

THE HARROVIAN

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OH SONGS

*Speech Room, Old Harrovians 1960-1965,
Speech Room, 7 March*

Last Thursday, the School was privileged to welcome back to the Hill once more those Old Harrovians who joined the School between 1960 and 1965. Many of these OHs are or have been governors, parents or grandparents of current and future Harrovians, officers of the Harrow Association and just all-round the best gentlemen in supporting the School. Many, in fact, were at the School when Sir Winston Churchill died – and some may have even had bestowed upon them the great distinction of honouring his name in an *impromptu* service of Songs on the eve of his death. Indeed, the Songs of Praise were televised live by the BBC; the Harrovian of the following week related the moving event: “We did our best for Sir Winston and for the people who wanted, on that Sunday night, to join with us in our worship, in our thoughts about the dying statesman who – small boy and old man – had sung in this place.”

Our first Song – *When Raleigh Rose* – recalled the period during which the School was founded. In 1572, Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne and this Song recalls some Great Britons of the time – Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake and Sir Philip Sidney – and, of course, William Shakespeare, associating the birth of the School with the period during which these Great Britons were young men. A fitting way both to open Songs and honour our esteemed kinsmen, *When Raleigh Rose* was sung with characteristic passion.

Giants, written in 1874, was next. The first three verses present us all with the daunting prospect of following the great Harrovians of the past, particularly sportsmen and scholars. The final verse, however, leaves us with the encouraging thought that we have a chance of achieving greatness ourselves.



The next Song – *Play Up!* – celebrates the healthy effects on body and mind of Harrow football. While this term has not been the wettest winter we have ever experienced on the Hill, there have still been times when many boys – playing for the School or their house – have had to overcome the prevailing weather conditions in addition to their oft’ fierce opposition.

The first great Elizabethan era was celebrated again in the next song – *Queen Elizabeth Sat One Day* – which alludes to the work of William Shakespeare. Over the next week we look forward to our performances of *Twelfth Night* taking place both

in the Ryan Theatre and then the Globe Theatre in London, 25 years after a group from Harrow became the first company to perform a full-length Shakespeare play at the Globe after it had been rebuilt in 1994.



Home to the Hill is a relatively new addition to the Song Book, written by a recently retired master, Tom Wickson. It celebrates the national and increasingly international reach of Harrow. Above all, it is a welcoming Song with the chorus suggesting that once part of the School, there is always a sense of home here on the Hill. I am sure that it was a special pleasure for the OHs to sing this Song; I would imagine that it is the first time they have heard it.

Written by the Brooke Foss Westcott, master at Harrow and Bishop of Durham, *Io Triumphe* was to be sung again, putting the School’s Latin through its paces. Mr Westcott was noted for his formidable intellect and prodigious treatment of letters, and thus this Song powerfully captures the sentiment ‘*io triumphe*’ – the shout of Roman soldiers during triumphal processions of campaigning generals.

Another Song about Harrow football, *Three Yards*, followed. It is dedicated to Edward Montagu Butler, who was at the School at the same time as his father was the Head Master. As a boy, he was a scholar, Captain of Cricket and Football, and won the Public Schools’ Rackets Cup twice. Later, he returned to Harrow as a beak and became House Master of The Park.

Songs was concluded with a School favourite – *The Silver Arrow*. John Lyon directed in his will that archery should be a compulsory part of the curriculum at Harrow. A competition for the Silver Arrow was held every year until 1771 when it was stopped because of crowd-control issues, but the arrow still appears in the Harrow coat of arms and archery, while not compulsory, is still among our sporting options.

The positive feedback poured forth into the HA after the evening. Below are just a few things that proud OHs had to say:

“A very successful evening yesterday. Extremely well organised by you, excellent update from the Head Master, and the old rogues present were very good company.”

“Just a quick note to say how very much we enjoyed Songs last night. The Songs are always wonderful and it is quite reassuring to see that some of one’s contemporaries are even more decrepit than oneself. It was a most enjoyable evening and please do thank those involved in organising it.”

“The superb singing by the boys was special, as was the excellent food and wine afterwards. It was nice to see my one and only fellow new boy in The Park in 1960². We had

not seen each other since we left, although I still have my Leavers' photos."

"I shall always be grateful to the Head Master for reminding me about the live Songs of Praise following Churchill's demise. I was one of the hundred but had completely forgotten!"



"Thank you so much for a very enjoyable Songs yesterday. The music, singing and speeches were excellent. The catering department did us proud – if that was the usual standard of School food, I obviously should have attended in the modern era! All was so well organised, your welcome was warm and I particularly enjoyed the tour despite the weather."

"As it's rather easy to take for granted the hospitality the old School lays on, I'm writing to say thank you; thank you, that is, for yet another special occasion and for the effort you must have put in. I enjoyed myself a lot. A great success."

CAMERON VAN DER BURGH VISIT

OSRG, 2 March

The swimming team was extremely honoured to welcome Olympic gold-medallist Cameron Van Der Burgh to the Hill to give a talk about his successful career in swimming, with particular focus on his mindset and experience during his Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012.



Cameron Van Der Burgh is a South African breaststroke sprint specialist and multi-time Olympian. Born on 25 May 1988, Van Der Burgh is originally from Pretoria, South Africa, and picked up swimming at a young age. He has won numerous World Championship titles and is a world record holder in the short course 50m breaststroke, notably representing the South African Olympic team several times and winning the 100m breaststroke in the 2012 London Olympics Games against fierce rival Adam Peaty.

Mr Van Der Burgh began his talk by discussing how he started swimming. He mentioned how he was quiet from a young age, diagnosed with ADHD, but luckily found swimming to to

release his energy. It soon became his passion and, until recently, his main life focus. He highlighted the importance of stroke technique when swimming as a child, as major improvements in speed will naturally occur as the body develops. After his delayed growth spurt, he regained his competitiveness and his rise to international fame commenced.

However, it was not all smooth sailing. During the 2008 Olympic Games, he made the semi-finals of the 100m breaststroke, being seeded fourth. Aware of the realistic chance of a podium finish, he let his nerves get the better of him and did not sleep at all the night before his semi-final. Unfortunately, it affected his performance and he missed out on the final by one place. He then stressed the importance of the mental game in preparation for swimming races. He discussed and shared how he developed a pre-race routine, which he would practice on a regular basis. He explained how he would prepare for a race or training session by arriving well in time, and this regularity has calmed his nerves, especially during big swims in his career. He compared his pre-race rituals and swims to brushing his teeth as they were so well rehearsed that muscle memory would just take over. After the 2008 Olympic disappointment, his career skyrocketed and he achieved a gold medal in a world record time, in the 100m breaststroke in 2012 London Olympic Games, which he mentioned was his favourite games. He would continue to dominate in the international stage, also forming a strong rivalry with British favourite Adam Peaty.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr Van Der Burgh has developed targets following the Olympic cycle of four years. He would break these targets down to months and consequently days and even hours. This clear goal structure has enabled him to achieve his objectives one step at a time with a well-thought-out plan. This method has clearly brought him success, as he mentioned he was motivated by pursuing his targets.

He came down to the pool after the talk and gave us a masterclass on breaststroke swimming, explaining the evolution of breaststroke, including a recent change in the technique of the breaststroke kick. He gave us several drills to improve our swimming and even jumped in to demonstrate.

Mr Van Der Burgh recently retired from swimming, after the World Championships in December 2018, and he has embarked on a new journey in finance with the same goal-based, competitive mentality that gained him so much success in the pool. He is certainly a man of many talents as well as being a decent, upstanding role model. There is so much we can learn from him. Equipped not only with top achievements in his swimming career, he has also got the mentality of a top sportsman. It was certainly a great privilege to have such an inspirational swimmer to speak to us. We thank him for spending his valuable time with us and wish him all the best in his new job whatever else he pursues in future!

