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The Doon School WEEKLY



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Athletic Moments

Kanishka Malik and Mihir Kiran report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Athletics Competition



If there is any activity that was directly affected by DS-75, it was athletics. From October 11 till about October 30 the fields were occupied by the set-up for the Founder's Day functions. There were even possibilities of the Inter-House tournament being cancelled, an event which would have certainly been disconcerting for the community members and especially the Sc-formers, who were eagerly anticipating the event. Fortunately, only the pole-vault, the 4x400m relays and hurdles were cancelled and the performance were certainly praiseworthy for the amount of preparation time the students had. The leading athletes in all sections displayed an array of talent.

The Juniors' section saw consistency in Raj Kumar Vijay and emerging talent in Rakshit Sinha and Yasser Iqbal in the track events and Suhel Karara in the field events. The Best Junior athlete trophy was won by Raj Kumar Vijay for his participation in the 100m, 200m, Long Jump and 4x100m relay for the second consecutive year. We hope to witness a similar performance in the future, when he moves into the Mediums' category.

A and B-formers must also be lauded for their performance. Numerous A-formers participated in the Pentathlon which is probably the most intense event in the tournament. Adhiraj Singh even emerged second in this category, losing only to the School Athletics Captain, Uddhav Prasad, who lived up to the standard of previous captains. In the long-distance events, Sarthak Singh, who specialises in this section, won numerous sections. He won the 5000m run for the second time. Adhiraj Thakran was also praised for his performance in coming first in the 400m section in the Mediums' category and so was Arjun Midha for emerging second in the 1500m run, losing to Sarthak Singh.

The tournament also boasted a new record. Tushar Gupta broke the High-jump record in the Seniors' section, setting a new record of 1.76m. A large number of community members, including the Headmaster witnessed the event. He broke the record in his third try and tried to set an even higher record. Last year he broke the record in the Mediums' section and considering that he still has a year to go, he may succeed in breaking his own record next year.

The short-distance events, which are some of the most anticipated events, saw Aditya Gupta emerging first in the 100m dash in the Seniors' section. It may be noted that Aditya Gupta has won this race for the fifth consecutive year, never finishing second.

The final event, marching, resulted in Hyderabad House marginally defeating Kashmir House. In the end, the School Athletics Captain addressed the gathering and made special mention of both, the accomplished athletes such as Khalid Alawneh and Virein Chabra (for their performances in field events) and Udai Bothra, and numerous promising juniors such as Rakshit Sinha and Yasser Iqbal.

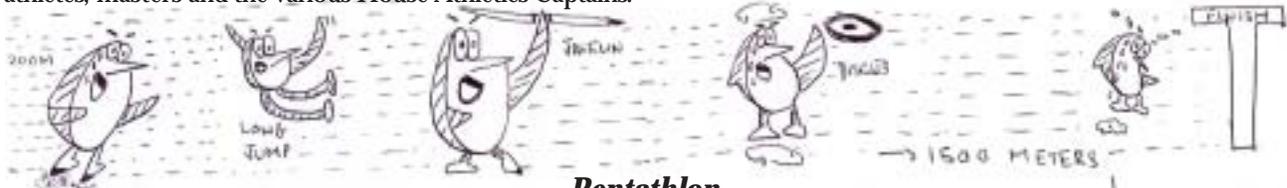
Fortunately, the tournament went by without any serious injuries, seizures or heat-strokes. On the third day there was a shortage of spectators, but after the Headmaster's severe notice, that issue was resolved. Before the tournament one might have predicted differently, but at the end we all feel that there was no dearth of enthusiasm for the event from the athletes, masters and the various House Athletics Captains.

