

# The Doon School WEEKLY

T sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot August 9, 2025 | Issue No. 2746



#### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Historical events that took place this week.

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#### THE OBSERVER'S REPORT

A summary of the previous meeting of the School Council.

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#### THE WEEK GONE BY

Incessant rain, news from the YEC and the run-up to DSMUN.

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## The Ninth

Creative

#### Sumer Gill

The Inferno by Dante Alighieri describes the writer's fictionalised journey through Hell, guided by the ancient Roman poet Virgil. In the poem, Hell is depicted as nine concentric circles of torment located within the Earth.

Seven was survivable. Long, monotonous, exhausting. But it had shape, edges. You could map it, walk through it, reach its end and live to see another day. Eight didn't arrive — it bled onto the page. No ripple, no warning. One more hour folded in like a second spine. Everything began to echo.

And then? Nine.

Not much more. Not much longer, just... deeper. The spiral didn't tighten, it just collapsed into itself.

I step into the first circle with somnolence and denial etched into my mind. I move like something yanked forward, not something that walks. The room hums softly. Nothing hurts. I think my name is called, and I reply, mumbling. The chalk scratches the board. I write a line, but I don't know what it says. I write another. The light from the window flickers like it's scared to enter. The room should not exist. But it does. And within it, us.

The second circle hums louder as my body starts to realise itself. The neck, the gut, the weight behind the eyes. Time becomes a measurement of pain in the abdomen. Everything begins to sway. The chair, the fan. Me. I start counting the things around me.

The noise outside, the poignant smell of burnt toast, and the lonely titter of a bird that has lost its way. And then, something truly extraordinary occurs.

Voices return, movement quickens. Someone calls it a hiatus, but I don't think the word fits anymore. It's not freedom. It's just another sound in an empty hall. People laugh, but it's not laughter I can trust. I say something, anything, leaving my mouth strangely shaped. The food tastes like nothing, which is frankly better than it tasting like something. The bell rings, and everyone synonymously moves the same way.

The third circle lands heavily. Pages reappear. Names, diagrams, and a list of instructions that feel too fast. I follow. Not because I understand, but because I do not want to be seen not following. The pen is faster than the thought and the thought, slower than the voice. The page fills. I keep writing, and stop reading what I write. The pages fill themselves. Those around me seem to have been sucked in too. The air is light but the uneasiness is steady.

The fourth and fifth are where time loses its tentacles. It stretches in some places, collapses in others. You begin to forget what came before. A board, a word, a set of bullet points. A revolution, I think. Or a formula? Everyone is quiet: they are trying, struggling. No one is thinking. I look around and see

myself mirrored in every other seat. Each seat urging for solace in the lightness of the white cotton. An unbegotten dream too close to imagine and too far to reach.

Recess again. But not really. People move like the air is thicker. The floor feels slanted. A boy spills something. No one laughs. I eat too fast and don't remember the taste. I say something and regret the sentence before it ends.

The sixth always begins warm, comforting. The diagrams promise a logic that feels sympathetic, systematic and structured. Arrows point toward understanding. But the understanding is obscured. The dots don't connect. Something is said, but I look up and forget. I nod anyway. I always nod now. Between nods, the mind is heavy and the tongue laden with the after-taste of something I can't quite pinpoint.

The seventh is cold. It arrives fully formed, with symbols instead of words. The whiteboard looks the same to me, no matter what's written on it. I remember a time when I found solace in this. That thought feels like a story someone told me.

Something alien. Someone I used to know: a boy who cared, a boy who solved. I wonder what happened to him... He stands, he sits, he moves from one sorrow to the next without as much as a second glance.

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## This Week in History

**1905 CE**: The Swadeshi Movement against British rule is formally launched in Calcutta, India.

**1914 CE**: Great Britain formally enters World War 1, following the German invasion of Belgium.

**1944 CE**: Anne Frank's family is found by the Gestapo in Amsterdam and deported to a concentration camp.

**1945 CE**: The United States drops an atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing over seventy thousand people.

