

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
February 22, 2025 | Issue No. 2729



## THE MASHAAL MAN

A Junior's take on an urban legend.

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## Leaders and Labels

**Kanishk Bammi** *reflects on the opportunities given to be a part of decisions.*

.....  
It is often said that School is a replica of the world outside. A place to prepare us for what is to come. And even though I completely agree with that thought, I'm not entirely sure I agree with the systems that exist in here, and in the outside world.

Just like how in the world outside we can see a clear demarcation in how certain groups are given certain privileges with the rest denied the same. School since prides itself on treating every student equally, we should ensure that similar patterns don't emerge, and facilitate a more democratic setup when it comes to student participation.

However, of late, talks of equality seem to be more tokenistic than an integral part of the School Ethos. This is not to say that there should be debates on insignificant details like food and outings, but it's about something much bigger. We all have to wear the same shoes and carry the same bag to class, and while that may be important, it does seem to be contrary to what is more important for us Doscos, like decision making power in School. It is a select few that are being granted leeway for pretty much everything and the right to participate in key-decision making processes such as schemes for Blazers. In such crucial issues where the interests of the larger community is concerned, is it not logical that a larger cross-section of stakeholders' voices be taken into consideration before policies are formulated? It would

seem unreasonable that a handful of students from the community have so much power, who are not even true representatives of the rest of the student body.

This is where the problem lies. Barring a few appointees, the rest of the students are faced with the lack of access and an opportunity to actually create an impact and do something meaningful, yet somehow we are all being geared up to "take ownership".

The current top-down approach to decision making is not wrong, but there needs to be some sort of community involvement in it all. The same few people are given a large amount of influence, but at the end of the day, policies impact everyone, including these privileged few.

Granted, it is the norm to give certain students leadership positions but the additional perks that come with it in School have broader implications. There is an unnecessary divide being created amongst the student body, especially in the Seniormost batch. This is something that I observe firsthand everyday, and quite frankly, there is no denying it. Almost all major decisions are discussed in tutorial meetings, and everyone else is simply expected to rely on their friends for information, and not express their opinion about it thereafter. I'm not saying that it's wrong that people are being allowed to speak up and get things done in tutorial meetings

– oftentimes it's beneficial for most of us, and we are happy with most outcomes, but the issue here is that that same platform is not accessible to everyone else. Seemingly the only way to actually raise a point and have a discussion without getting shot down almost immediately is by going through someone whose opinion is for some reason more valuable than others. It's a good thing that they're there to help – but at the point where only the voices of a select group of people are being heard, something has to change.

What we need is the creation of a platform where students will be able to interact with and approach decision makers in School. While places like the School Council do exist, its efficacy is another debate altogether. If not a platform, we need more access. People need to be more comfortable approaching those with power and expressing their thoughts without inhibition. Every Dosco is not encouraged in any way to go and speak out, to take matters into their own hands – to go and have a conversation about it and help themselves. Even if we do that, there is always that feeling that the every Dosco's opinion is not valued enough. Somehow there is that extra ounce of credibility to it if the exact same thing is said by someone with a leadership position.

What this difference in treatment is going to do in the years to come is

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**UP ANOTHER RUNG**

The following are the **Sports Captaincies** for the year **2025-26**:

- Athletics:** Kovid Kagdee
- Badminton:** Artham Gupta
- Basketball:** Adhiraj Mann
- Boxing:** Lohitaksh Gupta
- Chess:** Chaitanya Kshirsagar
- Cricket:** Arnav Agarwal
- Cross Country:** Shauryajit Singh
- Football:** Shauryajit Singh
- Hockey:** Pranay Gupta
- P.T. Leader:** Gurdev Raina
- Shooting:** Damian Garg
- Squash:** Aarit Singhania
- Swimming:** Harsh Begani
- Table Tennis:** Aditya Dungarpur
- Tennis:** Harshil Makin

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

**IN GUBERNALIS**

The following are the **DSMUN appointments** for the year **2025-26**:

- President:** Madhav Mehra
- Secretary General:** Ganadhipati Aryan
- Deputy Secretary General:** Taarak Harjai
- Executive Director:** Krishiv Jaiswal
- Director Generals:** Lohitaksh Gupta and Devansh Jitu
- Chief of Production:** Omar Malik
- Under-Sec-Generals:** Aarit Singhania and Sumehr Pasricha

