

Year 2026 Issue No. 2

Welham Girls' School

Smarika

Dear Readers,

Our file in Adobe is ready to be printed, the only empty page is this. We have successfully scavenged the school grounds for every last remaining piece of humour, we have hounded and chased juniors and batch-mates to write articles, and yet, after all these seemingly daunting tasks, the only thing that feels the hardest to fit into the magazine is our very first editorial. For us, N&V has always been something that we belonged to, but now, the idea of it belonging to us seems overwhelmingly absurd. It is only now that we realise why we take so much pride in hearing the words *“Can you please put that in the N&V?”* or witnessing our dorm mates read a previous issue, with the same amount of enthusiasm they had the first time.

Over the past four years of being a part of the Ed-Board, and actively being a part in the making of the *N&V*, we have wondered why exactly it matters to have each doodle perfect, each *Bird Brain* on point, and each issue just appealing enough to make the fresh-faced BII want to pick it up, and the tired-faced SC never want to let it go.

Welham is an amalgamation of sounds, be it the tennis students who can hear the choir practicing in the infirmary block or the SCs having extra classes during prep who can hear the Smarika team prepping outside their window. These sounds of Welham are what create the magic of *N&V*. It is the bridge that connects the Microphone in the Senior Dining Hall on a Sunday to the ring of the telephone in a Dean’s office. It captures the unsaid humor in mundane routines and in doing so, it captures the inner existence of every Welhamite. It is the tribute that we pay to everything about Welham that is not overt- a silent legacy, built over sheets of yellow paper that links generations of Welhamites.

In a world torn by conflict and despair, of rising threats to sovereignty and a quiet fear of homogenization of the arts, laced with dramatized happenings of school life, it has the ability to convey deep insecurities and rising fears with an edge of humor that robs them of their power to instill fear. It reminds us to hold on to our individual opinions with a taste of much needed laughter.

So, now that we realize we are responsible for creating a piece of magic that is very much alive, even after becoming familiar with it, it never fails to take our breath away. This year as editors, we will try our best to bring some of that magic to you.

With faith, trust and a little bit of pixie dust,
Rudrani Rajya Lakshmi, Gayatri Bhatia, and Prarthana Goenka
 Editors-in-Chief

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The Queen Bee Phenomenon

“Women leaders often face a double bind—if they behave communally they are seen as weak, but if they behave assertively they are judged as unlikeable.” ~ Linda L. Carli

Considering the cosmic efforts our society has put into increasing the ratio of women in leadership, it is far from surprising that today the statistics seemingly reflect clear improvement. However, utopian as the data sounds, I am hardly convinced by numbers alone.



As we delve deeper into the matter, we realise that effectively, the changes we aimed to make by employing women as leaders everywhere have hardly come about.

Workplaces are yet and have been unarguably unfair to women- from delayed promotions to unequal pay and the worst yet, the persistent demand for competence to be proven twice over. Good leadership depends as much on empathy and communication as it does on authority. Women as leaders, being better than men in many aspects of it, are believed

to hold within themselves the capacity to solve all of this. And occasionally, that is the case. But most of the time it is not.

I recall my mother explaining over the dining table, to a blissfully oblivious ten year old, how a woman at her workplace who had just arrived at a significant leadership position and was expected to make it easier for other women turned out to be more of a hindrance to their growth than any man ever was.

In spite of my indifference at the time, when I came across ‘the queen bee phenomenon’, my mother’s words echoed in my mind: it was a perfect fit, exactly what she spoke of.

This entails a situation where a woman, as she comes into power- turns into a man. More accurately, she begins to emulate the leadership styles of men: she consciously or otherwise-distances herself from other women, becomes more critical towards them and hence becomes the opposite of what we hoped she would. And with all that we hoped to undo- the patriarchy- resurfaces, with a different face. In my opinion, the actual problem is the lens through which we view the nature of leadership, and not just the gender of the leader.

It is not as simple as creating a dent in the glass ceiling, but in ensuring that once it cracks, it never has the ability to trap anyone within itself.

At this critical juncture, what can we do?

As far as my judgement is concerned, it is very simple: we not only place women in leadership positions, but we let them lead without limitations, let them define themselves, choose their leadership styles and create their own identities. When a woman leads without fear of judgment, without unnecessary scrutiny and without the insecurity projected on to her by society, she is wholly herself. This is when she can actually lead in her way- she can be empathetic, collaborate and make the path to glory easier for other women around her.

