

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, November 5, 2011 - Issue No. 2298

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A 'SUPER'HIT

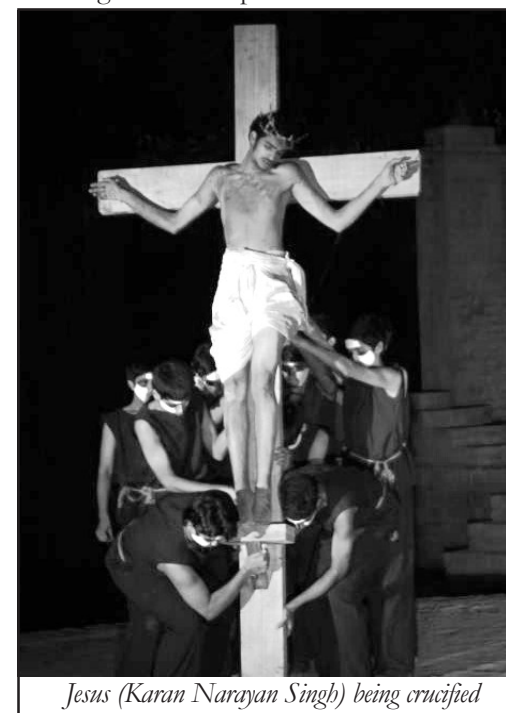
Vihan Khanna reviews the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which was staged during the Founder's Day celebrations

In four powerful shows, The Doon School has, in its combined dramatic and musical production *Jesus Christ Superstar*, made this Founder's a hard act to follow. In spite of the sceptics who doubted our ability to pull off such an ambitious venture, the cast, orchestra and choir gave stunning performances, enjoyed by parents, guests, and most surprisingly, boys.

The rock opera (by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice) is set around the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. The orchestral overture simultaneously builds up in pace with the menacing chords of the guitar and piano that introduce Judas (Raghav Puri). Though he isn't the namesake of the production, Judas is its backbone. At the start of the musical, Raghav impresses with demeanour itself rather than pure musical ability. His slow, almost musing pace runs parallel with the dichotomy of his mind, and remains so until he realizes that Jesus must be betrayed.

The talented Karan Singh whose voice echoes the pain and struggle he faces plays Jesus. For a refreshing change, there is chemistry amongst Doscos, in this case between Jesus and Mary (played by Malini Malaviya). Malini impressed with *Everything's Alright*. She also comes across well as the barrier between Jesus and Judas. The choir voiced the apostles and performed skilful crescendos and diminuendos in *What's the Buzz*. The D and C formers, who comprised the choir, sang their hearts out and infused life into the musical.

Interspersing the main conflict between Judas and Jesus come the enjoyable scenes of the priests and Pontius Pilate. The priests, led by Caiaphas (Shantanu Seth) and Annas (Dhruv Singhal) are ever insidious with their plotting (This Jesus Must Die). Kudos goes to the production team for such appropriate costumes. As for apt uniforms, Pontius' (Dhruv Sirohi) proleptic dream of the crucifixion is delivered in menacing boots, a Hitleresque moustache



Jesus (Karan Narayan Singh) being crucified

with a song in which the guitar accompaniment soothe and disturb simultaneously.

The casting out of the merchants from Jesus' Temple was evocatively portrayed and the number *Damned for All Time*, starts to bring pace and energy into the play. Shantanu and Raghav work well together to embody a unique master-informer relationship, and there is considerable poignancy as Judas picks the lone piece of silver to betray Jesus with.

The Last Supper leads into Jesus' soliloquy, revealing his frustration with the obstacles that God has placed in his path. Karan Singh shows immense talent, both as a vocalist and an actor in this intensely moving scene.

Dhruv's presence is suitably intimidating, and his sarcastic dialogue with Jesus (Pilate and Christ), brought appreciative smiles to many members of the audience. Herod, played by an effervescent Pranoy Bohara, presents inarguably the most light-hearted scene. While his singing and dancing is sassy and natural, the only problem for Herod is that some of the spotlight is stolen by the dance troupe, whose leader Anmol Jamwal was wonderfully charismatic on stage.

