

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
November 24, 2018 | Issue No. 2521



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# Why Do SC's Not Meet Their Predicteds?

**Aayush Chowdhry** examines the issue of a lack of academic time given in School.

Sure, a few, having ascertained their futures, get complacent and stop studying, a phenomenon experienced worldwide. With some introspection, one could also argue that the entire system of predicting on the basis of an incomplete syllabus, and without practising all papers (paper 3s and paper 2s) or significant progress on internal assessments may be flawed. However, we have, for far too long, generalised these reasons to rationalise why SCs don't meet predicted grades. Regrettably this creates a false perception and overlooks an institutional problem that needs to be addressed.

**Desperate to finish syllabi before the year ends, teachers can't help but keep extra classes.**

Grades were generously predicted, primarily, on the basis of SC Form September Trials. However, half the syllabus of the year (not even of IB) was tested, which was also met with heavy opposition from the students. Post trials, we witnessed

the Founder's frenzy: an entire month academically hampered as most classes were empty because boys were excused classes for practices, and first two schools were cancelled. In retrospect we realise that, essentially, we have had two weeks of academic time in April (mid-terms and activity week), three weeks in May (as the last week is drilled with exhaustion and activities), three weeks in August (DSMUN!) and one week in September. With October being non-existent and only November left to finish a large chunk of the syllabus, every class went into hyper-drive. However, with the slew of activities such as Inter-House Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Squash, Tennis, Basketball, Table Tennis, Golf, Poetry recitation, Quiz, Hindi debating, English debating, Chess and the numerous other School level activities, every SC finds himself responsible for something or the other. The contention here is also that everyone wants their activities to not only be held but also conform to the highest standards. The sheer quantity of events, coupled with the clerical demand of college applications means an SC steals time, which invariably compromises his health, relationships and well-being.

Lamentably, academics lose out and our efficiency takes a toll.

Now, what is the perfect way to exacerbate an already bleak academic situation: an uncalendered TOK/EE week! Desperate to finish syllabi before year ends, teachers can't help but keep extra classes. Since, there exists no scheduled time for co-curriculars and evening classes already bogging down the poor SC's sacrosanct toy, teachers feel compelled to keep classes at times where responsibility jails an SC. Personally, even with an injured hand, I couldn't attend a week of extra classes after lunch as I was to hold basketball practices that begin at three and ensure the house's tennis games begin. Similarly, my friends couldn't fit in all games and activities - everything began at three, from badminton to debating. The turnout for these paramount syllabus-finishing extra classes was not even half the class strength; yet teachers had no choice but to continue, creating the illusion of a finished syllabus while the majority of the class in reality hadn't.

Further, after the week was up, SCs were categorically warned of the repercussions if their EEs and IAs weren't complete: cancellation of outings, as if it was so because

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## SWIFT SHUTTLERS

The School Badminton Team participated in the **Gems District Badminton Tournament** between the **November 17** and **18**. Following are the results:

Aditya Agarwal reached the **Quarter-Finals** in the **Under 14** category.

Mayank Kukreti reached the **Quarter-Finals** and Krish Agarwal lost in **Semi-Finals** in the **Under 17** category.

In the **Under 17 Girl's** category, Aadita Chauhan emerged **Runner-Up**.

Well played!

## KNOWLEDGE OUR LIGHT

Aayush Chowdhry has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Kudos!

## SPORTING SUCCESSES

The **Games Blazer** was awarded to Aditya Singh, Ajay Pratap Grewal, Kabir Kochar, Darsh Garg, Mayank Sojatia, Ram Attri and Siddhant Singhania.

Congratulations!