This is how we can actually succeed in widening representation and making our workplaces healthier, letting every woman and every man contribute to development in their own ways, just as nature meant it to be.



**-Zara Khan
Class 12**

MOVIES

- 🎬 The Maltese Falcon (1941)
- 🎬 Dhurandhar: The Revenge (2026)
- 🎬 Gone with the Wind (1939)
- 🎬 Qala (2022)
- 🎬 The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)

BOOKS

- 📖 Fountain Head - Ayn Rand
- 📖 Front of the Class - Brad Cohen
- 📖 The Da Vinci Code - Dan Brown
- 📖 The Vegetarian - Han Kang
- 📖 A Diplomat’s Garden - Aftab Seth



TV SHOWS

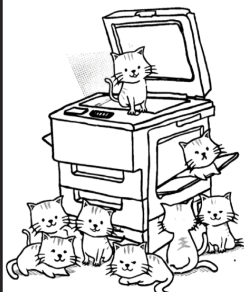
- 📺 Malgudi days (1986)
- 📺 Schitt’s Creek (2015)
- 📺 Malcolm in the Middle (2000)
- 📺 It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia (2005)
- 📺 The Dinosaurs (2026)

ALBUMS

- 🎵 Desert Rose - Sting
- 🎵 Ishq Jalakar - Shashwat Sachdev and Shahzad Ali
- 🎵 Wolf Like Me - TV On The Radio
- 🎵 12 to 12 - sombr

Copy Cat Chic

Exclusive chambers on social media are formed with the ever-changing patterns and trends of society. Few people expose themselves to personalised content; most see glamourised waves of specially curated fashion styles and celebrity-related content. A case on point is the Fx Anthology series ‘Love Story’ which is an obsequious portrayal of the American couple, John F. Kennedy and Carolyn Bessette. This show faced immense backlash as the American public thought of it as a downgraded, budget-friendly version of their relationship and her fashion, which she was the most loved for, tainting her reputation as a fashion publicist and leader.













The clothes we wear often tell a story about who we are. From colour choices to fabric preferences, fashion allows individuals to project a particular image, whether consciously or unconsciously. However, this is disturbed when stakeholders of fashion such as Bessette express their true selves. Bessette believed in ‘quiet luxury’- sleek pieces, minimalist jewellery, clean makeup - which was contrary to the trends prevalent at that time. Her minimalism with muted tones has taken the internet by a storm. The revival of her unique style has caused people to form unending lines outside stores, waiting to get the most accurate Bessette tortoise shell headband. Influencers utilise this floating trend, posting

GRWMs titled ‘How to dress like Carolyn Bessette’.

Such times often reduce the value of fashion as a form of self-expression and transform it instead into a race. Amidst Pinterest’s ‘chic’ girl or Instagram’s ‘clean’ girl trends, individualism has been blinded. Information regarding Bessette is available, but passive consumption and conformity has blinded people from the reason behind her success. She was a fashion icon because she was wholly herself. She had a style which was entirely her own, not one created out of the then-prevalent fashion choices. The elegance which she is praised for is not a formula, it is an instance of clarity of thought and self-belief. The moment you stand in a line to replicate someone else’s look, you lose out on fashion and become part of the cult that the show has made. Bessette established a kind of fashion which promoted dressing in alignment to one’s values, not the momentary ‘chic’ or ‘trendy’ which seems to only define status and accessibility. It is when these definite ideals of beauty begin to dictate and alter our originally indefinite lives, that we choose to conform to an identity, rather than form one. Though it may seem like following these trends gives us a stranger’s sense of identity, it is very often that we forget, that it costs us our own too.

-Chitrangada Anand
Class 12

<h2>Roses</h2>	<h2>Raspberries</h2>
 A single pink rose to all the teams participating in Smarika 2026. All the very best!	 Hospitals vans full of bacteria infested raspberries to the School Hospital for allowing us almost two minutes (<i>Give or take</i>) of rest between classes.
 Bouquets of freshly hand-picked roses to all the new faculty members and students joining this year. Welcome to the family!	 Exam halls full of gooey raspberries to Mr. Kainthola for releasing report cards just in the middle of an outing.
 Baskets full of aromatic roses to Ms. Anu Gupta and the school administration for holding off the LPG crisis from the WGS mess.	 Subways full of nauseating, rotting raspberries to Ms. Neena Agarwal for giving AIIs the exclusive right to a ‘Dorm Shifting’ holiday.
 Valleys brimming with garden fresh roses to all the escorts who went to mid-terms with us.	 Pizza boxes full of rancid, moth-infested raspberries to the school administration for cancelling the post mid-term Domino’s.
 Handfuls of radiant yellow roses to the Exchange students from Downhouse. We are so excited to have you!	 Bookshelves full of dust-filled raspberries to the School library for making SCs compulsively go back to their Enid Blyton’s during Zero Period.

