

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, May 2 | Issue No. 2405



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Of Men and Mandates

Aditya Bhardwaj and **Devansh Agarwal** write about what sets School apart from others.

Recently, in our capacity as prefects, we decided to observe and analyze the workings of our school. Even though SC Form doesn't afford us the luxury of time to ruminate over things, we felt that there are several aspects of School life that require pondering over. For instance, we've often wondered whether members of our community have ever tried to interpret the reasons behind our success as an institution. Granted, we're a cut above the rest when it comes to our endeavours; but what is it that truly sets us apart and gives us this edge? What element(s) places us in a different light as compared to the admissions-chasing "grade factories" in concrete jungles across the world? Well, we like to think that we have figured out the answer.

Before we jump into what many may consider a mere figment of our somewhat convoluted imagination, we would like to make some clarifications, so as to make it easier for us to articulate our answer.

The first clarification is regarding our mandate as prefects and the punishments that we impose upon students. Yes, prefects in School are allowed to punish only under a certain ambit and yes, at times we overstep our ambit. However, this does not change the fact that the mandate of a prefect entrusts him with the responsibility of punishing any member of the community who may have broken the rules.

Now, let's move on to the second clarification: D form is a time when one is expected to make mistakes and yes, D-Formers are initially pardoned their faults; however, as time elapses and they grow familiar with the rules, they are expected to learn from these mistakes, and hence, the leniency afforded to them also gradually fades.

The final clarification: School is not, and isn't meant to be, a hostile environment. While it is certainly a vigorous environment, it is one that doles out difficulties with the purpose of preparing its students for reality; in no way does the School still resonate with the lost echoes of corporal punishment and the works. Further, the responsibility to ensure that these past elements of school do not rear their ugly heads again lies with the prefects.

Bearing these facets in mind, we were able to pinpoint our two distinctive strengths; mentoring and independence. There are few institutions in the world which would bestow their senior students with the responsibility of ensuring discipline amongst their junior students. In fact, most administrative authorities would cringe at the very idea of delegating what they perceive as being their job. Thus, this willingness to share authority is the point of difference between most schools and us. Our School chooses to trust us, and we try our best to live up to this trust. Moreover, the understanding that exists amongst the junior student body is that eventually they too would be entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of School. This is the first thing that sets us apart; a cyclical process of progressive mentoring thrives here. Each batch, even if it does not articulate it, attempts to leave behind its own legacy of excellence. This brings us to the second aspect - independence.

As stated in the aforementioned clarifications, our School does not foster a hostile environment; it does teach one to fend for oneself. The system of independence is perhaps the hardest thing to instil in new students, mainly because one does not realize to what extent his actions in School hinge on others until it's too late. The image of a boy is built up not only by his actions, but also by the actions of others and how he reacts to them.

Moreover, parents are incredibly protective of their loved ones, as they fully well should be. To that end, however, they are often dismissive of "the other side of the story" when they hear their precious ones tearing up over the phone. The hassle of an exaggerated story coupled with blinding emotion is not something that makes for a productive collaboration between the parents and the authorities (which includes the prefects). Hence, most parents need to be informed about what life in School is like, because the misconceptions that comprise their understanding are often cause for harsh and excessive action which, in reality, is backed by a feeble body of evidence.

Therefore, through this article, we aim to make all parents realize the inherent irony in their actions; by protecting their sons from what they wrongly consider to be 'excessive' regimentation and disciplinary action, they are, in fact, taking away the fruits of the two fundamental methods through which our School strives to fulfil its aim of imparting a unique boarding school education.



Regulars

International Awards

The following students have completed various levels of the **IAYP**:

Bronze

Rishi Choudhary and Jashan Kalra

Silver

Kartikay Garg

Gold

Arunabh Uttkarsh, Parth Khanna, Ayush Sarawgi, Laksh Saraf, Yogesh Agarwal, Amal Agarwal and Lakshya Varshney

Congratulations!

Cricket

The **School Senior Cricket Team** played a match against a team from the **British High Commission, New Delhi** on **April 26, 2015**. The High Commission's team batted first and scored **97 runs** in twenty overs. The match ended in a tie. Aryaman Panwar scored **59 runs** and Manan Dhandania took **three wickets**.

