

# THE HARROVIAN

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VOL. CXXXI NO.5

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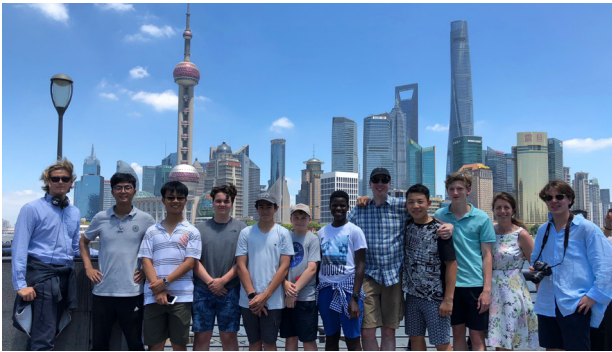
October 6, 2018

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## GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURAL VOLUNTEERING

*China, Summer 2018*

During the beginning of the summer holiday, nine boys from Newlands went on a Global Youth Cultural Volunteering Leadership program to China with EWH, CST and Mrs Debbie Giannini. The trip was ten days long and the boys stayed in Beijing, Dunhuang, Xian and Shanghai. The boys experienced a wealth of China's diverse culture and its long history and the influence of its fast-growing economy. I think we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors and organisers of the trip and to EWH, CST and Mrs Giannini.



As the capital of China, Beijing represents the nerve centre of China's political, cultural and educational spheres. Over 3,000 years old, 850 of which it has spent as China's capital, it is host to the famed Forbidden City, as well as the nation's largest collection of gardens, temples, tombs and sundry historical relics. It is also a sprawling city, ranking third in the 2017 list of the world's top ten largest cities, meaning Beijing has had an extraordinary influence on the development of the world economy.

During the afternoon, the boys visited the Palace Museum and felt the charm of Chinese traditional culture and history. The Imperial Palace is the royal palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasty built in 1421 and hailed as the first of the 'top 5 temples' in China. The Imperial Palace represents the essence of ancient Chinese palatial architecture and is one of the best-preserved ancient wooden structures in the world. The significance of this building was exemplified when President Xi chose to meet President Trump in the Imperial Palace Museum.

Dinner was at the main shop of 'Quan Ju De' in Beijing, and the group enjoyed the world's famous national banquet – Peking roast duck. Peking roast duck originated from the Northern and Southern Dynasties in China and was imperial cuisine at that time. The first 'Quan Ju De' the group went to was founded in 1864, and its roast duck technique has been formally selected as an Intangible Cultural Heritage traditional skill project.

Located in the North West of China, the city of Dunhuang is a famous town along the ancient Silk Road. From 114 BCE to 127 CE, the Western region's road between China and Central Asia was dubbed the Silk Road. At the same time, Central Plains culture, Buddhist culture, Western Asian and Central Asian culture continued to spread to Dunhuang, where the

resultant product of the converging cultures became known as the signature 'Dunhuang' culture.

The boys were involved in a volunteering project for sand prevention control in the Mogao Grottoes, a set of ancient man-made caves surrounded by the Gobi Desert. Wind and sand have been the major environmental problems that have historically plagued the Mogao Grottoes. The boys learnt about the problems and consequences of the sandstorms and helped people from the Research Institute of Protection of Dunhuang to cultivate plants that can block the sand and slow down the gale. Through the study and participation in sand prevention and sand control, the boys have attained a deeper sense of the urgency and responsibility to participate in the environmental protection of the earth.

The group went to the Mogao Grottoes' digital exhibition centre to watch two films called 'Millennium Mogao' and 'Dreamy Fogong'. 'Millennium Mogao' is created by a Hollywood production team, resulting in very realistic footage, while "Dreamy Fogong" shows the exquisite grotto art of the Mogao Grottoes with experimental ball-screen technology.

Afterwards, the boys visited the Mogao Grottoes under the guidance of a professional instructor. The full collection of over 700 caves, the first of which was built in 366 CE, was constructed over a millennium. It has been listed in the world heritage list for its uniqueness and its history. The Mogao caves are the best known of the Chinese Buddhist grottoes and, along with the Longmen Grottoes and Yunguang Grottoes, are one of the three well-known ancient Buddhist sculptural sites of China.



When the group arrived in Dunhuang, they went to the Crescent Spring, which is known as 'the first spring of the desert'. The spring takes the shape of a crescent overlooked by a famous temple, which is no longer open to the public. There, the group also experienced riding camels around the desert. In ancient times, these 'ships of the desert' were the only means of transport to India and Persia. The boys also climbed to the top of the dune and the view of Dunhuang and the desert on the other side was unforgettable. That evening, the boys enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant and camel meat was the group's favourite dish.

The group also went to the Dunhuang Yadan National Geopark. The geopark is located about 180km northwest of Dunhuang's town centre and covers an area of 398 square kilometres. Some of the uniquely shaped rocks in the geopark are named Mongolian Bao, Camel, Stone Bird, Peacock and The Golden Lion Welcoming His Guests. The unique rock formations in the park settled over a period of 800,000 years. The Yadan

geomorphic formations found in the Dunhuang Yadan National Geopark are the largest in China.

On the last night in Dunhuang, there was a bonfire party next to the Gobi Desert. The group enjoyed traditional hotpot and roast whole lamb. After dinner, the boys enjoyed sand sliding and the mesmerising sunset.

The boys went to Dunhuang Art Academy and experienced Chinese traditional drawing on clay. Most of the boys chose to draw the Fly Apsaras, which is a female spirit of cloud and water. Fly Apsaras are popular in Buddhist art as they symbolise good fortune and God on earth. This was accompanied by a detailed lecture on the different types of Chinese traditional art and common symbols in the Mogao Grottoes.

The boys went to Dunhuang College to try traditional Chinese calligraphy painting and visited the gallery full of mural paintings completed by the students. The boys also tried on traditional Chinese clothing and learnt how to tie a Chinese knot.

Xi'an is a world-famous historical and cultural city with a total of 13 dynasties established there. It is an ancient capital city with the largest number of Chinese dynasties and the longest history of the imperial capitals. It is the birthplace of Chinese civilisation and the starting point of the Silk Road. It is known as 'the museum of natural history'.

In the morning, the group visited the workshop where professional craftsmen remake and repair the world-renowned Terracotta Warriors. The boys also tried making a small model from a mould under the guidance of the founder of the workshop. Later, they visited the original Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses Figurines.



The Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses Figurines were built in the period from 246 BCE to 208 BCE. Commissioned by Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, the mammoth necropolis required nearly 40 years to build by a workforce of over 700,000 men. What was particularly impressive was that a huge variety of moulds were used for the warriors, so no two warriors looked alike. When the Warriors were first discovered, they still had colours on their bodies and armour but, due to rapid oxidation, the colour soon disappeared. This is the reason why only a minuscule proportion of the Terracotta Warriors were opened and revealed to the public.

At night, the group visited the Hui's Street. Known as the 'culinary culture block of Xi'an', there is a wide array of over 300 types of snacks around the street and it retains the traditional flavour of halal food.

On the next day, the boys cycled around the Great Wall of Xi'an. Formerly the impregnable fortress wall of the capital city, the city today has long sprawled past such confines. The wall covers 13.7km, regularly dotted with ramparts, guard towers and arrow slits and surrounded by a deep moat. The view was astonishing as well. On one side, the buildings were all over 300 years old. On the other side, all the buildings were contemporary and there were even some skyscrapers next to the wall. The boys enjoyed cycling along the wall, with some teaming up on tandems.

Shanghai, known as 'Paris of the East', is not only the central city of China, but also a Chinese economic and financial centre and a prosperous international metropolis. Shanghai is also a famous historical and cultural city, with a profound cultural

heritage of modern cities and many historical sites. More than 5,000 years ago, the ancestors of Shanghai had left footprints here. Since 1843, Shanghai has become a commercial port open to the outside world and it rapidly developed into the first big city in the Far East. With the integration of Wu Yue culture in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces and industrial culture from the West, Shanghai has formed a unique 'Shanghai-style culture'.

The group appreciated the traditional-style houses and rockeries in the Yu Garden. Yu Garden is an extensive Chinese garden located beside the City God Temple in the northeast of the Old City of Shanghai. Built in 1559 during the Ming Dynasty by Pan Yunduan, the garden embodies traditional Chinese architectural philosophies such as harmony, tranquillity and attention to detail. After the visit, the group went to a tea shop and participated in a tea ceremony where different types of Chinese tea were sampled, including Dahongpao and jasmine tea.

In the afternoon, the boys went on a night tour on the Huangpu river, taking in the astonishing vista of Shanghai's famed skyline including landmarks such as the Shanghai Tower and the Oriental Pearl Tower. The group also enjoyed traditional Shanghaiese cuisine including pigeon soup and chicken mushroom stew. Later that evening, the boys also experienced the highest outdoor skywalk of tall buildings in the world, a stunning venture with breath-taking views of Shanghai at 340m.

## ARGENTINA TOUR

### *Football Tour to Argentina, Summer 2018*

We embarked from the Hill in the halcyon days of early summer, amidst the palpable excitement of a country supporting those Three Lions at a stunning World Cup. The timing of such a football tour couldn't have been better and, as we flew into Buenos Aires, there was a great sense of anticipation among the group for ten days dedicated entirely to the beautiful game.

There was a distinct chill in the air as we arrived in the Recoleta region of our hotel, leading several boys to immediately assess why they hadn't read any of ADJT's email saying it would be cold. As we wandered the area as part of an acclimatisation exercise, it was clear how football is interwoven in Argentinian culture, making it a shame that France had just dumped them out of the tournament.



Our bit of football revolved around a full day of training sessions at Estudiantes football club. Estudiantes are one of the major Argentinian teams, winning the Copa Libertadores in 2009, and the sessions were intensely focused on passing, movement and finishing – a great way to blow away any cobwebs. Boys of all year groups were beginning to bond over a love of football and an evening pizza, while beaks did likewise over chocolate Crunchies and a love of meat.

Our first fixture had the boys up before the crack of dawn. It was so early, in fact, that the first match against Ferro Carril Oeste club actually kicked off under floodlights. Whilst 'Ferro'



currently ply their trade in the Primera B Nacional, they have a strong youth set up and we expected to face tough opposition. However, surely nothing could be as tough as munching through the ham and cheese sandwich we were presented with for breakfast. The location of the game was much like a scene from FIFA Street, with high-rise tower blocks on one side, a train track on the other and a unique (if dilapidated) looking football stand in the background.

