman: So Mudit usually gets screamed at by Ahaan's mother. (He dropped ink on her couch

during one of their practices and she never forgot that day).

Zayn: Yeah, Mudit doesn't practice and he gets screamed at.

Mudit: Then Avantika is just on her phone and then her phone dies—

Avantika: (interrupting) I'm perfect! Nothing happens!

Mudit: She has some kind of mental breakdown when her phone dies. Practice goes on for two hours and then...we eat!



Aaditya, Nysha, Abhinav, Sia, Aditya

Interviewer: What song are you guys performing and why did you choose it?

Nysha and Sia: (immediately) We don't know.

Abhinav: We're doing like eight songs.

Aaditya: We're doing 'Mr Brightside' somewhere and that's all we know.

Nysha: And Coldplay!

Aaditya: And 'Everybody Talks'.

Abhinav: We'll have Aaditya rap somewhere in the middle.

Sia: (starts singing Summer Holiday) We're doing Summer Holiday because it reminds us of Infant School and we're graduating and we're sad.

Aaditya: Note that she said that while smiling...

Interviewer: Who is the most annoying member of the band?

Abhinav: (immediately) Nysha by miles! It's not even a question. She's never prepared.

Aaditya: She shows up and she's like, "Please give me long notes to play."

Abhinav: And Aaditya ends up teaching her.

Aaditya: (imitating Nysha) Please let me play 'Zombies'! Can I play a heavy metal song?

Sia: She never knows her stuff and she's like "Sorry guys."

Interviewer: If you had to describe each other with a song title what would it be?

Aaditya: I dubs 'Mr. Brightside'.

Nysha: You're not that bright though.

Sia: (for Nysha) Brat! That album.

Aaditya: Sia is 'The Winner Takes it All'.

Nysha: I'm not taking Brat as mine!

Aaditya: (looking at Sia pointedly) Note that I was complimenting you.

Abhinav: Doshi's is 'I'm Still Standing'.

Nysha: Guys I'm still not taking mine!

Aaditya: Ok, what theme do you want? Think of something.

Abhinav: 'Him' for the Weekend!

Aaditya: Oh, make Nysha 'Fix You(rself)'.





INFERNO (MAYBE)

Interviewer: What is your band's name and why did you choose it?

Krish: Isn't our band's name 'Inferno'?

Saniddhya: No! Scrap that question!

Krish: We would be the 'Fabulous Five'

Everyone else: There's six of us!

Interviewer: Who is the most talented member of the band?

Arjun: I'd have to say Krish.

Interviewer: Why?

Arjun: I mean, he's so resourceful. He didn't have a keyboard (note: he plays the keyboard for this band), so he went up and down in my building begging for a keyboard.

Nyrika: And he somehow found one too!

Interviewer: What are your practices like?

Nyrika: Chaos.

Saniddhya: Oh no.

Arjun: Krish just runs to the mini-fridge.

Nyrika: And it's at Dugar's house, so he also cooks for us.

Arjun: (a tear rolling down his cheek) They use me.

Interviewer: If you had to describe each other with a song title what would it be?

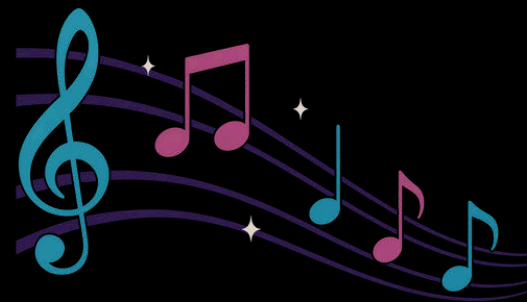
Krish: I would describe Arjun as 'Marry You' by Bruno Mars.

