

#### THINK ABOUT IT...

'Wise men speak because they have something to say. Fools because they have to say something.'

- Plato

#### **EDITORIAL**

Whenever the month of April approaches I have the same thought in mind. Everything that happened on my first day at school just flashes in front of my eyes. The reminiscence of that situation is still the dearest to me. In retrospect I wasn't feeling anything when I joined. Everything was so different, and time played such a game that it was difficult to remember anything from the past or think about the future. I was trapped in those moments and I still have the same feeling whenever I think about them. But that is only a distant memory now. Welham has transformed, or may I say moulded me into a completely different individual.

Being a Welhamite means having a completely different identity. Even after graduating from the school I will still represent the long tradition I behold; that of being a Welhamite. I may leave the school but the school will never leave me and somehow this thought only gives me comfort, especially when I realize that it is my last year in the place where I have grown into a true gentleman. And when I say this, I say it not just for myself but also on behalf of every Welhamite who shares the same feelings.

The exams are over and I'm pretty sure that everyone would be completely rejuvenated after an enthralling mid-term trip. Probably everyone would be going into a new class and many must have already made their plans for the upcoming year. Some must have decided to improve on their public speaking skills whilst others may have decided that this is the year when they finally try to master a sport. I particularly didn't mention academics because according to me studies cannot be compromised and they should be on the top of everyone's priority list.

Making plans is easy but living upto one's own expectations is one of the biggest challenges. The problem which everyone faces is 'procrastination'. The biggest impediment in a student's life is having a lackadaisical attitude. I cannot say that I have always completed all my work on time but one thing that everyone should know is that there are some things in life that no one can teach us. No matter how much a teacher might say that a particular assignment is important, we won't realise it until and unless we understand its significance ourselves. Most importantly, we shouldn't think too highly of ourselves. As the great philosopher Socrates rightly said that 'The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing'.

With the advent of the new academic year I would like to welcome all the new boys into the Welham family. My advice to them is that they might think that it was difficult enough to get into this prestigious institution and they have done their job, but trust me the journey has only begun. And at the same time I would like to urge others to make them as comfortable as possible. Lastly I would like to say to the Welham fraternity - It is time we start taking interest in sports and get over our infatuation with playing games.

Prabhapaar Singh Batra Editor in Chief



BE THERE, DO THAT

LAMPOON

### SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S DESK

As the month of April draws nearer, I am reminded of my first day at Welham. The uncertainty and fear of having to live with six hundred strangers in a strange place, which I experienced then, still lingers on in my memory. Somehow all of us are wired in such a way, that we tend to resist any change, no matter how beneficial it might be for us in the long run. Yet one should remember that it is only through change that we progress. Today, as I look back upon my first day at Welham, I feel glad that I managed to overcome the desire to resist the changes that were taking place in my life then. Probably, it is this perseverance not just on my part, but on the part of my parents as well, that has made all the difference.

My reflection on my first few days at Welham also reminds me of the amicable hospitality that I received here. As we welcome new members into the Welham fraternity this month, I want you to assist each of these new students so that they are able to blend in with all of us at the earliest. To the new students joining us, I say this: no matter how difficult this journey might look in the beginning, a few years down the line, you will be grateful that you have something as precious as Welham, something you will cherish throughout your life.

As for me, this April will mark nine years of my stay at Welham. Nine years is a huge time to spend in a boarding school. Yet, today no two meals in the Bethany, no two debates in the LRC, and for that matter, no two strolls on the 'Marine Drive' feel alike. Each time I do whatever I have been doing for the past nine years, there is always something new to learn and cherish. What intrigues me the most is how we often undervalue a lot of great things in our life, probably because they have been there for a long time. A lot of us at school consider it a privilege to wear civil clothes on the campus whilst the actual privilege that only the six hundred of us have out of the entire 7.4 billion people in the world is the honour of wearing the brown blazer. Each year, hundreds and thousands of students from across the country aspire to earn this privilege that we already possess. Its time that we start taking pride in who we are, what we do and most importantly, what we represent.

#### Dear Mr Casey,

I find it strange to reach out to your soul and not directly to you. You were always a constant on my many trips to Dehradun. Cicero once said that the life of those who have passed is placed in the memory of the living. Our memories go back to 1997 at the Lawrence School, Lovedale. Like the Welhamites who are reading this, I too studied at boarding and I must say that as young boys in school our stomachs were central parts of our existence. We never told Mr Casey but we were happy with what we got and a big part of that credit goes to him! I still remember the Fried Chicken on Thursdays, the trips to his bakery to try and get some cake and icing to be had on warm buns, the Sunday dosa breakfasts, the Channa Bhaturas....with the good we also sang wicked songs when the sambar got to us– like this –

The biscuits in Lawrence, they say are mighty fine!

One rolled of the table and killed a friend of mine!

Oh I am sick of this Lovedale life.....and so on.

All conversations among Old Lawrencians circles around to the food. The meals were when we had some of our best times. And Mr Casey was right at the heart, or would it be inappropriate to say, right at the stomach of it?! (We, Lawrencians, and I suspect Welhamites? would never have admitted to being happy with food while we were in school! And now even if we wanted to tell him in person we cannot....and it seems strange to speak about someone who was so full of warmth!)

I got to know him more in my final year at school when we were appointed Prefects as that meant we were at the High Table every week and were central conduits for conversation about the food. Mr Casey had called all of us home for a hearty meal in the week after we became Prefects. I used to pull his leg about how the meal was designed to buy our favour. In school I remember him being open to suggestions. And incorporating some of them. I am sure he was the same with the Welham family...

It seems strange that I will not get to see him when I visit Welham Boys anymore. It really is too soon to be saying bye. When we started One Step Up it was from Welham and as we navigated our way through Welham, and through schools across the country, it was always heartening to come back to Welham and see his smiling face and get that big bear hug and of course a hearty meal.

Mr Casey will be missed. Our prayers go to the family and the Welham fraternity.

#### Mohit Gupta



On behalf of Team One Step Up who has had many a meal at Welham Boys School and has had the pleasure of building career plans with the boys since September 2009.

Mr Casey fed us through these past decades....and we are grateful.

