Curtain Call

The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Mr Shrey Nagalia. On this occasion, his friends, colleagues, and students share their thoughts on their time spent with him.

I have always found a friend and a brother in Shrey rather than just a departmental colleague. Perhaps this is the spirit of Doon which forces us to see beyond the formal relations; where professional boundaries are blurred and give way to a more natural feeling of shared beliefs. I have known Shrey both as a robust academician and a loving mentor. His passion for teaching the subject coupled with his intuitive wisdom in a variety of matters makes him an accomplished Master at School. SNA's intellectual grit as an English teacher in class, enthusiastic engagements in many forums at School, and profound sentiment for every speck and fabric of this community will always be fondly remembered.

-SPB

I got an opportunity to work with Shrey as House Master of Tata House and in that limited time, Shrey became one of my best friends. I will always sincerely appreciate his quality to remain firm on his beliefs even in the most challenging situations. The knowledge and experience he shared with me and the boys and the learning he bought in every Dosco cannot be compared with anything. Shrey also has a passion for drama, reading, and music. The boys appreciated his deep knowledge of Western Music. One of the best qualities of Shrey is that he has been a perfectionist and did not give up till the task was not up to the mark of being called excellent and this can be seen in the excellent plays which he directed. A trustworthy person with whom anyone could talk about anything without hesitation. His contribution to the School in various domains will always be remembered. As he moves on to his new venture, I wish him and his family the best for the future.

-ADN

A man of many hats, we have known Shrey as Master of English, Master-in-charge of English Drama, the Weekly, Public Speaking, Master of ToK and as Housemaster of Tata House. Shrey never minced any words, whether it came to voicing concerns of any kind or standing up for his colleagues and students. I have known Shrey for almost seven years now, and his fortitude amidst even the most adverse circumstances never fails to amaze me. He is an astute reader of boys' characters and to pass through the keen eye of SNA was no mean feat. Shrey was a hard yet thoughtful taskmaster who took everyone along with him for the exciting ride. I will miss our conversations over tea, the charming Mrs. Nagalia ever ready with her radiant smile and my most favourite Nagalias - Mr. Gatsby and little Zoya. Fare thee well, SNA, do your best, always!

-MLV

(Continued on Page 3)
**STREAMLINED SUCCESS**

**The School Swimming Team** participated in the 35th All India IPSC Swimming Competition. The following are the results:

**U-17 category:**
Jaisal Sahgal won a **Silver Medal** in 100m Freestyle.

**U-19 category:**
Aryan Prakash won a **Silver Medal** in 1500m Freestyle and a Bronze medal in 200m Freestyle.
Vinamra Agarwal won a **Bronze Medal** in 50m Butterfly.

A team comprising of Aryan Prakash, Vinamra Agarwal, Enaith Habibullah and Neil Bulchandani won **Gold and Silver Medals** in the 4x100 Freestyle relay and 4x100 Medley relay respectively.

**Congratulations!**

**CRACKING COLORS**

**The School Hockey Team** participated in the U-19 IPSC Hockey Tournament. The team won the **Bronze Medal**, with Aviman Singh winning the **Best Defender Trophy** of the Tournament.

**SCIENTIFIC SAVANTS**

The following are the results of **The Doon School’s Annual Science Competition Alpha**, held online from the 23rd to the 24th of July, 2022:

The School’s team comprising M. Asjad, Sriyash Tanita, Aadi Kandele, Arjun Mitra and Krish Agrawal emerged victorious.

Kudos!

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**READERS’ CHECKLIST**

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

Ahan Jayakumar: *Ecce Homo* by Friedrich Nietzsche

Aradhya Jain: *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan

GYA: *Omni Bus* by James Anderson

Aryaman Agarwal: *Ikigai For Teens* by Francesc Miralles

Omar Malik: *The Art of Public Speaking* by Dale Carnegie

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**THE WHO?**

Who is Armando Christian Pérez?

Rachit Jain: A Singer

Aditya Raj Sethi: A Footballer

Dhruv Gupta: An F1 driver

Armando Christian Pérez, known by his stage name Pitbull, is a Latin American rapper and singer. He is widely known for his breakout single ‘*I Know You Want Me*’ which reached number 2 on the Billboard Charts. The famous FIFA World Cup song ‘*We Are One*’, features the rapper as well.

