

# THE HARROVIAN

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## RATTIGAN SOCIETY

*The History Boys, Ryan Theatre, 5 October*

Last week, the Rattigan Society's production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys* was performed to critical acclaim. The play, about a group of Oxbridge candidates (sound familiar?) and an inspiring "General Studies teacher" who doesn't like to follow the rules, sees its characters on a journey of discovery around learning, sexuality and themselves.

After a packed audience took to the Ryan Theatre's newly renovated seats, a blanket of hushed silence fell over the crowd in anticipation of one of the major events of Harrow's theatrical calendar.

The play began with the traditional ring of back-to-school bells and the rushing pupils taught by the inspiring Hector who is forever despised by the headmaster (as whom, Jonny Kajoba, *Lyon's*, conjured up some terrifyingly convincing mannerisms) for his style of ignoring examinations and teaching culture and language. The headmaster, wrestling for academic results, turns to young supply teacher – Irwin – In a desperate attempt to polish the boys up for examination.



Although some of the humour directed at universities may have flown over the heads of some younger boys, Tom Latham, *Bradlys*, as Irwin delivered the punchlines excellently and turned into the young supply teacher in front of our very eyes. I was most impressed by the onstage chemistry of the school boys in the class (led by ringleader Gabe Rogers, *The Knoll*, as Dakin). At times, the room felt just like one you might find walking around New Schools. The dynamic capturing of the part of Posner by Max Morgan, *Rendalls*, made you feel like he was really confiding in you, and surely caused many an audience member to feel personally invested in the narrative. He, along with Callum Jones, *West Acre*, as Rudge, must be picked out as a standout performer among the boys. The emotion with which the whole performance was charged was visible and evident in no one more so individually than Otto Stroyan, *The Grove*, as Hector, the provocative school master.

I also appreciated the excellent layout of the stage. The quick transitions between class room and staff room made it feel like you were watching a film, and credit should be given to the production team for making this happen. You consistently felt involved with the scenes, as though you were there.

Altogether we saw some fantastic performances, and the performances of younger actors graduating from last year's Junior

Rattigan production, such as Adam Ait Al Caid, *Druries*, and Freddie Strange, *Newlands*, can only be signs of good things to come. Congratulations to ASM for such great direction.

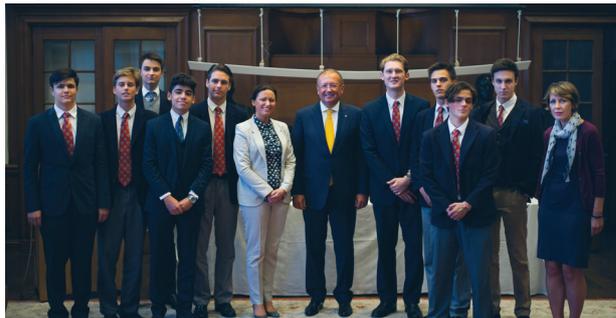
## SLAVONIC AND PALMERSTON SOCIETY

*His Excellency Dr Alexander Yakovenko, the Ambassador of Russia to the UK, OH Room, 4 October*

Winston Churchill, one of our greatest alumni, once described Russia as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma". Many mysteries have been solved since, but Russia still remains one big unknown in so many ways.

This is why many Harrovians are passionately studying Russian and learning about Russia in their History, Politics and Economics lessons today, tirelessly trying to solve "the riddle". The visit from His Excellency Dr Alexander Yakovenko, the Ambassador of Russia to the UK, brought us one step closer to unwrapping this mystery. Being undoubtedly a well-seasoned politician and diplomat who had previously had much experience in the field of foreign affairs, serving as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Yakovenko welcomed questions from both boys and Beaks alike.

Firstly, following a brief introduction from KAF and Charles Sherlock, *The Knoll*, Dr Yakovenko outlined the objectives of the Russian diplomatic mission in the UK, saying there is not that much difference between Russian and British diplomats, except that the former are fluent in English and the latter have to rely on their interpreters to know what Russian media say about their country. Later on, during the meeting, he repeatedly emphasised the importance of learning foreign languages.



Dr Yakovenko has been the ambassador to the UK since January 2011. He told us that there had been a long-lasting relationship between the two countries and that after the Bolshevik Revolution relations were re-established in 1924. The current embassy, he noted, frequently visited by Winston Churchill during the Second World War, has been situated in Kensington Palace Gardens since 1932. Diplomatically, Dr Yakovenko noted that there had been "ups and downs" in the Anglo-Russian relations during that time, adding that, although the diplomatic mission to the UK was now substantially smaller than in the past, there were still major issues that the embassy and the ambassador needed to deal with, such as economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries. However, the primary aim for the embassy is to report on the domestic

situation of the UK back to the Kremlin and to advise on how to conduct certain areas of foreign policy. Dr Yakovenko explained that the embassy also interacted with other embassies in the UK in an effort to maintain diplomatic relationships with other nations. After his informative summary of the purpose of the Russian diplomatic mission, the Ambassador welcomed any Russia-related questions from the audience.



In response to a question about the shape of a typical day in the life of the Russian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Yakovenko explained that he usually started his day at 8am and finished it at around 11pm. He said that he always started and finished his day with the news in order to keep himself informed during the day. In fact, in Russia, he said, there are special aides who choose five news stories that are of the greatest importance and then condense them and send them to Russian ambassadors across the globe.

Unsurprisingly, Dr Yakovenko was also asked whether he had had troubles dealing with UK authorities following the Salisbury poisoning incident. His answer encompassed his interactions with the Foreign secretary Boris Johnson, the search for evidence and suspects and the Russian governments take on the incident. Numerous other questions followed on a wide range of topics from Russia's stance regarding North Korea, her involvement in Syria to the role of Ramzan Kadyrov, Head of the Chechen Republic, on the Russian political scene. The mutual relationship between Russia and the US, and more precisely Donald Trump, was also mentioned. During the meeting, the Harrovians gathered in the OH Room also learnt more about Russia's President as a person and a statesman.

In summary, the talk was very enlightening and gave many in the audience a fresh perspective on Russia. Following on from the brief thank-you speech delivered skilfully in Russian by Alex Shishkarev, *The Grove*, once again, we would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency Dr Alexander Yakovenko for his visit to Harrow School; and to Ms Nina Mishchenko, Head of Ambassador's Office, and Mr Konstantin Yushmanov, Second Secretary, for their help with organising the visit and for accompanying the Ambassador on the day.

On behalf of all those who attended the lecture, the Slavonic Society and the Palmerston Society would also like to thank KAF and MEPG for all their hard work and diligence in the organisation of what was a truly insightful talk, which unravelled much of the great Russian enigma.

## TIMOTHY WEST AT JOHN LYON

*Lecture by Timothy West CBE, on a career in acting,  
John Lyon School, 26 September*

APC took five boys down to John Lyon School to see Timothy West CBE, an Old John Lyon boy, talk about his career as an actor.

We sat in the John Lyon theatre, where we were met by the John Lyon Director of Drama. He took to the stage with Mr West. To begin with, Mr West was asked about his time at John Lyon School, which he attended in the late 1940s. Mr West explained how drama was not a part of their school routine,

but he was happy to see that, since then, John Lyon now has a theatre, where plenty of productions happen each year. One fond memory of John Lyon that Mr West does have is of his old English teacher who did a lot of Shakespeare with him – making the boys act out what they were reading. He apparently once even took them out on to the fields and made them shout their lines to each other to encourage them to increase the amount of energy delivered into their lines. Timothy West also talked about how he did not go straight into theatre but instead worked at a radio station recording classical music. However, every night he went to a theatre to help out backstage or on the stage because that was what he really enjoyed. He never knew that he should pursue this hobby as a career until his boss at the radio station suggested he should, given he was spending more time there than at the radio station! And so, that was the beginning of Timothy West's acting career.

The floor was then open for questions from the audience. One boy asked if he had always wanted to be an actor to which Mr West replied, "No, I always thought I would go into medicine as that is what a lot of family had done!" This baffled a few as medicine to drama is quite a jump! One questioner which, of all the characters he had played, was his favourite. Mr West stopped to think about this one, but then came up with King Lear as he had played him in four different productions. Timothy West even went to the extent of researching the character of King Lear and discovering that he was apparently bipolar, which helped in the developing of his character. A final phrase from Mr West, which I felt made the audience think, was "Film is where the fame is at. TV is where the money is at, but theatre is the real thing!" I think a lot of people would agree with this statement.

Once again, thank you very much to the Director of Drama at John Lyon School for inviting APC and boys from Harrow to see this great man speak; we were all very grateful. Don't miss out on other dramatic events like this and the upcoming Shell Drama Festival and various House plays.

## ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

*Monty Powell, The Grove, "Language, The Human  
Miracle", 24 September*

On a warm Monday night last week, the Athenaeum Society convened in order to hear Monty Powell's, *The Grove*, lecture on 'Language: The Human Miracle', the eponymous first slide backed by the Tower of Babel. He began by outlining a definition of language: "The ability to take a finite set of elements and use a set of rules in order to create an infinite number of communicative combinations".

Furthermore, he elaborated by stating that it has duality of structure (abstract letters and words/sentences with meaning) and, most importantly, recursion: the ability to construct a virtually infinite sentence without rendering it meaningless (for example, "the enormously gargantuan crimson-red sharp tall soft clean dented rock was in existence": many more adjectives could have been placed within that phrase, creating a sentence as large as the language's vocabulary). Another important aspect of language is its ability to express time as well as space.

Powell continued to outline the origins of speech; he stated that language's 'miraculous' properties can be attributed to it being exclusively found in humans (as opposed to the strange, limited-content vocabularies of dolphins or strange bee signalings). The most basic forms of language are believed to have originated approximately 50,000 years ago, alongside the use of basic tools (sharpened flint spears etc). Language is a property intrinsic to hominids; and, as the *homo sapiens* (or *homo sapiens sapiens*) of today are the only remaining species of hominid, we are the only species that has a powerful enough brain to engage in the use of cognitively asserted language. Language is one reason

that we are the last remaining hominids; our ability to have knowledge without having experienced a situation (a priori) and that we can cooperate to such a high degree of complexity would probably have secured aforementioned survival.

English, as a language, is considered to be of West Germanic origin; however, on account of the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the introduction of French elements into the country, there was a great influx of Latinic words that began to slowly change the landscape of the British language. However, originally, there was an exceedingly limited understanding of linguistic origins until a certain Sir William Jones (1746-94) discovered likenesses between languages such as Indian, Greek, British and French, most of which are separated by a significant geographical barrier eg Britain and India (of course, this split in language occurred an extremely long time before the British naval dominance of the second half of the second millennium AD). This led Jones to hypothesise a language upon which all modern speech is predicated, a language that later came to be known as Proto-Indo-European (PIE). Though the language was also affected by the influence of other languages in the area (such as that of Persians and others located close to the Black Sea), the name "Indo"-European stuck on account of the Indian language being the example which Jones established a connection with.

Two thirds of those dwelling on this pale blue dot speak some variety of language that stems from PIE; however, in order to understand how this strange language evolved into the common frivolity-ridden complexities that we speak today, the four means of language change (an organic and necessary process) and the differences between synthetic and analytic phrases must be understood. The latter is the difference between one word that has several many meanings and its opposite, for example: Ivissem: one word with multiple meaning (synthetic); I would have been: several words with one meaning (analytic).

With that having been clarified, there are four main means by which languages change, the first of which (and also the most prominent), erosion, is the slow process of cumulative simplification of words in a language. A prevalent example of this is the verb 'to be' in Latin, which began as: *essem, esses, esset, essumus, essetis, essent* (in accordance with its infinitive, *esse*). However, on account of its being such an often-used word, Latin speakers over hundreds of years reduced it to: *sum, es, est, sumus, estis, sunt*, which is effectively the same but with certain aspects of the word removed for ease of pronunciation. There is also a dichotomy forged by the unceasing use of language between Romantic (Latin-based) and Germanic (obvious enough) languages. Germanic languages and their speakers seem to have more of an appetite for erosion than their Romantic counterparts, as elucidated by the gradual evolution of voiced consonants (such as 'b') into unvoiced consonants (such as 'p') and then into fricative consonants (such as 'f'), the pronunciation of each requiring less effort with each iteration.

Erosion also leads to the creation of case systems (such as that of Latin), wherein prepositions and words are combined for ease of pronunciation, creating new words and, eventually, case systems (eg "boutta" from "about to"). After a while, these cases begin to be abbreviated into nonexistence, thus providing the need for the reintroduction of prepositions. Presumably, in a hypothetical system, this cycle would keep repeating; however,

other forms of language change prevent this ideal system from occurring.

Speaking of which, the other forms of linguistic derivation are metaphor (the flow from concrete words, such as 'I hold', to abstract, such as 'I have', which also mimics the flow of language from being mostly content words to function words; craving for order (the intrinsic nature of man to make a language more regular, as exemplified by all the verbs for 'to be' being translated as 'is' in the relatively new language of Afrikaans); and linguistic contact (such as the introduction of French to Old English in 1066, forming the basis of Middle English).