Results:

- Most Promising Junior Athlete:** Raj Kumar Vijay
- Mumtaz Ahmed Trophy for Best Athlete of the Championship:** Tushar Gupta
- Marching Cake:** Hyderabad
- Junior Cup:** Tata
- Mediums' Cup:** Tata
- Senior Cup:** Kashmir
- Tushar Gupta broke the **High Jump** record in the Seniors' Category, setting a new record of 1.76m



Tushar Gupta goes for the record breaking jump



Pentathlon

IH QUIZ

The **Inter-House Quiz, 2010** was held on Saturday, November 7. The House positions are as follows:

- 1st:** Oberoi
 - 2nd:** Kashmir
 - 3rd:** Hyderabad & Jaipur
 - 5th:** Tata
- Well done all!

FRESH APPOINTMENTS

Rohan Shriram and Rahil Badhwar have been appointed boys-in-charge of the **Entertainment Committee**.

The following boys have been appointed office bearers for the **Model United Nations** for the forthcoming year:

- Boys-in-Charge:** Aashray Batra and Sumaer Sandhu
- Secretary General:** Sumaer Sandhu
- Head of Media and Administration:** Vikram Kejriwal

The Editorial Board of the *Econocrat* for the following year is:

- Editor-in-Chief:** Kanishka Malik
- Chief of Production:** Dhruv Sirohi
- Editor:** Spandan Agarwal
- Business Club Associates:** Udai Bothra and Rishi Agarwal

Shashvat Dhandania has been appointed Secretary of the **Senior English Debating Society** for the forthcoming year.

The **Editorial Board** of the *Echo* for the following year is:

- Editors-in-Chief:** Sachit Taneja and Revant Nayyar
- Senior Editors:** Vaibhav Bahadur, Karmanya Malhotra, Rohan Shriram and Spandan Agrawal
- Chief of Production:** Rohan Nath Behl

The **Astronomical Society** appointments for the forthcoming year are:

- Boys-in-Charge:** Utkarsh Garg and Vaibhav Bahadur
- Activity Coordinators:** Rishi Agarwal and Mohit Gupta

The Editorial Board of *Infinity* for the following year is:

- Editor-in-Chief:** Vinayak Bansal
- Chief of Production:** Spandan Agarwal
- Senior Editor:** Revant Nayyar

The boys-in-Charge of the **Photography Club** for the following year are Sparsh Batra and Saib Ahmed.

Ishaan Khanna and Prahalad Singh have been appointed boys-in-Charge of the **Aeromodelling Society**. We wish them all a fruitful tenure!

AWARDS

The following were awarded **First Prize** for Photography in their respective sections:

- Nature:** Utkarsh Jha
- Flora:** Utkarsh Jha
- Action:** Sparsh Batra
- Architecture:** Nilesh Agarwal
- Profiles:** Nilesh Agarwal
- Abstract:** Sparsh Batra

Smitha Nair has been awarded **School Dramatics Colours**. Congratulations!

Squash Down South

Sumaer Sandhu recounts his experience at the National Squash Tournament held at Chennai from October 24 to 27



On the night of October 23, while everyone was watching the splendid music performance and eating a scrumptious dinner at the 75th Founder's Day celebrations, the School squash team left for the National Tournament being held in Chennai. We reached Chennai the next afternoon and after a quick lunch, we rushed off to get a feel of the courts before our matches. A long journey and an hour of squash was enough to exhaust us and so we rested for the remainder of the day.

The next day, Ishan Sandhu had his match first, which he won convincingly against a student from Pathways School, New Delhi. Vinayak Aggarwal played next but unfortunately lost to seed 10, Ness Bilamoria. Vihan Khanna also gave a good fight but was beaten by a player from Mumbai. Nilesh and Jayant won their matches and I had a bye to the 2nd round which I won later that evening.

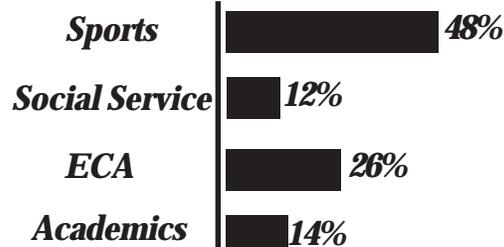
Despite the losses in the day, we felt the experience was worth it. At the end of the first day, all of us ate an enormous amount at dinner and (those of us who could still walk) made it to bed.