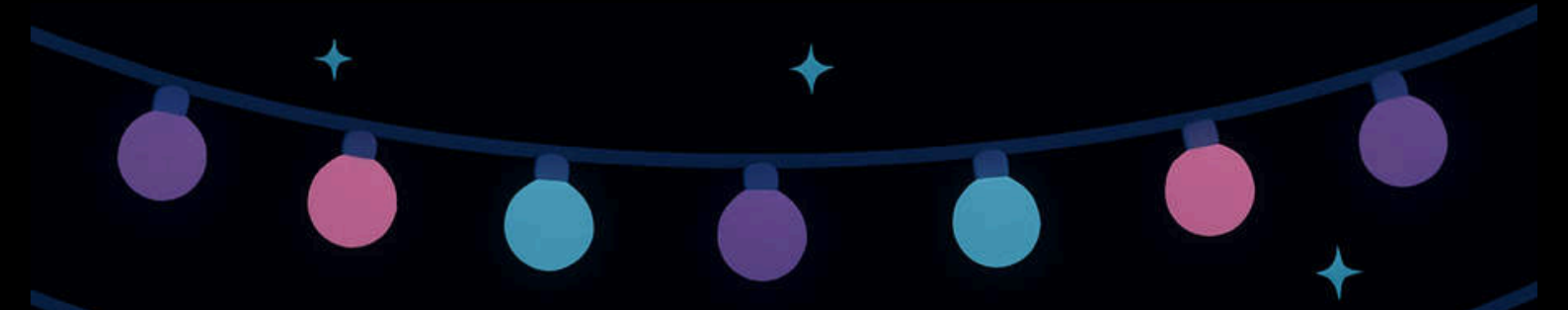
Nyrika: That's what we're doing for our other band!

Zreh: I'd describe Saniddhya as....

Saniddhya: Normally you decide what you wanna say before you start a sentence.

Zreh: I'd describe Saniddhya as 'Animals' by Maroon 5.





Zai, Shaurya, Soham, Aarav, Nirvaan, Ali, Avyakt

Meet Zai Advani, Shaurya Sanghai, Soham Kapadia, Aarav Mandot, Nirvaan Kedia, Ali Bootwala, and Avyakt Goyal, a group of 12th graders who've come together to perform an energetic mix of Hindi and English tracks like Danza Kuduro, Disco Deewane, London Dhumakada, and Eenie Meenie.

The first time they met, not much dancing happened, they mostly spent a couple of hours talking and laughing. But, it took just two or three practices to piece together their rehearsal routine. Things got a bit tricky with Danza Kuduro, though, it's super fast, and keeping up with the timing and position switches became a real challenge.

There's no 'drama queen' per se in this group, but there's definitely a lot of entertainment. Aarav, for instance, insists he can't dance, which makes watching him try absolutely hilarious. And then there's Kislay, who's often in his own world, totally zoned out while everyone else is rehearsing.

Despite the chaos, their goal isn't perfection, it's fun (this being their first and last year at Encore). They're putting in proper practice sessions to make the performance exciting for both themselves and the audience. More than anything, they're thrilled to get on stage, give it their all, and make memories they'll laugh about and cherish long after school years.





Yash, Naasha, Nyrika, Saniddhya, Krish

Interviewer: Describe each other in one sentence.

Yash: Naasha only comes to practices to hang out with my brother.

Naasha: Well, can you blame me? (rolls her eyes) Anyway, Sanid just plays his drums all the time so we can never hear who's talking.

Krish: I would say Yash is so handsome—

Saniddhya: Yash is always late.

(Yash looks heartbroken and betrayed)

Interviewer: What's your go-to hype song before performing?

Nyrika: The band doesn't really have a hype song but one member definitely does. (everyone looks at Yash)

Naasha: Oh yeah! Yash loves Taylor Swift. He's always blasting her albums right before performing.

Yash: What! They're lying. I don't do that!

Interviewer: Who's most likely to mess up on stage and how would you cover it up?

Saniddhya: Oh 100% Krish.

Nyrika: Agreed.

Naasha: I concur.

Yash: So real.

Krish: Guys!

Naasha: Sanid would probably cover it up by playing the drums extra loud



Zahra, Aditya, Shaurya, Ridaan, Ali

Interviewer: So, to start off, what is the name of your band?

