

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
September 29, 2018 | Issue No. 2515

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Assessing Academics

The Doon School Weekly interviewed the newly appointed Deputy Head (Academics), Mr. Debasish Chakrabarty.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How do you plan on increasing the amount of attention and importance given by the students to academics?

Mr. Debasish Chakrabarty (DEB): For a single person to augment anything is impossible, as the issue is a systemic one. It will happen comprehensively only when all of us begin to realise the times that we are living in. Today if one were to even apply to the top-notch universities, one needs those top grades and a transcript from B-Form onwards that shows a consistent learning curve.

“Which activity in School, do you think, suffers the most at the cost of other things we do?” The answer, unanimously, was Academics.

Taking initiative to support academic rigour becomes a common responsibility shared by all stakeholders of the school. What the position of the DHA can do is to initiate, support and help plan such forward thinking and actionable change.

DSW: Exam weeks were

scrapped as the School switched to a tri-semester system. Do you not think that for greater academic aptitude, more regular testing is required?

DEB: Testing is not something alien to us and we do a significant amount of testing over the year. From teachers asking questions in class and SAT diagnostic tests to Trials and Board Exams, everything falls within the purview of testing.

However, one can only be tested on what one knows. So, if we don't give ourselves appropriate time to know, learn and practice, any amount of testing is futile. Testing by itself cannot yield results. It is the knowledge that is tested that converts itself into results. Knowledge must be gained by participating in the class, in research projects, taking initiative in the learning process and by making the right academic choices. Regular testing is important, but the exact implementation of it is open for discussion. We will continue to evolve our testing mechanism, because our students need transcripts to apply to colleges. How we go about generating those marks is something all of us need to think about.

We also need to realise that the logistics of examinations have changed drastically with our shift from ICSE to international boards like the IGCSE or the IB. We will



need to think on all fronts.

DSW: Do you find any other hurdles that must be overcome with academics in School?

DEB: I'd like to go back to what the School Council said in response to the Headmaster's question, "Which activity in School, do you think, suffers the most at the cost of other things we do?" The answer, unanimously, was academics. If we, statistically, count the number of hours as per the timetable, then of course academics, seemingly, gets the most time. However, I do not think we have any statistical method by which we can measure the number of productive hours spent on learning and teaching!

There are always hurdles for academic practice in boarding schools. Each student needs to ask himself or herself what is most important for him or her and where s/he sees herself/himself a

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STERLING SCIENTISTS

The following are the results of the **Dipanker Sen Science Quiz, 2018**.

In the **Junior Category**, Abhisar Sudhakar stood **Runner-Up**, while Aryan Agarwal was adjudged **Winner**.

In the **Senior Category**, Raghav Saboo and Shivendra Pratap Singh stood **Runners-Up**, while Raghav Grover emerged as the **Winner**.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

He wants to feel intellectually smart.

Shourya Mann, smarting comment.

I don't have chest.

Sushmit Das, nor a brain.

The glass broke into one piece.

Krishmeet Singh, are you sure?

I will sell you a piece of land for free.

Ranvijay Singh, the rich 'Rajput'.

What is your sound quality?

Karan Sampath, pitch perfect.

Are you a judger?

Ayushmaan, sentencing himself.

He is playing the band solo.

Harshvardhan Agarwal, individual responsibility.

“

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

—
Abraham Lincoln

REASON AND RHETORIC

The School took part in the **Naveen Agarwal Memorial Debate** held at **Unison World School, Dehradun** on **September 22**.

Nirvair Singh was adjudged the **Best Speaker of the Debate** while **Shourya Agarwal** emerged as the **Fourth Best Speaker of the Debate**. **Nirvair Singh** was also adjudged the **Best Speaker of the Turncoat Round**.

The team went on to **win** the debate.

Congratulations!

