

# NEWS & VIEWS

ESTD 1961

*Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education; dancing with the feet, with ideas, with words, and, need I add that one must also be able to dance with the pen? ~Friedrich Nietzsche*

Dear Reader,

We have realized that reading a text, by itself, is not enough; the real beauty lies in reading between the lines. Today's world, which has shifted its focus from weapons to words, needs compulsively unbiased and just journalism, for it is only words that bring together the 195 countries of the world. In these times, when conflicts persist in innumerable pockets of the earth, it is seen on examination that all the parties are justified in their own right. Therefore, it becomes imperative that the eclectic viewpoints are vocalized and given due importance so that the complex nature of human conflict may be thoroughly understood and justly tackled. At the same time, this will also minimize the devastating after-effects that are still felt after decades of the past crises. The onus of this solely lies on our generation.

Thus readers, we need to make the most of the present moment as today the world stands on the brink of change, a change that will be defined and dictated by the actions of our generation. If we open our eyes to our surroundings and look past our farcical perceptions, we will be able to see the harsh realities of life. Being idealistic, we sometimes crib about and criticise the imperfections in society. However, it is hypocritical to shirk one's responsibility towards changing those very conditions that we disapprove of.

We may seek refuge in the beauty and pain of words for they can transport us to places unseen and undergo emotions hitherto unexperienced. It is the power of words that enable us to imagine the plight of a Syrian refugee or the euphoria experienced by a man who reunites with his family after months of war. After all, it is Victor Hugo's words that immortalized the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral. Hence the power wielded by the printed word cannot be undermined.

This newsletter attempts to present you a combination of the different viewpoints that exist in our own little society while highlighting the pressing issues that persist in the world, hoping to spread awareness about the happenings within and beyond the walls of our existence. We hope, in these, you will find your place in the gaps between the stories.

Happy Reading!

Anmol and Sairaa



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### Games Captain's Address:

*"Even when you've played the game of life it's the feeling of teamwork that you'll remember. You may forget the shots the plays and the scores, but you'll never forget your teammates."*

*-Former Olympic player Debbie Miller Palmore.*

Welhamites have always been known for their passion, never ending zeal and endless energy with which they participate in sports. It is these qualities, that make us a team, not the number of trophies we win or the titles we receive. Our school teams have always performed remarkably well and this year proved to be no different so far.

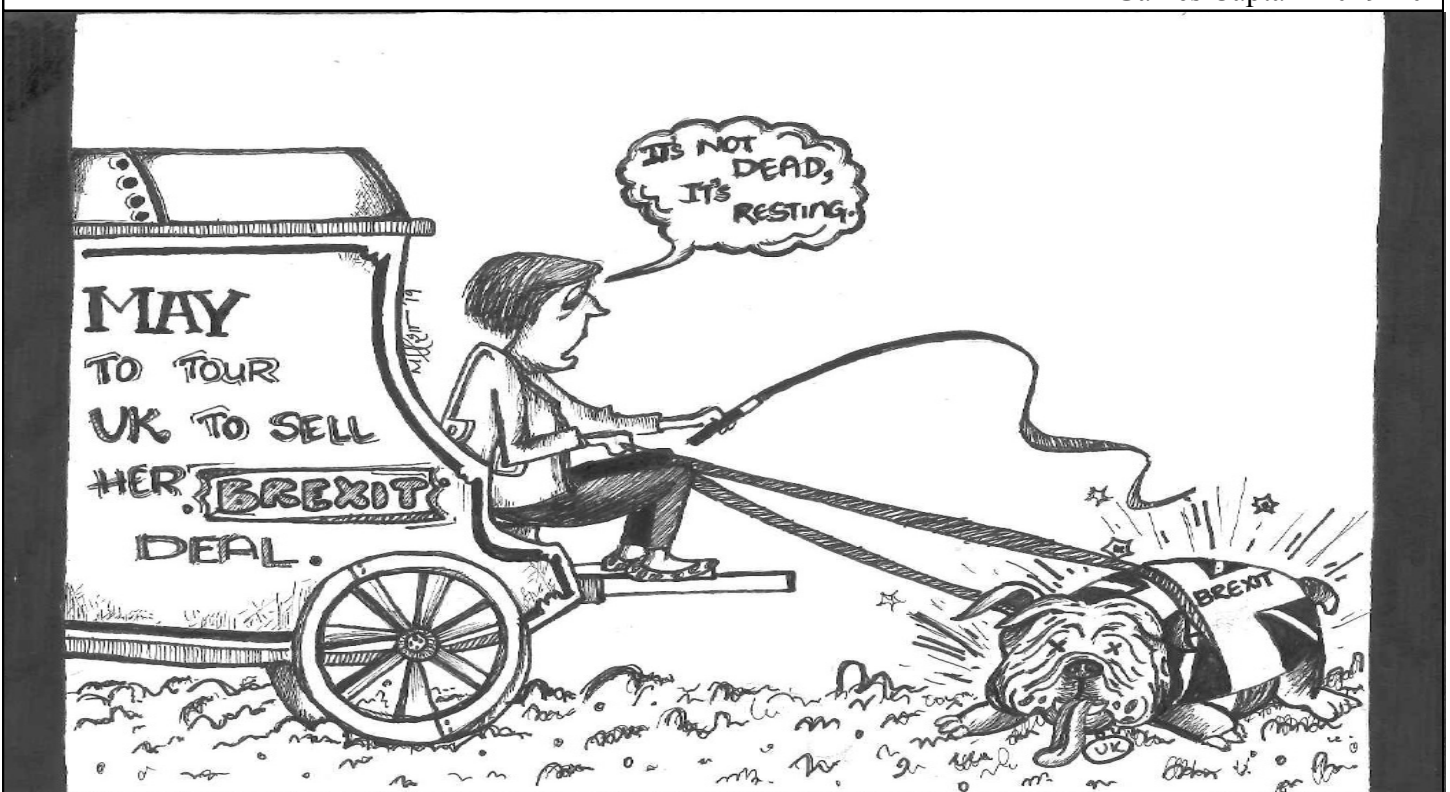
Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Welham Blues for their exceptional performance in the Diamond Jubilee Basketball Tournament. Even though they did not win the final match, they put up a tough fight against their rivals that motivated them to perform even better in the tournaments to come. I would also like to acknowledge the commendable efforts of every Welhamite who has qualified for the CISCE national tournaments.