Overall, there are a few indisputable conclusions to be drawn regarding language: firstly, that its origins shall never be discovered. The extreme age of any artefacts that would reference the very beginnings of language would make them truly impossible to procure, let alone in such a number and variety as to reconstruct the whole language; PIE is as close as humanity is likely to get, bar the discovery of some strange new piece of history lost to the ages. Secondly, language is an entirely human trait; no other organism can harness the sheer cognitive power required to be able to process complex, recursive language. Finally, language has forever, and will forever, evolve as long as there are people to speak it; despite the best efforts of linguistic prescriptivists throughout history, the overwhelming number of interactions taking place each day – especially now, with the introduction of the internet – ensures that erosion will press onward, much as humanity, the miracle of language in its hands, has ever sought to do.

## JUNIOR CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire', Matthew Harrison, and 'Roman Coinage', Ben Harrison, both West Acre, New Schools, 3 October*

The Junior Classical Society convened once again in the Deno Leventis Library last week for two talks, the 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire', presented by Matthew Harrison, *West Acre*, and 'Roman Coinage', presented by Ben Harrison, *West Acre*.

The first to go was Matthew. He started looking into the first reason for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire: the Visigoths, led by the legendary General Alaric. The Visigoths were the first people to sack Rome for 800 years, and this would be succeeded by four further attacks. The Visigoths did so in barbaric style, looting and pillaging the city for three consecutive days in 410AD. In contrast to the violent barbarians, the next reason was the spread of Christianity. Christianity is, of course, a monotheistic religion. This school of thought rivalled traditional Roman polytheistic beliefs based on the Roman Pantheon of somewhat temperamental gods. Additionally, Emperor Constantine ended the persecution of Christians in 313AD and made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire. This served to undermine his authority, however, because the Romans believed the Emperor was a god. The monotheistic beliefs of Christianity were, of course, incompatible with this view of the emperor and thus Emperor Constantine's illusion of divine power was destroyed.

Constantine's actions were the third reason for the fall of the Roman Empire because he split of the Roman Empire into East and West. The Western Roman Empire centred on Rome and the Eastern centred on the city of Constantinople, which Constantine had humbly named after himself. Cultural changes began to appear between the Empires. The West adopted Latin, becoming Roman Catholics, whilst the East adopted Greek, becoming Orthodox Christians. The fall of the Roman Empire usually refers to the Western Roman Empire, with the East actually flourishing as the Byzantine Empire for centuries after the final death throes of the Western Roman Empire.

The Western economy failed due its plummeting agricultural production, which in turn led to food prices soaring. This led to a trade deficit between the Eastern and Western Empires, as Westerners would buy luxury goods from the East but did not sell anything to Easterners. In an attempt to shore up the economy, the West began to produce more coins by debasing them – reducing their silver content – which led to inflation. This, combined with piracy and attacks from Germanic tribes, led to the West's trade declining.

In its final years, the Western Empire developed an array of nasty problems: political amateurs took charge of Rome and corruption was rife. Generals began to wade into politics and

the army became a group of mercenaries selling their services to the highest bidder.

Various Germanic tribes began to attempt to seize Roman settlements and land for their own; the Angles and Saxons came to dominate Britain while the Franks made their home in France. The end of the Rome was marked by the overthrowing of Romulus Augustus (nicknamed 'Little Augustus') by Odoacer in 476AD. Odoacer was the first barbarian to rule Rome and, after 1000 years of destroying other civilisations, the Roman Empire was itself destroyed.

Next came Ben Harrison who spoke interestingly on Roman coinage. He began with the obvious question, 'Why were coins made?' He explained the origins of the trade came from the system of barter, stressing the importance of this as it allowed the value of an object to be determined. There were, of course, problems with barter as it is reliant on individuals valuing different goods equally. Due to this, many people would not be able to effectively trade. Thus, an exchangeable token was developed – the first form of money. An example of this was the cowrie shell, which was used throughout Africa, South Asia, East Asia and Oceania as an early placeholder.

With the origins of coinage having been uncovered, Ben Harrison proceeded to focus on Roman coinage. The first Roman coins were small bronze ones, which were created in Neapolis in 326BC. They were not originally engraved as Roman, as no other nations minted coins. They were first mass produced in 48BC and continued to be minted for eight centuries afterwards. Each coin would come to be stamped with the emperor's face, which was crucial to the expansion of the Roman empire as coins represented the power of the emperor. Coins were also small and portable, unlike goods, enabling them to be easily transported. Even countries not directly under the emperor's control believed in the value of the coins, because so many others believed in them.

The Early Roman Republic did not use coins but used bronze ingots. These could easily be faked, unlike later coins, which were verified by the face of the emperor. Later on, a specific trade developed, whose sole purpose was to check the authenticity of coins. Coins were also more versatile as they were minted from a variety of metals.

In the 2nd century AD, simple coins decorated solely with chariots and horses were popular. The Roman also started the tradition of putting a legend on coins, which always started from the bottom left.

Coins were first debased following the wars with Carthage; Rome spent so much on the army that it had to decrease the weight of its coins to avoid going bankrupt. In 211BC a new coining system was developed with the silver denarius, the best-known of the Roman coins, being developed. Silver itself became more valuable as Rome expanded, entering a golden age from 157BC due to the seizing of silver mines in Macedonia.

The first time coins were by someone other than the Roman government was in 84BC when Lucius Cornelius Sulla minted his own coins to fund his war. Julius Caesar, another legendary general and statesman, minted the most coins in Roman history. This practice ended after Octavian's victory at the Battle of Actium, when Octavian unified Rome's coinage.

However, Roman coinage was not without its threats. Taxation only supplied 80% of the empire's spending, so Nero debased coins to enable the production of more coins. Unfortunately, this devalued coins. In 3AD, a barbarian invasion led to the collapse in the value of silver. Only gold, in the form of the aureus (another Roman coin), survived.

Diocletian attempted to strengthen the public's belief in the coins by guaranteeing the gold content of the aureus in 293AD, as well as decreasing the number of mints in 301AD. Constantine, however, reversed Diocletian's good work by debasing coins once again.

Altogether, both talks were extremely informative and I would wholeheartedly recommend readers to attend future lectures.

## BUTLER SOCIETY

Gary Maitland, Sports Centre, 3 October

Last Wednesday night, the Butler Society welcomed coach Gary Maitland for their first event of the year. Not only is Gary Maitland Harrow's basketball team's coach, but he is also one of the few top basketball skills trainers in the UK. His most notable clients include Team GB professionals Jamell Anderson and Ovie Soko, as well NBA players such as Jordan Clarkson and Kelly Oubre Jr. Before the inspiring talk began, BTM reminded us of the numerous sport-related opportunities at Harrow and the increasing variety of jobs available in the global sports industry, which is worth over 91 billion.

The main focus of the talk was 'Rethinking Practice', with themes of leadership throughout. We were told that thoughts control emotions, and emotions control performance. Therefore, your most dominant behaviour currently will dictate your habits in the future. Ever since he started playing competitively at the age of 13, he knew that his state of mind would ultimately dictate his performance. That is why he always told himself he would never miss a free throw – penalty shots that are worth one point each.



Mr Maitland opened the talk with an old story: it was 1996, the under-16 UK national basketball team were playing Ireland in the final. The clock read nine seconds left and Ireland were up by three points. Gary's teammate Danny Richards had the ball, while Gary sprinted up the court. Danny shot a three-pointer in an attempt to tie, but it clanked off the hoop and landed in Gary's hands. Four seconds left. He an to the three-point line, and shot, got fouled, and missed. The foul whilst shooting the three-pointer meant that Gary had three free throws and he knew the entire team's fate was based his those few shots. Every single person sitting in that arena in Ireland did not want him to make any of those free throws. The clock had already run out. It was just him, the crowd, and the basket. Gary shot, but missed; the game was over. Tears flooded down his face but, as he trudged back to the bench, the coach demanded that he finished the job. So he walked back to the line, missed another, took a deep breath, and made the last one. The very next day, he practised with purpose, shooting free throws over and over again. Gary told us that after learning to train in a game-like situation, his record for free throws made in a row is 75.

That unforgettable night in 1996 made Gary rethink practice, which lead to his mindset that 'purposeful practice make perfect'. We were introduced to the 'Nideffer Model', which separated four different types of focus into the four sides of a square. There are two dimensions of focus: width (broad to narrow) and direction (external to internal). This model allows athletes to put their focus on a spectrum and train with more focus and purpose. How can you be expected to perform in a high-pressure situation without practising it? Years later, Gary went to visit an NBA practice facility to investigate how they train. He was especially intrigued by an NBA player shooting

free throws while loudspeakers blasted the noise of crowds booing and jeering, an example of purposeful practice.

Adding to the overarching theme of focus and practice, Gary brought up Jim Collins' theory of level 5 leaders, which closely mirrors our School values. The top leaders lead by example; they are humble and are motivated by a common goal. However, these leaders also tend to be shy, but display courage and fearlessness when making decisions. Furthermore, level 5 leaders are not afraid to ask for help, are great at bringing a group together, and are always honourable. Make sure people don't work for you and feel like losers, but work with you and feel like winners. With that, the audience were left with one last quote: "Tell yourself that you will never miss a free throw".

Many thanks to Gary Maitland for taking the time out of his Wednesday night to give a great talk, and to BTM and JM for co-ordinating the first of hopefully many excellent Butler Society events this year.

## ALEXANDER SOCIETY

*Vaughan Library, 27 September*

The Alexander Society held its first meeting on Thursday 27 September with two new speakers to the Society. Sam O'Dell, *West Acre*, started the evening off with an overview of the First Punic War. Sam set the ancient scene well, covering Carthage and Rome's capabilities before this war over Sicily, and how they came into conflict. The Romans had no sizeable navy before the war, and a comparable fighting force was only developed after a Carthaginian ship was captured and copied. He discussed the naval developments over the course of the war that gave the Romans eventual domination of the Mediterranean, mostly through use of the *Corvus* – a plank with a hook on the end that was dropped when alongside enemy ships to force a battle between the ship's soldiers bringing Rome's greatest strength, its soldiers, to bear against the Carthaginian navy. To finish the talk, he discussed the impacts of the war on Rome and Carthage, including the later truceless war where Rome took Corsica and Sardinia against the terms of the treaty, as well as looking forward to how it prompted the Second Punic War and Hannibal's famous journey over the Alps.

The second speaker was George Phillips, *The Head Master's*, who discussed an empire not covered often in the Alexander Society, the Mongols. The talk started with a notable achievement: the Mongol Empire under Genghis Khan was the largest contiguous empire to have ever existed, extending from north-eastern Russia down to areas of northern India in the South West. George focused his lecture on the different weapons and tactics of this equine empire, from their famous compound bows and their various arrow types to their traditional Chinese plate armour, with some great insight into how they would have fought and how their tactics allowed them to conquer such vast areas of land. This included their use of bows while on horseback and the skill they showed in outmanoeuvring their opponents and peppering them until weakened, before going in to finish with short iron maces and in some cases, when the enemy was also on horseback, lassoes. An incredible level of tactics was used by the Mongol army, normally thought of as a mindless horde of nomadic barbarians.

These talks were a great start to the year for the Alexander Society and we look forward to the talk from MPS later this term.

## OSRG AUTUMN EXHIBITION

*OSRG, 27 September*

On Thursday 27 September, a good crowd of supporters, including the Mayor of Harrow Councillor Kareema Marikar, gathered at OSRG for the opening of its Autumn Exhibition. Introducing the exciting new works on display, Mrs Walton highlighted two themes: 'commemoration' and 'paving the way for the future'. Given the diversity and quality of what is on show, it is a challenge to sum up the exhibition succinctly.



'Commemoration' is a particularly poignant word given that next month's Remembrance Day will mark the centenary of the end of the Great War.

Two exhibits relate directly to this event; the first (the object of the term) is a recently acquired study for a portrait by the former Harrow beak Mr Dan Llewellyn-Hall of England's 'last fighting Tommy' Harry Patch, which featured in the National Portrait Gallery review in 2009.

Second is the final volume of the Harrow's Memorial, pages of which are turned regularly to commemorate the 642 Harrovians who died in World War One.

Still on the commemoration theme, the death of Australian master silversmith and jeweller Stuart Devlin in April this year at the age of 87 prompted Mrs Walton to bring out the School's remarkable collection of his Easter eggs. These were generously bequeathed to the school by Lady Allen, widow of the OH and former Governor Sir Peter Allen. The beautifully lit display case now shows these masterpieces off to perfection.

In addition, the gallery is now exhibiting some of the treasures from the Museum of Harrow Life, formerly located in the Old Music Schools but sadly now in storage; these unique relics and mementoes provide fascinating insights into life on the Hill in former times. An illuminated model of Speech Room is displayed alongside plans of the building, as well as paintings of it in its sadly bomb-damaged state during World War Two. Two recently hung pictures *Physical Energy I* and *Dreams of a Summer Night* by SNP nicely round out these happy Harrow scenes.

