

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
March 9, 2019 | Issue No. 2529

DOON SPEAK

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Knowledge Our Light?

Shourya Agarwal *comments on the state of general knowledge in School.*

When Arthur Foot chose "Knowledge our Light" as our motto, he envisioned an institution which would stir curiosity in young minds. In the past, awareness was one of the cornerstones of the community. However, due to many reasons, including the transition we have witnessed in our curriculums, the values revolving around awareness and knowledge appear to have become slightly misplaced in School. Presently, an activity like quizzing has become synonymous with rote learning for many members of the community.

Many skeptics have raised questions regarding the usefulness of general knowledge itself. The most frequent counter-claim made against retaining knowledge is the presence of a copious

amount of data on the internet. This reasoning does not hold water as it fails to account for the prevalence of fake information on the internet. Unfortunately, only a handful of news agencies broadcast unbiased information. Social media has created room for an easy dispensation of fake news and propaganda. Such fake news gives impetus to rumor mongering and mischaracterisation of facts which can lead to disastrous consequences. Quizzing plays a significant role in dispelling false facts and in promoting and understanding the exigency of obtaining qualified information.

It is reasonable to argue that easy access to knowledge has liberated the students from the burden of remembering hard facts. However,

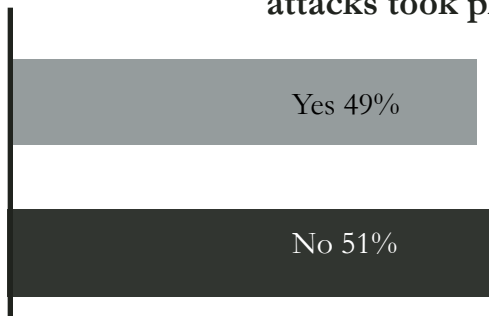
it is very difficult to draw a distinction between essential and unimportant information. The metric of evaluating the relevance of information is highly subjective and therefore impractical to implement. Hence, when we propagate the belief that knowing certain things is not vital, we are bound to diminish understanding of certain crucial fields. For instance, we observe the lack of general awareness about Indian history and civics in the student body after the introduction of IGCSE. Such a lack of general awareness is detrimental to the School's resolve of preparing educated young men.

Every year we observe that the number of students who wish to pursue higher education in India is dwindling. As a premier institution, we must provide students a platform where they can actively choose the place for their higher education. General Knowledge (GK) is a core component of many competitive exams in India. Therefore, not promoting a certain enthusiasm amongst students about quizzing and GK will curtail higher education options for students, putting them at a disadvantage. The School must safeguard this freedom of choice so students who leave Chandbagh will serve all sections of society.

(Continued on Page 3)

Opinion oll

Do you know where in Kashmir the recent terrorist attacks took place?



(256 members of the School community across C, B and A forms were polled)

EXCELLENCE ENDEAVOURED**Historical Circle Essay Contest:****Junior:** Kabir Subbiah**Senior:** Ansh Raj**Best Assembly Talk:****English:** Aryan Bhattacharjee**Hindi:** Kartik Rathore**Art:****Best Painter:** Stanzin Namgyal**Best Digital Artist:** Amal Bansode**Shri Gulab Singh Memorial Sculpture Trophy:**

Kushagra Bansal

Best Artist: Stanzin Namgyal**Music:****Best Musician of the Year:** Harrsh Dewan**General Proficiency Cup:****Junior:** Mayank Agrawal**Senior:** Kanishkh Kanodia

Kudos!

LEADING LUMINARIES

School Colours have been awarded to Amal Bansode, Devang Laddha Kanishkh Kanodia, Ranvijay Singh, Viksit Verma, Yash Dewan.

Congratulations!

“

The universe is full of magaiical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.

Eden Phillpotts

THEATRICAL TITANS

Highest marks in School in the Trinity Speech and Drama examination for the year 2018:

Milind Khemka

Best Actor in English Plays: Sidhant Shyam**Best Supporting Actor in English Plays:** Lorcon Conlon**Vimal Bhagat Trophy for Excellence in Theater (English):** Milind Khemka**Superama Scholarship and Award for Contribution in Hindi Drama:** Manandeep Singh**Best Actor in Hindi Plays:** Kartik Rathore**Best Supporting Actor in Hindi Plays:** Sudhir Chowdhry

Well done!