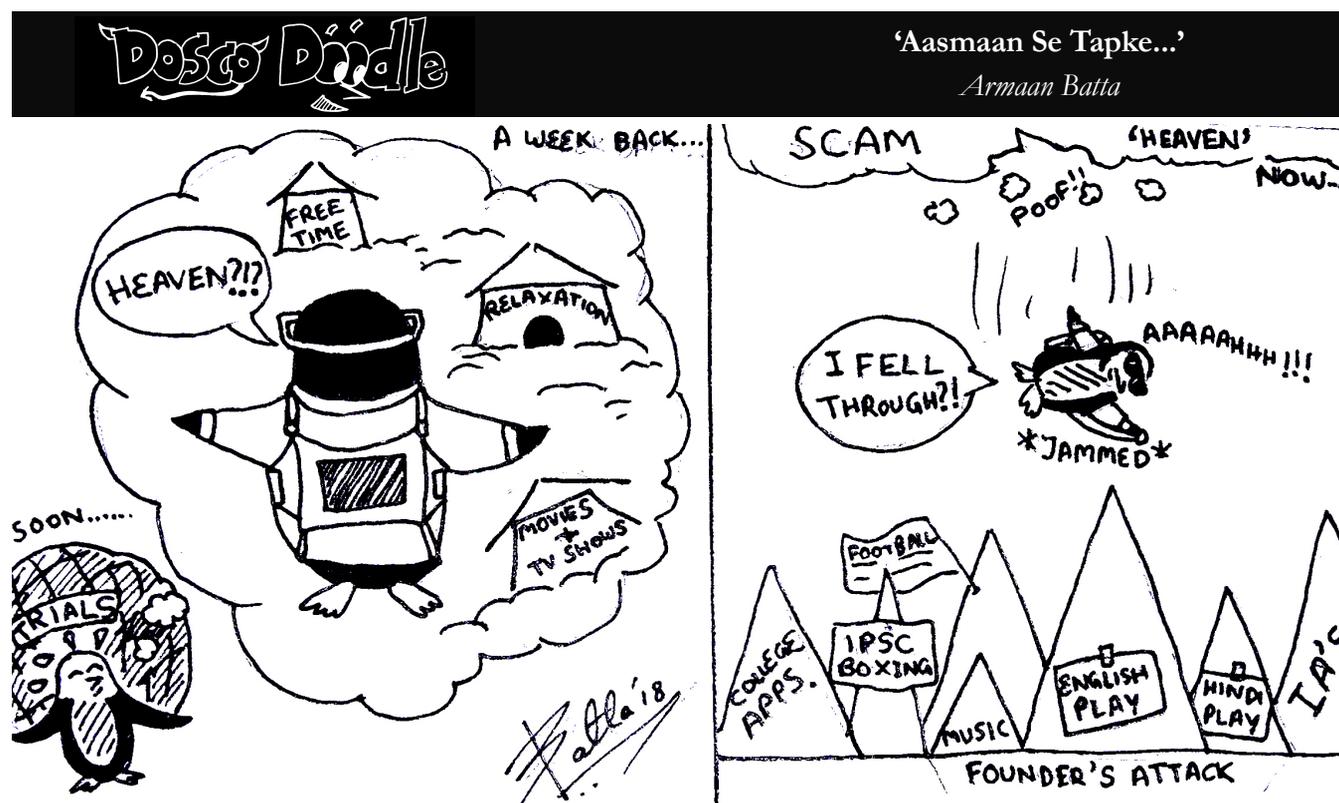
THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

The **School Football Team** participated in the **All India IPSC Football Tournament** held at **Emerald Heights International School, Indore**. The team **won** all of its **Preliminary Round** matches, but lost in the **Quarterfinal Round** with a score of **2-1**.

Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court scrapped adultery from the Indian Penal Code. The USA imposed a visa ban on all Chinese officials who were involved in formulating the policies of the Tibetan Act. Brett M. Kavanaugh, an American judge, faced multiple accusations of sexual assault which threatened his nomination for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In the English Premier League, Liverpool beat Southampton 3-0. The Indian cricket team beat Pakistan by nine wickets in the Asian Cup.



(Continued from Page 1)

few years from now. In a nutshell, it is ultimately oneself challenging oneself – the hurdles are the choices we make.

DSW: What is your vision for the School as DHA, and at the end of your tenure, what specific change do you wish to have brought about?

DEB: I am part of a larger process of evolution and change. I certainly do not imagine that we would

move from point A to point B within the span of any individual's tenure. The Doon School will remain The Doon School. I do not think anyone should be hubristic enough to believe that they can change an institution, which has endured and thrived for so long. We need to understand that this is a journey where all members of our community are moving ahead in keeping with the demands of the times. This is precisely what

we have been doing for the past 83 years and will continue to do so. This is the reason we, as a school, have endured so long. While we can celebrate our successes in all the fields that we are known for, we must also have the humility to know that we can always improve, at both the individual and collective levels. All we need to do is to have a clear common vision and tread this path together.



UNDER THE SCANNER

Kerala Catholic Church Rape Case | Advaita Sood

On September 21, Bishop Franco Mulakkal, a senior member of the Roman Catholic clergy in India, was arrested amid escalating public indignation over allegations of repeatedly raping and sexually assaulting a nun.