The hangman's rope is brilliantly illuminated in Judas' death. Pilate's grim utterance, "And so the king is once against my guest..." leads into Jesus' trial. Dhruv once again impresses during the thirty-nine lashes: in a volte-face, the swaggering tyrant becomes a compassionate yet helpless man, when he kneels by the side of the

(contd. overleaf)

Founder's, 2011

After all the glitz and glamour of DS-75, this year's Founder's Day celebrations were comparatively modest. However, 'DS-76' had a charm of its own. With His Holiness, The Dalai Lama as Chief Guest and the staging of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the Founder's Day celebrations were by no means a letdown. The Dalai Lama's spiritual lessons appealed to many people, as did his explicit criticism of the Communist Party of China. Many complimented the organization of the events this year and it must also be noted that the program was not as hectic as last year's (except for those participating in the musical). The Hyderabad House Pagal Gymkhana fared well with its stalls; the auction of a cricket bat signed by the Indian Cricket Team received much attention. All in all, DS-76, though not as grand as the previous year, certainly was enjoyable.

APPOINTMENTS

Rohil Mehrotra, Nivit Kocchar and Arjun Khaitan have been appointed boys-in-charge of the **AV Squad** for the forthcoming year.

The Editorial Board of the *Econocrat* for the forthcoming year is as follows:

Editor-in-Chief: Kunal Kanodia

Editor: Vikramaditya Kapur

Senior Editor: Madhav Dutt

We wish them all a fruitful tenure!

DOSCOS AT F1!

6 boys were escorted by PVD to the **Formula One Indian Grand Prix** held at the Buddh International Circuit, Greater Noida, held on October 30, 2011.

IH ATHLETICS

Following are the house positions of the **Inter-House Athletics Competition, 2011** held from October 14 to October 21, 2011:

Junior Cup:

1st: Tata and Hyderabad House

2nd: Jaipur House

3rd: Oberoi House

4th: Kashmir House

Senior Cup:

1st: Kashmir House

2nd: Tata House

3rd: Jaipur House

4th: Hyderabad House

5th: Oberoi House

Mediums Cup:

1st: Oberoi House

2nd: Tata House

3rd: Jaipur House

4th: Hyderabad House

5th: Kashmir House

House Cup:

1st: Tata House

2nd: Jaipur House

3rd: Oberoi House

4th: Hyderabad House

5th: Kashmir house

Well done, all!

(contd. from page 1)

bleeding Jesus. As always, the music echoes and enhances the varying moods. The crucifixion is sensitively shown, and the song *Superstar* shows Judas and the choir at their very best.

The orchestra was the backbone of the musical, as it should be. It consisted of ensemble leader Yuv Vir Khosla on the piano, Yuvraj Nathani and Shourya Kishorepuria also on the piano, Namanshree Jain and Imaan Mehta on the guitar, Vigya Singh Dhiman and Rohan Shriram on the drums, Harsh Singhania on the xylophone and harmonica and Hamza Khan and Mrigank Khemka on the violin. Masters also turned performers for the musical, with ABC on the conga and bells, PRY on the *santoor* and Mr Arun Kumar on the guitar. A small orchestra produced brilliant sound and co-ordinated with the action as well as the songs to perfection. Handling Lloyd-Webber's trademark abrupt key and tempo changes and complicated music was a real challenge and they rose to it magnificently. The 'rock' opera's songs featured just about every genre of music- ragtime jazz, soulful ballad, classical instrumental, and, of course, pure rock. The driving rhythms, soaring melody lines and dramatic percussion build-ups did justice to Lloyd-Webber's compositions. The costumes, especially those of the guards, Herod, Pilate, and the priests were imaginatively designed and memorable, along with Jai Kairon's hair!

In all, *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a truly professional production, no doubt due in large measure to Mr KV Arjun Rao and Ms Priya Chaturvedi (director and music director respectively), and certainly deserved the standing ovations it received.

Letter To The Editor

In Memory of...

I read the issue of the *Weekly* dated September 24, 2011 where I read, with regret, that Dr Bhatt had passed away. I had met Dr Bhatt's family during the Platinum Jubilee Celebration and was sorry to hear of his frail health.

Our class of '55' was perhaps the first to attend Dr Bhatt's classes and the gentleman that he was, he found it impossible to control our unruly class. It took a small "Shut up" from Billy Harinderjit Singh for all of us to settle down in class. Billy was of course already a senior Prefect by then and much older than us. Needless to say, we soon realized the value of having so erudite and generous a person in Dr Bhatt and all of us have very fond memories of our Hindi master. We in School have had some very fine masters and he certainly was amongst the best.

-N. Kandhari
(ex-121 J '55)

Opinion poll

Did you enjoy this year's Founder's Day celebrations?