Special thanks from the swimming squad to EWH and Mr Douglas Collins of Harrow Development Trust for providing us with this amazing opportunity.

OSRG ARTS SOCIETY

Christian Dior exhibition at the V&A, 5 March

On 5 March, a rather gloomy Tuesday, ten Harrovians were lucky enough to visit the V&A's blockbuster exhibition featuring the work of the renowned French fashion house, named after its founder, Christian Dior (1905-1957). The exhibition entrance in the new wing was well hidden away at the foot of a series of staircases full of people who seemed as excited as us to see the show. The exhibition spaces were beautifully crafted, referencing Dior's signature 'minimalistic' look and comprising sections of black contrasted by bright white or cream. Our first reaction was one of amazement – that these dresses that looked brand new were in fact designed and manufactured in the late 1940s and 1950s, a time which Dior himself called

'The Golden Ages'. Elegant dresses were displayed on raised platforms through which the walkways meandered. Bright lights, reflective mirrored backgrounds and shimmering ceiling hangings reminded us constantly that Swarovski was the sponsor of the exhibition. The glamour of the catwalk was undeniably present and delightful aromas of different Dior perfumes pervaded our senses as we progressed through the rooms.



In the late 1940s, Christian Dior created dresses and costumes for women that were characterised by a silhouette of slim waists and longer length, full skirts. The shape was known as the 'New Look'. This was because, during the Second World War, fabric had to be rationed and women's outfits could only be figure hugging but, after the war ended, women demanded a change of style and designers went over the top to create clothes of far greater extravagance. Dior used hip padding and multi-layered petticoats to make his dresses flare from the waist. The results provided a very feminine and curvaceous outline. Dior's childhood days of spending time working in gardens with his mother gave him an exceptional appreciation of flowers and their forms. His dress designs in the 1950s incorporated floral themes of great delicacy.

Special mention of OH Sir Cecil Beaton was made in the exhibition. Beaton's career as a celebrity photographer brought him into contact with all the leading Parisian fashion designers and when the V&A were setting up their new department of fashion design in 1947 it was Beaton who wrote to Dior (and Balenciaga) to obtain signature outfits. The very first item in the exhibition, the 'Bar Suit' comprising cream jacket and flared black skirt, was the first one that Beaton obtained for the V&A. In the 1960s, one of Dior's successors named a complete collection after Beaton!

On display were dresses specially designed for royalty – the House of Dior was favoured by many crowned heads around the world. A dress worn by the Queen's sister Princess Margaret on her 21st birthday was featured. After Dior's death in 1957, his successors explored the world for inspiration in their designs. One room showed dresses referencing ancient Egypt, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. The results were breathtakingly creative – more like works of art than practical garments for wearing. The final section of the show contained dresses worn by celebrities such as Rihanna. The fashion house continues to thrive and be relevant for new generations (Kanye West released a song titled *Christian Dior Denim Flow* in 2010) and it now has branches all around the world.

The exhibition was splendid, but we would not have been able to visit it if it weren't for the swiftness of the OSRG in booking tickets before Christmas – all tickets have been sold for the rest of the run. Finally, we would like to thank Mrs Walton and LAM for taking us to the exhibition (and negotiating the busy tube system) and allowing us to learn about yet another icon of the fashion industry.

[*Hot off the press*: the V&A have just announced that they are extending the Christian Dior exhibition until 1 September and there are still some tickets available for August.–Eds

GORE SOCIETY LECTURE

28 March

On Thursday 28 March, those assembled in New Schools 1 had the privilege of hearing about 'Existentialism, Nihilism and Absurdism' from Aria Shirazi and Tola Fola-Alade, both *Rendalls*. It was an engaging and informative talk, which was shortly followed by heated debate, with NT and SPS and CEGB all weighing in with their personal beliefs.

The lecture began with a quick definition of the key themes of the lecture. Existentialism is a system of beliefs where, despite recognising that there is no intrinsic value to life, one gives one's own life meaning. Nihilism refers to the removal of framework. For example, political nihilism would be nihilism: the removal of the governmental framework. Absurdism is not only the recognition that life has no intrinsic meaning, but also that life cannot have meaning. The lecture then produced the concept of essence, meaning who we are and existence, and debated their ordering. Before our birth, certain factors are predetermined, such as our skin colour. In this way our essence is dictated before our existence.

As our essence dictates what our actions will be in any given situation, having essence precede existence is a conformation of determinism. However, some, including Existentialists, believe that our existence predicates our essence: we choose our own path in life. This can be a burden though; as Sartre said, 'We are condemned to be free'. Existentialism is commonly associated with 20th-century philosophers, although it has its roots in Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky and Kierkegaard. Some have even traced its origins back to Socrates and the Bible. There are four key themes of existentialism: authenticity, the absurd, dread and despair. Existentialism values authenticity; when finding meaning in life, one cannot act because of the pressures of society. The absurd refers to the absurd act of attempting to find meaning in a universe of meaninglessness. Dread refers to the tyranny of choice, demonstrated by the thought experiment of Buridan's ass: that an equally thirsty and hungry donkey placed equidistant between food and water will not move and instead starve to death. Finally, despair refers to a loss of meaning through a loss of identity. For example, if you are a swimmer who finds meaning in swimming and you sustain an injury, you cannot engage with your purpose, thus bringing despair. Camus, a 20th-century French philosopher, proposed three ways to deal with the problem of absurdism. By committing suicide, one is making one's escape from a meaningless world. Furthermore, one could engage in philosophical suicide, such as believing in God.

This would allow one to derive meaning from God's existence. Camus eliminated these possibilities, stating that they give in to absurdism. Camus proposes a different way, through being an absurd hero. He likens humanity to Sisyphus, a man who knocked out Thanatos, the god of death, and trapped him under his bed. As punishment, Hades sentenced Sisyphus to roll a boulder up a hill for eternity. Every time the boulder reaches the top of the hill, it rolls back down. Camus said that, while Sisyphus is sentenced to meaningless toil, he is not sentenced to be miserable. We are like Sisyphus and we can simply adopt tranquillity as a state of mind. However, Lane Craig, another 20th-century philosopher, believes that we cannot simply adopt a state a mind. He proposes that the only solace that we can find in the face of meaninglessness is through God. He agrees with Dostoyevsky that, without God, we cannot have morality.

Many thanks to Shirazi and Fola-Alade for giving such an informative and thought-provoking lecture. Furthermore, many thanks to CEGB for organising the talk.

BIG BAND TEA DANCE

Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre, 5 March

On Tuesday 5 March, SM took the Big Band to play at the Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre for their annual Tea Dance. The band played to an enthusiastic audience who danced the afternoon away to jazz quicksteps, exotic rumbas and elegant ballroom waltzes, finishing with a cool rendition of Henry Mancini's *The Pink Panther*, with Harry Lempriere-Johnston, *Druries*, as the jazz sax soloist. The boys then stayed for tea and cakes, and chatted with the guests. The band hopes to return next year, which will be for the fourth time. Thanks go to LAM for liaising with the centre and TMD for organising the transport.

ITALIAN SOCIETY

Professor Giuliana Pieri, 7 March

On a peaceful Tuesday evening, the Italian Society assembled in MLS10 to hear Professor Giuliana Pieri from Royal Holloway, University of London, to talk about 'Fascism and the Italian People'. Professor Pieri kicked off the lecture by explaining that she best remembered certain events of her childhood through images and not words and that, for this reason, she was intending to rely on pictures during her lecture to present her arguments to us all.