There is also a commemoration of the life of Christopher Powell-Cotton (OH, *The Grove*). Through an array of carefully selected photographs, the displays record his life of service – to his family, the school, the community and his country (winning the Military Cross) – very much something that all the boys at the School today can aspire to.

The second of Mrs Walton's phrases, 'paving the way for the future' refers to the OSRG's conservation work, the latest fruits of which are now on display.

The stunning collection of *ukiyo-e* (Japanese woodblock prints) is simply staggering, ranging from small, simple, incredibly rare prints of the 17th century to a beautifully exuberant 19th-century multi-panelled folding album, as well as prints by the iconic masters Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige.

Immense skill and effort has gone into the conservation of the works in the current exhibition. Using the latest technology and extreme care, these prints have been separated from thick acidic card, placed on fine acid-free Japanese paper and mounted

neatly.... thereby ensuring “another 200 years” of life. “Banzai!” as they say in Japan!

Moreover, benefiting from the OSRG team’s access to the resources and the expertise of the British Museum’s Study Room, each print has now been properly identified, accurately labelled and, perhaps most importantly, appropriately interpreted and placed within its cultural context.



This stunning array of special Japanese prints now splendidly restored and fully documented is simply unmissable.

A great deal of credit and thanks must go to Mrs Walton and her OSRG team for keeping up the demanding cycle of termly exhibitions over the past eight years.

*(The Japanese exhibition continues until Easter and the others until 30 November 2018. Photo credit: Cameron Yarrow, Druries)*

## JUNIOR INTER-HOUSE DEBATING

*OH Room, 25 September*

*Competitors:* Wayne Wen, Archie Kyd, both *The Park*; Ben Ahrens and Ryan Culle, both *The Grove*; Paddy Breeze and Sachin Vyas, both *Elmfield*; Max Morgan and Jake McDermid, both *Rendalls*

The OH Room was packed, mainly due the organised rabble of the ‘Park Army’; so much so that many spectators couldn’t sit down! The motion, proposed by The Grove and Elmfield and opposed by The Park and Rendalls, was ‘This house welcomes the rise of popular politics’.

The first speaker for the proposition, from The Grove, began by reminding the audience that populism is not the same as nationalism. He stated that populism was simply placing a high importance on the views of the people; a definition that was quite skewed in the proposition’s favour, but it was not challenged. The speaker then went on to make his first point, namely that populism helped democracy. He stated that populism encourages disenfranchised electorates that have been ignored by traditional politics. He stated that populism would encourage politicians to reach out to these demographics, creating a more democratic state. The speaker also made some more contentious points. For instance, he stated that populism would allow faster change of those in power, meaning that those in government would be ousted every decade or so, and that this was a positive outcome. However, it is possible that this sort of approach would be replacing experienced politicians with those who are riding the coattails of a public trend, leaving inexperienced and unqualified people in office. The first speaker concluded his speech by talking about Donald Trump. His argument was that populism created Donald Trump and, because Donald Trump is good, populism is also good. This sort of *ad hominem* played a large part in this debate.

The first speaker from The Park did not challenge the definition proposed by the proposition to any great extent. However, his main argument did seem to be geared directly at the first speaker. The speaker from The Park put forward the prospect of having unqualified people in the government. He stated that these politicians would lead to the country to disaster due

to their ineptitude. He then went on to use the second most popular example of the debate, Donald Trump. He stated that Donald Trump was an incompetent president, raised to power solely on populism. However, what this speaker neglected to state was that Donald Trump was not elected to power as a result of populism, having lost the popular vote. He was raised to power by the intricacies of the democratic American voting system. One could therefore say that if populism, as the first speaker for the proposition claimed, was truly allowed to take its natural course, such a president could have been avoided.

The second speaker for the proposition built on the statement made by his housemate that populism is not nationalism. He furthered this point by stating that populism actively hampers and prevents nationalism. He stated that the general public naturally removes extremist parties, if given a direct choice, which populism would provide. He then stated that populism would give politicians and voters an extreme incentive to engage with the public and politics respectively. Politicians would be given an even greater incentive than current political system does to listen to and act on the views of the people, as this would result in greater political success. Voters would be encouraged by the increase in the importance of their view to their politicians to share their views and engage in political movements. The speaker stated that this would encourage political debate around the nation.

The second speaker for the opposition made some good points. He made the point that populism can often lead to a loss of democratic rights, namely the right freedom of speech, which can be lost in the booming voice of the crowd. Unfortunately, the speaker used the remaining three minutes of his time using an argument dubbed by the timekeeper “*reductio ad Hitlerum*”. The speaker used one of the most *ad hominem* speeches of the day, stating that populism had created the rise of Adolf Hitler, and therefore was unacceptable, neglecting to realise that those supporting the argument do not define its validity. This started a chain reaction, similar to the butterfly that causes a hurricane, that caused the entire debate to flip on its head and revolve around the topic of Hitler.

The third speaker for the proposition and the first for Elmfield made the point that voters currently feel disenfranchised; they don’t believe in their politicians. The speaker suggested that populism would make their politicians more invested in the views of their constituents, in a point that was worryingly similar of that proposed by the second speaker for the proposition. The speaker then decided to conclude with an argument that had become the norm among both sides; namely that populism had created Donald Trump and that he was a good president.

The third speaker for the opposition opened the debate for Rendalls. He put forward an extremely valid point; he stated that the public are very easily swayed, a cynical view but one with large amounts of evidence supporting it. The speaker then stated that politicians often make very general or unsupported statements, which can then sway the public. The example that springs to mind is the much discussed “£300 million a week to the NHS” bus slogan.

The final speaker of the proposition was undoubtedly the most casual of the speakers, a manner that amused the ‘Park Army’ no end. However, he performed his role in the debate to the letter. The main role of the fourth speaker is to identify the areas of clash and explain why your side won them, along with summing up their argument. The speaker successfully identified that the quality of Donald Trump’s presidency was the most debated issue. This tied in perfectly to the recurring themes in the speeches of his teammates: that Donald Trump was a good president. Unfortunately, this meant that he spent the majority of his speech talking about the finer areas of Mr Trump, a topic that has almost no bearing on the motion.

I would laud the final speaker for the opposition for no other reason than challenging stereotypes. The speaker stated that people are selfish and that they would inherently vote to benefit

themselves, effectively harming minority groups. However, he was unfortunately subject to a crippling point of information “If people are selfish, who should run the government?” Desperately scrambling for an answer, the speaker stated that politicians are honest and unbiased citizens, not subject to the selfish whims of the public, challenging the stereotype of greedy, immoral politicians, making them superhuman instead, an image that I am sure today’s politicians would like to take root.

## SENIOR INTER-HOUSE DEBATING

*OH Room, 2 October*

Last Tuesday, the first round of the prestigious Senior Inter-House Debating competition took place. The motion, proposed by The Grove and Moretons and opposed by The Knoll and Elmfield, was ‘This house would bin its mobile phones’. As customary for the first round, the subject was based on current events, such as those that have taken appeared in the correspondence section of the Harrovian. So vibrant and passionate was this debate that AKM was drawn in, having to defend the School’s mobile phone policy from the onslaught of one Mr Winward, *Lyon’s*, among others.

The first speaker for the proposition was Mr Gianasso, from The Grove. He began by defining the motion from the proposition’s perspective, stating that they would define “mobile phone,” as smartphones and tablets. The proposition, however, neglected to define a “smartphone”, a very subjective term. Fortunately for the proposition, this was not a matter picked up later in the debate. Mr Gianasso began by listing the negative effects that mobile phones regularly had in this country. He stated that 3,400 deaths were directly attributed to texting and driving last year and that schools that banned phones had test scores 6% higher than those who allowed them. He even cited Steve Jobs, creator of the iPhone, who once stated in an interview that he would never allow his children to have use of an iPhone. This was because he, having created the iPhone, knew how specifically designed it was to be addictive. Coming back to the subject of schools, Mr Gianasso also stated that mobile phones create a higher gap in test scores, as gifted children find it easier to ignore their phones, pushing them even further ahead of their less academically inclined peers.

The first speaker for the opposition was Mr Praditbatuga, from The Knoll. He began by doubting the validity of the first speaker’s statement on the effect of mobile phones on the test scores of children, stating that 6%, being a “small number,” could just be down to coincidence or statistical error. The first speaker for the opposition also made a questionable analogy. He stated that phones were addictive because they were like water, in that they were good for you. Suffice to say, this analogy was soon put to rest by the proposition. Mr Praditbatuga then stated that smartphones were necessary for human interaction. Without them, we would not be able to talk those far away, forming friendships where none could be formed before. However, the proposition fired back with a well-aimed point of information. They stated that their definition left room for “dumb phones”, if you will, and that those phones could be used. Mr Praditbatuga responded that these “dumb phones” do not have the capability of video correspondence, meaning that the two could not interact face to face, which Mr Praditbatuga placed prominent levels of importance. He then went on to say that mobile phones are crucial to those running small, agile business, where convivence is key. This led into his next argument, that the economy would be crippled by the loss of phones. The mobile phone economy is worth \$3 trillion worldwide, 4.2% of the world’s GDP. The loss of mobile phones would result in a major economic hit, damaging almost the world’s economies.

The second speaker for the proposition was Mr Shishkarev, again from The Grove. Mr Shishkarev began to raise even more health concerns about the usage of mobile phones. He stated that many phone owners were prone to stay up at night on their phone. This leads to sleep deprivation and is undoubtedly the cause of sleeping students in Wednesday 2a. This caused a major reaction in the opposition, as the fourth speaker threw himself to the air and stated that this sleep deprivation was the fault of the user, not the phone. In response, the Mr Shishkarev stated that in this instance phones were similar to drugs. The addict’s use of drugs is their choice, and therefore drugs are not culpable and should not be illegal. Mr Shishkarev then went on to make his second point: that phones cause teens to go outside less, which is extremely detrimental to their health. This led to his next point, in which he stated that phones cause people to gather less in real life, which the speaker stated was better than a group chat or a three-way video chat.

The second speaker for the proposition was Mr Jeong, from The Knoll. He began by trying to install a new analogy for phones, admitting that the water analogy proposed by his colleague was invalid. He stated that phones are like cars, in that they do negatively impact one’s health. However, society needs cars for their practicality, much like phones. Mr Jeong stated that he would be very shocked if he found “warhorse” carriages in the streets of London. He then stated that the binning of phones in general is a stretch too far. He stated that parents, or mobile phone manufacturers, could be forced to put restrictions on their phones. Mr Jeong then stated that phones were intrinsically linked to happiness, citing that the countries with the most mobile phone users were the happiest. However, I would remind Mr Jeong that correlation does not mean causation. I would suggest that this is because the countries where most people own mobile phones are also the most prosperous countries in general, and that the happiness is not linked to phone ownership. Mr Jeong also warned against arbitrarily campaigning for the historical precedent. He stated that older does not mean better and stated that the proposition had not explained why face-to-face contact was better than online contact.

The third speaker for the proposition, Mr Wang from Moretons, decided to take it upon himself to repeat many of the points already by the proposition. He stated that phones are designed to be addictive and that it was not the fault of the addicted user for his overuse, adding that it would be aspirational to limit phone usage. The speaker also reminded the floor that tablets and portable laptops could be used in the place phones for portable social media use. Mr Jeong, however, reminded him in a deftly placed point of information that tablets were ruled out under the proposition’s definition. The speaker did raise a further point, namely raising phone paranoia. He stated that, with the possession of phones, all semblance of privacy is robbed, as phones can and do track one’s exact location, search history and a full host of other personal communication.

The third speaker from the opposition and the first from Elmfield, Mr Wilson, began his talk with a quote from AKM: “The mobile phone is the best invention since sliced bread”. Mr Wilson also stated that mobile phones reduce corruption, as it allows the public access to government papers and spending statistics. This would allow them to spot any discrepancies. However, this argument is flawed, as one can still access this information through any internet source or the news in general. However, this rebuttal was not raised by the proposition, their response simply being that this would not work effectively in LICs, as there are large, illiterate populations. Mr Wilson then proceeded to rattle off statistics relating to mobile phones, one of which being that 9% of Americans had used their phones during sex. Ostensibly the speaker aimed to prove were too integral a part in our lives to bin them, but only succeeded in showing that mobile phones dominate lives and are often abused.

Perhaps the most effective point put forward by Mr Ricketts,

*Moretons*, the third speaker for the proposition, was during the speech of the second speaker, demonstrating the dangers of careless phone usage. Mr Ricketts stated that mobile phones are so addictive that mobile phone overuse is a medically recognised syndrome. This is a worrying prospect: that a large enough proportion of the population is addicted enough to their phones that it is a recognised disease. The speaker also made a slightly less poignant addition, stating that mobile phone overuse is against Existing Customs, which he defined as a point against mobile phones as a whole. The unfortunate side effect of being the fourth speaker and only deciding to introduce points is that all of them were taken, causing the speaker to cut his speech violently short.

