

# The Doon School WEEKLY



*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
February 16, 2019 | Issue No. 2526

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A response to the assembly talk on Social Service.

Page 3

## SLICING MY WAY OUT

A report on B form's community service duties.

Page 4

## REFLECTIVE WRITING

A new section featuring essays given as corrective measures.

Page 5

## The Essential Doon

*Aryan Bhattacharjee writes on how procedure has lent rigidity to a Dosco's life.*

*"How much more opportunity of wandering in this lonely countryside will the future bring?"*

-Doon School Magazine (1937)

It was in this spirit perhaps that Mr Holdsworth, who was (for those of us who are yet to learn) in numerous ways the ideal Doon School master, discovered the Valley of Flowers wandering through the heart of the Himalayas one day. He did so because he refused to stick to the trail and follow the maps; he'd rather explore freely the riches that Dun offers to one sensitive enough.

There is a shimmer of the same soul in the words of AE Foot as he addresses an infant Doon at the first Founders programme, "It's good to see how the activities in School are developing thanks to the sheer spirit of both boys and masters". For in both there is the freedom of innocent spontaneity, the kind you'd see in a child as he walks around the garden in search of something interesting, and indeed that is the cornerstone of the Dosco, the explorer. To allow the thriving of such freedom, however, must exist an ecosystem that cares most not about systems but people, and strives to bring out the best in them within the framework of our institution. In order to allow for that freedom without slipping into anarchy, one's perception of structure becomes

critical. Is structure a rigorous set of processes, encompassing even the most passing detail in its scheme of how things ought to be done, or can structure also be a set of guiding principles that steer unflinchingly one's conscience?

**It is the utter  
audacity of our  
boys and masters in  
implementing new,  
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The answer may lie perchance in the words of a former headmaster of Eton College, Tony Little, when he says, "The truth is that this [school] operates well (and indeed operates at all) because the pupils want it to work. They have to trust the school." One gets here the sense that it is largely the latter; that it is a largely fluid confusion of things that falls by some miracle in wondrous harmony which is the nature of our School. It is evident that our School doesn't run, nor did ever, on the basis of procedure; and though procedure too is imperative for any large institution, it is the utter

audacity of our boys and masters in implementing new, seemingly radical, ideas that pushes us forward day after day.

It is now that I fathom, as limitedly in extent as my faculties would allow, the genius of the founding fathers of our School. I see now that their decision to refrain from setting in stone a rigorous structure, rife with bureaucratic procedures, was because of their deep understanding of the Indian context, and their far reaching vision. Sir Harry Haig in his address at our first anniversary said, "The idea is to reproduce in India the spirit of a public school, but not to copy mechanically the unessential details or those which are based on peculiarly English conditions." He said so, I think, because he recognised that our culture strongly prefers spontaneous bursts of creative expression and doesn't care as vehemently for the robust archival instinct and rigorous institutionalisation as I would like to believe exists far more rigidly in the West.

What is ironic, though, is that eighty years after Mr Foot wrote in the Weekly, major multinational firms have realised the value of putting human beings before operating procedures; and eighty years after Mr Foot envisioned organic and autonomous

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## MASTERS OF THE PODIUM

The following are the results of the **Inter-House English Debating Competition, 2018:**

### Juniors:

1st: Hyderabad      3rd: Jaipur and Oberoi  
2nd: Kashmir      5th: Tata

### Seniors:

1st: Kashmir      3rd: Tata and Jaipur  
2nd: Oberoi      5th: Hyderabad

### House:

1st: Kashmir      4th: Hyderabad  
2nd: Oberoi      5th: Tata  
3rd: Jaipur

Congratulations!

## HAT TRICK

The following are the appointments for the *Score* for the year 2019-20:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Anay Shah

**Editor:** Ishaan Agarwal

**Chief-of-Production:** Armaan Thapar

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

“

Everyone tells you what to do and what's good for you. They don't want you to find your own answers. They want you to believe theirs.

—  
Socrates

## ORATORY EXCELLENCE

Karan Sampath, Aarsh Ashdir, Raghav Kediya and Aryan Bhattacharjee took part in the **Indian Schools Debating Society's National Selection Camp** in Chennai between the 29th of December and the 2nd of January 2019. Aarsh Ashdir made it to the **Top 30** shortlist, Raghav Kediya made it to the **Top 24** while Karan Sampath was selected to represent India.