Sports have taught us the greatest life lessons at Welham. As Frida Kahlo once said, "I think little by little, I'll be able to solve my problems and survive." Welhamites are constantly learning this and with the passage of time the frequent whines have gradually decreased. Perseverance, determination, team-work, and the grit to keep going are values that guide us not only in the sports field but also in other spheres of life.

I wish every Welhamite the very best in the terms to come and hope that they give back to Welham just as much as they take from it. May every Welhamite hang her own star in the sky and create her own providence. At the end of the day, Welham has endowed each with two invaluable gifts for years to come—one roots, and the other, wings. All we need is to add to the wind beneath our wings to soar higher. After all, it is hard work that keeps one going and makes one say it over and over again, "*Ki Apna time Aayega.*"

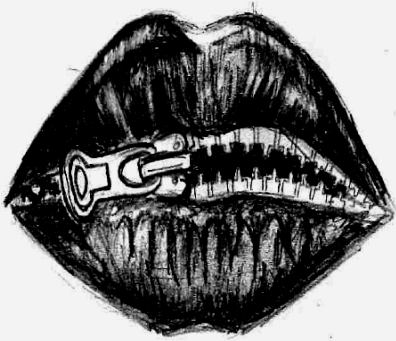
-Prakriti Gupta

Games Captain 2019-20



## To Talk Less and Think More

*“Really, now you ask me,” said Alice, very much confused. “I don’t think-”  
“Then you shouldn’t talk,” said the Hatter.  
(Alice in Wonderland-Lewis Carroll)*



For centuries now, the wisest of men have been laying emphasis on one thing- the importance of thought and the dangers of the abuse of speech. From philosophers like Cato to religious heads like the Dalai Lama, all thinkers believe that some things are better left unsaid and logical thought really does have more value than unnecessary talking. So, if even the Mad Hatter can recognize and understand this idea, why can't we?

Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see somebody talking a mile a minute, quite often in circles and with no rational or even creative thought behind what they are saying. Conversation has become almost a competitive sport, where the loudest or wittiest remark claims the winning position, and the heat and fervour of the 'game' leads to ridiculous exaggeration and hypocrisy. In the process, we end up arguing over who is right and not what is right, rendering the discussion futile.

For instance, an MUN delegate who has no solid argument sometimes ends up winning only on account of his/her oratory skills and confident tone. In this situation, there seems to be no real harm done - sometimes, this may even be beneficial for children- but sooner than we think, an MUN becomes the real UN-and then where shall we be? We are but the leaders of tomorrow and we must take care lest the world should become rife with loose tongued leaders who wield much power over their proletariats.

Andy Stanley once said, 'Leaders who don't listen will eventually be surrounded by people who have nothing to say,' and when you talk too much, you don't listen. Listening allows you time for thought before you immediately give your opinion or advice (wanted or unwanted). Listening makes others relate to you more and as a result, respect your opinion. Ask yourself: who would you trust more- someone with verbal diarrhea or someone who talks less but talks sense?

Literature is also full of quiet heroes and heroines. Roald Dahl's Matilda and Miss Honey are quaint examples. Both are silently strong, with strength of character that exudes a perfume that is noticeable but not cloying. Matilda's "strong young mind" allows her, a small girl, to perform miracles and face her terrifying, giant Headmistress Ms. Trunchbull. Miss Honey is a "mild and quiet person who never raised her voice and was seldom seen to smile, but there is no doubt she possessed that rare gift for being adored by every small child under her care." Even Mary Bennet from Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice provides a good example. She is described as navigating the world with a "pedantic air and conceited manner," a woman of few words. She is the "plainest of the Bennet sisters," and to the narrator, most unfit to marry. However, Mary is the most successful of the lot, the most independent and well-educated. Does that not count for something? Today, there are numerous books on the 'forgotten Bennet sister' which remind us that although Jane Austen chose to ignore her, the world does not.

So if you ever feel the urge to say something without really having anything to say, hold your tongue. Have faith- there is great strength in silence, and the world does not forget those who know this. Even in music, the real genius lies in knowing which notes to leave out. Always remember- "The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks." And the beauty lies in the fact that they didn't make a single sound.

-Tanvi Trehan  
Class 12

## A Rose that Grows out of Concrete

The greatest tragedy is that we humans believe ourselves to be something we are not. Life appears to be a colossal masquerade where each one fails to celebrate the music of the other, where reflections in every mirror are distorted by socially fabricated ideas of flawlessness and where no one blooms with grace. In such a disconcerting culture, how do we then expect hearts as fragile as glass to endure? After all, peace cannot co-exist with war. Most of us are usually overwhelmed by a delusion that we are our own enemies. We fail to accept the varying seasons of our heart. Our adolescent souls are made weak by time and fate. We do not remain strong at will.

Dear troubled teenagers, the past is an interpretation, the future is an illusion and our memories are quite often flawed. Did you know that what you end up remembering isn't always the same as what you have witnessed?

Quite often, we regret the decisions we make. We so desperately desire to tear up a paper which is deeply inked, but how can you simply tear up your heart and the etched memories on it? Life is not a book that you can easily put down if the chapter bothers you. The solution is not to blame yourself for that awful chapter but to tenderly remind yourself that we must not try to resist the changes that come our way. Instead let life guide you through. How do you know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come?

When you are on the threshold ready to step past this sheltered line of eighteen, into adulthood, you will realize that your heart carries a lot of things. The things in your heart will not seem like a burden then; in fact each element in there will be a rose. Some roses will have thorns, some lifeless petals, some would be bright and sweet-scented and some roses would be ones that you didn't know existed. If you dare not grasp the thorn, do not crave the rose. Remember that along with the perfumed petals, the lifeless ones are a part of you too. Talking about the ones you did not know existed, it is very simple - we are who we are for a lot of reasons and maybe we'll never know most of them .

If you accept these simple realities, I assure you that you will admire yourself for your tenacity for life. After all, aren't you all roses that grow out of concrete?