All of us had extremely challenging matches the next day. Jayant played first and lost to seed 8, Karan Tharyamal. I was playing next with a player from Delhi. I lost the first game but came back strongly in the next, only to lose the third and fourth rounds. Nilesh was the only player left and he was playing Taramdeep Singh from Chandigarh. Unfortunately, Nilesh lost as well and so we were all knocked out of the tournament.

We packed our kits and left the courts somewhat disappointed. However, after lunch, we had a great time swimming and discovering Chennai. At night we packed our bags as we were flying back the next day. We did not come back with any prizes but we definitely learned a lot from our losses and had a worthwhile experience.

Opinion oll

What pursuit in School gives you the maximum satisfaction: academics, sports, extra-curricular activities (ECA) or social service?



(372 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Do you pay attention to Assembly talks?

HM's Founder's Day Address

The following is an excerpt from the speech delivered by the Headmaster on Saturday, October 23

Shri Kapil Sibal, Honourable Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, distinguished guests, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Governors, masters and boys of The Doon School, ladies and gentlemen, good evening once again.

Before I speak, I should just like to take a moment to thank all those who worked so tirelessly to make our programme tonight possible. To my mind, our event managers, Maven Media, are heroes for the extraordinary effort they put into resurrecting DS75 from the carnage wrought by the storm last night, and I should also like to thank Mr. Sameer Katre and his team, as well as all the masters and other employees who helped us to rise like a phoenix from the ashes, for their extraordinary efforts as well. It is a true tribute to the Dosco spirit that we are able to gather here at all tonight.

This morning, in the gracious presence of our President, I spoke about the past and proudly paid homage to it. Now I shall speak not of what we have done over the past seventy-five years, but of the future and what we are going to do in the decades ahead: not what we are going to *talk about*, but what we are going to *do*. Over the past few years the Board of Governors has revisited The Doon School's Mission and has now laid out a vision for the future of our School. To cut to the chase, The Doon School is setting out to become one of the world's great educational institutions, and this is what our mission will be:

The Doon School will attract and develop exceptional boys and teachers to serve a meritocratic India in a global society; transform boys into educated men; inspire them to be just and dutiful citizens; and train them to be wise and ethical leaders...and our vision is of India's top school joining the ranks of the world's great schools, a school that leads other institutions into newer and more relevant methods of teaching, learning and leadership development, a school that other schools will want to come to and learn from.

You will notice that I said 'boys'. I do not know what the penalty is in India for not following a Presidential edict, but The Doon School will remain a school for Indian boys in India who will serve the nation at home and abroad, and we shall not become a co-educational school admitting girls. Since I am now probably living on borrowed time, I suppose that I should move on rapidly and tell you what the future holds while I still have some time!

As a great international educational institution, The Doon School will have:

- Enduring core values – those we have built over seventy-five years and still cherish;
- A strong sense of purpose and mission that we shall live out; the Vision Statement will not just be for decoration or for marketing purposes, but a living document;
- An ability to face the facts about ourselves without ever losing faith in, and affection for, our School. To give you an example, this year we have had the best-ever ISC and ICSE results in the School's history, but our IB results were problematic and we have been addressing that issue honestly, without losing faith in ourselves;
- Inspirational leadership and governance, and in that respect we are already fortunate to have a dynamic and ambitious Board of Governors and visionary chairman;
- Great teachers and role models, such as Mr. Sheel Vohra to whom I have already paid tribute earlier this evening;
- A dynamic and supportive alumni association;
- A continued commitment to serving India at home and abroad, to serving the nation in a global context.

As we have set out to take on the world, we have asked the question, "What will we be the best in the world at?" In answer to that question, we shall be offering excellent, even outstanding academics and university and college placements, but will not set out to be an examination factory or grades hothouse; excellent sport and outdoor activities, but as the estate is limited in size, with no room for an all-weather running track, indoor Olympic pool, floodlit astroturf, and so on, we will not aim to be a sports academy; and we shall offer every boy the opportunity to explore his full potential as a human being through a continued commitment to an all-round education.

