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# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, August 9 Issue No. 2378

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## GRADUATION GOGGLES

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**Pulkit Agarwal**

From the onset of this term, there has been a sense of nostalgia that has filled the hearts of many SC-formers. While it feels like only yesterday that we bid farewell to our seniors, especially the IB students, there is a fear that soon enough, we too shall walk out the gates of Chandbagh for the last time as Doscos. It seems almost surreal, even though we've watched it happen year after year. And although we've shared many an emotional goodbye, the inevitability of it only strikes us down in these last few months.

Throughout these holidays, there had been a great deal of dialogue revolving around the issue of a 'perfect last term' that would be a fitting finale to all of our unique experiences in this closely knit, treasured community. I feel that this quest for the fitting finale can bring forth a very different perspective to life in most of us, another thing that has been evident in our behavior as we approach December.

A trivial, but perhaps accurate indication of this different perspective was the elongated nature of Facebook posts that we filled our form mates' walls with on their birthdays over the vacation. It was not only because we had known them for so long that the wish needed to be extensive, but also because there was a fear that it might be the last. For as much as we pride ourselves of our great alumni connectivity, the true pleasures of sharing a life with friends on campus is never truly relived once the time has passed. The simple joy that is expressed in those pictures we post is something that we will never have the luxury of taking again, and it is this realization that drives us toward the friendships we strive to develop. The innocent 'selfie' doesn't seem so innocent anymore, because every picture taken is truly a repository of memories- perhaps, but hopefully not, the last ones we take together. The numerous occasions on which special efforts were taken to meet one another in the vacation is only proof of this, and this summer truly set the tone for a nostalgic and reminiscent term ahead.

Another prevalent feature in the plans of most SC-formers this term seems to be the urge to do what they have loved over the last few years, perfectly for the last time. Be it the last goal in stoppage time in the Inter-House Soccer competition, the breasting of the ribbon in the 5,000m finals, or the closing argument in a debate; we would all like to make the most of the little time we have left. Therefore, I feel this term can, in many ways, bring out the best in most SC-formers, for it is the time that the captains are giving in everything they have, knowing that they will have to pass on the baton soon enough.

Adding to the flavor of the term, for many SC's, is the pressure of finding the destination that shall house them in the years ahead. While for most it remains a top priority over the next few months, there is no doubting that we will all leave our applications aside when Founder's calls. It is in this dichotomy that the quintessence of this term lies: while it is crucial for us to not distract ourselves from our work toward the future, it might also be the last time that we may get a chance to revel in the present.

This year's batch is no different from any other. We all went through the years, living the richly textured life of a Dosco, living a life we're lucky to have. We've walked through the paths of this school so often that it shall remain in our memories long after it has gone from sight, and we've all shared experiences that have shaped us into the people we are today. Call it clichéd, call it what you will, but these red bricks and slippery moss shall be indelible from your memory when the time comes to say goodbye.

In the end, even though there's months to go, let's just hope that we all make our choices wisely, and indeed give each other that 'perfect last term' that we so desire. For, as is often pointed out, no matter what follows, the days spent here remain gold forever. But until that next step beckons, to paraphrase Frost: we have miles to go before we sleep, and miles to go before we sleep.

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## Regulars

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Anvay Grover has been awarded the **Jaidev Singh Memorial Award and Scholarship** for achieving the highest marks in Science in this year's ICSE Board Examination.

Congratulations!

The following were awarded the **Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship Award** 2013-2014:

**C Form:** Jashan Kalra

**B Form:** Rudra Srivastava

**A Form:** Anvay Grover

**S Form** Science Stream: Suyash Raj Shivam

**S Form** Humanities Stream: Vinayak Chaudhary

Congratulations!

### ENGINEERING

Smrithi Nair and Sidharth Pahuja attended the **Engineering Summer Camp for the Elite** organized by **Hong Kong University**. Smrithi Nair was the youngest participant at the camp and was adjudged the winner of the Project Competition. Well Done!

### SHOOTING

Samarjit Singh took part in the recently concluded **Junior World Cup** held in Germany and Czech Republic. He won three **silver** medals in the team category and also won an individual **gold**. He went on to qualify for the **World Championships** to be held in Spain. Well Done!