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The following are the **Boys-in-Charge** of the **AV Squad** for the year **2018-19**:

Kush Agarwal  
Madhav Mahajan  
Nirmit Dalmia

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

“

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

—  
Leo Tolstoy

## FUTURE OLYMPIANS

The School Athletics Team participated in the **All India IPSC Athletics Meet** held at **PPS Nabha**, between **12th** and **14th** of **November**. The team finished **second overall**. Following are the results:

Viksit Verma won **Gold medals** in the **100** and **200 metres** race. Adhiraj Palaitha won a **Gold medal** in **shot-put**. Anish Bhide won a **Gold medal** in the **javelin throw** and **Silver** in the **discus throw**. Siddhant Singhania won a **Silver medal** in the **5 km cross-country**, and a **Bronze medal** in the **5000 metres** race.

A team comprising Aditya Singh, Nandil Sharma, Darsh Garg and Viksit Verma won a **Gold medal** in the **4 x 100 metre relay**.

A team comprising Harsh Sethi, Darsh Garg, Aditya Singh and Ajay Pratap Grewal won a **Gold medal** in the **4 x 400 metre relay**.

Well done!

## CURATORS OF THE FINE ARTS

The following are the appointments for the **VIBGYOR** for the year **2018-19**:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Raghav Kediya

**Editor:** Anay Krishnan

Congratulations!

## A YEAR IN A FRAME

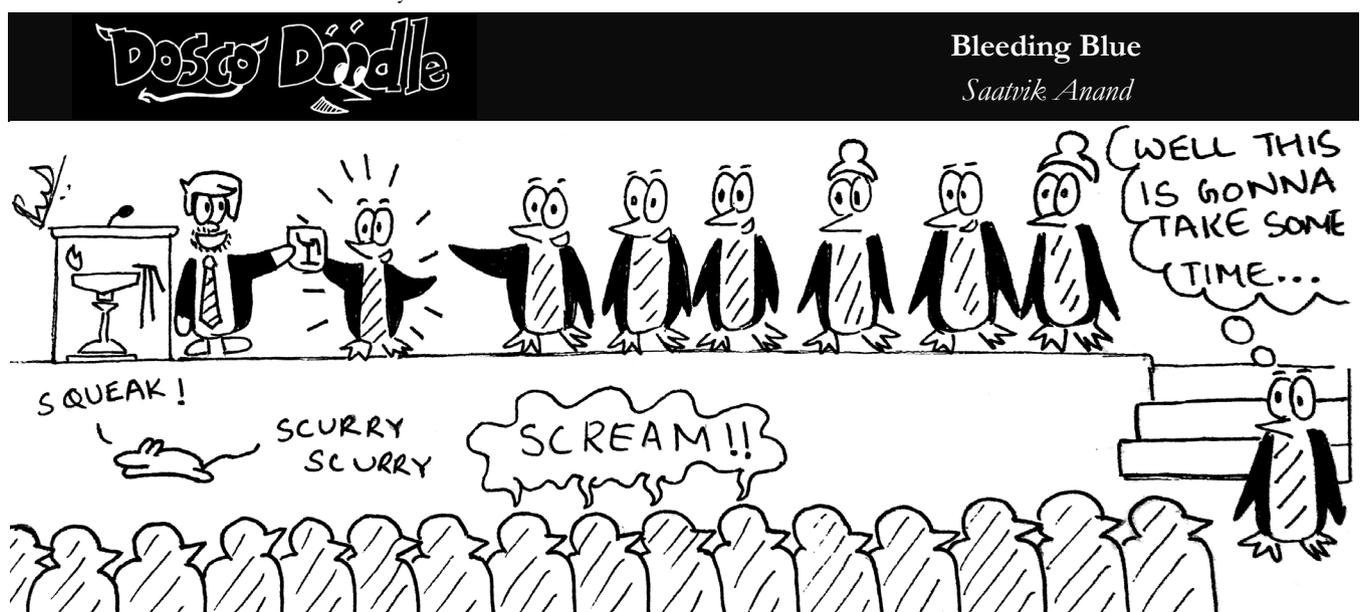
The following are the appointments for **The Yearbook** for the year **2018-19**:

**Editors-in-Chief:** Arjun Bajwa and Nandil Sharma

**Senior Editors:** Shiv Sharma and Vikram Jain

**Chief-of-Design:** Shreyas Minocha

We wish them a fruitful tenure!