Mr Shaydullin, *Elmfield*, was the final speaker of the debate, closing for the opposition. The speaker stated that the proposition's points about mobile phone addiction were not applicable to the debate, stating that it was social media addicting the users. Why blame such a practical tool for the fault of social media? The answer is that mobile phones provide constant access to these sites: without them, one would have to be at home to look at Facebook, effectively limiting their usage. However, the speaker stated that social media platforms could be reformed, an optimistic but valid point. The speaker concluded by stating that mobile phones were, above all, items of convenience, incorporating thousands of the separate devices into one. He continued this point, stating that they allow one to work or study anywhere.

## IMO MATHS LECTURE

*Science Museum, 24 September*

Four Lower Sixth Formers travelled with JPBH to the Science Museum to attend this year's IMO lecture, which has a reputation of consistently being both very engaging and interesting. This year's talk was focused on the early stages of computers and programming. The speaker, Professor Ursula Martin, discussed various topics around both her research (how she managed to obtain the truth of what happened) and gave us very interesting facts on the life of Ada Lovelace, a talented mathematician from the 19th century (who also happened to be Lord Byron's daughter). She also discussed the earlier stages of mathematics, where fewer tools were available to us in trying to solve the same kinds of questions, encouraging us to put ourselves into their shoes and to follow tightly formed logic as well as well-versed solutions that are inclusive of all possibilities; an example of this being her thoughts on the earlier versions of the use of Pythagoras and the Island-Bridge problems. Professor Martin also expanded on the philosophies of the computer, questioning whether a computer really thinks in the same way that we do and whether the first machines that were designed to perform the basic functions of calculations had a similar thought process to modern computers.

## FRIENDS OF HARROW SCHOOL

*Musical Evening in the Shepherd Churchill Room,  
15 September*

Thirty-seven guests were treated to wonderful performances by some of Harrow's best musicians. The evening started with Joshua Harris, *West Acre*, playing *Fireworks* by Debussy with great assurance and panache. It was the perfect start to a memorable evening. After a delicious smoked duck starter, the Friends were treated to a delightful violin salon waltz by Kreisler played by Jonathan Yuan, *The Head Master's*. The main course matched the quality of the starter and the Friends were then introduced to two younger musicians, Andre Ma, *Moretons*, who played the Andante Moderato from the *Suite for Flute* by

Widor, and Jun Wha Shin who played two pieces for the clarinet by Stanford and Finzi. It was difficult to imagine how things could get better, but Brian Chiang, *The Grove*, leader of the School Orchestra, gave a masterful performance of *Legende* by Wienawski. Such was the assurance and sensitivity with which he played it was difficult to believe he was still at School. The evening finished with Joshua Harris playing two great pieces by Chopin – *Etude No 3 in E major* and Moszkowski – *Caprice Espagnole*. Harris was able to show those fortunate to be present the full repertoire of his deft keyboard skills and delightful interpretation.

Sincere thanks are due to DNW for organising the Music so splendidly, and to the Shepherd Churchill Room staff for ensuring such a smooth running to a complicated schedule and for producing such a fine meal with immaculate service.

The Friends of Harrow School have enjoyed some superb events this year including tours of the School and Field House Club, a quiz evening, a Summer Garden Party in Newlands, a guided tour of Old Speech Room Gallery and a concert by Aristo Sham. Further details can be obtained from Graham and Teresa Dunbar at friends@harrowsschool.org.uk

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Visit to the Wellcome Trust*

For the Field Weekend, the Community Service boys visited the Wellcome Trust in London, which was, at the time, holding an exhibition named *Medicine Now*. The exhibition explored new boundaries in understanding our complex anatomies and displayed works of art inspired by aspects of the human body. Examples of these include sculptures of the activity patterns of the human brain as it responds to the five senses. There were also drawings re-imagining what humans would look like today if evolution had taken a different path.

As well as seeing the fascinating exhibition, we had the opportunity to explore the Trust's magnificent Reading Room and its extensive collection of books. Interspersed amongst the shelves were artefacts from the early days of modern medicine, including an old x-ray machine from 1925 and a wooden dental station from the same area. On the room's walls were works of art depicting the progress of the study of anatomy over the years.

A wonderful feature of the building was a newly installed artwork. About 20m tall, this beautiful structure was breathtaking. It was created thus: molten metal had been dropped in water and allowed to solidify. The pieces of metal, once solidified, produced amazing shapes. The perfect shape was chosen and laser-scanned and then recreated on a large scale. 150,000 spherical beads were suspended on wires so that they resembled the piece of metal. These beads seemed to change colour depending on the angle one looked at them from. Light was dispersed through the beads and wires with a mesmerising effect. To see how art is progressing and how new methods of creativity are always being come up with is truly exciting.

Many thanks go to JDBM and NCS for a lovely day out.

## ASIA-PACIFIC YOUTH LEADERS SUMMIT

*Singapore, Summer 2018*

Singapore: you can barely find it on the world map – let alone survive its sticky weather. Yet it seems to us that after a week of intriguing discussions, unforgettable chicken rice and a visit to the President's Office, this little city-state country holds treasures far beyond what we could have wished for.

Over the summer holidays, Rohan Doshi, *West Acre*, Aria Shirazi, *Rendalls*, and I were grateful to take part in the trip to the 12th Asia-Pacific Youth Leaders Summit, hosted by Hwa

Chong Institution. Our theme this year was ‘Re-kindling our Dreams’. Representing the “British Delegates”, we were also joined by Wycombe Abbey in our national activities.

Having been provided with the topic ‘fake news’ and its effects on the population, Team Britain worked hard to build our material. Thanks to Doshi’s ingenious research, Shirazi’s moral encouragement and the girls’ invaluable involvement, we stood to deliver well. Rubbing shoulders with the other 79 delegations from 11 other countries, Jennifer (Wycombe Abbey) and I nervously presented solutions to global fake news, whilst Doshi and Manvi (also from the Abbey) swooped in to help answer the often difficult questions. Even in our real Student Dialogue Presentation, Shirazi was eager to sprinkle a few cracking jokes, whilst Doshi answered with a stoic calm – he responded to questions none of us could even understand. As a group, however, we spent days and nights with crisps by our



side to perfect our lines. It wasn’t easy having to halve our script times. In the discarding process, the team took some heavy tolls: we lost genuinely good Trump jokes and other interesting content. However, we received the ‘Best Poster Presentation Award’, making it seem like it was all worth it.

Then came the Cultural Exhibition. Although in Harrow many of us cringe at the overly used words “culture” and “diversity”, we were in awe at the sheer variety of cultures represented at the other countries’ stalls. The South Africans were serving free traditional curry; the Malaysians began kindly donating their dried durians; and the Americans were busy singing to *Party in the USA*. Meanwhile, Shirazi was absorbed in his Top Trump match while I smiled, neatening the charming Eddie Redmayne pictures. I do admit, it is tricky to show to other countries true British culture because, frankly, our best culture now is multiculturalism itself. We thought of mentioning historical events and tradition – but we doubted that boasting about the Imperial period of Britain would be received well by the Indians.

Nevertheless, we knew that nobody can learn anything by listening to their own voice. The most intriguing debates and controversial ideas came from the external speakers. It was incredible to be an arm’s length away from the Senior Minister of State who explained the economics of a trade war, and interesting to listen to Mr Kausikan’s realism – “Brexit is national suicide”, he chuckled. It seemed daunting to realise how little we, as Harrovians, really understood about people and the world. The bubble we live comfortably in at Harrow is a small one. Mr Kausikan, the ambassador of Singapore, couldn’t help but pop it. “Reality is much more complex than you know, so don’t over-complicate it.”

No trip is complete without the sight-seeing. Drenched in sweat, we explored the high-quality train stations, eco-friendly museums and the Yale-NUS college campus. Perhaps many Singaporeans take these facilities for granted – something we would gasp in envy for. These facilities were so amazing that a Filipino delegate seemed to get very emotional and astonished over the efficiency of Singaporean taxis. During the ride home, we even had everyone shout “I love taxis!” in childish unison. Despite the demanding weather patterns, we found comfort in the summer breeze of the seas, the chilling durian ice creams and the sugar cane drinks from food courts (hawker centres).

And the best bit? All trip costs were covered by the Governors’ funds to support APYLS.

In the end, however, the most important aspect of any journey you take are the people you meet. They will be timeless memories to give you strength, to bring you joy, tears, and everything in between. For me, it was a priceless experience to be surrounded by friends that you knew would never hold grudges against you, or judge you, or wish bad things for you. At Hwa Chong, all the delegates and the facilitators wanted the same thing: to learn from each other. That was as simple as it got. Even during our Royal Wedding re-enactment performance, not once did I feel judged, even as I horrendously struggled to place the veil upon the American bride. Of course, there were moments that could have improved (did I mention Shirazi’s 30-second dance solo?). Maybe I didn’t get to know every person’s individual story. But when I look back, it was a truly fulfilling experience.

It was during the closing ceremony, and after an emotional evening of Japanese dancing, French singing and a tear-jerking farewell video, that the scene was set. People began to quiet down.

“It’s been a fantastic night, hasn’t it everyone?” our group leader sighed wistfully as we responded with cheers.

With beautiful anticipation radiating from her eyes, she confided, “However, ladies and gentlemen, there is something missing to this APYLS closing ceremony. I just can’t tell what it is.”

What followed was an unforgettable moment in history, a moment that I am so lucky to have witnessed. From the corner of my eye, a boy dashed across the hall, heading straight for the stage. Only to realise, the boy wasn’t a boy at all – he was a teacher: JPBH



He catapulted himself, landing on stage with a certain grace beyond any mathematical reason. Standing there so valiantly, as if he was still in his youthful *Les Misérables* days, he called up all the other teachers at the restaurant – the staff that made the gift of the week possible. Valiantly standing on stage, they began singing a tune that everyone recognised. It was *Hey Jude*. But JPBH (being JPBH) gave it a little twist. The lyrics seemed to speak a different message, but with the same gentle encouragement the original had. The singing wasn’t a *Hey Jude*; I heard a “Hwa Chong”. I will never forget the sight of all 79 delegates waving hands in unison, all singing one song.

In Harrow, we often dismiss these kind of events as cheesy clichés that are found in movies and never seen in the real world.

And yet, the song lives on.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE DEMO

Last week saw the Fifth Form Project presentation in Physics Schools. There was an array of fascinating projects from classic arcade games to full-blown three-dimensional game maps and worlds and artificial internet servers.

Around the room, the preferred formats for the project were using Python’s very own in-house game designer, Pygame. Although there were a few minor glitches, I thought that the football game where one had to navigate around defenders was particularly creative and inspirational. Similar games included the iteration of Atari breakout (a game that involves bouncing

a ball off a paddle, which was originally developed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak).

I also found the 3D adventure RPG (role playing video game) to be impressive in the depth and detail of the development. The game involved jumping around and fighting enemies. I later found out that it was created using Unity (a rather difficult 3D game-creation software) and JavaScript. The full level as a whole could honestly have easily been mistaken for a high street Mario game and I thoroughly enjoyed playing it.

Although I was slightly disappointed by the lack of hardware projects, I believe that this was an excellent inspiration for the computer scientists of next year. Many thanks to CMC for hosting the showcase and providing the cake and soft drinks.

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

*School-Wide Poetry Competition, 4 October*

Creativity was rippling through the School on Thursday 4 October: it was National Poetry Day, and the boys were given the challenge of writing a poem in exactly twelve words. With just 16 hours from the announcement of the competition until the deadline, boys quickly set to work. Seventy-one poems were submitted, all taking the theme of change in different directions. There were poems on seasonal change, social change, climate change, growing up, school days, and relationships. Here is a selection of the best poems, starting with the winner of the competition, Justin Donohugh, *Newlands*.

Lapping waves chip at  
arctic glaciers,  
raw chunks thump  
into rising seas.

By Justin Donohugh, *Newlands*

autumn's sanguine soul  
stole melancholy's meaning.  
spring's fervent fever  
feathers Lamb's leaving.

By Leopold Florescu, *The Head Master's*

Copper trembles,  
Light spills,  
Conkers glow,  
Leaves shuffle,  
Blackberries glisten,  
Squirrels dart,

By George Phillips, *The Head Master's*

Divorce  
clawing around the fleshy scab  
kids

in the eye of the storm

by Tommy Nguyen, *The Grove*

I sigh  
Reminiscing about when I knew what to say to you

By Ben Davies, *The Grove*

Lying aloof is Cefn Hill.  
Standing stones embedded.  
Tufted grass, dancing tame.

By Freddie Heffer, *Elmfield*

Short poems  
Are hard to write.  
Change one word

And it bananas.

By Alex Ricketts, *Moretons*

When life gives you oranges,  
make apple juice.

Innovation is in change.

By Jonathan Barley, *The Grove*

Still, with the familiar stiffness.

Rolling to the other side

Feels better

By Eugene Kim, *Lyon's*

The flu, wet socks,

return of pies and

Harrow football's battle cries.

By Issah Merchant, *The Knoll*

When I stood up taller,

When my voice broke,

I was heard.

By Lawrence Leekie, *West Acre*

As marsh lilies sway to tunes of floating lanterns,  
our passions perish.