No 31%

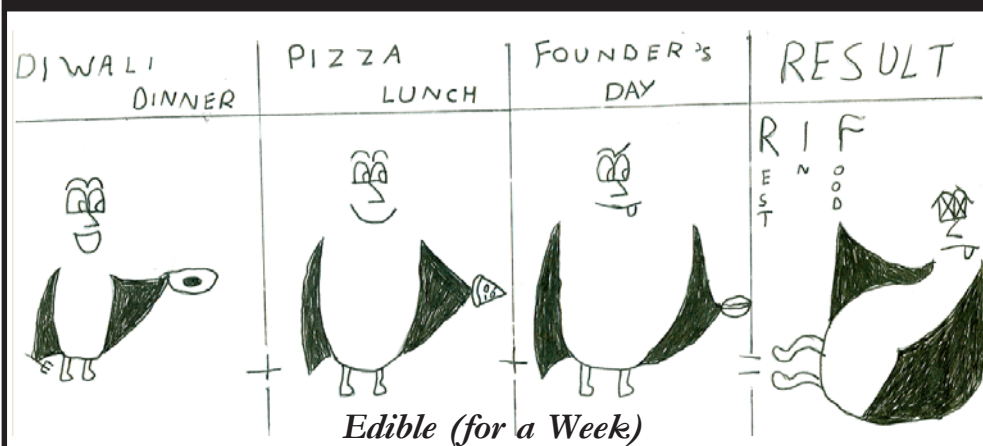
Yes 69%

(334 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Do you pay attention to political events of Uttarakhand?

doontoon

Pranav Kothiwala



The Last Saturday

Kanishka Malik

I always thought about what I would put down as my ‘parting thoughts’ for the *Weekly*. Now, when it is time to put pen to paper, I am at a loss for words. I am overwhelmed with the number of memories and lessons that I have learnt. I guess the *Weekly* taught me too much. It has been a complicated yet enriching experience.

When I was first offered a position on the board, I was actually foolish enough to ask the then Chief Editor how often the *Weekly* was published! Fortunately, my first impression on him did not last long and I managed to stay on the board for the first year, albeit with more of these comical yet disastrous instances. I even remember the time when PCH mentioned the term ‘poetic license’ and I asked, “where do you get a poetic license from?” One can imagine her reaction. Appalled!

Recounting those epitomes of absurdity and the responses that followed, I can see how much I have matured. The *Weekly* taught me to be very careful about what I was writing or saying. Criticism became the form reinforcing factor for my writing, something I was blessed with almost every Saturday morning. Moreover, I became subject to the ‘*Weekly* stereotype’, an idea that I elaborated on in the Founder’s Day Issue. Form mates labelled me a ‘servant’ and I was held in contempt by most seniors. But this taught me to be resilient. Although I would often get frustrated, I seldom sought sympathy for the difficulties I faced as a board member. I knew what I had signed up for and have always maintained that if you cannot stand the heat, then you must leave the kitchen.

Over the years, my writing matured and I evolved as a person. I paid more attention to what was happening around me, especially to the political and economic events. I wrote a diverse range of articles, ranging from creative pieces to political commentaries. I had started by writing poetry, but went on to explore other areas. This is probably why I advise my board members to constantly explore different areas of writing.

As Chief Editor, times were challenging. Two of our most dedicated Masters-in-Charge, Ms Chaturvedi and Ms Kuthiala (who played a vital role in shaping my writing) left the *Weekly* and even the board required immense restructuring. My tenure had its ups and downs, but Mr Nagalia and I managed to pull it off and stabilize the situation. We had our share of disasters; I cannot recall the number of times Mr Nagalia and I couldn’t eat breakfast on Saturday mornings due to problems with the *Weekly*. Chief Editorship has taught me a lot and I hope my board has learnt some of these lessons as well.

In the end, I would like to thank Ms Kuthiala, Ms Chaturvedi and Mr Nagalia for their guidance and patience that they have shown towards me. In my last days as Chief Editor, the last lesson I learnt was that no matter who leaves the board, the *Weekly* will always stand. As I said earlier, the *Weekly* will stand, as long as the School does.

STATE POLITICS

Raniz Bordoloi *comments on Uttarakhand’s recent Chief Ministers and speculates the outcome of next year’s state elections*

Most Doscos are not attentive to the politics of their own state. Considering that we are all directly or indirectly affected by the happenings of our state, Uttarakhand, I think it is pertinent to highlight some of its political issues. With state elections around the corner, let us have a look at the leaders who have risen and fallen from their political positions over the last couple of years.

