

NEWS & VIEWS

Estd. 1964



60 years
of N&V!



founders' issue
October 2024

Editorial

“We didn’t come this far just to come this far.” - Matthew Reilly

Dear Readers,

As the calendar prepares to turn its pages once again, marking the end of the longest term of the year, we, as SCs, find ourselves caught in the quiet tension between longing and reluctance. There is an ambiguity to this ending, even as we stand on the threshold of something new, which just so happens to be the rest of our lives. Caught in the whirlwind of impending applications, studying late into the night for upcoming exams and crying to each other as (*once again*) our latest essay drafts get rejected, we have reached an immutable truth: we are scared—rather, petrified—of what comes next.

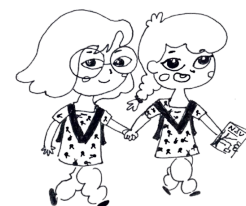
But in this ambiguity, we seek solace in the familiar. As we sit in dark corners writing this editorial, we realise just how deeply *News & Views* has become a part of us, and we, a part of it. From Aarisha waking up in a cold sweat, haunted by a nightmare where the cover page remained unfinished, to Mrs Kapoor calling an *N&V* meeting ‘*Vanshi ka darbar*’, *News & Views* has undeniably become a celebration of our journey at Welham.

Behind every sixteen-page issue lies the familiar sight of a random junior approaching us with a request to report something in *Spotted*, or the unmistakable shout of “Put this in *Bird Brain!*” whenever someone utters something foolish. *News & Views* has created its own language, unique to us Welhamites—almost a secret that the entire school shares. To be featured in the humour columns has become a rite of passage, anticipated yet feared by students and teachers alike.

However, *News & Views* is, first and foremost, in pursuit of the truth. At Welham, *N&V* is cherished for its ability to bring a smile to the reader’s face as it shines a light on all the hidden corners of our school life, ensuring that no event, however absurd, goes unreported. However, its allure is not confined to its humour columns. *N&V* has always been on a mission to civilise and educate, with the goal of creating intellectual discourse around issues many of us would rather choose to ignore. In step with its predecessors, this issue’s carefully curated articles offer powerful commentaries on a world unravelling before our eyes, while we observe from the safety of these red-brick walls, as well as articles that embody our stubborn refusal to leave behind our own little Welham bubble.

For sixty years, *N&V* has served as a lasting record of all the idiosyncratic events at Welham, chronicling our shared experiences and shaping our identity as Welhamites—from the extraordinary to the absurd. As the latest custodians of this cherished heirloom, we carry the weight of its storied legacy. This is why we have poured our blood, sweat and—quite literally—tears into these pages. As our issues join the ever-growing library of those who came before us, we prepare to leave behind our own chapter. We hope that in the years to come, another pair of Welhamites will find their kindred spirits in these yellowed pages, just as we did.

Crying, laughing, screaming, dying,
Aarisha Jain and Vanshi Agrawal
Editors-in-Chief



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From the School Captain's Desk

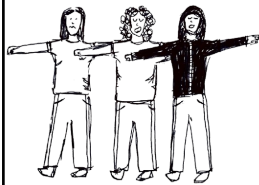
My Dear Welhamites,

Even as I sit down to write this letter, I feel the immense weight of the legacy tied to the position I hold. Yet, it is the most rewarding kind of weight—one that does not burden but lifts, knowing I carry it alongside 540 others, each contributing their heart and spirit to the Welham legacy. It is in the late-night practices and early-morning march-past that Founders' becomes more than the culmination of sixty-seven years of tradition; it transitions into a living, breathing testament to the dreams, efforts and values of every Welhamite who has walked the corridors of Welham.

It is only in my final year that I have truly come to understand what legacy means. There is a realisation that the responsibility of preserving legacy does not lie with those who come after us, but with those of us who leave. Many would say that being the first to achieve something is an accomplishment in itself. But I believe the true weight of legacy lies in ensuring that you are not the last to receive it. That is when legacy becomes meaningful—when it transforms from a mere milestone into a guiding force.



This is how Welham thrives: generations of Welhamites guiding those who come after them, forging a bond that transcends time. Every name etched on the red-brick walls, every house number passed down like a cherished heirloom and every candle lit on a cold February night weaves us into a shared legacy.



So, as you navigate the challenges of your own journey, pause and ask yourself, "Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself?" It is in the answer to this question that you will discover a profound truth. For the walls of our institution have shaped leaders who are driven by purpose, and not solely by ambition.

The *News & Views* has been on a sixty-year-quest to find meaning amidst bizarre happenings in school. In my dual role as School Captain and Editor-in-Chief of *News & Views*, I have often found it difficult to separate the two (*and admittedly, to come up with something new to say for both the Editorial and the School Captain's Desk*). But somewhere in this binary, I have found something meaningful. The real beauty of the magazine is how it reflects Welham itself—these yellow pages seem to capture the spirit of our school. And in a way, they have guided me through the highs and lows of leadership this year.

True to this spirit, my hope is that we continue building on a legacy that is not only grounded in tradition and principles, but also in the little things. It is alive in the laughter shared over Sunday French fries, the warmth of the sun shining down on us on Sports Day and the bittersweet goodbyes that make us relive our best moments at Welham, looking back at the *bajri* and the tadpole with hearts full of happy memories. I wish for us to make a place for ourselves in this sixty-seven-year-old story of love, laughter and joy.

With seven years' worth of love and gratitude,
H/462 Vanshi Agrawal
School Captain
2024-2025



News & Views warmly welcomes back all former staff and students to celebrate the 67th Founders' Day. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Welhamites and faculty for their outstanding efforts in putting up such wonderful productions. Here's to another year of excellence and the continued legacy of Welham!

The Sound of Welham

From being young BIIIs, uncertain of our place in school, to graduating SCs, reluctant to leave, we have never been able to distinguish where the noise ends and the music begins. The overwhelming mix of emotions from those early years has evolved into a familiar melody—one we have grown accustomed to. As we approach our final days wearing the tadpole, this Sound of Welham becomes the parting note that encapsulates the moments that make school feel like home.