### SWIMMING

Nehansh Saxena, Madhav Mundra and Nihal Mann represented the **North Zone** at the **Life Saving Nationals** held in Pune this June. Nehansh was awarded two **silver** medals and one **bronze** medal and Madhav Mundra was awarded one **silver** medal. Mrs. Anez Katre was awarded the **Life Saver of the year** for her commitment to RLSS. Well Done!

### CHESS

Raghav Bagri participated in the 12th All India **FIDE Rated Chess Tournament** held at Hyderabad over the holidays. Out of 180 participants, Raghav secured the 18th rank. He also went on to participate at the **1st Asom International Open Fide Rating Chess Tournament**. He was awarded the best player in the below 1800 ELO rating category. Well Done!

### BASKETBALL

At the all **India Youth National Basketball Championships** held at Ernakulam in Kerala over the Summer Vacation, Suhel Karara was appointed as the **captain** of the Uttarakhand Basketball team. Congratulations!

### EXCHANGE

The School welcomes the following exchange students:

Samuel Stevens from **Bridge House School, South Africa**, Lorenzo Munnoz from **Deerfield Academy, USA**, Jin Jia Yin from **Merchiston Castle School, Scotland**, George English from **St Edwards School, Oxford** and Pratiman Shahi from the **Regents International School, Thailand**.

We wish them a fruitful stay!

### DEBATING

The School was represented by Yasser Iqbal, Smayan Sahni, Chaitanya Kediya, Jaivir Puri, Ishaan Kapoor and Arjun Singh at the **World School Debates Academy** conducted in Slovenia. The School was ranked **6th**. Well Done!

### IAYP ONLINE

On 5th August, 2014, The Doon School became the first school in India to go online with the IAYP programme. First batch of 52 students (21 in Bronze Level, 23 in Silver Level and 8 in Gold Level) registered for the **Online Record Book**. Now students can complete their Award journey by making required entries online. This will make the transaction of the Award amongst students and teachers a much smoother process.

Mr. Vinay Pande, Senior Deputy Headmaster was the Guest of Honour for the event. Mr. Priyank Gupta, Head IT and ORB for IAYP India was also present on the occasion.

Other staff members present were Mr. Skand Bali, Master in Charge IAYP at the Doon School, who is also the Head of National Training Panel for IAYP India, Mr. Nitin Chauhan, Mr. Manish Pant, and Dr. Mona Khanna.

This launch has made India and the Doon School join an elite club comprising countries doing the online Record for IAYP in the World.

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

Thousands of Iraqis are fleeing towns as militants continue to take over several regions due to Kurdish forces pulling out. Russian PM Dimitry Medvedev declared a complete ban on all food imports from the West in response to sanctions over Ukraine. Meanwhile, English referee Howard Webb retires after a career of 25 years. A bill has been passed by the Indian cabinet stating that children over the age of 16 can be tried for crimes such as rape and murder.

# THE SUMMER OF '14

Arnaav Bhavanani

They say there are some experiences that change your life. And it's at those moments that you have to sit back let the little things wash over you and embed themselves in your memory, because one day you're going to look back and realize that the little things were the big ones. There was a young boy from this school a month ago who aspired to be a writer. He still does, but I believe that the person he was then is something I'll probably never see again. Summer school at UMass changed him far beyond what he expected. How that happened is a process far too complex to delve into, because as I said, the little things are the big ones that shape you. You never have experience until you have memories that are embedded in your psyche- memories that mean more to you than other things that are meant to shape you.

What I aim to do with this is to inculcate in future exchange students an idea of the world out there, and what's available- for if anything, it is in plenty, a world waiting to be explored and the most out of. I'm not going to write a report on what happened there. Neither am I going to tell you that this summer was the best time of my life and I would want to go back again. Because I'd never go back again. Summer at UMass Amherst is one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that shape you as a person, and whatever you make of it once should be more than enough to change you as a person. It's a world beyond the classroom, with an entirely different approach to learning. The summer was divided into two two-week sessions, both sessions with two classes each. Despite only studying for three hours a day, I was so exhausted by the end of the day that I was almost always asleep before my head hit the pillow. That, I feel, is the main difference between summer school and exchange. At summer school, you choose courses that go above and beyond the general syllabi of the school system. It is, in essence, a liberating pre-college experience- essential for any aspiring student. Exchange, on the other hand, is an entirely different experience- one that I believe cannot and will never be as productive and stimulating as summer school can be. But then to be politically correct, everything does depends on what you make of it.