Zahra: We don't exactly have a name yet, but probably Autistic Monkeys.

Shaurya: Like the Arctic Monkeys.

Interviewer: Who is the most dramatic member of the band?

Shaurya and Ridhaan: Aditya, for sure.

Ali: No, no, it's Ridhaan.

Interviewer: Is Aditya here?

Zahra: He is with us in spirit.

Aditya: I'm here, unfortunately.

Interviewer: How did you all decide to start a band together?

Zahra: We all just knew each other.

Aditya: No. Ridhaan wanted friends, so we felt sorry for him and formed the band.

Shaurya: Okay, okay, actually though, we were in the same class in the 10th grade, so we figured, why not make a band? And this year we added Ali and Ridaan.

Ridaan: Yeah, I just thought the world deserved to see my talent.

Interviewer: Ridaan, would you consider yourself the best performer in the band?

Ridaan: Yes.

Ali: The self glaze is crazy.



Encore Rookies

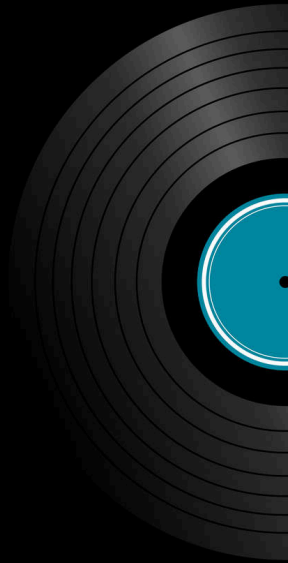


I'm really excited to be performing for Encore for the first time. It feels both nerve racking and thrilling to share something I love with everyone. I'm looking forward to the experience of being on stage, hearing the audience's reactions and mostly just enjoying the atmosphere with my friends. I hope this performance helps me gain more confidence and become even better at expressing myself through music in the future.

-Liana Advani

Encore is something we have been looking forward to since middle school. I can't believe we're finally getting to perform at this event. Performing alongside so many other talented performers is pretty intimidating but we're still very excited to make our musical debut in senior school. All of us love performing, so we hope our band is well received and everyone enjoys what we have in store!

-Aman Gandhi, Ahaan Lakhanpal, Mudit Gandhi, Avantika Bhagat, Zayn Marker



Encore is something we've been looking forward to since junior school and we're so excited that we get to perform together for our first one. We can't wait to perform for everyone and we know that it's going to be a great time. We love spending time together, especially when we're practicing, and getting the chance to perform at Encore together makes it all the more special.

-Shania Byramjee and Nyra Mehta

DANCE



**Nyra Mehta and
Shania Byramjee**



Interviewer: Okay, First question, What is your favourite memory from dance practice?

Nyra: Probably when we were learning the hardest part of our dance and Shania kept falling on the floor.

Interviewer: Who do you guys think is more disciplined during practice?

Nyra: Me, of course.

Shania: What! No, it's easily me

Nyra: We just talked about you falling on the floor repeatedly

Interviewer: Third question, If you guys had to give your pair a name, what would it be?

Shania: We'd decided on The Girls.

Nyra: Yeah, I think it's pretty fitting.

Interviewer: Lastly, What motivated you to sign up for encore this year?

Nyra: We've been dancing for a while and participated in earlier showcases and interschool competitions with a variety of groups, so dancing with Shania at encore seemed like a fun opportunity.

Shania: Yes, Nyra and I have been wanting to dance together for a few years now and encore seemed like the perfect place to try something new.



Krishay Doshi, Myra Sainani, Alyson Ferns, Kabir Farooqi, Ridhima Bazaz, Reyaansh Vora

Interviewer: Okay so, first question, what has been your favourite memory from Encore rehearsal?

Krishay: The rest of the group and I love watching horror movies together so that for sure.

Kabir: Krishay what are you saying? Everyone's favourite memory is watching you run across the road.