But what is the Sound of Welham? It is the ring of the school bell echoing across the campus and the distinct rhythm of the Welham clap. It is the crunch of *bajri* under the feet of Welhamites racing to class, the soft chime of *ghungroos* as tired seniors return from midnight practices and the cadence of the assembly choir greeting us each morning. It is Vanshi laughing through the microphone before grace and the sound of rain drumming against windows, accompanied by the laughter of students getting drenched.

For some, it is the SCs singing *Auld Lang Syne*, their voices heavy with the dreaded weight of impending good-byes. For others, it is the thunderous applause (*and hooting, even when not allowed*) that follows every school performance and absurd DJ cheers. This Sound of Welham is present in every corner of our campus—from off-key renditions of “Happy Birthday” in the mess to the laughter that fills the senior garden at night.

The ultimate crescendo of all these sounds is Founders’—the celebration of the music we have created together over the years. It is juniors screaming “LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT!” in the BBC, late-night band practices and early-morning *shamiyana* setups. This year’s Founders’ production, *Maria’s Melodies (An Adaptation of The Sound of Music)*, is a fitting tribute to the songs and moments that have intertwined to define our years at Welham.

By the end of it all, each Welhamite has that one sound, that one moment, which transports her back to this time—when the world was smaller, and the sounds were louder. These seven years have given us all a playlist of memories, filled with melodies both musical and discordant. To our dear SCs, for whom this playlist is coming to an end: cherish each and every sound because whether pleasant or irritating, joyful or sad, every sound is uniquely Welham. The truth remains: it is we who create the Sound of Welham, and it is this sound that will stay with us long after we leave.



Arushree Kashyap and Naija Mehra
Class 12



BOOKS

- 📖 Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse
- 📖 A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara
- 📖 Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin
- 📖 Bunny by Mona Awad
- 📖 Kairos by Jenny Erpenbeck



MOVIES

- 🎬 A Real Pain (2024)
- 🎬 Whisper of the Heart (1995)
- 🎬 Civil War (2024)
- 🎬 The Fundamentals of Caring (2016)
- 🎬 Somebody I Used To Know (2023)



ALBUMS

- 🎵 For Cryin’ Out Loud by Finneas (2024) ☆
- 🎵 Hunting High and Low by a-ha (1985)
- 🎵 Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club by The Beatles (1967)
- 🎵 Take Me Home by One Direction (2012)
- 🎵 Bossa Nova by Sunset Rollercoaster (2011)



TV SHOWS

- 📺 Nobody wants this (2024)
- 📺 Shameless (2011)
- 📺 Derry Girls (2018)
- 📺 Slow Horses (2022)
- 📺 Mad Man (2007)



The Easternisation of the West

In a hyper-globalised world, the West, once the traditional exporter of modernity, liberal values and capitalism, is now absorbing influences from the East. This shift has led to the resurgence of ancient Eastern traditions, reframed through a distinctly Western lens. Practices that once held deep cultural significance are now transformed into trends, often diluted into hashtags and fleeting fads. This metamorphosis, where legacies spanning centuries are reshaped into lifestyle choices for mass consumption, places Eastern culture at the mercy of Western fascination.

Disillusioned with an increasingly chaotic and individualistic society, the West is turning to the introspective philosophies of the East—such as yoga, meditation, and mindfulness—that emphasise balance, simplicity and interconnectedness. This can also be seen in practices such as hair oiling, which has been more than just a grooming habit in many Eastern societies for generations; rather, it was a cherished ritual. Mothers and grandmothers would massage oils like coconut or *amla* into their children's hair, blending care with tradition. Today, this practice has been rebranded under the 'Clean Girl Aesthetic,' a viral social media trend showcasing sleek buns and glossy hair. Ironically, the Eastern youth is rediscovering this age-old tradition—not through their cultural heritage, but due to its newfound appeal in the West.

This commodification extends to both food and cuisine. *Ghee*, a staple of Indian cooking, is now repackaged as a modern superfood, aggressively marketed by Western wellness gurus. Similarly, turmeric milk, known as *haldi doodh* in Indian households, has been rebranded as 'golden milk' and sold at exorbitant prices. Once modest meals, like Chinese *dim sums* and Japanese *sushi*, are marketed as exotic gourmet experiences in the West, often at the expense of authenticity. Even cultural clothing like *saris* and *kimonos* have not escaped the 'fadification' of Eastern culture, with Western designers like John Galliano and Vivienne Westwood blurring the lines between cultural appreciation and appropriation.

Many in the East struggle with the notion that their traditions were undervalued until they gained Western approval, a cycle that reflects the saying, "what goes around, comes around." However, Easternisation need not be seen solely as Western appropriation; it can also be viewed as an opportunity for introspection, revitalisation and renewed pride in Eastern heritage. This moment of Easternisation offers a chance for Eastern societies to reclaim and redefine their heritage—not as relics of the past, but as vital parts of their identity.



Prangya Singh
Class 11

SPOTTED

✂ A Mongoose in SC-C. (*Only the real ones know.*)
 ✂ Vaanya Thapliyal watching 'How to Wash a Kitten' on Youtube. (*We are so scared for Tingu and Piddu.*)
 ✂ Accounts SCs at the pir before their exam. (*Nothing tallied- just like their marks.*)
 ✂ Desperate seniors trying to get Hotspot Shield to work. (*Siraj Sir 'blocking' our happiness, one VPN server at a time.*)
 ✂ Japan SCs suffering major nostalgia after Manu Sir's visit to school. (*You can take a girl out of Japan, but not Japan out of the girl.*)
 ✂ SCs cursing the moon every night. (*Thanks a lot, Arushree Kashyap.*)
 ✂ Seniors getting mauled by a large bird on the ground floor. (*If this is not an omen for your future, we do not know what is.*)
 ✂ Janhavi making a desperate goodbye call to her parents before going for the mock fire drill. (*This is not what they meant when they asked us to take the drill seriously.*)

☛ **Arushree:** Ma'am is it you may sleep or you can sleep?
Ms. Sukanya: You may sleep.
 SC-C proceeds to go to sleep. (*Opportunists*)