The biting cold and lack of light were a surreal setting for the first game, with the Development B squad taking to the field first. Unfortunately, some rustiness was on show as the boys succumbed to a 5-1 loss, although Ademide Odunsi's, *Moretons*, clever finish in the second half was a highlight.

The second fixture involved the 1st XI against a suspiciously old looking Under-18 side. Max Cowley, *Moretons*, aptly pointed out that the left-winger looked older than any of the beaks. Father Nic, high on the diet of Crunchie chocolate bars that he had ingested for breakfast, made a typically inspiring pre-match speech, stating what a treat it was to see them play in these conditions. It certainly seemed to motivate the boys who started the first half as the stronger of the two teams. Toby Gould, *Lyon's*, and Will Holyoake, *The Head Master's*, controlled things well from the centre of the park, yet Ferro were impressive with how quickly they moved the ball and their fluidity in attack meant that Sean Hargraves, *The Head Master's*, needed to channel his inner David De Gea to keep the scores level. While Harrow continued to press, Ferro broke the deadlock right before half-time with a slick counter-attacking move. The second half was a real lesson for the Harrow team on moving the ball quickly and effectively as Ferro stretched into an 8-0 lead. While the boys may have been slightly down from the early morning results, spirits were raised in the afternoon as England defeated Columbia on penalties.

The next set of fixtures took the cohort out to Athletic Club de Banfield, who possess another outstanding youth facility and fabled youth products such as James Rodriguez. The 2nd XI were first up again and started the first half well with Afure Moses-Taiga, *Druries*, playing some neat passes from midfield. The game ran away from Harrow in the second period, and a combination of excellent finishing and a late flurry of goals resulted a rather undeserved final score of 7-0.

The 1st XI started their fixture superbly with John Koutalides, *West Acre*, working hard down the right hand side and Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, dominating the middle of the park. Harrow were unlucky to go in 1-0 down at half time with Banfield scoring completely against the run of play. In the second half, Harrow continued to play well and the introduction of Christian Boland, *Newlands*, created several opportunities to equalise as he provided incisiveness (and some very loose finishing) up top. After some golden chances went by – Harrow hitting the woodwork three times – Banfield's Argentinian Under-17 player found space to thread a through ball that cut open the otherwise superb Ward-Butler partnership and put Banfield two up. A superb individual effort from Carlo Agostinelli, *The Head Master's*, brought Harrow back in to the game, but it proved to be too little too late to avoid defeat.

After the game, we enjoyed some training sessions with the Banfield youth coaches. The drills were rather complicated and even the use of animated Football Manager graphics had our academics Gould, Odunsi and Jacob Goldberg, *Bradlys*, utterly baffled. The coached session was a real eye-opener for many of the boys on the fitness levels, speed of play and general quality required to make it as an Argentinian academy player. Highlights from one particular drill included: Trevor Tang, *The Grove*, making the impossible possible with a balletic volley that hit him both on the arm and face whilst somehow missing both of his chunky legs; Callum Butler, *The Knoll*, attempting the impossible with a courageous overhead kick that only hurt his pride; and the Banfield coach unsuccessfully requesting VAR to find the ball that DH sent into orbit.

Our next set of fixtures were at Argentina's most famous club side, Boca Juniors. While OS was devastated by news that NT's Crunchie supply had dried up before breakfast, spirits were raised when former Harrow beak and football enthusiast Ms Matsubara joined us for breakfast after travelling over from Rio de Janeiro.

Boca's facilities were certainly impressive, and this seemed to strengthen the boy's resolve for the tough fixtures ahead. The 2nd XI took up their 5-4-1 formation and were resolute in their defending throughout the first half, conceding only two early goals. The second half saw outstanding performances from many, but Butler and Holyoake in particular were exceptional. Whilst Boca went on to score two more goals, Harrow created several chances of their own. Indeed, Butler sensed the tide was turning in the final few minutes, issuing a rally cry 'they're tiring now, boys...we've got them on the ropes'. Final Score 4-0.



The 1st XI also played well in a tightly contested fixture against an older age-group side. Apart from one stand-out Boca player who could seemingly score from anywhere whilst playing centre half, the boys were in control for large periods of the game. They eventually lost 3-0 with all three goals scored by Boca's centre back.

In the early evening, the boys enjoyed a visit to the British Embassy in Argentina. The boys were warmly welcomed into the Embassy's beautiful Buenos Aires residence by the deputy ambassador, Elizabeth Green. After a few cakes and drinks, the boys heard about the purpose of a foreign embassy and a little on the history of Anglo-Argentinian relations before a Q & A session. The Lower Sixth boys asked some great questions about the career pathways into diplomacy before ADJT asked a question he'd copied directly off 'angloargentinianrelations.com' about the Falklands crisis.

The age of some of our opposition had been creating a bit of a mis-match at the 2nd XI level and the same was true in our final 11-a-side fixture versus Argentinos Juniors. The game kicked off with the 2nd XI going 4-0 down almost immediately. Whilst the team did improve as the game went on, making it out of their half on at least two occasions, they ultimately succumbed to a heavy defeat with the opposition player that had at least two kids and 25 tattoos scoring five of their goals. Final score: 10-0.

Argentinos Juniors are a pretty remarkable outfit. Based in quite a rough La Paternal district of Buenos Aires, they have produced some of the stand-out Argentinian heroes of football – Maradona, Sorin, Mascherano, Redondo and DJE's favourite, Cambiasso, to name but a few. The 1st XI took to the pitch and immediately struck fear into their own tattoo-laden and equally over-age opponents. Josh Davies, *Moretons*, who had made a remarkable recovery from a career-threatening knee-'pop' earlier on the trip, was wrapped up in a scary-looking blanket while Agostinelli's headband had the whole of their back four quaking in their (football) boots. Harrow took this momentum into the first half going into the break only 2-0 down. The 1st XI made a bit of a comeback in the second period with Agostinelli rocketing a glorious free kick in to give Harrow hope. Unfortunately, they ran out 3-1 in a closely fought and

relatively even contest.

With plenty of football in the legs, the next two days gave the boys an opportunity to soak up some of the culture and sights around Buenos Aires. There was trip to a Gaucho ranch that allowed the boys to learn the salsa, eat like an Argentinian cowboy and even watch England beat Sweden. Additionally, there was a trip around the major football stadiums and the colourful Caminito region of the town.

The final full day of the tour was an intense futsal clinic from the coaches at San Lorenzo football club. Futsal is an indoor version of the game, played as five-a-side with a slightly smaller, heavier ball. It is a great way of improving close control and passing – making it a staple coaching platform for South American clubs. The boys found the drills tough and the following tournament against a local side was whitewash with every team being taught a lesson on movement and teamwork.

The final evening was a last opportunity to sample some Argentinian steak and reflect on the trip. The quality of football that we witnessed from the Argentinians was outstanding, and it was a big lesson for the boys on how beautiful football comes by getting the basics right. While results may not have been in our favour, every single one of the boys improved as footballers and it is pleasing to see this momentum roll into the Autumn term. As a group, they bonded well and were a pleasure to look after. They represented the school with pride, and hopefully learnt a bit about Argentinian culture along the way. Many thanks must go to ADJT for all of his hard work putting the trip together and making it a success while we were out here.

## TALL SHIPS

*Shaftsbury Enterprise, working with Harrow Youth Offenders and Young Carers, aboard Challenger 3*

Over the summer holidays, a group of ten Harrovians took part in the annual Tall Ships expedition around the Channel Islands. This trip was part of Shaftsbury Enterprise and much effort was put in in the months before the trip so that the places of the Harrow Youth Offenders and Young Carers accompanying us on the boats could be sponsored by the boys. The expedition began as we departed Portsmouth harbour and sailed into the English Channel.



I was aboard Challenger 3, on which I spent a week alongside five fellow Harrovians and five members of the Harrow Youth Offenders Association. We departed late in the afternoon and it was not too long before we dropped anchor off the Isle of Wight for the night.

The following day, we took part in an early start as our first destination was the island of Alderney. The crew quickly showed us how to work with the ropes and what the challenges of hoisting the main sail consisted of, and we soon realised that

our strength and teamwork skills would be tested. Alas, not all was plain sailing: almost everyone was seasick and did not feel so well for the rest of the day. Aside from that, the journey was fairly quiet, but it was not until we made it safely onto land to watch the Belgium–France game that we began to recover.

On the third day, we set out from Alderney to Sark. We were once more met by light winds, but luckily the journey was much shorter than the long crossing across the channel from the Isle of Wight. In the afternoon, just as we were approaching Sark, the wind picked up enough for us to sail using wind power for the first time. Sadly, we were unable to sail like this for long as we were approaching the island and we came in using our engine's power. After much anticipation, we crammed into a small pub on Sark and, just like everyone else, we watched the England–Croatia match. The solemn journey back was combined with the dingy breaking down. It was dark by this point and there were large numbers of people that still needed to get back to the boat. After a lengthy wait, everyone eventually returned safely for the night.



After the dramatic breakdown of the night before, there was a chance to rest either on shore or up on deck. On the next day, there was again very little wind and we had to sail using our motor. This was a longer journey than on the third day as we were to sail to Guernsey. Despite the added distance travelled, we still made good progress, managing to remain only a few miles behind the Challenger 2 and maintaining it well within sight of the bow of our boat. That day, we started to use the watch system where you would take shifts on and off during the lengthy trip. Many tired souls took the opportunity to sleep while they were off-duty whilst others played numerous rounds of cards. There was an intense race between Challenger 3 and Challenger 2 to see who could hoist the mainsail the quickest, with Challenger 3 eventually victorious.

The penultimate day was a relaxed day spent solely on Guernsey and it gave us a good chance to explore the island. In the morning, there were mast-climbing and dingy-racing events before we were unleashed onto the island. Combined groups of Harrovians, members of the Harrow Youth Offenders and Young Carers could be seen across the island. Another hot, sunny day led most of us to the beach whilst some spent the afternoon between cafes and shops. Some trekked up a nearby hill to look down on the port we were in and the small town below.

In the evening, the annual crew meal took place on the shore. Our large group piled into one of the local restaurants and enjoyed the first onshore meal for days. It was a thoroughly enjoyable meal and everyone was extremely grateful.