-Tanisha Gupta  
Class 12

## Roses



Fresh and dewy pink roses to all those who just got over with their standardized tests. May your soul rest in peace ! (See you on June 1st)



Gardens full of beautiful, vibrant roses to the school authorities for shifting the SC test weeks to next term. You shall be truly blessed!



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to Mrs. Sambasivam and Mrs. Gita Sharma for ensuring an active social life for the SC's.



Vases full of fragrant roses to all the teachers who went for board corrections. Thank you for giving us three weeks of no classes.



Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked rouge roses to Dr. Tanushree Verma for her kindness and compassion to 'all' during MCGSMUN.

## Raspberries



Cartons full of foul smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to Mrs. Geetanjali Bhatia for taking an extra class every holiday!



Truckloads full of rotten raspberries to Mrs Seema Sagar for fining girls at exorbitant rates.



Swimming pools full of maggot-infested raspberries to the authorities for extremely long assemblies.



A truckload of the most putrid raspberries fresh from the sewer to the Games Department for making swimming compulsory amidst the stormy weather.



Bushels of rancid, decomposing, vomit-inducing raspberries to whosoever made the 'Actions and Consequences List'.



## The Context of Things

Kathy Griffin, a popular American comedian, was 'blacklisted' from Hollywood after she shared a photo of herself holding a severed head of a mannequin of Donald Trump. All she was trying to do was to make a statement and express how she felt about Trump's misogynistic, homophobic and xenophobic attitude. James Corden, a famous talk show host, was forced to apologise after some jokes he cracked about Harvey Weinstein at the amfAR Gala at Los Angeles last year. It had not been his intention to hurt the victims of Harvey Weinstein's actions but rather to target Harvey Weinstein.



[www.thecommunityword.com](http://www.thecommunityword.com)

Comedy or just comments in general, when taken literally, can be highly offensive to the target audience. For example, when Jeremy Corbyn allegedly called Theresa May a "stupid woman" in parliament, he was tagged as sexist. But his comment had nothing to do with May being a woman, and therefore stupid. It was aimed at the fact that he thought that she was an incompetent and stupid leader. Isn't this an encroachment on Corbyn's freedom of expression?

Many argue that the freedom of expression also entails a duty to not offend. In contrast to this argument, the CEO of Index on Censorship, Jodie Ginsberg, said that right to express must go hand in hand with the right to offend "otherwise the freedom is meaningless". Any opinion one might have will eventually hurt someone else. Does this mean that we mustn't speak about the issues that we feel strongly about lest we should hurt someone's sentiments?

In religion too there seems to be a lack of context. Most religions condemn same-sex relationships as these are considered unholy. Only a man and a woman can come together in "holy matrimony". But when we introduce the context of when these scriptures, that we derive most of our knowledge of religions from, were written, we find that some of the rules set down by them are now obsolete. In a world where the Black Plague was a common cause of death and infant mortality was high, same-sex relations would only serve to contribute to the reduction in the world population. But in a time where birth rates outshine death rates, their relations might just be the key to preventing our soaring population from becoming a heavier burden on the planet.

Though it might seem an overwhelming task, I urge everyone to put issues into perspective before taking a stand. Opinions are subjective and they cannot always be viewed from an objective standpoint. After all, as writer Chris Anderson quite neatly put it, *"In a world of infinite choice, context, not content, is king."*

-Sulagna Tripathi  
Class 12

## The Commemorative Week



The Commemorative Week that was held from the 25th to 27th of April was an extravaganza of events which included the annually held debates: The Saroj Srivastava English Debate and the Grace Mary Linnel Hindi Debate. There were a total of 19 schools that participated from across India. The debates left the audience awe struck as the speakers tried to win us over with their scintillating points of view. In the Hindi debate; Vibhuti Arora was awarded the 'Best Speaker', Srishti Bansal the 'Second Best Speaker' while Medha Ajitsarya was declared the 'Best Interlocutor.' Overall, the Hindi Debating team stood first in the competition. In the English Debate, Vaanya Singh was declared the 'Second Best Interlocutor.' A Science fair was also held which included an array of events comprising the 'Science in Motion,' 'Science in Art' and 'Science in Chemicals. Our girls did us proud by securing the first position in the 'Science in Motion' event and the second position in the Ms. Russel Nature and Science Quiz.

# ONE NATION, ONE LAW

## FOR

Article 44 of the Constitution of India requires the state to secure for the citizens of India a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of the State as a directive principle. The principle is to treat each person equally and everyone is protected by just, fair and impartial laws. Times have changed, societies have changed and it is high time that laws change too. A uniform civil code will not only change the entire perception of personal laws but also change the lives of millions by filling the lacunas in various religious laws.

As Justice Y.V. Chandrachud rightly remarked, a common civil code will also help in strengthening the cause of national integration by removing conflicting interests. The UCC would put in place a set of laws to govern personal matters of all citizens irrespective of religion and it is perhaps the need of the hour to ensure that fundamental and constitutional rights are protected. A uniform civil code would promote real secularism. What we have in India is selective secularism which means that in some areas we are secular and in some ways we are not. A uniform civil code means that all citizens have to follow the same laws whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Sikhs. This doesn't mean that it will limit the freedom of people to follow or practice their own religion, it just means that every person will be treated the same.

At the moment, we have personal laws based on particular religions, which means that while Muslims can marry multiple times, a Hindu or Christian will be prosecuted for the same. This isn't true in the spirit of equality and UCC is the only way to secure this equality. A uniform civil code will also promote gender parity. It is commonly seen that personal laws of most religions are discriminatory towards women. Men are usually granted preferential status in matters of succession and inheritance. Such a law code could help in improving the condition of women in India and protect women from mistreatment and subjugation.

The definition of a modern progressive nation implies that the nation has moved away from caste and religious politics. UCC will help the society move forward and take India towards its goal of becoming a developed nation. UCC can help accommodate the aspirations of the youth. A contemporary India is a totally new society with 55% of its population being below 25 years of age. The social attitudes and aspirations of the youth are shaped by universal and global principles of equality, humanity and modernity. The view of shedding identity on the basis of any religion has to be given a serious consideration so as to utilize the full potential of the youth towards nation building. The various personal laws are just a loop hole that is exploited by those who have the power. Human rights are violated through honour killings and female infanticide throughout our country. By allowing personal laws we have constituted an alternate judicial system that operates on biased values. A uniform civil code can also help reduce the vote bank politics that parties indulge in during elections.

