

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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From a Scientific Perspective

Mayank Agrawal *examines the participation of students in science in School.*

Any scholar requires certain avenues apart from the classroom to go further in a subject or area of interest. One's understanding of History or Political Science can be enhanced by participation in Model UNs, and the approach to Business and Economics could be positively augmented by engaging in an entrepreneurial conference. Similarly, Science is complemented by competitions and workshops which both allow the students the opportunity to follow interests and explore for a new one. However, as collective experience has shown us, engagement in science in School is incredibly student-driven, which is problematic, because activities such as debating and writing are far more prominent and easily to participate in. To summarise the essence of the problem, there is an imbalance in the activities and competitions among science and other subjects in School, which results in the Science student receiving a far steeper path to success than any other.

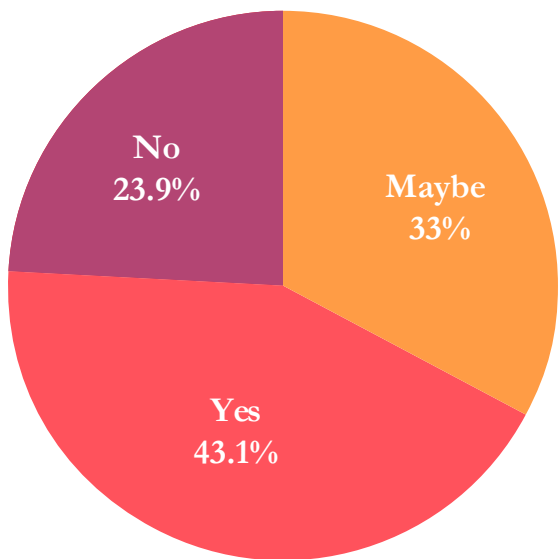
'But if you're motivated, you'll find a way...'

The current system is stacked against Science students, in that the moment their grit fizzles out or they are unable to be guided on the right path, they will not have much else to do. Moreover, the introduction of science competitions is oddly dependent on the rare students who are able to introduce competitions. This is not ideal for two reasons: firstly, it results in a drastically lower number of science activities than are needed, and second, it limits the subcategories of Science that are introduced. For instance, say someone is interested and wants to explore a field not usually explored in school. Not all of us have the time management skills to proactively research and learn new skills in that field, whilst simultaneously maintaining our curricular academic requirements – especially in the final years of high school. Worse still is the impression amongst D and C Formers, who assume that science competitions are to be participated in individually and primarily out of School after observing the effective invisibility of extra-classroom Science in School. In addition to this, the nature of STEM has its own problems. 'The Sciences' countless specializations act as a double-edged sword: while they offer seemingly endless areas for exploration, the same numeracy makes it unfeasible to arrange talks and purchase resources for the many interest groups.

Nevertheless, in today's time, having options of extra-class engagement should not be a choice – even if the engagement only corresponds to the field in a broader way. Although a curricula like the IB and ISC are rigorous in their Science courses, merely following a curriculum is not proving to be enough for some students and should not be 'enough' for School, if at all that is the case. The Shanti Swaroop and B.G. Pitre Essay Writing competitions both promote involvement in Science, but are theoretical in nature and do not go very far in teaching students what actual STEM learning is like. Tools for further learning have become so widespread that if we do

(Continued on Page 2)

Do you plan on pursuing a science related degree in the future?



109 people across all forms were asked as part of the survey.