Interviewer: If you had to describe encore in one word what would it be?

Krishay: Musical excellence!
(everyone laughs)

Reyaansh: Encore is like 'dancey'
(Krishay starts dancing)

Interviewer: What is one song that you guys think describes you as a group?

Myra: Guys, one of our songs only!

Ridhima: 'Not Like Us' by Kendrick Lamar.



**Vanika Bubna and
Aria Britto**

Interviewer: How did you two decide to perform together this year? Was it a spontaneous idea or something you'd been planning for a while?

Vanika: We'd actually been planning this for a while!

Aria: We both love to dance, and we thought Encore would be a great opportunity to express ourselves and do what we love.

Interviewer: Your setlist includes such a mix, from Humankind to All the Stars

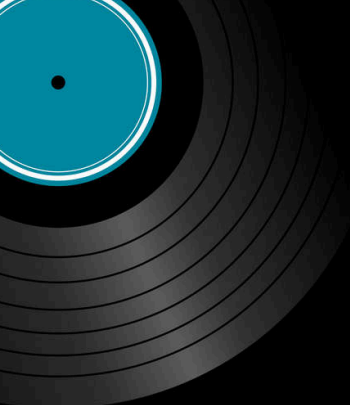
and to The Box, how did you go about choosing these songs?

Vanika: We found these songs to have a great vibe and energy, and they're also

some of our personal favourites, I love All the Stars, and Aria loves The Box.

Aria: They really fit our personalities, and we felt like this combination would be fun and exciting for the audience too.





Vanika, Aria, Saanvi, Tanusha, Aarav, Jeshaad, Shray

Interviewer: How did you guys decide to do Encore this year?

Aria: We did FLY last year and it was like really fun, so we decided to do it again this year.

Vanika: FLY is like a dance event, but for middle school. It's like Middle School's Encore.

Saanvi: We've been a group since 5th grade, just dancing together.

Interviewer: Do you guys have a favourite song to dance to out of the ones you'll be doing?

Unanimous: Like JENNIE, probably.

Interviewer: How would you describe your practices?

Saanvi: They're organised

Jeshaad: They're the opposite of organised

Aarva: BTW, I'm answering with Shray, we're brothers

Shray: I came to his house, we're just really close. Brother from another mother.



Saira Patel, Ayesha Advani, Raisa Talwar, Anaisha Mehta, Nyrah Arora, Riddhima Daiya

Interviewer: First question, what has been your favourite memory from encore practices?

Saira: Probably whenever we order fries and our choreographer always eats them.

Riddhima: Yes, our practices get pretty chaotic, We had a food fight once. Don't ask how it started.

Interviewer: If you guys had to give your group a name what do you think it would be?

Anaisha: Something good.

Riddhima: I think our group name should be 'Chinese Whispers'.

Ayesha: Yes that fits so well guys!

Saira: Absolutely not, It should be called 'Fries'.

(Saira starts singing)

Riddhima: Thank god we didn't choose to sing at Encore. It would've been a disaster.



Aarushi, Evana, Shanaya, Saloni, Triesha, Mahika, Ananya, Kimaya

Interviewer: Can you describe practice in a few words?

Triesha: It's just us laughing

Aarushi: About the food, for sure

Kimaya: It's definitely super fun

Interviewer: What songs are you'll doing?

Trisha: Wait, you have to hear this. The guys' group stole 'Danda' from us

Mahika: You won't believe it, but we were going to do it together

Shanaya: So we let them audition for Danda with us, but they told us they were not going to do

it with us a few days ago

Evana: It was really funny, and I guess we just have to do better than them now

Interviewer: What are your team dynamics like?

Aarushi: Ananya and Shanaya are definitely the best dancers

Ananya: And Saloni is always late

Saloni: Arushi is the auditor

Hrida, Ishanvi, Ananya, Kaina, Ahana

Interviewer: What are you guys dancing to?

Everyone: Only Hrida knows.

