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PALMERSTON SOCIETY

*His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the
People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom,
OSRG, 19 September*

On Thursday, the Old Speech Room Gallery reached its maximum capacity as Harrow School and the Palmerston Society welcomed His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom.



Following a short introduction from Charles Harrison, Rendalls, and a warm welcome from the OSRG, Mr Xiaoming thanked the School for being so hospitable. He explained that having been the Ambassador to the UK for nine years had meant that he had had the opportunity to visit many well-known schools over the years, and that seeing boys with such youthful vigour during each visit made him feel younger. He was pleased at the strength of relations between our school and China. The fruitful results of this endeavour can clearly be seen in the fact that 70 out of 800 or so students at Harrow are from China, a number that is increasing. He added that many Old Harrovians are famous throughout China, namely Winston Churchill, Lord Byron and, more recently, Benedict Cumberbatch (thanks to his Sherlock series!). To his mind, these reflect Harrow's success worldwide but also the possibility for even greater relations between the UK and China.

This led to the main topic of his talk: his goal of achieving greater co-operation between the two countries. Having visited many areas in the UK, from the Shetland Islands in the North to the Channel Islands in the South, as well as the British Overseas Territories, Mr Xiaoming described the clear friendship felt towards China, as well as the interest of the people of the United Kingdom in learning more about China.

Mr Xiaoming clearly felt extremely proud of his country – he compared its history to that of Egypt's, a country to which he had also been an Ambassador, and explained that, unlike Egypt, China's recorded history had remained uninterrupted by foreign influence in 5000 years. This meant that all China's culture is truly its own – such examples of this include paper-making, gunpowder, the compass, astronomical findings and the calendar, as well as its famous philosophers. However, he also stressed that China was an extremely young country experiencing profound changes. He highlighted that this year was the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic of China, proudly stating that in seven decades they have achieved remarkable

success, having gone from an impoverished country to the second-richest country in the world. There are now also more than 3,173 public libraries and 9.5 billion books in the whole of China, and China has made huge progress in scientific fields like spatial and molecular science. He did add that whilst China is still the world's fastest-developing country with a GDP five times the size of the UK's, their GDP per capita was still less than a quarter of that of Britain's. He intended to fix this and recognised that, while it would be a challenge, China was confident it could overcome this.

He moved on to say that China had experienced untold sufferings and that, for this particular reason, it cherishes peace more than other countries. They have suffered foreign invasions and internal wars – it also fought with the UK against the fascists. He explained that the fact that both the UK and China celebrate their victory over Japan at a similar time each year (August and September) is a symbol of shared suffering as well as a celebration of peace. Mr Xiaoming explained that their suffering meant that they enjoy peace more than most other countries, which is why they represent fairness in international affairs – he claimed that the Chinese people would never impose their will on others, but would not be bound to the will of others either. He highlighted China's aim to keep the peace, declaring that the country had sent 40,000 peace-keeping military personnel to the UN since 1990, a number which makes it the second-largest contributor to the UN.

It seemed clear to the audience what message Mr Xiaoming was trying to convey – that after centuries of lagging behind (namely since its closed-door policies that date back to the 18th century) China is finally embracing its responsibilities. Since 1949, and more specifically for the past 40 years, China has been opening to global investment – the global market has become its basic foreign policy, signing up to the WTO in 2001 (it is now the largest trading partner with 120 different countries!). He explained that China's aim was to actively integrate with the rest of the world, having joined almost all NGOs in the world in an attempt to shoulder its international duties, such as climate change, counter-terrorism and cyber security. He also claimed China had become a strong supporter of multilateralism, explaining that China was ready to share development opportunities with the rest of the world, adopting an approach to development that safeguarded its own interests while working for the common development of all mankind, encouraging the diversity of civilisations (he explained that Chinese philosophy values generosity and social responsibility). It therefore seemed logical for the Ambassador to affirm that China was a powerhouse of the world's economy.

He then moved on to China's philosophy with regard to what world we want to live in – its vision is to build a shared community for the future of mankind where everyone is a member. As Earth is our one hope, countries need to be interdependent, and China is open to work with other countries to create an open, safe and common prosperity with everyone else. This can be seen through their Belt and Road Initiative – a 21st-century maritime silk road that carries forward peace and co-operation, mutual learning and benefits, with the aim of achieving growth for both China and everyone else (in his words, the aim of the BRI was to give wings to all the countries on the road as they strive for economic take-off). In six years,

the BRI has become the largest co-operation platform in the world – with 166 countries and international organisations participating, it has now become the new stage of high-quality development (incidentally, the UK participated in the design of the Belton Road).