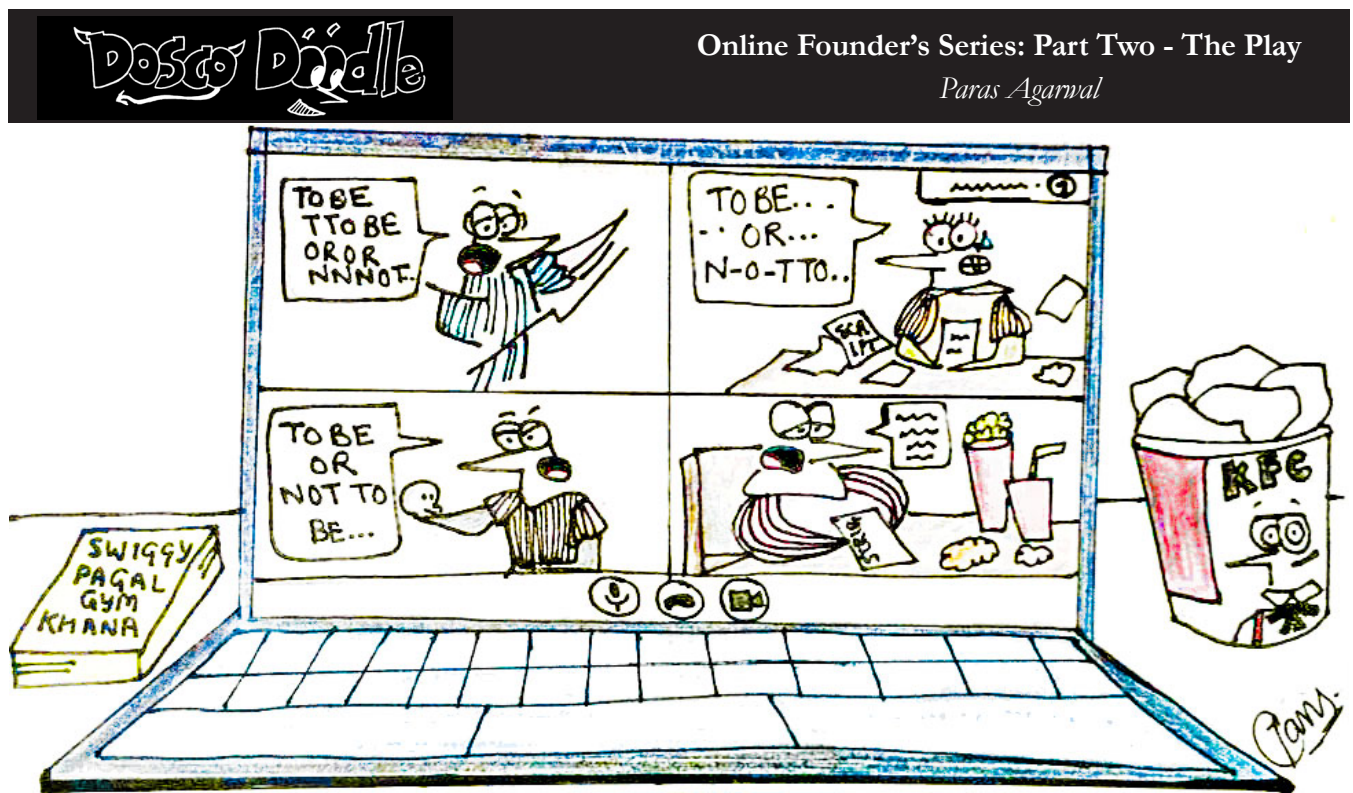
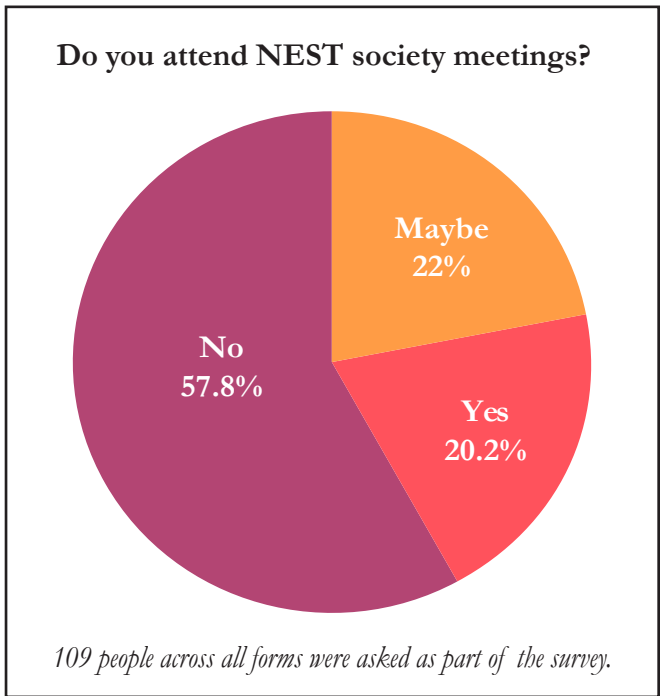
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not catch up, Science students from Doon might find themselves disadvantaged in the future. We must develop programmes to increase interest and encourage hands-on activities in school as part of the modern-day Doon School curriculum. The changes we need to bring in School, to ensure that students are ready and, more importantly, interested in a career in STEM, need to be implemented as soon as possible.