An early wake-up was planned for the final day as we got ready to leave for Portsmouth. The long journey back was once again accompanied by virtually no wind whatsoever, hence we motored through, having various races with the other boats along the way. We eventually reached Portsmouth in the dark and docked on the marina to say our early farewells before we dispersed the following morning. This was a genuinely significant moment based on the relationships we had built across the six days and all the activities that we had worked together on.



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

*Gold Award, Scotland, 30 June*

We were all sitting in the small shade of a hillside shed. It was not a bothy. It was more shed-like; not much room for sleeping, perched on this green and sweeping hillside surrounded by fallen scree from above. Our portion of shade was sharp-edged and we looked up at the small line of dusty earth and rock that made our route. It seemed to wither under the sun. As we wrenched and huffed, bags were pulled onto shoulders and we walked into the sun's gaze. Spending too long, exposed as we were, in this sun, would lead to death. Camus' Meursault came to mind.

Although it was sunny, the fact that we were in Scotland, doing DofE, must have exaggerated this wholesome presence. The weather was not uncomfortable but thrilling. Every day, we swam in torrents and leapt into plunge pools. Every day, we watched the ground recede beneath our boots patiently, like mules. Having completed three other DofE expeditions before, it seems they are almost impossible to compare. This trip to the Cairngorms was far superior in beauty and comradery, two requisite aspects of any successful expedition.



After an unsettlingly long train journey from Aviemore, where we were based, south to Blair Atholl, we stepped off onto the platform and started our walk. Through gorge, peat bog, mountain and forest we trod. I found imagining Hannibal's army crossing the Alps particularly encouraging while walking. A scarce cluster of ancient Scots pines up on the highlands proved to be a sacred treat, something rare to witness on the Scottish hills these days, when for centuries any regeneration has been cruelly stifled by excessive deer concentrations and outdated conservation wreckages. Nonetheless, we saw snow buntings, frogs and ptarmigans and heard the call of the curlew.



This was when walking through a flat-bottomed valley; a wide river flowing languidly over the pebbles further added to the aching beauty of the soundscape. An especially rewarding campsite was high up in the valley, a small patch of vaguely flat ground that had the inviting bounce of heather as beds. Reading *Grapes of Wrath* just up the hill from this site was another special moment in the expedition. The occasional shriek from cars down below was all that I could hear or see to bring me back to earth. I watched the line of sunlight slowly retreat across the rust-coloured slope opposite until eventually

the round sun fell beneath the horizon, leaving us in darkness. I had to stop reading then and, apart from the boulder being incredibly uncomfortable, it was really rather lovely.

Later that evening, we tried to build a fire. We realised, however, that this was not a suitable idea as MJT barked up from his campsite down below in apparent disbelief at our stupidity. After each day of exertion, we would stumble around our chosen campsite, slowly going through the motions of tent, stove, food and water. This virtually primal existence of food and sleep, hills and river was an enchanting way to start any summer holiday. By the end of the trip, our feet were bruised and blistered and the very thought of a bed made hearts tingle. On the other hand, walking into the shower at home never was quite as relieving as a thrilling swim in a Scottish loch, the deep layer of voluptuous detritus swallowing up ones calves. And now a genuine thanks and shouts of gratitude, from all who attended this expedition to every beak that took part.

## SCIENCE SOCIETY

*Memory and the effects of Alzheimer's, Matthew Ong, Elmfield, Physics Schools, 21 September*

This week, the Science Society was delighted to have Matthew Ong, *Elmfield*, give a talk regarding a familiar problem throughout the world of medicine. The talk was entitled 'Memory and the effects of Alzheimer's' and explained the basic functionality of memory itself and how permanent effects could be caused by Alzheimer's. Besides that, he also presented drugs and cures that may potentially allow victims of this disease to regain vanished memories.

Ong first introduced the general mechanism of Alzheimer's disease. He had explained that it is a chronic neurodegenerative disease, which means that it will cause the progressive decline of motor skills (the use of muscles) and behaviour. The most common symptom of the disease is dementia, the loss of cognitive functioning, which is commonly known as the ability to think, remember and reason. This will also affect and alter the sufferer's personality and lifestyle. The onset of Alzheimer's usually occurs in one's 50s to 60s. However, Ong also stated that 7% of Alzheimer's cases are early onset, arising in the body as early as 20 years of age. The cause of the disease is still unknown to this day, but it is speculated that in early onset Alzheimer's may be hereditary but in late-onset it may be due to the changes in one's brain over decades of wear and tear. The effects which Alzheimer's has on the memory is because of damage to the nervous systems through age and the body's malfunctions. Amyloid plaques and the entanglement of tau proteins are the main cause of nervous damage. They cause instability in the microtubules and block the nutrient supplies for nerve cells, rapidly causing degeneration.

Afterwards, Ong moved on to explore the memory and its general mechanism. There are three types of memory present in the human mind – sensory, short term and long term. The 'usage' of memory comes in four steps. The first step is called *encoding*. Emotions and attention stimulate the hippocampus, thalamus and frontal lobe, which can turn on the Npas4, which controls the plk2. This, in turn, reduces the size of the synapse and moderates synapse strength. The stimulation can cause more frequent neutron firing, which leads on to the next step: *consolidation*. The continuous synchronous fire of the neutrons allows them to be sensitised to each other. This then causes sensory fragments to form, which is the third step – *storage*. Memories are actually stored in fragments. Each fragment is arranged in spider-web-like form, which is a more efficient way of storing information. This means that in the fourth step

– *retrieval*, the brain will actively reconstruct the pieces of memory when it is recalled. Ong also showed that the act of forgetting is not literally the loss of memory, but the inability to retrieve or ‘re-piece’ the elements of the certain memory.

Next, Ong listed the effects Alzheimer’s has on the memory. These effects were listed in four categories. The short-term memory – the ability to hold information in an active, readily available state for a short period of time; the episodic memory – the memory of autobiographic events; the semantic memory – the memory of the facts and definitions of words; and, finally, the procedural memory – the memory of how to perform different tasks and the use of various skills. These effects happen in chronological order as the disease moves into different stages. The last stage of the disease harms the basic motor skills, which may cause impaired linguistic skills and attentiveness. and may ultimately lead to death.

During the conclusion, Ong also touched on some research on the cures for this disease. Unfortunately, there aren’t any ‘direct’ cures. However, researchers have found that environment enrichment may assist in memory repair by conducting contextual fear conditioning on rodents.

It was an extremely exciting talk that gave the audience a much deeper understanding of the complex concept of memory, and yet explained this in a simple and effective way so that those who are less knowledgeable could still learn from this lecture.

## PALMERSTON SOCIETY

*Professor Vernon Bogdanor ‘Brexit: The Pandora’s Box and the Trojan Horses’, OSRG, 25 September*

On Tuesday, boys and beaks crowded into the OSRG to witness the first Palmerston Society lecture of the year, given by Professor Vernon Bogdanor, entitled ‘Brexit: The Pandora’s Box and the Trojan Horses’. Professor Bogdanor is Professor of Politics at New College of the Humanities, an Emeritus Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and author of *The New British Constitution*. He is one of Britain’s leading constitutional experts and famously taught David Cameron.



The EU began in 1950 as the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), which was an agreement between six European countries over their steel and coal industries, one of the first instances of supranationalism. This collaboration of nations led to economic prosperity in those industries. Therefore, Britain wanted to join this collaboration, much to the chagrin of the Labour Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, who said “If you open that Pandora’s box, you never know what Trojan horses will jump out.” Despite mixing myths, Mr Bevin was correct. Europe has caused turmoil in the UK; Professor Bogdanor even stated that it had destroyed five of the last six conservative prime ministers and appears to be about to destroy another!

Despite the best efforts of French president Charles De Gaulle, who had blocked the entrance of Britain twice, Britain entered this partnership in 1973 under Edward Heath, a Conservative prime minister. However, the Conservatives failed to win the

following general election and the Labour government, under Harold Wilson staged a European referendum, asking the public if they wanted to “stay in Europe”. In contrast to the referendum in 2016, the public overwhelmingly voted to stay, with a majority of 2:1.

Historically, we have not aligned ourselves with Europe for many reasons. In the words of Professor Bogdanor, we have always lived in “splendid isolation”. Winston Churchill (OH) also expressed this isolation elegantly, stating “We are with Europe, but not of it”. Our ties overseas were with the Empire. Our economic approach was also extremely different from Europe’s. While the European nations had a system of high tariffs, promoting goods made or grown inside the country, Britain had relatively low tariffs, meaning that cheap food could come in from the Empire. The Second World War also encouraged a greater split. Dunkirk showed Britain that we could be separate from Europe; we did not stand or fall with Europe. One of the main aims of forming collective European groups was to prevent nationalism, which many European nations blamed as the cause of the war. However, Britain viewed the victory of the war as being caused by nationalism: Britain had pulled through due to the patriotism and sacrifice of its inhabitants. The issue, however, which has had the most effect in the UK’s interactions with European governing bodies concerns the sovereignty of parliament. One of the defining characteristics of the UK had been sovereignty of parliament, meaning the ability parliament has to make decisions and decide how the country should be run. By joining a European governing body, the UK is essentially relinquishing that right. This played a large part in the outcome of the 2016 referendum, where one of the main themes was to “take back control”. This feeling of lack of control was mainly fuelled by immigration but also applies to other areas of interest.

So, the question remains, why did we join Europe? The main answer relates to the economic turmoil in the UK at the time. Under Edward Heath, the UK issued four states of emergency, the highest number issued during peace time. Inflation was reaching 25%, a level never seen before in UK history. The world was facing its first international oil crisis. The government desperately needed the prosperity that the ECSC would provide. Furthermore, America, one of our closest allies outside the Empire, was trying to encourage the UK to join. They reasoned that joining the economies of Europe would prevent another war. This was a prospect that America dreaded, as another war would permanently damage trading prospects with Europe. America also feared that they would be dragged into this war.

