



Illustrated by Nitesh Chauhan, Grade XII

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**"Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of a great teacher can be transformational."  
-George Couros**

These times have demanded a significant shift in the methods of imparting learning. Though we continue to take advantage of pre-established models of teaching and learning, we are also making simultaneous efforts to evolve and improve. Staying true to this premise, we recently provided laptops to our teachers so as to enhance their digital teaching capabilities.

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The need to equip our teachers with laptops arose from difficulties they were facing in taking online classes and managing the storage of a large amount of content that is exchanged daily. Consequently, we have equipped our academic staff with technology tools and training so that they are able to effectively impart classes online, document their academic work, and up-skill themselves to effectively use these methods of instruction post-pandemic. In addition, we have been in constant touch with our students and provided them with the basic study aids for online learning i.e. mobile devices, phone recharges, etc.

Why there cannot be a better time than this to squeeze the maximum out of hybrid learning methods? Let's find this out in the words of Mr. Prabhat Williams, our Physics Teacher.



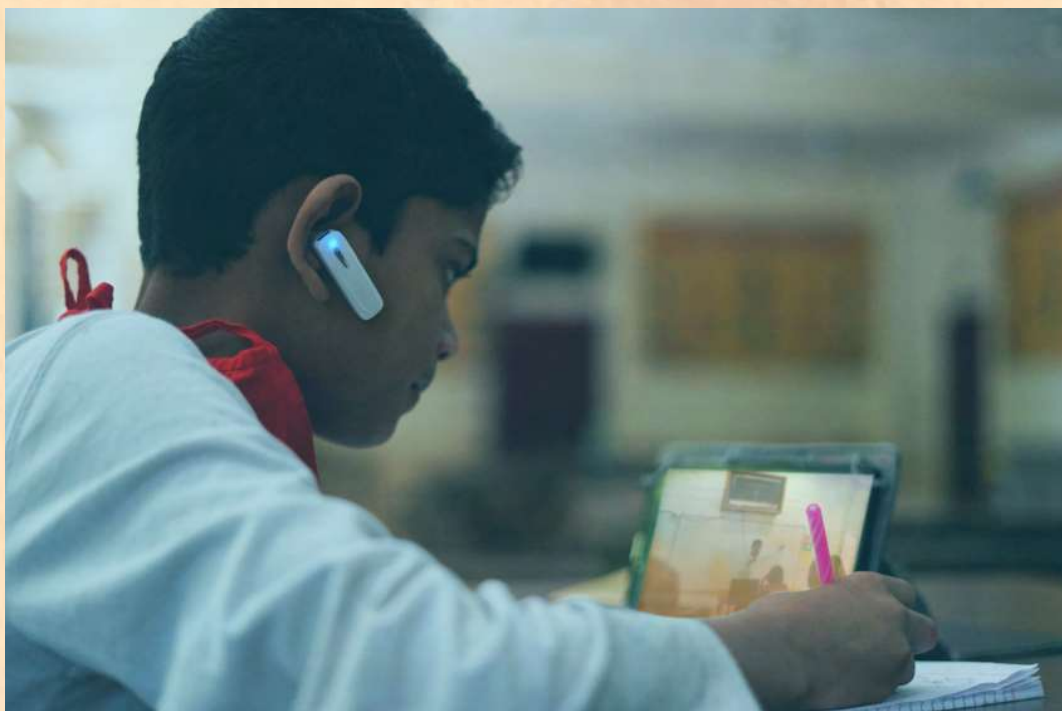


"Being a physics teacher, hands-on knowledge is a huge part of the curriculum. Taking online classes has been a challenge for us all. When all we had were our mobile devices, it became an even bigger challenge. Although they provide us with a lot of facilities, taking online classes still remains a hindrance. We all are very thankful for the opportunity of getting laptops for the online classes, it made things easier. We can now not

only look at the students who are paying attention but also share presentations with them. The hybrid classes have been a blessing as we can even show relevant videos of the syllabus. The students have also told us about the fun and informative sessions they had since the hybrid classes started. Not only this, the laptops have helped us with storage and uploading/downloading student information which was a very big task before."

## Going Hybrid

On 24th August 2021, we welcomed 138 students (60-day scholars and 78 residential) - being Phase 1 of the physical re-opening of our School. The residential children had faced severe connectivity issues as most of them live in remote parts of Uttarakhand. Some of our day scholars faced similar hardships as well as adverse family and residential conditions. Hence, after a lot of deliberation, we introduced hybrid classes. In the hybrid classes, the teachers conduct brick-and-mortar and online classes simultaneously teaching the same content to students present in class and home alike using a laptop.