BookTok: The Economy of Trends and Tropes

“To be popular one must be a mediocrity.”- Oscar Wilde

Literature is one of the most fundamental forms of art that has throughout the ages shaped our perception of society, faith, politics, and ourselves. The emergent contemporary literature overshadows this stark presence of literature with its banality and overused tropes.

To readers who are not acquainted with #BookTok, it is a cyber-community (one of many counterparts) that started off as an online group on TikTok offering literary guidance to new readers but eventually evolved into a stagnant platform, receiving and distributing homogenized literature. Going from Austen to Asher, the community lost all intellect and originality, choosing instead to promote genres that were previously gathering dust (and were certainly better off, there). With its cringeworthy clichés and amateurish dialogue, it grew from bite-sized internet videos to every bookstore’s Top 30 section and into every malleable mind it could reach. As its fame skyrockets, so do hard-copy sales globally, but this calls for concern rather than celebration, because these novels do not challenge readers (like literature should) so much as flatter them.



#BookTok is an assortment of those social issues which we once worked against, that are now so blindly favored. It reinforces gender roles, obscenity, and stereotypes that spark prejudice – essentially all societal stains we wish to wash out. This development is most striking in the raging genres of Romantasy (Romance + Fantasy) and Dark Romance.

The template for most of these includes some tattooed gangster falling for a sickeningly submissive Mary Sue who adds nothing to the plot except her physical appeal. The plot also usually involves either an assassin or a Fae prince (and if you have really hit the jackpot- both). The Mary Sue and the Fae Prince must work together to save the kingdom, working past their mutual hatred and then predictably falling in love. Both genres thread together recycled plotlines, trite character archetypes who are strung together by dialogue devoid of wit or engagement.

You will learn to identify them by their titles, which basically juggle the same few words; a dubious adjective, the classic ‘A court/kingdom/curse of ____ and ____’ or, if the authors are feeling particularly proud of their own mediocrity, ‘the King/Prince/God of [insert an uncanny dark emotion or natural element here]’. You will see that women in these novels are sensualized past all sense, and that men pose violence as love, using dramatic means to literally show their lover that they would do anything for them (often at the expense of legality and morality). Male leads are possessive towards their partners to the point where they ‘claim’ them as objects, and it is worrisome that these partners seem to crave that objectification, seeing it as romantic validation and importance.



So, how is this a global community despite what it stands for? The world today is not looking for literary brilliance; it is looking for doses of thoughtless entertainment- an escape. These communities offer their young audiences a glimpse into relationships of extremes and desire- something purely (thankfully) fictitious. To them, it is the pinnacle of romance, so they leave Annabel Lee for Ana Huang and mistake substandard portrayals of limerence for love.

#BookTok is by nature capitalistic. It understands the imminent imbecility of this world, and invests in it for an effortless commercial gain. BookTok, for a fact, wins this race, because people read not for leisure and peace of mind, but to follow the aestheticized lifestyle that comes with owning these books and being part of these communities.

In a world where the youth (#BookGirlies) desecrates their own minds with what would make even radicals redden with shock upon reading, literature has lost, not its audience, but its essence. In this world, I urge you to think beyond the crowds. To question, lest literature die in the attempt.

-Seeya Arora
Class 11

SPOTTED

- ✂ New BIs and BIIs using the lift landline just to see who answers. (*#HelloFromTheOtherSide*)
- ✂ Matrons blinkit-ing each other roses. (*bromance at its peak*)
- ✂ Class boards dropping down in the middle of prep, with a noise heard all the way to the AII classes. (*memorable much?*)
- ✂ Science AIIs scratching their names off their books right at the beginning of the term. (*Quit Science Movement*)
- ✂ Mr. Sanaring sleeping on the floor of the bus during AI mid-term. (*sleeping beauty*)
- ✂ Neera Ma'am actively teaching Julius Caesar in Bhojpuri. (*#एट तू ब्रूट के बा?*)
- ✂ Hoopoe AIs hosting a Dinner Intra-house Competition every Monday.
- ✂ A sleeping Rudranshi getting kicked in the head by a mule. (*#WelhamVsWild*)
- ✂ Welhamotes spotted during the Dodital trek. (*#thechaseneverends*)
- ✂ Amit Sir blowing bubbles on the beach during AII midterms. (*unleashing the inner child*)
- ✂ Welhamites go on hunts for flowers in hopes of preparing for the next quiz. (*Had luck finding any yet?*)