The School does have a few science Societies and competitions that it participates in, but their existence is not even fully realised due to the actual schedule of School. Despite what the school schedule says, Societies and competitions get little to no actual attendance due to the fact that sports time parasitically encroaches on almost everything outside of toy and School. Sports are important, but isn't it time that we started to encourage participation in activities outside class and the sports field? Despite all the surveys and the termly forms we fill, how many of us really go to STAs and SUPWs?

For scientific activities, I feel guidance from experts, instructors, and Old Boys who have passed through this system are required to form a support framework to allow students to explore different fields in engineering and the physical sciences. New avenues to ask questions and to develop an interest in the community, which is not dependent on just a small group of enthusiasts, are needed. We need to be addressing this not only for Science but also for other areas of interest in School (e.g. Mathematics, Entrepreneurship, and the ACE subjects) which have limited extra-classroom presence.

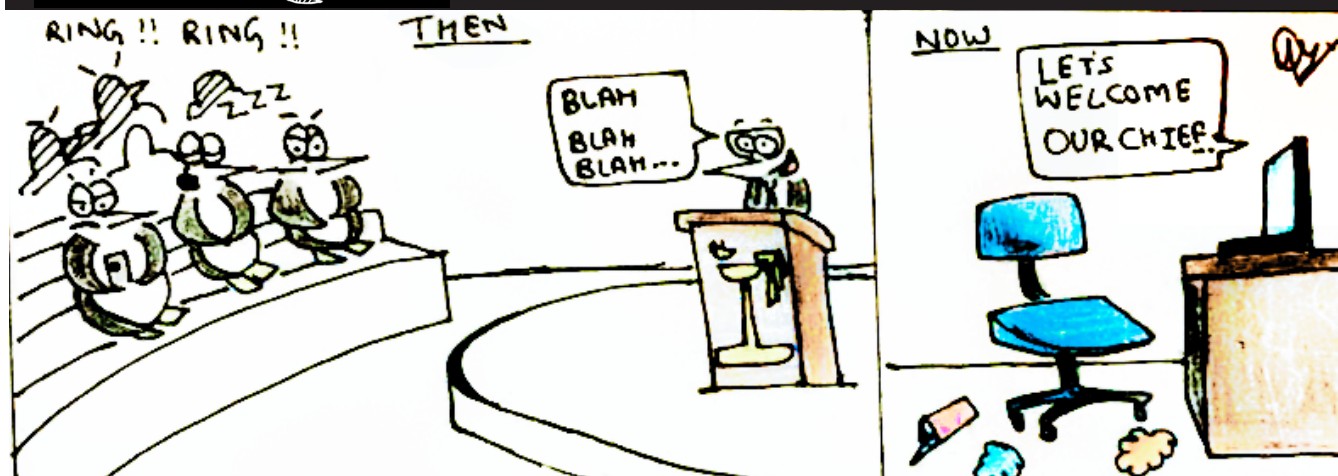
The increasing activeness of the NEST society and the success seen in the Space Settlement Design competition goes to show that at least some of us have recognized the importance of such activities. However, there is still a long way to go, and I implore everyone that we try to create a framework that encourages and allows science students to engage with their interests outside of class. The NEST society has made many improvements during the lockdown by organizing many webinars and workshops. We need to see a similar response from the students, for only then will we see any significant progress.