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**Around the World in 80 Words**

The USA killed the leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in a drone strike in Afghanistan. The debris of Long March 5B, a Chinese rocket crashed over the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Droupadi Murmu, a tribal politician from Odisha, was sworn in as India’s 15th President, succeeding Ram Nath Kovind. The Indian Men’s Table Tennis Team won Gold at the Commonwealth Games 22. The Rupee fell to 79.41 against USD. Liverpool beat Manchester City 3-1 to win the Community Shield.

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**THE DOON SCHOOL WEEKLY**
At the dawn of the new season, football fans await the tense feeling of watching their favourite clubs give their all on the field. This year, the Premier League is anticipated to be one of the most exciting and unpredictable seasons in the football world. Through the pre-season, we have all observed every team’s performance over the past month, from teams like Liverpool to Nottingham Forest. Manchester City are the defending champions, but all the ‘big six’ teams have strengthened considerably.

The arrival of superstars has further raised the excitement levels. New hitmen have arrived at the red and blue champions, in Darwin Nunez (Liverpool) and Erling Haaland (Man City), respectively. Arsenal’s long rebuild is picking up steam, while Tottenham is experimenting with an array of new faces on the field. Furthermore, Erik Ten Hag seeks to get his revolution going at Old Trafford, while Chelsea under Tuchel can never be counted out.

Who wins it all? The ultimate question as always. Incredibly, it still looks like a two-horse race between the reigning champions City and Liverpool. Both of them have signed new world-class strikers and one major midfielder each. The clash between Darwin Nunez and Erling Haaland, both in their debut Premier League seasons, will be one to watch.

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Furthermore, along the course of the campaign, there are numerous little battles. Every year, Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola put everything on the line, and 2022–23 will be no different. I think Man City will have the upper hand going into the season because of their amazing signings this season and their world-class squad, while Liverpool, in my opinion, does not have a midfield good enough to win the league.

Behind the top two, there is an open field. Raheem Sterling and Kalidou Koulibaly were great additions for Chelsea, but they are struggling in the transfer market. Their transfer feud with Barcelona has caught the eyes of every football fan. Chelsea has added very few players under Tuchel, and his most expensive one, Romelu Lukaku, has already returned to his previous club. In an effort to reclaim a top-four spot, Manchester United and Arsenal are also making crucial purchases. The Red Devils have added an experienced midfielder with excellent playmaking quality and two defenders from the Eredivisie. The departure of Cristiano Ronaldo, though, is the most urgent concern. If he were to leave, the club would ideally need to buy a young attacker with loads of potential. So far, Arsenal has had a great transfer window, with the addition of Gabriel Jesus and Zinchenko (to name a few); this team has a lot of potential and has a great future ahead. The Spurs have had a memorable transfer window as Antonio Conte eagerly tries to close the gap with additions including Richarlison, Djed Spence, Yves Bissouma, and Clement Lenglet.

As always, the battle at the other end of the table never ceases to be enthralling. Last season, Brentford had a memorable first campaign, whereas underperforming Everton were made to toil till the end. The three promoted sides-Nottingham Forest, Fulham, and Bournemouth, will have to go with all they have. Out of the three, Forest has spent the most, which doesn’t guarantee them a spot in the Premier League.

Even though I am fairly certain about where teams will finish at the end of the season, I still think there could be a few upsets. After all, this is the Premier League, and as a football disciple myself, The Beautiful Game has always taught me to expect the unexpected. This PL season is shaping up to follow the same idea.

All Or Nothing

Veer Babaycon writes about the upcoming Premier League season.

Reminiscing about the loud and familiar sound of ‘Bache - no’, the ready jokes and frequent talks resonating within Tata House shows what deep impact SNA sir has had on us. A heart made of steel, I will miss how he always uplifted everyone’s spirit, not just with his treats, but also by taking care of everyone’s needs in the House and making us feel truly at home. I have been lucky to learn from SNA sir and soak in his English expertise and the long feedback he used to give on my answers. He is an empathic listener and one who speaks with passion and elegance. From propagating his philosophy of growth and narrating his elaborate adventures of cuisine to teaching us the finer things in life, SNA Sir has made sure that he leaves an everlasting impression in the minds of everyone he met, not to mention the melting description of his weekends and college days that no one ever got enough of. I wish him nothing but the best for the next challenge he takes on and wish all the best to his family too. When I speak, I do for the House, that the flashing grin on his face, when we did something wrong, will be dearly missed and I hope to knock at his door again, but this time with some stories of my own.

-Tejas Sharma
Summer In Germany

Yashovat Nandan shares his experience from an exchange in Germany.