Hrida: So were dancing to a lot of songs like Temperature, Batameez Dil, Chammak Challo, and like 8-10 others.

Interviewer: What do practices look like?

Ahana: Non-existent. Practices look like nothing.

Ishanvi: We practiced before the audition.

Ahana: Yeah, right before the audition.

Interviewer: Describe each member in one word.

Kaina: I think Hrida's bubbly.

Hrida: Kaina's giggly. Ishanvi's just random.

(Ishanvi is speechless)

Hrida: Also, I think Ahana's organised.

Ishanvi: And Ananya?

Ahana: Missing.





BURN!

Interviewer: What's the name of your group?

All: Burn!

Neev: Because we burn the stage with our aura.

Shivam: This was Mirhaan's idea by the way.

Mirhaan: We had a dance group in fourth grade and we wanted to call it Burn...

Shivam: His dream was to walk on stage and high-five the whole crowd like we're famous or something.

Interviewer: Who made your choreography?

Abhinav and Neev: Us! Both of us!

Raghav: No it was Just Dance.

Abhinav: Shut up, it was us.

Neev: We literally taught everyone everything.

Raghav: Lies, it was Just Dance and the Deadpool movie.

Interviewer: If you could replace someone in the group, who would it be and why?

Vyom: Ishaan!

All: Vyom!!

Raghav: Hundred percent Vyom.

Neev: Genuinely no one wants you here Vyom, leave.

Interviewer: What would your group's theme song be?

Shivam: Waka Waka!

Abhinav: No no that Imran Khan one!

All: Satisfya!

Neev: I'm a riderrr-

Abhinav: Providerrr-

Mirhaan: Bring the heaat





BULLET TRAIN

Interviewer: So, to start off, what is the name of the band?

(Suhaan looks nervously at Dev and Vyom. A highly noticeable moment of silence follows.)

Dev: Well, for the purpose of this interview only, let's just call it 'The Bullet Train.'

Interviewer: Which songs will you all be performing?

Dev: Like, a bunch of songs.

Suhaan: We have finalized our songs, I swear.

Vanisa: We are doing a mashup of 'Chammak Challo' and 'Subha Hone Na De,' and many others.

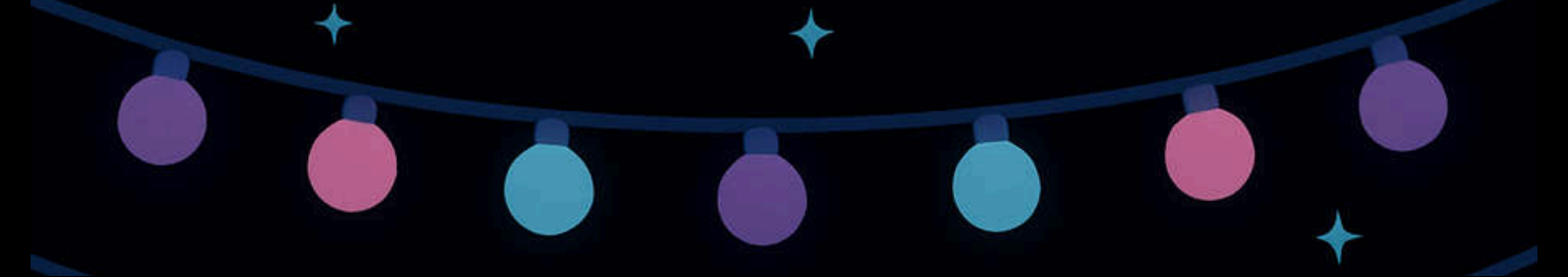
Interviewer: What are practice like?

Vyom: (muttering silently) Well, we would have to have one to know, you know. (Vanisa nervously glances at Vyom.)

Vanisa: I mean, it is absolute torture. It's very chaotic but somehow, in its own way, also fun.

Dev: Not going to lie, Vanisa is definitely the most chaotic one.