Shiv Dewan

On behalf of the entire Welham community, we offer our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Casey's family. His sudden demise has been a great loss for all of us. Life has a way of going on, but his memories will remain with the school for a long time to come. Rest In Peace, Mr. Casey, and thank you for all those lovely meals you provided us with for so many years

- Editor

# A Light in the Darkness

No child ever drank deeper of the cup of bitterness than you have. Away from your parents, the people whom you love the most. You have found yourself a home in this place of knowledge and opportunities. Don't let these opportunities go waste and this knowledge be in vain. As for knowledge, it is the power, or perhaps a better word is happiness. To have knowledge is to know that true ends false and makes the croaked straight and the rough places smooth.

In this institution opportunities are like fruits in a tree. They rarely fall on you and even if they seldom do, they get picked up. You hang your stockings in the hope of Santa bringing you the gifts of opportunities without realizing you are your own Santa.

To lie or not to lie is not the question of compromise; you either lie or don't lie. You must wage war against all the obstacles that plague your path to achieve something you want. If the cause is true enough, then even in the face of severe difficulties you should never back down because even demons run when a good man goes to war. Jump over all the walls (pun intended).

In the irrevocably dark night, when all is lost and you are alone. Remember there is always someone watching, it's your inner belief, your self - confidence which will bring forth the light of hope. Silence and darkness will sit in your soul, and then will come hope, with a smile.

Every time I step into the school, I like to describe it in different way because it's beautiful in all its aspects on every occasion. All these beautiful aspects have taught me things that will always remain in my heart as memories because every day at Welham, is special.

Varun Gupta and Yaksh Sheron



### **BE THERE, DO THAT**

As a Welhamite, you have only got a little time to fill your memory lane with all those moments which will make you smile. Smile, every time, whenever you will look back at these precious years of life.

Once, Buddha said," Do not dwell in the past, do not think about the future: just live in the present and breathe". Breathe, because that is the first step towards making memories. Breathe, not alone, but together with your friends and family. Live the present, because it is going to shape your existence and will embellish your momentary life. Live, because dying is not an option, because life is voluntary and Welhamites aren't quitters, Welhamites are strivers. talk about how a monotonous life is a life without meaning. Life is not attuned to boredom but we ourselves cause that boredom to set in. Life becomes boring, when it loses its authenticity, when people start to follow the bandwagon and that's when mediocrity begins to wrap its tentacles around you.

You are dead when you are connected to the mad crowd. You are dead when you don't want to do something different, something crazy. Life is not about finishing various TV shows and logging onto Facebook at regular intervals. Life loses its meaning when you no longer do something that gives you happiness, when you no longer care about what is actually going on in your life.

Be there, do that because simplicity isn't

the ultimate form of complexity anymore (its only simplicity). Spend time with your friends and family, because life doesn't give second chances and at the end, you will regret that you were not a part of something exciting that your friends did or when your mother laughed hysterically at the family get together while you were sleeping, because of course, for you, that was more productive.

Be there, do that because you have not been there and done that. Make sure to be there and do that because when you will look back, you might have a hard disk that is full but you will most certainly have a childhood that doesn't have any memories.

Rohit Chander X-C

#### When I talk about being alive or dead, I

**IS CONTINUITY AVAILABLE?** 

We say that death is the 'unknown'. If we do not know what death is then why are even afraid of it in the first place. What is it that triggers life and puts an end to it?

Life is a process of continuity in memory, conscious as well as sub-conscious. Death however is nothing but an opposite of life. But it would be unfair or if I may use the word 'incorrect' to define this unknown because when we do not know what death is then how can we define it?

Only if we can know what death is while we are living, we shall have no problem in defining death. We are afraid of death because we cannot experience it while we are living.

If we don't know what death is, then why do we separate it from life? The answer is very logical. We separate life and death because our mind only accepts what is known. We think about death because we want to give the community an answer. But we are mere bystanders to death and hence we can only observe the unknown.

Why are we curious about death? Why do we even care about it? This is because of the greed that is instilled in man. It is because we want to continue and not cease to exist. But there is no one to remind our race that which continues has no renewal. Hence, the new cannot be there where continuity exists. Then who puts an end to the continuity of life?

"You want to know God because you have lost the song in your heart and you pursue the singer and ask him whether he can teach you to sing."- J. Krishnamurti from 'The first and last freedom'

God is in what is. Evidently, every unknown is in what is. More, precisely,

God is not the unknown; rather, he is the unknowable. I am being so precise because the moment we translate 'unknowable' to 'unknown' it ceases to be unknowable.

I can only conclude that God is unknowable and hence cannot be thought about. Therefore instead of thinking what God is, let us go find the truth because it is the truth that liberates, not our strife to be free. But even to find the true meaning of life one needs to discuss abstract issues like the existence of the unknowable, or God. All of these exist in the present. But as Addons Budley said, 'Now can't be understood by a man who is caught in the net of time'.

I would like to end with this. 'In ending there is renewal; while in continuity there is death, the inevitable. In continuity there is decay.'

#### Shubh Badhwar



### WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF SPOKEN ENGLISH?

'English' now, is a universal language. Everything we do, we see and everything we read is in English. Schools, offices, interviews, and examinations - none of them can function without this fundamental necessity. Also, conferences and meetings with people coming from all over the world take place in English, as it is the only language we can have in common and understand. For example-People from France cannot speak in native language while conversing with an Indian. Hence, the role of English comes into play. What is the importance of it? The Government of India also trains illiterate children to read, write and speak in English in the hope that they might have a bright future. Focusing on English might not be the sole factor for

success but it sure is one of the most important ones. Various countries have their own mother tongue, which cannot be understood by everyone but English is a language, which is universally taught and is therefore of utmost importance. Speaking in English does matter as the future is based on it. Fighting for someone's right or leading a political party, giving an interview or address to someone or even teaching, English plays a pivotal role in all of them.

One doesn't have to be the best to speak in English. We only become a perfectionist when we practice something continuously and work hard on it. We have to try, since it is such an important part of everyone's lives now. Even I have not mastered conversing in

English, hence I wrote this article to express my feelings and ideas regarding this issue. The problems I face, when I am not able to express what I think, when I don't know proper grammar or when I get embarrassed in front of a crowd. The only way to avoid this is to make an effort of using the language because practice is the only way forward. Make mistakes now so that in the near future you don't regret it, because you might not be able to learn later. To conclude, I would just like to say that spoken English is like a sword, the more you chip it, the sharper it gets. Try speaking in English because even if you are wrong- 'Mistakes are the foundation of success'.

Varad Venkat 8-A

### LOOKING AT THE WORLD FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE

This term, Mr. Raghu Rai, addressed the school. One of the most renowned photographers in Indian history addressed the school. He enlightened us about a lot of things and of all of them I was truly and inherently inspired by one thing he said. This was about looking at the world according to your perspective.

