



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot

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DOONSPEAK

D Formers share their experience of joining School online.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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A Request for Reprieve

Aditya Jain outlines the qualities that define School through a letter to the pandemic.

Dear Pandemic,

It is no wonder that you have helped each individual to discover a new part of themselves while living within the confines of their homes. This has been the time when the intellectual abilities of some have been sparked, while a few have discovered their innate culinary skills, and the dexterity of some others in other creative pursuits have been revealed in various aspects. However, what was initially deemed to be a boon has turned into this horrific dream - a dream which we all crave to escape from.

Being a student of a boarding school like Doon, there is something that feels amiss during our rather endless stay at home. Perhaps it is just the luxury of waking up rejuvenated at 9 AM and directly attending classes, instead of waking up listless for morning PT, running towards the Main Field, and sneaking into the backend of our squads to somehow avoid doing the dreaded squats and the infamous 'stairs'. Or maybe it's just us missing the goodly smell of rain on dry ground and the ability to witness the whole beauty of our campus. If not for the exceptional circumstances you have caused, we would have been getting drenched in a mixture of mud, rain and sweat every day on the Main Field and on the Skinners, which are also not used to such emptiness.

However, what I miss most about School are my brothers and the School Masters, from whom I have been forcibly separated. It was only a few days ago when I was discussing with one of my peers about the whole transition to the online platform that I realised how you have sort of forced us to foster a closer relationship than ever. All of us have emerged triumphant till now (and I am confident that we will successfully continue to do so till the very end) and have not allowed uncertain times like this to let our spirits down. That's why I request you to allow us to continue with our old, conventional lives. It is about time for you to let go of us and allow us to revisit the simpler times.

Instead of simply ranting about the negativities you have brought to my life, I would also like to thank you - for making me realise what makes my institution so precious and why I value it. Of course, it is the magnificent infrastructure present on the campus, the great faculty, the unmatched network, the ease of obtaining resources and the readily available access to various facilities that play a significant role in shaping Doon and its inhabitants, but there is a more intrinsic part of a Dosco's journey - a part that remains with him or her forever.

Throughout my time in School, I have encountered people from

various geographical locations, socio-economic, and ethnic backgrounds. I could never fathom meeting such a wide community earlier, let alone be so close-knit with them. Today, it is these people who are my backbone, and it is them, on whom I can rely on for anything, and, it is them I miss the most. It is the sense of unity among all of us, the oneness of being categorised as a 'Dosco', that binds all of us together. We may have our individual differences, but that does not stop each one of us from being there for each other or for our houses and for the School at each point of time. After all, where else could one possibly see a baffling site of large crowds on the side-lines of the Main Field or hear the unanimous cheering of students that roars across the entire School during an Afzal's match?

It is really fascinating how Doon gives one a family of more than 500 people which can peacefully coexist within 70 acres of campus. The Junior-Senior relationship too, is very intriguing. While the Seniors play a pivotal role for juniors by helping the juniors in exploring themselves during their rather tender years, the juniors help in the growth of the senior too, by helping the senior to become a more compassionate and patient person, by assisting him in
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building virtues that would be of great benefit later. It is imperative to realise that the greatest asset for Doscos is each other.

Not only does Doon provide one with brothers, it also gives one parent figures in the form of masters, which fosters a unique relationship between the two. The teacher-student relationship at Chandbagh extends far beyond the classroom. Be it the late night music and play practices for Founders, or an unexpected arrival of students at a master's house for food - they never leave their students. It is the mutual understanding between a student and a master that helps them arrive at effective solutions, drastically improving the understanding and

the relationship between them, simultaneously adding better tangible results as well. They teach us critical life lessons by sharing their own experiences and are always there for us when required. Achieving such a feat is not ordinary and no school can foster such a strong peer relationship and simultaneously form a healthy bond between a teacher and a student.

I have learned that it is not the various tangible benefits that make us a Dosco, but the content of our character that sets us apart. It does not matter where one is from or what kind of a life one lives at home. What matters is the smile on each one of our faces when we see each other after month long vacations, because that is who we

are: a family. We are a family where everybody is considered equal and a family where everyone has a stake in this prestigious institution. We are an institution where one innately knows that his brothers and his mentors will always be there to stand by him and will be there to back him up.

I hope you can understand the pain you have caused us. It is exactly for this – the missing out of such invaluable lifetime experiences - that I request you to let me physically reconnect with my brother Doscos and my teachers, to put an end to the discomfort and suffering you have caused to all of us, because I am confident, we have all learnt our own lessons and are ready to continue to tread our own paths.

How Has Your Experience Been With Joining School in D Form Online?

The experience of being a new student at Doon has been an amazing and astonishing journey. Despite the Covid-19, the enjoyment of the Doon life feels the same as being in Dehradun. The lessons, the teachers, the STAs, the batchmates, it is just how the real Doon would feel like.

