

THE HARROVIAN

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SPEECH DAY

"Great Partnerships", 25 May

Twelfth Night: Viola and Sebastian, William Shakespeare
Benjamin Davies, *The Grove*, Freddie Heffer, *Elmfield*

'Two are Better than One', Ecclesiastes 4, Theodore Seely,
The Head Master's

Churchill and Europe Winston Churchill, Kit Akinluyi, *The Head Master's*, Harry Lemprière-Johnston, *Druries*

Love is like the wild rose-briar, Emily Bronte, Tom Santini,
The Park

Don Quixote 'Windmills', Miguel de Cervantes, Hamish Dicketts,
Elmfield, Henry Empson, *The Grove*, Columbus Mason, *The Head Master's*

Blackadder Goes Forth Richard Curtis & Ben Elton, Max
Evans-Tovey, *Druries*, Ben Elton Archie Ross, *The Knoll*

Sonnet 116 William Shakespeare Jonny Kajoba, *Lyon's*

HEAD MASTER'S ADDRESS

Speech Room, 25 May

The Worshipful, The Mayor, Councillor Nitin Parekh; My Lord, Professors, Ladies and Gentlemen, Chairman, Governors, Parents, Friends and Prize Winners, a warm welcome to you on Speech Day 2019.



Thank you to the boys who performed for us this morning, and to Mr Cross for preparing them, a superb rendition of well known and loved passages under the theme of Great Partnerships and in welcoming you Mayor we thank you for choosing to join us this morning, we are honoured and know that this is visible sign of the ever closer working, the partnership between Harrow School and the schools and community organisations in its vicinity, which goes from strength to strength - something that I will mention a little more later on.

In the middle of the Summer term as we are now, with exams fully underway many boys doing GCSEs and A level

we begin to think of the academic year turning, this one finding its conclusion and looking ahead to the one to come. Thinking of the future I have been delighted to hear from boys who have been coming into my study in the mornings to be awarded their Head Master's Send Ups about their plans for their Harrow lives, the subjects they want to study, the projects and challenges they want to tackle and how they are seeking to make use of the Harrow opportunities. Such forward thinking is invigorating and uplifting. In a time of looking to the horizon it is important to pay recognition to those colleagues who will be leaving us at the end of this term and year.



Mr Simon Page, 1987 Art, his own painting and drawing, the intensity of observation in his sketching have been intrinsic parts of our cultural life as his work has been exhibited in Art Schools and the Old Speech Room Gallery. He has worked closely with Harrow boys enabling them to understand their attributes and aspirations to express themselves in visual media, a patient and kindly mentor he became Head of Painting in 2007, We have benefited from his artistic interpretation of life on the Hill and beyond it.

Mr Martin Stead, 1989 English, he has a passion for literature and is unembarrassed for the rigour and energy he brings to masterful exposition in the form room, quietly he is a poet in his own right and still less well-known a narrowboat enthusiast, a schoolmaster who upholds all the best of our values, and is capable, loyal and adaptable, in his day he commanded the CCF almost as a solo mission of him instructing all the Remove year group single-handed, something that should have been a ticketed event I would have thought, he is still Colonel Stead on Monday afternoons, in addition to devoted tutoring, he has run variously cross country, shooting, sailing, debating and martial arts

Dr Christopher O'Mahony our Director of IT, under his tenure, IT at Harrow undergone revolutionary change. He has been instrumental in ensuring that the School has struck the judicious balance between being leaders in the field and at the same time, not adopting every expensive fad. The remarkably successful implementation of the Surface project is testament to this. He has navigated the School through the introduction of GDPR legislation. Despite his reminders at every opportunity of Australian sporting successes he will be sorely missed and we wish him God speed as he returns to Australia this summer.

Keith Metcalfe – Graduate of Downing College, Cambridge and Golf blue joined Harrow in 2000 as a teacher of Geography. He

also coached soccer, rugby, golf and cross-country. He became Head of Geography from September 2004 and was awarded Chartered Geographer by Royal Geographical Society in July 2007. He was the first House Master of Lyon's before joining the SMT in 2014, he started as Head of Malvern College this term.

Not leaving the School but changing roles at the end of this term after significant and valued tenure, Mr Todd will be moving on from Head of History, our longest serving Head of Subject, which he has guided through educational reforms, to be Director Super-Curriculum and Mr Ridgway will come out of Druries after ten years as House Master, where his kind patient understanding of the boys in his care will be something that all who have been in the House will reflect on appreciatively.