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

**OBITUARY**

The *Weekly* deeply regrets the passing of Mr Ajai Banerji (ex 397-HB, 1972), an Old Boy and Ex-Master. On behalf of the entire School Community we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

**LEADING THE FLOCK**

The following are the **Co-curricular Appointments** for the year **2025-26**:

- Clubs, Societies and STAs:**
- Aeromodelling:** Neil Kashyap
- Computers:** Hemant Khandelwal
- Robotics:** Vivaan Singhi
- Hindi Dramatics:** Harsh Begani and Aaditya Khanna
- IT Society:** Ved Chichra
- IAYP:** Arjun Gupta
- Trophy Squad:** Surya Verma
- MIND Club:** Neil Kashyap
- Historical Circle:** Dinanjai Singh
- DS Poets:** Krishiv Jaiswal
- Infinity Society:** Artham Gupta
- RLSS:** Shiven Gupta

**Publications:**

- The Circle: Editor-in-Chief:** Ganadhipati Aryan
- Chief-of-Production:** Harshil Makin
- DS-Tech: Editor-in-Chief:** Harshil Makin
- Infinity: Editor-in-Chief:** Arnav Tiwari
- Chief-of-Production:** Taarak Harjai

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

**FRESH DRIP**

Anant Jain has been awarded the **Games Blazer** and Vir Marwah has been awarded the **Scholars' Blazer**.

Congratulations!

**Around the World in 80 Words**

Hamas plans to release six Israeli hostages and return four bodies amid ongoing ceasefire talks. U.S.-Russia discussions on the Ukraine war drew criticism for excluding Ukraine. A tragic stampede at New Delhi railway station killed 18 and injured 15. Asian Markets slip amid concerns over Trump's tariff policies and China's interest rates. Donald Trump faced a legal battle over a birthright citizenship dispute. PSG achieved the largest aggregate win without conceding in the UEFA Champions League (10-0).

**Dosco Doodle**

**Day in the Life**

*Reyansh Agarwal*



(Continued from Page 1)

quite simple to my mind. Everyone, right from the beginning, will have only one goal – to have their names announced from the podium in that ‘make or break’ assembly. Everyone will be consumed by this desire to take on a leadership position, because that is what will be coveted, and by doing so will be stuck in a rat race to be the most favoured candidate. We will see people miss out on essential things such as character development and personality growth, as everyone will aim to fit into the standard mould of what you are supposed to be. Right from the get-go we will be creating

an environment with unnecessary competition, with people pitted against each other. Is that really the Doon we want to see? The one without uniqueness and character? The one where brotherhood is overshadowed by the desire to gain power?

There are so many positions in School, that quite frankly, require a lot more work, both in terms of time commitment and difficulty, but they do not get the same validation or recognition. Where are their privileges?

As I conclude, I ask myself this honest question- had things gone differently a few months ago, would

I still be writing this? Probably not. It's simply because I can see now how difficult it is to do something meaningful, to be respected, recognized and given the platform and opportunity to impact the community.

Except that it's not. We blame society, but we are society. It's now upto us to make changes, to improve the system and to ensure that every voice is heard. If you have a problem, don't shy away from discussion. Go and strike up a conversation with someone who can do something about it.

## The Mashaal Man

Creative by Sabir Ahuja

Many stories have been told of the ‘Mashaal Man’, but now they are nothing but the stuff of legend. If I told you it was real, you wouldn't believe me, would you? But what if I told you the complete story? Would you believe me? Perhaps not but decide after reading *The Complete Tale of the Mashaal Man*.

September 10, 1935. The Doon School admits its first students. Among them, Baman Cyrus Dorjee. Baman had been a queer boy since the day he was born. While his friends were sporty and fit, he would spend most of his time reading science biographies and research papers from the local library. He would excel in all his science exams.

At School, he made very few friends, but the ones he made were true. Baman's chemistry teacher immediately took a liking to him. People bullied him and called him a pet for this. However, Baman wasn't affected. He stayed in the Chem Lab during most of his spare time. Every day, he would discuss a new theory with his Chemistry Master, Mr Das. He would then invite him after school to experiment and, if possible, prove them. Mr Das was amused by the lad's spirit. He would try convincing him to pull off his addiction to the experimental field and apply his focus more towards the theory of chemistry - as that should be any Chemistry student's short term goal, according to Mr Das. However, the boy's theories did have a point and a perfectly valid base. And the old teacher did appreciate that Baman had such an interest in his subject. One day, Baman was dejected. He had just had a fight with his batchmates. Though he was used to being separated from others, this instance he was especially depressed. One of his only friends had left him. Calling him a ‘nerd’ and telling him Baman was a ‘friend repellent’ for him, he'd stomped off. Baman