Professor Bogdanor then proceeded to talk about the 2016 referendum. David Cameron was in an extremely difficult position. Dissent over Europe had been present in the Conservative Party since Heath, dissent that threatened to undermine his government. UKIP had become a major threat to the Conservative party, with four million supporters from a typically conservative demographic. The prospects for placing a referendum in the Conservative manifesto looked good. He could finesse the issue and appeal to both the remain and leave sides with the promise of the referendum. He could effectively remove UKIP as a threat and even pick up their supporters. He could silence the dissenting Conservatives for a decade or more. 2016 seemed to be the perfect time for the referendum. He had a majority government and Scotland had just voted to remain part of the UK. However, in 2016, the British voted to leave the European Union in a vote of 52% to 48%. In a matter of constitutional significance, this was the first time in the UK that the sovereignty of parliament had been trumped by a popular vote. Parliament felt compelled to leave the EU on account of the referendum.

However, in the words of Disraeli, “There is no such thing as finality in politics”. The Conservative Party appears to be on the ropes, with talks seemingly grinding to a halt and the abrupt rejection of the Chequers Plan. As the common saying



goes, "History repeats itself". After joining the ECSC, Edward Heath lost his government in the snap election of 1974. The following prime minister was from the Labour party, Harold Wilson. However, in this political climate, any predictions are bound to fail.

Many thanks to Professor Bogdanor for taking time out of his very busy schedule to lecture the Palmerston Society. Additionally, many thanks to AGC and all the members of the Palmerston Society for making this happen.

## SHERIDAN SOCIETY

*Hal O'Connor, Druries, and George McGovern,  
The Knoll, The Copse, 20 September*

This week, the Sheridan Society held its second talk of the year by welcoming Hal O'Connor, *Druries*, and George McGovern, *The Knoll*, who gave a fascinating insight to John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* (1667). They spoke about its underlying themes and depictions of Heaven and Hell, particularly in books nine and ten, as well as the Devil's role in Biblical stories such as Genesis.

To introduce the creator of the well-known work of literature, O'Connor and McGovern began by discussing Milton's influences. Since he was an avid reader of the Bible, it is evident why he used the scripture as a strong point of reference for his work. Subsequently, an individual whose work was often presented alongside *Paradise Lost*, a French artist by the name of Gustave Dore, drew many parallels between his artwork and the quotations derived from *Paradise Lost*. Today, his art pieces are still commonly referred to because of their ability to help readers of Milton's book interpret the stories and derive the connotations more accurately. Additionally, it is important to understand Dore's massive influence as an artist during the 19th century, as his work was not only visually stunning but also had many exterior meanings and implications, much like Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* in the Sistine Chapel. Dore's repertoire included the works of Lord Byron, a French edition of Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*, Lord Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* and many more notable works.

The first image and quotation that O'Connor and McGovern spoke of was the famous image set directly after the great war of angels. Satan is both described by Milton and illustrated by Dore as a fallen angel who is now lamenting his loss and is beginning to realise the consequence of his actions. It is at this point in the narrative when Satan, whilst still licking his wounds, considers revenge and utters the famous phrase: 'Better to reign in hell, than serve in heav'n'. Without stating it, both works of art are able to express the cost of hubris and sin. This further coincides with both of their Christian backgrounds and fundamental beliefs on the repercussions of sin. Foreshadowing is also used by Dore for Satan's next act of defiance against God as Adam and Eve can be roughly identified in the background of the image.

Subsequently, more crucial moments throughout *Paradise Lost* were shown. For example, when Satan and his council of demons decided to avenge themselves by corrupting God's new creation, Dore illustrated this through an epic scene in Hell. O'Connor and McGovern perceived this to be a simple reference to Pandora's box; the locked-up monsters seizing their opportunity for escape draws a clear similarity with the original Greek myth.

Afterwards, the well-known story of the Fall from Genesis, where Adam and Eve eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, is added to with more depth. An image with Adam, Eve and the snake, representing Satan, not only shows the three at the time of the crucial event, but also produces

more inner meaning. For example, the moment depicted in the drawing is meant to have taken place before Eve takes the first bite into the Forbidden Fruit; this can be inferred as she is still pictured in sunlight, thus representing her status of currently being within God's grace. Further images of Adam and Eve's suffering as an aftermath from their actions not only depict their punishments, but also reference Satan's remark that 'blind faith will save no one'.

In conclusion, after a fantastic presentation exhibiting both the literary and the metaphorical meanings behind Milton's *Paradise Lost*, O'Connor and McGovern were able to emphasise their arguments using the interpretations of Dore's illustrations. Overall, the two were able to demonstrate how literary works can coincide with visual ones to give a more complete and fulfilling impression.

## JUNIOR CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*JLM, "How to win a battle in the ancient world", Deno  
Leventis Library, 24 September*

JLM began the Junior Classical Society's first lecture of the year by pointing out that, when looking at battle maps and diagrams, we generally think of soldiers as big moving blocks. It is important to understand what it was really like in battle. These were groups of people trying to move in unison. Ancient military warfare was difficult and tiring, with a soldier having poor vision and slow reactions due to the masses of men around him and horrible conditions such as sand, wind and rain. Keeping this in mind, there were a variety of ways in which battles were won.

The first way was to have superior tactics. The tactics of generals such as Hannibal and Alexander the Great are legendary. One popular method was the double envelopment. This consisted of weakening the centre and drawing in the enemy. This allowed the flanks to come in from the outside and surround the enemy. This was famously utilised in the Battle of Marathon in 440 BCE. The Greek's force of 11,000 men was outnumbered by a 20,000-man Persian army. The Greeks reinforced their wings and weakened the centre, which was pushed back. The Persians picked up confidence and speed, and by the time they realised they were surrounded, it was too late. The Greeks had been able to choose the battlefield so they chose a bay with marshland on either side. Naturally, the Persians couldn't go backwards into the water and thus they had no escape.

Hannibal used a variation of this tactic in the Second Punic War. Having already fought at the River Trebia and Lake Trasimene, the Carthaginians and Romans met at Cannae. The battle was to be the Romans' greatest-ever defeat. Hannibal set up his men in a crescent moon formation; the Romans lined up in their standard three-line formation when they attacked the Carthaginians. The Africans' middle section bent and the Romans were surrounded.

At Trasimene, Hannibal used another ingenious tactic. His opponent was the arrogant Roman general Gaius Flaminius, who was consul at the time. Consulship only lasted for a year, and Flaminius wanted to make the most of it by defeating Carthage. Knowing this, Hannibal left his camp seemingly exposed. He even had a fake Hannibal walking around. In reality, he had hidden his forces in hills all along the coast. He knew that there was a misty fog. As the Romans were marching towards Hannibal's camp, the Carthaginians descended from the hills screaming. The Romans turned around and ran into the lake. 15,000 of them were killed.

The second way to win a battle was through individual bravery and brilliance. Alexander the Great was a splendid example of this as he fought King Darius. At first, the fighting was close

but, midway through, the Macedonian shield-bearers cracked a hole in the line. Alexander headed straight for Darius who escaped. Alexander's simultaneous bravery and recklessness inspired his men.

An alternative approach to success is the Pyrrhic victory, named after Pyrrhus of Epirus, whom Hannibal thought was the greatest general of all time. The Romans were invading an area of Magna Graecia and Pyrrhus led a Macedonian and Greek army of 40,000 men to resist them. His elephants broke through and he won the battle, but he lost 3,000 men. The phrase 'Pyrrhic victory' still exists today, used when a battle is won but with great cost.

Another way to win is by knowing your enemy. The Persian Cyrus the Great was a fantastic general: he allowed people to have freedom of religion. His son Cambyses used this knowledge of Egyptian customs in a cunning manner: he wanted to add Egypt to his empire but the gates to Egypt at the border city Pelusium were garrisoned. He knew that Egyptians worshipped cats; they often mummified and preserved them. They weren't allowed to harm cats. Cambyses ordered his men to arm themselves with cats. The Persians threw cats at the opposition and put cats' eyes on their shields. The Egyptians stopped their operations immediately, not wanting to hurt the cats.

The final way to win an ancient battle was to use one's cavalry. The cavalry had speed, mobility, manoeuvrability and were adaptable. Alexander the Great was one of the best at using cavalry effectively. At the battle of Gaugamela, the Persians outnumbered the Greeks. The Greeks had a phalanx in the centre, which it was good at holding as it engaged the enemy with its long spears. Alexander knew many Persians would be preoccupied with the phalanx, so he pulled his cavalry to the right, drawing a section of the Persian army and opening up a gap, from which he could head straight for his counterpart.

Many thanks go to JLM for giving such a fascinating and detailed lecture.

## THE ORDINARY BOYS

*Shaftesbury Enterprise, Oli Glanville and George  
Randell's Journey Across the Atlantic,  
OH Room, 19 September*

On Wednesday, we had our first of the Shaftesbury Enterprise Lectures by Oli Glanville and George Randell. They described themselves as two ordinary lads who graduated from Oxford, weren't the sportiest and certainly wouldn't have pegged on themselves to do what they did. They decided to embark in the transatlantic row-race in support of two charities close to their hearts; Alzheimer's Research UK and the Against Malaria Foundation.

They began their story by explaining how they had to prepare for this 'expedition', including four hours a day on the rowing machine, locating a sea-conquering vessel (theirs was Irish), and all the ration packs. Being two boys who "had life given to them on a plate", they found it very difficult to raise the money required to buy all the equipment through fund-raising methods. The row itself was 3,000 miles and the average days to complete was around 40. The name of their team was The Ordinary Boys and, as far as puns go, I think we would all agree it's quite punny.

As soon as they set off they had a regime of two hours' rowing and two hours' sleeping, day in, day out, and took a flying start at the beginning of the race. The first few days were a breeze with light wind and seas, trundling along at a decent 3knts. But then came their first storm; with 60ft waves

and 50knt winds, one can only imagine how difficult it would be to even attempt to row in such conditions. A few capsizes came and went and they soon regretted the fact of not tying all their equipment down... After the storm passed, they were dwarfed by humpback whales and a 10ft shark that followed them for a bit. Then, after losing a game of rock-paper-scissors, one of them had to go overboard to clean the hull of the boat only a day after seeing this monster shark.



They talked about how lonely it became, even though they were rowing with each other: one was always asleep or in the dry-area so communication between them was rather minimal and, even if they were 1km away from another boat, they didn't see anyone for the whole trip. And, of course, it was a race, which is where the unexpected happens. They were neck-and-neck for first place in the two-man category and four days ahead of the original world record for rowing the Atlantic! The fight for the win went down to the last two days but unfortunately they had to give in and instead could enjoy the row into land. It was quite amusing to understand just how fast these boats go, as when they first saw land, a brother managed to fly from Gatwick to Antigua before they arrived.