I stand before you and speak this morning as your new, fresh out of the Amazon carton Head Master with scarcely five weeks under my gown and hood, it is great to be back and I am delighted to be on the Hill with Madeleine and our children. Being back, it unmistakably gives you the vector for looking forward, as well as a sense of reflection, perspective and a measure of familiarity, but I think more than anything, it is a secure platform to look to the future and to embrace the significant challenges optimistically which face us as a School, nation and planet. Being on the Hill is so incredibly energising and compelling, it is the privilege and honour of my professional life to work in this unparalleled setting with superb Masters and Harrovians, it imbues you with great courage to strive to be the best and indeed take the initiative educationally and socially. I have been quite bowled-over by the extent of the warm welcomes this term and indeed this sense of rapport, acceptance and fellow-feeling has never been warmer than in the Houses where I have been pleased to each lunch. You have asked me many things at lunches and I fear my answers have gone on too long and I have forgotten the unwritten rule that the meal can't progress 'til the guest has finished eating, and I have been faced with munching very quickly having talked too long in answer to your questions so that plates can be cleared and activities joined. You have wanted to know if I will actually change anything, what my views on the different sports are and how I see Harrow's future. At some point during these conversations someone around the table will normally say something like "Do you teach?" to which I have to say "Regrettably, No, I am doing a few Fifth Form revision sessions, but perhaps I will teach fully next year", in response, as quick as a whip comes the follow-up, "So if you're not teaching, what do you actually do all day?" The last time this happened, I had a defence prepared, I said "Well last Friday I had a meeting with the Governors that started in the morning and went all the through to tea time", to which, nonplussed, my interlocutor reposted, "Hmm Governors, so what do they actually do?". Which brings me to Governors and their Chairman. When I began teaching, which was last century, at the tender age of 22, I started at a place, which politeness forbids me from naming in such a splendid company, but I hope we play very convincingly against them on Monday at Lord's. It doesn't have a Chairman of Governors, it has a Provost, and there was a Vice-Provost too and they were both resident in the school.

My own old school, Manchester Grammar, would have had governors and a chairman but I was completely unaware of them so, as a callow new beak, I needed to know about the Provost so I asked, much like my lunch-time questioner in the House, the senior-most member of Masters' Room, the Mr Halliday of his day, what the Provost did, to which he said very dourly "Nothing". "Oh," I replied, "so what does the Vice-Provost do?" "He helps". This reminded me, and I say this gingerly with a former post-holder on our Governors, of an interview I had once heard on the *Today* programme when during some particularly painful defence cuts John Simpson asked a senior Admiral "Why do we need a First Sea Lord?", to which was made the answer, "Someone has to tell the Second Sea Lord what to do".

So what are Governors really all about? I could illustrate it with a little story. Two senior teachers are flying high in a self-inflated hot air balloon and realize they are lost and not quite in control. They see a person on the ground, so they navigate the balloon to where they can speak to them. They yell down, "Can you help us – we're lost?" The person on the ground replies, "Yes I can help, you're in a hot air balloon, about two hundred feet off the ground, heading south, at pace." One of the people in the balloon replies to the person on the ground, "You must be a Governor. You gave us precise and professional information that is accurate but doesn't solve our problem." The Governor on the ground shouts up to the people in the balloon, "You must be in teaching." They holler back, "Yes, but how did you know?" The governor replies says, "Well, you're in the same situation you were in before you talked to me, but now it's my fault." Chairman and Governors present on behalf of all the Foundation I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. The real answer to the question of what you do is to be incredibly indulgent with your time, share your wisdom judiciously and to show the greatest generosity of spirit: I am grateful.



And what of that future I have mentioned? We are preparing a no-assumptions curriculum review, to ensure that while the right qualifications are delivered at the right time to enable boys to passport successfully from one educational stage to the next, that they are also equipped for 21st-century working: to have the vision to work up a project that solves a problem, to build a team, manage the venture, lead the people, pass on authority, enable, fail, regroup, showing resilience and adaptability of all kinds, and deliver the project and then go on to seek the next one. So, a curriculum that seeks creativity, insight, collaboration and optimistic engagement in a world of work set on a resource-stressed and climate-turbulent planet.

We will also be working with boys and parents in the School to prepare Harrovians pastorally, socially and mentally for life after school, to develop fully into the human beings they can be in their late teenage years, recognising that there is so much change to come and be prepared for that change. As the global society moves from the troubled twenty teens into the twenty twenties, I have given this initiative the working title "C21st Boy", a term appropriated shamelessly from the title of the T Rex and Marc Bolan's song released in 1982, which dates

me, of course, making an impression as it did on the ten-year old Alastair. So as we have gathered together the key ideas to develop our C21st-Boy-caused thinking about ideas around maleness, social media, the relentless pressure to achieve, diminished role models and all the rest, I thought to refresh my memory of the C20th Boy lyrics, which boil down, after removing the repetition, to: I move like a cat, Charge like a ram, Sting like a bee, Fly like a plane, Drive like a car and Ball like a hound. I think we will be looking elsewhere for further inspiration and I have had a salutary lesson on the casual appropriation of branding.



