



Arthur Foot Academy  
आर्थर फुट अकादमी

**ARTHUR FOOT  
ACADEMY**

# Impact Report

**NOV 2024– APR 2025**

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# Introduction

The past six months have been a remarkable journey of growth, collaboration, and transformation at Arthur Foot Academy. Rooted in our mission to provide quality education in a rural setting near Rajaji National Park, we have taken significant strides toward becoming a model of progressive, inclusive, and community-centered learning. From November 2024 to April 2025, our school has not only expanded in resources and infrastructure but has also deepened its engagement with students, educators, and the wider community.

This impact report captures key milestones and stories from this period:

- Collaboration with Good Schools Alliance
- Professional Development Program for Teachers
- My Good School Retreat 2024
- Community Learning Centre.
- The DSOBS Chapter
- My Good School Retreat 2025
- The New Bus



# History and Background



Arthur E Foot  
1901 – 1968  
First Headmaster of The Doon School

As a member of the Good Schools Alliance, the academy is committed to nurturing each student's personal and social growth, focusing on service, skill, sport, and study. The school's mission is to prepare students to face the world confidently.  
#JoyOfLearning.

## An Aristocracy Of Service

The motto of the Doon School Old Boys' Society (DSOBS) is *An Aristocracy of Service*, borrowed from Arthur Foot's statement at the formal opening of the school on 27 October 1935: "Truly, we mean that the boys should leave the Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by the ideals of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position."

In honour of Arthur Edward Foot's ideals, a dedicated Old Boys of The Doon School led by Asad Khan joined forces to create a lasting legacy for their first Headmaster, the Arthur Foot Academy. The academy is committed to providing a well-rounded education to the children of Bandarjhud, a small village near Dehradun.



# A New Chapter Begins: Joining GSA



Proud Member

Good Schools Alliance

## Good Schools Alliance

### Joined the Alliance

In 2024, Arthur Foot Academy proudly became a member of the Good Schools Alliance (GSA)—a pivotal step in its journey toward becoming a future-ready, values-driven learning community. As part of this dynamic network, the Academy has committed itself to nurturing every child's personal and social growth through the 4S framework: Service, Skill, Sport, and Study.



### Catalyzing Growth and Development

One of the major contributions from GSA has been the establishment of a **Community Learning Centre** at AFA—designed as a space for creativity, collaboration, and community building. Alongside this, the alliance has actively supported the professional development of teachers, enabling them to grow as empowered educators and lifelong learners.

## Aligning with Purpose

The GSA partnership aligns closely with AFA's mission of preparing students to face the world with confidence, curiosity, and character—embodying the spirit of the #JoyOfLearning. This alliance has not only connected the school with like-minded institutions across India, but also brought fresh energy, exposure, and opportunities for both students and staff.



## Guidance from Visionary Leaders

Under the thoughtful guidance of **Mr.Sandeep Dutt, Mr.Jugjiv Singh, Mr.Rajendra Pal Devgan, Ms.Brinda Ghosh, Ms.Minakshi Oberoi, Ms.Nonie Bagga,** Arthur Foot Academy has received exceptional mentorship and support. Their leadership has helped shape the school's strategic vision and foster a culture of reflective practice and inclusive growth.



## Looking Ahead

By taking AFA on as a special project, GSA is helping to bring the school into the mainstream educational discourse. The next milestone in this journey is the development of a strong governance structure, laying the foundation for long-term sustainability and excellence. A positive transformation is already visible—across classrooms, corridors, and the wider community of Arthur Foot Academy.