The **School Junior Cricket Team** played a match against **Summer Valley School** on **April 27, 2015** in the **Cambrian Hall Cricket Tournament**. The School team batted first and scored **170 runs** in twenty overs, winning the match by **80 runs**. Shiven Dewan scored **69 runs**.

Kudos!

Hockey

The **School Junior Hockey Team** played two matches this week. In its first match against **The Moravian School**, the team won **2-0**. In its second match against **RIMC**, the team lost **3-0**.

In the **Council Inter-School Senior Boys Hockey Tournament** recently held at the School, the **School Senior Hockey Team** reached the finals and won against **The Moravian School** with a score of **3-1**. Kartikay Garg scored a total of eighteen goals throughout the tournament. This is the third consecutive year that the School has won the tournament.

Well played!

"I disagree with what you say. I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

Voltaire

Fiery Orators

A team comprising Arth Gupta, Devansh Agarwal and Krishna Lohiya represented the School at the **Hugh Catchpole Memorial Inter-School English Debates** held at **RIMC, Dehradun**. The team was ranked as the **Runner-up** in a pool of eighteen participating schools. Devansh Agarwal was declared the **Most Promising Speaker** in the **final round**.

Well done!

Welcome Aboard!

We welcome Mr. Adarsh Saxena (**ASA**), who recently joined the School in the **Music Department**.

We wish him a fruitful tenure!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Quiet is a one word.

PKB, the sound of silence.

What book are you watching.

Sanidhya Mittal, for those who can't read.

Look it carefully.

SBL, the same goes for you.

She made an ally to him.

Arjun Singh, an alliance with grammar is needed.

My whole family is a doctor.

Aryaman Agarwal, treat your English first.

Stop doing these thoughts.

AGS, please think over your own.

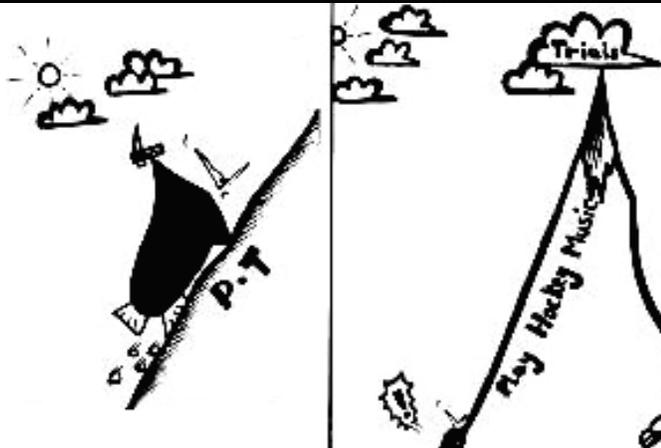
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

The earthquake in Nepal has claimed more than 5,000 lives; many survivors still remain in desperate need of food and water. North Korea's Kim Jong-Un ordered the execution of 15 senior officials. Nigerian troops rescued nearly 300 girls and women from Boko Haram militants. Australia has recalled its ambassador from Indonesia after eight Australian men were executed for drug smuggling. More than 300,000 Yemenis have been driven out of their homes due to acts of violence in the impoverished nation.

Dosco Doodle

And Hardwork to Do...

Aryaman Saluja



A Preview of The British Elections

Aryan Chhabra, reports on the upcoming British elections.

May 2015, marks one of the most phenomenal events in the world; elections are going to begin in one of the oldest democracies on earth. The United Kingdom has always been a pillar of democracy, liberty and equality, throughout the world. Most nations, including ours, have government practices and penal codes which are offshoots of the United Kingdom's. The major parties in the UK are the Conservative party and the Labour party, and usually the government is formed by one of them. That being said, there are various smaller parties which will play a major part these elections, and in all probability this time there will be a coalition government formed in Westminster. While all the major debates and deliberations are being done, this article will serve as a preview to the much awaited British elections along with a prediction of the outcome of this plebiscite.