It almost feels as if it was just yesterday when I was on a plane to Germany, not really knowing what to expect, but nonetheless excited for what the future had in store for me. Although I’m back to School now, with a ton of memories and a lot of stories to share, it still feels a bit hard to condense my enriching exposure to German culture in just a few hundred words.

Just as I expected, everyone there was extremely welcoming and had countless questions about India’s rich and diverse heritage. I also quickly noticed that some aspects of life there were quite similar to Doon, however, others were vastly different. They too had short mid-term like trips every few months and I was lucky enough to be able to attend one of these trips where we went trekking to a stunning part of western Germany. Filled with hills and ancient castles, it was a truly wonderful experience. Whether it was exploring the small towns or having a barbecue on the bank of a river, it really made me realise how important it is to take a trip together with your class.

Their academic rigour was however lacking. Doscos tend to be quite particular with their academics and this was not the case there, both the teachers and the students seemed quite relaxed, although they did have some interesting subjects such as Latin and ancient Greek. They placed a great amount of emphasis on sports and co-curricular activities, with extensive facilities dedicated to music and art. They also had a rowing club, which was something new I was able to try on the trip, although I was dismayed to find that it was not nearly as easy as it looked and it really required an extraordinary amount of strength in one’s forearms. Having learned German in school for two years I was also eager to learn how fluent I was in the language truly, and although I was not disappointed, I must say that I was not able to hold a conversation for too long. However, all of my classmates were extremely helpful and took it upon themselves to teach me a bit more of their language including some more colourful words and phrases.

And for something that started off with a whole lot of uncertainty, due to delays in the arrival of my visa, my time spent on exchange in Germany will probably be one of my most cherished experiences for a long, long time to come.

A Valuable Visit

Yuven Kamdar reflects on his summer program experience in Italy.

I recently went on a summer program to Bocconi University, Milan, for a course in Finance and Economics. This being my first time in Italy - or Europe for that matter - I was amazed at how different some other countries can be from ours. From the side of the lane they drive on to the food they eat, this summer programme proved to be a host of new experiences.

On my first day I was guided around campus and shown my classrooms. I walked around campus and met people from all over the world. Some of the people I most interacted with were the Russians, Italians, Turkish and Americans. Everyone was incredibly warm and welcoming. I was living in an apartment provided by the university and shared it with two others. They were from France and Poland and we were truly delightful company; our early morning breakfast conversations were specially fun and engaging. I now strive to achieve a similar standard of conversations with all my peers. Cleaning and managing my own room was surprisingly easier than I thought it would be. I woke up every day and made some breakfast, after which I got ready and walked to the university. After eating lunch there, I would come back home and study for a bit. Evenings were spent roaming around the city and using the iconic Milanese trams. The university also took us to a cooking class where we learnt how to make cannelloni and a bus tour which took us around Milan on an open-air bus.

As part of our academic syllabus, we had field visits to the stock market and the European Union. These company visits were very interesting as we got to meet some of the people in charge of running the markets and could ask them questions as well as hear more about the E.U. and its role in the 21st century. The course was also quite in-depth and covered various topics like derivatives, stocks, banks and historical trends in Finance and things like the European Parliament and some economic concepts.

Overall, it was an amazing experience and really helped broaden my mind as I met people from different cultures and mindsets and also got an in-depth understanding of the world of Finance and Economics abroad.
Leashed

Tarun Doss and Vivaan Sood discuss School’s never-ending demands.

Are we released from our leashes, or are they just extended? Does this leash that keeps us grounded, focused, and attentive to our duties ever release us from its demands? While we may enjoy the relief that a term-end signifies, it hardly means that the exigencies of School cease to exist, or even that we are left to our own devices.

Notwithstanding that a holiday is described as a time without work or school, there remain certain demands that are carried over into this time and require our (albeit partial) attention. In A Form specifically, there is a widespread belief that if you do not study during your vacation, you will fall behind. Therefore, it should be no surprise that most of the vacations during this crucial year are spent hunched over a book, either frantically understanding a topic or practising questions ad nauseam.

So, if this is the reality for the majority of our students, what exactly is a holiday? A holiday, therefore, is a time when you are relieved of the immediate demands of School but are still curbed by its more passive, more unspoken demands.

In all this, however, we still haven’t answered the question: why? Why are we obligated to give in to the assumed pressure of School? Why do we choose to throw ourselves into our studies and sacrifice those well-earned two months of vacation? Does our progress in classes during the term leave much to be desired? Or are the syllabuses of our subjects far too extensive to cover over four months?