Professor Pieri started off her career as an art historian but was introduced to cultural history in 2006, with the personality cult and iconography of the Italian dictator Mussolini as focus point. This interest turned into a passion and soon she delved further into the nature of fascism and of the leader himself.

The first topic was that of Italian nationalism and its roots. Pieri discussed how Mussolini, well-known as a dictator who gave inflammatory speeches that livened up the crowds, modelled himself off of Gabriele D'Annunzio (an Italian poet and writer). At the time of the First World War, D'Annunzio returned from exile in France and gave many public talks encouraging Italy to join the war (which they eventually did in 1915), thus laying the foundations of the Italian nationalist movement. D'Annunzio had to obtain special permission to fight in the war as he was too old (in his 50s) and was famous for his discontent with what he referred to as the 'mutilated victory' where Italy was not given the territories it was promised at the end of the war. He took control of the region of Fiume in a completely democratic fashion and led the state in defiance of other European countries – the respect and loyalty given to him by the Italian soldiers, especially the 'Arditi' (Italian special forces), inspired Mussolini's style of leadership.

We were then introduced to the principles of Futurism – how Mussolini wanted speed, dynamism and an industrial spirit of youth within Italy, proposing plans to sink Venice because of its old-fashioned connotations and to support Milan in its industrial growth. There was a particular focus on Boccioni – the industrial and energetic city where the roots of Italian nationalism and Futurism started.

Professor Pieri then approached the topic of Mussolini's association with fascism and how he came to become the face of the movement itself, thanks to his omnipresence. He was everywhere – in textbooks and newspapers, in the streets and in school classes – everywhere one went, there was a poster of 'il Duce'. The audience heard about the development of Mussolini's persona and how, from the time he seized of power in 1922, there was a progressive idolisation of the leader (personal diary entries show ordinary members of the population truly idolised him). In 1922, he became Italy's youngest-ever prime

minister and was portrayed lacking facial hair (to distance himself from all other contemporary statesmen) and wearing civilian clothes. He represented a continuation of the past, yet he brought youth into the office, thus earning him support from all classes. In the 1930s, il Duce transformed into a man wearing flamboyant uniforms in equestrian portraits – associating him with royalty. However, he also had many pictures released where he was wearing the same outfit to portray himself as a busy and energetic leader who did not have the time to change his clothes. Pieri discussed the importance Mussolini attached to hats – they defined his preferred personality, whether traditional, youthful or military – indeed, he started wearing military helmets at rallies during the war, thus representing the culture of the regime at the time. Whatever Mussolini represented, the party also identified as being. We were shown a book called *Dux – biografia per immagini* by Paquale Chessa. The fact that a book could give a biographical account of Mussolini's life using only pictures demonstrates the importance that he and the regime attached to the use of images.

We also explored the contrast between fascist traditionalism and modernism. We were presented with Adolfo Wildt's *Ritratto di Benito Mussolini* (1923), a traditional sculpture of the leader, and Thayer's *Dux Sintesi Plastica* (1929), one of Mussolini's favourites, which was a very futuristic depiction of the leader. The audience embarked on a journey round fascist architecture – a confusion of bad taste (the Lastra a Signa in Florence), traditional (Mussolini's childhood home) and modernity (the buildings built by the party in Predappio or Como). This mixture kept all types of supporters happy. We also discovered the monumental projects the fascist party embarked on such as the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana (or Colosseo Quadrato). The party used these buildings to project what they believed Italy to be: they had engraved in the monument itself the words 'a people of poets, artists and heroes, of saints, thinkers, scientists, navigators and trans-national conquerors'. Through traditional and modern art and architecture, the fascist party gathered support and projected its image to the nation.

Finally, Professor Pieri discussed fascist propaganda and how their balance of fact and fiction was hard to distinguish. They launched two projects of domestic policy: the 'Agro Pontino' and the 'Battle of the Grain'. The Agro Pontino project was one of reclamation of malaria-infested land. The fascist party built cities on these reclaimed lands, where focus was placed on the movie industry by placing the cinemas in the centre of the town and where churches were placed in the background – at the time, the Italian movie industry was second only to Hollywood, showing the strength of their propaganda industry. The Battle of the Grain project was on an entirely different scale altogether. At the time, Italy depended on imports to survive and feed its population. In Germany, a policy of autarchy (national self-sufficiency) was being introduced. Mussolini therefore launched a 'battle of food' in a push for his country to become self-sufficient. Pictures were released of a topless il Duce farming grain. This was to portray Mussolini as a strong character at a time when superheroes were being presented for the first time to the world. It was a symbolic use of the body of the leader to portray the nation as strong and enduring (what Pieri called a blueprint for later dictators e.g. Putin). The final piece of propaganda was that of posters; in textbooks there were posters of young soldiers bearing the 'M' of Mussolini on their uniforms and of young Italian girls wearing black skirts and ties to influence the youth, while some brought focus to 'l'aratro o la spada' (the plough or the sword) showing the fascist party considered its agricultural society to be as important as its military for the country's survival.

Through an introduction to Italian nationalism, Mussolini's importance to Italian fascism, the artistic culture of the party and the party's propaganda, the audience were given an insight into fascism and the Italian people during Mussolini's dictatorship, and Professor Pieri must be thanked for an excellent talk.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

*Maslenitsa Celebrations with St Paul's Girls' School
OH Room, 2 March*

On Saturday 2 March, a group of the Slavonic Society members from different years and a group of girls studying Russian at St Paul's Girls' School gathered in the heart of Harrow to learn about Maslenitsa, the week-long Russian equivalent of the Pancake Day, and to celebrate this cheerful event together.

First, we listened to two brief presentations, one about Maslenitsa and one about the Orthodox Easter, delivered by our guests. After careful preparation by KAF to equalise mixed teams for the two upcoming language competitions, and having filled our plates with delicious Maslenitsa-style traditional Russian and Eastern European delicacies, the rules of the tasks that each of the six teams had to complete in the next hour or so were explained to us.



Maslenitsa, according to the first of the two presentations, is a traditional Russian festival that is celebrated officially for an entire week (this year it is 4–10 March) before the beginning of Lent. Its earliest roots can be traced back to the times of pagan Russia, as it was originally marked to celebrate the start of spring, thus bidding farewell to winter. In the Russian Orthodox Church, in line with other Christian religions, Lent, which starts after the Maslenitsa week, is time of strict fasting, stricter than in the Catholic and Anglican Churches. Known as Forgiveness Sunday, the final day of the Maslenitsa week is the day when people traditionally ask for forgiveness and apologise to those who they have wronged.

Throughout the Maslenitsa week, traditional celebrations are held across Russia, both in cities and in villages. To help give us a picture of this, we were showed a brief clip from the 1998 film *The Barber of Siberia* by Nikita Mikhalkov. In the film, there is a scene where the main characters visit a Maslenitsa festival. Here, they witness the traditional brawl where men may relieve themselves of any harboured anger and show their physical strength, fighting their opponents bare-breasted in sub-zero temperatures and in the snow. They also see musicians performing traditional music and stalls selling blinis and vodka.

Following the tradition of fun and games, we too had two competitions to complete. Unlike those portrayed in Mikhalkov's film, our competition required intellectual rather than physical strength. In the first of them, each team had to come up with as many Russian words as possible using the letters from the phrase: Масленица – праздник весны и блинов (Maslenitsa – the Celebration of Spring and Pancakes) without repeating each of them more times than it appears in the phrase. This was where all the weird and wonderful words of the Russian language learnt in MLS11 and on our Russian-language trips became useful. I myself had sometimes wondered where or when some of the words we had learned in class would be useful. It was clear that the competition was my moment. The second task was to create an acrostic poem (in Russian) about spring, using the letter of the word Масленица. After the careful judging

of each team's work by Mrs Ninnis, a Russian teacher from SPGS, and Mrs Sidhom, who also joined us for the occasion, the winning teams of the competitions were awarded Russian treats and mementos.