☛ **Basketball SCs:** Ma'am can you name one Diljit song?
Mrs. Kapoor: Lambhorgini?
 (*Safe to say that Mrs. Kapoor will not be present at the Diljit Chandigarh concert.*)

☛ **Ananya Agarwal:** Capital of Cuba is Cuboid. (*CLAT preparation is going well, we assume.*)

☛ The bell rings for the fire drill.
Mr. Dora: Commerce period ke time koi fire nahi lagti.
 (*There may be a fire outside, but there is a volcano within.*)

☛ **Ms. Bhatia:** What is LOC?
Gauri Rawat: London Occupied China.
 (*Maybe it stands for Ms. Bhatia's Loss of Confidence in the History SCs?*)

☛ **Anukriti (who may we remind you is the Quiz Official):** Abraham Lincoln was black. (*So is your future.*)



BIRD BRAIN



Coldplay Tickets, Anyone?

Picture the computer lab packed with desperate Welhamites, eyes glued to the screen with bated breath. The queue shrank from millions to mere hundreds, but just as success seemed within reach, *Mansa Bearer-ji* shut the lab. The anticipation vanished, and dreams of securing tickets for *Diljit*, *Coldplay*, *21 Savage* and *Aujla* concerts were crushed. This mania isn't limited to No.12 Campus; it has become the norm across urban India.













From standing-room passes to premium VIP sections, fans are shelling out enormous sums to watch their favourite artists perform live. Tickets for *Coldplay* have exceeded Rs. 1 lakh per seat, excluding travel and accommodation, yet fans eagerly open their wallets. (*Savings? Sorry, we haven't heard that song before.*)

India's music scene is undergoing a seismic shift, with Bollywood soundtracks being overshadowed by the rise of music tourism. This change is driven by the youth, who are increasingly prioritising real-life experiences like concerts, even at the expense of their savings. (*FOMO, anyone?*) In urban India, traditional needs like 'roti, kapda, makaan' are being traded for tickets, wristbands and overpriced merchandise. After all, why pay for therapy when you can scream the lyrics to *Yellow* live?

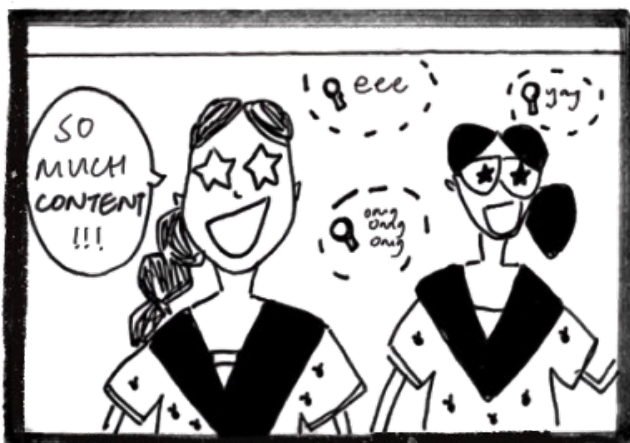
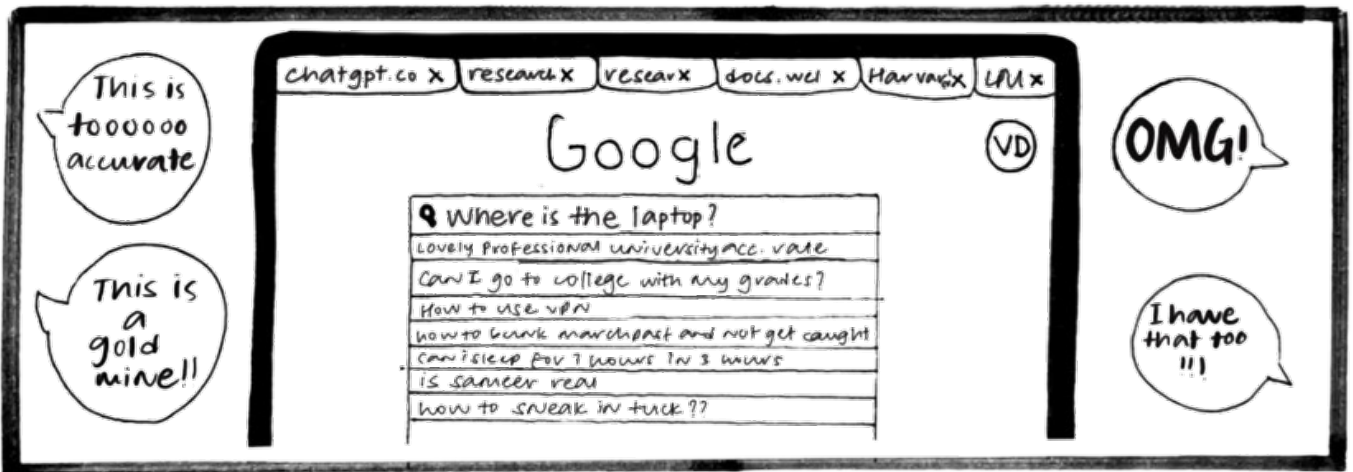
At the heart of this shift lies not just a love for music but a desire to be part of the cultural moment. Social media amplifies the allure, as fans eagerly post from concerts, turning ticket-buying into a high-stakes game. And it all seems worth it to see your favourite artist live (*on a giant screen, because you couldn't get fan pit passes*).

One minute you're scrolling through Instagram, and the next, you're in a bidding war for a *Coldplay* ticket resold at seven times the price. Crashing booking websites, skyrocketing hotel prices—all seem worth it just to be part of the moment. So, if anyone's shopping for us, we're a size *Fan Pit Diljit Chandigarh* ticket.