VERBAL VISIONARIES

The following are the appointmenst for the JEDS:

Secretary: Shreyan Mittal**Recording Secretary:** Keshaw Singhania

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

Around the World in 80 Words

The air-space over the Indo-Pak border was shut down by the Pakistani government. Attacks in Kashmir continued as a grenade exploded on a bus. UN rejected Hafiz Saeed's plea to be removed from banned terrorist list. Three bombs were found interspersed in London, including Heathrow Airport and Waterloo Station. Virat Kohli hit a century, as India beat Australia in the second ODI match. Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos agreed to move to Manchester City in the summer transfer window.

Dosco Doodle**Sanctioning Sediton***Anant Ganapathy*

(Continued from Page 1)

Currently, the School is taking measures to reduce the excess of activities to create more time for academics. I believe that while scaling down activities with less learning outcome, the School should promote activities which complement academics. While

many believe in encouraging 'fun learning', I feel that education, in the sense that The Doon School curriculum has upheld, should be a rigorous process to push students beyond their limits and achieve excellence. Fun learning often undermines the sincerity with which students perceive education.

Ventures such as quizzing can help augment the understanding of concepts which are beyond traditional curriculum boundaries. Our School can even consider reviving GK as an academic subject like it was in the past. Wisdom is built on knowledge; let it not be any other way.

What are your thoughts on the B-Form Community Service?

The B-form Community Service idea is great, and it was surprising we were not already doing it. We can also include services like cleaning, being an office bearer or working in the *Panchayat Ghar*.

In terms of the social service projects taking place beyond the walls of Chandhbagh, I think times have changed and we need to be bringing more of them inside the School as well as working with the great projects we have outside.

- Mr. Matthew Raggett

The on-campus service programme started for the B form students is a brilliant idea for the students to realise just how much work goes on, to get the campus to look so clean and beautiful, and the delicious food they get served 5 times a day without fail, which otherwise as community we take for granted. Students also learn and respect dignity of labour. This is a real education!

-Mr. Ambikesh Shukla

For the people who don't really do a lot of social service, they get introduced to it in new ways. It is a way of expressing gratitude towards the people involved in doing the work which goes unnoticed. Other than just social service, it helps in the holistic learning of Doscocs by teaching them such techniques.

- Dilip Maurya

Working with the students was great. They should keep coming since they helped us out a lot. Both the students and us enjoyed working together. The students learnt about the plants and the work we do while we learnt from them at the same time.

-Mr. Arvind Maurya (Estate Staff)

It was an enriching experience as I got to step into the boots of the CDH bearers and cooks. I realised how much work they do for us all day. Although, skipping classes during this time was not a good idea especially with trials around the corner.

-Lorcan Conlon

In the Community Service module, instead of actually learning about gardening, I learnt to empathise and appreciate the hard work that is done behind the scenes. Furthermore, I understood how privileged I am. I think it's essential that we, as a school, understand how lucky we are and the Community Service program helps us receive this understanding.

-Kabir Subbiah

The Community Service initiative taken by the School helped the boys understand the effort and labour that goes into providing them the essential services. I think it is a positive way for students to give back and do something for somebody else, the B form boys now have a better insight of the work that goes on behind the scene, in their feedback all of them said that it was an eye opening experience and promised to do their bit in future by taking initiative in controlling food wastage and help the community by sharing the workload wherever possible. I personally feel the Community Service within the School should become a regular feature of the School curriculum.

- Mr. Sanjay Makhija

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from last page)

The boys worked really hard in the kitchen. They worked in all the departments of the kitchen with us as we taught them about our job. I saw that they actually realised the hard work that we do. I enjoyed working with the boys each day.

- Mr. Meherwan Singh Rawat (CDH Staff)

I had never imagined that the work in the CDH could be tiresome before I actually did it. I became grateful to the *bhaiyas* for the toil they do each day. B-form community service was a good idea but it should not have been held during classes.