The complainant stated that she was raped 13 times between 2014 and 2016 by Bishop Franco Mulakkal. In June, she filed a complaint to the Kottayam police, and wrote a scathing letter to the Vatican representative in New Delhi, alleging that the bishop was using “political and money power” to “bury” the case, and sought his removal. Meanwhile, attempts were made by various parts of the church to besmirch the reputation of the nun and discourage her supporters.

The disturbing scandal got murkier when the Bishop himself filed a complaint against the nun, claiming that he was being blackmailed as he refused to extend her favours. Furthermore, he filed an anticipatory bail petition in the Kerala High Court claiming allegations against him were a “cooked up story to wreak vengeance”. However, after numerous interrogations, the police stated that there was concrete evidence to suggest that the clergyman had committed the crime.

The issue is not only about the

social wrong that is rape, but also about the manner in which the Church's eminence as an influential moral authority is slowly and gradually eroding. It is facing similar accusations all over the world. 4,000 Roman Catholic priests have faced sexual abuse allegations in the last 50 years (in cases involving more than 10,000 children - mostly boys) in a country like the USA. An Archbishop in Australia, Philip Wilson, resigned after he was found guilty over allegations of child sexual abuse.

The reason for these numerous cases around the world is probably because there is unconditional trust when it comes to the Church. At times, this enables it to be a breeding ground for things such as sexual exploitations.

However, even if a victim is subjected to such gruesome exploitation, she is often discouraged from speaking out, such as in this case. The Church is a male dominated institution, in which males not only outnumber females, but they also possess more power. Misogyny and male privilege are inherent within the workings of the Church.

Nevertheless, women all over the world have begun to speak out, with movements such as #ChurchToo (similar to the #MeToo movement) and the #SilenceIsNotSpiritual movement, launched last December with the aim to question traditional belief systems and the status of women in the Church. Cases such as this one simply add fuel to the fire, and encourage victims of sexual abuse in institutions such as the Church to speak up so that evils such as these are duly acknowledged.



The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

On September 22, an anomaly was registered in the Dehradun Meteorological Department as the entire student body heaved a sigh of relief to mark the end of trials. Almost immediately, a collective sound emanated from Chandbagh. Instead of climbing mountains these midterms, our masters were preoccupied with a mountain of corrections on their desks. Rumour has it that the A-form was most cruel with 100 answer scripts to be corrected for only one stream in one subject by one teacher.

Most of the SC form also

behaved like the role models we always knew they could be. They were impeccably punctual for classes and assembly. The form worked diligently on their internal assessments and was very courteous to all. Let us hope that they get the predicted grades and recommendations they are so earnestly striving to achieve. However, despite this utopian class culture, the IB batch of 2019 conspired and schemed to find a way to get back at their predecessors, the most likely cause of their increased stress level post trials.

On the sports front, the basketball team played its qualifying games in the IPSC U-19 tournament as the football IPSC team lamented their ill-fate for having to write exams

when most of the student body enjoyed some downtime. Speaking of downtime, Founders music and drama practices commenced with a cap of 11:00 pm. Hopefully, prioritising health doesn't curb the quality of our productions and our publications. The last few goalposts were also taken off the grounds, as we bid farewell to football. Some are eagerly awaiting the avalanche of athletics, tennis, squash, badminton, table tennis, boxing, and basketball which will descend upon us. The upcoming weeks will challenge the quality of time management in both masters and boys alike. But under the escalated stress of work, let us hope that we do not lose sight of what really matters - our relationships.

Sudoku

Note: Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

	1	9			4		6	7
			9	1				3
	4	5		7		8		
	6				3			1
	7			5			8	4
9		1	6		7		2	
		2	3	8		4	7	
6		7	4		2			8
4							5	

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>

Celebrating Gandhi at 149

Karan Sampath

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, it is worth remembering why we bring a country of 1.2 billion people to a halt for one man. His most potent contribution was not delivering India its independence, but his methods of doing it. In the face of stiff opposition, Gandhi's non-violent attitude serves as a near-angelic example of what Indians should look up to and strive to emulate. The most crucial contribution of Gandhi, however, is defining what India is. Our ethos, and

our beliefs, come from a person so noble and so sincere, that it sends one clear message, a message not open to interpretation, a message which reverberates within every Indian even today.

2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3	4
8	3	1	2	6	4	7	5	9
9	7	4	5	8	3	2	6	1
5	2	3	7	4	6	1	8	9
4	8	9	6	5	1	3	7	2
1	9	7	3	2	8	4	6	5
6	1	8	9	7	2	5	4	3
3	4	5	8	1	6	9	2	7
7	9	2	4	3	5	6	1	8

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