Aanya Gupta and Sara Goel
Class 10

Roses	Raspberries
 Bouquets of red, radiant, velvety roses strung together with strings of love to the Dance, Music and Dramatics Department, Ms. Chhavi Gupta and Ms. Neena Agarwal for ensuring that Founders' is a resounding success!	 Incinerated raspberries, charred and reeking of smoke, to the school for organising a fire drill even at night, causing 'panicked' Welhamites to leave their beds. (<i>We would rather face the flames than forsake our sleep.</i>)
 Activity Centres overflowing with freshly plucked roses to Ms. Chhavi Gupta, Ms. Sarika Dubey, all the Bank and Canteen Officials for organising social service and putting a smile on everyone's face amidst the October chaos.	 Popcorn buckets overflowing with gooey, sour raspberries to the BI batch for being the reason Hoopoes and Flycatchers were subjected to the theatrical agony of 'Kaha Shuru Kaha Khatam'. (#BabuKiBaby)
 Gardens filled with aromatic, crimson roses to the fairy godmother we never knew we needed, Ms. Subohi Rashid, for graciously allowing us the blessing of using our laptops.	 Umbrellas dripping with tart raspberry juice to the Welham Gods for deeming it fit to make it rain the day we had both Social Service and Athletics Inter-House. (<i>Even the Gods can't see us happy.</i>)
 Trophies overflowing with roses, their scent thick with the fragrance of victory, to Welhamites for their astounding successes in every realm—from sports and quizzes to debates and MUNs—throughout the term!	 Cartons filled with rancid, putrid and sun-melted raspberries, to the calendar for ushering us into the month devoid of ice cream, cold milk and our sanity.
 Flowerbeds of pure white roses, their petals glowing with gratitude, to Ms. Anupma Gupta for gifting Welhamites with a variety of cereal to brighten their mornings!	 Putrid raspberries, heavy with the stench of toil and sweat squeezed from stretchies, to the Sports Department for starting march-past practices on a Sunday.

The Case of the MISSING LAPTOP



JUNIOR Samboree

The Greeks' Perception of Beauty

The Greeks were followers of the esoteric, embracing aesthetics in ways that often defied conventional understanding. From the myth of Medusa, whose deadly gaze transformed allure into terror, to the enchanting songs of the Sirens, whose melodies lured sailors to their doom, the Greeks expressed madness in many forms, revealing the darker sides of modern day concepts of beauty. For contemporary society, beauty is largely associated with feelings of safety, peace and calm. We often admire the serene blue sky, grateful for the beauty that nature provides, limiting our appreciation of beauty to moments of tranquillity.

In stark contrast, the Greeks would have marvelled at a tempestuous, roaring night, even if it threatened their homes. Their view of aesthetics was shaped by eccentricity and developed around the concept of 'χαλεπά τα καλά'—'Beauty is harsh.' To the Greeks, beauty was not simply something pleasant; it was something felt most intensely when it provoked terror. Beauty was almost antagonistic, valued not in the eye of the storm but in the chaos that followed. Arachne, the skilled mortal weaver, lost to Athena because the goddess's tapestry depicted terrifying events and abundant sorrow. For the Greeks, the grotesque paradoxically became the picturesque. What evokes strong emotions, particularly fear, appeals to us more deeply on a psychological level.

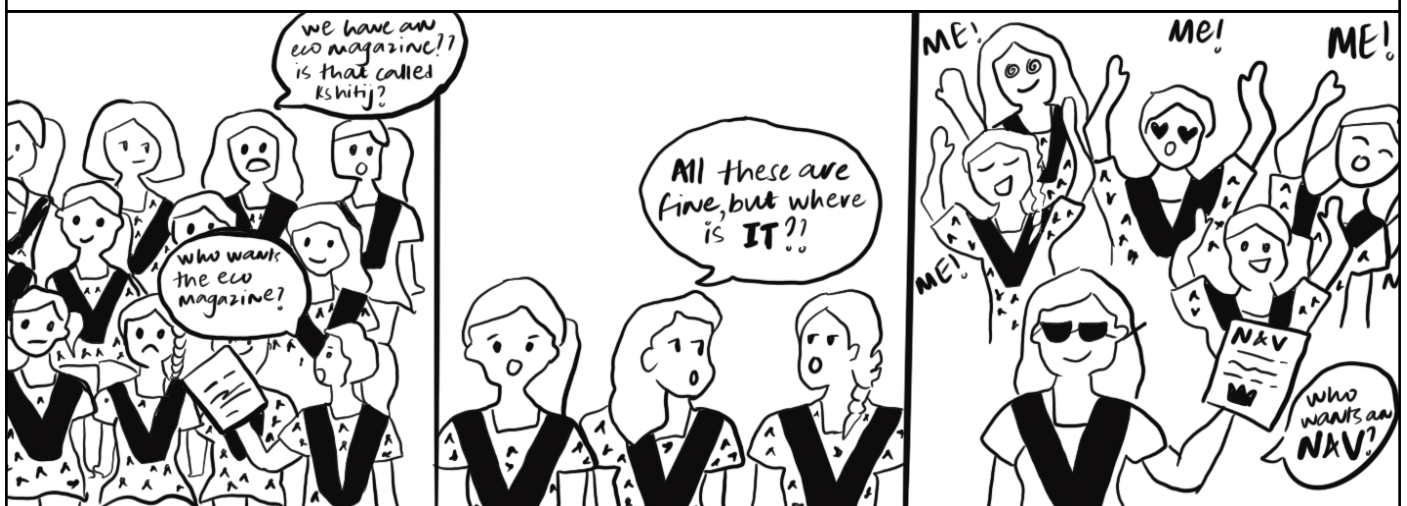


Thus, the Greek concept of allure, though seemingly unusual, rings true in retrospect. This idea permeated their culture, as reflected in plays such as Euripides' *Bacchae* and *Medea*. Over time, this notion has woven its way through various cultures, and it remains an integral part of Greek philosophy.

This intertwining of aesthetics and doom is best captured in Homer's words from the *Iliad*—"Everything is beautiful because we are doomed," a sentiment as relevant and unsettling today as it was in ancient times.