- Aryan Agarwal

I feel that it's a great initiative as the boys get to experience the hard work put in meal preparation. One becomes more understanding and forgiving rather than complaining. Through this, we are also able to understand the difference between food made at home and in the CDH, where there's mass preparation going on. It is a good SUPW, but would not be counted as a social service. Service is only when you are involved with the world outside these four walls, For example, helping in a kitchen outside preparing food for people you don't know and are hungry and under privilege is a part of community service.

I have also noticed that boys are loving both missing all classes and working in the kitchen. However, I still wonder if the boys are learning anything while helping the malis. Instead, I feel that organic farming SUPW can be more effective if also given the responsibility of the gardens as well, as it will be more consistent.

One area where boys can be learning and doing a great job would be cleaning the campus. Going out to clean villages, streets and rivers is only good if our boys learn to throw rubbish in the bins around, keep their dorms/rooms neat, and keep the campus-litter free. This is the most basic form of civic sense that we as an institution should inculcate in ourselves. Furthermore, all this can be done without missing classes

- Mrs Amrit Burrett

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is with reference to Adit Chatterjee's article 'Deliberating Dilemma' published in Issue 2527. While I agree with much of what he writes about in his article, I strongly disagree with some of his statements regarding the "*incentive-based system*" in school. His article implies that Doscos participate in activities or sports in school for the sole purpose of gathering the number of points required to be awarded the Scholars or the Games Blazer. This is flawed on two counts. Firstly, he seems to have forgotten that activities can only provide a student with half the number of points required to qualify for a Scholars Blazer. The other half of the points are given for academic excellence. If what he writes is true, then no

student would be able to gather academic points because everyone is too busy pursuing "*every activity imaginable in order to meet the required number of points*". Secondly, many students are genuinely passionate about the activities and sports they pursue. Look at the number of brilliant artists, musicians, and sportsmen who have left the gates of Chandbagh without "*being the proud owner of a blue or black blazer*". These people did not pursue these activities because they examined the Games Blazer scheme as a junior and mapped out what they would have to do over the next few years. They truly loved the sports they played and the activities they strived to excel in.

His stereotype of the Dosco who continues to "*while away his time chasing accolades instead of focusing*

on what truly matters" may be true in some cases. It is completely unjust to portray students who are passionate about their activities in the same way.

In contrast to what Adit seems to believe, Scholars and Games Blazers are given to individuals who are excellent in their respective fields. It is true that some students scramble to collect a few points in their SC Form, but without the genuine work they put in earlier on in school, they would not have even aspired for a Blazer.

I still believe that the majority of Doscos pursue sports and activities out of a genuine love for them, not out of a burning desire for differently colored pieces of cloth.

Sincerely,
Karthik Subbiah.

Hello, Goodbye

Kushgra Kar pens his thoughts on leaving School.

Last week, the SC(L)-Form took their long dreaded steps across the MPH Stage. For all of us, each moment felt drawn out to an eternity, and we know the memories will follow us for just that long. But I'm skipping to the end here. A story is best enjoyed when read from beginning to end, cherishing each moment along the way for what it's worth. Where's the fun in just skipping to the end?

We cried through the evening, and as the moment drew close, I remember feeling heavy (more so than usual). In the distance, someone began singing, and the first member of my batch refused to get up. I don't remember listening to Auld Lang Syne. *Atrangi Yari* and *Yaariyan* ring fresh in my mind, but the age old farewell tradition of song simply evades my memory. None of us wanted to leave, because despite our months of preparation, we could never have been ready for that walk. I skipped a few heartbeats and am still suffering from the consequent memory loss, because my next clear memory is patting Ansh on the shoulder as I walked out of the MPH.

In short, no matter how hard we tried, we just weren't ready to say goodbye. Despite our best efforts, the helplessness of fresh D-Formers stepping out to School PT for the first time invariably pierced our hearts. The nervous fidgeting in the corner of the first common room with the rest of the Main House as C-Formers came surging back. To save you the cliché, it was the quintessential experience of wholesome uneasiness. Goodbye was far tougher than we had expected.