BIRD BRAIN

- 🐦 **Rashika:** Sir, are you apolitical?
- Mudit sir:** No beta, I'm B positive. (*Rag rag mein democracy hai.*)
- 🐦 **Krishnangi:** Who is batting from Sri Lanka?
- Kainna:** Hardik Pandya (*Yes, and Saina Nehwal won Player of the Tournament.*)
- 🐦 **AII-B:** Sir, 6-7 !
- Achin Sir:** Beta, what exercise? (*Jain ji is too old for Gen Z*)
- 🐦 **Zaina:** I have made my Eco project on SAARC. Does that work?
- Kreeti:** Oh even I want to have saag for lunch. When are we getting it? (*Pehle pet pooja, fir kaam dooja*)
- 🐦 **Rashika:** What even is a baby shower?
- Krishnangi:** The first time a baby is showered. (*Is that supposed to be a 'duh' thing?*)
- 🐦 **Siena:** What do I call someone who's hungry?
- Ojasvi:** A Hungarian, obviously. (*Yes, and the people of Turkey are just waiting for Thanksgiving.*)



BIRD BRAIN

WHAT'S IN

WHAT'S OUT

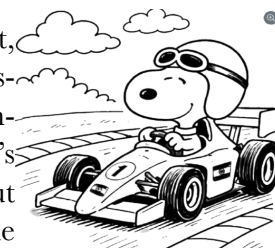
👂 Auld Lang Syne on a mountain	👂 Auld Lang Syne in the BBC
👂 USA vs the World	👂 India vs Pakistan
👂 L for LPG	👂 L for Labubu
👂 GLOSCO	👂 Every Free Sunday
👂 Vaibhav Shakuntala	👂 Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
👂 Falling in Chopta	👂 Falling for Japan
👂 Benetint Gang	👂 Bhai Gang
👂 Flower quizzes	👂 French quizzes
👂 Rehman Dakait	👂 Krish Kapoor

We extend a warm welcome to all students, teacher escorts and guests who are attending and participating in Smarika!

The Return of the Race

Without the smell of burnt rubber, the shriek of 1,000 horsepower engines, and the roar of 100,000 Indian fans, the Buddh International circuit, the magnum opus of Hermann Tilke, sat in silence having witnessed the glorious victory of Redbull driver Sebastian Vettel in 2013. The circuit fell off the calendar not with a dramatic farewell, but with quiet impact- it revealed the biased taxation systems, political indifference and categorization of the world's most luxurious sport. With Karan Adani having expressed his interest, Indian Formula 1 fans have finally started to see a glimmer of hope after a decade since negotiations of reintroducing F1 to India have started to circle.

At the heart of it, it was a bureaucratic decision. The parent company of the circuit, Jaypee Groups Ltd, expected fair treatment but found itself locked in a ferocious dispute with the Uttar Pradesh state government, who classified the motorsport as 'entertainment'. This saw a rise in taxes up to 40% on income, and 10% on the driver's personal earnings. Jaypee Group wished to cease this arbitrage towards the sport but suffered several losses causing ballooned monetary conditions. The statements made following such events cited 'commercial reasons'.



Now it seems like the government is rectifying its policies considering the fanbase that F1 has found in India. The second wave of life that the sport has found is embedded deeply on Indian social media. People who previously confused 'DRS' for a government department, now debate whether the term 'overtake' should be adopted. This revival narrative is not much different from October 2011: the same city, same parent company and the same aim to fulfil the sport's standards to its finest. However, with the emergence of a new, complex era, Formula 1 brings geographic competition, political disputes and capitalist monopoly hosting negotiations faster than a Q3 lap.

Whether India in 2026 or 2027 sees the tricolour flying over an F1 podium and the National Anthem playing in the background is yet to be seen. What is certain is that the negotiation happening between Formula 1's commercial machinery and India's federal ambitions will reveal a great deal about whether Asia's largest democracy has mastered not just the art of attracting global capital, but the more difficult art of keeping it.