Well done!

## LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Following are the appointments for the year 2019-20:

**Lost Property Office:** Nand Singh Dahiya

**Entertainment Committee:** Karanvir Singh Mann

**Photography STA:** Rishi Shrishrimal

**Photography SUPW:** Gautam Singhal

**Trophy Squad:** Pragnay Nevatia

**Games Committee:** Adhiraj Singh

**Technology Council:** Shreyas Minocha

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

## Around the World in 80 Words

186 Islamic State militants were captured in Iraq for the terrorist attacks they committed. The Mexican drug lord El Chapo was convicted after a three-month drug trial in New York. 37 CRPF personnel died in an attack by a suicide bomber of the group Jaish-e-Mohammed on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway. The Supreme Court granted interim bail to businessman Rajiv Saxena, who is one of the accused in the Rs 3,600 crore Agusta Westland VVIP chopper scam. Manchester City beat Chelsea 6-0.

**Dosco Doodle**

Gone for a Toss

Anant Ganapathy



*(Continued from Page 1)*

development, inspired by an Indian way of life, Pepsi and Google move from having finance departments and operations departments to project teams with far greater autonomy.

To me, that is precisely what made it possible for us to fulfil our mission statement: to serve a meritocratic India. You see, what sets apart a Dosco from a mob is not so much his academic brilliance, though that too is amply present, nor his expertise in a sport, but the interpersonal (people) skills that he has developed in his time here. For in these six years, he has learned the value of self regulation and responsibility that are born from the vast independence and trust

that are vested in him.

Moreover, what is needed above all else to serve today a meritocratic India is to be able to be adaptable to unforeseen situations. The world outside these walls is changing far too quickly for even a shred of the mundane to persist over the next few decades. Spontaneity gives onto an individual immunity from the deadly disease of remaining within one's comfort zone, which is something decisive when it comes to success in the world that we are set to enter, I believe. It is also that spirit of the explorer and adventurer that is the essence of the pioneer, who chooses to walk down the road yet not tread; and any Dosco of significance who has, in these past 83 years

bolstered the reputation of our great school has undoubtedly been whispered this secret.

Where does that leave us? What must we now do to revive this mysterious spirit of yore? In a word, we must bring it upon ourselves to push forward, each day, our own selves and the people who look up to us, and to undertake even the seemingly most impossible ideas; for it is in doing the unimaginable that our soul lies. It is only when, at every moment, we are guided by our conscience, and steered by the ideals we hold by our hearts, striving to live to the fullest each moment that we will, truly, be DoscOs.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is with reference to the School Social Service Secretary's address to the School community. Last week, the School heard an alarming perspective about community service in School. He highlighted the negative aspects of the activity and how it was his prerogative to help mould the community's opinion about the activity.

Community service has always been a core tenet of our school's curriculum and as the secretary rightly stated, it has been one of the oldest running activities in School. He went on about how it had become a gateway to college or just a means to satiate one's hunger; what he failed to do was recognize the efforts of all those who spend countless hours trying to make a difference. It would be wrong to say that all those engaged in community service have unselfish motives, but it would be worse to forget that there will always be people with selfless motives.

Time and again, I feel that the

community has started correlating Social Service with food. It wouldn't be entirely true if I said that people who go out for community service outings do not eat but this is not reason enough to disregard all the genuine work they have done.

### **The talk did blemish the reputation of the activity and boys who are enthusiastic about it.**

If someone holds such a strong opinion, it might be due to the fact that he has witnessed a lot of this happen. The variety of reasons that DoscOs can come up with to get an outing is truly amazing. Pinpointing Social Service as the only method to obtain unnecessary outings is wrong considering the fact that

boys go out every week under the pretext of renting DVDs for Saturday Night Entertainment.

The talk did blemish the reputation of the activity and boys who are enthusiastic about it. Considering that most boys involved are not doing it for the recognition they will still be less inclined to participate in the activity since its credibility has been diminished.

As stated by the Secretary, the sole purpose of the talk was to propagate the idea of this noble activity in School. Ironically, it did the exact opposite, tarnishing the reputation of the activity by seeding doubts in the minds of students.