All Indian citizens are already equal before the courts of law as criminal and other civil laws are same for all. Hence, there can be no politicization of issues pertaining to discrimination or concessions or special privileges enjoyed by a particular community on the basis of their particular religious personal laws. UCC will help in integrating India more than it has ever been before. It will bring all citizens under one national civil code of conduct. UCC is fair and equitable and will be conducive in making the national identity more secure. Therefore it is time we bring about a change. One nation. One people. One law.

-Jahnvi Chandra  
Class 12



# IS NEEDED IN INDIA

## AGAINST

*“Uniform Civil Code is divisive and will lead to social unrest; it is against the spirit of the Constitution, which safeguards the right of citizens to practice their culture and religion”.*

Personal law is defined as a law that applies to a certain class or group of people based on their religion, faith, and culture. In India, everyone has varying faiths and beliefs. The theory of one nation and one law thus, stands absolutely invalid as expecting people of dissimilar cultured traditions to act under the identical laws, based on a uniform system is somewhat preposterous. The Constitution guarantees minorities the right to follow their own religion, culture and customs. Implementing a common code of personal laws covering property, marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession would go against India's secular fabric. The Constitution has chosen secularism as its vehicle to establish a democratic social order, making it an integral part of the Indian civic life.

In article 44 of our constitution, it is clearly specified that, “The State shall endeavour to secure the citizen a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India”. However, the fact is that it is only a “directive principle” laid down in the constitution and Article 37 of the Constitution makes it clear, that “The directive principles shall not be enforceable by any court”. Although our constitution believes that a Uniform Civil Code should be implemented in some manner, it does not make this implementation mandatory through law.

To have one law followed by a country like India would be unconstitutional as it would take away the cultural and religious rights of minorities, which were promised to them by the founding fathers of the Indian constitution. For example the Naga minority community is reportedly upset by the possibility of the implementation of UCC. The Nagaland Bar Association has markedly warned that the implementation of UCC would threaten the dignity and the culture of the Naga people. The main issue lies in the fact that the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in a country of cultural diversity would be virtually unmanageable.

This argument is based on the fact that India takes pride in its unity in diversity. For maintaining multiplicity, we need to respect each and every community's personal choices and laws. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether the violation of personal laws is acceptable or not. Political parties that are desperate to impose Uniform Civil Code seem ignorant of the diversity of the cultures, customs, traditions, castes, ethnicity, languages and religious ideologies that prevail in India.

No one in our country including our political leaders have ever made efforts towards defining the Uniform Civil Code. All we know is that some common law covering issues relating to marriage, succession and property is called Uniform Civil Code, but what these laws would be remains unclear. Hence, the debate on having a Uniform Civil Code for India still continues. Potential misunderstandings regarding the Uniform Civil Code create a fear among various religious communities especially minorities. It is often viewed by many religions that UCC is aimed against their religious customs and values. Before the implementation of UCC, authorities should win the trust of minorities. Otherwise, it will destroy the communal harmony of the nation.

The codification and implementation of UCC may not necessarily usher in the expected equality among genders and religions. The plural democracy is an identity of the modern India. Therefore, efforts should be focused on harmony in plurality than uniformity for a thriving Indian democracy.

-Manaal Mirza  
Class 12





## Whispers in the Willows

*Don't be startled to find traitors in your midst because every jungle has snakes.*

These nights are gloomy and sleepless, with the dread of deceit lurking around in the streets. The society is divided and reduced to a breed of whisperers manipulated by the dictatorial rulers with friends, family and neighbours whispering dark secrets behind each other's back. Betrayal does not seem to matter much to these back-stabbers as the secret police has become something of a commonality in the governments of the past and present. Betrayal clearly has its own reward: the small deep human satisfaction of having one up on someone else. It is the psychology of the mistress, and this regime uses it as fuel.

The appellation "The Whisperers" is reflected in our clandestine conversations as we became the petrified population who has learned never to utter their thoughts aloud, even in the bosom of their family, and never to express the mildest criticism of the regime as Big Brother is always watching us. It is safe to speak only in murmurs as lurking around the great legion of informers, who carry their mad tales to Moscow's enforcers and then watch their victims swept away to their fate.

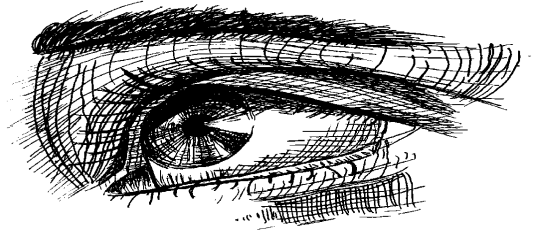
"The people and the party are united" is repeated enough for it to become a dictate. The communist rulers have succeeded in making the citizens believe that they were the only ones who could feel the urge to rebel, by continually proclaiming this unity and requiring them to act it out.

The real power and lasting legacy of the Stalinist system was neither in the structure of the state, nor in the cult of the leader, but in the Stalinism that has entered all of us. Today, isn't power tearing the human mind into pieces, and putting them together in new shapes of public choice?

'History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce.' We've gone from Big Brother to a planet of 'Little Bothers', everyone watched everyone. If you want to keep a secret; you must also hide it from yourself. Freedom is low voices conspiring in near darkness. Only there can we reveal who we are, without fear. This is who we are now because -

*"Walls have ears, doors have eyes, trees have voices. Beasts tell lies. Beware the rain. Beware the snow. Beware the man you think you know."*

-Saasha Sarin  
Class 12



Vibhuti: I'm going to become school captain in my college.  
*A case of when ambitions drive out the brain.*



Debanshi: Our school sends us for international trips abroad.  
*Seems like you need local treatment within the city.*



Someone: Why were the tribes discriminated against in 1700 BCE?  
Shreya: Because they were Jews.  
*History Department to take note. (\*collective Editorial Board eyeroll\*)*



Vanshika: I can see the electrons moving in the light.  
*We can see your neurons running out of the frame.*



# BIRD BRAIN







## Socials Hangover

On a windy night of the 12 of April, the SC 'batch' braved its way through the traffic amidst the festivities across the borders. *The Residential Fish* and the *Muslim Princess* got lost-surprisingly enough within the gates of Welham. This untimely delay irritated the hearts of some, while the rest sought refuge in this so called 'blessing.' At last, as the gates of Chandbagh came into view, some muttered silent prayers, while some hopeful ones prepared themselves for what lay ahead.