This model has resulted in a significant improvement in children's learning, as students who were lagging are catching up with the curriculum relatively quickly.

We were able to overcome various challenges and managed to provide a safe learning environment to our students by ensuring staff vaccination, isolation wards, and health check-up programs for students. We also required hostel students to bring negative RTPCR reports at the time of reporting.

## **Future-proofing our Infrastructure**

As the Government of Uttarakhand did not permit physical reopening of classes for the primary section till very recently, we continue to conduct online classes for these students. However, starting 27th September, all the students of the Secondary and Senior Secondary Section are coming to school. Given there is no further need to continue the hybrid model, teachers are making use of the audio-visual resources by

connecting their laptops with the  
televisions/projectors that are installed in the  
classrooms.



We further plan to:

a) Develop physical digital infrastructure on the school campus - classrooms, library, and labs - so that technology can continue to be used for teaching and learning after school reopening. We have installed Wi-Fi, with fast internet connectivity that covers



virtually our entire Campus. This is to facilitate the use of the Internet by teachers in classrooms and students while studying, in the library, and such like.

b) Equip teachers with technology tools and training so that they are efficiently imparting classes online, documenting their academic work, and up-skilling themselves to use these methods of instruction, post-pandemic.

## Remembering Our Founder

We celebrated the 85th birthday of our Founder, Shri Gopal Krishna Swamy on September 26, 2021, through a simple and elegant ceremony on School premises followed by social work at one of our neighboring villages.

His wife Mrs Chinni Swamy dedicated the Giving Tree at PYDS to him by placing his sketch drawn by one of our students on its Trunk. Our students performed an opening song and displayed sand art to pay tribute to him.

(Click to watch the video).



All of us sought his and Mrs. Swamy's blessings and resolved to follow in his footsteps.

He always inspired us to contribute to our community by giving. In keeping with this, a cleaning drive was undertaken at Bishtgaon, a small mountain village 5 km from the School. In addition, the clean-up effort, the PYDS family together

a) created awareness among the villagers and tourists to not litter plastic waste near rivers and forests and

b) planted fruit trees there.





## Half Yearly Examinations

After 18 months of lockdown, we were able to conduct on-site exams for classes 6-12. The exams were a combination of written papers, cross-curricular projects, and viva. The objective was to identify skill and content gaps so that the teachers can tailor their instruction based on the outcome of these exams. We hope the outcome of this half-yearly will bring about an acceleration in learning for our students for the remainder of the year.

## Covid-19 Relief Support

Amid the raging COVID-19 second wave, four of our students lost their fathers due to the virus. We have been able to facilitate one-time monetary support of Rs.30,000/- from our donors to these families. This has come in as a great relief to them. We are also providing all the necessary support to these children.

We have also given admission to two very bright siblings in our School. They lost their father due to COVID-19. He was the sole earning member. Their circumstances turned very tragic when their grandparents decided to abandon them. We have now taken them into our care.

## Basking in National Glory

We are the keys to the nation's harmony and prosperity and our collective efforts can propel it to a brighter future. How did our students enact this simple message on the 75th Independence Day? Watch the video to find out!



## On Stranger Tides and Beyond

### Prashant Kukreti: Indian Navy Selection

Our 2019-20 batch student, Prashant Kukreti, fulfilled his long-sought dream of joining the Indian Navy and serving the nation. He was the batch topper scoring 96.6% in the CBSE Class XII examination. He will be



placed in the Technical field (Artificer Apprentice) after undergoing rigorous training in handling automated weapons, navigations systems, engines, highly advanced radio and electrical power systems. He started his ab-initio training with INS (Indian Navy Ship) Chilka on August 7, 2021. We wish him fair winds and following seas. Let's hear about his journey through this short video.



### Aditi Mamgain: An AFS Exchange Scholar

Aditi Mamgain of Class XI was selected for the Study Abroad Program by AFS (American Field Service) which is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

She left for California, USA on August 29, 2021, where she was assigned to a local host family. She will be studying and staying there for the next 11 months. It was a proud moment for us as she competed with 100 applicants from all over India. To know her detailed story, click to watch this short video.



## Graced Another Competition!

We are proud to share this musical entry which bagged the second position in 'Harmony- An Inter School Art and Culture Festival' organized by Unison World School, Dehradun.

Our students performed a self-composed parody based on a Bollywood song reflecting the theme of the competition, 'Ray of Hope', in the current pandemic scenario.





# Dreamshapers

IAYP, The International Award for Young People, recognized the efforts of our teachers Manish Chandel, Shalini Gupta and Rishi Bangwal awarding them with the certificate on account of empowering and mentoring youth, the IAYP participants of PYDS.

Thank you, as always, for being with us!



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