It was a great talk, and an amazing challenge, finishing 3,000 miles in 37 days and raising an outstanding £60,000 for two extraordinary charities. Thanks are definitely owed to TMD and JM for organising this talk and we all look forward to the next on the 3 October.

## OH WISDOM

"It's not every day you get to walk out against India and Pakistan. I look to take the bull by the horns and just enjoy myself. At the end of the day I have a smile on my face when all those bowlers are running in."



Anshy Rath (*Lyon's 2012?*) former captain of the School 1st XI, who recently captained the Hong Kong Cricket team through the qualifiers of the Asia Cup and played valiantly against Pakistan and India in the group stages of the finals.



## HANS WOYDA

*The School v Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet,  
20 September*

The Maths team, comprising Liron Chan, *The Grove*, Brandon Chang, *Druries*, Girk Yin, *Bradlys*, and Pasa Suksmith, *Elmfield*, started their campaign in the annual London-wide Hans Woyda Mathematics competition last Thursday with an away match at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. We knew that they would be tough opponents and so it proved, with the scores in the first few rounds very high indeed – Harrow only dropped marks on two questions and QEB on three. It wasn't until the last couple of rounds that the Harrow team managed to extend their lead beyond two points, largely thanks to their superior speed in the final "race" round. This extra pace eventually proved decisive as Harrow ended up victors by a margin of 59 points to 48, in what was a very encouraging performance to kick off the season – particularly from debutant Yin, who didn't drop a point in the whole match.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

*Part 3, CMC "The No-Hair Theorem: Do black holes erase your past?", OSRG, 30 September*

As an annual contributor the cross-curricular lecture series, it was a pleasure to see CMC return to the OSRG for what was guaranteed to be yet another mind-blowing talk.

Since very few members of the audience knew much about the 'no-hair theorem', CMC gently introduced us to the topic by explaining where he had first been introduced to it - as an undergraduate. The pioneer of the theory was Stephen Hawking and consequently it is not a simple one, but CMC felt that in two weeks of research he had been able to put together a talk to give us a basic understanding of the concept (which, he felt was important to add, had nothing to do with hair).

A basic introduction to black holes revealed that they were first proposed in 1783 by the Revd John Mitchell as part of his 'Dark Star' hypothesis, the main point of this being that the heavier something was, the more attracted you would be to it and, as the heaviest things in the universe, these 'dark stars' had very strong attraction forces. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, where he established an intertwining relationship between time and space itself, was the next step in the development of the research in black holes. Other scientists that contributed to the theory of black holes were Karl Schwarzschild, Robert Oppenheimer and finally John A. Wheeler, who came up with the term 'black hole' in one of his lectures (the French refused to adopt this term until recently, preferring instead to refer to it as an 'étoile glacée,' a 'frozen star.')

CMC then showed the audience a post on Facebook by one of his friends working with NASA saying 'OMG' 17 times in a row, presumably to inform his friends of some important declaration, and indeed the next day the White House declared that using LIGO they had detected the gravitational waves that had been outlined in Einstein's theory of relativity for the first time in history. These gravitational waves were essentially two black holes interacting with each other leaving ripples (like our fingers when we dip them into water) so small that very high-tech equipment and a lot of time was needed to detect them. As light cannot escape black holes (a process described in Einstein's theory of relativity as light bending), we would never have been able to see these two black holes interacting, which added to the challenge of detecting them since this could only be done by observing the light moving around them.

The black holes involved in these gravitational waves would have formed as a direct result of gas clouds colliding at the beginning of the universe, expelling stars and planets, the

former of which would have expanded to eventually become a black hole. CMC was surely pleasing the audience when he revealed that this was the bleak fate of our sun, which in five billion years will expand and finally burst to leave behind an extremely dense sphere (the size of the earth but with the mass of the sun) known as a white dwarf. To give the audience an idea of its density, CMC explained that a person whose mass was 80kg on earth would be 27 million kg on this white dwarf! However, we soon learnt that there are other possible outcomes that await other stars. Whilst they all will eventually expand to form supernovas, some will become white dwarfs, others neutron stars, and 1% will become black holes. These black holes can 'swallow' stars, leaving behind a bright flash where light has gone missing - an observation that can be recorded by observatories such as NASA's, but also by the Raleigh Observatory! We were shown a detailed 3D map of a galaxy where a black hole four million times the mass of the sun was thought to be present, and it showed no sign of stopping.

This amazing explanation did not prepare the audience for what CMC revealed next, which was that as soon as anything gets caught in a black hole, the normal rules of physics no longer apply to it.

In theory, using the ashes of a burnt piece of paper, it is possible to see what was written on the piece of paper (this is using theory, but practically is not yet possible with the technology available). This means that following established physical laws, it is always possible to trace back your past. We soon discovered that after entering the singularity of a black hole (its centre), Einstein's theory of relativity and its rules are simply thrown out of the window.

This lack of rules introduces the need for new theories to arise, and this is where the no-hair theorem stems from. It simply proposes the fact that in a black hole, three pieces of information can be retained: mass, charge and angular momentum. This leads onto two theories being proposed: one that claims information is always preserved (quantum field theory) and the latter proclaiming that it can be lost (theory of relativity). This clearly creates an information paradox as both theories have been proven right up to this point. This information paradox was one that Hawking decided to investigate, and he came up with Hawking radiation, which are essentially photons that can be rejected by black holes, which clearly goes against the principle that nothing can escape from a black hole.

This colossal prospect leaves the field open to many new theories, the most popular claiming that if anti-particles and particles can escape black holes, then in theory radiation can escape, leaving black holes open to the possibility of being evaporated. Whilst this is a possibility, were it to be possible, it would take black holes  $10^{1068}$ s to evaporate. The universe being  $10^{109}$  years old, it is clearly a long-term project! This information paradox has been supported due to the fact that heat radiations have been detected emerging from a black hole, but there remains a lot to be researched before anything can be proven.

Other theories relating to this information paradox claim that this information is never lost but merely transferred to another part of the universe via wormholes (a theory that is sure to please many *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* fans) or that information is transferred from 3D to 2D but is never really lost, but instead merely waiting to re-emerge when the black hole eventually evaporates.

Whatever the truth is, the question of whether information is retained were anyone to fall in a black hole is one that is pertinent to the theme of memory, as it leaves physicists in the realms of philosophy, pondering whether our past would be lost if we find ourselves in black hole, or whether it would simply be retained and emerge in a different form that has not yet been discovered.

The lecture concluded quite fittingly with a video presentation by Stephen Hawking who believed that his discovery of Hawking

radiations may indicate that information is conserved, leaving us with the hope and life motto that ‘even if you find yourself in a black hole, there is always a way out.’

## WILL SPACE TOURISM EVER TAKE OFF?

*Likely, it will just go the way of the dodo*

To go to space, you must either become an astronaut or be very rich. It is very much the same story with any innovation, when planes were new about 100 years ago or so, you had either to be a pilot or be very rich. The ocean liners of yore followed the same trend, but the question is: will space tourism go the same way or will it fizzle out like so many inventions and ideas that promised to change our lives but failed due to scientific or economic reasons?

As we approach the cusp of possibly the greatest leap in science since the Moon landing of 1969, the question must be asked: will space tourism ever take off?

SpaceX has just signed its first commercial passenger, Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa, and hints that it may send a couple more in mid-2019 or later; but its incredible progress from delivering payloads to manned missions seems to be following the exponential trend of Virgin Galactic. Virgin’s project has virtually fallen silent since the fateful spaceship crash of 2014, which killed one of the pilots and seriously wounded the other. Elon Musk and SpaceX are walking a very fine line, if this mission goes wrong, then the entire space tourism industry may come crashing down.

I remember visiting the Farnborough Air Show a few years ago and, after visiting the Virgin Galactic booth, I truly believed that by the time I was making ‘dad jokes’ at Christmas dinner, I would have been to space and made it back alive. All the great transportation leaps have resulted in us making exponential progress over the course of each decade that goes by, and it seems that at the very least there has been a major headline regarding these major breakthroughs once every few years. However, space tourism hasn’t followed that trend (and it probably never will).

The costs associated with sending a few kilograms of material into space are mind blowing. SpaceX says that it costs \$62 million (£47 million) to launch its Falcon 9 rocket, and \$90 million (£68 million) to launch its Falcon heavy rocket. The company relies on contracts with government-backed agencies like NASA for a significant part of its funding. It also offers to send things into space on behalf of smaller space agencies, provided they have deep enough pockets. Fundraising has been going very well for SpaceX and it seems that, with a value of over \$21 billion (£16 billion) and a \$1 billion (£750 million) investment led by Google and Fidelity, SpaceX seems to be in a good position to start sending people to space. Experts estimate that a moon landing using modern technology would cost \$700 million (£530 million). With this in mind, could it be that SpaceX might be getting ahead of itself?

SpaceX is sending tourists into space and tourists need a certain degree of comfort, especially if you’re paying millions of dollars to do what Gagarin did more than 60 years ago in a rocket that could hardly be described as comfortable. SpaceX will have to pull out all the stops to make the space tourism experience appealing to more people, which also brings us onto how the gimmicks we have introduced into everyday life could be applied in space. Space Miles? SpaceX loyalty cards? The sheer numbers involved in space travel make these ideas impractical, assuming space tourism ever did become popular (and affordable), why would you go into space? We can already fly across the world in about 12-14 hours, so what is the need for developing expensive new technology when we could focus on refining the technology we currently have? Why not try and

bring back something like Concorde in a more practical form instead of developing a mode of transport that even the super-rich will get bored of in ten years’ time? Some people argue that we could exit and then re-enter the atmosphere, much like a ballistic missile. They say that this would speed up journey times and be an exciting experience; but don’t spaceships land in water? I would hardly like to begin my holiday by being fished out of the Pacific when I could be flying over it in first class. The space shuttle was retired for a reason: it was getting too expensive and out of hand; it wouldn’t take them to Mars even if they tried and there was nothing else left to see except mineral-rich asteroids which they couldn’t mine. Even though it was re-usable, events like Challenger (1986) and Columbia (2003) when deadly crashes occurred considerably diminished the public opinion of space travel.