Krishnangi Gariya
Class 8

YELLOW GUMBOOTS



If *N&V* was a person

Whispers fill the room as she walks in—notorious, adored and much awaited—*N&V*, the one we all envy. Short for *News & Views*, she is not just a magazine; she is the living embodiment of every rumour, every opinion and every eyebrow-raising story swirling through the halls of our school. She is the magnum opus of some ingenious writer or the blinding crystal ball that holds knowledge none of us can even fathom possessing. From the latest gossip about the infamous *Kabr Ka Bijju* attack and the rumour of the Games Captain skipping sports to the scandalous “international relations” that take place during MUNs, she has her finger on the very heartbeat of campus life.



If *N&V* were a person, she would probably strut around school like she owns the place. Cool, composed and always two steps ahead, she knows the news before anyone else does—and she is ready to spill. Think of her as our very own *Gossip Girl*. She has heard it all, decoded the cryptic messages on the junior bathroom cubicles and is well aware of who skipped sports (*probably because she was bunking with them*).

With her signature sarcasm and puns that make dad jokes look like Shakespearean sonnets, *N&V* is the campus detective who always seems to know exactly what you did last Friday. Whether it was the entrance of a certain PreSC for prep duty that got a little too wild or the side glances exchanged during socials, she is always aware.



What sets her apart, though, is her flair for storytelling. She isn't here just to gossip—oh no, she has style. Everything “*spotted*” on campus, every little “*bird brain*” moment, is spun into a tale so deliciously dramatic that even the most mundane events suddenly feel like scenes straight out of a Netflix drama.

But here's the thing about *N&V*: she is unpredictable. One day she will be praising your impeccable taste in books, and the next, she will be hinting at the questionable excuses given for not drinking milk at night. She can be eerily honest and wickedly playful in the same sentence, causing her readers to always be wary of her next move. She walks the delicate and dangerous line between teasing and truth like an artist, and we are all just mere creations of her art.

No one is safe from her watchful eyes, yet somehow, we all crave her attention. So, whether you love her, hate her, or just cannot get enough, one thing is for sure—*N&V* runs this place.

You know you envy her.
XOXO,
Sanaa Sachar (Class 7)



Q. Who is Ye?

- 👂 **Mr Aditya:** Mr. Dora (*So real*)
- 👂 **Dr. Achin:** God (*We are unsure if that was a Ye reference, but sure.*)
- 👂 **Mr. Kainthola:** Maybe a slang word to say YAYYY!! Or maybe a Chinese person?
- 👂 **Baba Sir:** Ye kya baat hui? Mudit sir... (#bbaicode)

Actual Answer: Ye is the newly adopted name of controversial American rapper Kanye West.

Q. Who is North West?

- 👂 **Ms. Ritika:** I am a psychologist, I am going to dodge all of these questions.
- 👂 **Ms. Vatsala Dubey:** The Aravallis
- 👂 **Mrs. Ojha:** I thought that north west was a direction, how can you say who? (*Sorry ma'am?*)
- 👂 **Mr. Kapilesh:** Who is not veg? Non veg?

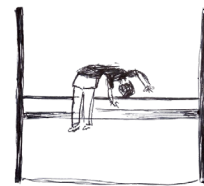
Actual Answer: North West is the name of Kanye West and Kim Kardashian's firstborn daughter.

Why I Am a Rightist

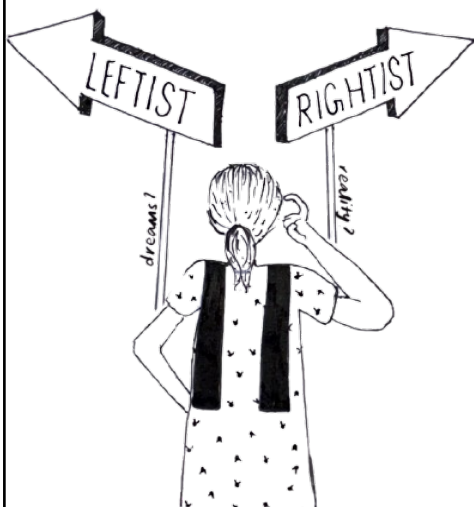
(No, not a reference to that Shashi Tharoor book)

(Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the magazine or the school.)

Wherever you go today, you will notice that political awareness has dramatically increased. More and more people are engaging with current affairs, leading to a global assumption that one ideology must be superior to another. Unfortunately, this assumption often dismisses right-wing ideology, which I happen to support.



Imagine India's economy, society and foreign affairs without a ruling party that adheres to rightist principles. It would lead to chaos, with the government attempting to appease one stakeholder after another. Right-wing ideology calls for bold steps in the right direction (*quite literally*), ensuring that India resists the monopolisation of foreign industries over Indian entrepreneurship and the persecution of minority communities in neighbouring states.



Right-wing principles are often misinterpreted and demonised under the pretext of promoting division, when in reality, they advocate for national security, economic stability and cultural preservation. India has endured centuries of foreign invasion and oppression, which makes security and defence crucial to maintaining sovereignty. For most Indians, their religious and cultural identity plays a pivotal role in shaping their lives, along with the undeniable mindset of 'saving money.' Additionally, the ruling party's effort to elevate our regional customs to highly marketable soft power tools has transformed India's cultural heritage into a significant force for both economic growth and international influence. Thus, embracing a rightist approach provides the structure necessary for India to maintain stability, rather than adopting the "next best thing" (*the leftist ideology in a nutshell*), which often lacks coherence in addressing these foundational concerns.

I acknowledge that politics is inherently messy, but right-wing ideology works for nations like India and has the potential to evolve and incorporate liberalism when given the credit and time it deserves. I have growing faith in the youth to consciously support political parties and drive dynamic changes in the India of the future.

Riddhi Naithani
Class 12

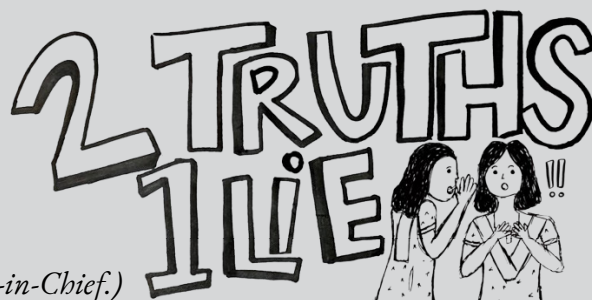
- N&V actually stands for Navya Verma. Vedanshi Deorah uses her suitcase as her pillow. (*Vedanshi is a curse to humanity but a blessing for N&V.*) The Captains' Corridor is haunted. (*Or maybe it's just a certain Oriole SC.*)

- The fastest way for teachers to earn N&V Roses is to bribe Welhamites with food. (*For best results, try the N&V Editors-in-Chief.*) Mr Kapilesh is Batman.