For me, my lessons begin at 12:30 PM because I live in Malaysia, so I am 2 hours and 30 minutes ahead of India. I have a lot of spare time to study and relax from 8 AM, which is the time I wake up, till class. From day one, I have made friends and become close to them, I love my lessons and STAs, and I feel the sense of youth and pride of being in School.

My journey from gathering the motivation to study hard, take the exam, then the interview, and finally being selected to join this place, truly has been a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to future events and growing up in the school that I call home.

doonSpeak

- Kai Kubo

The Doon “dream” seemed impossible for many, yet I stand (virtually) within the massive walls of The Doon School. As a D former at School I had dreams of what I would do had I been physically present in School rather than sitting in front of a screen. I find myself extremely privileged to know my form-mates before entering campus and bonding with my masters over little things that take place including the daily tutorial meetings that help guide us. We as D formers have heard various stories about campus but have never experienced it physically so even after having joined school for one and a half terms we request teachers to take us on campus tours and show us our “would be” homes. The connection to Chandbagh is unique and nostalgic. Whilst the physical connection is absent the emotional connect and the spiritual connect with School is very much present. In these six months that we have virtually spent in School we have developed a homely feeling towards Chandbagh.

- Aditya Agrawal

My experience of joining the D form online has been good but I did not quite imagine in my wildest of dreams that this would happen, and I am sure most of the D formers feel the same way. When I got my acceptance letter from the school I imagined myself playing on the beautiful grounds of Doon and not sitting on my laptop and having classes online. I still wish that this unexpected pandemic ends, and I get to live a life of a Dosco to the fullest. But then I also like the online classes and I think that it is a good experience. In conclusion, I would say that one should not see the bad things in life but cherish the good ones while one still can and stay happy always.

- Nabhij Singal

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I have a question, regarding this question about this question.

Vir Singh Patwalia, driving us nuts.

I have to apply toast to my butter.

Arhavir Singh, Cooking tips.

2 raised to the power of 4 is zero.

Pragun Jain, Mathematical prodigy.

This Week in History

September 14, 1960: The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was formed by representatives of oil-producing countries in a meeting in Baghdad.

September 15, 1890: British mystery author Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is born in Torquay, England.

September 16, 1932: in his cell at Yerwada Jail in Pune, Gandhi Ji begins a hunger strike in protest of the British government’s decision to separate India’s electoral system by caste.

September 17, 1981: France ends the use of guillotine as the death penalty is abolished.

September 18, 1810: Chile declares its independence from Spain after 269 years as a colony

September 19, 1893: New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

September 19, 1955: Argentine President Juan Domingo Perón is deposed in a military coup

September 20, 1999: United Nations troops enter East Timor after it votes for independence from Indonesia.

Around the World in 80 Words

Yoshihide Suga was named the new Japanese Prime Minister after Shinzo Abe stepped down. Global Coronavirus infections crossed 30 million. Amy Dorris accused Donald Trump of sexual assault. India received 100 million doses of a Russian Covid-19 vaccine. Umar Khalid was arrested under UAPA in connection with the Delhi riots. Naomi Osaka won the ‘women’s singles’ category of the US Open. IPL scheduled its first match of the season between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings for tonight, 7 pm.

“

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

—
Confucius

Dosco Doodle

Technical Mess

Satvik anand



The Problem of the Week

The heights of the ten members of the Ricky's basketball team were measured. The heights, in centimeters, of his nine teammates are 180, 181, 183, 187, 188, 190, 193, 195 & 196. Ricky's height is also a whole number.

The coach of the team made a mistake measuring Ricky's height. After this mistake was corrected, both the mean and median of the heights increased by 0.5 cm. Find all the possible values for Ricky's height.



source: Canadian Maths society

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

Steve Jobs

Author: Walter Isaacson

Reading about the first computers Apple made and comparing them to the ones they make today made me realise the vast improvements we have made in technology and how it has changed our lives. The biography also exposed me to sides of Steve Jobs I had not known existed; the worst and best parts. While there are certainly traits of him that I would like to embody, there are just as many that I would not want to. However, what I found most interesting was his 'reality distortionary field', as his employees called it. He would set unrealistic, and sometimes even impossible deadlines or designs and convince himself it was possible. He would bend reality to suit himself, and sometimes this backfired but sometimes this would turn out to be incredibly successful as well.

- Bhai Kabir Singh

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?

Love, Guaranteed

Cast: Rachael Cook, Damon Wayans Jr.

The movie is a classic rom-com like any movie you would expect to be airing on Romedy Now, but with a modern twist. Online Dating. It combines the fuzzy, warm feeling of a cheesy love story with the frenzy of online dating and the outcome is worth the while. I found myself immediately hooked onto the story and waiting for the protagonists to realize the romantic tension between them that was so obvious. It was one of those situations where you know what's going to happen but the director and script-writers keep you on the edge of the seat until it does, and then you feel content and happy.

If you are looking for a good laugh and a way to pass the time by, Love Guaranteed is as good as a movie you are going to find on any online streaming platform.

- Krishnav Sachdev

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