One of the biggest questions facing the world today is, how do we create a sustainable earth where both humanity and nature can thrive together? Since the turn of the twentieth century, our population has more than doubled; to meet this increasing demand we have completely altered the earth’s surface. The earth has entered a new phase of its existence, the Anthropocene or the ‘age of humans’. At the rate at which we are engulfing our natural habitat, the Anthropocene is sure to be short-lived.

Our planet is becoming less wild as our specie has cleared three trillion trees, and has already cultivated half its fertile land. In the last 50 years, wildlife population has reduced by 60%, being replaced by us and our domesticated animals and plants. Today, humans and poultry and dairy animals account for 96% of the mass of all mammals and 70% of all birds on earth are domesticated chicken.

As individuals inheriting the earth, we must support our planet rather than stand as an impediment to progress. Very regrettably though, we see the rapid felling of trees happening on our very own campus and are losing out on the most treasured gift of the natural world. This valuable gift given to us by our founders is a variety of flora, which directly caters to diverse fauna, perhaps then, we need to collectively reflect on this and find ways to preserve our rich bio-

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**The Price of Wood**

Vijayaditya Rathore questions the proliferation in the felling of trees in School.

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One of the biggest questions facing the world today is, how do we create a sustainable earth where both humanity and nature can thrive together? Since the turn of the twentieth century, our population has more than doubled; to meet this increasing demand we have completely altered the earth’s surface. The earth has entered a new phase of its existence, the Anthropocene or the ‘age of humans’. At the rate at which we are engulfing our natural habitat, the Anthropocene is sure to be short-lived.

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If we can have classes cancelled to organise an environmental awareness campaign, what stops us from demanding accountability from the School authorities regarding random felling?

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Even if we are cutting trees, where does the wood go? Who is responsible for this felling?

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Sometimes, trees in Chandbagh are also cut “for better growth of the plant”. These actions have led to an unprecedented reduction in the number of trees on campus.

Trees perform the role of natural water recharging mechanisms. Why is there a need, then, to build such expensive water recharge tanks when we...
**MASTER STROKE**

The School played two friendly hockey matches against the Welham Boys’ School on April 10, 2019. The Doon School A Team won its match 4-1 while the B Team won its match 4-0.

Kudos!

**SMASHING BOUNDARIES**

The School Cricket Team participated in The Scindia Cricket Tournament held at The Scindia School, Gwalior from April 1-5. The team won its first match against The Daly College by five wickets. The team lost its next match against The Modern School by ten wickets, and also its last match against YPS Patiala by six wickets. Overall, the team finished fifth in the tournament.

Well played!

**MENTORING YOUNG MINDS**

Mr Rajesh Majumdar has been invited by CERN to be a Teacher Trainer at the 1st CERN South Asia Science Education Program at New Delhi.

Congratulations!

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**The Duke of Edinburgh**

Mehatva Kukreja, Dhairyajit Singh and Krishnav Singhal have been awarded the IAYP Bronze Medal.

Well done!

**UNQUOTEABLE QUOTES**

Mark your man.

Aryansh Sharma, the hockey mastermind.

Mine CV is better.

Sargun Mehram, arguing with his best friends.

I didn’t have a Spanish food.

Yuvraj Sarda, trying new things.

Make sure you do your works.

Ansh Raj, roger that?

I run one hour in ten minutes.

Aviman Singh, breaking world records.

The Floor was tallness.

Shreyan Mittal, scaling new heights of English.

The Weekly hopes that the School Community will be present for the Terry Fox Run tomorrow, to help fund and raise awareness for the cause of curing cancer.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Around the World in 80 Words**

UAE honoured Narendra Modi with the Zayed Medal for strengthening the ties between the two countries. The new deadline for the Brexit deal was set for October 31. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the Algerian President, resigned after mass protest from the citizens. Astronomers disseminated an original picture of a black hole for the first time ever. The world’s biggest polls kicked off in the first phase of the Indian Lok Sabha. FC Barcelona beat Manchester United 1-0 in the Champions League quarterfinals.
concerned about the nuisance caused by the wild dogs at night? I have seen the khud as a surreal landscape; why have we turned that sublime land into a garbage dump? Before looking down on others, should we not look at our own follies?

A grand institution like Doon must bear more responsibility in matters of such consequence. While we may have taken few steps in this direction, only concrete steps like afforestation can wrought desirable changes. Sir David Attenborough, a renowned naturalist, has spoken on ‘rewilding’- restoring an area of land to its natural uncultivated state - as one of the only viable choices we can make; perhaps Doon can take a step forward in that direction and become a forerunner of this change. Dear Dosco brothers, sisters, and teachers - and our parents, why are we doing this to our campus? Let us all open our eyes to ‘rewild’, to change our planet, to save our planet!