Like many other countries, England has had a long and turbulent history marked by numerous political struggles and conflicts in ideology. The Conservative Party and the Labour Party in this country often stands at opposing sides of these conflicts. The major candidates competing in this election are the leader of the Conservative party and current prime minister of UK, David Cameron and opposing him is the leader of the Labour party as well as of the opposition, Ed Miliband. While David Cameron recently made a statement about further strengthening his current policies, Ed



Miliband's major political agenda revolves around reduction of deficit. On the first glance it seems that the Labour party with their strong agenda and their incentive to make lives easier for the people by reducing their deficits and guaranteeing unemployed youngsters a 6-month job will predominantly win this election. However, the conservatives with their attractive "tax-cut" policy; which completely freezes the public sector pay increases as well as 5 per cent cut in the salary of government ministers along with a cut in the corporation tax and their continuous struggle for free and fair trade, increase international aid and press for further debt relief places them on an equal pedestal. Given all this, it is safe to say that these elections will be closely contested. In a recent poll conducted by BBC, the Conservative party were expected to win 34% of the votes, followed closely by the Labour party with 33% of the votes. It won't be wrong to say that other parties are well and truly out of the competition with the next major party being United Kingdom Independence Party(UKIP) with a meager 13% of the votes followed by the Liberal Democrats and Green party with petty 8% and 6% of the votes respectively. On the issue of law and order, on one hand we see Labour party with a stiffer approach to crime and try to do away with image that the Labour party was soft on crime. Also when Labour party took over previously we had seen a 10% increase in the number of people in prison, but the Labour party have also encouraged the use of early release schemes. They also aim to increase the size of the police force. While on the other hand, the Conservatives have a slightly tougher line on crime. The conservatives have opposed the idea of early release schemes, something that they had picked on heavily during 2001. Also Tories(as conservatives are often called) have started putting more emphasis on rehabilitation. The idea behind this is that prison governors and private prison companies that provide rehabilitation services in prison are paid a basic fee and if an offender stays on the straight and narrow for two years, they will get a bonus. With prisoners serving their sentences in so many different prisons, it is difficult to see how the bonus payments will be worked out. However, the Tories have come under fire for their "overfunded" NHS (National Health Services) promise. The Conservatives had recently planned to spend 8 billion pounds on the NHS by 2020, however they have declined to comment on how they will pay for it. While, at the same time the Labour party and their high tax rate policy doesn't go well with the masses, especially with the rich.

So who will win it? My prediction is that Labour party along with being strongly supported by the migrant voters and ethnic minorities and not to mention London are undoubtedly a stronger choice. A second factor is the distribution of the population, which, because of increasing house prices, has gone from being relatively concentrated in specific areas to being distributed across the city. In fact, the rise in house prices has forced people out of the centre of London and transformed the demography of some of the outer regions of the capital. In other words, what are usually Tory constituencies are increasingly looking like Labour ones because of their demographic composition, particularly in east London. Also, David Cameron's inability to help Libya even after assuring them of their help has led to the UK's foreign policy being attacked from all the sides. Putting all concern aside, I can say that Labour party if elected can do a productive job and make the lives of Brits easier and better.

| Creative |

Redemption

Arjun Singh

Freedom seemed endless. All those years in the firm had encroached upon everything else; all of which was as important as the job. Although, he was able to complete work with speed and efficiency. Leisure became more frequent. His mood improved too, for work pressure had once made him a frustrating cynic. He was perceived more amicable by both friends and family. Ironically, unemployment made him feel richer than ever.

Yet, whenever he relished this freedom, a constant feeling of remorse clouded the exultant; and though small, it was a salient reminder of his failure. The feeling always stirred him. He would remember his termination with disappointment: working there for so long had formed a part of his identity. As was a bleeding heart being drained of its own blood, life was meaningless. The anger and hate had turned into suffering. It was now that he experienced real desolation. Salvation, it seemed, could only come through getting back his job.

How would he though? 'You can't work for me.' was the boss's ultimatum. To reacquire his post seemed impossible: an odyssey right through the mouth of hell. The boss and subordinate were to be dead set against him rejoining. Even the company chairman wouldn't be too kind, for the old goat was as obstinate as the other two. None of his former colleagues, barring the sycophant, could influence the boss effectively. Besides, his termination had been well publicized. Returning would only prove his inability to handle detachment, a blot on his dignity too dark to fade.