# MY GOOD SCHOOL RETREAT 2024

## IMPACT

- A Legacy of Learning and Service
- A School Experience for the Modern Learner
- Real-Time Youth Engagement Through the 4S Model
- Bridging Two Indias
- Peer Learning and Educator Collaboration
- The Bigger Picture: Inclusion, Growth, and Exposure



## A Legacy of Learning and Service

As a part of The Doon School Old Boys' Society's Impact Project, Arthur Foot Academy hosted the bi-annual My Good School Retreat in Bandarjhud—a quiet, picturesque village near Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This initiative is a heartfelt tribute by alumni of The Doon School to their first Headmaster, Arthur E. Foot, whose legacy continues to inspire education with purpose and compassion. The retreat serves as a living embodiment of the #JoyOfGiving, bringing together educators, students, and changemakers to create a ripple effect of positive change in rural education.

## Youth Engaging Society through the 4S Model

At the heart of the retreat was the philosophy of Education = 4S: Service, Skill, Sport, and Study. This immersive experience helped young people engage in real-time learning—leading community initiatives, participating in sports, developing practical life skills, and reflecting on their academic knowledge in action. The integration of these four pillars demonstrated how holistic education can transform rural schools like AFA into hubs of vibrant, student-led learning.



## Peer Learning and Educator Collaboration

One of the most beautiful aspects of the retreat was the peer-to-peer learning. Students from different schools taught and inspired each other, while teachers exchanged ideas, methods, and encouragement. For AFA teachers, this was a rare chance to receive hands-on support, training, and mentorship from educators across the GSA network—making it a crucial point of professional development.



## Bridging Two Indias

The retreat was a powerful reminder of the contrast and connection between two Indias—one racing toward the moon, and another where children just 25 kilometers from the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway had never visited the city of Dehradun. For the first time, AFA students visited the iconic Doon School, a landmark moment that represented hope, pride, and progress. This visit was more than a trip—it was a step toward bridging the opportunity gap and a reminder of how far we can go with collective effort.





## The Bigger Picture: Inclusion, Growth, and Exposure

While it remains challenging to bring rural schools like AFA entirely into the mainstream, My Good School Retreat shows that it's entirely possible to bring the best of the mainstream to them. The exposure, confidence, and community spirit fostered during this retreat have already created lasting impact. It reaffirmed that experiential learning and joyful collaboration can reshape school culture—and open doors to a brighter future.



## Retreat Album

# Community Learning Centre



## A New Era of Learning Begins

We are excited to announce the transformation of the Arthur Foot Academy Library into a vibrant Community Learning Centre, made possible with the generous support of the Good Schools Alliance. This space has been reimagined not just as a reading corner, but as a dynamic hub for digital learning, collaboration, and community engagement

## Technology Meets Tradition

Thanks to GSA, AFA received a set of smart learning devices that now power this Centre—bringing cutting-edge technology to our rural campus. Equipped with WiFi connectivity and devices supporting ASV (Audio, Sound, Vision), the Community Learning Centre enables students and teachers to attend live digital classes, virtual workshops, and collaborative Zoom sessions with schools across India.



## Learning Beyond the Classroom

This initiative marks a major step in bridging the digital divide. For many students at AFA, this is their first hands-on experience with digital tools. The ASV-enabled environment ensures that learning is not only visual but also immersive and engaging—redefining how education is delivered in rural settings.





# Leading with Heart : Ms. Nonie Bagga



## Introduction

As part of Arthur Foot Academy's journey towards holistic development, we are proud to recognize the exceptional contributions of **Ms. Nonie Bagga**, a Special Educator, Life Coach, and committed community leader. Her work aligns closely with our mission to build a nurturing, inclusive, and forward-looking learning environment for the children of Bandarjhud.

## A Teacher, A Guide, A Changemaker

Ms. Nonie Bagga stands as a shining example of what true education and community service look like. A proud alumna of Cambrian Hall and MKP College, Dehradun, Ms. Bagga has dedicated her life to nurturing young minds with patience, compassion, and innovation.

From teaching English at Welham Boys' School for over a decade to transforming the lives of children at the Learning Differently Centre, she has always believed that every child deserves to learn in a way they understand best.