My opinion? Space tourism will probably go the same way as Concorde, the dodo, and the *Twilight* saga. It may attract fascination and even some admiration from people when they find out about them, but will eventually die out because of its impracticality (or dodgy storyline). Space tourism does bring a warm and fuzzy feeling to our hearts, but it is simply too big for us to handle. So far, all of our excursions into space have been to impose one country’s superiority over the other (think of the Space Race) and we have gained quite a lot of information from our explorations; but, in the end, we could be making our day-to-day lives better, investing our time and resources in solving conflict, poverty and underdevelopment throughout the world, rather than creating an experience which could take a lifetime to refine and even still be too expensive and too impractical for the average person to afford. I’m not saying that it is a bad idea; it’s a great idea, and I do like it but, practically, it has a slim chance of taking off and an even slimmer chance of remaining in orbit.

## THE CRUSADE FOR CLASS

*But what about the backpack?*

Whilst I’m not one for hyperbole, it must be said that, quite simply, we are subject to a co-ordinated invasion. I implore my avid readers: stop your frantic turning to the Gaffe and Gown section and join those of us wishing to prevent Harrow’s decline into mediocrity. An innocent pause for fresh, unpolluted air on the High Street, with the bustle of boys and beaks marching with an air of totalitarianism verging on fascism, you can see the virus, clinging onto poor boys, warping them from esteemed pupils into gnarled, twisted buffoons. Harrow is a school that prides itself on the amalgamation of old traditions and modern innovation, yet there is a plague among us. The catastrophe that I am referring to is that unutterably awful shoulder garment that members of the junior School seem to sport with their School uniform. In the mind of this writer, the backpack, knapsack or shoulder-back, whatever gender one wishes to identify their bag with, isn’t, and never shall be, an item to be worn in conjunction with one’s blazers, greys, hats and ties.

This thought came to me one morning like an epiphany of higher enlightenment, that it was I who was the chosen Messiah of Custos report, put on this earth to restore belief and justice to the boys of the School. I reached for my eternal favourite bedside read: Harrow School Existing Customs (specifically the new and improved updated 2018 edition with all-new... nothing?) – an exquisite SMT-inspired masterpiece and a go-to page-turner for any idle Harrovian. Yet, on my way to the preposterous, out-dated edict on hair, I was bemused to find adorned on the top of that immaculately, well secretary-drafted page the words “it is expected of all boys that in dress and in general appearance, as in other respects, they shall at all times be a credit to the School.” My mind instantly thought of the question that springs to the lips of all budding Harrovians,



"What about the backpack?" Upon further inspection, School Dress is listed as: bluer, greys, white shirt, black tie, black leather shoes, sober socks and a straw hat. The backpack was missing! One could almost think that our beloved, yet departing, Deputy Head Master is missing a prime opportunity to give out Custos report.

However, I am not heartless. I understand that with the School's Surface Book policy, the insurance dictators have decreed the requirement of a case. A laptop case, yes. A briefcase, potentially. A fluorescent yellow, trekking backpack with Karrimor branding stapled all over it, easily to be mistaken for AKM's running gear, God no. Some backpacks are of such size that, upon arrival at the SCH for lunch, it is like trampling through Everest base camp with bags littering every inch of floor. While this may be a glorious sight for DoE leaders as they prepare the metropolitan youth for a country ramble in the name of the glorious Duke of Edinburgh, it certainly doesn't please me. One has to ask, why we don't just give up every tradition the School holds dear? Let's all meander about in our skinny jeans, our box logos, and the Schöffels which those who wish to send the message of "I shoot, didn't you know?" wear all too often. Not that we need a daily reminder of the necessity of a cease and desist order for DFC and his clay pigeon shooting lessons for £55.

We hear the SMT clamour constantly about innovation and improvement of the School, but this is certainly not the right innovation. But how far do we go with this uniform downgrade? Beaks wearing backwards Balenciaga caps? Another coping some Depop-bought Yeezys to increase his street-cred among the Shells? Perhaps soon the Head Master could read Speech Day Bill donning a Harrow Nike tracksuit. Perhaps in the future new boys will find in their New Boy's box, straight from Billings & Edmonds, their army-standard issue camouflaged man bag? It could be opportune for a 'rebirth' of weekly military fitness.

While many may see this as a crusade of Old Harrow v New, it is merely a matter of decent taste. How can we make a case to visiting parents that they should send their darling offspring to an institution where they shall mix a straw hat with a Reebok XL, multi-pocketed, holds-everything-you-might-ever-want, rucksack? Many Harrovians would advocate the introduction of an MPS-designed briefcase (a dashing accessory for the gentleman who wishes to flaunt his experience, expertise and canine commitment in a sensible way), yet I'm not sure this is the way.

We must hereby call on the SMT to act now and either stop Harrow standards from slipping into the abyss or make our 2019 bedside readers contain the words – "no backpacks". David Cameron, while he did admittedly attend the wrong school, knew what to wear, and said to our Glastonbury-crowd-pleasing leader of the opposition 'put on a proper suit, do up your tie and sing the national anthem'. How patriotic. How poetic. How British. He did not mention the backpack.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors of *The Harrovian*

DEAR SIRs,

In response to Mr Winward, why does everything we do have to have a use in life? What about love, passion, enjoyment? A lot of the things we do are thankfully an antidote to real life. Like poetry.

Yours sincerely,  
SJH

DEAR SIRs,

I wonder what the Harrow consensus would be as to whether a second EU referendum should be held to validate the eventual Brexit deal negotiated, and whether that should also include the option to disregard the first referendum result and for the

UK to remain in the EU?

I had thought the issue had passed. The destabilizing call for a second referendum would cause nothing but political anarchy, and I believe is simply unrealistic. However, clearly it has not, with demand calling for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour to back it and Theresa May having to publicly refuse the idea. It has many backers including the former PM John Major. Her Majesty's Opposition at their annual conference seem to be totally divided in tabling their Brexit vote motion as to whether an option to remain in the EU should be on such a ballot paper; John McDonald making the case strongly for not, but against fierce criticism from the remainder of his party. We shall have to see if they can come to any form of united stance on this, other than Tory bashing.

The most likely proposed plan is: if the final result of the Brexit negotiations would leave Britain in a worse economic position than inside the EU, the public should have the choice to take it or leave it or, commonly now, to take or leave the deal itself. Tony Blair argues that democracy 'doesn't just stop one day', and that multiple votes (referenda) is part of democracy.

Although the referendum result is not binding, this portrayal of a second referendum being somehow democratic is a sham. What could be more undemocratic than opposing the will of people simply because some people (a minority) aren't happy with the result? This line of reasoning could send Britain's world-renowned democracy and open form of government to the very undemocratic even tyrannical reigns of other governments such as in Greece, where they ignored a public vote last year to reject harsh austerity and instead went ahead and accepted it. Ironically, most of these have taken place inside the EU, such as when the EU forced Ireland and Iceland to keep re-holding elections until they got it "right" or indeed with Italy's "bad" choice made by its coalition parties in a president which the EU then rejected this year. The result of a referendum in the UK is not binding, but referendums are only held in order to settle constitutional questions over which views are very divided and normally 50/50. If the referendum result wasn't satisfactory for some and as a response they make a cacophony of noise demanding a second referendum and it happens, then how is the issue resolved? The question will just jump forward and backward unresolved. Would you expect Nigel Farage to accept a second referendum result if it over-turned the first?

Significantly, I am yet to hear a Brexiteer call for a second referendum. Only those who voted to remain appear to be calling for a second referendum. Why have Brexiteers not asked for this opportunity themselves? It certainly throws some suspicion on the validity of Remainers' claims of misrepresentation of information. Facts on both sides of the campaign have turned out to be wrong. Some say, 'that slogan on the red bus was misleading' but so what? Would people have voted the opposite way? Does anyone remember George Osborne's so-called certain statistics he seemed to pluck out of a hat when the time came? Would his statement of 'households will be worth £4,000 less if Brexit happens' not have swayed people's minds just as much? Vernon Bogdanor said the exact same point on Tuesday (25 September) while addressing the Palmerston Society. Moreover, figures show that the 'Vote Leave' campaign spent less money by some margin at under £6 million. It is a strata of individuals who still maintain that the majority were wrong and they are correct.

Regardless of how people voted, Brexit must happen for the welfare and good health of democracy. Of course, parliament should have a vote on the end deal, but the choice there would be to keep the negotiations made over the last few years or whether to leave with no deal and go with the WTO rules and regulations. For better or for worse the result of the referendum must be binding, and thoughts of a second EU referendum abandoned immediately.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES HARRISON, RENDALLS

DEAR SIRs,

I write with regard to the concept of allowing anonymity in the submission of correspondence to *The Harrovian*. This has always been a recurring theme but has been touched on most recently by Mr Winward in last week's Harrovian, so I should like to offer my humble opinions on this matter. While I would not necessarily concur that the non-existence of the option to write anonymously is a 'breach of human rights' *per se*, I do believe that this area does have some room for improvement.

It has been my understanding that the primary reason why this still hasn't happened is because the School believes that boys should have the spine to make their identity known when submitting articles – and to take criticism with courage if others feel the need to give it. However, rather than encouraging the so-called 'spine', it has promoted what appears to be a trend of stagnancy – boys seem to be unwilling to submit articles in the fears of 'backlash' or retribution from others whose opinions differ from their own. Speaking from my own experience, I admit having considered some years back submitting an article to lobby for stronger actions against what I perceive to be an increasingly rampant and distasteful trend of queue-cutting, but was put off after a brief while as I feared upsetting then-senior boys (I was in the Removes!).

This aspect of the School's policy appears not only to have backfired but is also grossly inconsistent with the policy regarding other media of opinion contribution. As a current member of the House Council and the Chaplaincy Council, it has always been the case that we only mention opinions and ideas, not people. The names of contributors are never disclosed to avoid ridicule or humiliation for what may seem to be an outlandish idea. We must not forget that we actually owe the joy of Sunday Brunches to a brave idea by a forgotten boy some years back – if it weren't for the anonymity offered by such media, this concept may have never surfaced! Indeed, *The Guardian* does consider that 'more people will speak more honestly if they are allowed to speak anonymously', re-affirming the case that protection for contributors promotes contribution and the circulation of innovation.