Vanisa: (glares at Dev) Excuse me! No, all the boys, literally all the boys, other than Suhaan, are the most chaotic and unproductive.



Arjun, Zai, Avyakt, Hrishay, Aarav, Nirvaan, Soham, Yashoman, Kislay

Interviewer: What is your favourite Encore memory?

Everyone: Our favourite memory is hearing Zai sing for the first time.

Shaurya: We tried to kick him out, but he's the one who formed the band, so technically we couldn't.

(Everyone laughs.)

Avyakt: That's not true. We love Zai.

Ali: Even Aarav's voice cracks when he tries to sing the high parts from Justin Bieber songs.

Interviewer: How often do you all have band practices, and what are they like?

Avyakt: We've had, like, two band practices.

Nirvaan: No, we've had four. You just didn't come for the other ones.

Soham: (sarcastically) They're quite productive though. We practice for about fifteen minutes and then eat food and play FIFA the rest of the time.

Shaurya: Band practices are fun.

Aarav: Except Zai. He might actually want to take this up as his profession.

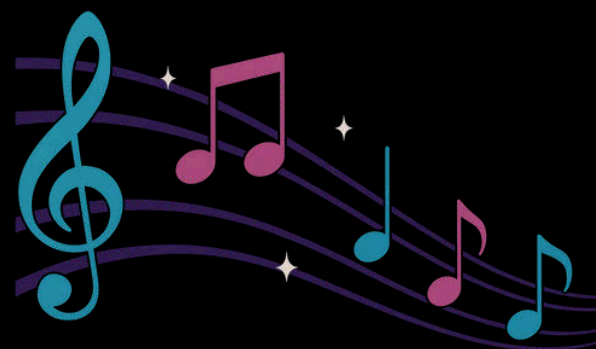
Interviewer: How would you describe your bandmates?

Nirvaan: Avy's the responsible one; he makes sure we actually get stuff done.

Aarav: And we need Nirvaan to balance Zai and me.

Avyakt: Yeah, Nirvaan's our lead singer.

Zai: No chance. I am.





Vritika, Samaya, Kimaya, Nysha, Niharika, Aneesha

Interviewer Okay, so what songs are y'all performing this year?

Group: Eenie Meenie, Call Me Maybe, Payphone, Feel Da Rush, Hotline Bling, I Know You Want Me (Calle Ocho), Fire Burning, Teamwork, Down, Feel This Moment, Just Dance, Time of Our Lives, Club Can't Handle Me, On the Floor, and Give Me Everything.

Interviewer: So this being your last year at Encore... how do you guys feel about it?

Group: It's really exciting because this is actually the first time we're dancing together as a group. But it's also kind of bittersweet, for a few of us, it's the end of a 5-6 year journey that we'll probably never get to experience again.

Interviewer: What's your favorite memory from Encore over the years?

Group: Honestly, some of the best memories have been during auditions rather than the final show. Watching the seniors perform their group dances for the first time every year was always hilarious, they usually had no clue what they were doing, but they just went for it and had fun.

Interviewer: How do you all come up with your routines?

Group: Luckily, we have three dancers in the group, so that helped a ton. But honestly, a lot of what we did was choreographed in school the day before the audition... and learned during lunch break an hour before.

Chitrita, Aiesha, Janmejay, Atishay, Raj, Vihaan, Arnab, Gayatri, Radhika

Interviewer - What songs are y'all doing for Encore 2025?

Chitrita - We're doing Vele, Ghungroo, Starships and... what else are we doing guys?

Radhika - Everything Tonight and Gangnam Style.

Interviewer: Was the decision unanimous?

Chitrita: (immediately) Not at all. We had no say.

Radhika: Yeah, that's true.

Janmejay: (outraged) What! Who decided then?

(Raj & Chitrita talking over each other)

Raj: Janmejay decided them.

Chitrita: Y'all decided it.

Raj: Janmejay is our leader.

Janmejay: I just decided Ghungroo. The rest was you.

Raj: Who? Chitrita?

