Time is of the Essence

Bhai Kabir Singh highlights why students fail to effectively manage time at home.

On my first day in School, our Housemaster held a Common ‘Quadi’ (the Foot House version of a main house Common Room meeting) to lay out the ground rules. One strange rule was that for the first month of our stay at School, our watches had to be deposited with the Linen Room staff. Our Housemaster explained that the measure was taken to make us reliant on the School bells rather than our watches. He hoped this would help us adjust to the School’s regimented schedule. While this seemed reasonable at School, now that I am at home, the implications of policies such as this are beginning to emerge.

At home, I struggle to focus during classes and productively use my time. Most of my time is either spent on Netflix or playing video games, a stark contrast to an average day at School, where I would at least study for an hour and a half and play sports in the evening. The work done in a day at School is nearly the same as the work done in a week at home. The hope is that if students can maintain a rigorous schedule in School, they would be able to emulate a similar schedule outside of School also. However, this is clearly not the case at home. At a fundamental level, our structure does not promote self-discipline, but rather an enforced discipline. The prefectorial system coupled with our strict schedule informs students where to be and when, time tabling every minute of a student’s day. Rather than allowing students to make active decisions on how they should manage their time, they are instructed on the same: as a result they do not learn how to effectively manage their time on their own. While this is very effective in maximising students’ productivity while they are in School, it fails terribly outside it. Students are made too dependent on prefects and teachers to make these decisions for them. Additionally, rather than students actively disciplining themselves, they rely on others to do it for them. This phenomenon is clearly visible once students reach SC Form. The moment the prefectorial body is declared, SC Formers start skipping meals, classes and sports time. Perhaps this is because, when students are reprimanded by prefects, there is often very little dialogue that takes place. I have only met a handful of prefects who chose to explain to a junior the reason for the punishment before punishing him or her. More often than not, the prefect would hold up five fingers signalling a five-sign change-in-break, and that would be the end of the discussion.

As a junior, I often wondered why it mattered so much that I was punctual to meals, or whether my shoes were polished; they seemed arbitrary and insignificant at the time. Without having developed an understanding of the personal benefits of following these, I never felt the internal motivation to abide by them. Students would never follow these rules by choice, but rather as a compulsion. Self-discipline is a virtue essential for any person trying to maintain a strict schedule, and because School doesn’t adequately equip us with these skills, it has been very difficult for students to manage their time independently.

To develop a culture of self-discipline that can be practised outside of School as well, the willingness to follow School’s structure must come from within. I believe that explaining the benefits of following certain rules and then allowing students to make an active choice to follow the schedule would be far more effective in inculcating self-discipline. The motivation to work hard and manage time efficiently (Continued on the next page)
The protests were initially slow to make headway. Up to deal with its reforms made by the presidential panel set up, however, the Nigerian government was forced to listen. The protests against The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a federal police unit that has been accused of corruption and abuse of power, have broadened to reforming the government system as a whole.

SARS was a tipping point that forced the Nigeran youth to voice their frustration about their inept government. More than 70 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line and are a part of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. An #endSARS hashtag was also tweeted by famous celebrities such as Kanye West, John Boyega and Rihanna. The movement found particular support from the footballing community with the Nigerian footballer Odion Jude Ighalo, who plays for Manchester United, accusing the Nigerian government of killing its own citizens. “I’m ashamed of this government,” he said in a video posted on Twitter.

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WAR OF WORDS
The School was represented by Agam Bhatia, Keshaw Singhania, Kabir Subbiah and Yuvraj Sarda at the Mallya Aditi International School Debating Competition, 2020. The team reached the Semi-Finals.

Congratulations!

This Week in History
1804 CE: Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned Napoleon I in the Notre Dame Cathedral.
1858 CE: Theodore Roosevelt is born in New York City.
1881 CE: Pablo Picasso is born in Malaga, Spain.
1918 CE: Ottoman Empire signs an armistice treaty with the allies, ending their involvement in World War One.
1959 CE: The Antarctic Treaty is signed by 12 nations, banning all military involvement in the region.
1984 CE: Indira Gandhi is assassinated by two of her bodyguards: Beant Singh and Satwant Singh.

Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

ILLUMINATING LUMINARIES
Ruhaan Goel, Maharshi Roy, Ahan Jayakumar, Amrit Agarwal, Vihan Ranka and Veraj Goel won the Diplomacy Award, while Aryan Bhandari, Aditya Gupta and Satvik Petwal won the Outstanding Diplomacy Award.

Kudos!

THE WHO?
Who is Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson?
Krishnav Sachdev: Singer.
Aditya Agarwal: Songwriter.
Suryansh Singh: Artist.
Bhai Kabir Singh: An Instagram influencer.
Shaan Bulchandani: Actress.

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson, known professionally as Katy Perry, is an American singer, songwriter, and television judge. She rose to fame in 2008 with the release of her second album, “One of the Boys”, a Pop Rock record containing the controversial U.S number one song “I Kissed a Girl”.

Around the World in 80 Words
France was put under lockdown after another surge in COVID-19 cases. Philadelphia was put under curfew after a police officer killed a coloured man. Eight people were charged by the US in an alleged plot to intimidate its citizens to return to China. A seven magnitude earthquake struck Greece and Turkey. The Government of India issued an ordinance to tackle pollution, the violation of which is punishable by up to five years’ incarceration. Tottenham triumphed against Burnley in the BPL.

Who is Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson?
Día de los Muertos

Saachin Ramasami describes the Latin-American festival ‘The Day of the Dead’.