All in all, I have been left with little choice but regretfully to conclude that the School seems to be woefully out of date when it comes to the bizarrely strict doctrine of signing-off a letter with one's name. This is not to say that boys are obliged not to submit their names – names do have the powerful potential to promote dialogue and debate – but the opposite should also not be case. Let us not consider the option to write anonymously to be the choice of a coward, but rather a new intermediate stepping-stone so that more boys may be emboldened to bring their ideas forward and, when they do feel comfortable and confident enough, start writing with their own names. This could be a new means to a more beautiful end – let us not forget that two brains (or more!) are better than one.

Yours sincerely,  
LONG HEI NG, NEWLANDS

## DEAR WINSTON

Over the course of this week, the *Atlantic* magazine saw fit to publish this letter from the mother of Winston Churchill to perhaps one of the most famous Harrovians ever showing just how fallible our Giants of Old are. The letter is reprinted below:

...I have much to say to you, I'm afraid not of a pleasant nature. You know darling how I hate to find fault with you, but I can't help myself this time ... Your report which I enclose is as you will see a very bad one. You work in such a fitful inharmonious way, that you are bound to come out last—look at your place in the form! Yr father & I are both more disappointed than we can say, that you are not able to go up

for yr preliminary exam: I daresay you have 1000 excuses for not doing so—but there the fact remains ...

Dearest Winston you make me very unhappy—I had built up such hopes about you & felt so proud of you—and now all is gone. My only consolation is that your conduct is good and you are an affectionate son—but your work is an insult to your intelligence. If you would only trace out a plan of action for yourself & carry it out & be determined to do so—I am sure you could accomplish anything you wished. It is that thoughtlessness of yours which is your greatest enemy ...

I will say no more now—but Winston you are old enough to see how serious this is to you—and how the next year or two & the use you make of them, will affect your whole life—stop & think it out for yourself & take a good pull before it is too late. You know dearest boy that I will always help you all I can.

*Your loving but distressed Mother*

I must admit, when I first read this I was struck immediately by the immense harshness of the tone – how many of our current Harrovians could say that when getting slightly too many 3s in their end of term report that their parents would tell them how "disappointed" they are with them. I know that it would certainly be a strategic (if cruel) way to get me to put my hand up slightly more during that Monday morning English lesson in the new schools. While I'm not suggesting that this is an effective method for motivating the average Harrovian, one must reminisce to younger days when criticism was not presumably followed with a quick text message to ChildLine.

The other point which was raised by the letter (in the second half) is a somewhat more serious affair. Even in the early 1900s, people were beginning to spot the slight work ethic failure in the average Harrovian and I have heard many beaks (and even occasionally prospective parents) quipping about the Harrovian who takes the lazy option (there is also a rather crude joke about this which would not be appreciated by present audience). This is a problem that has to be addressed somehow in the 20th century: arrogance and complacency is no way forward. Perhaps this is best improved by the increase of the carrot, perhaps it would be more effectively improved by the raising of the stick.

Finally, this letter should be seen as a piece of inspiration to those Harrovians who have decided to fall into complacency. Do not give up on hope. If you begin trying, you will succeed as Winston Churchill did. We must remember the famous talk he gave before the speech room in which he advised to "never, never, never surrender" in anything "great or small". This is the spirit we must embody and we would want to be associated with the school. Seize the opportunity with both hands.

## GAFFE AND GOWN

*Quips from Around the Hill*

(*auf Deutsche*) "Sir, what does *Kamin* mean?" "It means fireplace. What do you say when the fireplace knocks on the door? *Kamin*."

"Boys, remember to respect your parents – they managed to pass through school without the use of Google."

"Sir, how do you say *déjà-vu* in French?"

## HERE AND THERE

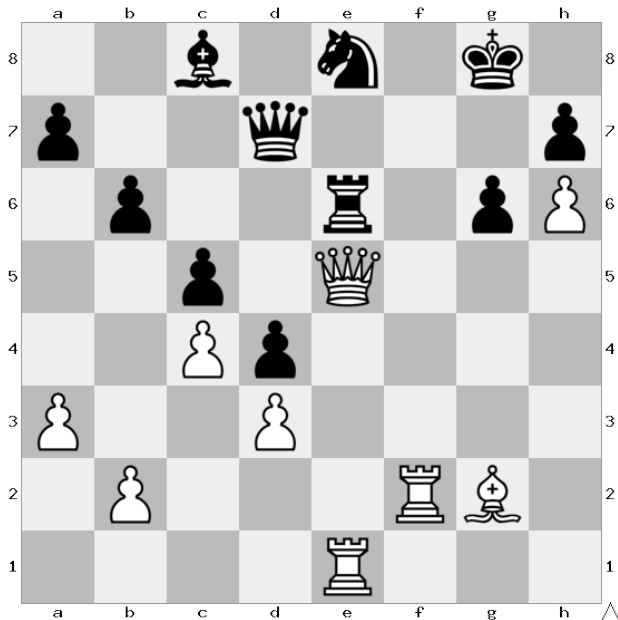
Congratulations to Andre Ma, *Moretons*, on passing his LTCL diploma on the Recorder with distinction. This is an outstanding achievement for one of our new Shell Music Scholars.



## CHESS PUZZLE

The weekly Chess Puzzle is set by JPBH. Email your solutions to him to enter the termly competition. Answers are published with next week's puzzle.

Thanks *this week* (not last week, as *The Harrovian* erroneously printed) are due to Mr Davies for he following position, which came from a game he played against former world champion Garry Kasparov. White to play and mate in 2.



Last week's solution: 1...Rxa3 2.Kxa3 Qc5+ 3.Ka2 Qa7#

Fancy playing chess? Drop in to Chess Club – Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.30-6pm in Maths Schools 5. All abilities (boy, beak or support staff) are welcome!

## SUDOKU

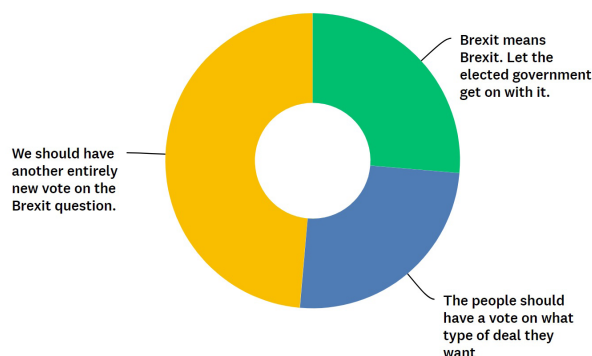
*Persevera per se vera*

				2			7	
3								
1		5						4
	2						6	8
4			1		3			
7	9			8				
						1		5

## WEEKLY POLL

*To Brexit, or not to Brexit. The fate of this democratic country dangles in the balance. What should we do?*

The votes are in! 424 boys voted in the weekly poll and the results are below.



The trends are quite clear – the Upper Sixth, with a solid 41% majority vote in favour of 'Brexit means Brexit', don't seem to care about which plan the government pursues, probably because most of them are fascist, or in a mid-teen rebellion. There is, however, a noticeable change of opinion as we move lower down the School – the Lower Sixth was 27% in favour of Brexit, with a strong 43% in favour of a second referendum; with the Fifth Form, 22% favoured Brexit, but 48% in favour of a second referendum; the Removes further support the trend that younger generations are less inclined to Brexit – 21% in favour, with a whopping 59% in support of a second referendum – and the Shells more so, with only 17% in support of Brexit – with 60% in favour of a second referendum. Perhaps there is referendum saturation among the Upper Sixth who have now become disillusioned and jaded, while the fresh-faced Shells haven't yet had their hopes crushed under the mighty weight of European bureaucracy.

## WEEKLY WINDUP



## BADMINTON

*The School v Charterhouse, 1st Won 4-2*

Congratulations to the A and B teams who both won 4-2 against Charterhouse on Thursday afternoon. Our four pairs were undaunted when faced by Charterhouse's surprise six pairs, and secured a clear victory, keeping the tempo high in spite of having to play more sets than their opponents. Well done to Long Hei Ng, *Newlands*, who made his debut in the B team.

## SQUASH

*The School v Wellington, Away, 20 September*

Seniors Won 4-1

B Sodi, *West Acre*, won 3-1TC Santini, *The Park*, lost 0-3DD Shortt, *Newlands*, won 3-2K Jafree, *Elmfield*, won 3-1JD Gibbons, *The Park*, won 3-02<sup>nd</sup> V Lost 2-4SWS Sebag-Montefiore, *The Knoll*, Lost 1-3FAW Murley, *The Park*, Lost 0-3H Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 0-3WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-3CD Powell, *The Grove*, Won 3-2PE Kinnaird, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1

Yearlings Won 3-2

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-0APC Gupte, *West Acre*, Lost 0-3GC Black, *West Acre*, Lost 0-3CR O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, Won 3-2DJP Wauchope, *The Knoll*, Won 3-1

Being responsible for squash and psychiatry at Harrow is an onerous business. On some days a little squash is played but most days are spent dealing with the various mental issues that impinge on the ability to make decent and regular contact with a squash ball. The squash courts are a sanctuary for those pupils who are unable to find fulfilment and/or sympathy in other parts of the School. They are therefore a magnet for the maladjusted and lonely. Here, they are guaranteed to receive a sympathetic ear and experienced advice about how to deal with failure.

All this is even more important this term because we have officially reached the End of an Era (EOE). This is code for losing all the decent players and is the first step for helping the rest deal with the inevitable failure that will follow. Another way to describe such transition periods is A Work in Progress (WIP). This is code for all players are at a low level of development but it helps the players to describe the current state of affairs without hinting at the utter mediocrity of the actual performance. WIP also suggests that better times may lie ahead which is good in tackling the inevitable despondency that follows serial defeats.

EOE means that we have a Last of the Species (LOS) situation. Brando Sodi is the LOS because he is the only decent player left in the School. That is part of the reason why we are now officially a WIP. It is always tremendously sad to see a LOS like Sodi roaming the dusty wastes of the Airfix Dome looking for mates, oblivious to the fact that he is the last. The decline of his species could be due to loss of habitat as there are fewer of the cold, dusty, airless and foul-smelling courts left due to the rise of the multi-gym and possibly global warming. China may also be involved. This makes the Airfix Dome a sort of National Park where conservation is one of the key aims. A good example of a place that has not seen a decent squash player since the Jurassic Period is the Ice Dome, often known as the Old Courts. This barren desert is now so inhospitable that even global warming cannot persuade life to return. John Lyon School occasionally use it to work on Basic Survival Skills (BSS) although it is rumoured the Health and Safety Bureau are seeking a demolition order.