From the gates to the MPH, a wave of cologne caused most sensitive noses to succumb to attacks of relentless sneezing. Desperate attempts were made to break the ice, but the *Tone Deaf Cats* decided to break everyone's heads with their loud *band baaja*. The H-House captain seemed quite "at home" with the Ex H-House captain while the *Messi Bihari* had a very public rendezvous with *RRV Sir*. *The Green Drummer* created perfect beats with a 'boy' who simply wasn't ready to say *Tata*. After a 'delicious' meal of catered food, as the School Captain was whisked away by a certain *None-Dil*, the house captains took the stage with an apparent reluctance, one simply refusing to show his moves. It was soon time to say goodbye - a little too early according to many as the SC 'batch' left Chandbagh with a sense of anticipation.



As the evening on 4th May rose, so did the anxiety levels. While the boys in blue approached the AVC, *DJ DK* decided to play music to drown out the nervous, senseless chatter that filled the space. The *School Tanner* decided to take off with the mythological *Jatayu* whereas the *Benarsi Devrani* left her *Lucknawi Kebabs* for a *Dhokla* and a *Fafda*. The *Philosopher's Stone* decided on contending for one girl over winning a hockey match. Away from this frenzy, *Eyes* and a *Manana* were trying hard not to fall into the fountain, while the Games Captain found a "part of God" in Nature. The *politically inclined OBC* tried quite unsuccessfully to save her camera from the wonders of a permanent marker and four excited *Swans*. In the AVC, two blue shirts had an extreme dance-off that quite truthfully was hard to "Swalla."

While the wide-eyed editor-in-chief day dreamed about a *certain cartoonist*, a 'Nauti' boy tried to pursue her. The *hathi-mera-saathi* party rallied against a group of twelve *penguins* who were unwilling to give up their fiery debate whereas the lovelorn *Raj-A* cried for his lost "Manya-var". As time progressed, the band of boys and clusters of tadpoles were seen littered around the vicinity with their spying and judging skills at an all-time high. The "ray of light" was seen forming her "own era of sangh". A certain captain was spotted signing her contact information on her newly acquired *Human Notepad*, while an *Amritsari Debator* exchanged 'Shayaris' with a certain 'Chand'baghi.

However, the duo of the evening comprised the *Warrior* from *Shiv-Sena* and the *Athletic Raja*. As the clock struck ten, reluctant goodbyes and hopeful holiday plans were made. On returning to the dormitories, the dazed batch switched on the television only to watch the *Boys in Blue*.

O's, (because X's were avoided)

Gossip Girl



# JUNIOR Samboree

## Experience and Imagination

*'Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities truth isn't.'*

-Mark Twain

Non-fiction often plays a very important role in one's life. It not only gives us a picture of reality, but leaves us with a moral to inculcate in our lives. Though fiction leaves us with something to fantasize about, non-fiction opens our eyes to real life situations that keep repeating themselves. These situations take away our breath and touch our hearts. It makes us understand that everything happens for a reason and makes us laugh at ourselves for crying at the silliest of things.

Just a little layer of magic over truth becomes a perfect combination for fiction. It tells you that one day something will happen in your life, that will turn your life around. A room full of spells tells you that although they have the power to control almost everything, it is you who has to decide what to do with them. It is you who has to have the courage just like the girl who walked through fire, not because she had superpowers, but because of her love for her friend. She would have done so even if it would have meant crossing hell to save the angels in heaven without knowing what would come next. 'Where there's a will there's a way,' is what we've read over the years; what has made us feel stronger to fight for ourselves and believe that we are capable of facing any challenge. Fiction is nothing but just a little miracle. Miracles happen in our lives too, like the huge rocks on the Easter Island that were carved as human faces thousands of years ago overlooking the sea. Why resort to fiction when the world itself is full of fantasy?

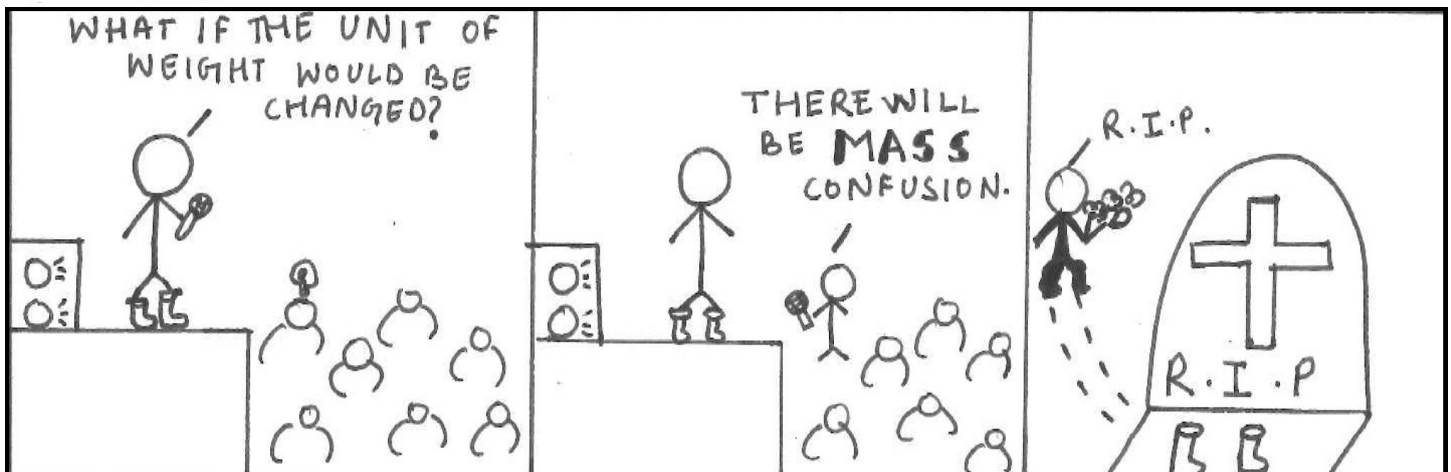


What really matters here are the similarities between fiction and non-fiction because both of them have heroes who are not always the ones who win but the ones who keep returning because of their will. Both leave us with life-long lessons, non-fiction with experience and fiction fires our imagination. Now it's up to you, would you rather live a life with experience or imagination?