## A Pillar of Strength for Arthur Foot Academy

At Arthur Foot Academy, Ms. Bagga has gone above and beyond:

- **Time:** She has devoted countless hours mentoring teachers and students, helping them grow academically and emotionally.
- **Joy of Learning:** Through storytelling, life skills sessions, and personalized interactions, she has brought smiles and a love for learning to the campus.
- **Financial Support:** Her generous contributions have enabled AFA to provide better resources and facilities for the children of Bandarjhud.

## Celebrating A True Changemaker

Ms. Bagga continues to inspire students, educators, and community members to dream bigger, work harder, and serve with greater love. We proudly celebrate Ms. Nonie Bagga as a **changemaker, a mentor of hearts, and a lighthouse for our journey of education and service.** Her story reminds us that one committed individual can indeed light up an entire community.



We extend our heartfelt  
thanks to  
**Ms. Nonie Bagga**



# Professional Development



## Reading and Reflecting Together

- Book in Focus: The current focus of our teacher reading circle is "*Is Your Child Ready to Face the World?*" by **Dr. Anupam Sibal** (Hindi edition).
- Each week, teachers gather to read, reflect, and discuss key values from the book, which inspires personal growth and practical teaching ideas.
- This reading practice has encouraged teachers to reflect more deeply on the **emotional, ethical, and social needs of their students**.



## A Culture of Lifelong Learning

At Arthur Foot Academy, we believe that the growth of a school depends on the growth of its teachers. Over the past six months, continuous professional development (CPD) has become a central pillar of our transformation. With the support of the Good Schools Alliance, our teachers have been part of a steady journey of self-improvement, learning new skills, and refining their teaching practices to better serve our students.



## The Happy Teachers Blog

- Teachers have started documenting their reflections on the Happy Teachers Blog, a platform that allows them to share their learnings, classroom experiences, and growth stories with a wider community.
- These reflections serve as a mirror to their own development while also inspiring other educators in the network.

## Building Confidence and Communication

- One of the most visible impacts of this journey has been the growing confidence of our teachers—particularly in using English in classroom conversations and peer interactions.
- From small greetings to full sentences, teachers are steadily becoming more comfortable and fluent, encouraging students to do the same.

## From Values to Practice

- The professional development process isn't just about reading or training—it's about living the values.
- Teachers are now embedding core values such as respect, empathy, integrity, and perseverance into their classroom activities and student interactions.

## Future Focus: Training & Mentorship

- **Sunday School :** We have now implemented a weekly Sunday reading session of *"Is Your Child Ready to Face the World?"* (Hindi edition), where teachers engage in collective reflection and discussions to internalize values and share classroom applications.
- **Mentorship by Ms. Brinda Ghosh:** With her vast experience and empathetic approach, Ms. Brinda Ghosh has been instrumental in deepening the professional development journey, offering mentorship that focuses on values-led leadership and reflective practice.
- **Tech Empowerment by Ms. Meenakshi Oberoi:** Technology has become more approachable and purposeful for our teachers, thanks to Ms. Meenakshi Oberoi, who is helping them integrate tech tools in teaching while also aligning their professional goals with personal growth. From using digital devices to join Zoom sessions, teachers are now exploring tech with confidence and creativity.



# The DSOBS Chapter



THE DOON SCHOOL  
OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

## An Aristocracy of Service

The Doon School Old Boys' Society (DSOBS) upholds a powerful motto — “An Aristocracy of Service” — a phrase first spoken by Arthur Edward Foot at the formal opening of The Doon School on 27 October 1935. He envisioned a future where Doon boys would rise not through wealth or privilege, but through unselfish service to others. This timeless ideal continues to shape the legacy of the school and its community of alumni.

## Honouring Arthur Foot's Vision

In deep recognition of their founding Headmaster's vision, a group of passionate and service-driven alumni, led by **Mr. Asad Khan**, came together to bring that spirit to life through the creation of the Arthur Foot Academy. Located in Bandarjhud, a humble village near Dehradun, the academy represents a new chapter in equitable education, driven by values, opportunity, and access.