*(Continued from Page 1)*

they hadn't worked. The case, in reality, was that we effectively had only three days of the TOK/EE week, as the next three days we were to sit through the presentations. Even during the week, we were to get absent marks if we hadn't reported at the start and end of every class. Boys spent hours just getting their absent marks cut as they spent the day doing an experiment or exploration. Our supervisors also had other classes to attend to, and it was unrealistic to expect a first draft, let alone any substantial progress; one couldn't possibly move past data collection. During the time after dinner, where one could meet their supervisor, it wasn't uncommon for an SC to find himself required to simultaneously attend a Physics, Math, and English extra-class; cancellations of any one of which were as probable as life itself.

In all of this, isn't it unfair that we create a perception, based on a few exceptions, of SCs as being detached from School life? We start viewing SCs as complacent after September and repeatedly chide them for it. I am a student

who has maintained a relatively good academic profile throughout School, and at the moment I don't think I will achieve my predicted grade. This problem extends to regular college applications too; some may get complacent after their Early Applications but the large majority just can't work on them. Even in ISC, masters were forced to cover a 600-page book in a mere twenty days this term, and external help becomes a necessity. This shows that somewhere there exists a systemic flaw as no institution that claims to be primarily academic should suffer like this. That flaw can, arguably, be summed up in one word: planning.

Candidly, I don't claim that we SCs are impeccably efficient or model students; we are far from it. But, should we reduce ourselves to work-machines? Sitting and laughing with friends and masters, *batoing gyaan* to juniors, and adding value to people's lives are what truly matter and make Chandbagh special. It is about time we recognised that lack of planning is much more inveterate than we perceive it to be and we are losing out on certain defining aspects of

our identity because of this. We must ask ourselves: How can we plan better? Why does the calendar face the same problems repeatedly year after year? Why are there more than twenty parallel things happening in School during crunch academic time? Can we perhaps distribute the various inter-house activities? Is sending SC Formers home really an issue? These are some difficult questions that need thinking about. Last Saturday's assembly and having consulting boys (although some were clueless D Formers) during the calendar making process were right steps in that direction. Notwithstanding, until we sit, introspect, listen to feedback (and make a concerted effort to execute it), and empathise (in the rational sense of the word), nothing can be achieved.

We all must take our share of accountability which has contributed to this outcome, and appreciate our masters for all the effort they put. However, we are all bound by the dictates of an institution striving for perfection in all domains and we need to urgently plan better in order to effectively articulate our goals.

## Sundial

**Jaiveer Misra** *explains the history and working of the sundial in front of the Main Building.*

On my way past the Art and Media centre, or the Science Block, I often notice, as I'm sure other Doscocs do too, the weathered sundial that stands beside the Main Building. What many might not know is that the sundial was given to School in the early 1940s and was inspired by the "Chakra Yantra" at Jantar Mantar in Jaipur commissioned in the 1750s by Rajput King Sawai Jai Singh II.

Starting at sunrise, the gnomon, the vertical pointer on the face of the dial, casts a shadow which is the longest drawn at twilight and gradually moves corresponding to the movement of the sun. The hourly graduation on the sundial

enables the shadow cast by the sun to correspond to the number that indicates that particular time of day. This shadow is shortest at noon when the sun is directly overhead.

The Art and Media centre and Main Building now block most of the sunlight that falls on the sundial. This is why if one compares the time on their watch and the time displayed on the sundial, they would be very different. Before the Art and Media centre was constructed, time accurate to the nearest minute could be found with a specific system of adding minutes to the displayed time shown by the shadow, as a sundial

goes four minutes off as we cross each longitude in the time zone. This is also due to the change of position of the sun and tilt of the Earth's axis.

The inscription on the sundial (now faded) gives the number of minutes added to each month and even on certain days. For example, 22 minutes have to be added to a certain number of days towards the end of January.

Withstanding the test of time, the sundial's stone facade elegantly adds character to its surroundings and ironically its unique positioning outside the main building serves as a constant reminder that we should get to class on time!