Janmejay: Raj.

Raj: No I didn't do anything bro, what?

Janmejay: Yeah, you were the one who gave our names for it, last minute.

Arnab: Who's not here? Atishay, yeah, Atishay did everything.

Janmejay: Oh yeah, it was Atishay, he was the one who decided.

Arnab: It was all Atishay.





Deanne, Riana, Sia, Maira, Nazneen, Jiya, Ananya, Evana

Interviewer: If you had to describe the group in three words...

Sia: Chaotic

Maira: Uncoordinated

Jiya: Last minute!

Riana: Add something nice also!!

Sia: I mean our practices are fun...

Riana: What practices?

Deanne: Um.. cute?

Sia: OMG guys, just find a word!



Interviewer: Describe your groups vibe using an emoji.

Sia: The disco ball

Jiya: Oh and the champagne emoji!!

Maira: And the party hat one!

Sia: Yeah okay, so disco ball, champagne and party

Interviewer: If you could replace someone from your group, who would it be?

Riana: Ooooh

Deanne: It's looking tough for you, Maira

Maira- You're such a bully, Deanne!

**Deanne: Bro I'm your biggest cheerleader, you know this
(silence for a few minutes)**

Sia: None of u



Samaya, Vritika, Fia

Interviewer: So first things first- what's the name of your group?

Samaya: It's called Undecided because we've been asked this question like seven times already.

Vritika: Yeah, and we still never knew what to say.

Interviewer: How often do you guys practice... Do you even have practices?

Vritika: Uhhh, yeah. In the days leading up to Encore, maybe.

Fia: Before the audition though, we practiced for like, two minutes.

Samaya: Yeah, we actually made up the dance on the day of the audition.

Interviewer: If your group had a theme song, what would it be?

Fia: Oh! The Chicken Girls theme song "We fly so high, we fly together!"

Vritika: Yeah, yeah either Birds of a Feather or Teamwork.

Interviewer: If your group were a movie, which one would it be?

Samaya: I don't know, but the first thing that came to my mind was Jumanji.

Vritika & Fia: Jumanji???

Samaya: I don't know why!

Interviewer: Wait, the one with Dwayne Johnson?

Samaya: The one with Kevin Hart!

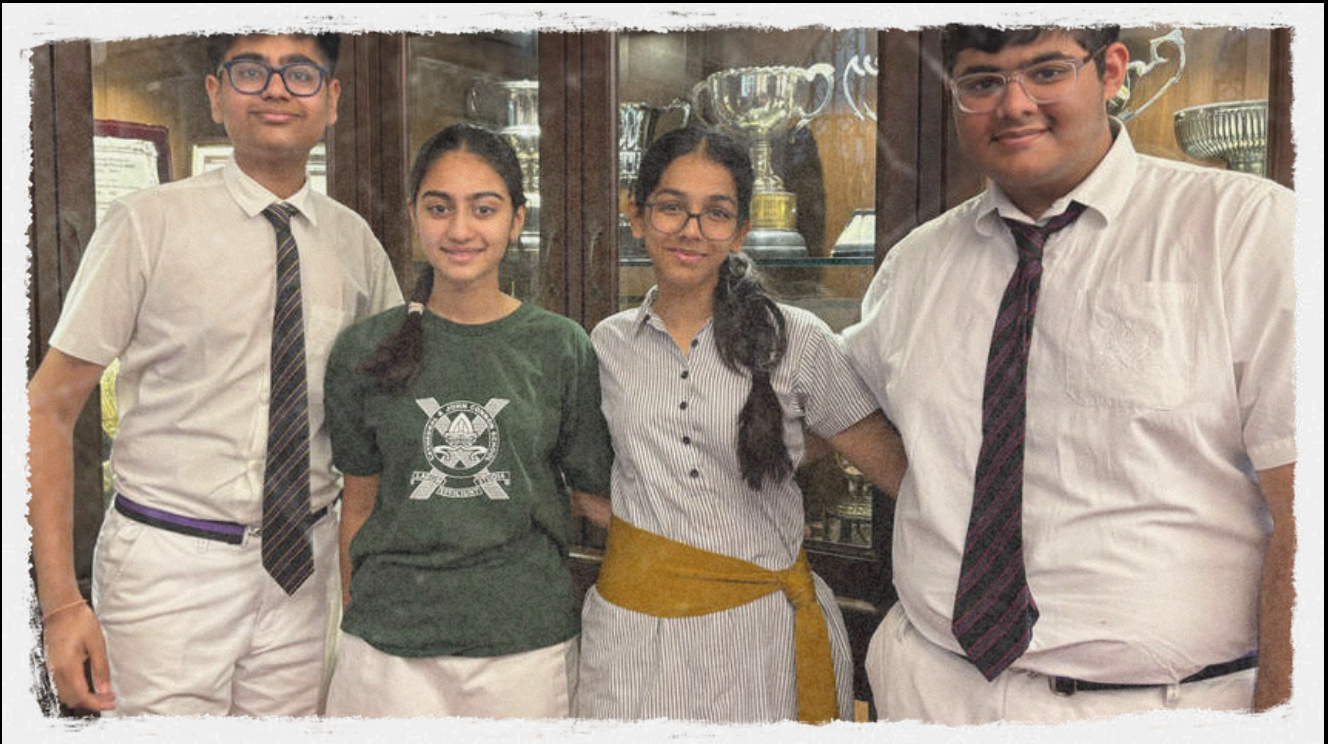
Interviewer: Who would be Kevin Hart?