-Rudranshi Majumdar
Class 12

INTO THE WELHAM VERSE



- ☞ The library printer is working on the days you need it the most.
- ☞ Paanya Gupta slept like a baby throughout Mid-term.
- ☞ There is a choir for Mid-term as well.
(#thehillsarealivewiththesoundofmusic)
- ☞ The Chemistry lab smartboard shut off.
(the free UV therapy is gone)
- ☞ Aahana Gupta has passed out of school.
- ☞ Debaters hardly ever get into real fights while prepping for certain motions.
- ☞ Hockey team girls get 9+ hours of sleep every night.
- ☞ Diwija Ma'am is the easiest teacher to impress.
- ☞ The Music Official and Dance Official are enemies.
(#that'spartoftheJD)
- ☞ Kalla Didi thinks that Krishnangi Gariya exists.



20th January: Marking 250 years of Jane Austen, a literary programme was hosted bringing together readers, scholars, and students through discussions, a writing competition, and a quiz, in which Welham Girls' School secured first place.

30th January: As a part of the Bagless Day Programme, students of class IX made a visit to the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

30th January: Class XI Chemistry and EVS students visited the People's Science Institute where they observed water and soil testing in a laboratory setting.

30th January: Two teams from our school won remarkable accolades at the STEM Best Practice Awards, Mumbai and qualified to pitch their projects at an international platform in Dubai for their robotics projects. Congratulations!

31st January: Students from classes IX and XI participated in a practical Biology workshop on DNA extraction using micropipettes.

31st January: Various activities were organized by the Math Department for students of classes BIIIs to AIIIs, which included an inter-house math quiz and a skit.

10th February: Ten of our students participated in the Dehradun Chapter of INTACH's "Tree of Life" All-India Poster Competition and the 'Tree Walk and Talk' interaction hosted at Rangers' College.

21st February: As a part of the Welham Worldview Series, a reflective session 'Roots to Resolve', was hosted. The session brought together all faculty members of the school along with invited educators from other institutions and guests from the city.

28th February: An inter-house Chemistry competition was conducted for students of classes X and XII. The first position was awarded to the Flycatcher house followed by the Bulbuls and the Orioles respectively.

6th March: As part of the "NAARI: Interactions with Outstanding Women of Welham" initiative, Welham Girls' School invited Dr Karishma Kirti (Batch of 2005), an oncologist and an oncoplastic surgeon at Jaslok Hospital to engage in an insightful talk with the students.

23rd March: A group of twelve AIs visited to the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing.

2nd April: The IFSPD GLOSCO Sustainability Summit was organized by our students under the mentorship of Ms. Vanshree Scott in which students from classes AIII To AI engaged in research-based dialogue and debate.

WHAT'S PLAYING	WHO'S LISTENING
Flatline	▶▶ Flycatcher AIs
Gehra hua	▶▶ Mr. Somesh Pathak
Allah Wariya	▶▶ Vedanshi Dabral
Everybody Wants To Rule The World	▶▶ SAS Teams
Jolly Good Fellow	▶▶ Batch of 2026
London	▶▶ Mr. Aditya Saluja

JUNIOR Samboree

The Student Logic Handbook

The season of whacked umbrellas and wet socks approaches Welham once again. We imagine ourselves sailing through the BBC puddles in a makeshift boat made entirely of incomplete homework (wishful thinking, to say the least).

As the morning rains disappoint us with their last drop at 5:59 a.m., we still end up in front of the TOD, waiting for attendance to be over. At times like this, don't you wish students ran Welham? As our first plan of action, we intend to eradicate the idea of being woken up only to accompany owls and bats, while half of humanity (and the "excused") lies sound asleep. We would rather put a halt to sports as a whole, but we have to be rational Principals.

Waves of jealousy envelop us as distant voices of "SCs, please return your laptops" echo throughout the dormitories, making the juniors envious of the sleek, shining devices that somehow make every "project" look more important than it really is. So, by the laws of the Student Logic Handbook, the entire school is thereby graced with unlimited screen time.