There was but one alternative- to discreetly emulate the colleague. The man had obtained his job with extreme sycophancy, which though despicable, was effective. 'On paper' as they said, 'it was a good strategy.' Was it possible though, that he could live with himself by clenching victory through a cheating manner? Conscience was sure to manifest itself. Presently, it created a thunderstorm of emotion, taking its toll on the cloud of disappointment and desire.

We humans are always swayed by materialism. The craving for power or approval has motivated us across years of evolution to strongly grasp any opportunity we get: the means by which one does so being perceived as irrelevant. The boss had said so himself - 'You will be remembered for what you did, not how you did it.' He was reluctant to embark on this unfortunate quest for position, but was encouraged by the spirit of 'sacrifice' - his dignity for the firm. In his eyes, he was (w)righting a wrong. A classic conflict of good and evil played out across his mind, already bogging with emotion.

'But no.' he thought. Reducing oneself to a perverse standard was worse than rectifying something already perverse. Bravely, he chose to keep his honour than lose it for something else. One might call it self-preservation; completely disregarding the honourable virtue of sacrifice. No matter what though, it was the the first honour worth preserving. If anything, he

would not sacrifice his identity for its broken part. Getting back wasn't as important as getting lost. Bit-by-bit, the firm began to cripple. And then, when on the brink of collapse, they had no choice but to apologetically hire him once again. With complete confidence, he began to rebuild the firm, ingraining within it a newfound sense of resolve and skill. Gradually it rose back to prominence, once again reaching the market's coveted prime. The boss soon resigned, with him being the suitable replacement. What's more, he remained comforted. Being defiant against society's bane had let everything fall into place. In entirety, he had conquered redemption.

| Poetry |

The Widow

Pranav Goel

Yes, she sat at the window,
Staring through her cell into the night,
waiting for her lover
who would never return.
It was the pain of his absence,
that had dawned upon her.

He had left her though,
but she, in all rejection,
had waited....
But later, she had to be sedated.
Driven into a fit of insanity,
Shrieking, the sound an agonizing cry.

She was tied down by a rope,
as if all mercy with withheld,
by doctors and their staff.
But, all she thought of was her lover
of whose departure she could not cope.

He'd said he'd be back,
And she believed him,
Waiting all night at the windowsill
She was sure he hadn't lied
How could he?
He was her love, her sweet, sweet ecstasy.

No treatment would save her,
And with that thought,
she was shattered and alone: forever,
'Cause she would never unite,
If not with her long lost lover.

So she sat and she waited,
In the moonlight, alone
Waiting for her lover
Who would never return.

The Doon School Literary Festival' 15

Atrey Bhargava and Kushagra Kar report on the recently held Doon School Literary Festival.

Last week, the School hosted the second annual Doon School Literary Festival. This year, the event was at a much larger scale; involving a greater number of events and guest panellists. The fact that the festival was held on 'World Book and Copyright Day' made the whole event more apt and gave the readers a reinforced resolve to celebrate. To top it off, this year, we were honoured to have writers such as Amish Tripathi, Niraja Gopal Jayal, Satish Deshpande, Ananya Vajpeyi, Suhasini Haider, Jonathan Gil Harris, Valentina Trivedi and Ms. Fauzia.

The event was kicked off with the inaugural speech by the Library Council Secretary and Festival Co-ordinator- Arnaav Bhavanani. Following him was an address by our headmaster- Dr. Peter McLaughlin. They both highlighted the importance of literature in our lives and made an emphasis on the freedom of expression in light of contemporary events which have initiated debate across the country. This was followed by a rendition of NK Sharma's '*Run Kallu Run*' by our boys. The performance was well-received by all sections of the audience for its accuracy in portraying problems which have prevented India's human capital from development.

Thereafter, was the most anticipated event of the day. The acclaimed Indian mythological writer Amish Tripathi enumerated on his works and his speech was followed by a question-answer session. Questions ranged from his sources of inspiration to the reasons behind his success. After the session, the gathering then dispersed for a tea break only to split up into smaller groups to attend the various other events in the other locations.