-Avika Lohia and Sannidhi Agarwal  
Class 8

## YELLOW GUMBOOTS

-Arshiya Sharma  
Class 8



## Déjà Vu

*“With shrunken fingers; We ate our oranges and bread, Shivering in the parked car; Though we know we had never; Been there before, We knew we had been there before.”*  
-Margaret Atwood

Does it ever happen that you feel like what is happening with you right now has already happened to you? Well, this phenomenon is known as DÉJÀ VU. It is a French term which literally means ‘already seen’. Almost 65% people living on Earth experience déjà vu extremely often. It mostly occurs during periods of stress. Sometimes, it also occurs as a result of recalling a hazy memory. It can also be termed as CRYPTOMNESIA. It refers to a forgotten memory that returns without being recognized as such. Déjà vu usually lasts for one or two seconds which makes research on it very complicated. The Glitch Theory of Albert Einstein also states that Déjà vu is a temporary break from reality and hence nothing but just an illusion.

-Avika Lohia  
Class 8

## Reflections

Dear God,

I often ask myself if I am pretty from inside. Is my inner self capable of being shown to everyone? Everyone here wears a mask. Nobody shows their true selves. I also wear many masks, sometimes funny and other times



serious. That usually depends on the people around me. I wonder why I am so scared to show what I truly am? After all, I am the complete opposite of what I show. One day, in case my mask falls off, I won't be where I am .

I often wonder if I even know myself? Have I made the correct choices? I don't know and probably never will, but I'm scared to find the real me. What if I am judged ? What if my imperfections are exposed ?

Am I good or bad? Do the twists and turns of life break me or make me bolder? Does God exist with me or within me? Maybe some questions aren't meant to be answered. All I want is the freedom to be like an eagle that soars in the sky, against the wind, flies to fight its challenges, thus rising above everything else.

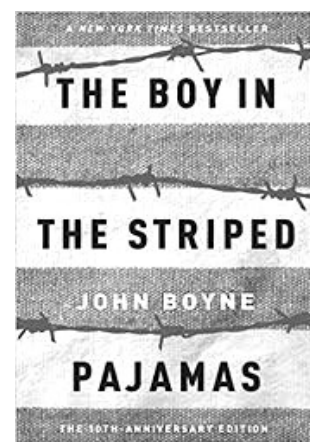
-Syna Gupta  
Class 7

## The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

*“Some things are just sitting there, waiting to be discovered. Other things are probably better of left alone.”*

But not this one. A vintage classic by John Boyne, ‘The Boy in The Striped Pajama's’ gives the reader a heart rending experience of the Second World War in Germany. It tells the reader about how far the friendship between two boys can grow despite the disharmony that prevents them from being around one-another. Two boys, two stories, a single friendship and a single soul. Bruno, a nine year old German boy is forced to move to Auschwitz, a place in the middle of nowhere. Exhausted with solitude and longing for a friend; he meets Shmuel, a Jew who lived in a concentration camp with his brother and father. The fence in the woods where they first met was their most treasured place. One day, suddenly, Shmuel's father goes missing; leaving no trace behind. Bruno, in the spirit of true friendship, helps Shmuel to look for his father. But who knew what lay on the other side of the fence for Bruno?

Bruno and Shmuel will always remain etched in the reader's heart along with their long lasting friendship which outdid the horror in that time and age.



-Aishita Tekriwal and Avika Mantri  
Class 8



## When Patriarchy Backfires

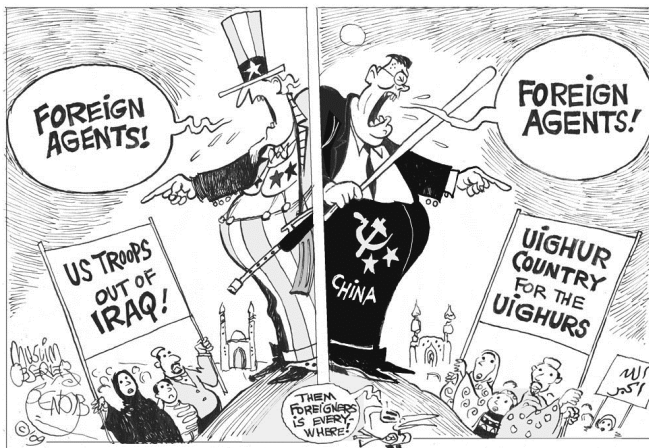
Child abuse is a serious issue which has been discussed several times in the past and many reformative measures have been taken against it as well. Its graveness is being understood by the authorities now. However, only one aspect of it has been under the spotlight – sexual abuse of the girl child. We are not here to say that this is not a matter of concern or that it can be put aside. On the contrary it is a vile conduct that needs to be curtailed completely.

Reports from 2016 show that as many as 39 crimes against women are reported every single hour. However, in the same survey, conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, it was revealed that about 53% out of the 12,500 children questioned about abuse in nine out of the thirteen states, the number of boys abused was higher than the number of girls.

Having read the data, feeling just shocked or surprised will not be enough. The reason why most of these abuse cases go unreported is the patriarchal stigma which has been instilled into most of the population's brains. Males are taught to believe that they are the protectors of the society and can never be vulnerable. Most boys are forced to pass this abuse off as some sort of 'coming-of-age' ritual. The only solution to this grave problem is to amend our flawed mind-set because even after all that the "protector's" have done to keep the 'lesser' gender in check, their patriarchy has backfired.

-Shubhika Khanna and Vidushi Mohan  
Class 9

## Exposed: China's Surveillance of Muslim Uighurs



Uighurs are a Muslim ethnic minority group in China. They hail from the city of Xinjiang, which was captured by China in the eighteenth century. Uighers are now being systematically harassed and ill-treated by the Government.