was equally angered by his batchmate's behaviour. He trudged off to his daily resort, the burden of the freshly transpired events weighing heavily on his shoulders. Being in the Chem Lab usually calmed him down. However, the usual tranquility did not overcome him today. He was working on proving his theory about a new, radioactive, synthetic noble gas, the 118th element of the periodic table, and he found his focus steering away from the task at hand. His hands began to shake. He broke down into tears. There was a rampage of emotion inside him. A civil war was raging in his mind. One part of him was angry and helpless, while another was trying to steady him and focus. Eventually, the latter won. However, his rage was still blazing within. Thus, his hands would not cease to shake. While reaching across to a beaker, he accidentally hit the flask over the Bunsen Burner he was using. The solution spilled all over the table. The flask upturned the contents of a test tube. Both chemicals mixed and a gas was released. The noxious vapour reached Baman's nose and he immediately fell to the ground, unconscious. When he came to, he knew that he should be dead, but he wasn't. Puzzled, he got up. Unbeknownst to him, he'd been transported to an alternate reality. It was night. He walked out of the lab. Gradually, he made his way, through the darkness to the torches or *mashaals* of the Main Building. He picked one up and began his eternal stroll around the campus.

Sometimes, they say, both realities merge and we can see glimpses of the ‘Mashaal Man’, and he, us.



# Behind the Scenes

*Aaditya Khanna reports on the recent school trip to the National School of Drama in Delhi.*

Recently, the students involved in dramatics went to the National School of Drama. It was an enlightening experience where we were able to meet with experts of the field and witness exhilarating performances weaved together with impeccable body action, tone and expression.

We started with an early train ride to Delhi, eagerly anticipating the theatrical wonders we were soon to experience. Initially, we assumed we were just going to witness the plays, however, we were also given the opportunity to be able to talk to the directors behind the plays to be performed in the *Bharat Rang Mahotsav*, the biggest dramatics festival of the country. We gained valuable insights into the world of technical directing, learning the importance of audio and visuals, and the role they play in accentuating the tone and mood of a scene. Additionally, we learned about stage setup and how crucial it is to fully portray the play's message and theme while adding to the overall feel of the play.

One of the most important lessons we received from this trip was about the importance of body language. The first play we saw conveyed a powerful message about war, addressing its futility and the destruction it causes. In this performance, they employed the use of powerful movements and actions, which were perfectly placed with the songs, creating an amazing picture. Simply put, the graceful use of their bodies helped the actors put forward their message and highlight key aspects of the play far more accurately. Another thing we learned from this play was the use of hidden messages and themes. They are an integral aspect of any play, and making skilful use of them could be the difference between a performance that induces sleep and one which keeps the audience hooked till the end. It serves as a puzzle, adding to the theme of the story and keeps the crowd interested in the play. It is the key to leaving audience members wanting more after the end.

The second play was an interpretation of an ancient Greek story revolving around Dionysus, and although it seemed like an ordinary play during the performance itself, it caused me to truly reflect on my own actions. It was at this point that I realised the hidden power of theatre. The power to make one reflect. It serves as a check on the viewers, which is of paramount importance in modern society where we slowly drift from old ideals and instead find ourselves racing and competing for laurels. It is the lingering thought of the performance and the morals learned that I believe to be the true essence of a performing art

— the power to enlighten audiences and make them improve upon themselves. Is that not why we create and read stories, to find the voice within ourselves, guiding us to our true selves?

The third play helped me understand perspective, and why it matters. It was a Hindi adaptation of the play 'Gaslight'. Although it was performed within our school as well, I believe the true beauty in this take of the play was not in superior acting, or direction, but the fresh viewpoint that I got to witness. It truly underscored how much a story can differ based on perspective and how this can affect the overall message and impact of the story itself. This showed me how perspective shapes us all and forges the differences between us. This was how I realised that if the goal was to affect every audience member then the first step to completion in any performing art is the convergence of perspectives, for it is that that will truly give form and meaning to the performance.