By Anthony Cho, *Elmfield*

A quarterly roulette

Of fret and debt and threat:

A fishnet

By Adil Shaydullin, *Elmfield*

Stripped by Autumn winds

Summer's verdant canopy

Dead now at our feet.

By Alexander Ballingal, *Moretons*

finally when he kisses me, rainbow is all that i can see.

By anonymous

Lingering rabbles, sipping drowsy drinks

Not still, still motionless

The commuter's migration.

By Rafe Wendelken-Dickson, *Druries*

Wars on drugs, police brutality, racism;

No change. No progress.

Déjà vu.

By Sachin Vyas, *Elmfield*

Bipartisan Manifesto

Burn the children's pens, papers to drive the engines

that teach generations

By Humza Qureshi, *The Park*

Previously enveloped in leaves parakeet,

vivid maroon conkers surround its bare feet.

By Aakash Aggarwal, *Lyon's*

The Grand Election

A bold proclamation,

Power changing hands,

Shifting landscapes...

All remains the same.

By Zac Low, *Bradlys*

Spring's flowers burst,

Brown leaves fall,

The rhythm repeats,

An unwritten song.

By Olufemi Lijadu, *Druries*

The truant sun draws in onto the carpet of leaves.  
Autumn has arrived.

By Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*

An Alder, leaved in passion,  
Barked of thought,  
Perpetual.  
Atop black snow.

By Freddie Atkinson, *Elmfield*

Butterfly  
Feel the callous, confining crust;  
Cracking. Change is coming.  
The world awaits.

By George Townshend

Hidden deep in the russet lies the hazel gem of the squirrels.

By Indi Abrams, *The Grove*

The ice turned to water  
As the sun climbed out the sea

By George Cutler, *The Knoll*

Neglected, I leave my home; no longer my precious green...  
Forever tawny

By Remi Jokosenumi, *Lyon's*

Molecules commence vibration,  
intermolecular forces quiver;  
bang! Now a gas is formed.

By Alexander Von Kumberg, *The Park*

Glossy conkers break free from husks. The sun sets over  
horizon. Dusk.

By Dimitri Samonas, *The Knoll*

## CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

*BTM on "Memory: The Mind-Muscle Connection",*

*OSRG, 1 October*

For the fourth instalment of the cross-curricular lecture series, BTM introduced the audience of the OSRG to the concept of muscle memory and questioned whether there was such a thing, discussing how global and local motor-skill learning was related to muscle memory and how neuroplasticity neatly uses the knowledge of these two concepts to push biological science into the future.

To begin, BTM gave us an anecdote referring to his Oxford days when he was 26. He had not been on a bike since he was 13 yet, as he attempted to ride one, all it took was a couple of tries and he was suddenly as capable of doing it as he had been 13 years earlier. We are all familiar with the quote 'it's like riding a bicycle' when referring to a skill that, once learned, will not be forgotten. This is how the concept of muscle memory works: the ability to reproduce a movement without conscious thought, acquired as result of frequent repetition of that movement.

He explained that there is no such thing as memory in the muscles. Muscle memory is all in the brain and is the result of many sub-routes created within the brain that, with practice, experience and time, increase in numbers of connections, creating a more efficient pathway between the brain and the muscles, creating a more efficient 'muscle memory.' When introduced to a motor-learning graph of a new basketball player, the graph displayed a rapid improvement when the player first

started playing and got better, but slowly became a plateau – a much slower phase of improvement where you would have to rewire your motor system to make it a recognisable and repeatable program.

The audience was presented with a diagram of a motor unit where BMT explained that, unlike robots, muscle fibres contracting are not like mere switches turning on and off but instead are a complex transmission of electrical signals and their conversion into chemical signals to cause this contraction of the muscle, making it shorter and hence moving its joint. It was made clear that sensory feedback was necessary to make micro adjustments that would increase the efficiency of such a process. The parts of our body responsible for this feedback are the muscle spindles (that measure the speed of the contraction) and the Golgi tendon organs (that measure how strong the muscles are).

The wonders of muscle memory were demonstrated to us through the use of proprioception – the sense of relative position of one's body parts and strength of effort being employed in the movement itself (eg being able to touch our nose despite having our eyes closed). It was also very interesting to discover that reserves of strength were kept within the body and could be used in times of need for survival, but these did not come without severe repercussions on the body, and hence why we cannot normally access them.

The audience were then introduced to the topic of neuroplasticity – the process by which the transmission to muscles could be made more efficient. The two ways of doing so (in theory) are by generating more myelin sheath, which is the insulator that doesn't allow other nerves to interact with a motor unit, hence why more of it would prevent further interaction and make a motor unit more efficient at its function; the second being by increasing the number of myonuclei, which, put simply, helps your body recover after an injury by regenerating the tissues faster. When tested on mice, the increased levels of myonuclei gave a 36% faster re-growth of muscles tissue after an injury, which was a promising result for the future.

However, to understand the concept of muscle memory, it is also important to consider the parts of the brain involved in it. Here, the dPMC is the command centre and hence major contributor to this whole process (the other part of the brain being the cerebellum). It was explained that when learning to touch-type, being slow and making mistakes is an inevitable part of the process. This is because the climbing fibres to the dPMC register these mistakes, weakening the Purkinje cell synapses (which are the synapses that can turn on and off parts of the communication highway to improve the efficiency of communication), turning off the synapses which lead to the slower, error-making result, creating a smooth and replicable motor control.

This led on nicely to the question of whether practice truly makes perfect. We have all heard of Matthew Syed's '10,000 hours to learn a new skill' which denies the involvement of genetic predispositions in the mastery of a skill, but there is also David Epstein's theory that genetics is far more involved than many would think. BTM came to the conclusion that in order to be the very best, one had to have a combination of being genetically gifted as well as meticulous and repetitive practising. It is key to highlight the fact that BTM believed that more general tasks are hardwired into the brain (such as courtship or aggression) but that it was with more complicated actions that a lot of practice was required in order to master the processes themselves. Therefore, if one had a genetic advantage for a specific task, he would need to focus on the quality of the quantity of his training, making sure he learnt the correct technique, as it is very hard 'to teach an old dog new tricks.' To BTM, a perfect practice included slow and deliberate training with a lot of patience involved; the development and practising of sub-routines which make up our actions individually when combined, and finally to link all of the sub-routines and test

them under stress. The example was given of Steph Curry, a professional NBA player who is in the top 0.01% elite in the USA in terms of hand-eye co-ordination yet had to rewire his entire ball-throwing technique aged 19 at an age when his movement was already wired into his brain. This was a complicated task but through practice and genetic gifts he is now called the game's best shooter by many. It was made clear that neuroscientific principles governing motor learning were the same in Federer as in our bodies, hence showing that, in theory, with practice any one of us could have his technique.

Finally, BTW approached the topic of using science to improve the human body and notably the Halo Sport headphones which are said to stimulate more activity in the brain, making it faster in obtaining a more efficient muscle memory process. Although this sounded very convincing in the advert that was shown to us, BTM added that he would prefer a little more evidence to back up the claim behind this revolutionary technological development.

To conclude, BTM explained that muscle memory is a form of neural memory formed in the brain and that the nervous system determines our muscles' characteristics. BTM expressed his concern at the thought of specialising too early and the potential consequences of 'fragile' athletes being produced as a result, highlighting the need to practise a wide range of sports in order to fill our muscles with as many different types of nuclei as possible. BTM explained that, whilst we cannot change our DNA, we can still modify our habits and change our fate.

BTM concluded with a quote by OH Winston Churchill: 'Practise perfectly until your mind forgets and your body remembers.'

## STANLEY, BALDWIN

*1st Earl Bewdley (The Head Master's 1881-3), the unveiling of the Statue in Bewdley*

Just 81 years after Stanley Baldwin finally stood down as prime minister and 71 years after his death, a statue has been erected in his memory in the town of Bewdley in Worcestershire, a constituency that he represented for nearly 30 years. It is the work of the sculptor Martin Jennings, who has received acclaim for his statues of John Betjeman at St Pancras Station and Philip Larkin in Hull.



On a beautifully sunny late summer day, a crowd of many hundreds gathered outside the Guild Hall in Load Street to witness the unveiling by Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Beatrice Grant, a great granddaughter of Baldwin and President of the Bewdley Civic Society, which had commissioned the statue, spoke of the town's pride in the achievements of their most famous son and thanked those who had contributed to the statue appeal.

At the reception following the ceremony, Lord Lexden, a historian, gave a short, informative, and amusing talk. Stanley's grandson, Edward, 4th Earl Baldwin, spoke from the family perspective.

Stanley Baldwin dominated the British political scene of the 1920s and 1930s. When he formed his third government in 1937, he was expecting to preside over a coronation: instead he found himself presiding over an abdication – a situation he managed with sensitivity and skill. In later years, he was blamed by historians for not having had the foresight to re-arm the country against the Nazi threat, a judgement that has been strongly refuted more recently.

Stanley Baldwin opened the War Memorial Building in 1926 and spoke most movingly to the School afterwards. Although he sent his sons to Eton, he was a Governor of Harrow from 1930 to 1945.

The Harrow Association, which was among the donors to the statue fund, was represented at the ceremony by Dale Vargas (*Druries 1952*), former Director.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors of *The Harrovian*

DEAR SIRS,

I don't hide the fact that I am an avid supporter of Brexit, and it makes me sad these days that it's seen as controversial to broadcast this opinion. However, my own political views aren't important here, but what is important is the fact that I support that wonderful thing founded in Ancient Greece and still in good use today – *democracy*! The decision to leave the European Union was decided by the British public, and stomping one's feet demanding another referendum is really quite pathetic – last week, Charles Harrison's letter responded to this marvellously. Furthermore, if we did have a second referendum that decided we would remain, then aren't the Leave supporters entitled to demand a third referendum? So, when answering last week's Harrovian poll I frantically clicked 'Brexit means Brexit, let the elected government get on with it' without an inch of hesitation. Guiltily, I tried also to re-answer the poll a second time to give our wonderful School a higher percentage of the most intellectual answer. However, I was prevented from doing so, with 'You have already answered this question so cannot answer it again' popping up on my screen. I paused and thought to myself, 'How I wish this same initiative were applied to the second referendum debate.'

Yours sincerely,  
HENRY EMPSON, THE GROVE

## GAFFE AND GOWN

*Quips from around the Hill*

(*Fire alarm goes off*) "Wait, boys, let's finish this sentence first."

"Can I play my film on your computer, sir?" "Sure." "Sir, we can't access YouTube. You've got a vpn, right?"

(*On devolution of the UK*). "You can go and wear a kilt and hold a Scottish flag, you can go and paint your face red and loose at rugby, or you can go and paint your face green and get shot."

"If I catch you doodling again, I will take your Surface Book away and force you to use paper." "But sir, that would damage the environment!" "I would cut down the entire Amazon if it meant you actually learnt something."

"Boys in this division are like cream; white, rich and thick."

## WEEKLY WINDUP



## BLOODY ATHEISM

Max Evans-Tovey, *Druries*, argues that Christianity is the cornerstone of the modern world

In this article, I have no intention of restating Aquinas's five ways or the ontological argument we all know from GCSE Theology and Philosophy. My purpose is simply to explain why atheism, as a collective philosophy, has not and will not lead to a just and prosperous state. For one reason, without a god there can be no absolute morality.

Fyodor Dostoevsky vividly deals with this problem in *Crime and Punishment*. He finds that with no transcendent value system there is no morality. The protagonist, Raskolnikov, must kill to survive and all he can see to stop him are the weak and arbitrary laws set out by the state. This is the only conclusion an atheist can come to. For, according to atheists, justice is simply a governmental construct that restricts their freedom. Pure and naked self-interest is what Raskolnikov prioritises and it is a perfectly coherent philosophy. There is no more rationality to group co-operation than there is to self-interest, if there is no god.

It could be said that a non-transcendent moral system can be upheld for the sake of efficacy, as working together is more productive and can lead to a prosperous society without the need for a god. This notion is simply chimerical. For there is no benefit in the survival of the sick, the incompetent or the starving. Using atheistic morality, the solution is to simply slaughter them. This has been seen throughout history, but most egregiously under Stalin where the Great Purge saw the deaths of millions of people from peasants to communist party members who disagreed with Stalin. They were an inconvenience, so they were dispensed of.

Most atheists nowadays would undoubtedly condemn these actions but still say we don't need a god for morality. But you can't tear away the foundations and expect the building to hover in mid-air. Even an atheist knows that. Ultimately, they still hold, maybe unintentionally, the pre-supposition that there is a transcendent morality and it is contradictory to be an atheist and still hold this belief.

Morality is certainly not natural. One may argue that murder, in some circumstances, could potentially, with much thought, be found to be wrong without transcendent morality. I might agree with this, but what atheistic philosophy does not hold is the value of the individual. And this is the cornerstone of modern society. This is what nearly 3,000 years of thought in Judeo-Christian religion has cultivated. From Abraham to the Founding Fathers, Augustine to Aquinas, the philosophy which held an objective morality to which we were all bound as well as valuing the individual has given rise to the greatest civilisations ever.