## A New Commitment: DSOBS Impact Project

On 5th March 2025, the President of DSOBS, along with fellow members, visited AFA to witness the impact and engage with the school community. Following this visit, DSOBS officially adopted Arthur Foot Academy as their Impact Project, committing to strengthen its educational model and infrastructure.





## My Good School Retreat: A DSOBS-Led Legacy

DSOBS has also taken the lead in supporting and hosting the My Good School Retreat at AFA under their Impact Project. This bi-annual retreat fosters youth engagement, character building, and collaborative learning, bringing together students, educators, and volunteers from across the country.



## Expanding Our Reach: A New School Bus

To help the school connect more students from remote villages, DSOBS is generously provided a school bus. This critical support ensures that no child is left behind, helping AFA reach every corner of the surrounding region. It symbolizes the DSOBS commitment to removing barriers to education, making learning truly accessible for all.



# Dental Camp

## *Spreading Smiles*

### Introduction

In the heart of the forests near Rajaji National Park, the Van Gujjar communities have lived close to nature for generations. However, in these remote regions, oral health has long been neglected — with many adults losing most of their teeth by their 30s.

### Impact on the Community

- Over 100 students received free oral check-ups.
- Children were introduced to the basics of dental care through fun, engaging sessions.
- Teachers and parents from nearby villages also attended awareness workshops.
- Future Action: A follow-up treatment camp is planned to ensure continued care and build long-term healthy habits.

A heartfelt thank you to Ishita Khanna and the incredible team from MUSE and Spiti Ecosphere — Responsible Travel and Volunteering — for bringing brighter smiles and healthier futures to the children and families of Bandarjhud.



### The Initiative

Partnering with MUSE, Mae (a local NGO), and the Nature Science Initiative, Arthur Foot Academy welcomed a dedicated team of health professionals for a preliminary oral health assessment and education drive.

This was a crucial first step, raising awareness about dental hygiene practices that can prevent major health issues.

This camp goes beyond healthcare. It reflects AFA's commitment to serving the broader community by integrating health, education, and social responsibility — embodying the true spirit of #JoyOfGiving.



# MY GOOD SCHOOL RETREAT 2025



## Walking Together, Learning Together

In April 2025, Arthur Foot Academy proudly hosted the second edition of the My Good School Retreat, a unique and immersive educational experience that brought together students and educators from across the Good Schools Alliance. The retreat kicked off with a symbolic and meaningful journey — participants walked from the Khan Farm to the school, following the path of the rising sun. This reflective walk helped visitors connect deeply with the local environment and observe the surrounding community firsthand.

## Day of Service and Skills Sharing

On the second day, the focus shifted to Service and Skill. Visiting students led interactive sessions and creative workshops with AFA students—ranging from music and dance to art, storytelling, and games. The sessions were designed to encourage self-expression, curiosity, and joy. AFA students got to learn new skills, and in return, shared their local knowledge and culture, creating a powerful exchange of learning.

## Discovering the Community

Upon arrival, visiting students and teachers took time to explore Arthur Foot Academy and its setting in the village of Bandarjhud. They met local students, engaged with teachers, and listened to stories from the school's journey. This exploration sparked empathy and understanding, helping all participants truly grasp the realities and aspirations of rural education.



## Teacher-to-Teacher Collaboration

Simultaneously, professional development sessions were conducted for the AFA staff by visiting teachers. Topics included:

- School Management Best Practices
- Creative Lesson Planning
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Integrating 4S (Service, Skill, Sport, Study) into Teaching

These sessions helped AFA teachers gain practical strategies and new perspectives, enhancing their classroom effectiveness. The interaction between educators also fostered strong relationships, opening doors to continued mentorship and collaboration.

## A Step Forward in Our Journey

The My Good School Retreat 2025 reaffirmed that learning has no boundaries. By bringing together rural and urban students, experienced educators, and new learners, the retreat embodied the spirit of community, compassion, and collaboration. It was a powerful reminder that while our circumstances may differ, our dreams and our ability to give are the same.