Having completed all this hard intellectual work after a day of lessons and sport (at least for the boys), both the hosts and the guests were most excited to enjoy the foods associated with the Maslenitsa celebration, a topic we were also given a talk on that evening. We were told that the most common food at Maslenitsa are the blinis, perhaps most similar to pancakes but in a few different varieties. These pancakes are often eaten either with savoury fillings such as caviar or as a sweet variety with different fruit preserves and condensed milk. Also, commonly eaten at this time are ponchiki; these are simply a variety of doughnuts. However, there was also a treat that many non-Russians had not seen before: bubliki. The best way to describe them would be to say that they are thick breadsticks in the form of a ring. Although this is by no means a proper description of them, they are delicious snacks for prep! KAF also very kindly brought along some traditional Polish food that is eaten at this time. These included *paçzki*, or Polish-style doughnuts filled with rose petal jam and coated in sugar. Another popular sweet Polish snack were the *faworki*, sometimes referred to as angel wings in this country. These are twisted pieces of pastry that are deep-fried and sprinkled in sugar. As one might imagine, once the celebrations came to a close, there were merely remnants of the treats, and even those were packed and taken to the houses by the boys.

Our sincere thanks go to our guests from St Paul's Girls' School for joining us for this cheerful celebration and to their teachers Mrs Ninnis and Mrs Rapinac for bringing the girls all the way to Harrow, as well as to Mrs Sidhom for her help throughout the evening and, of course, to KAF for organising this fantastic evening for all of us.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY LECTURE

"The Revitalisation of Ethnic Minorities in the Russian Federation after the Collapse of the Soviet Union"

MLS, 26 January

On the evening of the 26 February, Jan Kryca, *Moretons*, and Sergey Antipovskiy, *West Acre*, delivered a talk about ethnic minorities and their revitalisation in modern-day Russia.



The emergence of this issue can be traced to Kievan Rus', the first Slavic state. Founded by Viking settlers, it had a European identity, with its people following the Orthodox Christian faith. The state was weakened by corruption and internal conflict, fracturing Kievan Rus' into smaller states, hence the differences between modern day Slavs. The Mongol conquest ended the power of Kievan Rus' and the eastern areas would continue to be occupied for almost another 300 years. The western areas

of the Kievan state persisted but were ultimately absorbed by Poland-Lithuania. This division can still be seen today, with the culture and language of Western Slavic nations showing European influence and Eastern Slavic nations bearing Byzantine influence.

The Mongol invasion brought important changes into the Russian principalities. The people of the Russian principalities mixed with Mongols and Tatars, and Islam was introduced into the states. The Mongols made Moscow and other Eastern cities more prosperous and approved of the appointment of Grand Princes in Moscow, which was a tributary state to the Golden Horde.

Finally, in 1480, Ivan the Great broke allegiance to the Mongols and rebelled, defeating the Golden Horde and tripling his territory. His grandson Ivan the Terrible pushed the Tatars from their last stronghold in Kazan and created a new title for the ruler of Russia, the Tsar. The new capital was in Moscow, which by now was much more prosperous than Kiev.

However, the eastern influence could not be erased; lands largely populated by Mongol and Tatars had been annexed into the new country, essentially creating a multinational state. According to recent scientific studies, 50% of Russians have distinctly Asiatic DNA.

In 2012, it was reported that, in the Russian Federation, 42.5% were Orthodox Christian, 25% were spiritual but not religious, 13% were atheist, 6.5% were Muslim and 4.1% were unaffiliated Christians, making Islam the second-most-popular faith. By 2017, the percentage of Muslims had risen to 10%. Islam is prevalent within ethnic groups in the Caucasus (notably the Chechens and Dagestani), Tatars (55%), Kazakhs (54%) and Bashkirs (43%).

In the early 20th century, the USSR had inherited most of the former lands of Imperial Russia and thus the issue of minorities and nationalism. During the Russian civil war, some ethnic minorities sided with either Reds or Whites in their bid for independence or autonomy. These included Cossacks, Bashkirs, Polish, Ukrainians and Baltic people.

The Soviets played on the fact that Muslims were oppressed during imperial times to rally them to the side of the Reds. This was largely successful, with Mirsaid Sultan-Galiev ensuring that the Bashkirs joined the Bolsheviks during the civil war.

In response to surges in nationalism, the Soviets systematically engineered a famine in Ukraine under the guise of trying to implement the Soviet economic model, known as the Holodomor. The Stalinist regime was also able to get away with 100,000 shootings, allowing the Ukrainian resistance to be suppressed.

The Soviets deported many ethnic-linguistic groups including Poles, Germans, Romanians, Hungarians, Greeks, Chechens, Koreans and Kalmyks to remote Siberia and Kazakhstan. Many died because of the hardships inflicted on them during these population transfers.

In 1919–20, the Soviets fought a war with Poland over land contested since the times of Kievan Rus', namely Galicia and Volhynia. Russian and Ukrainian minorities lived in these areas and the USSR claimed that the region was theirs. The Soviets were defeated in this war and their wider goal of 'exporting the revolution' westward was also halted. However, this war demonstrated Russia's interest in former western lands of the empire.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union came a resurgence in the desire of minorities to create separate nation states. However, areas of contention are usually important to Russia. Such can be seen in Chechnya and Dagestan, who both have active violent separatist movements challenging Russian rule. The loss of these regions would be detrimental as they provide Russia with crucial trade routes into the Middle East and the resource rich Western Coast of the Caspian Sea. Another example, Crimea, an area claimed by Ukraine, which has a Russian majority, provides Russia a strategic location for the Black Sea fleet.

The main question today is how far Russia is prepared to give up its interests to appease different ethnic groups. This has many implications as tensions escalate and international pressure increases. This issue was discussed after the lecture, when the audience also tried to look at the revitalisation of ethnic minorities in Russia in a wider context of growing nationalism and the rejection of globalisation in many other parts of the world today.

The lecture was followed by a small buffet reception, which was really appreciated by those who attended the lecture at the end of a busy day of lessons, other commitments and prep.

The Society is grateful to the speakers for their research and for delivering such a thought-provoking lecture, and to KAF for facilitating the event.

ROMEO AND JULIET

Globe Theatre, 6 March

On 6 March, two Fifth Form English sets went to watch a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe theatre. Arriving at the Globe for the first time was exciting as it was Shakespeare's very own theatre (or at least a copy of it after the real one burnt down on the in 1613.) Moreover, because this play was specifically tailored towards schools, the street was buzzing with children from many different places, even some from France and Germany.

For an authentic Shakespearean experience, LSA kindly got us tickets as 'groundlings' in the 'pit': which essentially meant that we were standing in the space directly in front of the stage without any seats. Unfortunately, this 'authentic' experience did not involve us throwing fruit at the actors like they did in Shakespeare's time. Nevertheless, at 2pm the stage was set and the play began.

The play was an interesting modern take on the classic story of Romeo and Juliet. As opposed to the usual predominantly male cast, some male characters like Benvolio and Tybalt were played by female actresses. This added some variety to the play and did not detract from the characters but, on the contrary, developed them in a way not traditionally explored. In addition, several of the roles were brilliantly played, including the Nurse, whose loud and bawdy personality was perfectly depicted, and Tybalt, whose devious flair and elegance was convincingly performed. However, amongst the great, there were some lacklustre performances, such as Lord Capulet who sounded like he had a sore throat.