Hoopoes (*and Ms. Agarwal*) gaslit everyone into believing that IHMD treat is an actual thing.

- Ms Shalini Durga kept her sleepy AI class awake through Aerobics Combis. (*100 Marks for creativity.*) SC Band decided their roles without any drama. (*Are you trying to 'Fix You'?*) Vanshi is actually the Editor-in-Chief for 'Trotter'.

- AIIs gave Tvisha a box of wet tissues as her Secret Santa gift. (*Flycatcher AIIs are truly an enigma.*) Juniors have stopped running to protest against Zoya's injury. (*Who knew the N&V Ed-Board would find an unexpected ally in an adversary?*) Deepika got caught searching herself up on Google by Dr. Neera Kapoor.





9th-11th August: Four students participated in the Code Hack virtual hackathon organized by Strawberry Fields High School, with Araina Dang securing the runner-up position. *Well done!*

12th August: Twelve students participated in the 18th Manorite Table Tennis Tournament hosted by St. George's School in Mussoorie, bagging the 1st position in U-14, U-16 and U-19 Individual categories and the Runners-up position in the Open Doubles category. *Congratulations!*

12th-14th August: Welham Girls' School hosted the All-India IPSC Table Tennis Tournament. The WGS team emerged as the 2nd runner-up in the U-12 team, U-14 individual, U-17 individual and U-19 individual categories, and secured the runner-up position in the U-14, U-17 and U-19 team categories. *Way to go!*

14th August: Welham Girls' School hosted the Incredible India Quiz in collaboration with Welham Boys' School on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day.

16th-18th August: Welham students participated in DSMUN 2024, hosted by the Doon School, and received 3 Best Delegate awards, 1 High Commendation and 3 Special Mention awards. *Already shaping the future!*

17th August: Varidhi Agarwal and Gauri Rawat mesmerized the audience with their *Arangetram* performance, marking the pinnacle of their Bharatnatyam journey. *Keep up the beat!*

17th-21st August: Kritika Singh bagged a gold medal at the CISCE National Championship for Shooting, held in Bengaluru, and has been selected for the SGFI Nationals. *Congratulations!*

23rd-24th August: WGS was adjudged the winner of the 2024 Oliphant Memorial Debate hosted by the Welham Boys' School. *Kudos!*

23rd-24th August: The first edition of 'Jazbaat' was held at Welham Girls' School, featuring discussions on the adolescent mental health. *A hearty pat on the back to the entire Welham community!*

24th-25th August: Twenty-four students participated in the CISCE Zonal Athletics Meet, securing nine silver medals. The Uttarakhand team won the overall championship in the U-14 category. *Congratulations!*

25th August: The 13th Inter-School State Karate Championship was held in Rishikesh. The WGS team brought home 13 gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze medals, securing the 2nd runner-up position overall.

26th-28th August: Zoya Singh secured a bronze medal in the 400m Individual Medley in the Under-19 category of the CISCE National Swimming Championship. *Keep it up!*

29th August: Tvisha Mahajan and Anukriti Dhandhanian triumphed at The Doon School Quiz Competition, winning the 1st position. *We are proud of you!*

2nd-4th September: Welham Girls' School organised the 6th edition of the WGS Diamond Jubilee Invitational Basketball Tournament for girls. The WGS Blue Team won, with Saira Kaur Mann being named the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament. *The Golden Bird is back home!*

21st-22nd September: Jheel Rathore won a silver medal in the Women's Open Section and in the Women's Open Category team event at the 5th Uttarakhand State Championship, held at IIT Roorkee.

22nd September: Seven athletes participated in the Uttarakhand State Athletic Meet, returning with 2 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals in the U-20 category, and 1 bronze in the U-16 category.

26th September: Welham Girls' School hosted a SPIC MACAY recital on "*Kalarippayattu*" by the renowned Valla Bhatta Kalari Sangam group, captivating the audience with its performance.

3rd-5th October: Eight students participated in the All-India IPSC Shooting Tournament at The Emerald Heights International School, Indore, with Kritika Singh winning a silver medal in the U-19 Individual Rifle Event, Ananya Raghuvanshi winning a silver in the U-14 Individual Pistol Event and the U-14 team winning a silver in the U-14 Team Pistol Event.





Hegel's Dialectic

While truth may seem an elusive concept, one must not fret. Even the greatest philosophers viewed it as an enigma, a lock whose key had been irretrievably lost. However, Hegel found this elusivity difficult to accept, leading him to develop his Dialectics—a conceptual key he fashioned to unlock the mysteries within the Pandora's box.

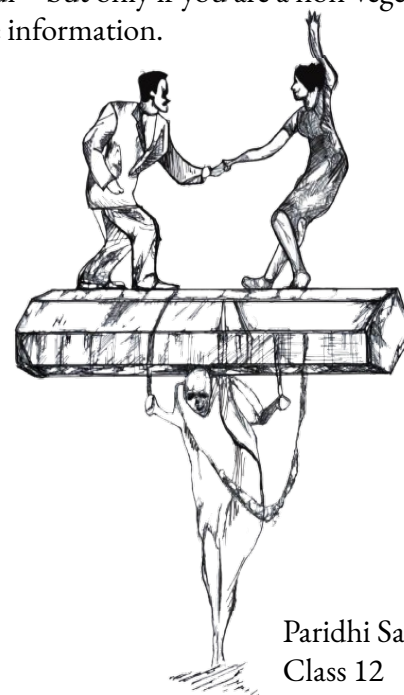
But what exactly is a dialectic? Plato described it as a philosophical debate between Socrates and another party, acting as interlocutors, involving some sort of contradictory process between opposing sides. Plato hypothesised that through dialogue, Socrates and his counterparts would exchange views on a thesis, eventually arriving at a conclusion that could be better, worse, or identical to Socrates' original position.