Uighurs can be arrested and tried on petty grounds such as having long beards or receiving religious messages on their mobile phones. With China getting bolder on the international front, their global network of surveillance is expanding, thus making it easy to spot religious texts. All Uighur children face the same fate: they either end up as

spies for the Chinese government or are imprisoned in 're-education centres'. Amat, an Uighur, became a spy for the Chinese government in 2012 because Chinese officials arrested and tortured his mother, threatening to keep her in detention unless he agreed to work for them. Amat also described the malevolent treatment meted out to young children and women in interrogation centres. He claims that the Chinese used various means of torture which included electrical cords in order to interrogate him.

Today, China's political leader Xi-Jinping talks about peace and harmony and calls on the citizens to maintain and propagate brotherhood. The abuse of the Uighurs is nothing but evidence of China's hypocrisy. Every day thousands of families are torn apart and tormented on the basis of their religious beliefs. The Uighurs have considered China their homeland for generations and have never overstepped their boundaries. Thus, this new trend highlights a severe problem now, not with the Uighur minority but with China's narrow outlook. China is a superpower which has the ability to influence the whole of Asia. Despite this, China has proved itself as a country which has marginalized and victimized the minority. It is now painstakingly evident that China is a fascist state hiding behind the flag of a republic nation.

-Sushumna Uniyal and Khushiya Jhamb  
Class 9



## In Memoriam

### Captain J.B. Dewan

A beloved member of our Welham family, Captain J.B. Dewan passed away on 4th May, 2019 at the age of 76. He is survived by his son and daughter. During his tenure at Welham, he was the Athletics Coach and served as an inspiration for many students. Even though his forté was Athletics, he took keen interest in other sports as well. He enjoyed long walks amidst nature and accompanied girls on their mountaineering ventures. Captain J.B. Dewan retired in 2003 after working at Welham for nine years. Even after his retirement, he continued to attend all school events regularly, including our school birthday this year. He will be greatly missed.

### Mrs. Krishna Sinha

Another one of Welham's old guard passed away into the gentle night on 21st April 2019 at the wonderful age of 90. She leaves behind a family that remembers her with warmth and scores of ex-Welhamites with fond memories.

Mrs. Krishna Sinha was at Welham for a little over 30 years. She joined in 1958 and eventually retired in 1989. Mrs. Sinha was a teacher of Hindi and Punjabi and the students enjoyed learning from her. Though she was a tiny, plump no nonsense woman with a fiery temper, she pampered her girls too. Her Punjabi students from the batch of 71 remember being granted special permission to attend her brother's wedding in Dehra Dun. A rare treat!

A bright and intelligent teacher, she was often seen with the Time magazine in her hand, from where she would often use tit bits of information to pepper her Hindi classes with. She belonged to a generation of teachers who mixed ingenuity and imagination to breathe life into their classes. They shall be remembered always.

### Mrs. John

It is with sadness that we share with you the news of Welham's old guard's passing away. Mrs. John passed away quietly on Friday 26th, 2019. Mrs. John joined School in 1965 and retired in 1996 after over 30 years of being one of the best-loved matrons of Junior School who was equally loved by teachers and students alike.

A warm and gentle soul, she was surrogate mother to literally hundreds of girls who passed through her care. Weepy first-termers, naughty second-termers, and confident juniors that she had nurtured and cared for as they made their way from Junior to Senior School imbued with the quiet confidence that all would be well.

Hers was a quiet yet solid presence at School and many felt her nurturing touch when in bed with fever and on 'dorm-rest', when she would encourage a spoonful of soup into an unwilling mouth or put her soothing hand on a fevered brow. The Lord's Prayer "Our Father who art in Heaven..." was her favourite bedtime prayer and it put many little aching hearts at rest. As did her words to those who couldn't sleep sometimes... "Turn to your right and close your eyes...sleep will come..." and it did.

### In Loving Memory Of

Welham is our home and family and our upbringing is dependent on each and every member present here. On the night of 24th April, 2019, Mahesh Bearerji suddenly left for his heavenly abode. He had been working in the kitchen for more than a decade, filling an important place in school. His love and enthusiasm to serve the children is something that will remain etched in our hearts forever. His exceptional service, especially in the Number 17 campus and during Bada Khana taught us how true passion for anything can bring us joy.

*His hard work and love has taught us the way to live life. Welham stands by his family and our prayers and love go out to them .*





### History Up in Smoke.

All was calm, all was quiet,  
 Then in the evening, there was disquiet.  
 On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April,  
 Parisians' voices were shrill.  
 Tears in their eyes, reflected by the fire,  
 As they watched the fall of their iconic spire.  
 Oh, Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris,  
 Thou witness to 850 years of history.  
 The blaze consumed thy building,  
 And made us party to a sight chilling.  
 Not singularly France's loss,  
 As history buffs world over held their cross.  
 Praying for the survival of the legendary church,  
 And the recovery of the Gothic where history perched.  
 Now everything's gone up in smoke.  
 In a single deadly stroke.  
 Stories that were told through sculptures and paintings,  
 All lost, in a damage staggering.  
 But out of the inferno rose a new hope,  
 That symbolised our will to cope.  
 The ashes from the spot so scenic  
 Will lead to the rise of a phoenix.  
 Never doubt the resilience of history  
 For it is capable of rewriting its own story.

-Agrima Agrawal  
 Class 12

### Technicolour Skies

She's attracted by the beauty of both  
 Too selfish now to care about an oath  
 The eyes of one, the body of the other,  
 One's sister and no one's brother  
 Therefore she decides to swing both ways  
 And see how long the passion stays  
 Luminous with colour see the flag fly  
 Watch this community shoot sky high  
 Now the nation is filled with pride  
 There is absolutely no reason to hide  
 The fight with yourself is going to be tragic  
 But in the end you'll discover the magic  
 Many people restrict her to a name  
 But she doesn't let them bow her head down in  
 shame,  
 Orientation is never a permanent thing,  
 Its more than just a night or a fling  
 Its more than just the label or the name  
 There's more to it than just the fame  
 Call it love, call it a maze  
 But never make the mistake of calling it a phase....