In terms of being an accurate representation of *Romeo and Juliet* and displaying the intertwinement of tragedy and comedy, I think the play fell short and, understandably, in a theatre full of eight to 16 year olds, focused on comedy. This was most apparent when, straight after stabbing herself, Juliet got up and began to dance with the rest of the cast, severing the atmosphere from tragedy. However, I believe the play was successful in being entertaining and exciting, as well as interestingly exploring the different characters.

My most memorable moment of the play was the fight scene between Tybalt and Mercutio: a very amusing scene through their constant punning and wordplay yet also clearly a representation of the real stakes and the resulting death of Mercutio. In this one rare moment, I believed tragedy and comedy were equally present and fittingly. It was my favourite moment of the play.

The play helped to demonstrate unique relationships and dynamics between characters, like the Nurse and Mercutio, whose odd chemistry is hard to experience on the page. The 'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' *Romeo and Juliet* was a fantastic play with many great actors and a pleasant light-hearted aesthetic about it. As a whole, the atmosphere was vibrant and, although we had to stand for 90 minutes in the drizzle, it was certainly an enjoyable trip and a rewarding experience and many thanks to LSA for organising it.

INTER-HOUSE DEBATE

Junior Final, OH Room, 5 March

On Tuesday 5 March, the representatives of Lyon's (proposition) and The Knoll (opposition) convened in the OH Room for the Junior House debating final. With the motion of "This house would rather be a scientist than a poet", the debate turned out to be thoroughly enthralling – with a surprising result at the end.

The opening speaker, Aakash Aggarwal, *Lyon's*, began with a strong definition of science as backed by the Oxford English dictionary, as well as quantifying that to be a scientist is to be a poet; a definition soon refuted by the opposition (as one would expect). He went on to elaborate on the idea of the greater quality of life that science can afford, arguing that poets have less need to leave their home in order to undertake their work than scientists, and are thus more susceptible to loneliness and isolation, the effects of which were stated as equivalent to those of 15 cigarettes a day. Rather aptly, he stated another scientific statistic: the 59.6-year average life expectancy of poets (20% less than that of a normally otherwise employed person). With this having been established, he moved onto the idea of wage or pay – arguably the most advantageous argument for those scientifically inclined – by stating the average wage of a scientist in the UK (£42,500) as opposed to the Poet Laureate of the United States – one of the most prominent positions in all of poetry writing – Tracy K. Smith, who earns \$35,000 a year, proving an extreme difference in wage between an average scientist and one of the most critically acclaimed poets in our time. To conclude, he expressed that many less lucky (or able) poets only receive \$50 from major poetry publications for a work that may have taken days, and even bestselling poets make little in comparison to even the least inspired of scientists.

Following this declaration, Richard Hayward, *The Knoll*, immediately made his presence known by means of a rebuttal on aforesaid definition (having made a highly informative comment on the crispness of the evening), accusing the proposition of "squirreling definitions in order to support their arguments"; an accusation as soon proposed as debunked by a citation-wielding Aggarwal's mention of a direct dictionary source. This then resulted in Hayward citing his definition (allegedly from the Cambridge English Dictionary, though the veracity of this statement is still under consideration) of "communication of emotions from the heart", a statement met with sighs from the Lyonians and sentimental smiles from the newly poeticised Knoll. His point, Hayward argued, could then be extrapolated to mean that all communication is poetry, and henceforth interpreted poetry to be necessary and in constant use for/in human society. He then continued onto a point with less dubious origins to one with a valuable, albeit admittedly soppy, argument at its heart, that of the gain or reward brought. Having stated that all language is poetry, he went on to proclaim that the reward that lies in the active pursuit of poetry is spiritual, as opposed to the material rewards of science. Although this was met by the embittered expostulations of many members of the audience on account of its rampant sentimentality, its implications – whether it was stated with such sincerity as its presentation warranted or not – were those of a valid argument. With this having been said, he went on to illustrate a very compelling, if not enormously relevant, image of himself on the last night of a particularly extravagant cruise ship bonanza, conversing deeply with two "dusky maidens of the night", an experience that allegedly portrayed to him a great deal about the nature of his character. Perhaps the language should not be read into. Finally, his closing remark was that of Theresa May using poetry (as opposed to science); upon further examination, this may not have been such a wise embellishment, considering the current Brexit solution context.

Following the Purveyor of Dusky Maidens™, Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, took to the floor to begin his research-fuelled ravaging

of the topic, promptly beginning with a rebuttal of the definition by stating that all speech is not poetry, on account of its being devoid of verse, meter or rhyme. With all of the fury of a strikingly bored chimaera, he went on to speak about how poetry is not as cathartic a process as science, on account of science being able to yield a genuine solution to a problem approached, and then proceeded to comment with snark immeasurable on the fact that the "poets" had used computers, elevators and all the scientifically engineered like in their having come to be debating the topic now. Science, Winward argued, is also more reliable than poetry, as well as proposing the idea, much to the dismay of the opposition, that a scientist's pursuit of a science is far more important (and henceforth valuable) than a poet's pursuit, a point delivered with all the passion of a thousand overworked accountants, yet valid nevertheless. He then went on to state that an 'a-ha moment', should it be taken on by oneself, yields a great many endorphins, greater than the number secreted in the writing of a poem, and in crushing a feeble 'professional foul' POI proposed by the opposition's resident pedant, Wauchope, began to draw his speech to a conclusion.

With the proposition having thoroughly secured a place as the leading contender for success (as discernible from the general atmosphere in the room), William Wauchope, *The Knoll*, entered onto the floor in order to attempt to change the tide; his attempts were futile. He asked the audience to be grateful that he had not spoken in couplets thus far, resulting an enormous universal guffawing rendering the majority of those present speechless in sheer hysteria on account of its evidently fantastic humour (or so I, an impartial member of the press, assume he may have planned). With a two-hour break having been taken to satiate the amount of laughter that had occurred in the wake of such an incredible comment, he went on to an argument which, although it was of little substance, had the right intentions: that of poetry being an expression of one's innermost beliefs (essentially a simplification of what Hayward had so aptly said previously), before possibly quoting a military podcast I can no longer remember by saying that his aims in life were to 'find a challenge, lock on and make gains'. He was also left relatively answerless after Winward asked how spiritual gains are to be made when one cannot afford food (and the significance of the former when those two situations were combined). His main point, which, ironically, seemed weaker than the others he had made, was of the idea of poetry being able to cure mental anguish incurred by disease, while tactfully neglecting the fact that it is science that cures the disease, upon which the revered debating demiurge (and adjudicator) of the occasion, MPS, chose to comment by stating that before the invention of penicillin, the victim of affliction would simply be 'made comfortable, and [others would] hope [the victim] gets better'. He also went on to speak that poetry can cushion the fear of mortality, and although this is a relatively valid point, it must be taken into account that without science many people would die as infants and never be able to cushion their mortality with words as they physically cannot understand them.

All being said and done, the standard of debate was very high from both sides, with our adjudicator stating that, in his many years of having witnessed debates, this was one of the most prosperous. Floor-drawn addenda consisted mostly of moot points, although the ever-eloquent Hayward responded (to the proposition of the question of Wittgensteinian 'Linguistics') that "we should all take a moment to appreciate that... it's very deep". With all having been said, although almost all in attendance were voting in favour of Lyon's (a view predicated both on general performance, and, in some cases, house allegiances), and although the general tide of the debate seemed to err in favour of the proposition, Hayward and his counterpart were confirmed by MPS, our esteemed adjudicator, to have won the debate and, by extension, the competition (a sentiment which not even the Chair was in complete agreement with). In conclusion, the occasion was fruitful in that it bore many instances of ripe

debate (with the exclusion of misinformed humour), and all involved are to be congratulated for their efforts.