Caught in Transition

The Chief Editor reflects upon and reiterates Kanishkh Kanodia’s thoughts on Senior-Junior relations spoken during an Assembly talk last year.

As Kanishkh Kanodia had pointed out at an Assembly talk last year, there seems to be a growing need to re-evaluate the values by which School has operated till recently. With the advent of the 21st century sensibilities, and with Doon changing with the times - as every dynamic institution ought to - our practices have often come under the scanner. At the heart of such scrutiny appears to lie an “incomplete understanding” of what the merits of the old system were. One tends to agree with Kanishkh that in modernising and becoming truly international and 21st century, we must not throw out the baby with the bathwater - throw all systems that form our identity, our home.

Senior-junior relations in School is one such system that needs such examination. With the arrival of yet another fresh batch of D formers, and a few C formers too, this re-evaluation seems to be relevant for this publication to carry. In recent times, many seniors seem that they are seen as imposing and heartless. Although it cannot be denied that there have been exceptions in the past who behaved in such unacceptable ways, this is not quite the general trend. Admittedly, even these infrequent instances should have never occurred, and every student that has suffered would agree. Mercifully, due to much stricter rules and supervision, such instances have come down by a significant extent. At the same time, retaining what Kanishkh refers to as “the essence of this relationship”, interaction and mentoring of juniors by older students has continued to allow for passing on of School’s unique values and sharing of valuable experience. Juniors can then be corrected and guided too, with the recognition of the greater experience of Seniors.

The system of Prefects is necessarily based on the idea of a hierarchy, where the student leaders are trusted to take sound decisions in order to lead School along the correct lines. This invaluable leadership experience gained at School is undoubtedly one of the important reasons why there are Old Boys as leaders in almost every sphere of public life. However, when we do not allow these leaders the freedom to make judgements or to take decisions, we probably compromise on the nurturing of confident and independent leaders. Unfortunately, because of repeated reiteration of the narrative that such hierarchy harms development, the incentive for Seniors to take initiative is taken away.

Just as we recognise the ills of hierarchy when misused, one can trust the majority of Doscos to behave responsibly after five years of grooming by School. What is needed, it seems, is greater trust...
in the products of the Doon School education, understanding that when a Senior corrects another student, it is to inculcate disciplined habits rather than to satisfy some sadistic propensities.

As a School, we have recognised and abided by hierarchy all these years; removing ideas of Seniors having greater authority than Juniors in some areas of School life so completely and suddenly is likely to be counterproductive. One outcome of such complete rejection of time-tested systems is already visible is that it is becoming difficult to ensure disciplined behaviour amongst students even during every day events such as mealtimes and Assembly. Another consequence of this is that we stand to lose out on our uniqueness as the School that has produced leaders for decades, apart from being thrown out of our own context in our haste to move into a truly 21st century environment.

Let us hope, therefore, that we are able to preserve our identity, and continue striving forward.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is about the politicisation of the Week Gone By. As I understand it, the Week Gone By is supposed to be a report which is characterized by personal opinion. However, it should not become a medium for expressing personal grievances. Neither should the author assume that the views presented necessarily reflect the views of the entire community. It is a report which provides to the community inside and outside School a light-hearted glance of what is happening inside Chandbagh, and I think it should stop at that. With reference to recent Week Gone By-s, it is extremely disheartening when people appoint themselves representatives of the entire community and declare on its behalf something which the majority of the community might disagree with. This is evident from the sentence “Our beloved School Captain finds himself now (and surprisingly so for the rest of us)in yet another leadership position, and a politically charged one too this time. Hopefully DSTH-MUN 2019 will be a tremendous success.”

(March 16, 2019 | Issue No. 2530). There have also been instances where it has appeared that the writer is voicing concerns through implicit and insinuated statements: “A myriad expectations were shattered, some with due reason, some without” (March 30, 2019 | Issue No. 2532). The larger problem here is that the Weekly, one of the most prestigious institutions of the School seems to be being used to target individuals, not on the basis of any issues or problems concerning the School community, but more due to personal vendetta. By doing so, the author not just hurts the sentiments of the people concerned, but also effectively reduces the credibility of the entire publication. This sort of writing violates and insults the purpose of the column. I hope that the editorial board takes due notice of this and helps its board members be the ideal editors.

Regards,
Karanvir Singh Mann.

Celtic Cricket

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What is the quality of cricket in associate countries like Ireland?