What the Christian faith has contributed is the balance of God given rights and personal virtue. The political system of the Western world uses this idea by giving the government the primary purpose of upholding these rights. George Washington echoed this in his First Inaugural Address, 'Since there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage... the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.' America is founded on this concept. Moreover, on the individual level people are expected to behave virtuously. From Sinai to the waters of Galilee, the Judeo-Christian faith has taught this, and it is the foundation of modern society. It must be recognised that nowhere else on earth has or has had a society so fair and so prosperous.

Maybe there is less reference today to inalienable God-given rights and that it is obvious what rights humans should have as it is stated in the law. However, if this becomes an inveterate part of our philosophy, it can morph into a very pernicious concept. It is dangerous because rights are not obvious to all. What it entails is a system where you can have your rights removed if the general populous votes for it. We see a similar situation in Canada with the introduction of Bill C-16 which adds 'gender expression' and 'gender identity' to Canada's Human Rights Code and to the Criminal Code's hate crime section. Therefore, Canadians who deny gender theory or do not use preferred gender pronouns can be charged with hate crimes. These people will be fined and potentially jailed. This is an attack on freedom of expression. People are being compelled to agree with an ideology they may not agree with. Suddenly, the right to freedom of speech has become alienable and therefore can be removed. The West especially is under threat from this with the resurgence of far left and extreme right. The greatness and strength of these nations is in the free, democratic and capitalist system that they employ. This is being vilified.

There is no debate that the Western world is the greatest cohort of nations ever. There is no time or place that people would like to live above that of the West now. Today, there is more justice, less poverty and living standards are drastically higher. The root of this opulence and justice is a system which believes in a transcendent morality; this is being forgotten.

Hence I entitled my essay so provocatively. It seems that increasingly in our country and maybe even in our School, Christianity is enervating and atheism is growing. As it grows, it inevitably, tries to 'rid' us of the 'turbulent priest' that is religion. But what it forgets is 'the priest' gave them the vessel in which they can speak and think and live. I am not saying that atheism should (as much as I may like it to be) be criminalised; I am saying that their philosophy on the whole will end up failing. The Christian church is far from without fault or error, as with any human organisation, but it is the cornerstone of the modern world.

## HILL LIFE

*Idle musings on what's happening on the Hill*

I always view that initial stretch up to the first exeat of the term as the hardest period of the entire year. Despite having supposedly recharged over the considerable summer break, it never ceases to exhaust absolutely everyone.

Well, now that the introduction is done, we can set our sights on what is to come and the changes that have occurred, and will continue to occur, over the coming year. The Shells' grace period is over and we can look forward to seeing how they grow into School society, hopefully not with those backpacks for long. Moreover, we will see how this year's Sixth Form will shape said society and make their own mark on it. Some shifts and new policies are already evident and some less so. The leadership of the School is an obvious place to look. This

year we will have two different Head Masters and two different Deputy Head Masters as well as the new team of Monitors. These are core groups that affect the entire running of the School. It will take time, but we can already see some changes taking shape such as the School's Custos policy being taken to a further extreme. Sorry, I meant to say "smartening up the School". Some ore gradual changes are now coming to the fore: our VI<sup>2</sup>'s are now the only year group without Surface Books, leaving the majority of the School paperless in the form room.

This is perhaps the best term for growth and development, with many major traditional ceremonies and events taking place and with no public exams at the end of the term. For better or for worse, it is going to be interesting to see the characteristic peculiarities and new activities to Hill Life this year.

## RENATIONALISATION OF BRITISH RAIL

Under the Thatcher-led Conservative government elected in 1979, various state-owned businesses were sold off – privatised – including various functions related to the railways. For instance, Travellers Fare catering in 1988 and British Rail Engineering in 1989. It was under Thatcher's successor John Major, however, that the state-owned British Rail itself was privatised using the Railways Act 1993, despite this being deemed a 'privatisation too far' by Thatcher herself. Begun in 1994 and completed in 1997, privatisation consisted of passing ownership and operation of the entire railway system to a variety of private companies and creating three new rolling stock leasing companies (ROSCOs), who were then allocated all British Rail's passenger coaches, locomotives and other units.

Since privatisation, passenger satisfaction according to the National Rail Passenger survey has risen from 76% in 1999 to 83% in 2013, while the number of passengers not satisfied with their journey dropped from 10% to 6%. Also, the number of national rail journeys had increased by 117% by 2014 and the number of passenger-per-km had more than doubled – according to data from Wikipedia. There is controversy over how much is due to privatisation and how much to other factors such as rising fuel prices, road congestion, low unemployment and GDP growth. However, this increase has kept going during the entire duration of privatisation, with passenger numbers growing faster than in comparable European countries.

Yet now, almost 25 years later, the privatisation calls are mounting to renationalise the industry.

The importance of a reliable and efficient railway system is fundamental to the UK economy, yet much damage seems to be a daily occurrence, with both business and commuters being hit painfully hard in recent times.

Indeed, this year has been a tough one for commuters; data published by the Office of Rail and Road states that 14% of trains missed the industry's Public Performance Measure (PPM) of punctuality in the 12 months leading up to 18 August (ie not arriving within five minutes of their proposed time for regional services or 10 minutes for long distance services). The last time the annual average was worse was February 2006, when it was at 14.2%.

And then, during this exeat, according to Sky News, commuters are warned of delays and disruption to trains as 'leaf fall' begins to affect train travel, thus beginning the Autumn angst that affects commuters year upon year.

And it seems that perhaps the privately owned rail companies are to blame.

The chaos following the 20 May, for instance, when new timetables were introduced and a total of 165 daily train services were removed every day until the end of July was directly caused by the rail companies. And it culminated in Transport

Secretary Chris Grayling criticising the rail companies for 'wholly unsatisfactory levels of disruption' and Northern Rail Managing director David Blown apologising for the 'disruption' and 'inconvenience' to passengers.

Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary Andy McDonald blamed the current Conservative government for the 'national disgrace' of 'passengers paying through the nose for the privilege of being crammed into late and overcrowded trains'. He accused the government of having a 'blind obsession with privatisation' and claimed Labour would take the railways into public ownership. This belief is echoed by others such as John Stittle, professor of transport at Essex University, who said, 'the timetabling problems – and in fact the railways problems – are a direct result of fragmentation [since privatisation],' suggesting that with the infrastructure operator Network Rail already in state hands and its £51bn debt already on the balance sheet, any serious reviews should 'at least consider state ownership.' Furthermore, a poll by the conservative thinktank Legatum has found that nearly 70% of the population agree that renationalisation is the answer.

The transport secretary Mr Grayling, meanwhile, suggested that renationalisation was unlikely: 'The reality is it is not about ownership, it's about pressure on the system' he said. Yet despite Mr Grayling's suggestion almost a quarter of rail franchises are understood to be interested in renegotiating their franchises as a result this pressure – making the prospects of renationalisation more likely. Indeed, Tammy Samuel – a rail partner at law firm Stephenson Harwood, said this may force the government to take the 'nuclear option' of taking contracts back in-house if renegotiations failed.

A report from the *Financial Times* newspaper suggests, however, that we are forgetting the years of underperformance that provided the original impetus for privatisation. Put simply, this year's timetable chaos has obscured longer-term successes, including many new services and more frequent trains on many routes. Thus, the report contends that the answer is not to rip up the whole model, nor renationalise rail, instead the current system needs to be reformed and revamped. For instance, re-creating something akin to the centralised Strategic Rail Authority (abolished in 2006) could possibly solve the problem of the lack of overarching authority whilst also improving co-ordination between operating companies and Network Rail. The report also suggests a comprehensive review of the franchising system so that operating companies have the opportunity to make a fair return – encouraging new entrants and more competition.

Furthermore, the notion of simply changing the system rather than renationalising it as the most sensible solution is reinforced by the apparently flawed nature of Labour's plan – as set out in their recent manifesto – which involves bringing private rail companies back into public ownership as their contracts expire or by utilising break clauses in the contracts to take control sooner. Labour argue that these plans are cost neutral because the cash generated by newly acquired private companies would cover the cost of financing the debt needed to buy them. Through all these plans, however, Labour seems to have neglected the idea that these companies will need compensation for the capital investment they will have made during the contract period. It can be suggested therefore that the companies simply will reduce or halt investment as soon as renationalisation becomes certain. Thus, the government will take on an old and likely deteriorating infrastructure that will require a large amount of funding to repair and return to a satisfactory standard. Furthermore, perhaps, due to a lack of profit motivation, investment would further decrease in the hands of the government, leading to a continuous reduction of standards.

We need look no further than Japan for the answer to these problems, suggests Josh Moss from the *Daily Telegraph*. In the UK, the train operators and the National Rail are separate entities yet, in Japan, the railways own all the stations, rolling stocks and tracks, meaning that the management of both are

not duplicated as they are in the UK, making communication between operators and infrastructure seamless. This would lower operating costs and make confusion over new timetables – which caused enormous disruption in the UK – less likely. Matching the success and standards of Japan’s railway companies will require both time and some initial support but, as Japan has proved, it is workable.

There seems to be a growing consensus that we are approaching what may be the final opportunity to fix the existing system before it collapses under its own internal stresses. If changes do not come about that result in a rail service that customers feel delivers reliable services at fair prices – and one that fully supports the needs of the UK economy – then growing public support for renationalisation may become a clamour that cannot be ignored.

## CAR POWER

I am confident that I am not the only “petrol head” on the Hill. Most Harrovians must be aware of what the definition of a petrol head is: a lover of the roar of an engine, the sound of tyres squealing on tarmac, the smell of oil and petrol in the air and, above all, the need for speed. Having had the pleasure of listening to Antonio Leitao a few weeks ago, I found a very good question had been raised: are electric cars the future?

At first glance, it seems that electric cars are the future for most of the people in the UK. They offer a clean, non-polluting, quicker and more spacious prospect than the old sooty, noisy, maniac-driven, exhaust-smoking combustion engines which is how “old” cars have come to be recognised today by the anti lobby. Politicians and activists shouting to rid cities of intoxicating diesel engines are very much in vogue, receiving praise from almost everyone. The argument for going electric, “clean” as Mr Green says, is clear: they offer 0% carbon emissions, nitrogen emissions, hydrocarbon emissions; simply put, they emit nothing. They don’t even create noise pollution, being quieter at low speed than an overweight runner’s huffing and puffing. Perhaps most importantly, it keeps Mr Green and Ms Nanny content for a while; having killed the disgraceful legacy of cars it makes them feel content in their superiority complex, fighting for the planet’s health. Of course, I must be careful not to trash these very worthy intentions, given the School’s move to eliminate paper from the form room. However, it’s time to destroy this myth of electricity being the clean, green future and help free the eco-brigade from the tunnel-vision prison of their Toyota Prius or Nissan Leaf.

Electricity is made from various power sources, the most well-known source being fossil fuels (gasp). In fact, only 30% of the UK’s power comes from renewable sources, and this costs more than the other 70%. The UK’s largest power source remains fossil fuels, with natural gas accounting for 42% of all electricity created in 2016. This leads us to the conclusion: electricity in electric cars is made predominantly from polluting, non-renewable and planet ravaging sources: oil, coal and natural gas. Well at least 70% of it is and the other 30% is ludicrously expensive at present. Electricity is far too cheap: just ask Mr Barry who likes to express this idea to his classes by jumping up and down from a table to illustrate a television on standby. People use a staggering amount of electricity and they do not seem to realise that it’s just as bad as burning coal or oil; in fact, it’s the same.

Of course, there are other big problems with electric cars. Let’s talk batteries: electric cars use lithium batteries to power them to move. These big chunks of toxic metals are highlighted publicly as an environmental hazard. How can everyone deem mass producing these environmental hazards the clean, green future Mr Green is set upon? What do we do with the old ones? Tesla’s first model had 265 miles per charge; the 2017 model

had 335 miles and took two thirds of the time of the original to charge. Crucially this constant improvement means that there will be outdated old batteries left disused, then more and more as time goes on. Moreover, there are human concerns as well. Several times, these sinister silent motors have crept up on me without me knowing, right here on the Hill! Imagine the prospect of an electric car hurtling at high velocity on a dark night; you wouldn’t hear it coming! Your chance of survival is considerably decreased in a collision if you don’t even have that split-second to react. What about the driver? If people have a crash, as it so often happens – and having zero-emissions cars won’t stop that – might they all end up inside a furnace (like Richard Hammond) as the battery and electricity sparks a fire or melts the interior, or even goes so far as to cover them and the road in acid? These are all relevant questions that should be asked before these electric cars take over the driving scene in England.

If you’re still inclined towards going electric then ponder this: Mr Leitao repeated throughout his talk the myth about diesel engines peddled by the anti-brigade; he reminded us of that the “toxic” engines being forced out of production by governments are misquoted in the polluting league tables of SHAME (at least where Cummins are concerned). These statistics referred to large ten-year-old engines. Cummins’ engines now are supposedly 99% more efficient and clean, if Mr Leitao is telling it straight. If this is the real situation, then a strong case can be made that burning diesel in these now super-efficient and clean engines is, at the very least for now, an answer and not the problem.