Mr Xiaoming revealed that this year marked the 65th anniversary of China-UK diplomatic relations, with Xi Jinping declaring in 2014 that we had entered the golden age of the relations between our two countries. The Ambassador was confident that our two countries were set for a bright future, declaring that our students were the future of the relations between the two countries. He concluded by encouraging us to follow our paths. He hoped we would live up to the values of God's grace and good learning and that we would grow up to be the pillars of communication between two very different societies – our different social systems means that we will not see eye to eye on every matter but, through talking and communication, he hoped we could avoid misunderstandings and learn to appreciate our differences, nurturing both Eastern and Western relationships. He also encouraged us to innovate, which he thought of as the cause behind any country's growth. He stated that there would be profound changes to our lives, with the UK and China being at the forefront of these new industries which will lead to young people having a broad stage to strive and succeed. Finally, he recommended that we adopt a global perspective and a broad vision. As mankind faces openness or isolation, progress and regression, it was important to maintain our country's vision of the former – it is our job to keep on the right track of history.

Mr Xiaoming concluded by saying he hoped we would visit China to see the country and gain a more comprehensive understanding of China (that would hopefully make us fall in love with the country!). He declared that with our youth and wisdom, we are to carry out the relationship between our two countries, and that by living life out to the fullest, we are to build relations between the two countries to the fullest.

An OSRG armed with questions fired them off like bullets off an AK-47, with questions on topics such as Brexit, Hong Kong, a trade-deal with the UK, climate change, China's position on the DPRK's nuclear programme and the somewhat sour relationships between the USA and China, especially relating to trade. The Ambassador answered all the questions skilfully and humorously, with his overall message being that China wanted to conserve the best relations possible with as large a number of countries as possible in order to bring benefits upon themselves and other countries, and it was only through co-operation that they would be able to get much done. As he declared when discussing trade with the US, “you need two to dance the tango.” The Palmerston Society and Harrow School thanks His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming for giving such an interesting and thought-provoking talk, and as a sign of the good relations between our school and China, WMAL presented the Ambassador with a limited-edition Harrow Songs book. The Palmerston Society meets again after the exeat to welcome the US Ambassador to the UK.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD

*Qualifying Expedition to the Cairngorms, Scotland
29 June to 4 July*

We completed our first-aid training courses by practising CPR on a sterilised plastic dummy; we finally convinced our parents that the few hundred pounds were worth it; we drew up the maps, washed out our Trangias and zipped our bags shut, taking on board the lessons we gained from the practice

expedition (that any amount of food was never enough). All that was left were 28 boys, five beaks, two assessors and a mountain of mountains.

Usually, climbing stories like these begin by telling you the strenuous build-up to our expedition and then the sequence of events, filled with blood, sweat and tears, that led to the climax of the story. But I'm not going to do that. Really, the journey wasn't anything like trekking Kilimanjaro, or, dare I say, Everest. Of course, we all felt the nervousness and uncertainty of the first step. It wasn't cold nor too hot – yet we still shivered throughout CJFB's final pep-talk as we realised that the finish line of The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award laid before our eyes. You could almost see it if you squinted. Among the beautiful background of the Cairngorms lurked the beast Ben Macdui - the second -highest mountain in Scotland, indeed in the British Isles.



As you know, DofE requires an aim for the expedition. Various ideas were drawn up by different teams, including the exploration of the flora of Scotland and different leadership styles and how to develop them. Lots of photos and videos were taken, demanding the best stable hands and phone batteries. Along the way, all groups saw sights rarely seen at Harrow: vast open spaces with dizzying numbers of trees, hills filling the horizon, crisp and sky-blue skies (the colour it should be) engulfing the mountain ridges, gushing icy clear rivers and plenty of sheep and deer. In retrospect, the journey we endured and enjoyed felt easier after the practice expedition. The previous trip to the Lake District entailed rocky cliffs, muddy waters and snowy downhills. Not to mention that the inner group conflicts began to subside and a sense of working as a unit arose, we walked/canoed our way through the expedition with greater ease. This was not to say that getting to the top was not difficult.