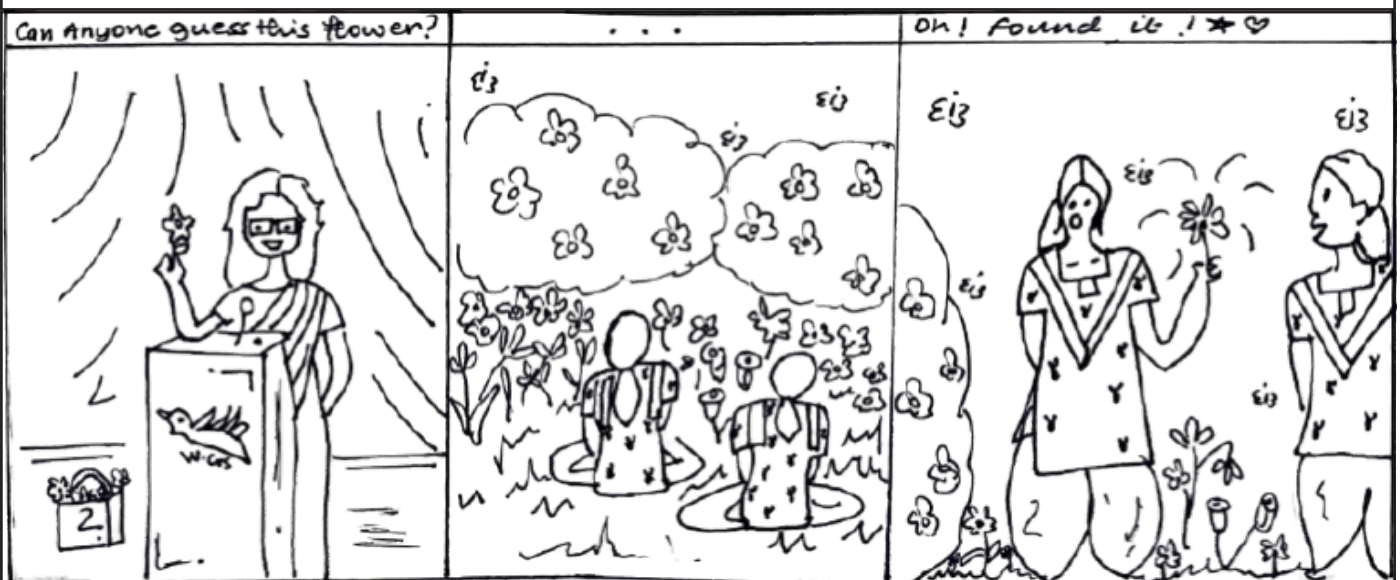


Also giving back to the world, with Burger King being the talk of Coffee Party, us Welhamites have decided not to get LPG back. Aloo bhujia instead of tikki, biscuits in place of... (what was for tea again?) have become a surviving source. Somehow, French fries still welcome us on Sundays, and we suddenly believe that the mess is an army of bearerjis commanded by Ms. Anu Gupta, who can conquer just about anything. Just as we disappear behind the laws of the Student Logic Handbook, assemblies begin to feel like a distant memory, and early dinner apparates out of thin air (preferably with cooling iced teas) as the heat of assignments dissipates.

So, when things get a bit overwhelming, it's not a bad idea to detach into the world of student logic—as long as you are able to slip away in time to make it for morning sports the next day.