## OH WISDOM

“You have no idea with what vigour I pursue my favourite science of chemistry here...I get my things at a chemists and druggists here.”

William Fox Talbot (*The Head Master’s 1811*<sup>3</sup>) Scientist and photographic pioneer.



Although lessons at Harrow were entirely devoted to the Classics, young Talbot had a quite extraordinary interest in the sciences. He set up a primitive chemistry laboratory in his room and the above quote is from a letter to his mother, to whom he wrote often of his love of chemistry. Legend has it that his many experiments led to an explosion in his House. Although he left his mark in various scientific fields – in mathematics there is Talbot’s curve, in physics Talbot’s Law and the Talbot unit of luminous energy, in botany two species are named after him, in astronomy a crater of the moon – he is remembered best for his pioneering work in photography.

We believe this photo to have been taken at Talbot’s photographic workshop in Reading in 1846.

## HIPPOCRATES ON HARROVIANS

*How a man living 2000 years ago predicted the personality traits of today*

When most of us hear the name Hippocrates, we're more likely to think that it's a rare species of butterfly than we are to immediately clock that, yes, this is one of the greatest-ever medical practitioners, and that, yes, his thoughts still resonate today, 2000 years after his death. Recently an article in *The Telegraph* revealed that modern research, after years of dismissing character profiling as stuff that has no place outside self-help books read by middle-aged people suffering a mid-life crisis, has actually proven what Hippocrates surmised was the case all that time ago, that all humans exhibit a small set of character traits. Researchers in Illinois have revealed, after 1.5 million people took their questionnaire, that people can be grouped into four personality traits, which I have briefly outlined below.

Personality Type	Harrow Translation
Average: High in ego and outward looking, however scores low in openness. The highest proportion of adults are here.	The boy who puts his hand up to answer every question in class (probably having read all the material before) only to stumble at exam time
Reserved: Stable emotionally and not open or neurotic. Agreeable and conscientious.	That person who everyone invites to a party at the last minute because they think he's a nice guy to have along
Role Models: Not neurotics but high in agreeability, who everyone looks up to.	Should be a School Monitors, but at Harrow really the kid whose room everyone flocks to when CJFB sets a Maths prep
Self-centred: Extroverted and below average in openness. The authors of the study describe them as 'someone you don't want to hang out with'	The person you want to punch in the face every time they tell you about how well they did in that test you know you beat them in.

Aside from this, there was an interesting afterthought at the bottom of the study, which said that teenagers are likely to become more conscientious and exhibit more role-modelling characteristic as they get older. It's the ultimate shock horror for parents and beaks: however nice and prim you are now, you were like us once! Maybe having read this, the SMT might be a little more lenient as you sleep in beyond 2a or horrendously plagiarise someone else's Computer Science prep – after all, we'll get better someday...

## BRONZE TO BITCOIN

*Why we need a long hard look at the past*

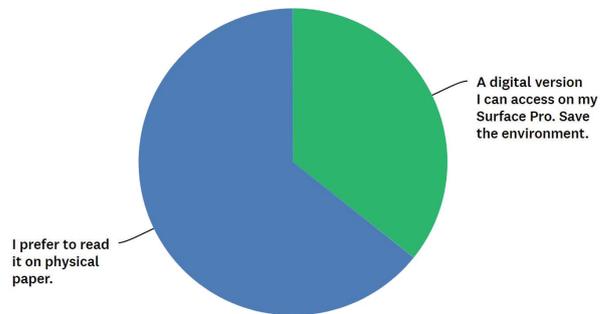
Mass immigration, religious extremism, a war in Syria, the two sides supported by the two world super powers, globalisation getting out of hand, and resource depletion in foreign, uncivilised lands. No folks, it's not 2018, it's the 22nd century BC. The similarities are shocking. What's shocking is that all of this resulted in the Bronze Age world totally collapsing. Totally. What's more shocking is that nobody has learnt anything. Nothing. This has happened at the end of every great age, the Bronze Age, the Classical Age, and now, by the looks of things historically, the Age of the West is about to crash and burn. So, what's to be avoided?

Not much. We need to be competitive or we will be swept under the floorboards of history. Or not! The whole subject is very vague. However, being competitive is good, but we must not overreach ourselves. All the civilisations have progressed rapidly, effectively shooting a shell at a speed slower than the tank is moving. We are marching forward in the name of science, but still stumbling evolutionarily. There was an interesting piece in the book *Sapiens*. We are in a caveman's mindset, where, if a caveman found food, he would gorge on it. We are still doing it. But darker, what if we want someone country's resources? And both countries have Nukes.

In summary, we must realise our place in the ever-changing world or we will look back and make the same mistake as our ancestors. We need to mature as a species or have the West crumble under its own weight.

## WEEKLY POLL

*Would you prefer to read a digital version of The Harrovian, or continue to have a weekly hard copy delivered to the House?*



The results of slightly over 400 votes show that a solid majority of 65% of boys prefer *The Harrovian* in hard copy. (Probably to do the sudoku, rather than reading the society reports.) Interestingly, in the Upper Sixth, a resounding majority prefer paper – with 78% of boys choosing hard copy; the Lower Sixth averaged around 64%, the Fifth Form were about 55% in favour. The Removes and Shells were both higher, hovering around 67%.

If we consider by House, The Park had a resounding 90% in favour of keeping it hard copy, while the technologically leaning boys in Elmfield were in favour of going totally digital, with a low preference of 46%. The more paper-based Houses were West Acre and Druries (with 70% approval), while The Head Master's had only a slight preference for paper – at 55%.

New week we look into which Houses are most likely to cheat at exams. Stay tuned.

## TRUMP'S AMERICA

“To be blunt, people would vote for me. They just would. Why? Maybe because I'm so good looking.” Donald Trump, 19/09/99. Mr Trump is an extraordinary man. When he's not busy telling the future, or de-escalating geopolitical tension via Twitter, you can find him hard at work in his study, getting closer and closer to debunking global warming and implementing revolutionary economic change. However, he still has a long way to go – Mexico hasn't paid for a wall yet and America is certainly not any greater than it was before. But again, who thought that any of this was actually going to happen? Throughout history, it seems that very few people have arrived at their political views through rigorous research and evaluation. In fact, it was probably a slogan or a small idea that sparked a person's attraction to a political group. Donald Trump wants to “make America great

again”, and perhaps Republicans who think America is a lot worse off now than it was before are the ones supporting him, among others. However, it seems that a lot of people in support of Donald Trump are ready to rationalise anything Donald Trump does/says in his favour, maybe because they are so emotionally attached to “mak(ing) America great again”, or to another promise of his. This is an excellent example of how populist politics work. Politicians create vague and unfulfillable promises that appeal to a large crowd. These promises evoke strong emotions, which blind people from the flawed nature of the promises and of the leaders. Suddenly, you have a lot of people, filled to the brim with emotion and indignation, ready to restlessly rationalise their leader’s superiority. Statistics, statements and opinions are taken out of context and used in a never-ending battle between the right and the left. People fail to realise that both sides have a point, and that the truth doesn’t lie on the extreme that they are arguing for.

Due to identity politics, Americans have ended up in a vicious cycle of anger and dogmatism. A fairly well known Youtube presenter, Steven Crowder, is best-known for his ‘Change my Mind’ series, where he sits outside with a poster that says something along the lines of: ‘White-Male Privilege is a Myth’, or ‘I’m Pro-Life’, or ‘There Are Only Two Genders’, followed by ‘Change My Mind’. Usually, angry volunteers will sit down, and begin to discuss their opposing views. These people will progressively become more frustrated as it becomes clear that the research done by Crowder shows that they don’t really understand what they are talking about. Because they have formed their political identity from their inherent identity, when met with contradicting statistics and ideas to which they have no response, the cognitive dissonance causes a regress into angry, incoherent rambling, which they know makes no sense. The point is not that right-wing politics is right and left-wing is wrong – this is simply not true. The point is that people on all sides of the political spectrum defend views that align with their identity rather than ones that they know to be correct from experience and knowledge.

This identity politics is part of a natural human phenomenon. People feel incredible strength when they belong to a group of individuals with similar inherent characteristics, with whom they can (sometimes self-righteously and contemptuously) argue against an opposing group. This is especially true if there’s something that’s caused them emotional damage, like race, gender or sexuality. You can find considerable comfort in belonging to one of these groups, which can make you robotically adherent to the group’s views.

Before anyone can start using statistics, economics or reason in American politics, there needs to be widespread social reform. Nothing works if quantitative evidence is taken out of context for the sake of satisfying an emotional desire. Unfortunately, this is a problem in all political systems around the world, but it seems to be the case even more in “Trump’s America”.

## HATS OF THE PAST

It was around this time last year, that I offered to varnish a hat for a boy in the Remove year, who also kindly paid me at the end. That was when I started varnishing hats for friends and boys from my House, which eventually led to a small hat service. (By the way, if you want your hat varnished, don’t go to The Outfitters. I provide better prices.)

I was interested in hats before Harrow but I started to buy and collect Harrow hats from leavers, boys and, most importantly, from eBay. Currently, I possess Harrow hats made from the 1930s, the 1970s and the 2000s. I am astonished by the quality of headwear the Harrow boys were offered in the 1930s. All Harrow hats from before the 1960s are known to have been made of a particular straw braid called ‘sennit straw’. The straws

are stitched closely, which gives its unbreakable rigidity and sturdy character. In the 1970s, the hat industries (straw hats mostly in Luton) changed to the ‘flower-edged straw plait’ which is being used to this day.



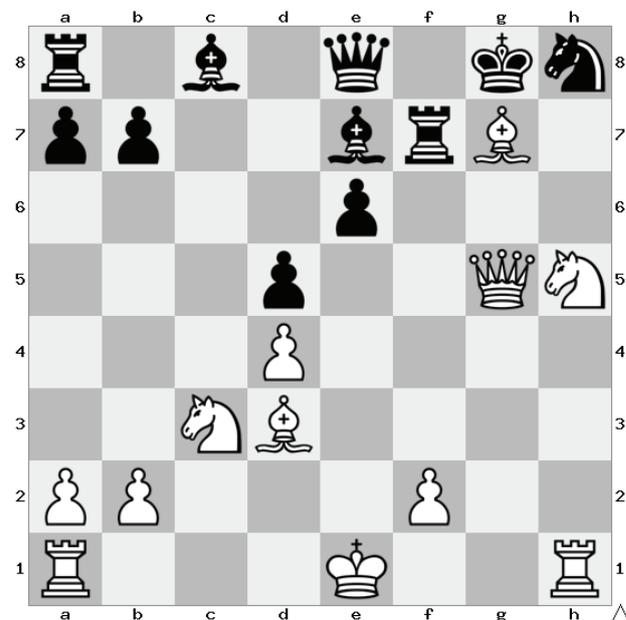
(Above: This 1930s Harrow hat by the G.Ward Co. of Harrow on the Hill is displayed at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Berlin! Credits: bpk - Photo Agency / Kunstgewerbemuseum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)

Harrowians will understand that as soon as their new straw hat becomes floppy, cracked and broken beyond repair then they will be forced to buy a new hat. Woe betide the boy who doesn’t buy a replacement hat because in the not-too-distant-future, he is likely to be spotted and issued with an exciting three day visit to Custos in the early hours of the morning. Those of you who have the good fortune of having their father’s or even grandfather’s hats will know the robust quality of the older hats.

One wonders if the breakage of hats and the visits to Custos would be less frequent (maybe never?) if the hat company, Olney changed their straw braids to the picot braid or Coburg braid. Both braids are known to be sturdy and similar to the extinct sennit straw. Could this be the solution for the boys?

## 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.

White to play and mate in 2.  
 Last week’s solution: 1.... 1.Qh8+ Kxh8 2.Rf8#  
 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 severa per se vera*

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

## SQUASH

*The School v Eton, 27 September*

1st V Lost 2-3

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Won 3-0TC Santini, *The Park*, Lost 0-3DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Won 3-1K Jafree, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-3JD Gibbons, *The Park*, Lost 0-3

2nd V Lost 0-6

SWS Sebag Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Lost 0-3P Kinnaird, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-3CD Powell, *The Grove*, Lost 0-3WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-3FWA Murley, *The Park*, Lost 0-3H Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 0-3

Junior Colts Lost 1-3

HA Anderson, *Newlands*, Lost 0-3HX Sic, *Newlands*, Won 3-1I Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 0-3H Oelhafen, *Elmfield*, Lost 2-3

Yearlings Won 5-0

T Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-0A Gupte, *West Acre*, Won 3-0C O'Flaherty, *The Head Masters's's*, Won 3-2D Wauchope, *The Knoll*, Won 3-1A Seely, *The Head Masters's's*, Won 3-0

"Is this your best team?" This comment from the Eton number one after he had seen the various, mostly futile, attempts made by the Harrow players to eke out a few points, had a slightly incredulous air. We already know that it is an End of Era (EOE), Work in Progress (WIP) sort of situation, both code for "we will be useless this season", but the question from the Eton one seemed to present an opportunity. Options included "No, we have seven players out injured", "No, we are saving our best players for a proper test", "We don't know what our best team is yet", "How do you define best?", "How do you

define team?", and so on.