DOSO Doodle

Online Founder's Series: Part One - The Speeches

Paras Agarwal



CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr Shrey Nagalia and Mr Rajat Dixit have both been recently blessed with daughters. The *Weekly* extends hearty congratulations to both sets of parents on behalf of the community, and wishes the newborns long and healthy lives.

“

I have great faith in fools - self-confidence my friends will call it.

Edgar Allan Poe



UNDER THE SCANNER

Farmer Bill Protests | Aryan Baruah

On the 17th of September, a bill was passed in the Lok Sabha that will change the face of the agriculture business in India. Subsequently, it was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 20th of September. The President signed his approval of the bill on September 24th.

The reason that the government felt the need for a bill to come into action was because of a form of government market intervention called the Minimum Support Price (MSP). These are the prices declared by the government, before each sowing season, for 23 crops, irrespective of market rates. The problem arose when it was found that the government only bought 14% of the farmer's produce at these prices. The remaining produce was then bought at a lower price than the MSP. Out of both these transactions, the Mandi (wholesale market) owners took a

commission from the amount paid to the farmers. The government, seeing a problem, came up with this bill as a solution for struggling farmers during these trying times.

The bills have caused an uproar among Indian farmers, inciting violent protests in North India and other parts of the country. These bills are attempting to privatise the food industry by helping farmers enter contracts that ensure fair returns on their produce and exempt farm products from the Essential Commodities Act (EC).

Although the move has been portrayed as something that will empower farmers in the country, the farmers themselves feel the exact opposite. They are worried that the bill will allow private corporations and conglomerates to assume greater control over farm operations and weaken the positions of poorer farmers when

it comes to legal disputes. They are also worried about being put directly in touch with corporations, since that makes it more likely that they will be cheated, considering an educated businessman is more adept at negotiation than an uneducated farmer.

Even after reassurances from the government that the MSP will remain in place, the farmers claim that since the main goal of private corporations is profit maximization, they will strive to buy produce at the cheapest prices, thereby disregarding the MSP. In fact in one of the bills the very term MSP is not even mentioned!

As I write, the state of Karnataka has gone on a *bandh* - loosely translated to mean a work strike. As permission hasn't been granted for these protests, the state has deployed 12,000 civil police, 47 KSRP and 24 CAR platoons to manage the situation. We can only hope that the situation doesn't escalate into a nationwide strike, especially in these stressful times.

Gratitude to My Alma Mater

Arpit Panjwani (Ex-64 H '2008) *reflects on the influence of his education on his achievements.*

I've had the incredible privilege of having been taught by some excellent educators, but that has often made me indignant for the less fortunate, who in our country lack access to the most basic educational facilities and resources. Such impediments result in poor learning outcomes and recurrent attrition or dropouts. As Director of a K12 school, I seek to not only address such educational deficiencies amongst the underserved, but also endeavour to provide a platform to promote grassroots talent and further to create social impact through my community & rural development initiatives.

My upbringing at The Doon School and the impelling words of Arthur Foot prepared me to be resolute in challenging the status quo, and have kept me motivated in my mission to bring about educational equity through my humble yet concerted efforts. I take pride in sharing that on Teachers' Day this year, I was felicitated with the prestigious 40 Under 40 (Education) Award by the BW Business World Magazine. Listening to the inspiring stories of the other 39 awardees once again made me realise how fortunate I've been to be part of this vibrant Dosco community that truly made me imbibe the compelling virtues of the "aristocracy of service" that we all take the utmost pride in.

While I'm sure each most of us remain connected to the school in some way or the other, but given the career I have chosen for myself, my association with Chandbagh and its masters as an ex-Dosco has been all the more special. Having walked into the education space with little knowledge of school leadership, curriculum design, pedagogy and so on, I have been guided and supported by the masters, administrators, support staff members at every juncture of this relatively short but fulfilling journey. I've always known fully well that I can depend upon my support-system back at Doon and I've never needed to look beyond my alma mater whenever I've needed any sort of advice, reference, feedback or even a befitting platform to provide exposure to my students. Over the years, I've reached out to the concerned person at Doon without restraint, and have been ably guided and assisted with empathy and compassion. This means the world to me.