We commit ourselves to being the best in the world at three inter-related things: training world class leaders based on our proven track record in this field - and many of you attending our celebrations are proof of the School's ability to produce such leaders; genuine social service of the type The Doon School introduced to the world and that is part of our DNA, not photo opportunities for students to turn into sentimental powerpoint presentations to make themselves feel good, but authentic social service to help the needy; and initiating boys into the world's strongest and most supportive alumni association.

The School believes that the core values and characteristics of modern leaders should be inculcated in a boy and taught in a conscious and systematic fashion from his first year at Doon onwards. These characteristics and values are intellectual character and courage, with a positive disposition to learning in and out of the classroom; integrity, including sportsmanship and academic honesty; creativity, underpinned with a deep understanding and appreciation of Indian culture, history and heritage; a strong sense of justice and empathy, and a clear understanding of what is right and wrong; and great physical, moral, spiritual and mental strength gained through a rich, active, all-round education.

The Doon School will also ensure that its students have excellent prospects and can gain substantively from excellent college and university education. As students and learners in and out of the 21st century classroom, they will be: open-minded, inquiring, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, caring about others, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

To carry out its mission and fulfill our vision, the School will create a culture of exceptional people - masters, boys, alumni and parents - who will keep faith with, and preserve, the core ideology of The Doon School and at the same time create a culture of stimulating progress. Our masters will be inspiring role models – for today a master has to be both a great teacher and a strong role model for teenage boys - who will also educate our boys into the top universities and colleges in India and abroad, and train them to be ethical and responsible leaders.

(contd. overleaf)

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Together the men and women working in and for the institution and with the boys will give them pride in their nation and its culture, history and heritage; a commitment to serving their fellow human beings; a vibrant and relevant curriculum for the 21st century, with no distinction between what a boy can learn inside the classroom and outside it; a 'crucible of character' - to use that wonderful phrase coined at The Doon School in the past - and leadership through an all-round education; and an opportunity to work and play with exceptional boys of diverse social, economic and geographic origins. We shall give the boys top placements in universities and outstanding future learning and employment prospects; first class pastoral care that supports learning and character development; an excellent infrastructure for teaching, learning and living; and an international reputation for excellence.

The full roadmap laying out our route to our future includes the fundamental documents one would expect for such a great enterprise. We have an analysis of how the School came to be where it is today and the challenges facing it in the external environment in which we now exist; an almost-completed strategic plan, including a ten-year financial plan; a campus master plan that has been and is being reviewed and developed; a new marketing, admissions and communication function to reach out to our own parents and stakeholders and beyond; the rapid development of our careers counseling and college placement function; a major fundraising effort to build a substantial endowment; an acknowledgment that fees will need to keep pace with rising costs, thereby requiring major support for the scholarship and bursary programme to retain our demographic and social diversity; "academic infrastructure" renovation, including teacher selection, training, the use of technology, and the management structure needed to embed best practice; reconstruction of the curriculum, including the possible introduction of the IGCSE as a more appropriate foundation for IB studies and university education; physical infrastructure projects, including teaching and boarding accommodation.

In order to achieve our goals, the School has set out to raise Rs. 120 crores in the next decade, most of it in the next five years. Our Chairman, Mr. Analjit Singh, a little later in his speech, will tell us of who has already given substantially to this ambitious initiative and our progress to date. We need those funds for the following purposes:

- Rs. 70 crores to add to our scholarship and bursary programme to enable us to raise fees to cover operating costs, especially faculty salaries, while ensuring the social, economic and geographic diversity that is at the core of our purpose as a school;
- Rs. 35 crores for capital projects, notably for new masters' housing that will enable all our faculty to live on the estate and play a full part in the boarding life of the School, as well as for teaching spaces and science laboratories, and other buildings we need.
- Rs. 15 crores to recruit, train and develop first class faculty, and enhance our provision and services, such as careers and other counseling.