But what was there to gain from such subterfuge? To take the shine off their inevitable victory? To keep them worried about Harrow's potential? Those seemed petty when the truth would inevitably come out when Harrow select the same WIP team against Eton next term. This seemed a rare example of nothing to be gained by lying. So the following response was inevitable. Eton one (*incredulously*) Is this your best team?

Harrow coach: Sadly, yes.

This rare use of the almost outdated Telling the Truth Ploy (TTT) at least opened up a few psychological possibilities. For a start, there was the ancient and underrated False Sense of Security Ploy (FSOS). Far more important matches lie ahead, perhaps in national competitions, and so the worse Harrow play the more FSOS will play a role. Also, TTT almost seems too simple for fertile Eton minds who sense there must be more to this than meets the eye. They think they know that Harrow cannot possibly be this bad so therefore the coach must be lying. Or maybe the coach wants us to think he is lying and they really are that bad. You can see the confusion spreading in Eton minds.

Admittedly, the Eton number one asked his question after witnessing the performances of Gibbons, Santini and Jafree. Gibbons is a social player, out for a casual hit with his friends. The trouble is that Eton are not his friends. There is not enough space here to describe what Santini is or might be. Suffice it to say that the most eminent psychologists of the day are being consulted. Jafree is a willing retriever but keeps bringing the bone back to his opponent. But the Last of his Species (LOS) romped around playfully at number one and his job will be to gain a Crumb of Comfort (COC) for Harrow this season.

But the real COC was provided by the former tree, Declan Shortt. Being rooted to the ground was quite an easy life but was not ideally suited to winning squash matches. Shortt took his first few shaky steps at the end of last term and is now tottering about unaided. By the end of term, he should be a blur. So, in the end, a 3-2 defeat gave a veneer of respectability. But what of next year's team? They looked promising in losing 18-0 in games, 6-0 in matches to the Eton 2nd team. With lots of hard work they have every chance of becoming mediocre by 2019.

Meanwhile, there has been some strange behaviour from the Yearlings. At Wellington, they turned up in immaculate all white, beautifully ironed. They then proceeded to warm up as a group in a structured way before doing some synchronised stretching. Most of them were sporting neat haircuts with sensible partings. Not only that, they won 3-2 at Wellington and followed that up with a 5-0 thrashing of Eton. Is this the New Era on the horizon? Or does the 2nd team just need to get a decent haircut?

## RACKETS

*The School v Eton College, 4 October*

Senior 1st Pair Won 3-2

An excellent 3-2 win for Julian Owston, *Moretons*, and Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, against a strong pair.

Senior 2nd Pair Lost 1-3

Henry Wilson, *Elmfield*, and Luke Harrington-Myers, *Bradbys*, fought hard but lost 1-3 to a consistent pair.

Colts 1st Pair Lost 2-3

A very fine effort from Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, who came very close to beating the strongest pair on the circuit in their year group but eventually lost 2-3.

Colts 2nd Pair Won 3-2

A determined performance from Sasha Sebag-Montefiore, *The Knoll*, and Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, in a 3-2 win.

## Junior Colts 1st Pair Lost 1-3

A high quality match which we eventually lost 1-3 contained some strong rackets from Max Shirvell and Phoenix Ashworth, both *The Head Master's*.

## Junior Colts 2nd Pair Won 3-0

A convincing 3-0 win for Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, and Federico Ghersi, *The Head Master's*.

## FOOTBALL

*The School v Elm Grove, Development CXI Won 4-2*

The CXI scored four high-quality goals (Orlando Morris, *The Knoll*; Yannis Chatzigiannis, *The Park*; Ify Ogbonna, *The Head Master's*, Philip Richardson, *The Park*) and could have had a few more in this excellent win that maintains the squad's unbeaten season so far.

## CROSS COUNTRY

*English Schools Cup*

In Round 1 of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, run over one and half laps of the School course, Remove and Shell runners helped Harrow to victory in the Intermediate Boys competition. Particularly impressive performances by Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, and Tom Emery, *Moretons*. On Saturday the Harrow cross-country team descended on a wind-swept, rain-soaked Sevenoaks for their annual autumn race around Knole Park. A strong all-round performance was enough to secure Harrow as second-placed school, close behind the hosts. Notable runs were made by Monty Powell, *The Grove*, Ed de Bray, *The Knoll*, and Freddie Strange, *Newlands*.

## BADMINTON

*The School v Coopers' Company & Coborn School, 6 October*

## Open 1st Draw 4-4

Well done to Pair One, Victor Chan, *Rendalls*, and Kingston Lee, *Elmfield*, and Pair Three, David Huang, *The Knoll*, and Lawrence Leekie, *West Acre*, for winning all of their games.

## FIVES

*The School v Aldenham School, 4 October*

## Junior Colts Won 2-0

A strong performance from Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, and Jonathan Barley, *The Grove*, at first pair, who brushed aside the Aldenham pair. Adam Mohd, *Lyon's*, and Alonzo Fontana, *The Grove*, also having stepped up a year, produced a performance of high quality to overcome the Aldenham second pair.

## Yearlings Lost

Although the overall result was a loss, all the boys gave maximum effort both physically and mentally. It was a credit to them that, even though they were playing boys who have played for over three years compared to three weeks in most cases, the Harrow boys won sets and competed.

## GOLF

*The School v Charterhouse, The Buckinghamshire GC, 2 October*

## Match won 2-1

Captain Charlie Witter, *Elmfield*, and Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, won 5&4

Hamish Dicketts, *Elmfield*, and Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, won 5&4

Charles Tallis, *Druries* and Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, lost 2&1

As the Charterhouse bus finally rolled in an hour after the scheduled time, it was decided that the play would be foursomes to be able to finish by sunset at 6.50pm.

In the first game, Witter was feeling inspired by his trip to Paris a few days earlier to watch the Ryder Cup. Partnered with Max Shirvell, the pair started strongly with a birdie on the first. The quality of their play fell victim to the poor play of the opposition and they lost concentration somewhat, but crucially they were doing enough to keep themselves in front. After some sharp iron play from Shirvell and some accurate putting from Witter, they found themselves 3 up through nine holes. They turned for the back nine and kept pushing on to secure a relatively easy, but well-earned 5 and 4 victory.

In the second game, having been glued to the Ryder Cup over the weekend (watching on the TV, rather than actually there, unlike Witter), Dicketts and Toby Shirvell were determined to thrive in the foursomes. It couldn't have started better; Fleetwood (sorry, Dicketts) holing a 20ft birdie putt. Another birdie on 5, and they were 2 up. Par on 6. 3 up and coasting. Straight pars for both sides on the next few holes and the score remained the same at the turn. And then step up Toby Shirvell, who hit a towering 8 iron over trees on the 10th to 6 feet, which was calmly converted by Dicketts to go to 4 up. The win was inevitable, it was only a matter of time now... and then a par on 14 was enough to halve the hole and win the match. 5&4 (cue mic drop).

In the last game, Tallis and Wright started with a drive down the left-hand side which led to a 5, a par, that would be sufficient for the half. By the 4th, they were 1 up but quickly brought back down when a stunning iron shot was made by the opponent. 3 down was the score at the turn and hope seemed lost when Wright's tee shot was skimmed into the bunker, but in stepped Tallis and with a 52 in his hand, he plucked out the little thing and, with a hop and a skip, in it went. On the 13th, an off drive meant they were out of position and on the green in 3 with a 30 foot putt. Extraordinarily, the ball rolled in to make the half. Unfortunately, these putts and chips were not enough to overwhelm the opponents and, although a magnificent hybrid from Wright meant they were only 1 down with 2 to play, the match ended frustratingly with a 2&1 loss.

*The School v Merchant Taylor's School  
ISGA Matchplay Knockout Tournament, Round 1  
Won 2-1, Sandy Lodge Golf Club, 3 October*

## Max Shirvell won 9&amp;7

Captain Witter lost 1 down

Toby Shirvell won 5&4

Sandy Lodge is one of the nicest courses in our area. It has, over the last 15 years, improved immeasurably and is now regularly used for Open qualifying events. It is a shorter course than The Buckinghamshire but with equally quick and true greens.

We enter this year's ISGA Matchplay Knockout Tournament with high hopes to progress to the National Finals in May 2019, having lost to St Paul's last year in the regional final.

In the top match, Shirvell demolished his opponent with a

9&7 win. He started his campaign with a birdie on the 1st, and continued to have a near faultless front 9 to be 1 under at the turn and a whopping 7up. Victory came soon after with a record margin for a Harrow player in this competition.

In the second game, Witter started well with a birdie on the 1st and 7th and he was 1 up through 9. Then some unlucky breaks for Witter and some good putting from MT's meant that a close match was lost 1 down on the last.

In the final game, Toby Shirvell had a fabulous start with three birdies in the first four holes. The MT's player was overpowered by Shirvell's brilliance and capitulated 5&4. We now look forward to playing St Paul's in the next round.

## RUGBY UNION

*The School v St Paul's School, 6 October*

*1st XV Won 7-6*

A late arrival and torrential rain set the tone for a challenging fixture away to St Paul's. Both sides set out to play territory, but St Paul's always looked the more likely to score in the first half, with frustrating individual errors persistently hampering Harrow's attacking flow. In the second half, Harrow's pack – following the lead of the ever-impressive Alastair Llewellyn Palmer, *Lyon's*, and a revitalised Anjo Ademuwagun, *Druries*, – set the platform for victory. Unfortunately, a touch of white-line fever, combined with some unorthodox decision making from the Harrow backline, kept the contest alive. Ultimately, a rare glimpse of collective composure helped Ed Lewis, *Rendalls*, barge over from short range to give the XV a one-point advantage.

2nd XV Lost 19-22

3rd XV Won 5-0

4th XV Lost 21-27

5th XV Won 22-10

Colts A Lost 14-27

The Colts A performed well in difficult conditions against a decent St Paul's side. The As controlled the game for long periods after scoring first, although the opposition used the ball more intelligently and put Harrow under pressure through a strong kicking game. The Harrow pack performed well, particularly through their line-out and driving maul which earned a try for Henry Farquhar, *Lyon's*.

Colts B Lost 0-20

Colts C Lost 7-21

Colts D Lost 10-77

Junior Colts A National Cup Round 1 Won 26-22

In poor conditions on the Sunley, the Junior Colts A ran out deserved winners over a well-drilled and physical St Paul's side to win this National Cup tie. Man of the match: Ehiada Garuba, *Newlands*.

Junior Colts B Won 15-7

Junior Colts C Lost 0-43

Junior Colts D Won 22-14

Yearlings A Won 29-0

Yearlings B Won 24-5

Yearlings C Lost 21-24

Yearlings D Won 45-7

Yearlings E Lost 15-24

Yearlings F Lost 0-24

## SWIMMING

*ESSC away at Whitgift School*

The strength and depth of our swimming programme was evident as we were the only school to field three teams in the Senior age category, and one of only two schools to compete with both an A and B team in the intermediate category. The first event for Harrow was the 4 by 50 metres medley relay team of Cosmo Freeland, Lyons, Maxwell Brooks, West Acre, Henry Pearce, Newlands, and James Rates, Newlands. We are still awaiting confirmation of official results, but by our measure, these boys won their event. Next up was the Senior 4 x 50 freestyle relay team of Andrew Hong, Lyons, Thomas Khan, West Acre, William Rudd and Ben Hooper of Head Master's. This team came within a second of beating the school record. All 4 swimmers swam personal best times with Hooper breaking another school record. His 50 freestyle time was 23.72 seconds.



On the B and C teams, captain Rafe Wendelken Dickson, *Druries*, Finn Deacon, *The Park*, and Ben Woolhouse, *Druries* all had personal best times. Following on from the Seniors, the intermediate freestyle 4 x 50 metre team of Pearce, setting a personal best of 25.5, Brooks, Rates and Adrian Wong, *The Park*, also were victorious by our timing. Shell OT, Jake Phillips, also deserves a mention as he had to swim a double leg on the relay. Final event for our swimmers was the Senior Medley, 4 x 50 metre relays. There had been chat before the event that the school record was in sight for Hooper, Khan, Hong and Rudd, however their personal best times all added together still left them at a 2 seconds deficit, so it seemed a bit of an unlikelihood. First off was Hooper who swam not only a personal best, but also another school record of 26.09 in the 50 backstroke. Khan took over from Hooper and swam his breaststroke leg will full force, just missing by hundreds of a second a personal best time, but maintaining a lead over the second place team. Hong bulleted 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 from the old one. To put this in perspective, this would have been a women's world record time in 2013. Needless to say, these boys won the race convincingly and look strong enough perhaps take the title in the Olympic pool come the finals at the end of November. The atmosphere and camaraderie of the boys in this gala was also second to none. Their fever and fervour were infectious. Well done to all of the swimmers for a spectacular performance. In summary, this evening we saw three new school records and an unprecedented 15 personal best times swum.

### 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)