Each time my students have competed against Doscos on the sports field or elsewhere, I've been delighted to witness that spectacle with pride notwithstanding the result thereof. I take this opportunity to congratulate the entire Dosco community on completion of 85 Years of this pristine institution. The Doon School

is truly a one of its kind community and I am blessed to receive unequivocal support from the members of this community at all times. I wholeheartedly value and cherish the relationships I share with the masters, many of whom now regard me as a colleague, making me understand the value and respect associated with my role and position.

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of advice, reference, feedback
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students**

This timeless camaraderie between Doscos themselves and the connect with masters that leads to a unique support-system is what makes Doon a very special place, unlike any other institution. Thank you, Chandbagh, for continuing to set the bar high and keeping me inspired. This eternal love affair with you always makes me feel reassured and confident about the work I do, and also gives me a regular perspective of what I ought to achieve. Heartfelt gratitude to all the esteemed masters for not only shaping me with the right values but also for being there whenever I've needed them in my journey as a school leader. You, the teacher warriors, deserve all the appreciation in this world, for it is you who make things happen with your relentless efforts to shape the future. Lastly, I would like to particularly acknowledge Headmaster Dr Jagpreet Singh for being so warm, approachable, and encouraging towards me. I thank you profusely, sir.

I look forward to pursuing my mission of furthering educational equity by facilitating contemporary education amongst the unserved and underserved. I hope to receive the same support and, in this process, will strive harder to achieve milestones that make my alma mater proud.

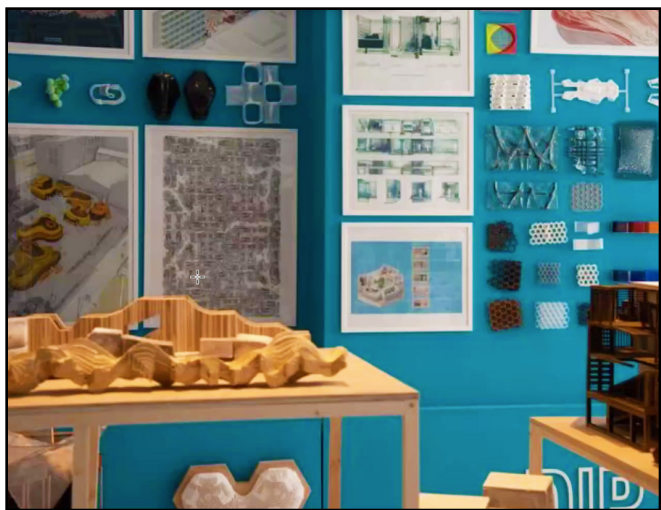
Here's wishing everybody good health, utmost safety and well-being in these unprecedented times.

Go Dosco!

Visual Arts Festival

Raghav Mishra *recounts the experience of attending the recently held online Visual Arts Festival.*

The Visual Arts festival was held over the last week and saw many budding artists immerse themselves into the various facets of Art that were discussed. Spanning three days with over 150 participants from 25 schools, this mega event had many interesting points of discussion. On the first day, our headmaster shed some light on the importance of Art as a subject and how necessary it is as a discipline. Following that Mr. Martand Khosla, a world-renowned architect, delivered the keynote addressing many important aspects of pursuing Art and the numerous virtues Art embodies. He then engaged in a question and answer session in which participants asked how Art has influenced his life and how although it has no specific sense of time and purpose, it often displays what words may not be able to. The audience was enriched by the personal life experiences Mr. Khosla shared with us, and I am certain that after such an insightful presentation, the participants’ understanding of Art as a career and as a discipline was enriched.



An exhibit presented during the festival.