In the recent years, the state has had two prominent leaders: Ramesh Pokhriyal or ‘Nishank’ and General BC Khanduri, both of whom are BJP leaders. Recently, we witnessed Mr Pokhriyal being replaced by General Khanduri. What is interesting here is that Khanduri was Pokhriyal’s predecessor and went on to be his successor. Initially, Khanduri was replaced as Chief Minister by Pokhriyal when one of his close associates, Rawat was expelled due to his ‘anti-party’ activities; Khanduri preferred to remain in the periphery and so chose to resign in 2009. Pokhriyal, an eminent BJP leader, was sworn in as the state’s Chief Minister in June, 2009. Many believe that Pokhriyal succeeded him as he had the support of Khanduri.

However, after 2 years, the BJP replaced the poet turned Chief Minister and reinstated Khanduri as CM. There has been a lot of debate concerning the cause of this bold move. I feel that Pokhriyal was never able to connect with the masses in the first place. His detractors have repeatedly complained against his style of functioning and his inability to win the confidence of people. The people were more comfortable with Khanduri as the head of the State Government. With state elections only nine months away, the BJP preferred to have Khanduri as the face of the party. It is no secret that Pokhriyal’s government had been hit by a series of corruption charges as well.

The BJP has taken a strong stand against corruption after Yeddyurappa’s faulty actions which, incidentally, threatened to undermine the BJP’s crusade against the Congress. Maybe, the BJP has also realised the impact of Anna’s campaign and thus put forth an image of its party’s zero tolerance for dented politicians. Even before Nishank’s name officially appears against corruption charges, the BJP has taken a wise step in asking him to step down and bring Khanduri in.

Coming to the 2012 state elections, I feel that the BJP has bleak prospects. Apart from ousting Mr Pokhriyal, there have been internal conflicts in the party, something which every opposition takes advantage of. Although this may sound ironic, the BJP might gain a few points with the voters with its national level crusade on corruption, thanks to Anna Hazare’s recent actions. Moreover, the development and economic growth under the BJP’s leadership have been questionable. We can see a number of projects popping out of nowhere and any common man would say, “this is what happens just before elections!”

The Congress might improve its vote bank, but a simple majority will be hard to come by. Over the years, even the BSP has made a mark in Uttarakhand’s politics. This time I feel BSP is the dark horse; it has decided to contest for all 70 assembly seats. In the end, we might have a coalition government, a phenomenon which has become common these days. In recent state elections, we have witnessed the emergence of coalition governments in most states.

All in all, it will be a close and interesting election. However, it will be pointless if the new government fails to deliver, regardless of which party constitutes it.

School Captain's Founder's Day Address

Parents, Guests, Old Boys, and Members of the Board of Governors, welcome to The Doon School.

I visited the School for the first time as a 10-year-old, faced with the prospect of leaving life in the United States. Having a rather vague knowledge of Doon, I naively expected to be whisked on a tour of fancy classrooms and luxurious boarding houses. But quite to my surprise, I was left in the hands of my soon-to-be seniors: D-formers, eager to befriend (or possibly torment) the prospective Dosco with the Yankee twang. On a muggy August day when all I wanted was an ice cream, I was dragged to witness the Inter-House Swimming Competition. I was baffled to see over a hundred boys sitting on the cement steps, cheering wildly for their houses. As alien as this sight seemed, I felt instinctively comfortable, even shouting a cheer or two for H House, the house of many members of my family. I noticed that my escorts were arguing amongst themselves: mentioning house positions and tactics and School teamers. I asked bewilderedly if all competitions were treated so seriously, and those around me gave me this look like "You're kidding right." And then it hit me; I had found my new home - The Doon School. The Shatabdi was my Hogwarts Express, and Hyderabad House was my Gryffindor.

Let me tell you why this School is special. The pressure placed on students nowadays is great: there is a growing emphasis on specialization and high marks. But Doon provides a solution. Here you are encouraged to broaden your horizons rather than narrow them. DoscOs are playing sports, learning instruments, debating, and even building wooden tables all in a single day. In a way, Doon, like other great schools is providing all the pieces to the puzzle of education. But unlike the rest, Doon leaves it to the Dosco to piece it together.

People ask, "Can Doon do all that its alumni boasts of? Here within just 70 acres of quiet campus that seems far from the din of major metropolitans?" Yes, Doon can.