Now many of us will say that all people obviously look at the world through their own eyes, but actually, we look at a lot of things according to someone else's point of view. I mean to imply that we don't really have a perspective; it is just a borrowed fragment of someone's imagination. An example that might seem explicitly coherent lies in the world history. It is about the Nazis and what the Nazis thought about the Jews. For the Nazis, the Jews were no better than a rat. So even if someone was not an anti-Jew, a possibility arises that his perspective would be changed had he come under the influence of the extremist ideologies of the Nazis.

The above example had a great magnitude in occurrence on a very large scale but in today's world many such things are done in our day-today activities. One of the common examples is our parents convincing us to look at academics as a thing superior to other activities and we usually conform to that without even paying a though to it in most of the cases. Due to this, a lot of people aren't able to discover their true hidden talents and the light beneath the lamp keeps hidden. And despite us being aware of the fact that something lies within, we choose to do nothing about it.

Many people in our country are actually excellent sportsmen but due to their perspective of fearing the risk that is involved, which probably was instigated by one of the elders of his or her family, he/she chooses to let it go waste.

Secondly, many people are forcibly made to believe in certain things and many a times these people end up making mistakes which were actually against their choice. The best example of this is the time of our elections when people change the perspectives of others about political candidates, which obviously leads to the person election the wrong candidate and we all know what happens next.

Considering what I have written I suggest to everyone who reads this, to have a perspective of your own. Let go of conventionality and enter into a new world, a world of your own.

#### Chaitanya Motani IX-A

# PLEASE COME BACK

'My lovely sister' oh! What a phrase, It feels as if I am the lion and she is my mane. Never saw a girl more beautiful and elegant, In your remembrance, I write this vignette. Oh! God, how much I miss you, I cry thinking; I did not get a chance to even hug you. You were my life's most precious gem, It feels as if I am the tree and you are the stem. Please ask God and come back for me, So that we can spend our lives together in glee. If you come back, I promise we will never fight, If you ever get in trouble, I will protect you with all my might. If you come back, mama-papa will be so glad, There won't be any reason in our family to be sad. Can't wait to see that amazing smile again, Which would bring happiness and end my pain. But if you don't come back soon, I am afraid this little flower might never bloom. 'Sister', what a beautiful word,

I always wanted to love you and to be loved.

#### Arsh Beniwal



# THE WELHAM DREAM

I have been in this institution for almost six years now. I have seen it change; I have seen it grow from strength to strength. It has grown from being in the top 15 schools to being amongst the top three in India. But today when I see Welhamites, I see that they do not take pride in the name of the school. I feel we are mocking the legacy left by our predecessors and we are insulting all the stakeholders of Welham. It is heartbreaking and even abhorrent to see Welham as just another school!

One of the reasons behind this according to me is that somehow the school spirit is being overshadowed by house spirit. This might be because we are repeatedly assuming proprietary of our house. Be it debates, matches or altercations with friends as to which house is the best. So somewhere we do not realize that the house is a part of our school and not he visa versa!

This reminds me of a very common Indian style of cleanliness. We Indians are cautious about cleanliness but it is often restricted to our own homes. We might try to find a dustbin to dispose waste but will throw a wrapper almost anywhere outside our home. A similar thing can be seen in our school because we have yet not attained that sense of civic duty and secondly because we the Welham family have not yet acknowledged the place where we sleep, eat, study, live and grow as the future of tomorrow as 'home' (But somehow as soon as the students reach class 12th, these concerns are automatically acknowledged and they become so conscious and prudent).

It is my strong belief that until and unless this spirit, this 'respect' for our school and the pride of being a Welhamite does not come from the core of our hearts, no amount of counseling or inspiring words (like mine maybe) will make this WELHAM DREAM a reality. Not until you take a break from your 'busy schedule' and think about "What happened?"

Shresth Toshniwal



### FROM DEFEAT TO VICTORY!

It was 8 at night on a not so usual day in 1981, and I was thinking of the first race of my life that was the day after. I was edgy and frightened about what would happen. I was a novice. Unlike the others, I didn't have the spikes, nor did I know how to start a race like others, but I slept, as I had confidence in myself. The wait was over, and there I was, ready at the starting point.

Cut to the last lap of the race.

It was the last lap of the race. I was leading, and my knees were buckling, but my mind said to not stop but carry on. Then suddenly a sharp stone pierced my foot. I was hurt and fell. I lost in a jiffy.

The defeat thwarted me and I almost lost hope. Since then my coach started to inspire me and motivated me a lot. I have committed to memory what he once said, "Mistakes and defeats make a man stronger than before". I deliberated upon the very peculiar thought and decided to give it a second try. The next race was after a month and I practiced harder and stronger than before so that no stone could take away anything from me.

The judgment day came. Fully charged,

I was totally ready for the upcoming challenge. My heart beat rose. 'On your mark, set.....' the official shouted 'GO!', and so it began. I put my heart and soul in that one race. It was my last lap, I could see the finishing line, and without any hindrance, I won.

Because, "Hope is a good thing, may be the best thing, and no good thing ever dies."- Red (Shawshank Redemption)

all these people I only have one message ' Anyone can sit and criticize but not everyone can perform and counter that unjust criticism.'

As the Sports Captain of such a prestigious institution and as the holder of such a great legacy I urge each and every Welhamite to enter the sports field and make the most of his stay at Welham.

Now moving on to the ongoing sports within the school. The Basketball Team and the Hockey team have been practicing rigorously for the past month. Both the teams will be staying back in school during the midterms to prepare for their tournaments. The Oli hopes that the Welham Basketball Team will be able to win the 'Big Three' and do the school proud. As for the hockey team, the Kandhari Hockey Memorial Tournament will be a great challenge but looking at the practices and the determination of the players I believe that they will be able to overcome this obstacle.

Signing off (until next time)!

Hardic Gupta Sports Captain XII-COM

# Ringside VIEW

The Basketball team won the Golden Jubilee yet again The Hockey Team lived up to its potential by reaching the finals of the Kandhari Hockey Memorial Tournament

The Swimming team just cannot stop winning medals

The Skating Team had a stupendous year

The Athletics Team clinched the Marching Trophy for the third consecutive year.