**2012 CE**: NASA probe vehicle Curiosity lands on Mars, on a mission to transmit images of the planet's surface.

#### READER'S CHECKLIST

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

**RDG**: *Heart Lamp* by Banu Mushtaq **AST**: *Moral Ambition* by Rutger Bregman

Raajdeep Paliwal: The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari by

Robin Sharma

Uday Sardana: Can't Hurt Me by David Goggins

#### LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:

**Ayaan Raghuvanshi**: *The Less I Know The Better* by Tame Impala

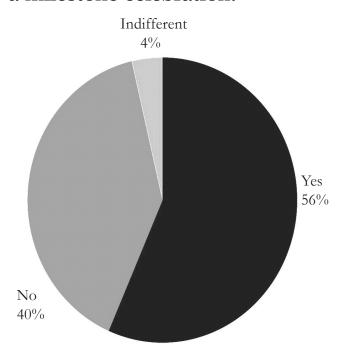
Omar Malik: *Lose My Mind* by Don Toliver Rehhan Chadha: *One More Try* by George Michael Aryan Pandhi: *Light My Fire* by The Doors

"

In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.

Sun Tzu

## Do you think the DS 90 should be a milestone celebration?



(191 members of the School Community were polled).

#### **UNQUOTABLE QUOTES**

Never become a psychologist.

HTA, paradoxical.

Ma'am, I also know a pickup line.

Ayan Dhandhania, rom-com expert.

### Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump hits India with a high 50% tariff for Russian crude oil buys. Stanford University fired over three hundred sixty employees, citing budget constraints. Tesla launched its premier charging facility in India. Many are feared to be trapped after a cloudburst triggered flash floods and heavy rains in Uttarakhand. The former Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shibu Soren passed away. India secured a thrilling victory against England by six runs at the Oval, ending the test series with a draw.



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The eighth isn't silence. It's something beyond it. A stillness that is swallowed by its own sound. I don't even know what the subject is anymore. The voice speaks slowly, gently, almost soothingly. The page in front of me is halffull of shapes, scratches and perhaps my imagination of utopia. I can't tell if I drew them. No one moves; there is no confusion now. Only empty continuation, dull consistency, and a need to stick to myself in this gloomy hour. The fire within burns for more fuel.

And the ninth.

You don't enter it. You discover that you've always been there.

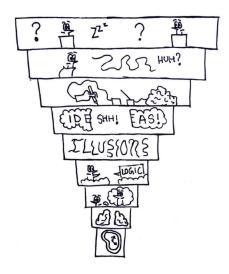
There is no before. Only now, in this room, this chair. You are already sitting, writing. Already too far from the start to find it again. The fan turns once. The board is blank. The board is full. The board is blank. My name looks unfamiliar in my handwriting. I trace it again, but it's worse. I cross it out, looking at my hand. It looks back at me like a stranger. Someone asks a question. I flinch. Maybe the voice was too loud? The teacher smiles. Or perhaps she doesn't. Maybe it's just the shape of their face now. I try to glare at the clock. I forget how long I've been doing that.

The bell rings. No one stands.

Everyone waits for someone else to move first.

There are Nine now.

And the last one has no door.



## The Observer's Report

Daksh Singh and Rehhan Chadha report on the recently held School Council meeting.

The School Council convened for its first meeting of the term on July 24, 2025. The session proved to be reflective, marked by candid deliberation, differing perspectives, and a collective intent to enhance the functioning of the School.

The opening motion addressed the growing scale of inter-school events. The DHM expressed concern over a select group of students repeatedly representing the School, leading to limited opportunity for wider student involvement. He also raised the issue of academic compromise and administrative strain, noting a shift towards quantity over quality. Echoing this, the Headmaster warned of the dangers of overextension, citing burnout as a natural consequence of spreading oneself too thin, and concluding that students may continue participating provided their commitments remain sustainable.

The next point on the agenda, raised by Tata House, was the lack of clarity around the Tutorial budget and the structure of birthday treats. Members highlighted the merit in students coordinating with Tutors, describing it as a valuable exercise in planning and responsibility. The Headmaster agreed, reinforcing the idea of preserving the spirit of the Tutorial system by requesting the DEP to release a formal structure, accessible to all Tutorial groups, regarding the division and allocation of Tutorial funds, while also supporting a clearer plan for budgeting and execution for the Tutors.