BEGINNING YOUR REVISION JOURNEY

Where should one start when beginning revision? A useful starting point is auditing your learning. Using a grid on which you colour code your subject topics (Green: I am confident with this, Amber: I know some of it but should revise this, Red: Not confident, I need to prioritise revising this) can be an effective way of helping you to identify which subjects and areas you need to prioritise. This will then help you to ensure that you revise the topics that you are the least comfortable with, rather than wasting time revising content that you already know.

Completing a timetable is essential as it will allow you to identify available blocks of time. During holiday periods, try and plan chunks of around 40 minutes, similar to the length of a single period at school. This length of time is optimum for allowing your brain to digest information without becoming too overloaded. Aim to complete around five to six of these revision sessions in one day, with breaks in between. You may find it useful to plan your day around your usual school timetable so that you are used to that way of working. Ensure that you plan in rest breaks, exercise and treats to motivate you to complete your revision tasks.

You will find an audit template, as well as a revision timetable, in the Revision section of the Learning Skills page on Firefly.

HISTORY BEE & BOWL

International History Bee & Bowl, held at King's College School, Wimbledon, 3 March

On Sunday 3 March, Harrow fielded a Senior and a Junior team in the London & South East heats of the International History Bee & Bowl, held at King's College School, Wimbledon. This is a global tournament in which pupils from all over the world test their historical knowledge against each other, both in teams (the 'Bowl') and as individuals (the 'Bee'). The Senior team (Henry Chia-Croft, *Lyon's*, Alex Jeong, *The Knoll*, Ibrahim Norat, *West Acre*, and Charles Paice, *The Head Master's*) reached the semi-finals of the Bowl, claiming the scalp of a strong Eton team along the way, while the Juniors (Aum Amin, Edward Blunt, both *Elmfield*, Jake Brockwell, *Moretons*, and Joseph Wragg, *The Grove*) registered some impressive wins and only narrowly failed to qualify for their semi-final. In the individual competition, Paice and Chia-Croft reached the final in the Senior division, and Paice was placed third. Amin deserves special recognition – playing up a division against competitors two years older, he finished just outside the medals in fourth place in the Junior section.

HANS WOYDA

Last week, the Maths team, comprising Liron Chan, *The Grove*, James Yuen, *Lyon's*, Girk Yin, *Bradlys*, and captain Andrew Zhou, *Lyon's*, travelled to City of London School for their semi-final in the knockout Hans Woyda Maths Competition. CLS are undoubtedly our arch-rivals (we have met in each of the last four iterations of the competition, with three of those matches going down to the last question), so honour was on the line and everyone was expecting a match of the highest standard.

It wasn't a surprise that both teams started in top form, with nothing to separate them after the first two rounds. In the next two, Harrow gained a lead of a couple of points, and at the half-way point had a slim two-question advantage. In the next

rounds, the honours were shared, until the final race round (where the first correct answer takes all the points). Despite making a couple of mistakes trying to be too hasty, Harrow managed to hang on to their lead and drag themselves over the finish line in front, with the final score 49-42. The team now progresses to the final, which will be held at the Royal Society at the end of March.

HERE AND THERE

Earlier this term, five Harrovians sat the extremely challenging second round of the British Maths Olympiad (comprising four problems to be tackled in 3½ hours). This competition is only open to the top 100 or so candidates in the country, so merely qualifying is an achievement in itself. Credit goes to Muhtasim Mannan, *The Park*, Sam Shi, *Bradlys*, Pasa Suksmith, *Elmfield*, and Girk Yin, *Bradlys*, for their determination in tackling the problems – it is an indicator of the difficulty of the paper that between them they earned seven marks (with a single completely correct solution worth ten)! Andrew Zhou, *Lyon's*, however, rose to the challenge magnificently to produce perfect solutions to the first two questions, earning himself 20 marks and a certificate of distinction, awarded to only the top handful of candidates nationally.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"I've been going to the gym." "I've seen more muscles on a matchstick."

"Candles only get smaller. They can not grow bigger when lit." "What about magic candles, sir?"

"Sir, is hydrogen an element or a water?"

DAME VAUGHAN AGONY AUNT

Dear Dame Vaughan,

As you reside in your tome-turreted tower, I must confess the urge to be purged of a fire-festering frustration. See, serious over my cereals, I break every breakfast my fast with the news newly printed in papers. And every day Brexit aches break my bread and butter ablutions with backstop stories stopped by party-pooing-politicians (self-proclaimed magicians) magicking money-making motions to stop Brexit or bring Britain back. With this news word-thrilled milled-over I spring unsprung from breakfast-Brexit boredom into rhyme-time, fine-line study-sitting sessions, unenthused by musings amused by the news. I yearn for a breakfast break from this gloomy doom-laden-heavy tomb of crying, dying Britannia still trying to live. I wish for something dappled-light, bright fluffy to amend the dawning morning's mourning. And I'm not just talking about the scrambled eggs. Help, give aid, O maiden of the vaulting Vaughan. I await your breakfast book.

Yours,
Jeremy Masculine-Hipkons

Dear He of the hyphenated-handle,

Well that was a mouthful wasn't it! Try saying that out loud when you're a few fermented grapes into a vineyard tour. Not that I blame you dear: I do believe your letter is still the most cogent thing that's been uttered about Brexit since my triumphant

slam-poetry concert back in June 2018. From the very first line – “I’ll sing something akin to hip-hop Hopkins” – people knew they were in for a bit of erudite rap hitherto unexperienced by the modern world. Why, after that concert, Stormzy wanted to collaborate with me, calling me a ‘lyrical miracle’, and Drake offered to crown me Queen of Rap. I politely declined: to be a Dame is one thing, to aspire to royalty is quite another. I learnt my lesson the first time round... Besides, I’m simply far too busy developing my new photographic memoirs: ‘Views from the Sky – A Dame’s journey round the world via paraglider’. Coming soon to a book store near you. Anyway, your morning meal recommendation: may I suggest *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* by Truman Capote? Sure to free you from your Brexit woes and restore breakfast to its hallowed status, escape to the glittering socialite world of 1940s New York, where tragicomic cultural icon Holly Golightly flits where the martinis flow from cocktail hour till breakfast at Tiffany’s. Pursued by to Salvatore ‘Sally’ Tomato, the Mafia sugar-daddy doing life in Sing Sing, and ‘Rusty’ Trawler, the blue-chinned, cuff-shooting millionaire man about women about town, this classic, made famous by the 1961 Audrey Hepburn film, is a light-hearted, frivolous and charmingly comic look at the socialites of a bygone era. It’s certainly one to take away your Brexit woes and put a skip in your step for the rest of the day. That, or the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins: one gets the feeling you may find a certain affinity with them...

Yours breakfastingly,
 Dame Vaughan

[If you have a book-themed predicament and wish to seek advice from the omniscient Dame Vaughan, please email the editor or the Vaughan Library, who will pass it onto the Dame’s people.]

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors of *The Harrovian*

DEAR SIRS,

With regret, I must draw your attention to a slur in *The Harrovian* this week. *The Harrovian* claims that the Mass in the Catholic Cathedral (which was in Russian) “did drag on for a while... Even SPS admitted to almost nodding off.” I want to make it clear that this accusation is entirely false. I didn’t *almost* nod off at all. I was sound asleep.

Best wishes,
 SPS

Dear sir,

I am writing in reaction to the *Hill Life* article from March 2, on sex education. I want to pick up on several ill-informed arguments. First of all, implicitly comparing sex ed with convicted paedophile Jimmy Savile implies that LGBTI+ people are also paedophiles. Conflating homosexuality, gender dysphoria and paedophilia is dangerous, deeply offensive and warrants an apology, especially to the boys on the Hill who are grappling with such issues.