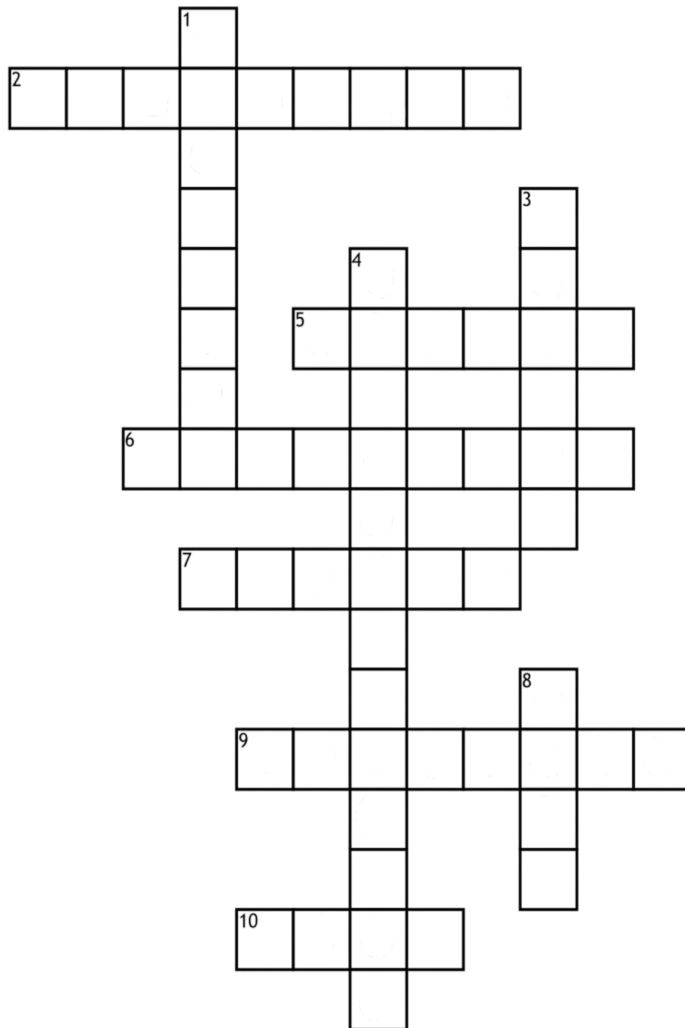
-Sanaa Sachar and Miraya Puri
Class 9

YELLOW GUMBOOTS

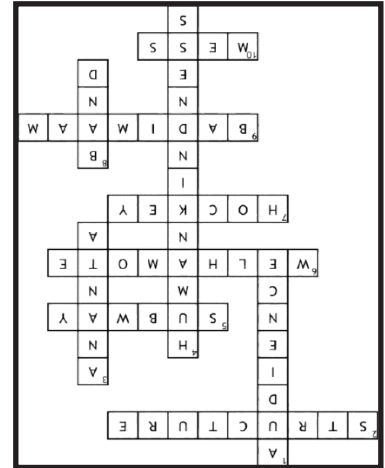


Name: _____ Date: _____

WELHAM- UNLOCKED



ANSWER KEY



Across

2. Judge's favourite phrase to justify losses
5. The Welham 'train station'
6. What's a boy studying in Welham Boys' called?
7. The new Basketball of Welham
9. Who holds the most 'aura' in school?

10. Most popular tourist attraction on campus

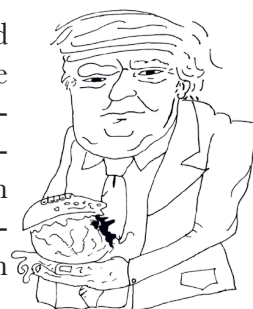
Down

1. The most difficult role in Smarika
3. Tallest person in the school
4. What kind of 'milk' runs in Sukanya Ma'am's veins?
8. Most awaited event in Smarika

A Democracy Without Its Dictator

On 3rd January 2026, the Trump-led U.S. government launched Operation Absolute Resolve, leading to the abduction of Venezuela’s ostensibly democratic leader, Nicolas Maduro and his wife. Trump’s decision has been subject to many allegations such as a ‘breach of sovereignty,’ ‘childish act,’ but most importantly, has raised the question of whether the act per se accounts for self-defense, or a violation of international rights. While UN human rights experts and legal specialists debate the global ‘correctness’ and implications of such a radical interference in the functioning of Venezuelan society and administration, it must be understood that most geopolitical occurrences have two sides to them.

The recurring opinion among people is that Venezuela is a petrostate, one characterised by a crumbling government hiding behind the appealing banner of democracy, whose economy is overdependent on its natural gas and oil industry, and without it, economically famished. The impact of Maduro’s abduction poses an egregious blow to the administrative set-up of Venezuela, without even fully replacing the dictatorial regime in the country, instead leaving it in an interregnum state, where the government is not stagnant, and not dynamic- just fragmented. Chavismo, the leftist ideology of Venezuelan administration, has long been known for its illegitimate attempts to establish a socialist, populist state, and various key Chavista politicians still participate in the capacity of their previous political (and secure) positions. Within the ruling institution itself, instability and disunity persist between the civilian members and intelligence and military operatives.



Trump is an international actor globally abhorred, ridiculed, and denigrated. While, in most debates, the U.S.’s best interests with regards to the abduction (and subsequent breakdown of the Venezuelan political set-up) of Maduro are always considered to be unachieved, it must be understood how greatly this action augments the position of the United States. Firstly, in terms of security, Absolute Resolve serves as a counterattack against organised crime and foreign terrorist organisations, like Tren de Aragua, a drug trafficking network from Venezuela. Such crime syndicates, importing cocaine and synthetic drugs actively into the suburban and metropolitan cities in the U.S., increase the country’s already abysmal rates of addiction and overdose deaths. These also contribute to the strain of hospitals and emergency services in the country, leading to great national concern.

Not only this, but the subsequent narco-terrorism trial for which Maduro and his wife were presented in Manhattan’s federal court presents the U.S.’s strength in responding to these discomfiting dangers, and change the global perception of U.S. ‘druggies’ to people who will be defended by the government, regardless of how far Trump would have to go. This also puts the U.S. in a position wherein it is not only unpredictable, but because of that, it is also even more dangerous. Trump, with his (visibly expansionist) rightist conservative views, not only consolidates the idea of Making America Great Again through traditional impositions, but also redefines the stature of the globe, in a manner by which the United States becomes the heart of all action, and all consequence too.