The second team feel right at home in the psychiatric unit. They are still coming to terms with the fact that their win/lose statistics were printed on the new fixture card. However, this is an important step in getting them to come to terms with their failure and accepting themselves as a WIP. There are odd

exceptions though, like Orr Ewing, who begged to be reinstated on the fixture card. He was left off in the first place because his record was so bad that suicidal tendencies had been noticed.

Coach: What are you doing down here?

Orr Ewing: I want to play squash.

Coach: Oh dear.

Orr Ewing: If I play all term will you put me back on the fixture card?

Coach: Possibly, it depends on whether we think you can handle it.

It may well be that Orr Ewing is in denial of his shortcomings or that he believes that public disclosure of his awful record will help him develop some kind of notoriety within eminent psychiatric circles. Or perhaps he is unaware of quite how bad the stats actually are. The other second teamers like Powell and Qureshi argue about whose is the worst record of all in terms of % wins. This is very encouraging from a psychological point of view. To be openly talking about their failure means that they are close to accepting it as normal.

Sebag-Montefiore is a real misery. He has comfortably retained his status as the Only Fifth Former Playing Squash (OFFPS) and doesn't like it. He has been forced to play number one for the Psychiatric Unit and doesn't like that either. He is actively against having his poor squash record printed for the world to see, and he lost at Wellington. This is becoming a real test of his character. If he can come through this the label of OFFPS could become a badge of honour. If not, there will be no fifth formers playing squash and one of the second team misfits will have to suffer the indignity of losing heavily at number one. It is almost a LOS situation.

Powell: What order are we playing in?

Coach: I'll put the names in a hat in a moment

This ritual of drawing the order is another way of protecting the second team from the ravages of constant failure. As they are all equally poor, those playing at 2 or 3 behind Sebag are looking at mission impossible. Those down the order may have a sniff of an elusive victory. Therefore, it would be cruel if the same players played up the order each week. One glimpse of the results from Wellington shows the effectiveness of this strategy. Powell and Kinnaird are feeling good about themselves after victories at 5 and 6 in the order but that will be a temporary feeling after next week v Eton when they will be up the order and lose heavily. This is because the draw will be fixed.

At Wellington, Sodi strutted his stuff as an LOS should. Considering that we have hit an EOE scenario, the others did well, staving off that EOE feeling for another week. Only afterwards did it become clear that Wellington are also in the grip of an EOE winter and are a WIP as well. They had imported their own LOS from SE Asia where habitat is equally hard to find. These two dinosaurs had a great battle, reminiscent of an earlier era, now lost for ever. Sadly, they were the same sex and so could not mate. This year will be the last chance to see an example of this fine animal so try hard to get down to the Airfix Dome at some stage. Pay at the gate.

## FIVES

*The School v Eton, 27 September*

Senior Lost 2-1

A win at third pair of 3-0 (15-12,15-14,14-11) for Theodore Seely and Freddy Anton-Smith, both *The Head Master's*, in a very well-matched game. The Harrow pair managed to come back in each set and it was great to see all four competitors enjoying their match even though they were game point down in each set.



## FENCING

*The School v Winchester College, 27 September*

1st Lost 1-2

Foil lost 29-45

The Foil team put up a good fight at first, head-to-head with Winchester up until the final third of the relay. However, Winchester's experience got the upper hand and they eventually took the first blade, 45-29.

Epée A Won 45-37

The Epée A team looked very confident and, despite losing some careless points in the middle of the relay, walked home with a comfortable victory, 45-37. Well done to Alnur Abuov, *Druries*, in particular for keeping his head.

Epée B Lost

The Epée B team started well and took an early lead. However, a slight complacency and lack of concentration meant that Winchester then stole the lead at a crucial point in the match.

## FOOTBALL

*The School 1st XI v The Grammar School, Leeds, ISFA Round 1, Won 5-0*

Harrow's first round ISFA Cup encounter against Grammar School at Leeds was a physical contest in the early stages, but Harrow quickly grew into the game and showed superior strength, pace and quality to dominate and win the game 5-0. Christian Boland, *Newlands*, scored a hat-trick with Thomas Walduck, *The Knoll* and Ben Harrison, *West Acre*, scoring the fourth and fifth goals respectively.

Scorers: Christian Boland, *Newlands*, hat-trick, Thomas Walduck, *The Knoll*, Ben Harrison, *West Acre*.

## SWIMMING

*English Schools Swimming Championships preliminary rounds, Away at Whitgift, 24 September, Seniors Won*

Harrow travelled to Whitgift School to compete in the preliminary rounds of the English Schools Swimming Championships. Ben Hooper, *The Head Master's*, broke another School record. His 50m freestyle time was 23.72 seconds. In the Senior Medley, 4 x 50m relays, there had been chat before the event that the School record was in sight for Hooper, Thoma Khan, *West Acre*, Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, and William Rudd, *The Head Master's*. However their personal best times all added together still left them at a two-second deficit, so it seemed a bit unlikely. First off was Hooper, who swam not only a personal best but also another School record of 26.09 in the 50m backstroke. Khan took over from Hooper and swam his breaststroke leg with full force, just missing by hundredths of a second a personal best time but maintaining a lead over the second-place team. Hong bulletted in for the butterfly leg; another personal best time of 26.1. To finish off the event, Rudd stormed through the water in a blistering 25.33 time, bringing home the team in a new School record, smashing the old record set in 2009 by the Barrett twins, Kyle Hamilton, and Ben Lam. The new record of 1:49.80, took nearly two full seconds off the old one.

## GOLF

*The School v Bradfield College, 27 September The Buckinghamshire GC*

Match drawn 3-3

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's* lost 2 downCharlie Witter Capt, *Elmfield*, won 3&1Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, won 2&1Hamish Dicketts, *Elmfield*, lost 5&4Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, lost 1 downLeo Wright, *Elmfield*, won 5&4

Bradfield are probably the best team on the circuit at the moment. They have some great players and real depth to their squad. The conditions at The Buckinghamshire were near perfect, with a beautiful clear blue sky, and temperatures around 23°C. A slight breeze but nothing that would disturb the easy flight of the ball through the air. Altogether, perfect conditions for golf.

In the top game, Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, started really well and was growing in confidence through the front nine ending 4 up. However, things took a downward turn on the back nine and Shirvell started to lose hole after hole. It was a painful experience and, after much suffering and a bit of frustration, he lost the match on the 18th 2 down.

In the second game, Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, started well with a birdie on the first and fourth. However, some poor tee shots from Witter and good golf from Bradfield meant it was all square through nine. Bradfield went one up on 10 and Witter had to hole a 12 footer for par on 11 to half and not go two down. Witter made the putt and gained important momentum. He went on to play some superb good golf and ended the game 3&1, having dropped only one shot from 10 onwards.

Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, in the third game, had a weak start with some leaking drives. He fought back brilliantly after being 3 down through 9. The match was tight going down the mid back nine. After winning 14 but then losing 15, it was A/S with three to go. The par 3 16th was tough but, with a birdie, Shirvell won the hole. On the long 470 yard par 4 17th, a huge drive down the middle and a 6 iron to 10 ft sealed the point for Harrow.

A 5&4 loss for Hamish Dicketts, *Elmfield*, doesn't make for pleasant reading. He was 4 down through 4 and contemplating self-harm, but a birdie on 5 slightly lifted his spirits. A couple of lost balls later and he was six down through 9... "Oh well", he thought, "it can't get too much worse, I suppose." He started the back 9 with a bang: a birdie.. and back to five down. Surely not another comeback (read last week's Harrovian)... No fairytales this time, though, and he was certainly ready to shake his oppos hand after 14 holes and make the long walk back to the clubhouse. When he got back, "I felt like going to the bar, and, like Rick Blaine, indulge in spirits all night long..."

Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, had a shaky start to the match, scrambling and being 3 down with two to play at the turn. He then superbly managed to win three in a row to get it back to all square. After the 16th, Connell gained the advantage to go 1 up with 2 to play. But, with Bradfield winning 17, it all came down to the last. A putt that went over the green into the bunker on 18, sealed Connell's fate and he lost the match 1 down.

As Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, approached his first tee shot and scuffed it into the rough, he must have thought that the day was going to be a long one. However, sinking an 8 foot putt to get the half, totally changed his mood. With plenty of good shots Wright was 3 up at the turn. By 12 he was 5 up and in a commanding position. The 13th brought a bogey and back to 4 up. The 15th proved to be the perfect distance for his hybrid. He struck it beautifully, and it flew into the air and drew slightly into the flag leaving a 10 foot putt which he missed, but with a tentative swing of the putter he holed the 2 foot tap-in to win the game 5&4.

## RACKETS

*The School v Malvern College, 25 September*

Senior 1st Pair Won 4-0

A convincing 4-0 win and a strong performance by Julian Owston, *Moretons*, and Otto Stroyan, *The Grove*.

Senior 2nd Pair Won 3-1

After a dominant first two games, Cameron Mahal, *The Grove*, and Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, were stretched in the next two games but won 3-1.

Senior 2nd Pair Won 3-1

Some determined play in a 3-1 win from Matthew White, *West Acre*, and Henry Wilson, *Elmfield*.

Junior Colts 1st Pair Won 3-0

A fine performance from Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, and Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, in a 3-0 win.

Junior Colts 2nd Pair Won 3-0

Max Shirvell and Federico Ghersi, both *The Head Master's*, played some spirited and consistent rackets in a 3-0 win.

## RUGBY

*The School v Wetherby Senior School, Away,  
25 September*

Junior Colts C Lost 26-45

A combined Harrow Junior Colts C, D and E team took on Wetherby School, who more closely matched Harrow teams at the higher end of the age group than the pre-match D and E team suggestion in a highly competitive midweek fixture. Wetherby's strength and speed beat Harrow's breakdown dominance, with Wetherby running out 45-26 winners. Well done to the new players who stepped up for Harrow, particularly Charlie Ball, *The Grove*, who made numerous tackles all afternoon. George Sage, *The Park*, scored a hat-trick of tries for his efforts.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge [smk@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:smk@harrowschool.org.uk)

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian* online at [harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan](http://harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan)