



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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Amidst this Legacy and Heritage

Mr. Matthew Ragget

It is always exciting to start at a new school, looking forward to the first day, worrying about the teachers and wondering whether the other kids will like you. It doesn't change as one gets older!

Coming to The Doon School has been a process that began back in October last year when I received a LinkedIn message from a person in Delhi wondering whether I would be interested in a conversation about leading a school in India. Having visited a school in the south before and knowing many people who have worked in India through the UWC movement, I knew that there were only a few schools here I would be interested in talking about. "Which school?", I asked. "The Doon School", came the reply. "Then I'm interested."

Getting to know the School, Dr. McLaughlin, some of the staff and the Board over the next six months gradually got my family, the School and me to the point where we believed we were right for each other, and I am very glad to be here now.

The School is in an incredibly strong position academically, pastorally and as an all-round, vibrant learning community. The work that the staff has done under Dr.



McLaughlin's leadership is quite something to live up to, and as I walk into my office and see the faces of the founder and headmasters of the past, I am aware of the legacy I have been entrusted to take care of.

Many people, boys included, have already asked me what I am going to change now that I am here. Change is an inevitable part of life and something that has to happen in any organisation that reflects on what it does and strives to improve. Change can also be difficult, threatening and sometimes painful, which is why people don't like it and cultures act to minimise it. In my experience, it is only emergencies or rescue situations that require immediate, authoritative change. Any leader who walks into a successful organisation already knowing the changes he wants to make is a fool; he needs to listen, understand the place and the people before knowing what improvements need to be made.

I do know from my three visits to the School in March and May that there are some things that people here want to look at together; the structure of the School day and its 35 minute lessons, the preparation for the introduction of the Cambridge IGCSE programme and the time given to Modern Languages. I also know that there are some things I will do differently from Dr. McLaughlin, just because we are different people, and each person needs to be his own man. See if you notice what those things are.

To help me learn the School as quickly as possible, and because it is what I have been used to doing in

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Regulars

Rescue 2016

11 boys participated in **Rescue 2016**, the Life-saving Nationals. The team comprised Anish Bhide, Nehansh Saxena, Tanay G Agarwal, Mehraab Pannu, Kanishk Kanodia, Kushagra Kar, Tarun Bhide, Varchaswa Mukim, Rishav Mishra, Advaita Sood and Balram Suri. The team performed outstandingly, with a medal tally of **14 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze medals**.

Kudos!

IPSC Swimming

The **School Swimming Team** participated in the **31st IPSC Meet** held at **Miles Bronson Residential School, Guwahati**.

Following are the highlights:

Under 14:

Aadit Chatterjee won a **silver** in **50m Butterfly**

Tarun Bhide won a **silver** in **50m Freestyle**

Under 17:

Anish Bhide won a **silver** in **50m Freestyle** along with a **bronze** in **50m Butterfly**.

Zohraver Bhati won a **bronze** in the **100m Freestyle**.

Under 19:

Raghav Kumar won a **bronze** in **200m Butterfly**

Pratyaksh Parmar won a **bronze** in **200m**

Breaststroke

Uday Nath Behl won a **bronze** in **50m Breaststroke**

Nehansh Saxena won a **bronze** in **100m Backstroke**

Well done!

IAYP

Ms. Amrit Burrett and Mr. Nitin Chauhan were recognised by the **IAYP** with an award for their dedication to **Community Welfare and Adventure**.

Kudos!

"The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."

- Socrates

IPSC Squash

The School participated in **All India IPSC Squash Championship** held at **The Punjab Public School, Nabha**. The results are as follows:

In **team event**, the School won the **silver medal**; and the **U-17** reached the **quarterfinals**.

In **individual events**, Mayank Sojatia won the **bronze medal**. He has been selected to represent the **IPSC Squash team in School Games Federation of India**.

Well done!

Oratory Fire

Chaitanya Kediya represented the School as well as the **Indian Schools Debating Society** at the **3rd Asia World School Debating Championship** held at the **Anglo Singapore International School in Bangkok, Thailand**. The team was adjudged the **Grand Champions** of the championship.

Congratulations!