Never before has Harrow been more committed to relevance and purpose in its community, hence our theme of Great Partnerships in the Speeches that we have just heard, and the particular delight it is to welcome our Mayor. Already this term we have been engaging still more closely with our existing partners in programmes involving Schools and young adults, building capacity, improving outcomes and setting the strongest possible agenda to work in the borough to meet the needs we can and to offer our boys a chance to work to make a difference and gain an authentic insight in to how lives are led in the area immediately around the Hill. I was left thoroughly inspired and motivated by the testimony of some of boys active in Shaftesbury Enterprise as they made presentations earlier this term in advance of our keynote speaker, Lynne Guyton, at the annual Shaftesbury Lecture. It was clear that the boys had genuine identification with the work and a sense of the community it served. Shaftesbury Enterprise itself has grown substantially this year with more than 250 boys involved in regular projects: we raised £130,000 in our Long Ducker run and we aim to break that record this November as we run (swim, row or climb) in aid of Spear Harrow, which assists young people into the world of work, graduates of which programme spoke to us in here of its transformatory work earlier in the week.

All of what I have spoken about happens in a national mood that is not positive about independent schools, we are challenged at every turn to justify our existence. Shaftesbury Enterprise, together with our scholarships and ever-growing bursaries provision, I believe, fervently, meet that interrogation of our purpose. There are other existential challenges out there too, but Harrow is used to meeting those and carrying on, to prepare boys from diverse backgrounds and abilities for a life of learning, leadership, service and personal fulfilment. This building, for instance, survived being set alight by an incendiary bomb in the war, six others that fell in the same raid are reputed to lie undisturbed in St Mary's Churchyard. Indeed, some of the challenges to Harrow in history have been internal ones and from boys who, in their time, have become our Giants of Old. Byron laid gunpowder under the Fourth Form Room because he didn't like his Head Master and thought he would blow him up. Luckily, he was stopped by his fellow pupils. And, less maliciously but more dramatically, Henry Fox Talbot had set up his own laboratory in the Head Master's house, much encouraged by his teachers who recognised his genius. They were somewhat less encouraging after he created such a loud explosion that nobody who lived nearby could hear for for a

day afterwards and the Sun insurance company said they would no longer insure any building in the School if this boy were allowed to continue with his experiments. He got round this by finding a local blacksmith who said he could set up his lab on his premises and "explode as much as he pleases!"

Explosions of talent, commitment and vitality, individually and collectively, have abounded this year, just a few highlights include:

The Globe in London at the end of last term saw our production of *Twelfth Night*, with an original score composed by Mr Church, a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the boys on stage.

Ostap Stefak won first prize in the London School of Economics prize essay competition. His essay title was: 'Economics is said to suffer from 'physics envy'.

The designing of a smart cane for people with visual impairment by one of the teams involved in a bespoke Harrow Engineering Scheme. This was presented to a panel of professors at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy with an extremely positive reception.

Our commemoration of the First World War Centenary provided a suitable time for reflection and a lasting memorial to that conflict

Andrew Zhou got through the second round of both the Chemistry and Physics Olympiads accompanied by huge numbers of boys taking part in these papers.

Debating team high points included the Mace Competition and the tour to Calcutta

The Judoka (and you can see them after this on the Chapel Terrace) won the independent schools championship for the fifth year in a row

And the under-14s won their competition at the Rosslyn park Rugby Sevens, the largest tournament of its kind.

In closing, I must honour a debt of gratitude to Mel Mrowiec for the peerless leadership, authoritative and effective management and painstaking consultation that he gave Harrow in the Michaelmas and Lent terms; I have learned a great deal from Mel in working alongside him in this transitional time and I look forward with delight to carrying on working with him as he takes up the Chairmanship of Harrow International Schools Limited.

As you leave Speech Room just now, you will find boys with collecting tins for the Sri Lanka Relief Fund, in the wake of the atrocities that occurred on Easter Sunday, attempting to rebuild community structures and we collect for them out of respect for Harrow's close links with Sri Lanka.

Thank you, I wish you a wonderful afternoon and half term thereafter. *Stet Fortuna Domus.*

FOX TALBOT

Pasmore Gallery, 16 May

On Thursday 16 May, the annual Fox Talbot Photography Competition was held in the Pasmore Gallery. With over 300 images entered and only 100 shortlisted and put up for exhibition, this year proved to be one of the most of the most competitive in recent memory.

The School was very fortunate to have three professional photographers adjudicate the exhibition. Clive Barda OBE - one of Britain's most distinguished photographers of the performing arts, Clare Park MA RCA - a fine art photographer whose work focuses the human form, movement and the collaborative process, and Flora Nedeclu, who owns Topfoto picture library with her father - one of the last independent and family-owned picture libraries.