-Dakshayani Rajya Lakshmi
Class 10



Saint From The Scraps



In the junior dormitory, a lawless junkyard where the laws of society don't really apply, you will find different species of people everywhere.

The day begins far too early with the cold-water martyr, who bathes in chilled water at 3 AM just to prove she is nonchalant, while the over-enthusiastic sports freaks sprint toward morning sports even when they are cancelled.

After lunch, the shouting match begins, with the strong-headed lawyer convinced that the matron's new 'no screaming' rule is a direct violation of the Geneva Convention, while an off-tune 'prodigy' performs as if she's headlining Carnegie Hall and of course how can we forget the bizarre alchemist who frantically mixes billions of unfathomable skin-care potions hoping to keep puberty at bay?

As night falls, the power dynamics shift. The cartel leader starts bartering 'stretchies' for morning sports from her bed-box for mysterious favors, and miraculously the omnipresent overachievers who think hustle culture is the new path to attaining nirvana have still managed to survive the day without a blink of sleep.



As the creepy yogis bend their joints at weird angles in the middle of the night in the name of meditation in the middle of the night, the clever and the calculating always waiting watching and observing till the dorm empties so they can stealthily raid it in hopes of tuck leftovers or geet pustikas for morning assembly, or perhaps some last birthday munches that someone was not being gracious enough to share(too bad!)

Needless to say, the chaotic ecosystem filled with the 'weird' , the 'wired' and the 'tired' slowly started developing a mutual love for the mess which was the only place we could keep shut because of the food stuffed in our mouths. 3 years later , as we shift to the senior dorms imparting education to our juniors, like wise saints , we are 18 incomplete fragments of a great story still left to be written and told, holding on to that sense of entropy that seems to tie each of us together. Welham, we have arrived!



**-Tara Klaire and Naira Agarwal
Class 9**

- Dr. Neera Kapoor is still trying to get Ahana Jindal and Ananya Thakkar to scope for Debsoc officials.
Mr. Vishal Rawat trying to break apart AI friendships in Math class.
Saisha Somani was seen dangling from a cliff.
- Ananta Agarwal made it to Mid-terms.
Students were gaslit into believing that Domino's after mid-term is not a thing.
Mr. Gourab Malakar chose to be an escort for SC Mid-terms just to make Rudrani finish Art official work. (#truebonding)
- The Senior Matrons were watching Dhurandhar 2 together.
Amreen was caught wearing a Brightlands chunni in place of a missing Welham chunni.
(#FromRootsToWings)
Ahana Jindal has gone from School Dance Official to School Dhobi.





Q. Why am I always sleep deprived?

Dear exhausted Welhamite,
I can imagine you yawning even as you read this. Your lack of sleep and subsequent dozing off in class owes to your incredibly consistent sleep schedule. Consistently bad, I mean. You have truly broken records as you stay awake till 1:00 a.m., dependent on the rain gods to bestow upon you the pleasure of sleep. The second your dream of cancelled morning sports ends, so does the wish of the weather to comply with it. Upon being blessed with the arrival of the weekend, you gamble away the measly extra sleep you could cash out, for 'dorm game night.' On Sunday, your burning eyes, begging for sleep, cry tears onto your homework pages. It is rather hilarious, to see you get scolded by both your broken aspirations for sleep, and Vishal sir. To provide you with a condensed conclusion, it is you who is the responsible for your sleep deprivation.

Q. Why is it essential for all debaters to use the word 'essentially'?

Dear obnoxiously argumentative Welhamite,
Why don't you take a stroll down to your house trophy cabinet and ask yourself if any of those prestigious gleaming golden cups were won with a simple yes or no? Of course not. In the hallowed halls of the debating chamber, a word is more than just a few syllables, it is a shield. To answer your absolutely pointless question, 'essentially' makes even the most hollow argument look like it has structural integrity. If a debater does not use it at least thrice per minute, do they even have a point? Or are they just speaking? 'Essentially' buys the debater's brain three vital seconds to figure out what the clash actually is, while the judge nods solemnly, hypnotized by the sheer weight of those four syllables. Without it, the entire house would 'essentially' collapse.

Signing Off,
Always forever (never) yours,
Aunt Agatha

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