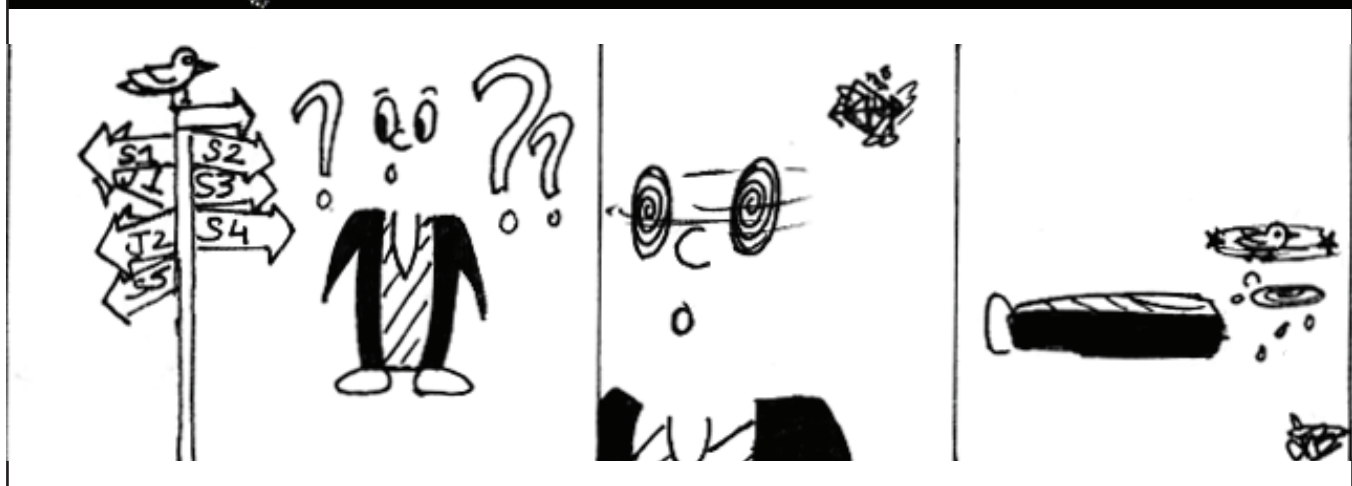
Obituary

We mournfully inform the School community that Mr. Hari Dang passed away on July 23, 2016. Mr. Dang was a master at School for 11 years, from 1959 to 1970. While at School, he taught English and Geography. He was an avid mountaineer and was a part of the first Indian Expedition to Everest in 1962. Over the years he took many boys on Midterm expeditions. For his contribution to Indian Mountaineering, Mr. Dang was awarded the Padma Shri. He will be sorely missed by all those who had the privilege of his company, and will be remembered for his passion in everything that he did.

Dosco Doodle

Games time?

Kushagra Bansal



(Contd. from page 1)

my previous school, I will be walking through all of the classrooms as much as I can. I do not want to interrupt the flow and do not expect any acknowledgements; I will just sit down or stand somewhere and watch the interactions that are taking place. I will also be coming to the Houses to see and feel them in action so that I can learn what it is that makes them unique.

On a Lighter Note.....

Q: Who is your favourite Game of Thrones character?

A: Tyrion Lannister is my favourite Game of Thrones character; however, I also like the TV shows, Dawson's Creek and Luther.

Q: Who's a better detective: Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot?

A: Sherlock Holmes, there is no question about it.

Q: What do you prefer: Android or Apple?

A: Android phones are better, but I like MacBooks.

Q: Do you identify with the following British Stereotypes:

1. **Enjoying tea all the time?** Yes.

2. **An unexplained cynicism and pessimism, in contrast to the Americans?** I'd like to believe that it is a healthy cynicism, but yes.

3. **Supporting the existence of the monarchy and the honorific titles?** Having lived outside, I seemed to have lost touch with them.

Q: Which football team do you support in the English Premier League Bundesliga?

A: I support Red Bull Leipzig. They just got promoted from the second division to the first division.

Q: What was your reaction when Germany lost to France in the semifinals of Euro 2016?