At the end of the trip I was left with just one question. What is the difference between us and them, what is it that allows them to put on such exquisite performances, even if it is the same play, and the same script? It is only now, nearing the end of this report, that I have truly realised the answer. The only limitation was us. Ironic as it may be, we are at times rigid in our imagination, clinging to the success of preceding performances and actions. It is at that point that we decide to put full effort into meeting the standard pre-existing within our minds, and forget the true essence of any art. Theatre reaches its peak only when it is original, and when you give the audience something they would have never seen before. That is what we lack. That freedom, and that space to truly create something new.



# The Week Gone By

**Ganadhipati Aryan**

Another week, another rush of events, and another chance to chronicle it all. If you're reading this, congratulations — you've survived seven more days of School, a feat that truly deserves at least a moment of reflection (or a nap, whichever is needed more).

The week kicked off with the usual tradition of appointments — sports, academics, and pastoral alike. Some basked in the glory of newfound responsibilities, while others embraced the bitter disappointment of rejection, vowing to “focus on their studies”.

In a cruel twist of fate, the *Yearbook* photos were cancelled due to the rain, dashing the hopes of many who had spent an inordinate amount of time perfecting their

hair, only to be left with nothing but a damp sense of betrayal.

Meanwhile, on the sporting front, the Inter-House Cricket charged on with all the fervour of a battlefield. Controversial umpiring calls, dramatic appeals, and the occasional existential crisis over a dropped catch — everything is in place for an unforgettable season.

The Pastoral Council brought its own brand of intrigue with some rather ‘innovative’ proposals—from a change in the School hairdresser (a move that's been long overdue, if we're being honest) to a discussion on the shoes we wear, proving once again that no topic is too small to spark a debate. It remains to be seen if these proposals will actually materialise or just join the graveyard of great ideas lost to bureaucracy.

And in the news that sparked both joy and confusion, PT was cancelled due to the rain. A victory for many, and a tragedy for the two people who enjoy running at ungodly hours.

The Sc-Ls marked another

milestone as the *senti* House Feast drew closer, signalling the end of their tenure. With the Farewell Assembly creeping up, nostalgia is slowly setting in, alongside a few... let's call them ‘animated disagreements’ between Sc-Ls and the people of their Houses. Ah, the pain of transition — it's never easy.

And finally, Page One made quite the statement, a bold one at that. While I am bound by my position to remain neutral, I must admit he isn't completely wrong. The students' sense of belonging, ownership, and community — the very fabric of our School life — seems to be fraying at the edges. A wake-up call? Perhaps. Something to reflect on as we move ahead? Definitely.

As the week comes to a close, one thing is certain — there's never a dull moment here. Brace yourselves, for if history is anything to go by, the coming days will be just as chaotic, just as memorable, and, most importantly, just as worthy of yet another *Week Gone By*.

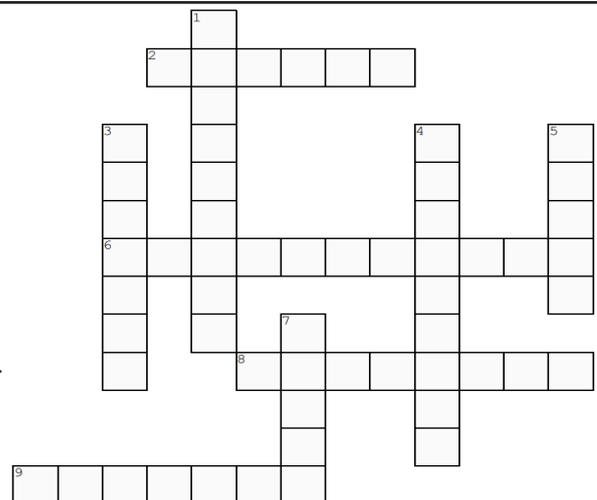
## Crossword | The Dark Knight

### Across

- The Bat's loyal butler, providing guidance and assistance.
- A villain known for using high-tech weaponry and his ruthless strategies.
- The key weapon used by Batman to track criminals and gather intelligence, often an advanced tool from his utility belt.
- A villain with a weaponized umbrella and a penchant for crime.

### Down

- The prison where Batman often sends his foes, a place that's a fortress for Gotham's criminals.
- A Batman foe who uses elaborate riddles as crimes.
- A villain who manipulates fear through his fear toxin.
- ‘The crown prince of crime’ responsible for the murder of Jason Todd.
- A former ally turned enemy, once known as the second Robin.



Down:  
1. Blackgate 2. Alfred  
3. Riddler 6. Deathstroke  
4. Scarecrow 8. Batarang  
5. Joker 9. Penguin  
7. Jason

Answers to this week's crossword:

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

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