Doon has historically always placed immense faith in its boys to exercise their autonomy. It's DoscOs who help decide the way the School is run in the School Council, it's DoscOs who act, produce, and direct the various Inter-House Plays, and it's DoscOs who as Prefects mentor and look after younger boys. Doon's do-what-you-dream-of attitude is simple: if mountaineering is your passion, then trek Kilimanjaro, if you're interested in Space then go visit NASA, if you wish to start a Social Service Project, go adopt a village.

In Doon it doesn't matter who you were before School, or where you came from. With a simple 3-digit number attached indelibly to your name, the only thing that matters is what you do. The highest awards – the colours in sports, music, art, debating, dramatics, and the school colours are given to boys who are not only talented and hardworking, but also exemplary role models who serve the team, the activity, and the School. That exemplifies camaraderie, knowing that whether you're a D-former, SC, or Master, you are part of The Doon School. In Doon the House spirit and teamwork are omnipresent. Whether it's setting up the game-winning goal, or sneaking tuck past the School Guards, DoscOs never fail to use the greatest asset: each other.

The Doon School seemed at first an anomaly to me. In the middle of the dusty buzz of Dehradun one had the tranquillity of Chandbagh. Then there was the School itself, with its unique dialect, its innumerable traditions, and the incomprehensible nicknames its students bestowed on one another. Some would say that this makes Doon different; I would say that Doon is exceptional. Exceptional because in just 76 years a School with simple teaching facilities and less than 100 students in each graduating class has been able to have a global impact. DoscOs from different geographies and different religions have gone on to be successful in many walks of life – in politics, government, the media, the environment, wild-life preservation, literature, the armed forces, and business, to name a few.

In a country as diverse and complex as India, Doon is a treasure. That is because in The Doon School everyone has an equal opportunity. By working on the individual growth and development of young leaders in a close-knit community, Doon produces students who impact the larger communities later on in life. Chandbagh for all of us becomes a home. A home where after fifteen or twenty, or even 30 years, we all enter to become DoscOs once more. Doon is a funny place. We cry the day we enter School as D-formers, and we cry the day we leave School as Scs. It's what happens in between that makes Doon special.

Having spent six years in School I've seen that DoscOs are susceptible to one thing: worrying too much. We often are looking so far ahead that we are blind to see what we've already accomplished. As a D-former we are scared of Scs, as A-formers we are scared of Board Exams, and as Scs we are scared of College Admissions. Sure, the uncertainty of the future is intimidating; but that doesn't mean we ignore the beauty of the present.

At the end of the day a Doon School education can give you much more than just a great college placement. Thinking back on the day I first visited School, I now realize the significance of the Swimming Competition, the reason why a boy would cheer, sweat, shout, and push himself to the limit. It is the desire to compete with one's self - and do it for the team – that puts a Dosco ahead.

As said in Chapter 3 Verse 21 of the *Bhagvad Gita*,

*yad yad acarati sresthas
tat tad evetaro janah
sa yat pramanam kurute
okas tad anuwartate*

Meaning "Whatever standard a great man sets by exemplary acts, the world follows." It is my hope that in the years to come Doon is not only an exception to the world, but also a model to be emulated.

On that note, I would like to wish you all a Happy Founder's Day.

| Report |

Athletics Highlights

Arjun Kamdar reports on the recently-concluded Inter-House Athletics Competition



Tusbar Gupta sets a new high jump record at 185cm

Hyderabad House, with Rohan defeating Kartikey in the last few metres of the race. Upcoming talent was seen in the form of Shashwat Agrawal in the field events.

The 4x100m relay was the highlight of the mediums category, and the result could not be figured out until the time-keepers announced that Oberoi House had won with a margin of 0.02 seconds. Future talent was seen in the form of Rishavraj Das who stood first in all his events. Nipurn Datta's performance in the javelin throw and Sidharth Sarin's in the discus throw was extraordinary. Shivaan Seth jumped an impressive 1.6m to win the high jump. Marut Garg and Nakul Talwar dominated the track events.

In the seniors category, Virein Chhabra and Khalid Alawhneys' performance in field events was laudable. Arjun Midha and Adhiraj Thakran's performance in the long distance events was praiseworthy. The pentathlon witnessed a lot of enthusiasm and many people woke up early on a Sunday morning just to witness it. Adhiraj Singh stood first, defeating some stiff competition. Tusbar Gupta broke his own high jump record of 1.76m by 9cm, thus setting a new school record of 1.85m. It must be noted that this is the third consecutive year in which he has broken the high jump record. Aditya Gupta won the 100m dash once again for the sixth consecutive time. Udai Bothra, the School Athletics Captain won the 400m and 800m run by a huge margin, proving himself once again.