As I sat down to write this article, I thought 'How did our school perform so phenomenally in the sports arena last year?' As I step into the shoes of my predecessor and into the shoes of a great legacy I think to myself 'How will the school fare under my leadership? Today when I step onto the field, I see only a modicum amount of Welhamites. Even during the games time hostels seem to be more occupied than the fields and the courts. All that an average Welhamite does during the Games is sleep in the hostel or criticize the school in some way or the other. To



### WELHAM NOW

- The Mega Spellathon took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the spellers of the year were **Prabhapaar Singh Batra**, Jayan Pahuja and Harsh Vardhan Singh.
- The Inter- house Arthur Hughes Senior School Debate took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March - Akshat Singh was adjudged as the Most Promising Speaker and Devansh Raheja was adjudged as the Best Speaker. Ganga emerged as the overall winners.
- The National Science Day was celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb at Welham Boys' School with 2 very experienced scientists of Dehradun and over a plethora of experiments explaining basic scientific concepts.
- A hilarious Comedy show by world renowned stand-up comedian **Anuvab Pal** took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February. He described various types of people in the world and addressed common things an Indian must have witnessed in his life.
- Varun Puri Inter-school Story Telling Competition was hosted by Welham Boys' on 29<sup>th</sup> February with over 20 schools participating from Dehradun. It was held in the memory of former school captain Varun Puri.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Mr. Brijnath came back with the installment of January of The Heroes of India series. It talked about the

life of the greatest Mughal Emperor, Akbar.

- On 17<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. Brijnath returned to inform us about our Heroes of India in February where he talked about Tansen.
- The Flow India Workshop for class 8th and 6th was held from 24-27<sup>th</sup> Feburary, 2016 which was the third and the final module of the 2015-16 academic year.
- On 6th February veteran photographer Raghu Rai talked to the students about creativity and the importance of keeping the child within alive always apart from his life and career.
- Mr. S Arora, a veteran teacher, talked about important aspects of life we should always keep in mind like indominatable spirit, honesty and much more.
- On 7th March, Class 8<sup>th</sup> went for a science field trip to Anchalic Vigyan Center.
- A Debating workshop was held on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> March, by a Delhibased lawyer, Shaurya Upadhyay which was the follow up session of the last workshop held in October, 2015.
- Sanveg Jain has succeeded Sheik Safwan as the new LRC Council Head for the year 2016-17.

# Debating Workshop

The craze for debating is spreading rapidly at Welham boys'; the debating society has been formed under Mr. Parth Parasher and more students want to pursue debating as a platform to express their thoughts and improve their speaking skills. Respecting this craze and enthusiasm a debating workshop was held in October with its follow up sessions on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. The workshop was conducted by advocate Shaurya Upadhyay who is a Delhi based lawyer and a distinguished debater.

The workshop was an educational one. Mr. Upadhyay talked about the formation of arguments to the features of Feminism. The

## **Wiphant**



The national science day is celebrated on the occasion of the very famous Indian scientist Dr. C.V. Raman's Birthday on the 28<sup>th</sup> march every year. This year our school celebrated the national science day in a very different manner from the ones that we had been celebrating previously. This time the celebration saw the participation of a very large group of students from the junior school and the senior school.

The excitement for the day could be seen in the posters that had been put up all over the campus; they depicted ideas from the very basic scientific facts to the very complicated hypotheses. In addition to all this, there were about 70 experiments that had been put up to commemorate Dr. C.V Raman's. The main themes of the experiment included

reactions.

The enthusiastic atmosphere was further graced by the auspicious presence of Mr. Bagchi, who helped in the presentation of the experiments. The never understood mysteries of science could now be understood through simple experiments. The event started with Mohit Gupta briefing the school about the experiment conducted by Mr. Bagchi.

The students displayed their experiments with a sense of responsibility towards them. The final presentation was crisp only due to the acquired knowledge and research. It was intriguing to see that how a class seven student could explain a complex theory in a very simplified form.

In totality, the science day was a huge success not only in terms of its presentation but also in terms of the knowledge that everyone attending it gained. A plethora of fun had been offered, which I guess, was appreciated and enjoyed by all. It gave us an opportunity to develop an interest in the subject and maybe make a career in it in the near future.

Chirag Agrawal ХС

students learnt about the various attributes of an argument in a debate, how a constructive is a brick to a debate and how to build on those constructives. The students were told what not to use in a debate for example, irrationality, emotion and logical fallacies. Mr. Upadhyay briefed the children about the different formats of debating such as, the Parliamentary form of debating and the Australian and American formats of debating.

The first two sessions in October were mainly about how to formulate a debate and the last two sessions were about using the first two.

In the follow up sessions in March, Mr. Upadhyay and the students discussed important concepts such as Capitalism, Feminism and Leftists. He also discussed the JNU issue and the Jat agitation in Haryana. The students expressed their thoughts about these issues and talked about Feminists and Leftists. On 3rd march an internal debate was held, which was judged by Mr. Upadhyay and Mr. Parasher. All the students spoke about censorship of

Internet and importance of emotions. This debate decided the participants of RIMC and Bishop Cotton debate.

Undoubtedly, these workshops are facilitating debating talent in the school and are helping on identifying the gems of debating in school. They should be held in regular intervals and more students should be encouraged to attend them.

Devraj Singhania 8-C

### **CLASS 8 LEADERSHIP CAMPS**

As only a few days left for the class 8<sup>th</sup> to become the new class 9<sup>th</sup> and more importantly, the representatives of the Middle School. We went for a leadership camp on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. We left early in the morning to attend the INME leadership camps at Shaheen Bagh Resort which is a scenic, British-era bungalow turned resort on the outskirts of Dehradun. After an hour's journey we received refreshments at the resort subsequent to which we were divided into two groups each with an experienced, freelance instructor.

After the orientation came to an end the first and most important question was put up - Who is a leader? What are his virtues? It was an intense session of debating and discourse, which was followed by two challenging, and very intriguing activities- putting marbles in a glass 'using a human' chain by using sliced pipes and forming a perfect square with the rope around the group with blindfolds on. These activity taught us various lessons, which included formulating a strategy, team building and cooperation. There after, we reflected upon how we performed in the tasks that were assigned to us. This lead to an analysis of our strengths and weaknesses. Thereafter we talked about participation, patience, practice and being proactive. We came to the conclusion that opportunities are something we should be looking for and grab as soon as even a single one comes our way. After this, we had another activity. The task was to cross an obstacle field with 3 ropes tied at different levels. It sounds quite simple, well, it isn't. Here is the catch. In groups of 16 our feet were tied to the people beside us, some were blindfolded and a few had glasses of water were filled and in order to successfully finish the task, the water was not supposed to fall.