# Ravana, Our Leader!

## (The Revelations of a Twelve-Year Old Leadership Analyst)

Sriman Goel and Varen Talwar

A few days ago, I learnt about the story of the Ramayana in Hindi class - about how Lord Rama, with his army of monkeys, defeated Ravana (the ten-headed guy who abducted Rama's wife in a helicopter of sorts) by shooting an arrow into his navel. We were told how Rama's character exemplified what a leader should be - righteous, humble, gentlemanly and brave.

When the bell rang, I accidentally bumped into one of the leaders of my School and mumbled an apology as I walked on when he called out to me and informed me very angrily about his recent, intimate relations with some of my relatives. This puzzled me greatly. I knew no such development had occurred, so why was the leader lying? Isn't honesty supposed to be a core principle of a leader - one which he is meant to exemplify? Moreover, while I really did not know why the remarks about my family were relevant to me running into him, I was really offended by his tone.

I kept my eyes down throughout the scolding, so I could see his face only when he walked away after finishing with me - and the sight shocked me! He had, mounted on his broad, strong shoulders, ten faces, just like those of Ravana! I saw him tower over me, smiling devilishly with huge, demonic teeth jutting out of an even huger, more demonic countenance.

Next, I saw all the passers-by kneel in respect around this ten-headed monster, who, with one foot on another's head, raised his sword villainously at me. The congregation echoed in excitement, and the invigorated *rakshasa* stood there like an emperor overlooking his expansive kingdom. Yes, I felt all that pride and arrogance for thousands of acres concentrate onto my poor self.

Time eventually rescued me from the scrutiny and prostration, but not from the similar horrors I was to witness throughout the day. I encountered many more *rakshasas*, like the Kumbhkarans who lazed indifferently all day long; the Indrajits, who were too arrogant of their victories to care for others; and then there were, of course, the Ravana, who compensated for their clear inability to lead with their skilful use of a customised assortment of ten faces, each one for a certain person. Not to forget, however, the rare sightings of the Ramas, who were firm in their decisions and clear about their roles.

Obviously, I was desperate for an explanation, for I was not used to being surrounded by such horrific *rakshasas*, especially in broad daylight, so I approached my guide for elucidation.

"What's up with the *rakshasas* on campus?"

"Dude, what *rakshasas* you talkin' about?"

"You know *rakshasas*, like the guy who was blabbering about my relatives over there."

"Oh, that! You're funny. Don't call them *rakshasas* unless you want more of those! They're our leaders, bro!"

"Like Rama, right?"

"What do you keep talking about?"

"I mean, like Rama in *Ramayana*, leaders are meant to be righteous, humble and helpful gentlemen, right?"

"Yeah, whatever bro. That idealistic stuff doesn't really matter."

"Why?"

"*Bhai*, there are no heroes, okay? There are only studs."

With that single line, I began to understand everything about School, and now, after years of work, I have become somewhat proficient at leadership analysis. So, let me explain it all to you.

Leaders are actually meant to be 'perfect', but in School, leadership is not perceived in the conventional way. The popular (and thus accepted) logic here is that achievers are leaders, no matter how corrupt, disrespectful, arrogant and egotistical they may be. Therefore, Ravana turns out to be the ideal leader. He was a Vedic scholar and a warrior. He got a boon from Lord Shiva himself, no less. He stole Sita (Rama's girl) from across the *Lakshman rekha*, and took her away in his personal helicopter in ancient India! Moreover, he had a city of gold. I mean, gold speaks for itself! How's that for achieving, huh? Such leaders are, for want of a better word, the 'perfects' - our leaders through our years at School.

On the other hand, you have Rama, the loser. He was banished from his own kingdom, and he could not even fight against the decision! He might have led a victorious army, but it was still an army of monkeys, wasn't it?

