

## INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS OF TOS AND PRAYATNA

On 9<sup>th</sup> October a few students of The Orchid School had the wonderful opportunity to interact with young adults from Prayatna, a facility that is doing inspiring work with people with special needs. Students from



Prayatna and their teachers spent 3 hours with students from The Orchid School and had one of the most memorable experiences they will ever have.

Some of our students share their experience...

*On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, which was a Friday, instead of proceeding to our class to carry out our everyday ritual of opening our books and staring and the teacher, we did something different. We did something which made us feel that we were finally being part of society and something beyond us. A group of students from 11A, 11B, 12A and 12B went to the multi-purpose hall to greet our 'special' guests. The school had organised a joint activity with an NGO called 'Prayatna' which gives vocational training to specially-abled adults. What we saw through the next one and a half hours, gave us an insight into a lot of things. These individuals were young adults who had various developmental difficulties and special needs. We saw at first glance their difficulties; but eventually all was saw their frank, congenial attitude, which made us realise that if they could be so friendly with strangers, why couldn't we? Frankly I and*

*my fellow students have taken away a lot from the experience and we thank them for this opportunity.*

- Rushil Roy, Class XI A

*A lifetime experience by spending my time with the Prayatna students will be treasured in my memory forever. We had a small activity in which all the students with special needs became part of it with great levels of enthusiasm. They were all special in their own way. When my partner, Chirag called me his 'Best Friend' it was heart rending! The fact that I made a difference to someone's life brought me joy.*

- Mayuka Lokre, Class XII B