**Debate Round-Up**

Yuv Vir Khosla reports on the School’s participation at the Shri Debates held at Shriram School, Gurgaon.

Between July 25 and 29, Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandran, Raghav Puri and I, accompanied by STK, represented School in the Sri D debates. Debating was meant to be the only thing on our agenda, but the first day had a lot more in store. While Piroune was barred from attending the opening ceremony, his summer outing clothes still en-route from Dehradun, I reached the wrong Shri Ram School campus. On the second day, Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandran and Raghav Puri got a taste of Delhi traffic and reached the venue half an hour late. Thankfully, the judges received similar hospitality.

Any how, these instances failed to hinder our performances in the debates. In the preliminary round, we debated against Vasant Valley School. The topic for discourse was on the road. Puri got a taste of Delhi traffic and reached the venue half an hour late. Thankfully, the judges received similar hospitality.

In the semi-finals, we were up against the seasoned debaters of La Martiniere Boys School, Kolkata. The topic, Intelligent people debate, had, in my eyes, a very narrow scope and this was evident in the arguments put forth by both sides. As one can note, the topic is completely open-ended and such debates usually result in conflicts over the definitions. This conflict took place in our experience too. La Martiniere Boys managed to point out the contradictions in our definitions and with their remarkable sarcasm and sense of humour, defeated the motion (La Martiniere Boys went on to win the debate after defeating DPS (RK Puram) in the final round).

Once we learnt of our defeat, we, similar to other debaters who lost, started contemplating the judges’ decisions. In the end, the four of us were left debating over the validity of open-ended topics. Hopefully, this loss will serve as a lesson for future debates, especially when it comes dealing with open-ended topics.
**SRI DEBATES**

Piroune Balachandaran, Raghav Puri, Kanishka Malik and Yuv Vir Khosla represented the School at the Shri Ram Debates, held at the Shri Ram School, New Delhi, between July 25 and 28. In the Preliminary Rounds, Piroune Balachandaran received two Best Speaker awards, and Raghav Puri was awarded one Best Speaker and one Second Best Speaker award. The School reached the Semi-Final Round, losing to La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata.

**Visitors**

A group of sixteen students and teachers from Regents School, Pattaya, Thailand visited the School between June 16 and 23. The group successfully trekked to Dodital and Darba Top.

Two masters from Oakham School, United Kingdom, visited the School for six days during July to take a look at the Social Service projects managed by the School. They visited villages and took a close look at the projects; they have decided to work with us in our Social Service projects in the coming years.

**On Exchange**

The following students have joined the School as part of the exchange programme:

- Vishal and Chirag Gokhani from St. Mark’s School, Dallas, United States. They are staying in Oberoi and Martyn House respectively and are attending S and D form classes.
- Charlie Fry from The Ballarat Grammar School, Wendouree, Australia. He will be staying in Oberoi House and attending S-Form (IB) classes.
- Edward Ghorst from Stowe School, Buckinghamshire. He will be staying in Hyderabad House and attending B-Form classes.
- Visal Tulsiani from St Edwards School, Oxford, United Kingdom. He will be staying in Tata House and attending S-Form (IB) classes.
- Sammy Mehra from Brunswick School, Greenwich, USA. He will be staying in Jaipur House and attending S-Form classes.
- Devan Malhotra from Groton School, Massachusetts, USA. He will be staying in Jaipur House and attending S-Form classes.

We wish them a fruitful stay!

**Basketball**

Vikram Gill represented Uttarakhand in the Junior National Basketball Championship. The team defeated its opponents from Himachal Pradesh and Haryana but lost to the team from Orissa in the Quarter-Finals.

Well tried!

**Chess Mastery**

Gopal Mann underwent a ten day intensive-coaching stint under Russian Grandmaster, Alexandr Lysenko. Subsequently, Gopal won the tournament organised by the Russian Center.

Well done!

**Round Square**

Mohit Gupta and Shubham Agarwal participated in the Regional Round Square Service Project held at Pathways World School, between June 6 and 15, 2011.

The Doon School organized a Regional Round Square Social Service Project at Katta Pathar and Fatehpur, between June 4 and 14, 2011. Reports run in forthcoming issues.

**Shooting Ace**

Samarjit Singh was ranked tenth in the Singapore Open Shooting Championship with a score of 558 out of 600 points.

Congratulations!

**Junior Poetry**

**Will**

Arnava Bhavanani

The cancer struck
My decrepit, sad frame.
My will to fight,
Has gone down the drain
I’m lost in darkness,
Fumbling blind
Aching for
My once young mind
The last thing I feel,
Before I’m gone,
Is the unholy sadness
Of being alone
As I once more plunge
Into the darkness,
I’m letting go,
Of my dark essence
But in that moment,
I feel something stir
It is my heart,
Saying the time is near
As I re-emerge,
Into the light
To embrace my freedom,
My will to fight

**Opinion poll**

Are you happy with the new games schedule?

No 54%
Yes 46%

(269 members of the community were polled)

Next week’s question: Are you getting sufficient time for rest?
Eton College, UK

Yuv Vir Khosla

Sitting in the pavilion at Lord's and watching the Eton cricket team beat Harrow's after 7 years was no ordinary event. Two other incidents which could give competition to this experience were seeing the Royal Family in the Garter Ceremony at Windsor Castle, and attending a musical at the Royal Opera House. Slightly more humble experiences, compared to the ones stated above (but by no means less satisfying) was the solo piano performance I gave in a music concert. I also recall being invited to watch Kuch Kuch Hota Hai with the Etonians. However, the feeling of being a true Etonian only kicked in when I wore their uniform - with the tailcoats, waistcoats and false collars!