One of the most amazing things I noticed about UMass was its diversity. The total American percentage at the



summer school had an official benchmark of 40%, but the reality approached a far smaller 25-30%. There were Russians, Spaniards, French, Lebanese, Chinese, Japanese, Italians, Greeks- I can't even remember them all. Something you learn from participating in such a diverse environment is a skill that many people acquire much later in life- one that helps you anywhere: communication. You learn how to find commonalities and use differences to make conversation. You learn how, in that small world in itself, how we are as a people; and you realize that we really aren't so different.

It is this sense of community that brings about a sense of maturity that cannot be explained. People around the world do not share the goals we have. They do not get into mad scrambles for positions, they do not deal with their issues the way we do. It's a system far

simpler, and what makes it so good is the fact that people accept it and work together to achieve something more important than individual ambitions. And in case you're wondering, of course this is in allusion to the infamous S-form second term. There is a life beyond the walls of this school, and that life is not very similar to the life we live out here. It was, then, what you might call a culture shock.

Coming to classes. There exists in the US, a system many here have ridiculed, because it is a system that operates too much on the principle of trust and is highly dependent on the student's ambition, not removing the lack of it. The attention, therefore, is far more focused on individuals who show drive, and it's never really too late to buck up. Work done is recognized, every effort made is noticed. This is a class that works not because the course has to be finished but because the course wants to be finished. That is a fundamental flaw in our own system that needs change.

On a lighter note, the number of activities at Amherst were extreme. Every day there was something new to do, something new to see and explore. We went into Boston for shopping, we went to Six Flags (a theme park), we went to the Emily Dickinson Museum, we played paintball like it's never been played, we had dinners out and parties. We cooked ethnic food (I don't want to even start on what happened there), we forged new identities and new paths that changed a lot of our perceptions of the world and ourselves. We made friends who will never be forgotten, relationships and bonds which went and will last far beyond the warmth of knowing someone in a crowd. Summer school is so much more than just meeting new people, or studying, or seeing a foreign country. It's about rediscovering yourself through the resources thrown at you.

But I can go on. And on. It will not matter unless you take the initiative. Go see for yourself. I promise you, no matter what you do, or how you do it, it will be an experience you will never forget. What I can tell you right now; something that you need to know to truly experience the life there, is to open up. Let go, and don't worry about what people might think of you, because you'll probably never meet them again. And another thing; nobody there knows who you are or where you come from. You'll need to redefine their stereotypes and in the process, redefine yourself. It's harder than it sounds, but it's worth it.

| Interviews |

# POLITICALLY CORRECT

**The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr. Adnan Farooqui, Assistant Professor in the department of political science, who recently gave a talk in School.**

**The Doon School Weekly(DSW): Sir, would you please introduce yourself?**

**Adnan Farooqui (ADF):** I passed out of The Doon School in 1998. After that I completed my graduation from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. Then I went to Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I pursued my higher studies.

**DSW: What really got you interested in politics?**

**ADF:** I feel that it all depends on one's understanding of politics. The classical definition is that if you live in a society, and there is a general interaction amongst its people, then you would be living in a polis, as the Greek would say. That basically means that you cannot possibly live in isolation as long as you are a part of a society. Since you are part of a society, you are a part of politics. This is how I got driven towards politics.

**DSW: What is the nature and scope of the Ph.D. you are working on?**

**ADF:** Most of my work is about looking at the intersection between public policies and public representation and the reason why it is increasing in United States of America and Western Europe. I am primarily looking at whether the groups that have been systematically marginalized or groups that have been under-represented have had their bearing in policy making, policy combination and more importantly in policy implementation. This is what interests me and thus this is what I am working on.