These words are easy to say, but they represent an enormous amount of work in the decades ahead of us. There are no 'silver bullets' or 'quick wins'. The fulfillment of our mission and our vision will take a level of determination, discipline, sheer hard work and investment that The Doon School has not undertaken in its history. We have a long, tough road ahead of us - it will feel like 'the mother of all mid-terms' - which will mean something to many of you here with us this evening. Everyone here tonight, all of our stakeholders both in India and abroad, must commit to this vision wholeheartedly if we are to succeed. Together we shall need to mobilize all of our skills, financial and human resources in order to see the School remaining pre-eminent in India, and reaching its rightful place alongside the great educational institutions of the world.

| Viewpoint |

A Special Guest

Kanishka Malik remarks on issues being discussed and ignored during the Obama visit

Over the past few days, no matter how many sections of the newspaper one ignored, one could not possibly have missed a news item on President Barack Obama. This visit has received an overwhelming amount of attention from the media. The *Economic Times* has dedicated an entire section to the event and national newspapers have published extensive reports on just about every comment or gesture made by the President and First Lady, Michelle Obama.

Personally, even though I am tired of Mr. Obama's current omnipresence in the media, I think covering the event is pertinent because of the initiatives being taken by both - the United States and India. There has undoubtedly been a change in USA's policy towards India over the past decade and this is manifested through the increase in trading activity and revoking of sanctions placed on the nuclear test. Considering the common interests we now have, the visit was vital for both sides.

For Obama, the visit was certainly an opportunity to create jobs back home. After all, unemployment was the issue responsible for the results of the mid-term elections in the United States held at the beginning of November. For India it is a step towards becoming a bigger trading partner with the United States (currently it is the twelfth largest trading partner with the United States) and winning support for a UNSC seat. On this note, the President's visit is laudable considering that he has orchestrated the signing of contracts worth \$10 billion and supported our membership in the UNSC. According to an *Economic Times* report of November 8, the contracts will create about 50,000 jobs back in the United States.

However, the Left parties have pointed out some issues that are notable. Firstly, there is the issue of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. Mr Obama has not made any statements concerning the issue, despite the immensity of the event. This is a slap in the face of NGO activists and victims of the tragedy working for the cause for over twenty-five years. The President may have eulogized historical monuments, fulfilled the usual obligations on such visits and made possible multi-billion dollar business deals, but he has ignored an issue that is yet to receive attention from the highest authority in the US, the headquarters of the former Union Carbide. If the publicity is only going to be concerned with the usual diplomatic

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jargon one comes across during a dignitary's visit, it is of no benefit to those affected. Secondly, the Left feels that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is more concerned with creating jobs in the United States by the contracts that he signed. According to them the country is acceding to economic pressure and signing these contracts which are creating jobs in the United States instead of in India. The Left has also pointed out that the business interests of major agricultural firms may harm farmers and small businesses in the country. However, I do not completely agree with the Left. Not all the contracts signed with American companies can be given to Indian companies. For instance, Reliance has signed a multi-billion dollar contract with General Electric not to please the Americans, but because it is viable for their power generation project. Moreover, the pressure on Indian farmers cannot entirely be blamed on American agricultural firms. The crisis prevailing in Vidarbha and other areas that reported farmer suicides is the result of a number of problems involving Government incentives and loan defaulting. It would be unfair to make agricultural firms the scapegoats. Also, the Left appears to be delusional in the way it condemns all American Presidents of being "imperialists".

Personally, I feel the visit was important. However, the one area where we should be careful in is that of defence contracts. As for the accusations of excessive media coverage, I think it is customary but in its excess is ignoring certain national issues. Other issues such as the 25th anniversary of the Narmada Bachao andolan seem to have been ignored.

| Report |

Debating across the Atlantic

Vivek Santayana reports on the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition, 2010, held at Ashbury College, Ottawa, between October 15 and 18



To be honest, we knew little about the competition: we had never done most of the events before. We had never competed in an international circuit before, against schools whose reputations preceded them in an event of this scale. We did not know what to expect, except of course a gastronomic adventure and the loss of our luggage at some stretch of the journey or the other. The prospect of competing in the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition, 2010, at Ashbury College seemed daunting. Still, Shoumitra, Kejariwal, Revant, Piroune, Dhandhanian and I, under the guidance (and yoke) of DEB, managed to get our acts together (although rehearsal was difficult under the duress of DS-75). We made it to Ottawa after a harrowing journey (and were rechristened "The Doon School, India").