A: I was crushed by the defeat, but to be fair, I thought that that match should have been the Finals! However, I felt that Müller was absolutely rubbish throughout the tournament.

Q: Which is your all-time favourite band - Pink Floyd or the Beatles?

A: I prefer Pink Floyd over the Beatles but I also love the Shins, Sigur Rós, and Belle and Sebastian.

Q: What are your favourite sports?

A: I enjoy mountain biking, and soon my garden shall host the dangerous sports that are croquet and Viking Chess.

It is very important to me that I get to know my colleagues quickly. They are the people in front of you each lesson, in your activities, coaching you in your sports and giving you the feedback you need to grow into the young men and women that we all hope you will become. The most important part of my job here is to do the same for them. In order to do that I must know them and be there with them in their lessons, activities and Houses, so that my coaching is authentic and effective.

I started the opening assembly of the year by reading Max Ehrmann's *Desiderata of Happiness*. Written in 1927, it is a prose poem that I grew up seeing every day framed in the hallway of my parents' house. Everytime I read it, it centres me and reminds me what can be hoped for and how we should treat ourselves and each other. Coupled with the feelings it evokes from childhood, it is a powerful meditative artefact and the closest thing to a prayer that I hold in my heart.

One of the lines in this poem reads, 'If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.' This is a lesson that is hard to accept, but it is none-the-less true, and recognising it can be liberating. When we are able to completely engage in something, focus entirely on learning and letting go of the worrying about what others think of us, we are truly able to make progress. It is a very human response to care, but to care about what others might think to the extent that it gets in the way of your learning is tragic. It holds us back and wastes the time that we have together.

School, life and the world in general can seem terribly competitive and it is true that we will always be measured against other people. But life is far more collaborative than competitive, and the opportunities to learn, to grow and to lead are more likely to come through working together than through trying to set you apart. We know that The Doon School's mission is to attract and develop exceptional boys and teachers from all backgrounds to serve a meritocratic India. My vision is that we do this collaboratively, sharing all that we can with each other and taking everyone with us.

On (Theresa) May and June

Md. Omar Chisti *reports on the referendum deciding U.K's future in the European Union.*

As the WhatsApp chain jokes put it, “Who knew you could get the British to leave anything by a simple vote?” Since it's safe to say that almost all our readers are familiar with the results of the June 24th referendum on the United Kingdom's future in the European Union (unless they've been living under a rock trying to catch 'em all), I'll skip straight to the aftermath and ramifications of the 'Leave' vote. The pundits ended up getting it all wrong - the pound nose-dived to levels last seen over thirty year ago, markets around the world fell, while Google searches for 'What is the European Union?' rose belatedly in the United Kingdom. Cameron took the 'Leave' result a little too personally, maybe also due to the more predictable 'Brexit' from the Euro football cup. Pandemonium generally reigned as the global order underwent yet another shuffle.

An analysis of the voting patterns in the referendum reveals several interesting divisions in the populace, with generational gap and regional differences threatening to split the country at its seams. In a close ballot, with 52% voting to 'Leave' and 48% voting to 'Remain', the youth voted overwhelmingly to 'Remain' (75% of 18-24 year olds voted 'Remain') while the elderly turned out in droves to vote 'Leave' (61% of the retired populace voted 'Leave'). Thanks to the tendency of developed economies for a demographic lean towards those closer to senescence (And dare I say it, senility?), the 'Leave' vote won and the efforts toward global integration and cooperation took a step back the world over. Ironically, the Scots' decision to remain a part of the United



Kingdom last summer rested mostly on the uncertainty of continuing their European Union membership if they were to secede, and their votes to 'Remain' this referendum reflected the same (62% Remain to 38% Leave). Pangs of regret plagued the United Kingdom following the referendum as a petition for a second referendum garnered millions of signatures and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called for a second plebiscite to leave the United Kingdom following the 'democratically unacceptable' result. After Cameron's shock resignation (and a thankfully short period of political jockeying), Conservative Member of Parliament Theresa May, who served as Home Minister in the previous Cabinet and Chairman of the Conservative Party came into office as Leader of the Conservative Party and succeeded David Cameron as Prime Minister. As Home Minister, May took a hardline stance against immigration and promoted policing while reducing the scope and scale of the United Kingdom's intelligence activities. Although May was ostensibly a 'Remain' supporter, she gave several anti-EU speeches in the run up to the referendum and took almost a neutral stance on the issue, strengthening her chances for her appointment as the second female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Her first actions in office were to promptly appoint MP Boris Johnson (AKA the British Trump) the Foreign Secretary, put MP David Daves in charge of Brexit negotiations and appoint former Defence Secretary Liam Fox the international trade minister. These three prominent 'Leave' campaigners, referred to as the "Three Brexiteers" by rather acerbic English media reports shall play major roles in deciding the terms of the exit.