**DSW: Do you think it is justified for India to be called the largest democracy in the world based on, what you call 'free and fair'?**

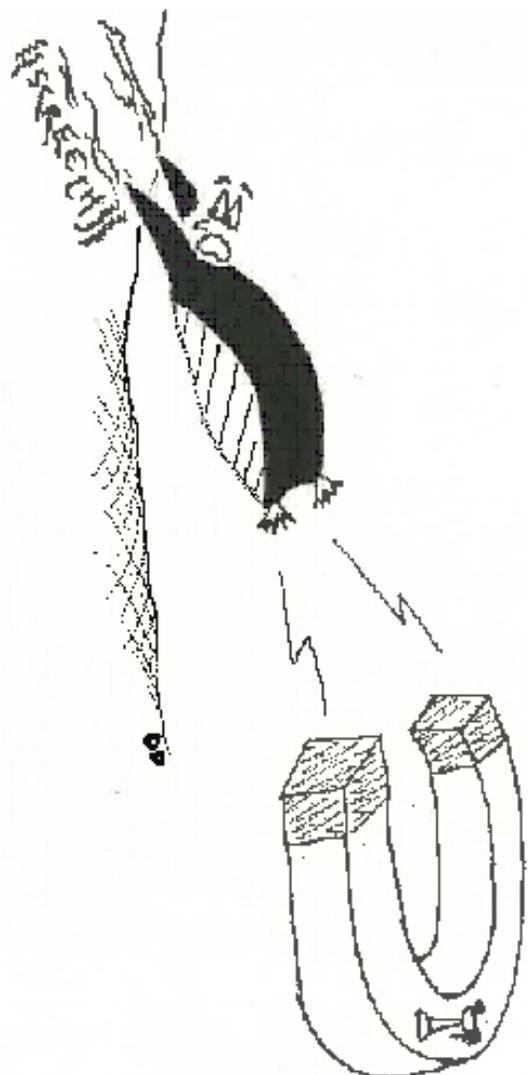
**ADF:** The criticism of India's form of democracy is that we have an 'ideal' type of democracy. We believe that this is how a democracy should be. However, that is certainly not the case. There is no ideal type. Even if there is an ideal type of democracy it keeps changing in order to be ideal. Each country and the kind of democracy it has, differs because of the fact that the reality is so different. I somewhat argue that what we have is basically a conception of a hardware model of democracy, whereas India has only ten or twelve characteristics for it to actually qualify as a democracy. That is only one definition or one framework. I feel what is equally important is the software of democracy and where your daily life comes into the picture or where the daily intersection between the people and the polity becomes important. And that's why the quality of democracy, or what people understand by

the term democracy actually varies. So yes, by some yardsticks India is at par with the best in the world.  
**DSW: Do you think the rise of the BJP is part of a trend, or is it a breakdown of the established trends set by the Congress?**

**ADF:** I don't think so. Yes BJP has walked into a political vacuum created by the Congress. I think the Congress is a victim of its own success. If one is to look at Congress's ten year rule, and especially the government between 2004 and 2009, roughly 140 million people were lifted out of poverty. But people wanted to move ahead in life, and this wasn't only about the Congress but a whole number of leaders. For example, Lalu Prasad Yadav learnt it the hard way in the year 2005. Yes, there are things which a state should promise its citizens, but you need to move beyond that. It's not only the question of equity, you definitely also want desire because that's the only way you can ensure equity. And I think that's where the Congress party lost the plot. And that's where the BJP moved in and successfully capitalized on these sentiments. And that is why I think their campaign wasn't a negative one, but a very positive campaign or an optimistic campaign and that's what people were looking for - strong decisive leadership.

**Dosco Doodle**

Schoolward Blues  
Dhruv Pais



# EXCHANGE 2014

St. Philips College

Abhayraj Jain

The most cliched way of describing a student exchange is- I went, I had fun, it was the time of my life; and this cliché exists for a reason. My exchange school, St Philips College, wasn't the most sought after. In fact, it was even turned down by some due to its remoteness, being situated in the heart of the Great Australian Outback. However, I enjoyed it for this very reason – it was a world away from the hustle and bustle of a growing city like Dehradun, and it allowed me to experience the 'real' Australia.