After a long, detailed look at the images and a splendid dinner, the judges came to their conclusion. Eager yet anxious boys gathered in Pasmore Gallery at 9.10pm to see who would win the Senior prize of £500 and the Junior Prize of £250 and,

after a painstaking 10 minutes of final deliberation, the judges announced the winners and the runners-up.

Krill Korobkov (Upper Sixth, *The Grove*) won second place in the Senior category. His image entitled *Mother's Dinner* was taken on an iPhone and its caption read 'We don't value what we have until we could lose it'. The image showed Korobkov's father having dinner at the table by himself. Meanwhile, a woman (presumably Korobkov's grandmother) watched the father eat with a neutral expression on her face. The picture was commended for the masterful balancing of light as well as the sombre tone it communicated to the viewer.



(Above: Dan Abebayo *Street Vendor*)

Daniel Adebayo (Upper Sixth *The Head master's*) won first place in the Senior Category. His image was entitled *Street Vendor* and its caption read 'Lagos, Nigeria: Educated by the streets, corrupted by the government'. The photograph depicted a child on the streets of Lagos staring directly at the camera with a mournful expression on his face while balancing a dish full of bottles to sell. Not only was the image acclaimed due to its composition, perfect use of black and white and the way it conveyed its message without doing so in an overbearing manner, but it was also the fan-favourite. Adebayo was graced with the Fox-Talbot trophy and couldn't hide the smirk on his face when he realised how much money he would have to spend over the summer.



(Above: Marc Lindgren, *Not a Frowning Pensioner*)

In the Junior Category, Marc Lindgren (Fifth Form *West Acre*) won second place for his image *Not a Frowning Pensioner*, which was taken at a sports centre in London. The monochrome image depicts a young child close-up to camera with a huge smile on its face. In the background, one can see football being played. The photograph was commended for its evocative sense of youthfulness, the use of focus and for its composition.

First place in the Junior Category was achieved by Alan Tang (Remove *The Knoll*) for his image *The Journey*. The picture was taken in New Zealand and shows Tang's family's experience of the island. In the image we see a flock of sheep in the middle of a country lane while standing on the top of a hill. In the background we can also see a group of cyclists making their way up the hill. The photograph was acclaimed for its great use of foreground and background as well as the environmental message behind the image.

Arthur Leney (Lower Sixth *The Knoll*) was highly commended by Clare Park for his images taken during his work with plants. Each photograph showed a different type of flower frozen in time. Park was moved by the narrative behind the images as well as the composition of the photos and thus commended Leney for this.



(Above: Alan Tang, *The Journey*)

Many congratulations to the winners and runners-up of each competition and a many thanks also to all the boys who entered. We must also thank Clive Barda, Clare Park and Flora Nedecul for adjudicating, DRJB for organising the event and putting the images together and Dr Richard Petty for sponsoring the event for the 20th year in a row.



(Above: Krill Korobkov, *Mother's Dinner*)

SPEECH DAY CRICKET

Harrow v Harrow Wanderers
Harrow win by 5 wickets

Wanderers Innings

	R	B
A Spencer c M Akhtar	25	86
D Tregoning c J Chohan	29	65
W Jones c J Chohan	37	46
R Wijeratne c&b P Patel	16	16
M Ayliffe b P Patel	2	8
G Gray b P Patel	16	19
M Habib c J Chohan	1	6
G Fricker b P Patel	3	18
M Kellock not out	6	9
R Nelson not out	14	9
H Maxwell dnb		
Extras		25
Total		174-8

Harrow

	O	M	R	W
J Langston	6	0	22	0
T Ward	4	1	5	0
C Boland	2	0	11	0

M Akhtar	7	0	39	1
R Guthe	3	1	4	0
M Ali	6	0	28	0
J Chohan	9	1	32	3
P Patel	8	1	31	4

Harrow

	R	B
L Harrington-Myers b M Habib	3	14
H Dicketts lbw M Habib	0	1
P Patel c R Wijeratne	52	104
T Sheopuri c M Kellock	22	35
R Wijeratne c M Kellock	2	7
C Witter not out	70	60
J Langston not out	8	7
C Boland dnb		
J Chohan dnb		
M Ali dnb		
M Akhtar dnb		
Extras		19
Total		176-5

	O	M	R	W
M Habib	7	1	22	2
H Maxwell	6	1	31	0
M Ayliffe	1	0	6	0
G Fricker	4	0	28	0
M Kellock	6	0	33	2
R Nelson	7	0	29	0
R Wijeratne	4.5	0	21	1
G Gray	1	0	5	0