It was a strenuous task. We tackled the ropes by either going over one of them or crawling sideways on our bellies. And oh! I forget mention the time limit of 15 minutes and the obnoxious restart if we broke any rule. After a delicious lunch, we now sat down and had another discussion. We were given time to identify the problems of our school and give a counter-narrative for them. Later we shared the problems and their solutions with the group; we also had a serious follow-up session in school. Towards the end, we received our final piece of advice which was to not let people around you deter you from your goals with a corresponding activity. After an enlightening experience, we returned home. This leadership camp was most certainly a fruitful one.

Shresth Toshniwal VIII-C

### LEADERSHIP CAMPS

Once the class was through with their promotional exams, they attended a leadership camp on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February which stretched over a periods of 3 days. We were escorted by our housemasters and the Student Development Inspector (SDI) to a camp near Srinagar Garhwal. The leadership camp was organized by 'Youreka' which has carried out many such workshops similar to this one regarding leadership.

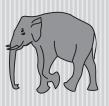
After a tiresome drive of 6 hours, we reached the camp where we were treated with some source of refreshments and an introduction of the organizing staff headed by Mr. Jason. The camp began at 6:30 AM with some tea and energetic exercises that were actually enjoyed by all. Later we were divided into 2 groups with 2 hours being together on one side and were made to play several activities blind-folded. These were followed but the learning outcomes of the activity as to how the concept of leadership was present in all the activities and understanding the different challenges that one faces and how one should tackle all those situations to succeed on life. Everyone knows that leadership is something that cannot be taught. It is something that everyone has to learn by himself. But, were we there. Was a question posed in everyone's mind that was later answered through the course of the day? The activities we did were tower building, and an activity that required a lot of team effort and coordinates, another one required us to listen to one's command and follow his instructions blind folded. We were also oriented on

the different qualities of a leader in form of a structure also known as E-STAR which include achievements, self confidence, respect for others, turnout etc. that makes others consider him as a leader. The entire orientation was followed by rapping in the afternoon by many boys which was done excellently and also for the first time with some motivation from their classmates, which was also appreciated by the organizers as it was the sole purpose of this activity and important characteristic of a leader. At night, we had 'camp fun' activities where we played some games and performed skits in groups of four.

The next day again saw us waking up at 6:30 AM and exercising. And after a hearty breakfast we again played a trust building game which made us realize the importance of trust in terms of business and also in general. The last moments in the camp were spent offering bread to the most important persons in our lives who have dome loads to help you.

Our take of the many, from the leadership camps was that one should always be optimistic and never form perceptions about ourselves or any other person as there is always scope for more.

Aakarsh Gupta XII-Commerce B



### THE RISING INTELLIGENTSIA

GENDER

EQUALITY IS

THE ONLY WAY

FORWARD

Before straightaway moving to say that gender equality is the only way forward, we need to understand the need for gender equality. The irrefutable verity that we still talk of gender equality is evidence that we have not achieved a state where all genders are considered equal; but then, why do we talk of gender equality? Why should we consider all genders to be equal? Why do we want fairer, more egalitarian societies? Simply put - It is the birthright of every human being to be treated as every other human being.

Unequal legal rights make women's lifestyle particularly violent. One of the most obvious forms of violence against women in the world is that of spousal rape. India's 2013 court ruling that rape laws do not apply to married couples (when the wife is over 16 years of age) clearly illustrates the sexual violence and ascendancy by males that women unfortunately remain exposed to. In countries like Iran, a wife can be divorced by her husband just by oral repudiation of the marriage, women are

not allowed to drive cars, they cannot leave the country without the consent of their husband or an elderly male citizen. People don't get to choose their gender ergo they shouldn't be discriminated against or favored on the basis of something which they didn't choose to be. If women have the same rights and opportunities as men, their mental horizons expand. As an equal partner in a family system, women will be able to make decisions and provide for their family just like the men. These skills and ethics can then be passed on to the children - both girls and boys - leading to further growth of society.

Discrimination on the basis of gender has widely been the case with women and is especially the case in India where people have only recently realized that women deserve equal opportunities as men, but there still areconservative societies who won't provide education to the girl child. Girls who might be skilled at some work are often misguided by the society and its views,

and here valuable talent is wasted. For example -The society believes that playing games is just for fun and one shouldn't try to make a career out of it. Now, a girl who has a real passion for gaming wants to pursue gaming as a career but is abstained by her parents because they believe that there is no scope in gaming and their thoughts are based on the stigma that an ideal family is one where women do not go to work. They stay at home, look after the children and devote the rest of their time to the husband when he comes home from his 9 to 5 job. They believe that a girl's talents are of no use after marriage and hence try to curb all interests and try to shift her focus to household work. This is just a small example explaining a small issue in this big world.

Something that usually doesn't get the limelight when talking of gender equality is the third gender. Eunuchs are not given employment and they have strived really hard to get acceptance in society. People of different societies don't realize that even they have their fair part to play in shaping the general people's thoughts. If people as a whole decide to change their thinking, then and only then will we be able to achieve a state of true social equilibrium. Providing viable solutions to this matter is easy but actual implementation of these solutions is difficult. Perhaps that is the reason we are still stuck at a stage that has been surpassed by many other countries. Gender equality is not giving women special privileges, as some often take it to be, but just giving them even grounds, the same rights as men.

Statistical data proves that India is still at a loss where woman empowerment is considered. According to a 2014 census, India has male-female ratio of 10:9; 65 per cent women are illiterate and only 24 per cent of the total working population of India is female. Due to the lack of education, India is below the world average literacy rate with only 74 per cent of the total population considered literate, and even less is properly educated. All this goes to prove that India is still lacking and we need to take our thought process up by several degrees. All this is because of gender inequality. The caste system is also a form of discrimination and it plays a role in this too. In a 2014 survey, 27 percent Indians admitted to practicing untouchability and due to that, Dalit women have to suffer double discrimination, one of being a woman and the other of being of a lower caste! This is not how we want civilization to function.

Gender equality is the panacea for half of our problems, and it is only feasible to try to make a sustainable, worldly environment in which everyone is happy, a world where everyone is content with his life. A world where people don't give that 'look' based on what they think of others. As noted earlier, it is more straining to bring the solutions into practice than it is to visualize a utopia, owing to the preset minds of the society. A major role in our way out would be of convincing people all over the world that they make up the society, the society doesn't make them. To educate the masses about the big mess that we have been cooking up and that it is time to move on.