The two months I spent there passed quickly, and even though Alice Springs is quite a sleepy little town, the time I spent there helped me appreciate the little things. Cycling into town every day after school, eating at 'Mackers' (McDonalds), going for soccer training in the evenings, and watching 'footie' at night made my exchange feel like a home away from home. Extraordinary experiences seldom occur, but for the students of 'Saints,' Endeavour Camp is an annual occurrence. Nine days in the Australian Outback with no technology, no cooks, and no one but the campers themselves to carry the camp gear made for a surreal experience. We were left to fend for ourselves – we mapped our own route to the next camp site, found sandy spots for our sleeping bags, crossed a frigid 200m long gorge, and trekked through unmapped Australian bush day in and day out.

The end of camp also signaled the end of my exchange, and it was a tearful goodbye. Most importantly, I feel this exchange programme changed me as a person, and prepared me a bit more for life after Doon.

King's School, Sydney

Anvay Grover

An exchange programme carries a somewhat romanticized status in the Dosco community. True, it is an extremely enjoyable and unique experience. I will not deny that. However, the experience is a lot more nuanced than people make it out to be. If described as simply time spent relaxing or enjoying oneself, the entire experience runs the risk of either not having been fully lived, or, as is the case so many times, not properly articulated.

As part of my exchange programme, I went to The King's School, Sydney. It was remarkably similar to Doon; similar systems, a similar hierarchy and similar people. My first day there reminded me of my first day in D-Form, not quite sure what to expect.

However, it soon became home, much like Doon did four years ago. What was fascinating for me was meeting the students from the countryside. They were markedly different from the ones living in Sydney, being amiable in their own way.

The weekdays were spent as part of the boarding community at the school, while for the weekend we were at the homes of the host families. They deserve many thanks as they helped us throughout the exchange, and it was with them that we had the greatest time. I doubt I will forget watching a Rugby Union at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney anytime soon. We also met an ex-Dosco, Aditeya Lochan Singh who studied at King's who showed us around the city and was a great help.

Most importantly though, exchange gave me some time to examine, reflect, and reconsider. It allowed me to, besides having fun, develop my character. The good times and less good times each imparted their own lessons; which I was happy to learn.

## St. Edward's, Oxford

Rishabh Agarwal

Stepping out of the airplane chute into the busiest airport in the world, I wondered what Great Britain had to offer me. The first, unfortunately, was a suspicious customs officer who refused to let me enter the country on grounds that I was yet too young to be travelling alone. Through persistent pleading I was finally let through and I met with my wonderful and helpful host family who dropped me off at St. Edward's School, Oxford. After a two hour car journey through the highways of the United Kingdom, with picturesque farmlands on either side, I was received at the school by my Housemaster, Mr. Parker, and my exchange student George English.

Within the first few days I could say that St. Edward's is very much like Doon. The interactions between students and teachers, as well as their pastimes are very similar to ours. They have a similar campus arrangement, and their daily life is not too different from ours. 'Teddies' (the St. Edward's equivalent of 'Chandbagh') converted me from a vegetarian into a bacon and turkey eating meat lover. I took classes for the cello, an instrument I had never touched before and also tasted Marmite (a type of topping for bread). I experienced new climatic conditions where there was daylight till almost eight in the evening and also enjoyed experiencing sports that I had previously only heard about; like Rowing and Rugby. I also visited Winchester School to play a Cricket match with the 3rd XI team.

What I enjoyed most was the evening strolls with my form-mates to the neighbouring restaurants, various class field trips, or sunbathing in the afternoons and joining in with people playing football. The trips to London, watching 'Henry IV' at the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford, the orchestral concerts at the town hall and watching 'Tosca' at Royal Opera House were unforgettable experiences.

The experience helped me a long way in gaining confidence while talking to strangers and learning how to blend in with people with a different way of growing up. I also learnt how to manage all my belongings and money on a foreign trip alone, and most importantly, how to talk my way out of paying £350 at the airport for excess baggage!