The tournament proved to be an enriching experience: we learned new formats of debating and public speaking. In Extemporaneous Speaking, contestants were provided a topic thirty minutes in advance, a focussed question on a recent issue such as, *Should China repeal its one child policy? or Is the banning of the burqa justified?*. Impromptu was much like our JAM; the topics were drawn two minutes prior, and were phrases, quotations or proverbs, ranging from International Styles of Dress to George Santayana's aphorism *Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it*. Parliamentary Debating followed the British Parliamentary style with two speakers on either team, the Government and Opposition. Topics were declared half an hour in advance and the Government had to inform the opposition of the definition twenty minutes prior to the debate. We had to speak for eight minutes, something which we were not used to. The protocol, needless to say, took a little getting used to: much like MUN, we could only address the

Speaker of the House and refer to contestants in the third person. In Radio Newscast, contestants were given a newspaper, based on which they had to prepare a four-minute-long top-of-the-hour news broadcast. They were assessed for delivery as well as news selection. In Persuasive Speaking, participants had to deliver a twelve-minute-long speech analysing a problem and a planned solution. Interpretative Reading was much like the LAMDA Reading for Performance examination: contestants had to perform a piece of literature while reading it (and strictly not from memory). Cross-Examination Debating took its name from a lawyer's close questioning of a hostile witness: after a speaker spoke, an opponent had three minutes to cross-question the speaker and elicit damaging contradictions. We performed well in our respective events. Piroune and Revant reached the semi-finals of Cross-Examination Debating and I reached the finals of Impromptu. The feedback we received was wholly positive.

The tournament set aside, we did a fair bit of sightseeing, visiting the Museum of Civilization, which exhibited Canadian history from the Pacific Coast civilization through its colonial history to modern Canada today and the Canadian National Gallery, which had an interesting exhibition of Moshe Safdie. Visits to malls and marketplaces almost seem customary, and we spent a few hours at the Rideau Centre, as well as the quaint Byward Market. Besides these attractions, we spent evenings walking within Ashbury's neighbourhood, meandering down in the peak of fall's beauty to the Second Cup coffee shop.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to Parliament Hill on the last day. The final round of Parliamentary Debating was to be held at the Canadian Parliament, inside the Senate chamber. Unfortunately, we were unable to stay for the event, as we had a flight to catch. We consoled ourselves with lunch at the Parliament, after an interesting tour of the Hill by a most enthusiastic tour guide. We visited the Senate (the House of Commons was in session at the time). We paid a quick visit to the Library, which survived the fire that burned the Parliament in 1916. Later, we were addressed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Peter Milliken, and a senior Senator, Anne Cools, on the role of the Speaker in the Parliament, the importance of debating and the significance of the federal structure of a state. The speeches, despite their sheer length, were informative and enlightening.

The whole trip, the debating, new friends and rapports, food, sightseeing and addresses by eminent guest speakers, was most enriching. For Shoumitra and me, it was the last debate in which we were representing the School. For the School, it marked our entry into the international circuit. The exposure should hold all of us in good stead, Shoumitra and me in university and the School in future tournaments of this kind.

| Report | Testing and Learning

Rishabh Pande and Yuv Khosla report on the concert given by students taking the Trinity-Guildhall Music Examination, in the Music School on Sunday, November 7

recital, giving them a chance to overcome their nerves and getting used to performing before an audience. The performance was also an introduction for D-formers and those who have taken music as an STA to Western classical music. Rather than a talk or presentation, a concert such as this was surely a more effective method to expose the D-formers to the world of music.