People still don't see the necessity of women's education. People still don't care about what the girl wants. People are still apprehensive about same sex marriages. People are still heedful to the society's biased thoughts. We need change and it is up to us, the forthcoming generation, to bring that change.

Armaan Suhail XII- Com 'Reality' a word which has many clichéd meanings one can think of. Besides, time I would say reality in today's world is relative. Now what I want to put across is that reality exists in equal proportion and comparatively in lieu of the understanding of the human mind.

Many of us must have had really amazing dreams that would end up in one question when we wake up- was all that real? The brain has the tremendous capability to make you dream beyond your wildest imagination and sometimes in such a manner that it almost feels like you are living in the dream. The mind has different variations of reality and reality itself may have its different shades of variation. Reality can also differ from person to person. For a businessman avoiding bankruptcy may be the end of reality, for a sweeper a clean mop and a dirty mop may be reality or for a cat believing that a bowl of waste milk is kept for it at the window sill.

The human instinct states that what we can touch, feel, see and live is reality. But what If the instinctual reality is just a barrier and an illusion that only fogs up the insight towards the ability to see, feel, and live beyond the world of illusion. The mind is wired



What is reality? Mind and reality Interpretation of reality Desired reality Spiritual reality

Real reality

differently for everyone and the distribution of information of the stimuli travels differently in different human beings. This difference of information, retrieval and execution of the logical segment of the mind results in different interpretations of the reality. This difference of interpretation might just be the reason behind the ugly quote cases. They believe that truth and reality go hand in hand but the much debated upon topic bears a single outcome that there can be truth in a non-realistic event or incident and likewise there can be a reality which is independent of the truth itself. It all depends on the way you choose to look at it or allow yourself to look at it.

Reality that can be desired is what many people call the desired reality. Remember all those dreams you wished were true. Those modular specimens of creative reality exist in the very dimension you live in. To cut a long story short, the reality you desire results in a behavioral and thinking pattern that often pares the path for that 'desire reality' to become a true reality. The more you desire a reality the more you change to make it happen.

reality

Many leaders or icons who claim to be enlightened and 'claim' to be the perpetuators of divine reality shadow of the very own concept of spiritual reality. Spiritual reality of a person is upto him to discover because it is believed that spirituality is unique in each and every person.

PAGE OF LIFF

Though this reality is the most 'realistic' reality you can experience. It has the power and the divinity to influence your desired reality and always reflect upon one's virtues while making decisions in everyday life. Though it is very difficult to perceive or fathom but once tasted it changes the perspective of one's ability to look at life itself. Reality, no longer becomes something that one could feel or live. It becomes a virtually realistic garden for you with the ultimate power to make a difference and help others perceive reality of life in a better way.

Spiritual reality can easily be mistaken as the ultimate reality but it is not so. The ultimate reality is the real reality. It is the governing dynamics of all realities and all realities occupy little space in this reality. This reality is influenced at every instance, even while I write this article. It is not only through one person's version of reality and how they work to attain it.

The last and the final reality that exists is the 'self reality' or the reality of attaining the reality. This reality only describes the works of the people who work to attain their own personal versions of reality and is influenced by individuals. This reality may not be the supreme reality but in my opinion it is the most important. It consists of the various 'karmas' of the individual.

For a peaceful and satisfactory life all realities need to work in a perfect harmony. These realities are the very footsteps imprinted on the sands of time. They are pivotal for evolution, progress and just about anything that happens; but again what really happens? And what doesn't? Maybe that is just another food for thought.

Vedant Dewan IX-A

# An Indian Woman - A Wonder Woman!?

The father of this nation, Mahatma Gandhi once said "Intellectually, mentally and spiritually a women is equivalent to a man and she can take part in all the activities".

Shakti (Strength), Saraswati (knowledge) and Lakshmi (prosperity) are all goddesses we pray to everyday yet we fail to give the slightest form of respect to the goddess sitting in our houses. It is quite ironic that the people in this country portray so much devotion and faith to idols but fail to recognize the efforts of someone equivalent, who is solely taking care of each and every person of not only their family but also the society.

A woman is not only a mother to a child, a sister to a brother or a daughter to a father but in India, she is the biggest unsung hero. She becomes the light in the tunnel, a smile in our sorrows and a hand in the loneliness, and even though, subliminally we do know all of this we still fail to pay respect to them. As a mother, she takes care of her children supporting them in every aspect of life while also disagreeing everytime she is required to show the way. A sister is one who will always only think for you before herself and try to bring to you all the happiness in the world because no one is happier than her to see a smile on your face. A daughter as known to everyone is the most faithful being. Never looking for what she wants but always looking forward to give a helping hand to the parents. She can be called 'beta' but a son can never be called 'beti'. A woman is all of these. How do we fail to thank women when a mother's presence can cure the pain, when a daughter's presence can bring joy to the parent's faces and when a sister's presence can bring an end to all the atrocities you are going through?

From Sita in the Ramayana to Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi they have not been immortalized because of their sufferings but because the way they handled them. Their role in the upliftment of women in society is immense so much so that the husband of Rani Laxmi Bai is said to have worshipped her all along. I do not want you to take part in rallies for women upliftment, but I am just asking you to thank your mother everytime she makes your bed, thank you sister every time she gets a gift for you. The ones who are the closest to you are the only ones that can hurt you but if they are thankful to you and care for you, the it doesn't matter what the world thinks.

Megha Parmar IX-B

### The Privilege of Being Underprivileged

Today, we are living in a society where everyone feels that they are underprivileged. It may actually be the underprivileged one or the privileged one. Basically, the definition of a 'privilege' for something today is something that they don't have.

A guy walking down the street saw a guy riding his bicycle and felt underprivileged. Now, the guy riding down the street saw someone riding on his motorcycle. And lastly, the person the motorcycle saw another person stepping down from his luxurious sedan with a driver for assistance. The person seeing him obviously felt underprivileged. Suddenly, he noticed that the driver handed the person a stick and the poor guy started walking with the stick. The person watching him felt perplexed for a moment and after a while with all his senses realized the privilege of being underprivileged.

We normally see that the glass of water is half empty but we ignore the fact that it is half full. The privilege of being underprivileged is one of the fanciest ones. But with privilege you also get a fear factor that is going to make you underprivileged. Hence everything comes at a cost. The grass on either side might always look greener because the barren land is always hidden. And that is why the void will always be there because the barren land can never become fertile.