That is why students find it easy to come up with a set of leaders themselves, because all they have to consider is how much someone has achieved. Even

if someone's inability to be a leader is so evident that even they manage to spot it, it does not change anything, simply because.... Well, simply because all achievers must be 'perfects', period. After that, if you have places left, you could squeeze in some supposedly 'real' leaders who exemplify discipline, respect, firmness and role-modelling, while being great achievers themselves, albeit less known ones. This compulsion is much like the rule that the achiever sent as a representative of the School on the Great Western College must be a candidate for the post of the leader, irrespective of his leadership qualities.

That is why, every year, leaders are spotted by the traits of Ravana than by those of Rama. Of course, some of them turn out to be conventional leaders who help their subordinates and lead by example of a good personality, whereas 'perfects' are actually meant to lead by example of achievements. It doesn't really matter how vulgar they are and how much they themselves disrespect and break the rules they are meant to uphold.

The basic difference between an actual leader and a loser leader is that the former is more likely to punish

because that is the only consequence he knows of a mistake or a crime. On the other hand, the latter is more likely to punish when there is need to, and then he also gets the person to the correct path by being an example himself.

To conclude, it suffices to say that new leaders are about to be selected, so please keep looking for achievers. Remember that if someone sweeps all the awards at a competition, or is good at many activities, then he is your man, not the one who guides you and helps you. Do NOT make the mistake of including personality and leadership in your rubric, for then 'perfects' will become what leaders are actually meant to be. Lastly, always keep in mind that Ravana is your leader inside these four walls, and that Rama can only lead monkeys.

Of course, it's an inconsequential matter that Ravana was defeated and his city was burned to the ground by these very monkeys; while Rama led Ayodhya prosperously - known as a true leader till this day.

Therefore, the leadership analyst concludes: Choose your leaders wisely.

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## Collaborating With Our Sisters

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**Moulik Seth** reports on the recent S Form collaborations and the Welham Girls School.

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On the 14th of November, 2018, every S former in School received a Children's Day present in the form of an invitation from our 'sister' school for collaborations. Most people, on reading this email, heaved a sigh, letting out the frustration that had long accumulated over the tedious years of excessive interaction with the same gender.

After School had finished (on D-day, of course), the S formers rushed to their respective houses. Within moments, the showers were full and sounds of doors banging and people bellowing at the top of their voices reverberated across entire houses. The best of body gels and shampoos were exchanged, the most horrific pimple masks were applied, the cleanest of towels were used (a first), the longest of showers were taken and out of the *bogs* emerged men cleaner than the models in all of the soap advertisements put together. From there, this contingent of S Formers marched towards the task that lay ahead, hoping their faces would be a worthy reflection of the sacrifices they made (in some cases extending to the ultimate betrayal of masculinity).

On arrival, Doscas were courteously led past an array of visuals to the art center, the realm of all pleasures and disappointments for the following two hours. Unfortunately for some spirited individuals, everyone was assigned a partner via the process of chit picking. With an awkward smile, our fellow

Doscas handpicked their fate as they slowly made their way to their assigned stations. The beginning of the vigorous tie and dye process saw students of both schools formally extending hands, ensuring there was absolutely no contact. However, as more knots were made, confidence on either side surged tremendously. An excited aspirant even went on to provide an entire thesis on every Harry Potter book he had read, oblivious to his partner's yawns and half-hearted smiles. The hard work behind the tying led to "abstract" art (so it was termed), with the various shapes and sizes capable of confusing Picasso himself. The lack of ample stations for dying made it a more fruitful process for our aspirants. As food was served, Doscas were seen acting with great civility, only to slip into the washroom with faces stuffed with brownies, while others didn't bother touching the half-cooked macaroni. On the other hand, the coffee's unwarranted sweetness (owing to no fault of the cooks apparently) made everyone's mood bitter.

As the time to depart came, some sought the opportunity and made a run for it (terming it the "worst experience of their life"), while others found ways to linger around (in hope of a last minute yes). The ride back to Chandbagh was a silent one, for the minds of these young men were wandering off into this newfound world of temporary delight. My advice: *sab dbokha hai*.