Bridgehouse School, South Africa

Sanat Kumar Thakur

Bridgehouse School was shut for the first twelve days of my exchange, during which my hosts (Michael Van Zyl and his family) took me to various tourist places in and around a place called Knysna. There I experienced the South African beaches and wildlife and even got to ride an ostrich. I also got a chance to watch a rugby match and ice skate.

During my stay, I also travelled to various museums, cathedrals and places of historic importance in Cape Town. A visit to the top of Table Mountain gave me a breath-taking view of the cape winelands. The Van Zyls also made me experience some of the South African traditions and cuisines.

Being in the heart of Cape winelands, Bridgehouse was surrounded by olive and grape farms. My hosts also lived on a huge farm. I was welcomed by everyone at Bridgehouse and I took active part in their class room discussions. I was even selected for their Second Hockey Team and played an Inter-School match.

The Stowe School, UK

Siddhanth Sachdev

Located in the town of Buckinghamshire, England, the Stowe School has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Reaching on April 26, I attended a pre-season cricket training camp which I had been called for. I was selected to play for the School's second team and I was definitely looking forward to the rest of the season. But my exchange was made memorable by the friends that I made and the experiences I shared with them. Saturday evening barbeques by the lake (the school had a lake which was used for rowing and sailing) and my debut match for the Stowe First Team and the Rugby Sevens at Twickenham all made for an amazing time during my Exchange. But my most memorable experience was the final-round of the Inter-House Cricket Competition, which we won by an unprecedented seven wickets, despite being the underdogs. I was awarded House Colours for my contribution in the tournament.

Stowe is a school where the aesthete and the athlete learn to respect each other. A brilliant experience in all, I definitely hope that the exchange between our School and the Stowe School continues in the future.

The Armidale School, Australia

Raghu Nath

Located in the small town of Armidale, The Armidale School is one of the premier institutions offering a wide array of activities and sports. I was lucky enough to visit the school at a time when the sports I play were in season. The best experience I had was when I visited the Australian outback with one of my friends. During my stay in Australia, I visited Canberra, Sydney and some other places in New South Wales. The students at Armidale were very hospitable and welcoming. They made me feel at home from the very first day. The rugby matches on Sundays with the barbecue attracted many people from the town. The exchange was very productive and I made some friends for life.
Fear of Change

Rajesh Majumdar

On a lazy summer morning, sitting under a solitary tree beside a still lake, I was admiring the clear blue water. The imposing tree loaded with pale leaves was swinging with the breeze, while the bright sun peeped through it to acknowledge its presence. Looking at the innocent play of light on water, I felt being drawn to it, deep into the realm of the unknown. A quiet but dominant energy appeared to overwhelm. In that mysterious journey, I left behind the known; my comforts and the things I had clung to, passionately hoarded over the years in my small world.

Slowly the light began to fade and the reverberation of a distant thunder alerted me.

I feared a change setting in.

I have always feared change. It makes me insecure and I have never understood why. I tried to find the answer in one of the famous maxims of Francois de la Rochefoucauld who said, 'change is the only constant thing in life'. If change is inevitable, why do I fear it? Why can’t I accept change when I see it all around me, in every moment and in every action? If change is so evident, then why am I reluctant to believe in it?

Or…….. is it relative? My conscious mind dwells deep. The obsession for constancy and the fear of change seems to be deeply embedded.

I introspect and sense that the changes that pound my naive beliefs and pretentious principles are vehemently opposed by me. Change questions my self-proclaimed authority and condemns my conditioned intellect, grown through accumulated knowledge as corrupt. I am always averse to the changes that question my actions. Change opens me up for scrutiny, challenges me, compels me to revisit my age-old thoughts and asks me to move on and make space for the new.

I nudge myself to the limit, to find answers that can change me but every time I hesitate to accept them. The fixation with my ideas and thoughts narrows my intellect and prevents it from growing. At times, rather shrewdly, I pretend to accept the change, even though I am still draped in false self-glory. I have never paid any heed to Confucius who once said ‘they must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom’ or to Socrates’ questioning of dogmatic wisdom of the so-called ‘wise’ in society who oppose change.

I still fail to catch the vitality of change and hold on to my beliefs even harder. I fail to understand that however strong my arguments may be and however populist my views are, there will always be a few who will differ because their conviction for change is very strong. They will make sacrifices to begin a new order and the change will defend their ideas with irrefutable logic, even if it is profane. My irrational mind forgets the Copernican Revolution which initiated a change and for which Galileo was sentenced to life imprisonment. I even disregard the pantheist views of Giordano Bruno who differed with the established beliefs of God even as the Roman Inquisition declared him guilty of heresy and burnt him to death. But at times, the intense desire for change imposes itself ruthlessly and with full might. It radically transforms the prevailing norms; doing away with the old and bringing in the new. The change hits where it hurts the most.

… … … … I have to learn to change. I cannot keep failing to accept the changing reality. If the sloth in my mind terms every change as cruel and corrupt, then one day, the revered grandeur of my bogus beliefs will lie in ruin and the wrath of change will inflict a decisive blow, for good.

Unquotable Quotes

Are you taking part in Jesus Star Super Christ?
Lakshit Joshi, you’re directing it?
I can hear you from the back of my head.
Raghav Puri, what?!
D on’t ever take asteroids.
Kartikeya Kardam, gives us advice on health.
Is your water bottle water-proof?
Shrey Aryan, isn’t yours?
There is too much talk’s in the toy.
DKM, enforcing silence.
D id you hear the lightning last night.
Tanay Agarwal, testing hearing skills.
G ive me shrots in a cup of mug.
A pekshit Goel, wake-up call
There are new RCs in the computer.
Raghav Bansal, thanks for the information.
Learn to soul with your sing.
Arnav Bhavani, tells the true secret of music.