Most DoscOs, at some point in their lives here in School have taken part in community service. As juniors we've had to do mandatory social work in the form of cleaning our campus on Independence Day mornings, picking up litter in the vicinity of School etc. Most students develop a dislike towards community

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(Continued from Page 3)

service because they've been forced to take part in the activity, but there are also some people who have completed their time in School and continue to strive tirelessly to bring about change and help the needy.

The DSOBS in partnership with The Delhi Langar Seva Society sets up a community kitchen every Thursday to feed thousands of underprivileged people. Established Old Boys such as Arun Bharat Ram run mobile screening vans to help fight and detect cervical cancer among women. Recent graduates like Shubham Dhiman are trying to revolutionize the way children are taught by adopting schools and enhancing their curriculum to align with changing patterns. To combat the exponential rise in pollution in Gurgaon, Old Boys Yash Johri and Tushaar Sharma raised money and managed to plant over 500 trees. This goes on to show that years after leaving School, the lessons learnt, the values

inculcated, and the true spirit of service remains intact.

Every year we see a plethora of initiatives take shape. They go on elaborating CVs and eventually get scrapped in a couple of years. Many such initiatives help solve short term problems and are started by boys who want to make their college applications impressive. However, the real question we as a community need to ask ourselves is whether the work that we do due to our ulterior motives should be acceptable; after all, it is solving a purpose.

Although some of the points in the talk were valid and the talk was quite straightforward in nature, it didn't help achieve what the secretary had set out to achieve. Also, I believe that this wasn't the right platform for the talk to paint the 'fabulous' idea of aristocracy black.

Sincerely,  
Amol Singh

## Slicing My Way Out

Ned Marshall, an exchange student, shares his experience on working with the CDH staff.

As many of you might have noticed, for the past two weeks, the B Form has been supporting the Support Staff on the grounds and inside the Central Dining Hall. On Monday, two of my form mates and I assisted the CDH staff from breakfast till lunch. Instead of going to lessons, we toiled inside the kitchens preparing lunch for 500 boys. The experience was truly eye opening.

The moment we entered the CDH, we lay the tables and cleaned the seats in a hurry. Honestly, I had expected to stand around for a day and watch the kitchen staff prepare the food, but instead I was tossing around knives, forks and spoons. As soon as breakfast got over, I began helping the staff clean the tables that had been decorated with milk and

ketchup spill-overs. Afterwards, we were moved into the kitchen to prepare an appetising lunch. I was assigned to cut *paneer* slices, a task I soon became proficient at. However, not surprisingly, I got ahead of myself and the sharp edges of the knife gashed my thumb. The chef, obviously, was not impressed and put me onto curry duty, leaving me to stir a pot for the next two hours.

Following that, I wrapped up my service by operating on the production line as the chapati maker. It was simple enough and all that I was to do was put a square of dough onto a moving surface which would go onto flatten and inflate the dough. The heat emanating from the machine was, however, slightly discomforting. As I repeated the task for the hundredth time, all I could feel was the flare of the machine, something that became almost frightening by the end.

I was unsatisfied for being such a fool with the knife but those hundred minutes of watching a curry boil gave me an insight of the work the CDH staff puts in every day. It is not easy or particularly exciting. It certainly is a lot of hard work but nonetheless fun and I did genuinely enjoy myself on Monday. To be frank, I've never given thought much of the chefs back at Gordonstoun but doing this service showed me the hours spent in order to give us food every day, and for that I am truly thankful.





# REFLECTIVE WRITING

What are the Consequences of Laughing in Toye? | Raghav Kediya

## A Note from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

Essays have been handed as a corrective measure by Prefects for as long as one could remember.

Although not as mentally tormenting as lines or graphs (which have now been done away with), essays have worked effectively in creating an environment where discipline can be sustained. A few years ago, essays were renamed 'Reflective Writing', in line with School's attempts to foster an atmosphere of correction, and not punishments. Many of these reflective essays are written in an extremely limited time bracket, leading to the extensive use of repetition (not to mention, inane language). After all, the word limit is all that needs to be achieved!

The article printed below is one such essay. It had been given to a boy because of his misdemeanours committed during Toye. To ensure that its humorous aspect is preserved, we have minimally edited this piece from its raw form.

Happy Reading!