# Eton College, England

Sahir Chaudhary

Stepping out on the cold tarmac in the drizzly typical English weather, I had a rather funny feeling that this is not the most auspicious start to a one and a half month stay in a foreign country. However as the time there came to an end, I can say with absolute conviction that it was one of the best months I've ever experienced in my life. When I reached Eton College, for a moment I felt like I was on the sets of a Harry Potter movie. I was received by my housemaster JMOB (they use initials for their teachers as well) and my guardian Henry Eaton-Mercer. At first glance, the English look rather foreboding but as I eventually got to know them better, I felt as though I was back in school.

The day started for us at eight in the morning with a proper "English Breakfast", though I confess the food (at least for an Indian) was rather bland and not particularly enticing (I had to buy a bottle of Tabasco for meals). Then instead of assembly, we had chapel. A long sermon was read from one of the gospels and I remember marvelling at the grandeur of the Church. The school choir used to perform a song accompanied by a huge organ, and it literally transported me every day to another world. Then we had classes followed by games in the evening. In Eton, games are not compulsory; one has the freedom to do or play whatever he wants; or study or even go to the school pub/restaurant (Yes, they have a pub, a restaurant, a candy shop and even an ice cream vendor on campus!) to enjoy the evenings with form-mates. During my stay I had the opportunity to try fencing, water polo, kick boxing, rock climbing, soccer (or as the English put it, 'football'), cricket, rowing and rugby. I represented the house in cricket, water polo, swimming and fencing and also had the opportunity to direct a play and put up exhibits in the art school. The highlight of my exchange was that I was awarded Senior House Colours for my contribution to the house. As my experience came to an end, I once again stepped on the cold tarmac in the drizzly weather, but this time I was feeling quite sad to be leaving such an amazing campus and the wonderful friends that I had made.

In the end, Eton College is a place fit for the best. It's a place that produces alumni formidable and daring, that offers a life unlike any other. I was privileged to have had an opportunity to go on this exchange, and if I could, I would go there again. There is so much in that school that is worth mentioning, that is worth bringing back here.

# The Week Gone By

Yuvan Kumar

The autumn term. The second term. The monsoon term. The DSMUN term. The football term. The Founder's term. Call it what you like. It's here to stretch and squeeze us! Believe it or not, the four similar terms that I have seen in school every year leave all of us taxed, ironically though: richer. And I do not think this one will be much different. But what's life without a little give or take? There is a lot that one can say about the activities to come. Read on! As a first this year, the school will see a whopping fourteen committees during DSMUN! This is a massive attempt at expanding the school's ties with other schools in and out of the country. While a great number of boys are readying up for the 'united' decisions they will have to take, the rest of the school waits in anticipation for other kinds of 'agreements' they would love to make. Boys who keep to themselves all year round can be found in possession of renewed fervour and *joish* (to win) during this period of Renaissance. Jokes aside though, the Secretariat team and various Chairpersons have put in their all for as long as I can remember this year. Be it organizing the official website, sending out invitations or acquiring materials needed for the event, it has surely been a Herculean task! We hope it pans out to be a great success!

Football has had a jumpstart into the daily schedule of the boys. The exalted performances given by players in the recently concluded FIFA World Cup held in Brazil seem to be the muse for various antics seen on the field this week. Not to mention the swanky new range of studs which are being sported by many. Furthermore, swimming has begun with a splash, and Life Saving an important sport. One can see the early birds also circling the fields, well prior to Athletics season this year. This is bound to pay off. Well done, keep at it!

Founder's this year will see a mega-production in the form of the Hindi play 'Tughlaq' by Girish Karnad, adapted by Dr. Farooqui and staged by the boys of Doon. This play promises to be one of the high points at Founder's with play practices already in full swing. Strains from the music school and the harmony within promises a fabulous Independence Day Musical Performance.

This is the last term for the SC's and I believe that everyone will do their best to excel at everything they do, set things right and make it a very memorable term. As for their successors who will soon be bearing the torch, it is the season to put on a big smile and comb every strand of hair right in place.

Enjoy!

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