# The Week Gone By

Divyansh Nautiyal

For those of you who remember, a certain duo of columnists used to inform and entertain our readership two years ago with this column. For the year ahead, I am pleased to be one of them; the other having written his two weeks ago.

What looked like a week of extremes, continued with the flurry of activities as seven Inter-House competitions rampaged on. As these competitions go on, one can also spot potential future captains already training their teams on the Main Field and Skinners. A particular dinner became an occasion for all with a certain

rodent inciting the shrills screams of many as it scurried underneath the tables of Oberoi House.

The MPH has somewhat been the eye of the storm. As a wave of blue blazers swept the School (and a photoshoot with it), one such House found its Feast rather too colourful to handle. Incidentally, for our SC formers, it was also the last one before they turn into Old Boys and we hope they carry with them a heap of memories to cherish for a lifetime. Along with the blue wave from the MPH also came a yellow one from our Pastoral Head as YCs got distributed like sweets for late and absent marks. With many other traditions in School, laidback attitude seems to be topping the charts.

Flowing with the momentum, appointments also poured in for our fellow publications; elating

some while leaving the others heart-broken. A much-needed break from the everlasting week came in the form of a holiday this Friday. As the term fades away for some, others work under pressure to meet their benchmark for the standardised tests ahead. College essays, too seem to be taking a toll on the SCs, who seem to be helped by their juniors who ‘voluntarily’ edit their essays. Best of luck to all writers (juniors and seniors) with these future-deciding essays.

With much happening in Doon as usual, it is highly advised for the Dosco to sit back for once and enjoy as the show winds down for one last time this year.

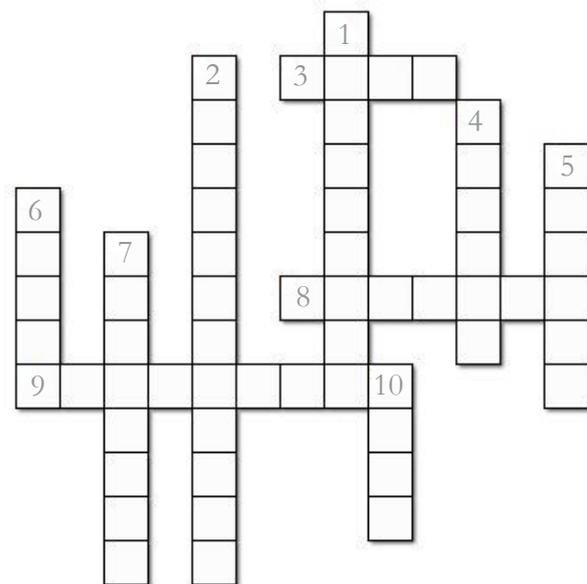
## Crossword | Uncommon Sports

### Across

- 3. This sport is played between two teams with a mallet and a ball, while on horseback.
- 8. This sport requires players to tackle members of the opposing team and return to their half without letting go of their breath.
- 9. In this sport a player uses a curved stick and keeps the ball in the air, while trying to score in the opponent's net.

### Down

- 1. This sport is played on a trampoline. Players do gymnastic stunts to prevent the ball from touching the ground.
- 2. Using miniature surfboards attached to their hands, players glide across the water by riding waves while paddling.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Takraw requires players to get a ball to the other side of a net using any part of their body except their hands.
- 5. Snow\_\_\_\_\_ requires players to stand on a snowboard holding a parasail in their hand, which moves with the wind, allowing them to do various stunts while moving up or down a hill.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ tenting requires participants to pitch a tent on the side of a vertical mountain while hanging on to a rope.
- 7. Played underwater, this sport is similar to ice hockey and requires two teams of six. It requires players to push the puck around in a swimming pool.
- 10. Street \_\_\_\_\_ is a sport which requires its players lie down on large skateboards and let gravity take them down.



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned sports' names.

9. Floorball	4. Sepak	7. Octopush
8. Kabbadi	2. Handboarding	6. Cliff
3. Polo	1. Bobsball	5. Kiting
10. Luge		

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

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