## Shared Learning Beyond the School

Some of the AFA teachers also joined activities back at Khan Farm, participating in outdoor learning sessions, discussions on education trends, and reflective circles. This gave them space to recharge, reflect, and reconnect with their own learning journey—making the retreat not just beneficial for students, but transformational for educators as well.





# New School Bus



## A Gift of Connectivity

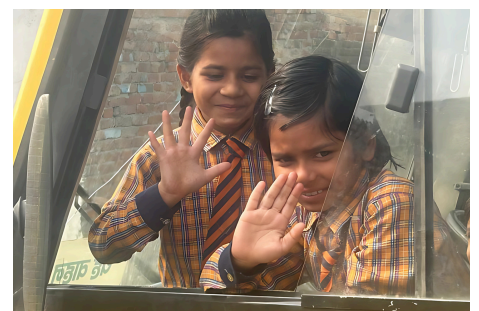
As part of the DSOBS Impact Project, Arthur Foot Academy received a brand-new school bus from the **Doon School Old Boys' Society (DSOBS)**. This generous contribution symbolizes the spirit of community and shared responsibility, reinforcing the commitment to ensure that **no child is left behind**.

## Bridging Distances, Connecting Communities

The new bus significantly expands AFA's reach, making it easier for students from nearby villages to attend classes and participate in school activities. With this essential resource, the Academy is not only **improving accessibility** but also nurturing the bond between the school and the surrounding community

## A Beacon for Inclusive Growth

Beyond transportation, the bus represents a transformative step towards **inclusive education**. It ensures that every student, regardless of geographical barriers, can benefit from AFA's holistic learning experience. Through this initiative, DSOBS continues to embody its core value of service, paving the way for a brighter future in rural education.





# The Impact in Numbers: AFA at a Glance

Arthur Foot Academy is more than a school. It’s a seed of transformation, growing strong in the heart of Bandarjhud

Metric	2019	2025
Number of Students	8	150
Educators	2	8 (Local staff)
Capacity	50	250
Digital Learning Facilities	✗	✓ (Since 2024)
Transport Facility	✗	✓ (2025 School Bus from DSOBS)
Community Engagement Events	✗	Monthly + Retreats
Outreach Villages	1	4



- 150 children enrolled, with demand rising—capacity for 250.
- All teachers are from the local community, building a sustainable, trusted education ecosystem.
- Professional development supported by Good Schools Alliance, Ms Nonie Bagga, Ms. Brinda Ghosh, and Ms. Meenakshi Oberoi.
- AFA hosted dental & health camps, becoming a community wellness hub.
- My Good School Retreats created bridges between rural and urban learners and educators.
- Our new Community Learning Centre enables digital learning and global exposure through ASV (Audio, Sound, Vision).
- DSOBS School Bus ensures accessibility—no child left behind.

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The Arthur Foot Academy's primary objective is to deliver high-quality, holistic education to the children of Bandarjoor and its surrounding areas. The long-term vision is to transform the region into a vibrant center of economic activity while safeguarding its pristine environment.

To achieve this, Arthur Foot Academy has adopted a bilingual teaching-learning methodology. This approach is designed not only to enhance academic proficiency but also to cultivate critical life skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities among students. The ultimate goal is to develop responsible citizens who can confidently navigate the complexities of modern life with ease and poise.

The Academy stands as a beacon of hope and progress in Bandarjoor, exemplifying how targeted educational initiatives can ignite meaningful change in even the most remote regions. With continued support and dedication, we remain committed to nurturing a new generation of capable, conscientious, and community-minded individuals.

Ms.Minakshi Prasad  
*Director*



# हम होंगे कामयाब



## Bank Details

**Name:** The AE Foot Academy

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**Punjab National Bank**

**Branch:** Buggawalan, District Haridwar

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