It is also factually wrong that sex education makes young people question their gender. That is like saying doctors cause disease. Sex education does not create gender dysphoria, but it allows young people to voice their doubts. “Not knowing for sure” or “changing one’s mind” is a necessary part of growing up, in all aspects of life. Sex education provides young people with a safe space to learn about expressing their sexuality freely.

The references to “normality” and that sex-ed is allegedly designed to destroy it. On the contrary, sex ed is about exploring the options, about taking away stigmas and thus making young people feel safe in their skin. We live in a world where gay

marriage and Pride parades are normal, so a more tolerant view of normality would be a good next step for the author.

Sex ed allows young people to feel they are not alone or abnormal. A British study from 2012 showed that 84% of respondents have contemplated suicide, 35% have attempted it, and 25% have attempted it more than once. These are shocking numbers – The Hill’s alleged all-male environment should not mean that gender is being avoided, on the contrary. Time has shown that this environment is notoriously unaccepting of and even hostile to different lifestyles, which should make us all want to discuss the topic even more openly in the hope of avoiding similarly harrowing statistics in our own community.

On a technical debating level, citing religion is a lazy argument as it takes the side of historically restrictive organisations’ views, who are notorious for making LGBTI+ people feel unwelcome and unsafe, ultimately contributing to the above statistics. The author abuses religion to argue that LGBTI+ people are abnormal and not acceptable as they are. On a side note, even the religious organisations cited in the letter as opposing sex ed are themselves becoming more conciliatory towards the LGBTI+ community.

And this is the actual “gender crisis”: feeling threatened by something he or she does not understand and lashing out by taking away freedom from vulnerable young people. The only crisis I see is young people not getting the support they need.

Yours sincerely,
 MDW

SQUASH

National Schools Competition Round 4
 26 February

1st V v Felsted Won 5-0 v
 1st V v Whitgift Won 3-2
 1st V v Westminster Won 4-1

	<i>Felsted</i>	<i>Whitgift</i>	<i>Westminster</i>
B Sodi, <i>West Acre</i>	Won 2-0	Won 2-0	Won 2-0
DD Shortt, <i>Newlands</i>	Won 2-1	Lost 0-2	Won 2-0
KH Jafree, <i>Elmfield</i>	Won 2-0	Won 2-0	Won 2-0
TC Santini, <i>The Park</i>	Won 2-0	Lost 0-2	Lost 0-2
JD Gibbons, <i>The Park</i>	Won 2-0	Won 2-0	Won 2-0

The squash team have accidentally qualified for the National Schools Finals. It wasn’t supposed to happen this year but somehow it has. We are so outraged that we are thinking of complaining to the organisers, England Squash. The team looked confused, even shocked. Had we cheated? Were there grounds for any complaints by the opposition? The answer was probably yes.

So how exactly did it happen? In the cold light of dawn, certain contributory factors did start to emerge and they can be evaluated by using the Law of Underlying Cumulative Causation Index (LUCCI). The higher the LUCCI out of 10, the greater the contribution of that factor.

Harrow Played Well (LUCCI 4). This was a real long shot but it must have played a role without anyone noticing. In the crucial match against Whitgift, Jafree and Gibbons drew on all their lack of experience to beat quite able opponents.

Lack of Preparation (LUCCI 6). A half-term week spent skiing and clubbing meant that the team were in a relaxed frame of mind and had low expectations. This contributed to a more uninhibited display than usual. Expectation can weigh

heavy and so elimination of expectation is essential, especially for Santini.

Home Advantage (LUCCI 8). There were complex and protracted negotiations about the venue for this group. Harrow had four courts but two were sub-polar (the Ice Dome). In the end, the other three schools were reassured by the promise of tea and coffee on tap.

Group of Dust (LUCCI 7). The opposite of the Group of Death. Harrow may have been a touch fortunate in avoiding the big guns. The organisers were probably lulled into seeding Harrow after the last two years of plenty. This is to take nothing away from Gibbon's defeat of a ten-year-old girl from Felsted.

Ice Dome Avoidance (LUCCI 8). We had good intentions. Each school would play matches in the sub-Arctic conditions of the Ice Dome as well as in the tropical hothouse that is the Airfix Dome. Unfortunately, due to a computer error, Harrow spent all afternoon in the Airfix Dome and didn't set foot outside. Luckily, the other schools didn't seem to notice.

Lack of Heating (LUCCI 4). Ironically, the Airfix Dome was also without heating. The Works department could not replace the damaged pump before the weekend. Harrow adapted well to the lack of bounce while the other teams trooped to and from the Ice Dome where the bounce was even lower.

Santini's Ruthless Streak (LUCCI 2). Santini's aggressive approach caused his Felsted opponent to erupt in tears after losing. It later emerged that he only started to cry after seeing Santini's win-lose record on the back of a stray fixture card.

Climate Change (LUCCI 2). The frequency of extreme events has increased. The chances of this team getting to the National Finals were remote. In fact this is only the fifth occasion since records began in 1910 and all of those have been in the last ten years.

As usual, the order of emotions on winning through followed the well-known BEF scale: a) Bemusement: as several players struggle to comprehend what has just happened; b) Exhilaration: as wild delight at the accidental achievement takes hold; c) Fear: as players realise the frightening scale of the challenge that lies ahead. In some cases stage (b) can be by-passed completely as Bemusement runs straight into Fear.

Gibbons: What happened?

Coach: We won.

Gibbons: Won what?

Coach: The group.

Gibbons: What group?

Santini: Does that mean.....?

Coach: Yes, we've qualified for the finals.

Gibbons: Oh dear.

Santini: What do we do now?

There was no time for exhilaration in the real world of Harrow Squash. Of course, the pertinent question was "What do we do now?". We had sleepwalked into the National Finals and now had to face up to the might of Millfield and Wycliffe. A Damage Limitation Exercise (DLE) was required which could draw funds from the Health and Safety Budget (HASBEEN). The Harrow Squash version decided on was known as the Laughing Stock Avoidance Plan (LSAP). After great debate, it was decided to accept our place in the finals despite the danger of bringing the game of squash into disrepute. Once we had taken this monumental step, the LSAP quickly took shape.

Gibbon's Glasses: These will need to be tightened or discarded. The present arrangement whereby Gibbons runs around holding his glasses on with his left hand will not do at the National Finals. Imagine Harry Kane doing that at Wembley.

Shortt's Self-Esteem: Shortt has taken Self-Loathing to a new level. He genuinely hates the fact that he has not improved over the last 13 years. Normally, we would applaud this complete lack of ego but at the National Finals there is a very real danger of suicide, which would damage our chances of damage limitation. Although it goes against the ethos of School Squash, we need to find ways of getting Shortt to like himself a little more. The

first step will be to get the rest of the team to be nicer to him. At the moment they just laugh.

Jafree's Self-Esteem: Jafree is in danger of thinking that he is good after a run of victories. He has developed a slightly laid-back and in-control look on court. This is alright against Westminster but will lead to disaster against Millfield. He also needs to shave his whole body to decrease wind resistance.

Santini's Acting Career: Santini needs to hit at least 60,000 balls before the finals to make the leap from losing 0/11 in each game to losing 2/11. This is what Laughing Stock Avoidance is all about. He should carry a squash racket to rehearsals for the Globe theatre so that he can have a swish in the wings with an imaginary ball. This is called Shadow Play. Imagining good shots is the closest he will ever get to actually playing good shots.