Immanuel Kant built on this hypothesis, proposing a framework built on two elements: Thesis and Antithesis. The thesis represents any given idea, such as *"Thai curry is amazing."* The antithesis does not necessarily refute the thesis, but rather, questions it. Imagine the vegetarians interjecting, *"Umm, actually..."* At this point, you are either (*most probably*) feeling indignant or are perhaps moved by the rare inclusion of your perspective.

Adding to Kant's framework, Hegel developed a system of logic by introducing a third concept: Synthesis—a comprehensive union that reconciles both the thesis and antithesis, presenting both as the two components of a larger truth. In this case, they combine to reveal that *Thai curry* is indeed delightful—but only if you are a non-vegetarian. Hegel, thus, brings us as close to the truth as possible, given the available information.

Hegel's synthesis is constantly evolving, transforming into new theses and antitheses in an endless loop of evaluation. While this progression may indeed bring us closer to a universal truth, it also risks entrapping us in a cycle of constant re-evaluation. This tendency accumulates into a mass of indecision, gradually encroaching on and casting a shadow over all other matters in our orbit, ultimately paralysing further progress.

Perhaps that is why, when making decisions, it is essential to recognise that the choice is ours to make. It is not the inescapable churn of time that liberates us from indecision, but our own agency. This is why understanding Hegelian dialectic is critical—it allows us to accommodate opposing ideals without entirely subsuming our original convictions. Rather than succumbing to the weight of fate, we must construct our lives—brick by brick, choice by choice—adapting to the changes that arise along the way.



Paridhi Saboo
Class 12

INTO THE WELHAMVERSE

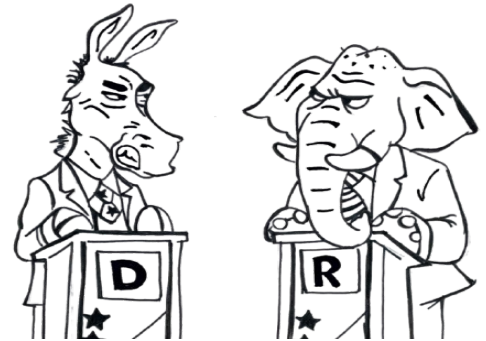


- ☞ School being a serious supporter of the Inter-school letter-exchanging culture just like Ms. Ojha. (*A true advocate of International Relations.*)
- ☞ SC-B actually smelling nice for a change. (*It's probably their predicted grades rotting away in a corner.*)
- ☞ Garba night with actual Garba (*and not Sukhmeet's version of Bhangra.*)
- ☞ Seniors showing up for march past with stretchies and uppers (*or showing up for march past at all.*)
- ☞ Junior School doing something funny enough to make it to the N&V.
- ☞ Ananya Agarwal and Vaanya Thapliyal not being featured in N&V humour columns. (*Thanks for keeping us employed.*)
- ☞ Math Department getting late for their classes. (*Much to the joy of PreSCs and SCs.*)

The Elephant or the Donkey

A 78-year-old convict, determined to crack down on immigration and preaching hate, or a woman set on becoming the first female—and only the second person of colour—to serve as President of the United States, championing reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. The election for what is arguably the most powerful office in the world has devolved into a meme-fest.

On 21st July 2024, current United States President Joe Biden withdrew from the presidential race, endorsing his former running mate, Kamala Harris, as the new Democratic candidate. Harris's ascension to the nomination was anticipated due to Biden's struggle in articulating his administration's plans and his waning public appeal. With Harris now heading the ticket, the party has regained some faith as her campaign strategies have generated renewed interest within the Democratic base.



Harris, known for adapting to political landscapes, has risen to prominence despite her relatively brief career in politics. Arguably, her biggest strength is knowing how to control the narrative, adopting whichever role she believes will be politically advantageous. *Brat or black*, she embraces it all. However, critics argue that some of her policies—on issues like housing, immigration and economic reform—often remain vague, leaving voters uncertain.

On the Republican side, Donald Trump, with his signature pledge to 'Make America Great Again,' continues to pick fights with everyone—women, immigrants, liberals and even fellow Republicans. Having already "taken a bullet for America," he insists on putting 'Americanism' ahead of globalism, especially in relation to global conflicts like Ukraine and Israel, coupled with promises to reduce foreign military aid and raise tariffs.

The question now is *why* this choice isn't as clear as it should be? The political leanings of seven swing states remain ambiguous, oscillating between blue and red. Despite endorsements for Harris from prominent Republicans like Liz Cheney and Pete Buttigieg, Trump maintains a strong voter base, with his brand of nationalism still resonating—particularly among those who are sceptical of a globalised agenda. On the left, many voters remain motivated by a vote against Trump rather than by genuine support for Harris's own policies.



The global impact of this election is undeniable. Yet, with Trump denouncing windmills as health hazards and warning of immigrants eating pets, and Harris often avoiding clear stances on economic and foreign policy, voters find themselves weighing flawed choices. As the election approaches, all we can do is watch as it shapes the future of global governance.

Anukriti Dhandhanian and Tvisha Mahajan
Class 12

GLOBETROTTER

- 🌐 President's rule was revoked in Jammu and Kashmir after 6 years, as Congress ally, Omar Abdullah's National Conference was elected to form the government in the Union Territory. (*A Win for India or I.N.D.I.A?*)
- 🌐 The Indian Chess Team wins a historic double gold at the 45th International Chess Federation Olympiad in Budapest. (*Cue the chess captain being called in with the rest of the DCs.*)
- 🌐 In the Presidential debate 2024, former President Trump claimed that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio are eating the dogs and cats of the residents living there. (*Sources also report that Republicans are adopting 'Who Let the Dogs Out?' by Baha Men as their official campaign song.*)
- 🌐 Legendary business tycoon and philanthropist, Ratan Tata passed away at the age of 86 on 9th October, 2024. As the chairman of the Tata Group, his vision was instrumental in shaping India's economic landscape. *May his soul rest in peace.*
- 🌐 Celebrities like Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish and Jennifer Lawrence have endorsed Kamala Harris' bid for the US presidency, leading to a major boost in the Democratic campaign. (*JD Vance is losing his mind over these 'childless cat ladies' scheming against the Republicans.*)

Why I Refuse To Believe this is the Year of Lasts

My (*very*) dear SCs,

As we step into our final chapter, it is time to confront the elephant in the room: “This is our last year.” While I understand the sentiment, I refuse to buy into the idea of a ‘*year of lasts*’—mainly because I do not want to.