The pieces being performed were for the piano, guitar, electronic keyboard and violin. The music was divided into three broad categories, dance, Western classical and programme music. It ranged from the Baroque period (late 16th century to the early 18th century) to a few contemporary pieces. The concert began with Bipasha performing Handel's (a German-British Baroque composer) *Gavotte* - a French folk dance. The section also featured Mozart's *Minuet* - a stately dance in triple time and a *Minuetto* which is a smaller, more delicate minuet. The Mozart piece was played by D-former Krishna Lohiya and was composed when Mozart was younger than the performer! Two pieces on the violin by Hamza Khan, accompanied by the piano, were also included in the dance section. Hamza's spirited rendering of the Irish folk melody, *Down by Salley Gardens*, had many a foot tapping to the lively rhythm. The dance segment came to a close with Chopin's *Valse*, the most challenging piece of the day, played by Uddhav Prasad.

One of the aspects which made this concert more appreciated was a short introduction of all the pieces. Before the actual playing, PCH gave an explanation of the historical and cultural context of each piece and a brief history of the composer which helped the audience relate to the music. The next segment was the Western classical music which included the works of famous composers such as Bela Bartok and George Benda. A change for the audience was by the light-hearted pieces on the electronic keyboard by Harshvardhan Bansal and Aditya Malik. These included a song from the famous band *ABBA*, which was featured in the movie *Mama Mia*. Another interesting one in this segment was a piece called *Pop looks Bach*, a piece with a modern rhythm (pop) paying tribute to Bach, known as the father of Western classical music. Rachit Malik performed a piece on the classical guitar (very different from the acoustic or electric guitar as it allows the soloist to perform complex melodic and polyphonic material, in much the same manner as on the piano) called *Allegro* by Mauro Giuliani. Yash Mall performed a *Sonatina* (a shorter, lighter one in character, or more elementary technically than a typical sonata) which was testimony to his technical prowess and the hard work put into it.

The last segment for the day was programme music. Programme music is a type of music that attempts to musically render an extra-musical narrative which is conveyed through the notes, chromatics, crescendos and diminuendos in pitch and pauses. Absolute music, in contrast, does not depict any such emotion or situation and is non-representational. The music included two pieces on the piano, *Ill-Temper* and *The Ghost in the Chimney*, and one on the violin accompanied by the piano called *Confu and Cefalonia* which evoked these beautiful Greek islands 'Ghost...', with its eerie chromatic passages and abrupt pauses was a piece I really enjoyed playing, and one which seemed suitable for a cold autumn night.

Letter To The Editor

When I think of the Founder's Day addresses on the Main Field, I cannot help remembering the lighting of the lamp (which, all of us would agree, took a lot of effort by a junior boy). We use the same, common inaugural lamp during the Inter-House Music Competition or any other School function wherein it is deemed appropriate. This tradition has an intellectual and spiritual significance, as we are guided by the lamp of knowledge and dharma. Our School emblem is the same lamp of knowledge, yet I found it rather ironic that we have no working replica of our School lamp for major School events. Perhaps it is just a whim or a passing fancy, but I believe we should have a lamp that resembles the lamp of knowledge made for such inauguration ceremonies, and not the ubiquitous brass peacock lamp that everyone uses. It will not require great effort or resources to make a replica of the same lamp we wear on our blazers or have printed on our notebooks. Such a lamp will be symbolic of our School's intellectual traditions and reinforce our identity, crest and motto. Besides, it will add aesthetic value to any stage or ceremony.

-Vivek Santayana

Unquotable Quotes

You made a grammatical error!

Vatsal Agrawal meets Shakespeare.

Can you sit the straight?

VKL, etiquette unlimited.

Look at your dirty beautiful face!

Harshvardhan Singh, oxymoron expert?

My head is very paining!

Harshvardhan Singh, need a Crocin?

People backstab me left, right and centre!

Aditya Bhattacharya, helpless.

He wanted to represent his country in an Inter-House state Olympics.

Aditya Roy, understanding the world of sport.

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