This is my parting advice to the entire Batch of 2020: don't be too eager to say goodbye.

For the sake of all that is dear to you, don't put yourself in that state of departure just yet. Almost every *Weekly* this term has featured a few words of sentimental value to the incumbent SC Form. They seem appropriate now, and there is an eagerness at this point of time to begin your farewells. But believe me, what seems like just twelve months is more time than you can fathom at the moment, and it will overwhelm you.

See, SC Form is defined by your growth. It is defined by the fact that you will not be the same person going in when you come out. More than anything else, just because there is no correct way to live those months, you will each come out to be vastly different men than what you had imagined possible. But you cannot know that just yet, and it is only good manners to not want to. Those experiences and stories are yet to happen and there is no point in trying to skip to the end.

This time last year, I sat on the corner of Main Field and typed out a very sentimental piece for the Rose Bowl. Many moons later, the piece appeared in the Founder's Edition of the publication, and my only thought was, "wow, was I off by a mile!" My thoughts had evolved, my emotions had evolved, and the entire notion of 'last' had done a 180 on itself. I found myself empathizing with, but so strongly disagreeing with what I had written, that I wondered whether I had indeed been behind the piece. Your intentions will change, your beliefs will change, and in all, the sum growth in your final year will be more than the five before it. That's the way it is.

Even as I write this, sitting in PDT's house listening to the most beautiful rendition of *Anand Loke* I have ever heard, I can't help but reimagine every time we have sung this song in assembly. I never thought I could love it any more than I already did, but time proves me wrong time and again. I may have walked the stage, but School is not done with me yet; with any of us for that matter. Imagine then, just how far you have to go.

So you know, the end to this story isn't stepping out of the MPH. You see, we were all robbed of our right to shed a tear that night. The drizzle invaded our cheeks just as our eyes welled, and with all the magic of Chandbagh, bound us together in that endless moment. The dirt and concrete beneath our feet pooled with a potion of tears and rainwater and the magic of our predecessors merged with our own. Then it all came back to us, pulled us together in an embrace and joined in the cheer of Appalle. Our magic has just been birthed, and it has a long journey to go on with each of us. You have already declared the beginning of the end of your time with Doon, but don't think for a second Doon is done with you. A spell, once cast, can be difficult to undo.



The Week Gone By

Divyansh Nautiyal

After multiple observations, I can safely conclude that the weather in Chandbagh resonates the mood of the community. It was almost as if the SC-L walked out of the MPH that it began pouring – both emotions and rain. For many, the next two days went resorting in Mussorie, Rishikesh, Delhi and even Karnal and provided a much-needed relief from a usual jam-packed term. For the others who stayed back in School, one would have sighted the Board of Governors on campus and the teachers attempting to strike a conversation with them on Sunday

brunch.

Those who stayed back on campus also got a chance to order food (finally!) out of pity of being left back in School. Come Tuesday, the sky was blue and flawlessly clear, characteristic of a typical Spring day in Chandbagh. A daring Assembly talk on Wednesday brought a lot of insight into the YC system and was one that clearly advocated for the effective implementation of corrective measures in School. A strange coincidence that the H House S form was pondering over the same issue with the DHP on the very same morning with many winners of the card eagerly participating in the discussion.

Cries of help or rather frustration were erupted across the School with P:T beginning two weeks

before Trials; a time that was earlier allotted for studying or for catching up on lost sleep after burning the midnight lamp. Equally surprising was the final schedule for Promotional Trials with many in the ISC finding only one day for Math. Long live those who make it through.

As many of us read this, some S formers will be slogging themselves to crack the SAT. We wish them luck for amazing results and no more future attempts at the SAT. On a solemn note, we bid farewell to the SC-Ls in our House feasts last night which were packed with tear welling speeches and dances which don't find a parallel anywhere else. The event finally marked the ending of the end for the Batch of 2019. We wish them luck in their future endeavours!

Sudoku

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

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

Key

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

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the *Weekly* expresses its gratitude to all the women of the School community.

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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