For those confused about what the future holds for the United Kingdom and the European Union beyond the mere “How does this affect the English Premier League?”* after the referendum, the process of the actual exit is a long and drawn out process which will last anywhere between two to six years. Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which incorporates measures for such an eventuality, will probably be invoked by the 'end of 2016' and there will be a further two years of negotiations after which all European Union member countries will vote on the terms of the treaty (a process which could easily drag on for several years) before the United Kingdom finally exits the Union. Until then, all that changes is the United Kingdom's role in further Treaty making and in new European Union laws and minor opportunities for us Indian students while the pound remains low, like cheap UK tuition fees and inexpensive vacations.

*Aside: Around half the players in the EPL won't have work permits once Brexit kicks in

Breaking Down the Chaos in Turkey

Salman Mallick *reports on the recently failed military coup in Turkey.*

The past year has been one of rising tensions in Turkey, with multiple bombings and attacks terrorising both Istanbul and Ankara. However, Turkey's divisions have now come to the fore, with a failed coup being staged by a section of the military on the 15th of July. This attempt was foiled by President Recep Erdogan, who was at that time on holiday. Two attempts on his life were made in the period ensuing between the start of the coup and his arrival at the Istanbul airport, where he stayed for the rest of the night. He managed to preserve his government by asking the people to take to the streets and rally against the military. In the next few hours, the military surrendered.

President Erdogan has publicly accused Islamist clerical leader in exile - Fethullah Gulen, formerly his close ally, of instigating and plotting this coup. Gulen has unequivocally denied any involvement in the failed attempt, stating that his followers are peaceful social workers running schools and hospitals. President Erdogan has gone as far as contacting the US over the extradition of Gulen, who currently lives in Pennsylvania.

However, there were many raised eyebrows when the President went on a 'purging' spree, with as many as 118 generals removed from their positions and detained in the aftermath of the incident. All of the army personnel involved in the coup were either arrested or killed. About 50,000 people were removed from their jobs as a result of the coup attempt. Most of the people removed from their posts were judges, generals, policemen and other people in the Ministry of Interior.



This spree has raised questions and concerns, with many world leaders requesting the President to not use this coup as leverage in order to remove all opposition and consolidate his position as the President. In fact many people speculate that President Erdogan might have actually staged the coup to be able to conduct this purge and silence his opposition. These individuals point to the fact that no government officials were killed, and that the two fighter jets that tailed President Erdogan's jet were fooled by the pilot by saying that they were a Turkish Airlines flight.

In fact, President Erdogan is no stranger to controversy. Before he became President, the Turkish Presidency was the nominal head of state, similar to India's President. He only became President because he was not allowed to run for Prime Minister for a third time by his party. Thus, he strengthened the powers of President in order to accumulate more power. President Erdogan has managed to do this by removing political rivals, including Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (because he allegedly did not support the position of President getting power); he was quickly replaced by Binali Yildirim, a close ally. Erdogan was the Prime Minister for two terms before becoming the President, the maximum that his party manifesto allowed any one person to stay as Prime Minister. Even during his terms as Prime Minister he attracted criticism from the West for allegedly restricting the freedom of the media and press.

However, one thing that cannot be ignored is his popularity among the citizens of Turkey. When he went on air on FaceTime, huge crowds of people gathered in the streets of Istanbul and Ankara, protesting against the coup and the army. His popularity stems from his pro-conservative Islamic policies, which panders to the mainly Sunni population of Turkey. Thus, his popularity stretches across Turkey, with only Istanbul and other metropolitan cities having some form of opposition to his policies and leadership.