Irish Cricket Team (ICT): The quality of cricket in countries like ours is improving. Associate countries like Ireland, Afghanistan etc. are getting more chances to play, so the popularity of sports like cricket is slowly increasing.

DSW: Why do you think this is the trend?

ICT: I guess, because we are next to major cricket playing nations, so since the influence is spreading, we can now see a visible impact on youth, and even in many schools. Also, because we are closer to these nations, we are getting more recognition, and are getting to play matches more frequently.

DSW: How good are the cricket facilities in Ireland?

ICT: The facilities are fairly poor in Ireland, mainly because there is poor support for the sport in Ireland. Sports like Gaelic football and rugby are much more common though.

DSW: As a Physiotherapist, what are the main injuries Cricketers face, and what measures are enforced to prevent them?

ICT: The more common injuries cricketers face are lower back pain, muscular injuries, stress fractures and side string injuries. When they are not playing a match, we try to get the players to be regular at the gym, so as to keep their bodies fit. These injuries mainly occur in pace bowlers, so they especially need to stay fit. Once these injuries have occurred, our main priority is to reduce damage.

DSW: What is your mindset before a match?

ICT: Before a match our main priority is to have realistic expectations. We are taught to never be overconfident or go with the expectation that we will lose. We just need to give our best.
I have been at school for three years now and this was my first full midterm experience. For the last two years I have joined each of the new D Form groups at their respective campsites as they got to know each other in April. September is a busy time for travelling to Round Square or HMC conferences, so that has not worked for a midterm.

Joining the D Form was great fun. I have longed to get out and up above the tree line, camp under a clear sky and stand on top of the world. Joining Tata House A Form was the perfect opportunity. We were also joined by five boys and a teacher from the Royal Academy in Bhutan who I had met on a visit there a month ago. We were also joined by Ashok and Mohan, who usually work in the CDH, to manage the food and cooking for us.

Together we travelled for 16(!) hours along the Ganga and across to the village called Wan below Bedni Bugyal. With the support of a couple of local sheep dogs, we trekked up to a campsite below the meadow on the first day and then up through the snow to the start of Bedni on the second. It was a challenge for every member of the group in different ways, the snow adding to the steepness in front of us. For some it was the first experience of walking in snow; for others the fear of falling to the side of the path made it difficult to stand up and walk. When we are out of our comfort zone and embrace our fears, there is so much that we can learn about ourselves.

If it had not been for our sure footed (and booted) friends from Bhutan, I do not think that anyone from the group would have made it to the top to see the 360 degree views from Nanda Ghunti to Trisul and Ali Bugyal. Our boys noticed that they were quick to lend a hand, to support us and dispel our fear with their quiet confidence. We also noticed the difference in their approach to being in the mountains. For them, going into the mountains is like going into a temple; hills, forests and rivers are all holy places and walking in them is an act of worship and meditation.

I appreciated that Tata House A Form were willing for to go along with them and that I got to learn more about each of them and the school through their eyes.

This year, our School sent eight of us to Wayand, Kerala for a Social Service project. The project, an initiative of the Round Square Organisation, was hosted by The Lawrence School, Lovedale in Ooty. The group was escorted by Dr. Manoj Pandey on the night of March 29 from Dehradun to Delhi via train. Although Promotional Trials had cost us the first two days of the program, we immediately set about rebuilding the school which was demolished by the floods which had swept the region in 2018. Along with Doon, five other schools from across the country took part in the project. There was a real sense of unity and purpose towards our endeavours. Despite our group being exhausted after over 22 hours of travelling, we began our work on April 1. Our task included fencing and constructing walls for toilets and the school. An accident befell one of our students within the first two days, but with the ardent support of our accompanying master, Dr. Pandey, our spirits refused to be dampened.

There was a sense of collaboration and teamwork while we worked and interacted with other schools. Each day ended with a reflective session involving students commenting on how they felt about the work they had done and improvements that could be made in the future for the next group. We spent the third day exploring the Eddkal caves and Banasura dam. The trip gave us an opportunity to move away from the toil of working all day, and allowed us to relax and appreciate the beauty of the area, with the Banasura Dam being particularly awe-inspiring with its all-natural construction. In conclusion, this project was quite different from any other Midterm as it allowed us to cultivate both our social skills whilst also developing a deeper sense of duty and service towards our community.
Midterm Reports

Dodital

Aryan Gupta

After successive let-downs, the Batch of 2020 finally had the opportunity to go for their first private midterms. Twelve of us decided to go to Dodital – the holy lake where the goddess Parvati is said to have given birth to Ganesha.