A motion from Hyderabad House proposed the revival of the *Blue Society* — a once-active group aimed at supporting non-teaching staff and their

families through organising on-campus activities and excursions such as staff picnics, matches and movie screenings. The idea stemmed from interviews during The *Weekly's* Labour Day issue, where long-serving staff fondly recalled outings and sports days. The Council acknowledged that while much support happens behind the scenes, a formal channel for recognition is overdue, despite the logistical challenge proposed by much of the support staff not residing on the School campus anymore. The motion to establish a core committee for the same was passed unanimously.

Tata House representatives voiced concerns about the practicality of morning hygiene routines, with many finding it unfeasible to shower within the limited time frame. The Headmaster and DHM clarified that no such restriction existed, though practical challenges were acknowledged. A proposal by Tata House to slightly adjust the morning schedule in order to accommodate this need was well received, and has been reviewed by the Secretary, School Captain and the DHM. It has also seen a discussion in the Housemasters' Council.

The final discussion revolved around School publications. The Secretary proposed shorter, monthly issues in the format of reader's digests to boost readership. While the idea of merging publications was suggested, it was met with firm resistance from the Headmaster and DHM and many other committee members, who urged consultation with the Editors and Masters-in-Charge before any restructuring. With no further business on the table, the meeting was adjourned.

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# The Week Gone By

#### Krishiv Jaiswal

In what might be the most predictable plot twist since the selective enforcement of infamous 75% rule across sports teams, the football schedule was tweaked for the millionth time, much to the dismay of the Gentlemen in spikes. But, as is tradition in August (and sometimes even in class), the rain had our backs. The Main Field saw more puddles than passes, and the only real winners were the 50+ students nursing knee injuries. At this rate, one more downpour and we may as well rechristen it the "CDH Poolside Turf," though the name is still under review.

Meanwhile, the *Umbrella Academy* hit record highs as thick grey clouds made frequent and heavy visits across campus. Navigating the mossy bricks and slippery tiles became a full-body workout.

On a more spirited note, the Young Entrepreneurs' Conference kicked off amid a Delegate Dance crisis, which ended faster than the DSMUN "stints" we're bracing ourselves for. Despite the Chairs and Stage Committee members pulling a vanishing act during committee, the sheer enthusiasm and effort from the Secretariat made YEC a resounding success.

As for the best committee, dear Editor, perhaps it wasn't in the committee rooms at all. Maybe the real best committee was the friendships we strengthened on the dance floor. Stay tuned though, Season Two drops on August 12, this time an away game at the Dalanwala Camp Nou; the Prefects seem to be buzzing. The rest of us? Not so

Speaking of buzzing, Housemasters have already started sending mails with an actually scary list of absences, to which I say "Alright, alright, alright." It seems like attendance has become a daily gamble — between your YC reminding you to change it, your Tutor reminding you it wasn't changed, and Veracross reminding you that inner peace is overrated.

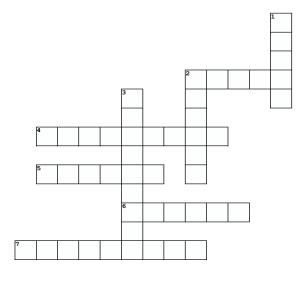
**DSMUN** Secretariat operating at full throttle, and sleep is already being debated as either a basic human right or a redundant suggestion. Meanwhile, Juniors are in fierce competition for the coveted title of chitboy, which has been interesting to watch.

That's it from me this week, assuming I survive the next. If not, feel free to submit this as my CAS reflection. And remember, as long as the dice keeps rolling, your six will come. Someday. Soon.

## Crossword | Films with sequels

- 2. An animated series following a green ogre and his donkey friend.
- 4. Critically acclaimed to be one of the best movies of all time, this movie follows the world of Don Vito Corleone.
- 5. This dystopian thriller saw Keanu Reeves play 'Neo.'
- 6. This famous movie stars Tom Cruise as a US Air Force fighter pilot.
- 7. This superhero movie series saw Tom Holland, Tobey Maguire, and Andrew Garfield playing the lead role.

- 1. This sports series featured Sylvester Stallone playing the title role.
- 2. A horror series following protagonist Sydney Prescott.
- 3. A historical drama set in Ancient Rome, with its sequel released in 2024.



7. Ѕрідегтап 6. Top Gun 5. Matrix 3. Gladiator 4. Godfath 2. Ѕстеат 2. Shrek **1**. Коску υwou

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Source: https://www.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/

#### Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/



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