The Art presentations spoke about how diverse Art is as an area of knowledge and how society occasionally may reduce Art to a very basic sense. Another very interesting topic that was addressed by multiple participants was the intent of creating Art and how Art may be extremely personal, how it may be a way of life. One presentation, for instance, discussed the way street murals actually change the outlook of a certain locality and may be vital in boosting creativity amongst its beholders. An understanding of the genesis of graffiti and the types of graffiti as a form of expression also urged the audience to extend their horizons of knowledge of Art as a subject. The evolution of Art over a period of time was also portrayed extensively. Participants from various

countries were present and showcased certain aspects of their cultures that were new to people from other countries. These demonstrations proved that despite Art being a global subject, it is often influenced by local factors.



An exhibit presented during the festival.

To the delight of the participants, the music school arranged solo performances throughout the three days and gave the much-required breathers between the intense presentations that each participating school had to offer.

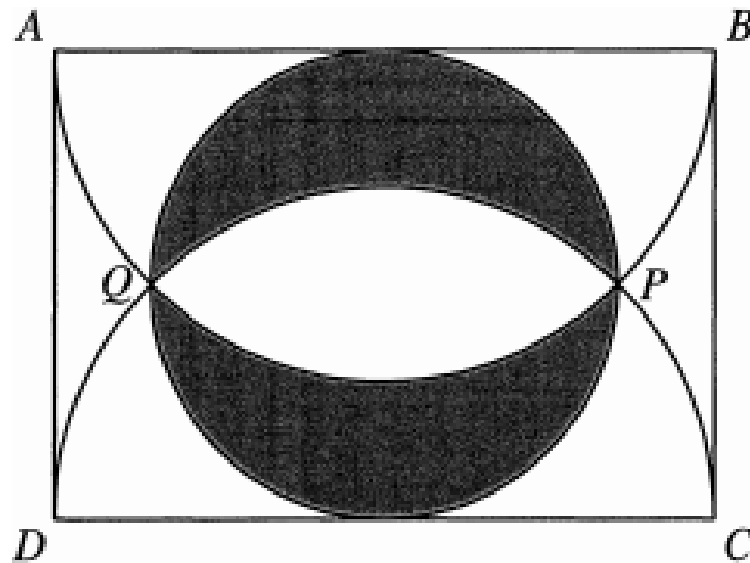
During those three days, we saw vibrant music performances, intense discussions and some fantastic presentations that enthralled the audience. In times such as these, when we may not be able to meet one another in person, a virtual meeting is the next best alternative as it is crucial that an individual faces a variety of stimuli, that will eventually bolster creativity.



An exhibit presented during the festival.

The Problem of the Week

Let $ABCD$ be a rectangle with $AB = 10$. Draw circles C_1 and C_2 with diameters AB and CD respectively. Let P, Q be the intersection points of C_1 and C_2 . If the circle with diameter PQ is tangent to AB and CD , what is the area of the shaded region?



Source: <https://fadjarp3g.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/2010-smo.pdf>

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

The Practice of Adaptive Leadership

Authors: Alexander Grashow, Marty Linsky, and Ronald Heifetz

The book talks about a five-pronged approach towards leadership that focuses on enabling leaders to Diagnose, Mobilize, Reflect, Connect, and Grow. Instead of thinking about change idealistically, the book argues for leaders who facilitate leadership amongst others in a more realistic, and courage-generating manner. I find it relevant as Doon in itself is a very dynamic institution with a firm spine of culture and tradition, which makes it a great read for those who want to bring the right kind of change in our community.

-Keshav Tiwari

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Director: Brad Bird

Cast: Tom Cruise and Paula Patton

"It's a 25 foot drop and we're using magnets." Tom Cruise had to fire his insurance company so that he could film this gravity- and death-defying stunt to give us a colossal of action on the screen. Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol is a tantalising action-spy film with a versatile director who has been involved in various animation and thriller films such as The Incredibles. Overall the film was well made, offering its viewers continuous action and entertainment. As an action and Tom Cruise fan, I highly recommend this film to everybody.

- Anushtup Giri

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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