As we had to trek on the first day itself, we left school at five o’clock. Meeting our guides at Uttarkashi, we travelled to Sangamehatti, the starting point of our trek, only half an hour away. With rucksacks and high hopes we started our trek towards Bebra which was our first night halt. After an 8 km trek, freshly made sandwiches and tea were a delight. After resting awhile, we pitched our tents and went on a walk to gather wood for a bonfire. The day ended with us stargazing and eating the food the guides had prepared for us.

Next day, we left for Manjhi which was another ten kilometers into the woods. This time, the trek was both steeper and longer, nevertheless we finished it in good time. Our tent site had snow all around and the temperature dropped below zero. On the third day, we were to trek to our final destination – Dodital. The trek was the most challenging one I’ve ever done. Walking on snow was extremely tricky. Facing life threatening circumstances, we ultimately reached our destination, completing the 5 km trek in four hours.

What we saw was inexplicably beautiful. It was alluring and enchanting. The lake was completely frozen. We were the first ones to visit the place this season and the guides congratulated us for completing the trek in such circumstances. After an hour, we headed back with frozen feet and a sense of accomplishment.

The following day, we returned to Bebra, where we were greeted by a hailstorm and high amounts of rain which brought back memories of the 2013 floods. Water in our tents made us spend the night in a small room. On our last day, we trekked till Sangamehatti and completed the remaining journey in our bus.

These quasi-private midterms were truly a test of our mental and physical abilities. Although the circumstances were challenging, nothing could beat our sense of accomplishment and pride after completing the trek.

Nehru Institute of Mountaineering

Samarth Kapila

These midterms, the A form of Oberoi House visited the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM). As soon as we arrived, we were divided into groups termed ‘ropes’ and ‘patrols’, and among us were five boys from the Royal Academy, Bhutan as well. Being randomly divided was a clever and rather effective move, as it allowed us to adjust with all social circles, rather than sticking to our own friends. Following that, we were provided with our equipment - a helmet, a long sling, a mess tin, a carabiner and a harness each. As we were all responsible for our own equipment, the added sense of responsibility ensured that we kept our equipment in good shape and did not misplace it.

Our mornings were filled with long runs which began at 6:00, hefty breakfasts to keep our energy up, and endless briefings about the nuances of rock-climbing, mountaineering equipment and technique. Perhaps we would have paid more attention if we knew how important these guidelines would be the following night at our next campsite. We also prepared for the vigorous climbing on the next day, with a few demonstrations and practice sessions.

An unexpectedly delectable breakfast energised us the next day, as we headed to the mountaineering site, where we did various activities like climbing up and down and abseiling through caves. Quite funnily, we crossed a river, and then turned right around to jump into its freezing waters.

An artificial rock-climbing wall at the institute kept us busy the next day, as each of us tried to conquer the towering structure. There was no shortage of comical attempts, with many a boy landing on his backside, rather than reaching the top. The boys from the Royal Academy really proved their mettle though, as one of them even managed to complete the course in a few minutes.

In our free time, when we weren’t scrambling around like monkeys, we occupied ourselves by playing basketball at a court with a rather low hoop, enabling many of us to fulfil our long running dreams of dunking. Every night, we would watch movies about mountaineering, like ‘Into the Void’, or ‘Meru’.

In hindsight, I view this trip as an amazing learning experience, as the military rigidity of such an institution really showed us how efficient and principled we all can be, if we make the effort.
Maldevta Farms

Divit Fatehpuria

Having arrived only a day before, everyone was excited for our first midterms. We were going to Maldevta Farms, which we were told is an invigorating place. We left School after breakfast and started for Maldevta. It took us around an hour and a half to reach our destination.

As we reached our destination, we were shown to our tents. After a while, we were called into the garden to be briefed about some rules that would guide us for the days to follow. Soon after, we were divided into two teams. My team was named ‘The League of Legends’, while the rival team was named ‘Dosco Devils.’ Our first task was to make a team flag. The Legends made a big flag with LOL in block letters down the middle. The rest of the letters were beside the big ones in a smaller hand. The Devils, on the other hand, didn’t do any hard work but wrote their name on the flag with a black pen. We were the winners of this task. After that, we were served lunch. After all our hard work, we were hungry enough to devour a horse.

Full after our satisfying meal, at three we were escorted to an adventure sport zone where we participated in adventure sports like monkey crawling, and swinging steps- each one more thrilling than the next. I had never tried such sports before. My midterms introduced me to a whole new experience.