Another excellent game against a strong OH team led once again by Rob Nelson. With Luke Harrington-Myers having won the toss in the absence of captain Ali the XI decided to bowl first in this 45 overs per side game. Alex Spencer who had captained the MCC side just a week before opened the batting with the experienced Tregoning and the two batted serenely. Good balls were left alone and the rare loose ball punished. The XI did not help themselves, however, with their continual supply of extras; Langston overstepped and was denied the first wicket of the game from a caught behind off a no ball. Indeed, such was the patience shown by the openers that the Wanderers side had not lost a wicket by the time lunch commenced. The game progressed at a more intensive rate after lunch with the XI picking up two early wickets. Firstly Ward held a catch from Chohan's bowling with Akhtar swiftly picking up the second wicket. Ali had bowled well with good variety of pace before lunch but struggled with the positive play of the Wanderers XI. His captaincy once again proved incredibly adept with the decision to bring Patel into the game. He tore through the middle order of the Wanderers XI picking up three recent leavers in the dangerous Gray, last year's captain Ayliffe and the prized wicket of Rahul Wijeratne. Chohan and Patel picked up one wicket more apiece bowling with great control throughout their extended spells and prevented the Wanderers from ever seizing control of the innings. The energy and presence in the field was particularly good during this game with all players contributing well. The score of 176 was a decent target and Harrow would have to bat well to achieve it.

The coaches team talk of ensuring they had wickets in hand for the chase was not heard by the Wanderers XI who came out with full intent. Habib had been dispatched by Dicketts in the MCC game but had his revenge today having him lbw first ball. He also saw off Harrington-Myers who played a loose drive to be bowled. This put the XI in a spot of trouble at 13-2 but Sheopuri and Patel rebuilt well together. Sheopuri was batting well but he was the first of the middle order to give his wicket away by slapping a full toss to the excellent hands of Ayliffe at

midwicket. 57-3 became 66-4 when Wijeratne played a loose drive from the bowling of Kellock and was once again caught by Ayliffe. Not for the first time Witter arrived at the crease with a difficult period ahead but showed great quality and composure with the bat. He punished loose bowling and was positive against the spinners. This allowed Patel to continue to pick off the bowling at to bat for an extended period, the first time he has faced over 100 balls this season. Both past 50's but as they approached the 100 partnership Patel played a loose stroke to be caught out. An excellent knock which had seen us close the finishing line but he should have seen it through. This brought Langston to the crease and he and Witter batted extremely well to finish the game in style. Witter's 70 not out from 60 balls was undoubtedly the key innings but Patel deserves much credit for his excellent knock.

With great thanks to the boys past and present for giving up their Saturday and turning this into an excellent occasion. The game was great preparation for Monday at Lords, here is hoping that Harrow produces what they are capable of.

SPEECH DAY ATHLETICS

Inter-house competition



The Inter-house competition concluded on Speech Day with the traditional inter-house relays. In a closely fought contest, Newlands pipped Lyon's to win the relay cup and in so doing clinched the overall best House trophy. It was extremely pleasing to see the trophies shared out amongst 6 houses this year, reflecting a healthy measure of competition that exists in athletics currently.

- Yearlings 100m
Finley Smith, *The Knoll*,
- Torpids 100m
Remi Jokosenumi, *Lyon's*,
- House 100m
Matthew Ilomuanya, *West Acre*,
- House High Jump
Zeddie Johnson-Watts, *Lyon's*
- House Middle Distance
Monty Powell, *The Grove*

- Yearlings Victor Ludorum, Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*
- Torpids Victor Ludorum, George Davies, *The Head Master's*
- House Victor Ludorum, Matthew Ilomuanya, *West Acre*

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Yearlings Inter-House | The Knoll |
| Torpids Inter-House | Lyon's |
| House Inter-House | Newlands |
| Inter-House Relay | Newlands |
| Overall Inter-House | Newlands |

SPEECH DAY SWIMMING

Ducks and Ducklings

The swimming started off with the Junior Ducker Cup (50m freestyle), its second year in existence. William Rudd, *The Head Master's*, last year's winner and current record holder, was placed in Lane 3, pole position. Next to him in Lane 4, was George Rates, *Newlands*, a consistent and persistent rival. Also a contender for the cup was Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield*. Lanes 5 and 6 were occupied by two of our best junior swimmers, Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*, and the only Shell to compete, James Rates, *Newlands*. The swimmers were within a body length of one another at the turn and coming back into the touch, they remained that way, with Rates and Rudd both vying for the lead. Rates just managed to out-touch Rudd to take the win in a time of 25.20, one hundredth of a second off from Rudd's record. The remaining swimmers all came in within 1.3 seconds of Rates. It was an exciting and close race from start to finish.