#### Chirag Bansal 8B



### HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS: A GRAVE MISSTEP IN EVOLUTION?

Thinking on your feet is a very important skill. As a matter of fact it is so important that it is considered to be one of the most important things that separate us from animals. But is it apposite to separate ourselves from them?

Our consciousness has allowed us to think for ourselves, to think of our benefits, it has done well but irrespective of that, it has surely done more harm than good. This consciousness has killed our conscience; we are very conscious while we think of our benefits while consciously or unconsciously ignoring the creatures we are harming. We choose to exercise our consciousness while we fail to acknowledge the presence of humanity in doing so. Humans have the power to take decisions, to make choices unlike animals that are born with set roles and once they are done they reproduce and finally die. This is why we consider ourselves superior but what if this isn't an advantage, what if this is just a mistake in the design of our species that we can make decisions. We have broken this pattern and what if breaking this design, this pattern makes us only inferior to them.

If at all this was not a mistake and we were made to be like this then it must have taken a lot of courage to vest this power in us but it is so inhumane of us to exercise this power and deny our responsibility. If this was destined to happen this way, if we were made so creative to be so destructive, what reason could there be? It is said many times that when the almighty feels that it is time to end what he started , he should lay his wrath and do the necessary. What if we were the ones chosen to finish it all?

Humans are said to have evolved from apes we are also a part his process but we choose to ignore the very reason behind our existence and find a way out of Darwin's theory of evolution which states that 'evolution is a process of constant changes due to natural selection'. This means that organisms need to adapt to their surroundings in order to survive but humans have chosen to harm their surrounding, change it, and mend it to make it suitable for them. We have refused to change ourselves and this has resulted in many problems, but it is so human of us to join the quest of looking for solutions and ignoring the only probable solution, changing ourselves. I don't know if this is the solution or not, I don't know if I have another solution I don't even know if a solution even exists but one thing I know is that there is problem, a grave one. I would like to conclude with something and I don't know if it is correct but I sure know it is related.

'Human consciousness is misstep in evolution. What we should do is stop reproducing and walk hand in hand towards extinction.' -Rustin Cohle (true detective)

-Dev Goel x-

#### **MUCH MAJORITARIANISM?**

A debate was recently revived about what many would regard as controversial- section 377 of the Indian constitution and decriminalization of homosexuality. The debate on the abdication of this medieval provision lies on a shaky ground. And I say this is not because the facts that lie with the people who support the abdication, are unsubstantiated. Rather, the people who are against it suffer from irrevocable dogma. And it is the latter that makes me observe a gradual but major change in our society, that we are becoming a judgmental society, which is extremely critical of others, and support our ideologies with references made to the basic principle of liberalism or morality for that matter.

We often regard homosexuals as a minority – which is not truebut even if they are, so what?

If being a majority gives us the right to crush opinions and impose our unjust ideologies on the minority, and then I can say one thing for sure, we are not a liberal democracy in a world that is transitioning to increased legitimacy.

Talking about the law itself and not referring to people. The criminal law exists to protect individuals not oppress them. The basic foundation for what law is that it intervenes when the rights

of an individual are being undermined by the other. But in the case of people engaging in homosexuality, it is not crystal clear, who is being harmed.

Coming to the people who think that this is a tradition, I would refer to Uri Sangui, a columnist of the 'Hindustan Times' this argument has been used a lot lately to justify everything from refusing women entry to temples to the imposing of dress codes. Usually the proponents and beneficiaries of this argument are the dominant men. Not all traditions are worth keeping. The history of human development is the history of the battle against traditions that have ceased to be relevant. But the fact that lies here is the origins of 377 lie not in any tradition but in the British Raj. But such is our adherence to our former colonial masters that we continue to be unaware that they themselves have discarded it. Not only this, we even pretend that it stems from our Indian traditions, the aforementioned lummoxes me enough.

India is becoming a land where principles are giving way to noise and hype, and the right of the individual ceases to matter.

Vinayak Agarwal X-C

## Diphant\_

### IS WORLD PEACE A REALISTIC GOAL?

According to human psychology peace is a state of mind. But when we zoom out from a micro vision to a macro one, human psychology is nowhere to be applied. It limits to humans. No one has been able to study Mob Mentality and I assure you that no one will ever be able to do so successfully. World Peace is a totally different piece of cake and looking at today's conflict scenario vomiting negativity all around peace can and will not exist in an environment (a psychological one here) like today. It does not matter whether the area you seek peace is conflict prone or not, chaos is what you will find. Chaos is the new trend today and people are getting used to it. I will say that it has all become too monotonous now. The International section of each and every newspaper is flooded with articles every now and then regarding somebody's murder. Bloodshed couldn't have ever become more boring.

Now if you have read the above, you must be thinking that how can an

individual be so negative in his thought process. People whether you like or not every word spelled above is utter truth. This is not negativity. I am not just another frustrated 10th grader. If you think so I would love to prove you wrong. I would do so by putting two points. I call the first 'The chain of conflicts' and the second 'Questioned Paradox'.

The chain of conflict. 'By this I mean that No Conflict in this world can be solved without another conflict springing out of it. I have many instances of current affairs to prove this notion but I only present before you the most potent one. It is regarding the Syrian uprising and the protest against the Assad Government. During the uprising many revolting parties were fighting for their need and allegedly the USA made one of their own. And today they double crossed their own creators by the call of religion and the UN calls them ISIL.

Questioned Paradox: All the techno

savvy people who know what a Paradox is, will agree with me that it is an answer to a question which in the form of a question itself. This paradox fits like a glove to this scenario. It happens when our representatives who call themselves diplomats in the United Nations, grate their brains on questions such as 'what can be a diplomatic solution to restrict the expansion of the Islamic State'. But they arrive at another question in the quest to find a solution. Questions like 'Is it possible', 'But how'. Hence the paradox proves its existence. Though it may seem vague, it is not. One may get this one only through in depth studies on various paradoxes.

For many people, these things maybe utter gibber but for the one who got what I was saying and understood my article may make a habit to think out of the box and reason every action.

-Anshuman Agarwal X- C



#### LAMPOON

### WELHAM NIGHTLIFE

In normal places, dawn marks the beginning of day and dusk marks the end. But then Welham is special. Like with the Batman, darkness is Welham's ally. Ironically speaking, Welham is the most vibrant of places when darkness sets in. Welhamites have mastered the art of using time after dinner effectively and efficiently (Can't be any more sarcastic). A classic example is the Welham Nightlife. Lets take a peek-

**Foodies** - For these gluttons darkness marks the commencement of a grand feast (a really, really LONG feast!). You can kick these people out of the Bethany but you cannot put an end to that long lost love for food (Bethany is only the beginning!). After dinner is when the main course actually comes in. Each one of these Welhamites has a jolly time during the night but then the mornings are terrible for them.

