In Year 9 over the course of the year we have learnt a variety of things- from great epics such as the Mahabharata, to the foundations of Hinduism in the Four Yogas. We were all particularly interested in the Yogas, and spent a large portion of the year discussing them- culminating in a project involving Karma Yoga. As part of this project, our teachers, Drijen and Sarita, encouraged us a class to organise a Charity Event for any cause that we wanted. It was an exciting opportunity at the end of the year and we were all keen to tackle the new project!

However, we soon realised that organising this kind of event was not going to be as quick and simple as we had thought- and found ourselves all too many times sitting in our classroom, lost and confused, staring at a blank whiteboard. Nevertheless, Drijen and Sarita's constant belief in our ability to make the event a success, and constant encouraging to be active throughout the week drove us forward- and we soon had a cause that we were all eager to support- Sai School and Shaftesbury High School. Both are institutions of learning and are special in unique ways. Sai School- in it's values, open mindedness and community spirit, and Shaftesbury High School- in it's aim to teach disadvantaged children.

It was not an easy process, and we were forced to consider dates, events, activities, budget, prizes, volunteers, food and countless other things that we had never even thought about! We were all allocated responsibilities and constantly had to update the group on progress. Over a number of weeks, painstakingly, we collected ideas, debated on the best options, and finally a form started to emerge. We had to consider: what our motive was (to raise money and awareness for both schools), why people would come to our event (to have fun and enjoy themselves!), what to do if it rained (with the British weather unpredictable even in July!) and so forth. Every one of us contributed- but it was really in the last couple of weeks when we really pulled together and made a team effort to make the event a success. Some of the girls went on a trip with Sarita to ask businesses for raffle prizes and sponsors- and it took this to realise that in the process, WE were having fun. It was ridiculously fulfilling to get another raffle prize, and the joint sense of pride we had as a team after each small victory was amazing. Even when we were turned down, we persevered to try again. After pep talks from our teachers and their constant guidance we all found new confidence and were all successfully able to contact a business or sponsor to ask for help without hesitation. It is incredible to look back now and think about how far we've come since being shy and afraid, to being confident, and proud of our cause. The event was a huge success, and we all equally contributed! It's amazing how we became so involved in the FUNdraiser that we never even thought about what WE would get from the event. It really showed us the power of Karma Yoga.

On behalf of Year 9 I would like to thank everyone who came, volunteered, or showed their support as every bit of help we got mattered immensely!

I would also like to thank Drijen and Sarita for their assurance in OUR abilities even when we hesitated or felt down. We could never have done it without their guidance, support and wisdom! Thank you for reminding us that the sky's the limit (maybe not even that!) and being amazing teachers.

It was a year to remember and having the responsibility to take care of such an event, and the independence and maturity to carry it out successfully has really changed all of us.

Thank you.