El Día de los Muertos o el “Day of the dead” en inglés se celebra en todo México el 2 de Noviembre. El día de los muertos tarda 2 días para celebrar la vida de familiares y amigos fallecidos. El primer día es para conmemorar a los bebés y los jóvenes fallecidos, mientras el segundo día es para honrar a los adultos y ancianos que han fallecido. Las familias crean altares para los que han pasado poniendo fotos de ellos detrás de velas y las bañan con flores. Muchas personas también visitan cementerios y decoran las tumbas. El Día de los muertos es muy parecido a Halloween en las culturas occidentales, excepto que los únicos diferencias son que la gente lleva esqueletos festivos y, en lugar de dulces, las familias se reúnen y festejan juntas. Estos banquetes suelen contener alimentos y bebidas como tamales, pollo con salsa molé y chocolate caliente mexicano. Esta fiesta se originó en la época de los aztecas en honor a quienes fueron sacrificados o murieron en batalla. Con el tiempo, las festividades han cambiado, pero el enfoque no ha sido alterado. Ha habido múltiples películas basadas en este festival. Por nombrar algunos, Coco y “El Libro de la Vida” (el libro de la vida). A diferencia de muchas comunidades occidentales, en México el tema de la muerte es aceptado y celebrado en lugar de ser ignorado y mal visto.

English Translation: El Día de los Muertos or “The Day of the Dead” is celebrated throughout Mexico on November 2. The Day of the Dead is spread across two days to celebrate the life of family and friends who have passed away. The first day commemorates children and young people who passed away, whilst the second day honours adults and the elderly. Families create altars for the departed by displaying...
photographs behind candles and showering them with flowers. Many also visit cemeteries to decorate graves. El Día de los Muertos is similar to Halloween as concept in Protestant countries, except that the only costumes worn are festive skeletons and instead of giving candies, families gather and feast together. These feasts usually contain food and drinks such as “tamales”, chicken with “mole” sauce and Mexican hot chocolate. This festival originates from the Aztec culture, which honoured those who died in battle on this day. Over time the festivities have changed, but the main idea has remained untampered. There have also been multiple movies based on this festival such as Coco and El Libro de la Vida (The book of life).

Unlike in western communities, in Mexico, the topic of death is embraced and celebrated as opposed to being discouraged.

Should School re-open for A and SC Formers?

While the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly been extremely unfortunate, I know there are many SC formers who have seen the silver lining of these circumstances. This is the perfect opportunity for us to focus on our college applications, our studies, and our future, without being hassled by the busy routine of School, and I am glad that the timing of this situation has provided us with this opportunity. More importantly, Doon simply isn’t itself with the safety protocols that must be put in place, and therefore it makes no difference whether we are at home or whether we return to Chandbagh - it will be a while before Doon feels like home once more.

-Adit Chatterjee

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the entire world, of which my residence in Kolkata is no exception. Finally, after the prolonged lockdown, the world seems to be recovering some normalcy. However, personally, being in School is a significant aspect of normalcy that most of us desperately crave. During this pandemic, I have truly missed the School’s atmosphere: the animated gossip with my formmates and the incredibly comforting natural environment. After all, Doon represents a microcosm of the holistic environment that we have been deprived of over the past year. While the freezing weather will be a notable challenge, the overwhelming desire to fully reconnect with my peers and masters has surely convinced me to return to Doon whenever possible, more so considering the imminence of our inevitable farewell.

-Rushil Choudhary

Today there are around eight million cases of COVID-19 in India. However, with the appropriate measures taken, as School is taking, I believe it would be safe for us to come back to School. I have my IGCSE board examinations coming up and I need to study hard for them; however, studying online is not as effective as studying back at School. Additionally, being away from School for so long has not been easy on me. I miss playing with my friends and meeting masters at meals and classes. With the arrival of students, School will brighten up once again.

-Jinay Borana

Personally, the decision of whether or not to return to School not only came down to my safety but also depended on what environment will least disrupt my studies. While I do acknowledge the fact that School has taken safety measures, I do feel that I would be safer at home, a much more closed environment with not as many people. When talking about studies, I honestly believe that online classes are almost the same in comparison to normal classes. Moreover, at home, we have access to tuitions and laptops that better our learning experience and with boards on the horizon, I feel staying at home is a much better and safer option.

-Shreyan Mittal
Problem of the Week

Positive integers \( p, a \) and \( b \) satisfy the equation \( p^2 + a^2 = b^2 \).
Prove that if \( p \) is a prime number greater than 3 then \( a \) is a multiple of 12 and \( 2(p+a+1) \) is a perfect square.

What Have You been Reading
During the Lockdown?

The Art of Racing in the Rain
Author: Garth Stein
The Art of Racing in the Rain wonderfully narrates the story of a racer, through the eyes of his dog Enzo. The book showcases the innocence and intelligence of a dog through his experiences on a quest to understand his life purpose. This is done while he simultaneously follows his dream of riding in a Ferrari. I would recommend this book to any dog lover or someone just looking for a good story and a good laugh.

-Rohan Taneja

What Have You been Watching
During the Lockdown?

The English Game
Cast: Kevin Guthrie, Edward Holcroft
The English Game is set in the mid-1800’s when Football was a sport dominated by the English upper-class. During this time sport was not seen as more than a recreation and the concept of a player being ‘paid to play’ was frowned upon. The series covers the transformation of football in Britain through the eyes of Fergus Suter, a Scotsman and the first ever ‘professional’ footballer to grace the field.

-Arjun Prakash

The Weekly wishes everyone an enjoyable break, and looks forward to receiving your contributions during it!