At five PM, we had our first tutorials. My friends, who are in the same tutorial group as me, talked about their families. Some belonged to Punjab, some to Gujarat. We were all from different places, and had different perspectives. But we shared a sense of camaraderie. After this, we lit a bonfire. We sang songs and played small games. I never usually sing, but there, gradually, I too was able to. Anyone present there at that moment could never forget that beautiful night where all our surroundings appeared to have come alive with the songs we had sung.

At 6:15, after freshening up we took part in some fun exercises and played games. Soon we had our breakfast. A five kilometer trek to a cave (which we were told was slimy and creepy) followed. But after the tiring trek uphill, and after entering the cave my perspective about it changed. It was stunningly beautiful from the inside- the prismatic colours in front of me were breathtaking.

Though we were all wet after entering the cave we trundled back to our campsite after three hours. We all wanted to take baths in fresh hot water but we were told there was no such facility, so we simply jumped into the pool wearing our games shorts (having no swimming trunks of our own). We splashed about for an hour or more. We splashed water on each other, played with a tennis ball, had swimming races, and also took turns in splashing our friends outside the pool, who did not want to swim. Then, we were taken to do ‘bridge falls’, which was like falling from a bridge but in a harness. An hour later, we returned and played a cricket match, and ate our dinner. Before sleeping, my campmates forced me to listen to a horror story. It was hard to sleep after that, but I still managed to. The next morning the barks of a dog woke me up. We played the same games that we had the previous day, and then had our breakfast. After that, we headed to a rock climbing destination. We climbed at least 30 feet and returned to the tents at noon. We talked about the importance of making good friends and how to make them.

Lunch was served after that. Another competition- a Maggi making one- was organized later, and we headed towards a place 300 metres away for our competition. We lit a wood chulha to make Maggi. The Legends won this competition too.

After the competition, we returned and put up a talent show. The show made me laugh till my sides hurt. It included a funny song and even a funny mime act! After dinner at nine, we were put to sleep by ten.

Next morning, we left for Doon as soon as we finished breakfast.

I couldn’t believe that just a day before our beautiful Midterm, I was admitted in the hospital because of a bad headache due to homesickness. It was in the sick ward that I met the Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly, whose nose was bleeding. He asked me to write a report about my midterm experience And that is why this report came into being. I enjoyed writing it as much as I did my first midterms.
As I sit by the Main Field, watching our Hockey team playing against Welham Boys’, the energy is palpable. The second part of the term seemed to begin almost as we walked in after the midterm, with stories which have featured already on earlier pages in this issue. Hockey no longer has to share the field with other plebian sports and hockey season has officially begun; House practices are underway fervently.

The Main Field in the mornings, however, is filled with boys in multicolored vests, moving in synchronous jerks. The PT competition, right around the corner now, has PT leaders from all Houses have their respective squads practicing after classes and other unlikely hours. It certainly is a sight to watch D-Formers navigating their way to the Skinners in the House vests and often other things like knee high socks and track pants amongst other things.

A changed time table, however, has altered most of our lives quite substantially. There are mixed opinions though, about the addition of the 8th School after lunch and there is a fierce debate on whether a few extra minutes of academic time each week is worth the perceptible drop in productivity that follows.

On the other hand, however, our counsellor has made more than a few moves to popularize Ultimate Frisbee over the D-Form induction - truly, “catch ’em while they’re young.” Moreover, there have been more than a few rumors about the introduction of a brand new Inter House Frisbee Competition, even for seniors now!

The next five weeks are packed, with one event following another, and often even overlapping. So, let us plunge into the chaos of activity that is the rhythm of our School and give our best in everything we do.

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**Wordsearch | TV Shows**

1. ‘Fresh off the Boat’, an American sitcom series starring Hudson Yang, is based on a book written by ________ Huang.
2. This TV series, based on the novel written by Jay Asher, tells us the reasons why Hannah ________ killed herself.
3. This Netflix TV series tells us the story of a half-mort, half-witch.
4. The ________ is an animated TV show known for making major future predictions.
5. ‘Brooklyn Nine Nine’ stars Andy ________, as its comedic protagonist.
6. This Netflix series chronicles the rise of cocaine trade in Columbia and is based on the story of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar.
7. This immensely popular TV show portrays the lives of six adults living in Manhattan through 10 seasons, and was originally named ‘Six of One’.
8. The Indian version of the American series ‘24’ stars ________ Kapoor as Jai Singh Rathod.
10. The TV show ‘Suits’ portrays ________, Adams as Mike Ross, a talented young college dropout with photographic memory.
11. Rami Malek, from ‘Mr. ________’ also played a role in the recent movie ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’.

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The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

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