To answer these questions, we must address how we tackle these problems during our holidays. There are certain activities, such as holiday homework (itself a contradictory term), that School stipulates as necessary and are more obligatory actions. Conversely, there are our own personal studies, in the form of revision, reading, and practice, that is not explicitly demanded by the School, but are understood as necessary demands that we undertake in order to play the Sisyphean task of “keep up”. The latter is a supposed exercise of our own free will.

However, if it truly was an exercise of our own agency, then the best students would not need to study or revise or work during their holidays and would instead enjoy a carefree vacation. However, as is evident with many of our own peers, this is not the case. Instead, what we imagine is our free will is actually influenced by a sense of urgency and feelings of inadequacy, hastened perhaps by our own peers and teachers, simply because the end result of those exams is paramount. This narrative is driven by the obsession with these results and the subsequent urge to grow up and take charge or responsibility in order to deliver successfully. There are, of course, also the spare cautionary tales of people who didn’t do so and their dire plight as a consequence.

Looking at the bigger picture, the question of free will in an educational system bounded by such unspoken regulations and norms is a pertinent one. In an environment in which each and every student is expected to make the utmost effort to achieve the best results in examinations to achieve the mysterious end goal of success, we must ask ourselves, is the need to be successful, truly, truly, worth 20 years out of our meagre 70?

The nature of success is defined by those whose experiences we are exposed to. An individual I know personally is not fond of the term “success” as it implies a failure as well. There is no failure in life; the act of living itself makes one’s life to be successful. In an environment bound by the unspoken expectations of the circumstances of one’s birth, it is imperative for one to break free of the narrative of success and see that knowledge is relative.

In conclusion, the reason why the School term extends beyond the stipulated term is so that a student of The Doon School can keep up with alternative modes of education, where students go to cram school at night and don’t spend even a second in non-academic pursuits. The nature of the education our school offers is holistic, à la an all-round education. However, one must realise that in a super-specialised society, such an outdated school of thought can no longer keep up with the modern demands that progress places on children. The modern-day educational system demands sacrifice, and it will refuse to serve you until you pay.

Saturday, August 6 | Issue No. 2646
The Week
Gone By

Saatvik Anand

With the holiday season coming to a close, the lush green campus of Chandbagh is once again bustling with activity as Doscos return from their two-month holiday, wistful and homesick. Although their arrival was greeted by ceaseless thunderous showers and an eye-opening Assembly by the Headmaster that left some of us reminiscing about the comforts of home, most Doscos are undeterred, and preparations for the strenuous four-month ahead are already afoot. With September seeming alarmingly close, IB and ISC books litter the studies of Sc Formers as they prepare for the much-feared Mid-year Trials with worries about predicted scores weighing down upon them. Meanwhile, the seemingly never-ending scourge of COVID-19 is slowly calming down (one hopes), and earlier this week, parents were seen bidding farewell to C and D Formers with heavy hearts and long faces as they bade farewell to their sons. After successful trips to the fields of Ajmer and to a certain rival (boys’) school in Dehradun itself, the MUN cohort are busy pulling out their suits and ties one last time for a rather unfortunate online DSMUN. With football season commencing, the loud instructions of PE Masters fill the air once more, while the sounds of hockey sticks clashing are replaced by the aggressive grunts and panting of Doscos. Late-night ‘ScL swimming sessions’ of yore have now been substituted by twenty-minute house practices in the recently-renovated swimming pool as boys prepare for the upcoming Inter-House Swimming Competition. The courts can be seen buzzing with Doscos preparing for tournaments as they practise for any adversity that might not involve the incessant rains. Keeping in mind the busy term ahead, I advise my fellow Doscos to gear up and wish them the very best of luck with the term ahead!

Crossword | Famous Words From Other Languages

Across:

4. An absolutely essential piece of equipment for hiking and trekking.
6. A person who starts a business to make money.
9. This type of warfare was particularly notable in the Vietnam War.
10. The practice of singing a song’s lyrics on your own, without the original vocals.

Down:

1. This defines the style of a particular media.
2. A word derived from Chinese, this is a type of natural disaster.
3. Notoriously known for bothering celebrities in public spaces, you won’t find one without a camera.
5. An educational institute for kids generally younger than five or six.
7. These letters often found in invitations, is actually an acronym for a French phrase.
8. Often associated with Shurikens, they are a type of Japanese Assassins.

Source: https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/#top

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