The Art and Media centre was host to a discussion between Prof Niraja Gopal Jayal, Prof Satish Deshpande, Dr Ananya Vajpeyi and Ms Purnima Dutta. The discussion was started by Ms Purnima Dutta and the other panel members would then share their views based on their extensive knowledge of their respective subjects. Topics such as the caste system in India and other pressing matters were discussed between the four. The people present there were very lucky indeed for each speaker brought in a point which provided a whole new dimension of thought for a particular subject. Undoubtedly, no one left without something to think about for some time to come.

The people who decided to stay back in the MPH bore witness to our boys taking part in reading performances of LOC by Gulzar and Zinda Dil Zinda by Vimal Chandra Pandey. The boys, as usual didn't fail to impress the gathering of students and teachers alike. The zeal in the boys as they performed was evident from the way they pulled off the entire procession.

In the library, the panellists Jonathan Gil Harris and Suhasini Haider, staying true to the theme, enlightened us with their idea of India. The former educationalist and the much acclaimed author of the book '*First Firangis*' talked about India as a country which has always been open to foreign travellers and new cultures, no wonder the origin of many religions can be traced back to our country. Giving examples like Garcia De Orta; a pioneer of tropical medicine who had to leave Portugal (his home country) to Goa due to the inquisition policy or Juliana De Osta; a slave girl of Portuguese origin born during the reign of Shah Jahan who later rose to become the chief political adviser for Aurangzeb's son. Jonathan Harris praised India's willingness to accept new cultures and went to call India a 'nation of the *Firangis*'. Suhasini Haider a journalist to the Hindu and a correspondent to the CNN talked about her adventures abroad, especially in the Middle East and invoked in us the thrill of journalism. She described India as a 'Global Village' and a country which has been a 'voice to the voiceless', be it to provide aid for natural disasters in Malawi or Madagascar. India to her was not a country bounded by boundaries but truly a Global Nation with great respect and authority all over the World. Despite our GDP not being as good as some other developed nations, India still holds great power at the World stage. This is not because of India's population but the very 'Idea of India' itself incorporated in masses across all nations. The author's impeccable oratory skills successfully captivated the audience and glued us to our seats.

To add to the atmosphere, books were being sold at the Triangular Garden, Library porch area and the Art and Media centre during all the talks. A few lucky people were able to get their hands on signed copies of Amish Tripathi's books as well as other authors. What made the whole thing better was the availability of a very large collection of books across various genres and themes. Books straight from politics in India to ancient mythology were available.

The last event of the day was a '*Dastangoi*' performed by Ms Valentina Trivedi and Ms Fauzia in the Rose Bowl. *Dastangoi* is a medieval art of expressing stories which was recently revived in the past decade by Mahmood Farooqui. The performance enraptured the intrigued eyes of the students and masters alike, as performances of this form are rarely witnessed in school. The appreciation was made apparent by the clapping afterwards. It made a befitting end to an already amazing day.

Thus as the final words were spoken in the Rose Bowl, a sigh of relief echoed across the school as we all knew that this had been a very successful festival indeed. Not only did the event challenge us intellectually but also made us look beyond our horizons and question the idea of India itself. We returned to our houses that evening with a sense of pride in their school. Thus, the Doon School Literary Festival came to a successful end and has indefinitely set a benchmark for years to follow.

The Week Gone By

Madhav Singhal

Last week, we saw the P.T. Competition seasoned by unseasonal rain. Despite the strong winds and the cold drizzle, the House P.T. Squads performed with grim determination and put up a spectacular show. Once the weather cleared and the clouds parted to reveal a peach-pink sky for the closing ceremony, it seemed as though only to honour the 'legend' who had been associated with P.T. in the School for the 15 years (this one being his last). This was the only instance in history where DoscOs had prayed for P.T. not to get cancelled due to rain! With P.T. getting over, all looked forward to sleeping till the CDH breakfast bell, but unfortunately, the introduction of morning toy shattered all such dreams.