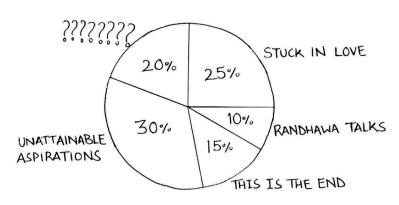
Marine Drive - The Marine drive records the maximum traffic after dinner. A recent survey that has been conducted shows that the Marine Drive is more crowded after dinner than at any other time (that also includes PT). Whilst walking on the Marine Drive a Welhamite's so called intellectual and enlightening talks revolve around his girlfriend amongst other fictitious things. One is also able to witness a lot of landmarks along the way including 'Chauatala Chauk' and the muchdreaded 'Prashant Nagar'. **Nerds** - A typical nerd with his 'larger than the face' spectacles and 10 kg heavy bag is the reason why life exists in the prep rooms even after dinner. These people are of the 'fox' kind. You will be next to them the entire day but just like Batman, they like to go solo at night. They pick the most reclusive and remotest of places in the entire school and go into exam mode (chill bro there is still a lot of time to go). Sleep is a bit rare for these people (Nobody likes to be greeted with flying chappals and floaters when he enters the room)

**Gazebo gang -** The introduction of the gazebos has most certainly added to the traffic at the Marine Drive. While some people believe in the concept of walking and talking, these people focus their entire energy on talking. They are the gossip queens of the school (What say Parv?) and their kitty parties usually lasts for hours. The question still remains- What do these people talk about? This pie chart may shed some light:

**Night Activities -** When night sets in, all organizations of Welham become active (ALL organizations! Well even the Sankalp). This is the only category in which time is actually being used effectively and efficiently (not being sarcastic this time). These people are responsible for almost all the announcements during dinner (Damn, those are so irritating).

With this the night comes to an end only for another one to begin. Each night tells a different story, each night has its share of stupid people to make an interesting one, each night is a unique one in its own special way. So, until the moon regains its place in the dark sky..... good night!

Devansh Raheja XII- Com

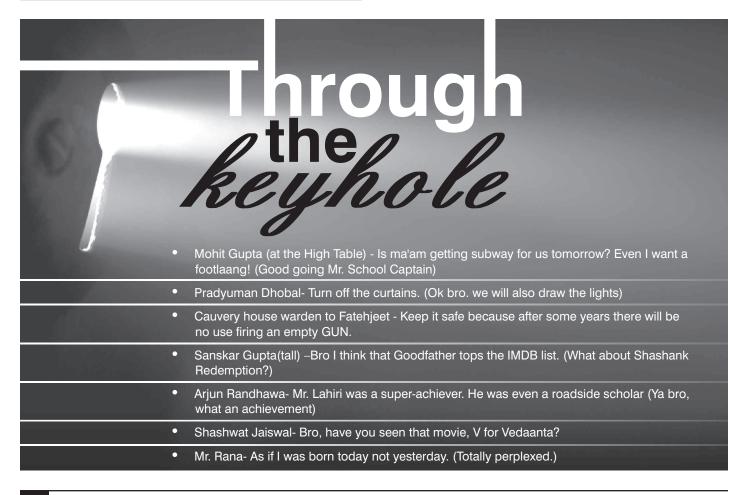


## **Ever** Wonder why

- Cauvery House has cold water during Winters and hot water during Summers. (Seasonal adjustment.)
- Tarit Kandpal has started attending all physics classes (Parental pressure!)
- The Oliphant Board is planning to relocate the Oliphant Room (too many vultures preying around)
- Pradyuman Dobhal is no longer the dreaded name in Ganga House (Dil ke armaan toot gaye)
- Mr. Saurav Sinha and Mr. Dayamay Banerjee are talking a lot these days (Jamuna House prospects)
- Devesh Tayal has finally started going to the Activity Centre (You are surely gonna be a great captain).

# RUMOUR HAS IT

- Since the market in WGS came crashing down Prabhapaar has started investing in the 'Stalk' Market.
- Abhiraj Ranjan and Rohit Chander have been working together a lot these days. (Oh boy! I am scared)
- The Prefectorial body has requested Ma'am Bindra to get an Active English package installed in the Tata Sky of every common room (Announcements do seem to be a huge obstacle these days)
- Mr. Srikant has a police badge in his possession (Every Inspector needs one).
- The bird has migrated from one South Indian River to another.
- 12 Commerce will have JM ma'am's English classes in the English Lab from now on (HOD swag huh!).



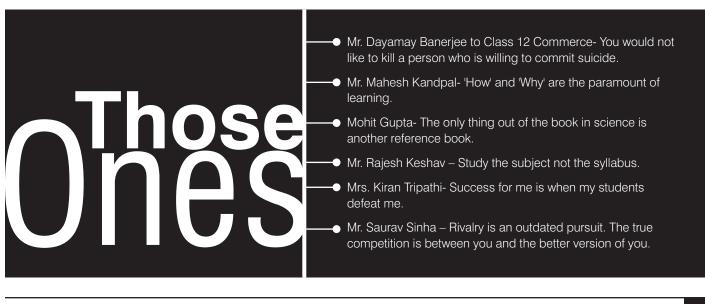


### Separated at Birth

Mohit, Prabhapaar and Akshat	Zeus, Poseidon and Hades
Shashank Deep Rai	DK (Tokyo Drift)
Parv Rastogi	Ms. Dinchak (Its Controversial)
Aryan Arora	Coach Kabir Khan (Chakde Welham!)
Rishab Rastogi	Baloo (The Jungle Book)
Vithal Jalan	Nana Patekar(Welcome Back)
Akshit and Samarth	Pranav Gupta and Shivam Rajput
Rohit and Divyansh Mehta	Phineas and Pherb

#### WHAT'S IN WHAT'S OUT

WHAT'S IN	WHAT'S OUT
Stomach Illness	99 degree fever
Vikram Vardhan Singh	Prithvi Agarwal
Self study after dinner	Marine drive walks
Lemon Blast	Apple Grape
Editorial Team	Correspondents, Co Editors
Doon Times	HT City
New Housemasters	Old Assistant Housemasters



### Diphant\_



#### **Editorial Board**

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Abhinav Negi and Abhiraj Ranjan

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