The topic for this essay is 'What are the consequences of laughing in Toye?' I got this essay as anyone can guess, because I was laughing while Toye was going on. What is even messed up more than laughing in Toye, is that fact that I laughed at a time when our prefect was peeved at our form and had punished us by making us put away all our books and academic equipment. I feel like my laughing was a really immature and illogical response to the situation I had at hand at that moment when I laughed.

Now that I have given a sort of an introduction I will deal with the topic that I have in hand. The

topic that I have for this essay is 'what are the consequences of laughing in Toye?'

Well it's best to say, that one should realize that the Toye is a place that is meant to maintain sanctity, peace and quiet. It is a place that an individual must be able to grow and thrive in, without any problems or forms of disturbances.

On a contrasting note, a laugh is the process of showing that something is funny. The process of laughing is usually loud, vulgar and extremely obvious. It is very obvious to any person that is concerned that laughing in Toye goes against and distorts the very principles on which the Toye is meant to run or exist in. It's a crime so extremely serious, so the punishment should also be of matching seriousness.

One consequence of laughing in Toye is that the accumulated man hours for study for every person in the form goes down. This is because when one person laughs one of two things can happen. Either every person starts to laugh and waste their time or the one person continues disturbing every other person so they cannot do anything productive because every person's productivity goes down, there will be direct impact on the individual as well as the form's performance. This means their performance in any *kaam* or in life in general. This could harm any form of college prospects that an individual may plan. This is because a majority of a college's decision is based off a student's academic performance and calibre. This means a person who would want to go to Harvard University may not be able to go

Harvard University. This means a person who would want to go to the University of Oxford or of Cambridge might not be able to go to the University of Oxford or of Cambridge. This will impact the way in which the person's life turns out to be. This could harm the kind of standard of living, income or scenario that the person has. This could have a detrimental effect on the individual's life and family considering they are able to find a wife or a husband. This is a major detriment that happens because of a person laughing in Toye.

Aside from this lack of productivity there are also smaller less important, but still quite crucial, consequences of laughing in Toye. For example, while a person is laughing, a fly could enter their mouth and cause diseases like cholera or food poisoning. However what is the external consequence that can be inflicted on an individual who is laughing?

Till now I dealt with internal or self inflicted consequences. Seeing as there is a form of hierarchy system in The Doon School, Dehradun, a senior or a prefect can inflict a consequence upon an individual. This consequence can be in the form of a punishment or scolding the individual. In my case I got a punishment that is this very essay that I am writing and you are reading. Other punishments could include a change in break, an extra PT or a 6 to 6. A scolding could have been abusive or could have been very loud to hear. All of the things that I have written are the wind of external and internal consequences of laughing in Toye.

# The Week Gone By

Divyansh Nautiyal

Gloomy skies and incessant raining were the weather and literally, the mood of the campus for the past week. You know it's not the best of Valentine's Day when you are confined in a however, lush green campus along with six hundred boys to spend the day. Wouldn't it be a great idea to conduct Socials with our 'sister' School on this occasion? Our sincerest sympathises with the SC-Ls who had to write their Economics Board exam the following day.

The week saw nail biting endings and splendid performances on the cricket pitch. The cricket season

brought in its own set of surprises and upsets in the Seniors category with the Nizams claiming the Trophy with a clean sweep. Only time will reveal what is to happen in the Junior's Cup.

Appointments were handed out with dripping sarcasm on Monday morning although the School duly looks forward to the work of our aptly appointed Entertainment head. As the Board exams already underway for the SC-Ls and will begin on Monday for the AT form, we wish both set of exam takers the best of luck. A good exam result is always a great push for the Batches below. So, no pressure there! While returning to the CDH to collect our bags after Assembly, one must have noticed Doscocs in track suits assisting the CDH staff. Only by stepping

into their shoes can we realise the toil put in by our Support staff and truly comprehend the words 'Aristocracy of Service'.

The extreme cold, which we all seem to be accustomed to, has also loosened its grip. With sun kissed mornings and afternoons, Chandbagh is slowly melting into the Spring season. Post the Wednesday morning Assembly talk, many of us would have reminisced about our first few days on campus. Having entered my last year in School, I can safely say that time does really fly by. For those of us who are still in their junior years, do remember to make it count.

A timely reminder to everyone about the impending Trials which await us in exactly a month. Yet again, it's time for another battle.

## Sudoku

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

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

Key




The Weekly wishes the School Community a Happy Valentine's Day!

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

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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