However, many have asked the reason behind so many people coming out to the streets to support Erdogan. Is it because he is actually popular? Or is it because the public view an elected president in a much more favourable light than a military takeover, and thus chose to support the lesser of two evils? Whatever the rationale behind the actions of the citizens was, it is clear that Turkey is in dire need of change when it comes to policies. Another factor is the military, which has been known to intervene at times when the government has been teetering between democratic and authoritarian rule. With a trend of military and public takeovers already existing in the Middle East, the one stable, secure, and secular-looking nation in the Muslim world suddenly seems far more doubtful in the eyes of its NATO partners and other allies.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

And so we begin another killer term, what is now known as the third term; following the same routine packed with a plethora of rain, football, conferences, competitions and exams. The list is endless and has been designed to drain us right from the very beginning. Our teachers will be hoping that the boys utilised the holidays for socially useful productive work, and completed all that was expected of them. Barring a few individuals who never stepped out of their house, the majority of us found it difficult to stay confined to our books and took time off indulging in necessary pleasures on holidays in high altitude regions. I never fail to mention that Doscogs always rise to the occasion. No matter how busy the term gets, work always gets done.

The new sports system came into practice this week and was the subject of many conversations. There were several discussions regarding the matter and the general consensus which came out was to let the system run according to plan for the next few weeks. The seniors were told of how there were 7 senior teams which existed in School around ten years ago, something which will surely motivate the 'fat ones' to step onto the field. Our football season begins with the new sports system but continues with the old problems of muscle aches and cramps that most boys go through after arriving on campus. Nevertheless, the swanky new range of studs and the recently concluded Euro tournament offers the boys plenty of reasons to be out on the field sweating (or getting drenched).

The School welcomed a set of new teachers last week and among them, we had Mr. Matthew Raggett who took over as the tenth Headmaster of our School. Mr. Raggett took time off during assembly to talk about the vision and mission he holds for this School. As a School community, we certainly look forward to working alongside the new Headmaster in the time to come. Meanwhile, the School has undergone many a change over the holidays, as was evident with the construction taking place around the campus. The masters are waiting to move into their new houses which have recently been built, thereby allowing them to be part of the closely knit community in Chandbagh.

As for the students, nothing much has changed. especially when it comes to being busy with music and play practices.

The School seems ready for another marathon; one can only hope that we survive the next two months.

NUS Report

Konark Malhotra

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is a prominent university, ranked 12th in the world and 1st in Asia. Over 37,000 students from 100 countries and 1700 exchange students from 300 universities enrich the community, making campus life vibrant and exciting. As we know, summer camps organized by our School are really enriching, having profound effects that may last a lifetime. Attending summer camps like these broaden our horizons and make us more confident and independent. Through this summer camp, I got an opportunity to imbibe the skills, ideas and qualities that have enhanced my personality as a whole.

We started our journey on the 3rd of July from Delhi Airport and reached Changi Airport by 3:30 p.m. local time. We were received by one of their coordinators on arrival and soon we were headed for NUS. Despite the tiring journey, we were all thrilled at the prospect of spending time in NUS. We were all given individual rooms, which added to the happiness and we started feeling like NUS students. Among other things, the schedule comprised interesting workshops on Nano-technology, Gastronomy and Microscopy workshop. We felt like accomplished researchers while participating in these workshops. There was even an opportunity for us to place ourselves in the shoes of Forensic scientists and solving murder mysteries! The fact that we started doing experiments on our own and gained a practical understanding of scientific concepts was one of the biggest highlights of the camp. Apart from the educational aspect of this camp, we were also exposed to the recreational side of this camp when we got a chance to explore Singapore city and its culture. A city tour was arranged for all of us and we visited places like Madame Tussaud's, the famous Merlion structure, Sentosa, Marina Bay Sands (Skypark) etc. The camp was also exciting and comfortable because of our escort, Mr. Vivek Srivastava who handled our group with utmost efficiency and made all of us feel like a family. It was really very intriguing, captivating and an engaging summer camp where we got a platform to do something different.

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