The second event of the day was the Senior Ducker Cup (100m freestyle). Favourite to win was the current record-holder with a time of 51.00, Ben Hooper, *The Head Master's*. Second-favourite on the blocks was Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*. Completing the rostrum was Captain, Rafe Wendelken-Dickson, Ben Woolhouse, both *Druries*, and Finn Deacon, *The Park*. The gun went off and the race was on. For the first lap, the field maintained a near perfect spearhead position, with Hong slightly ahead of Hooper, and the others not too far behind. Would Hong be able to maintain this pace and beat Hooper for the first time? At the final turn, still Hong maintained a slight margin over Hooper. Hooper increased pace, but so did Hong. The race was a nail biter. Coming into the final touch, Hong managed to put in a final burst and beat Hooper by 0.4s, in a time of 52.92, a big personal best for Hong.

The third event of the day was the Senior 50m breaststroke event. Thomas Khan, *West Acre*, won this event in 31.64 and came within 0.3s of his record. The Junior 50m breaststroke event was an upset as the current record holder, Aidan Wong, *The Park*, did not manage to stave off the unpredictable and talented, Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*. Brooks won in a time of 33.82. Woolhouse and Archie Hogben, *Newlands*, had a close race in the 50m Senior backstroke event, with Woolhouse winning in the end. Bencharit prevailed in the Junior Backstroke race, just out-touching Henry Pearce, *Newlands*, by 0.2s. In the Senior butterfly 50m event, Hooper got his revenge on Hong, beating him into second place by 0.4s. In the final individual event of the day, the Junior 50m butterfly, we were treated to our first record of the competition, by Rudd, who beat the previous record by nearly 0.2s, finishing in a time of 26.87.

The Senior medley event was the first relay of the day. This event was closely contested but *The Head Master's* were the winners with a time of 2:10:72. *Newlands* followed closely behind. Third place went to *The Park*. The Junior medley team event was one of the most exciting races of the day as *Newlands* smashed the record that they had set in the preliminary rounds by a further three full seconds, finishing in a time of 2:03:33 which beat the Seniors by more than seven seconds. The *Newlands* Seniors went on to win the freestyle relay. Again, in

the Junior freestyle relay events, *Newlands* young swimmers posted a new record time of 1:51:02.

Junior Competition

- 1st *Newlands* 36
 - 2nd *The Head Master's* 32
 - 3rd *Druries* 23
- #### Senior Competition
- 1st *Newlands* 45
 - 2nd *West Acre* 34
 - 3rd *The Head Master's* 26



House Swimming Cup

- 1st *Newlands* 81
- 2nd *The Head Master's* 58
- 3rd *West Acre* 42

Winners of Cups:

- Hamilton Cup for Commitment and Contribution to Swimming
Michael Ma, *Moretons*
- Sonia Newstead Cup for Most Improved Swimmer
George Rates, *Newlands*
- Senior Swimmer of the Year
Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*
- Junior Swimmer of the Year
James Rates, *Newlands*
- Roger Uttley Cup for Improvement and Commitment to Swimming
Will Pattle, *Newlands*, Lower Sixth
- Chris Lai Trophy for Swimmer of the Year
Ben Hooper, *The Head Master's*

- Senior Ducker Cup Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*
- Junior Ducker Cup George Rates, *Newlands*

- Senior House Swimming Cup *Newlands*
- Junior House Swimming Cup *Newlands*

SPEECH DAY CROQUET

Croquet Final, Newlands v The Grove



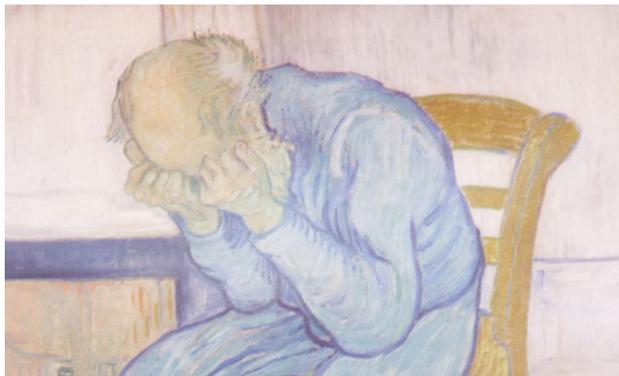
In an exciting match, held on the Chapel Terrace lawn, Hugo Rowse and Ben Coldicott, both *Newlands*, defeated Otto Stroyan and Cameron Mahal, both *The Grove*.

OSRG VISIT

Van Gogh and Britain, Tate Britain, 14 May

On a warm and pleasant Tuesday afternoon in May, a group of five boys and two beaks went to the Tate Gallery to see a captivating exhibition which set a number of Vincent van Gogh's artworks into their British context. It was a glorious afternoon, with several boys getting to experience van Gogh's exquisite artwork for the first time.