One was not surprised to see groggy DoscOs coming for classes this week, as late-night practices had continued throughout with the run-up to the Inter-House One Act Play Competition. Students were seen scurrying all around School with every imaginable prop and many doorbells were rung to ask for clothes, furniture and advice. Posters were put on entrances of the Main Building and the CDH, and only made us eager to watch the culmination of weeks of practice and perseverance.

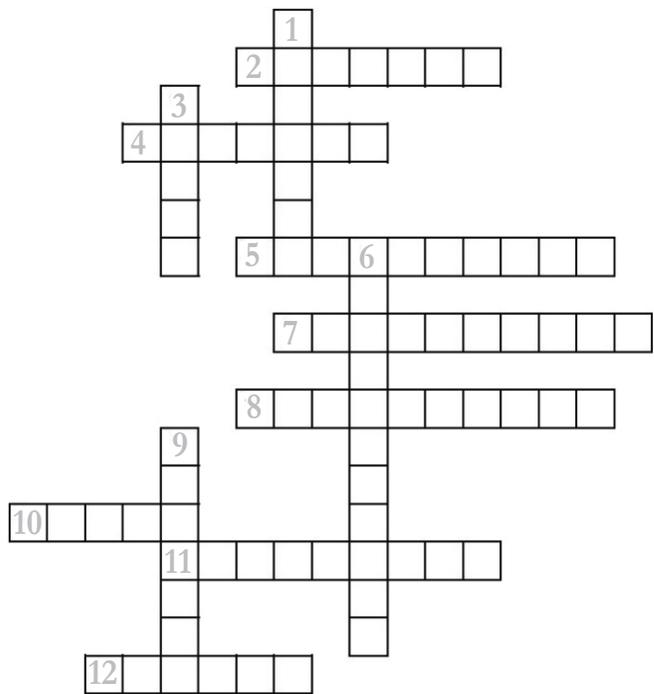
Speaking of practice and perseverance, the School Hockey team won the Council's Hockey tournament for the second year in a row. The hockey season this year is in full swing and this evident by the increased number of plasters and crutches seen around campus. House teams are seen practicing rigorously as the Inter-House competition is just around the (short) 'corner'. On the other battle front, the School Basketball team was seen 'shooting' heavily, under fire with the Afzal Khan Basketball tournament gaining ground.

Meanwhile, tremors were literally and figuratively felt as the release of the Trials schedule heralded The Onset of Worry: May Trials. For the S-formers, the earthquake had already come in the form of deciding between IB and ISC. Countless changes across curriculums and subjects were made in attempt to seek refuge before the window was closed. On the other hand, for the IB SCE's, the examinations are already here. The 'Tareekh' Seminar was also held this week, in which our SC's presented their research papers on subjects across the annals of History.

On more current affairs, some of our brethren are giving one of the most important examinations of their lives- the dreaded SAT. All we can say is, "May the examiner be with you!"

With myriad activities happening, and one-fourth of the term still left, it's our advice that you just hold on and persist a little more, for the activities only seem to increase as each term passes, and dealing with it is what marks DoscOs from the rest, as the article on the first page of this issue says!

The Crossword



Across

2. He invented sandwich.
4. The twin sister of Apollo; also the Hellenic goddess of wild animals and childbirth.
5. The IMF headquarters is located here.
7. This is the national sport of Sri Lanka.
8. He was the first European scientist to refuse in the belief that the earth was the universe's center.
10. He is currently the Chief Justice of India.
11. J.K. Rowling wrote 'The Cuckoo's Calling' under this pseudonym.
12. The first Indian state to ban the sale of loose cigarettes.

Down

1. The former name of Taiwan.
3. She is the first woman umpire on the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires.
6. She is the author of the book 'Unbroken'.
9. He painted the most expensive painting ever sold *Nafea Faa Ipoipo* (When Will You Marry?).

Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:	
Across	Down
1. Formosa	2. Montagu
3. Cross	4. Artemis
6. Hillenbrand	5. Washington
9. Gauguin	7. Volleyball
	10. Dattu
	11. Galbraith
	12. Punjab

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

weekly@doonschool.com



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