I refuse to let our SC year be defined by the bittersweet feeling that grips our hearts at the sound of suitcases on the *bajri*, knowing it will likely be the last sound we hear in school. For me, the SC year is about the free pass to skip morning sports and enjoying our board tuck (*as if we haven't been boarding Maggis and Ramens in our lockers*). This year holds too many firsts for us to lament over the lasts.

In our list of firsts, we have had SCs blasting loud music in the mess on Sunday mornings (*because nothing says 'power' like waking up the school with terrible music*). We have faced daunting sights like empty college portals and even scarier moments like enduring ‘*Fein*’ during socials. On the bright side, we have yet to jump into the fountain, wear shimmering sarees for farewell and cheer for the Captain body dressed as Santa Claus (*though I worry how much candy will actually be left to distribute*).



These realisations hit hardest as the walls of Welham come alive with the preparation for Founders'. The SC Batch, for the last time, runs away from Founders', while also running towards it, hand in hand, screeching *Auld Lang Syne*, hoping never to crash into reality. These are the moments we wish would last forever—hoisting house trophies, delivering final performances on stage, crying to the SC Batch Band, breaking marble for the first and last time and navigating Founders' stalls.



Still, there are things I am glad to mark as ‘lasts’: fighting for laptops, sweating it out in SC-B with fans slower than Accounts students’ understanding of the subject and jamming to Jalsa 2.0 (*thankfully, for the last time*).

But, a part of me dreads the end of such moments, fearing the thought that we may never gather as a batch again. So, SCs, as we enter our final term before we scatter across the globe (*and hopefully not end up together at LPU*), let us cherish every success, failure and laugh until our hearts overflow with gratitude.

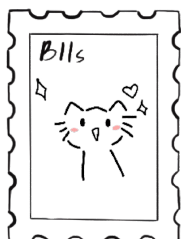
Fighting back the emotions,
Kashika Jain
(Fellow SC)



WHAT'S IN

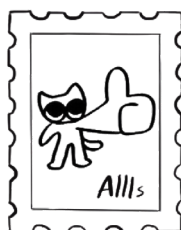
WHAT'S OUT

Sound of Music	Sound of Peace
Pancakes outside Ama Cafe	Pancakes inside Ama Cafe (<i>ifykyk</i>)
Sports Captain bunking sports	School Captain bunking sports
Fighting for classes	Fighting to stay awake in classes
Nakshatra.com	UCAS
PlasticPasta	Batch of 2025 Account



You have barely learnt to walk on the *bajri* or wear your *chunnis* at an acceptable length, yet you have already made your mark in the junior washrooms. As your well-wisher (and perhaps a good samaritan towards the snaky hospital queues), I would recommend that you get acquainted with the rather simple concept of bunking sports if you dislike them, rather than resorting to other, more violent, means.

We are all aware of your undying love for 'NV,' but we are curious about what these two letters stand for in your context. The next time it is your birthday, remember to invite your own batchmates before venturing four batches above. You might just be the reason Samaira Sameer will soon require bodyguards. In the end, remember that even divine power cannot save you from the wrath of your seniors after you caused the screening of *Stree 2* to be cancelled.



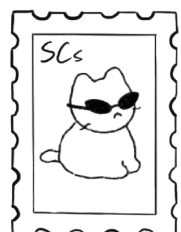
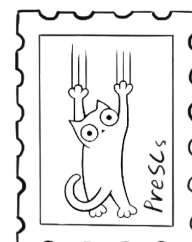
I sense a pesky little Auntie Aggy brewing inside all of you, watching you await socials with bated breath. I understand if your sleep is disturbed by nightmares of what you will endure in the coming year, but please do not ruin the sleep schedules of those in Prem Dham. A word of advice: enjoy these months of freedom as much as you can, because next year, you won't know what boulder (in the form of SCs) will come rolling down your hill of joy.

I hope your space buns are now grounded and that the lipstick on your face has been removed by the sweat from running to fetch someone's laptop charger. As shocking as it may sound, I pray for you to be able to read this section of the magazine before it is taken from your hands. Now that I think about it, all this writing is making me feel rather parched; could you please get me a glass of Tang?



It tickles my funny bone to see a batch that joined school online behave as if it is 2027 already. Dear AIs, one cannot fathom becoming a hardened Welhamite till they make it through the 4-year drought of Wi-Fi and laptops, their fingers itching to tap away at the keyboard. Don't get me wrong; I do appreciate you for one thing: our collective disdain for your batch serves as a unifying factor for all other batches in this school.

It leaves me agape to think that in the next six months, you will be ruling this school, despite still not having learnt how to handle it. Your aunt has noted that your gaze has recently shifted beyond the walls of this school and into unknown pastures (or *Chandbagh*, as some would call it). With your batch having more 'school-warranted leaves' than our school has acres, one thing we can count on is that next year will surely be quite an adventure.



Sprawling across the SC benches, you lie unaware of the gruelling marathon you will face in a mere five months. As you prepare to leave these familiar walls, I have come to the realisation that I might actually be warming up to you. This aunt is not one for sentimentality, but I might shed a tear or two when the familiar voice of "SCs, please submit your laptops" stops echoing through the corridors.

Bela na'am

Gayatri

Soha

Rudrani

Prarthana

Eva

Krishnangi

Samaira

Rashika

Anaya

Gauri

Aahana

Riya

Twisha

Vanshi

Aarisha

Twisha

Special thanks:
Ms. Anindita
Baverji
Vaanya