Entitled *Van Gogh and Britain*, the exhibition had two distinct sections: the first covered the literary and artistic influences upon Van Gogh's life and work while he lived in England; the second focused on how his art in turn influenced other British artists both during and after his lifetime.



(Above: *At Eternity's Gate* was painted in 1890.)

Van Gogh (1853-90) spent several crucial years in Britain in his early twenties. Arriving in London in 1873 as a trainee art dealer, he was inspired by the vast and modern city to explore different avenues of life, love, and especially art. He constantly immersed himself in a fascinating new world of ideas, books, paintings, and prints, and his enthusiasm for British culture remained undimmed throughout his career. The first rooms of the exhibition contained books the curators knew he had read, and paintings and engravings that had influenced his developing style. He was much affected by the work of British writers. Charles Dickens was a profound and lasting influence on him. In the early years of van Gogh's struggle as an artist, he wrote in one of his many letters to his brother, 'My whole life is aimed at making the things from everyday life that Dickens describes and what these artists draw.'

Van Gogh knew four languages, including English, which he spoke and read well. English books were an inspiration and pleasure to him all his life. He admired Victorian novels for their 'reality more real than reality'. Van Gogh's letters to his friends and family mentioned many books. These included over 100 written in English. He wrote to his brother Theo, 'reading books is like looking at paintings ... one must find beautiful that which is beautiful.'

After van Gogh left Britain, he tried to pursue a life of religious service. When these hopes failed, his brother Theo suggested he take up art more seriously. Van Gogh turned to favourite artists and writers for insights, including those he had encountered in London. 'Studying them more than repays the effort', he wrote, 'it's a different way of feeling, conceiving, expressing ... for they are great artists, the English'. Van Gogh had a great interest in British culture, an interest that would partially raise his success in his artworks. In one of the other letters in 1884 to his brother Theo, he simply wrote, 'I keep thinking about some English paintings.'

The exhibition was absolutely captivating. It had nine rooms, each containing some of van Gogh's most famous works. However, I was distraught when I learned that the exhibition did not hold van Gogh's two most famous works: *The Starry Night* and *Almond Blossoms*. Although we did get to see a painting

with a sky filled with stars, it was not his most famous work; it showed a glistening image over the River Rhone in 1888. His more famous *Starry Night*, drawn from memory, depicts the view outside his sanatorium window at Saint-Remy-de-Provence in France. Nevertheless, the starry skies over the Rhine River shows the artist's interest in the beauty of the heavens above the earth.

In early 1890, van Gogh's brother, Theo, had a son who was named Vincent after the artist. Van Gogh was attached to the baby and wrote to his brother, 'He always looks with very great interest at Uncle Vincent's paintings.' The painting *Almond Blossoms* was created by van Gogh to celebrate the birth of his nephew. Vincent was a fan of Japanese art and dedicated his most beloved and prized artwork to the young boy.

Despite not being able to see van Gogh's greatest work, *The Starry Night*, we were able to gaze over his reckoned, second-most famous painting - the *Sunflowers* composition. Van Gogh is considered a master of still life painting and his series of 'Sunflowers' ranks among the most famous still life paintings ever created. It is known for portraying the natural beauty of the flowers and for their very vibrant colours. The painting in the exhibition shows 15 gorgeous sunflower blooms, with Van Gogh completing the first four of them during a single week in the summer of 1888. He explained to his brother in one of his letters, 'I work on it all these mornings, from sunrise. Because the flowers wilt quickly, it's a matter of doing the whole thing in one go.'

As we progressed through the exhibition we saw how Van Gogh's work had a deep impact on modern British artists such as Francis Bacon, David Bomberg, William Nicholson, Walter Sickert, Matthew Smith, and Christopher Wood. Harold Gilman (1876-1919), in particular, was a fan. He kept a print of a Van Gogh's self-portrait on the wall of his studio and before he began to paint, he would wave his brush towards the picture, declaring, '*A toi, Van Gogh!*' ('Cheers, Van Gogh!'). The flower-filled vases depicted by William Nicholson and the Scottish colourist, Samuel Peploe were especially impressive.

In room eight, we encountered a portrait of a man holding his head in his hands, in desperate grief and agony. The painting was called *The Drama of a Man*, and it portrayed how people can feel during times of war. Van Gogh, an inmate of the Saint-Paul hospital, gave this painting an English title as it was based on a lithograph he made when in England. When he was not well enough to go out and work from nature, he made 'translations' from prints. Yet Vincent's doctor had his own thoughts about this painting. He observed that when Vincent was unwell, 'He usually sits with his head in his hands, and if someone speaks to him, it is as though it hurts him, and he gestures for them to leave him alone.' For many people and observers, this painting depicts the trauma and the struggle van Gogh had in the later stages of his life, which ultimately led to his death by suicide. Whilst dying, he told his brother, 'The pain will last forever.' He was only 37.