Samaya: Me.

Vritika: Samaya, you'd probably be Kevin Hart cuz his weakness is chocolates...

Samaya: That's so mean.

Behind the Mic



Year after year, Encore arrives with the same familiar excitement: rehearsals echoing through the corridors, last-minute sound checks, and the buzzing anticipation of the night to come. But long before the music begins and the spotlight hits our stars, there's another layer to the magic: the countless hours of planning, writing, and timing that make the entire show feel effortless.

This year, that responsibility rests with our four amazing hosts, Pavit, Inaya, Hrehaan, and Navhya, who have spent weeks preparing to guide the audience smoothly from one performance to the next. From scripting each transition to heated debates over which jokes are actually funny and which ones should never see the light of day, this group has worked tirelessly to make sure you enjoy every moment.

Our MCs have put together a script long enough to rival a small novel, 57 performances' worth, to be exact. According to Pavit, besides being a ton of work, the job is extremely fun. "Especially when we're planning jokes and teasing performers based on their lives off-stage," he says. (Watch out, performers!)

The writing process itself has a familiar rhythm: Pavit suggests bold, slightly unhinged joke ideas; Inaya and Navhya veto them immediately; and Hrehaan listens quietly in the background. Inaya sums it up best: “The hardest part? Trying to be funny in a way everyone understands, but mostly managing Pavit’s wild joke submissions.”

What most people never see are the countless calls, debates, and rewrites behind the scenes. “Most of the planning happens on calls,” claims Hrehaan, before Navhya shoots back, “Oh, so you actually get on the calls, Hrehaan?” When it comes to humour, it’s safe to say that Pavit carries most of the comedic chaos, while Inaya and Navhya specialise in sharp one-liners that their friends are sure to...appreciate. The entire group agrees that while Hrehaan “can’t make jokes to save his life,” he can definitely laugh at everyone else’s.

Of course, even our MCs have performances they’re especially excited for. Pavit awaits the 12th-grade boys’ dance, claiming, “It’s because they can’t dance. At all.” Navhya is also looking out for the dancers, particularly the prefects’ dance, excited to unleash the jokes she’s been saving.

So when you watch Encore this year, take a moment to appreciate the voices guiding you through each performance. If their jokes make you laugh, applaud...and if they don’t, laugh anyway. Either way, you’ll be witnessing four students who helped make Encore 2025 a night to remember.