-Tara Govil  
 Class 10

## WHAT'S IN

## WHAT'S OUT




















- ☛ Tracksuits in Summer
- ☛ Milkshakes
- ☛ Standardized Tests
- ☛ Tablets
- ☛ RIMC
- ☛ Politics on Twitter
- ☛ Assembly Talks
- ☛ "Chaar Botal Vodka"
- ☛ Public Apologies
- ☛ Scorching Heat

- ☛ Tracksuits in Winter
- ☛ Cocoa
- ☛ Test Weeks
- ☛ Free periods
- ☛ The Doon School
- ☛ Politics on Ground
- ☛ CTP
- ☛ "Cool Kids"
- ☛ Standing outside Class
- ☛ Cold Spells

- ☛ Jahnvi Ghai "bird-watching" for a certain Vulture. (Please contact Ms. Reema Pant for assistance!)
- ☛ Prakriti and Vaanya Singh getting two Mayo boys into trouble while running around with ice-creams.
- ☛ The entire SC batch uniting for the first time attempting to get two lovebirds the "Captain's Dance" they never would have had.
- ☛ Dr.Roma Saklani in dire need of a pacemaker throughout SAS.
- ☛ Welhamotes getting in the way of a very enthusiastic rendition of "Auld Lang Syne."





-  **6 April, 2019:** Seven girls of class 10 represented our school at the Young chef Junior Competition, 2019 held at the IIHM in New Delhi. Ira Bansal qualified for the finals and is now waiting for the voting to begin.
-  **6-8 April, 2019:** The Debating Society attended an English Debating workshop held by Mr. Prashant Khurana to improve on their speaking skills .It was an enriching experience that left all the students truly educated!
-  **7 April, 2019:** Seven girls participated in the Young Chef India Competition held at the IIHM in New Delhi. Antara Gupta qualified for the Semifinal Round. She was one of the 8 top finalists of the North Zone category.
-  **7-12 April, 2019:** Sairaa Bains, Khushi Gupta and Gaurika Bindal represented the All India Public Schools' Conference at the SGFI level in Ludhiana after attending the Hockey IPSC National Camps held at Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Sonipat.
-  **13 April, 2019:** The school witnessed an enthralling Odissi dance performance by Janhabi Behra , a recipient of the renowned Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuba Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Academy .
-  **14 April, 2019:** The students of class 6th and 7th put up a play called 'BALSABHA' which was based on the freedom fighters who lay down their lives for our country.
-  **16–20 April, 2019:** 11 students represented our school at the Tennis State Tournament. We secured the runners up position in the women's category and came first in the under 14 category.
-  **21 April, 2019:** A team of 12 students participated in the 'Major Jagpal All India Inter-School Basketball Tournament' at the Pinegrove School, Solan. The team secured the runners up position.
-  **22-24 April, 2019:** Our school hosted the 3rd Diamond Jubilee Basketball Tournament in which 8 teams participated. The Welham Blues were awarded the runners up position and lost the first place by a very close margin to the Motilal Nehru School of Sports.
-  **24- 25 April, 2019:** Eight Students from our school took part in the Quiz, the Hindi Debate and the English Debates at the Rashtriya Indian Military College. Aditi Singh received the most promising speaker and Mrigya Kumar was adjudged the Best Speaker in the Preliminary round.
-  **25 April, 2019:** Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, a member of the Board of Governors and an economist gave a talk to all the Economics students of class 11 and 12 about the basic problems faced by our economy at present and how to combat all these issues.
-  **26-29 April, 2019 :** Nine girls participated in the Mayo College Girls' School Model United Nations. Manya Kheria got a special mention while Anmol Kejriwal and Sairaa Bains were awarded the first position as the best delegates.
-  **27 April, 2019:** Anika Arora and Vanya Chowdhry participated in the MasterChef Competition at the Convent of Jesus and Mary. Vanya Chowdhry was adjudged the runners up.
-  **3-4 May, 2019:** Five students of our school participated in the Badminton Tournament held at the Delhi Public School in the under 17 and under 14 category.
-  **4 May, 2019:** 25 students from our school participated in 'Spectrum' held at the Unison World School, Dehradun. Nimrat Kaur stood first in the 'Beej Rangoli' event.
-  **4-5 May, 2019:** 12 students of our school participated in the Uttarakhand State Karate Championship held at the parade ground. Overall, they won four silver, four bronze and four gold medals. Palak Porwal, Aditi Bhojnaagarwala , Tanushi Jain and Keya Aggrawal were selected for nationals which are to be held in Delhi.
-  **5-6 May, 2019:** 36 girls represented our school from the under 14 , under 17 and under 19 teams at the CISCE National Basketball Trials held at St. Joseph's Academy. 18 girls have been selected for the Nationals which will be held in Varanasi in September.





**Q: Why is the news spoken in three different languages?**

*Dear linguistically-abled Welhamite,*

*It is warming to see that you were awake enough to notice the transition to a more symbolic egalitarian assembly. Mrs. Datta would cry tears of joy if she knew that there was one "solitary reaper" who decided assembly was worth paying attention to. Perhaps there is still hope.*

*Now, to answer your question, India my darling, fortunately for most (maybe not for you) is known for being the cultural-ly intertwined nation that it is. The appreciation of the various languages on the school stage is simply a repercussion of that fact, at least that's what they'll tell you. My opinion on the other hand is that it's a welcome gesture intended at keeping you lackadaisical dimwits on your feet for longer.*

*And let's not forget, you require Punjabi in Canada.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Aunt Agatha.*

**Q: Why do we have tadpoles made on our Salwar Kameez ?**

*Dear darling Welhamite ,*

*The story of the tadpoles is a complicated one that is beyond your understanding. It is funny to see you racking your brains amidst such a busy term which does not allow one ,any brain space to think.*

*Nonetheless to answer your question, you must take a peek inside the pond, outside the Nasreen and examine the creatures that inspire the artwork on our clothes.*

*One caveat though: ( I suggest you sit down somewhere, for this will come as a shock to you) Our 'tadpoles' are actually supposed to be birds with beaks and at the same time resemble a scholar's ribbon. Another theory suggests that our tadpoles are nothing but a misprint. I hope this puts your soul at peace.*

*Your loving Aunty*

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