The experience of getting to stand so close and admire van Gogh's masterpieces was totally engrossing. On behalf of the other boys who came on the trip, I would like to thank JW for organising such a magnificent treat for us and LAM for being our escort. It was truly incredible.

TENNIS

23 May

Seniors 1st v Bradfield College, School lost 0-9
 Junior Colts A v Bradfield College, School lost 3-6
 Junior Colts B v Bradfield College, School lost 3-6
 Junior Colts C v Bradfield College, School won 5-4
 The Junior Colts Cs started off slowly but grew in confidence throughout the tie to come out on top, winning 5-4. William

Wauchope, *The Knoll*, and Alvaro Talayero-Osio, *Newlands*, battled through two tie breaks to win two of their three matches. Yearlings A v Bradfield College, School won 7-2

On a warm and sunny day deep in the Berkshire countryside, Harrow put on a splendid display of fast, confident tennis against an equally assured Bradfield squad. By tea, the Harrovians had steamed into the lead by 4 matches to 2, with all to play for in the final three matches. With a further impressive win from 3rd pair Max Ding, *The Park*, and Mete Kuner, *West Acre*, the Harrovians lead was unassailable at 5 matches to 2. This success was quickly followed by further wins from 2nd pair Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, and Aidan Wong, *The Park*, and Harrow's indomitable 1st pair Cameron Timlin, *Bradbys*, and Alonso Fontano, *The Grove*, who fought hard against Bradfield's impressively strong 1st pair. All-in-all, a great afternoon of tennis and another satisfying win for this team who must now be ranked amongst one of the strongest squads on the tennis circuit. All credit must go to Harrow's 1st pair for winning every one of their matches once again.

Yearlings B v Bradfield College, School won 6-3
Yearlings C v Bradfield College, School won 7-2

CRICKET

*Junior Colts A v Eton College National Cup Final 16,
Harrow lost by 1 run, 23 May*

Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, 50, James Nelson, *Bradbys*, 4 for 30.

Junior Colts A v Bedford School, School lost by 19 runs
Oliver Newall, *Druries*, 59,
James Nelson, *Bradbys*, 3 for 28

Junior Colts B v Bedford School, Harrow lost by 4 wickets.
Junior Colts C v Bedford School, Harrow lost by 5 wickets.
Junior Colts D v Bedford School, Harrow won by 121 runs
Pahal Jariwala, *Rendalls*, 63*,
Charlie De Labilliere, *The Grove*, 4 for 1,
Henry Hancock, *Elmfield*, 3 for 5

The JCDs earned an extremely convincing win over an unimpressive Bedford side. Having been put in to bat, Pahal Jariwala, *Rendalls*, and Edred Clutton, *The Knoll*, were assured at the crease until the latter was bowled by the best ball of the innings, an off-cutter that turned onto middle stump. Jariwala was joined by Shaan Nagra, *The Grove*, in the middle and the pair put on a partnership of 81 for the second wicket. Despite the howls to press on by their teammates on the boundary, the pair batted patiently and confidently, and Jariwala in particular punished the bad balls. The running between the wickets improved as the partnership went on. As it was, the run rate didn't increase after Nagra's dismissal; it turns out accelerating in the death overs is easier said than done...

Harrow's bowling was rampant. WJC's instruction to bowl at the stumps hinted again at a timeless understanding of the game. De Labilliere showed excellent pace as well as accuracy. Rupert Cullinane, *Newlands*, put in a great shift in the covers and George Fenwick, *The Park*, impressed on his first wicket-keeping performance of the season.

Junior Colts E v Bedford School, Harrow won by 121 runs

Yearlings A v Bedford School, Harrow won by 61 runs
Karan Zaveri, *Elmfield*, 68,
Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, 44,
Shrey Rawal, *Rendalls*, 3 for 8

Once George Ansell, *The Park*, and Shrey Rawal, *Rendalls*, had reduced Bedford to 15 for 4, the game was effectively over. In truth, Harrow then bowled poorly which allowed the Bedford tail to salvage a bit of pride. Earlier, Harrow did well to set a formidable total. Zaveri and Sheopuri shared in a stand of 90 for the third wicket, hitting the bad ball almost invariably for four. The Yearlings A are still unbeaten but will have to bowl better than this if they are to remain so.

Yearlings B v Bedford School, Harrow lost by 2 wickets
Yearlings C v Bedford School, Harrow lost by 8 wickets
Yearlings D v Bedford School, Harrow won by 29 runs
Yearlings F v Bedford School, Harrow lost by 73 runs

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Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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