Sodi's Diet: The main danger to Sodi lies in floaters, birthday parties and fast food, though he cannot eat very spicy food, which is good. He is in charge of organising team sessions at strange times like after prep and before breakfast. He must also take responsibility for Santini and count every shot of the 60,000.

The LSAP has been launched.

CROSS COUNTRY

Winchester College, 7 March

Last Thursday saw the cross-country team head to Winchester College for its last individual race of the season. The infamous course – comprising a 450ft ascent over five miles in the senior race, and 250ft of ascent over 3.9 miles in the intermediate race – proved, as always, a challenge to Harrow's runners but one that, as in previous years, Harrow's runners faced up to admirably. Harrow's intermediate A team won its race with the B team in second: Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, finished in first with Eddie Jodrell, *Elmfield*, close behind in second place. Well done to Tom Emery, *Moretons*, and George Ferguson, *Newlands*, who also ran very well to place fourth and fifth respectively. A spate of recent injuries in the squad meant that our senior team just missed out on keeping hold of the title of winning school for another year, but we still finished in a solid second place, and only six points behind winners Winchester. Captain Monty Powell, *The Grove*, finished first, with Matthys du Toit, *Newlands*, and Theo Nash, *The Grove*, doing very well to place fourth and seventh respectively.

FOOTBALL

The School v Dr Challoner's Grammar School

Colts A, Lost 1-2

Colts C, Won 2-0

Scorers: Joe Smith, *Bradbys*; Ed De Bray, *The Knoll*.

The Colts Cs overcame a physical Dr Challoner's B team to maintain their unbeaten record. Despite not winning the possession stats, Harrow scored twice and kept a well-deserved clean sheet in this tricky away fixture.

Junior Colts A, Drew 1-1

Junior Colts B, Lost 0-1

Yearlings A, Won 4-0

Yearlings B, Won 6-0

Scorers: Abuov, *Druries*, Keey, *Druries*, Williams, *Moretons*, De Hemptinne, *Bradbys*, (x2), Black, *West Acre*

The Yearling B team put in their most assured performance of the season with a controlled 6-0 victory. Williams ran the show from midfield with the back three led masterfully by Owens, *Rendalls*.

The School v William Perkin

Colts B, Lost 0-3

HARROW FOOTBALL

*House Harrow Football Finals**Yearlings**Rendalls 3 Newlands 2*

Above: Edwin Oh, Oscar Gleason, Nikolai Hanbury, Bebo Morales-Quintanal, Sean Doughty, Max Kawkabani, Sam Pound, Max Foulston, Josh Owens, Nurali Bibolat and Cameron Ellis

*Torpid**Newlands 4 The Head Master's 2*

Above: Freddie Strange, Jasper Gray, Alexander Morrison, Jude Brankin-Frisby, Tom Foster, Callum Lloyd, Herbie Smith, Luke Esposito, Aurelien Jossierand, Caleb Efemuai, Michael Chiimba, Luke Ritchie, Ehiada Garuba, Henry Pearce and Hugo Anderson.

*Cock House Final**Newlands 7 Bradbys 3*

Boys in Newlands and Bradbys were wearing their rosettes on their uniforms on Tuesday 5 March, which signalled the Cock House Harrow football final was taking place on Hemstal 6 at 2.30pm. The game promised to be a passionate, hard-fought encounter with both teams putting everything into the game. Thankfully, the rain had arrived the previous day, ensuring ideal conditions. The first half kicked off with Newlands heading uphill and, although a close opportunity arose for Bradbys in the opening minutes, Newlands quickly found their feet and imposed their dominance for the rest of the first half, which finished 4-1 to Newlands. However, it left both teams battered and bruised due to the intense nature of the match. The second half promised even more aggression, with lots of big hits and runs. Newlands started the second half with three successive bases. However, Bradbys rallied back by scoring two late bases. It proved too little too late for Bradbys, with Newlands coming out triumphant with a 7-3 win. It was a terrific final played with a great atmosphere – both teams demonstrating teamwork, camaraderie and fighting to uphold the name of their house. Ultimately, the day was a celebration of Harrow football and of the game's values. Sam Allen did a tremendous

job as Newlands captain on the day. Honourable mention goes to Dougal Barr who, although at home and ill, was fundamental to the success of the Newlands team.



Above: Philipp Benigni, Charlie Christie, Christian Boland, Sam Allen, George Jenkins, Robert Litton, James Larard, Declan Shortt, Max Grogan, Matthys du Toit, Ewan Jossierand and Archie Hogben.

Bases Newlands – Charlie Christie x2, Christian Boland x2, William Dutton, Declan Shortt and George Jenkins; Bradbys Oliver Glimmerveen, George Wooding and Romeo Ravagnan

The School v Sunningdale Preparatory Beaks

The Lower Sixth squad arrived at Sunningdale on a misty day and were warmly greeted by the Sunningdale staff. After a quick turnaround, the game kicked off and within minutes the Harrow team began noticeably to dominate, with Charlie Christie, *Newlands*, Archie Nicholls, *Bradbys*, and Archie Heilpern, *The Knoll*, all taking bases from long range. Consequently, the OHs on the Sunningdale team gave a passionate team talk stressing the key tactics to the inexperienced team.



After this, the Sunningdale team really slowed the Harrow team down, preventing the quick yards and building more and more pressure. A few of the sweepers began to creep forward, which Sunningdale quickly exploited by getting a base through a quick counter attack with no structure at the back to stop them. However, Harrow quickly responded just before half time with Will Dutton, *Newlands*, hitting a base. The half-time whistle saw the score at 4-1 to Harrow; it was clear the young guns had taken advantage of the lighter ball on a very green pitch (two things that are not usually associated with footer). As the second half got underway, the Sunningdale team seemed to get better and better with every minute, scoring three bases, while Harrow fell asleep due to the large winning margin. Among the Lower Sixth ranks the words "They're actually getting quite good" were echoing throughout the team. Harrow switched back on and Cameron Macleod, *The Head Master's*, managed to grab the ball close to the sticks and kick a solid base through, making it 5-4 to Harrow. The OHs, who were fired up, came at us with everything they had (including their two extra subs), which made things very challenging for the Lower Sixth boys to handle. After grinding and grinding, they managed to get a break and, with no boy in sight, the OH playing for Sunningdale

job as Newlands captain on the day. Honourable mention goes to Dougal Barr who, although at home and ill, was fundamental to the success of the Newlands team.

Above: Philipp Benigni, Charlie Christie, Christian Boland, Sam Allen, George Jenkins, Robert Litton, James Larard, Declan Shortt, Max Grogan, Matthys du Toit, Ewan Josserand and Archie Hogben.

Bases Newlands – Charlie Christie x2, Christian Boland x2, William Dutton, Declan Shortt and George Jenkins; *Bradbys* Oliver Glimmerveen, George Wooding and Romeo Ravagnan

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grab the ball close to the sticks and kick a solid base through, making it 5-4 to Harrow. The OHs, who were fired up, came at us with everything they had (including their two extra subs), which made things very challenging for the Lower Sixth boys to handle. After grinding and grinding, they managed to get a break and, with no boy in sight, the OH playing for Sunningdale sliced it wide even though the base was wide open. He fell to the ground in disbelief as he lost a chance to make it 5-5. However, suddenly the same OH called a yards behind the half-way line not long after. This was the last play of the game and, knowing he had to redeem himself, he struck the ball with serious power, clearing the posts comfortably. This huge kick brought it to 5-5. All in all, the Lower Sixth boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves showcasing their skills throughout the game and had some great chats with the Sunningdale teachers and OHs at tea. Although the game ultimately ended as a draw, it still proved that the 2020 Harrow football season is one to look forward to.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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