The marching cake went to Oberoi House this year who won it by a miniscule margin of 0.5 points! It is very apt to use the cliché that this year's athletics season was a well contested one and witnessed a lot of passion from various athletes.



Bothra vs Thakran in the 400m relay

| Interview |

New Master Aboard

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Ramesh Kumar Bharadwaj**, a new Physics teacher

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us about yourself and your journey to school?

Ramesh Kumar Bharadwaj (RMB): I completed my schooling from a village school and went to Punjab University to pursue higher education. I did my graduation in science and my post graduation in Physics (Honours) from Advance Study Institute, Punjab University, Chandigarh in the year 1997. I joined The Army Public School, Dagshai as a Physics teacher in 1997. I taught there for nine years. In 2006 I joined The Punjab Public School, Nabha, worked in the school for five years and have now joined The Doon School.

DSW: What prompted you to become a teacher considering the various careers a person can choose?

RMB: It was my passion for teaching which made me choose this profession. My Physics teacher was my role model. It was his personality, his way of talking, his walking style, and

his presence of mind that inspired me. Whenever I saw him I always wished to be like him and today I am finally a Physics teacher.

DSW: Why Doon? Do you feel there is anything unique about the school?

RMB: Yes, The Doon School in itself is unique. The School lived up to my expectations. Doon is truly an outstanding institution.

DSW: What are your hobbies and passions?

RMB: My hobbies include painting, cooking and trekking.

DSW: Not many people choose sciences in School. What or how would you attract people and make them consider a future in the sciences stream.

RMB: There is a wide range of choices available to young minds in various fields. The students, who are interested in sciences, should definitely pursue a career in this field. I always attract and inspire towards the subject through success stories of different scientists, their research, achievements and hard work they put in. I always tell the students how and why the scientists are so popular in the world.

Minutes of the School Council Meeting

September 22, 2011, 12:20 PM, in the Nandlal Kilachand Library

The following members were present:

Dr Peter McLaughlin
Mr Philip Burrett
Mr Sameer Katre
Dr MC Joshi
Mr. DK. Sharma
Mr PK Nair
Mr A Qezilbash
Mr Piyush Malaviya
Mr B.K. Chamola
Mr Sandip S. Mann
Ms Anuroop Jauhal
Udit Kapur
Vihan Khanna
Sumaer Sandhu
Rahil Badhwar
Raghav Chandra
Guruansh Singh Gambhir
Daksh Bhatia
Raniz Bordoloi
Karan Kairon
Gaurav Kothari
Arth Gupta
Prabhjot Singh
Dhruv Sirohi
Aditya Bhattacharya
Ritvik Kar
Jaiveer Jakhar
Yuv Vir Khosla
Rishav Raj Das
Arjun Kamdar
Shashvat Dhandhania
Sayuj Dhandhania
Hussain Haider

Headmaster(Chairman)
Deputy Headmaster
Director of Administrative Affairs
Dean of Activities and Social & Community Service
Dean of Sports
Dean of Studies
Dean of Students' Welfare
Dean of Public Affairs
Housemasters' Representative
Teachers' Representative
Dames' Representative
Secretary
School Captain
Prefects' Representative
Hyderabad House Senior Representative
Hyderabad House Senior Representative
Hyderabad House Junior Representative
Hyderabad House Junior Representative
Jaipur House Senior Representative
Jaipur House Senior Representative (Stand-in)
Jaipur House Junior Representative (Stand in)
Jaipur House Junior Representative
Kashmir House Senior Representative
Kashmir House Senior Representative
Kashmir House Junior Representative
Kashmir House Junior Representative
Oberoi House Senior Representative (Stand-in)
Oberoi House Senior Representative
Oberoi House Junior Representative (Stand-in)
Oberoi House Junior Representative
Tata House Senior Representative (Stand-in)
Tata House Junior Representative (Stand-in)
Tata House Junior Representative

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Sumaer Sandhu (Prefects' Representative) and seconded by Prabhjot Singh (Kashmir house Representative) and accordingly passed.

2. Discussion regarding the change in School uniform: A Sub committee comprising the following was formed to look into the samples of material and uniforms that were displayed:

·Raghav Chandra
·Yuv Vir Khosla
·Raniz Bordoloi
·Arth Gupta
·Hussain Haider
·Udit Kapur
·Mr.Burrett
·Mr.Sharma
·Mr.Qezilbash

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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