You wouldn't have been able to tell it was the peak of Macdui – the web of fog permeating the air removed any chance of catching sight of the world underneath our feet. It was only the congratulatory cairns that hinted at our achievements. But the journey wasn't finished, as the adrenaline rushed and the thought of returning home became clear in our minds. Light-headed and shaking from the freezing sweat, the boys and beaks scurried their way down the winding paths, through the bristly grass swaying with chaotic rhythms, and over the scattered boulders that refused to stay balanced as we jumped onto them. With the moss and thick air obscuring our view, everyone had to develop their own methods of navigating their way down. For some, the classic “just do it” technique worked perfectly well – a combination of running and acceptance of the uncertainty of survival. Most began strategically looking for the right place upon which to place their feet, although this risked the possibility of what seemed like a solid footing being a boggy hole into which you were sucked. Others became more creative and started sidestepping. A few found that taking out their roll mat to slide over was not a good idea, but refused to admit it so that they ran out of mat to slide over. Nobody was left behind, and there was a great sense of urgent support. Extra breaks, however, were fitted in to compensate for the “special ones”. According to some, RCHA cheated the expedition by

riding a goat to get down, but evidence revealed that there was no goat – it was just him galloping downhill.

Soon, the journey reached its end as we arrived back at Aviemore Youth Hostel. After unpicking all the mites drilled into our backs and packing up our half-used shampoos, we were on the night train back home before we knew it. Everyone slept like a baby. Even the ticket inspector was surprised – a group of boarding-school students had just left a train without making a racket.

Just last week, as the final stage of the process, the boys gave presentations about their expedition in front of the assessors and supervisors from DoFE London. It was evident that both the audience and the boys enjoyed re-living their experiences after a long summer break. Now, all that stands between the boys and their medals are the final few forms and e-paperwork that needs filling in. However, it is not the last piece of qualification that allows us to look back, reflecting upon the trip to the Cairngorms, with a complete sense of pride and nostalgia. Perhaps with each half-opened packet of ramen, our memories will bring us back once again to that sweet scent of sizzling noodles under the gaze of those stars across the big Scottish sky.

AT LORD'S WITH BEN STOKES

On Thursday 19 September, nine boys from Newlands were fortunate to meet a national hero. EWH had arranged for us to attend a charity event at Lord's. After an amazing 135 not out, Ben Stokes managed to secure the win for the England cricket side in the third test. We arrived at Lord's at 8.30am to be met by refreshments before our Q&A session with Ben Stokes. Being able to hear about what he was thinking and feeling as he played the match, with no wickets to spare, was mesmerising, and questions ranging from the match to his best friends on the squad allowed us all to see how talented yet humble he is. In addition, he was able to give all of us, as young aspiring athletes, tips on how to stay on form and to teach us that perseverance is the key to success. After this, we all got the chance to meet Ben Stokes individually as he signed mini bats and sat for photos.



Once this was all over, we went to the nets where, alongside Ben Stokes, three Lord's cricket coaches joined us for a session of cricket. A few of us padded up and were lucky enough to face a few balls from Ben Stokes. As well as this, he gave all the bowlers tips on their bowling and, in the end, it turned out to be a very constructive session. The time was now 12.30pm and our insightful day of the cricketing world had come to an end. We all had a day we will never forget and would like to thank the Head Master for allowing us to attend. Herbie Smith, Jude Brankin-Frisby, Jasper Gray, Luke Ritchie, Barimah Adomakoh, Ollie Miall, Henry Emerson, Leon Mills and St John Smith attended.

CULINARY SOCIETY

Match Day Grill, Boyer Webb, 14 September

To coincide with the First XV's first home match of the season, the Culinary Society organised another highly successful BBQ by the Boyer Webb Pavilion, raising money for Spear, the main charity that we are supporting during Long Ducker this year. Hot dogs and burgers were on offer, with each kind imaginatively named after an iconic aspect of Harrow life; examples include The Churchill, The OH and The Custos. Furthermore, Moretons' Matron very kindly baked a batch of her world-famous brownies, which proved very popular. Many thanks go to SMK, NCS, TMD and the boys who volunteered to help for organising and running the event.



The Spear Foundation is a programme that helps unemployed young people in the Harrow area gain the skills and confidence to secure permanent employment. Indeed, 75% of Spear graduates are still in education one year after completing the course. The School has been working closely with Spear for a number of years through Shaftesbury Enterprise, with Lower Sixth boys volunteering on a weekly basis. The Grill raised £1,525 for the Spear Foundation in total.

HISPANIC SOCIETY

'Why the Bolivian election is the most important election in the Hispanic world since 2013?', Jose Linares, The Knoll

The Hispanic Society gathered to hear two lectures on South American matters. Jose Linares, *The Knoll*, spoke first, on the topic of the Bolivian general election. He began by providing some background information. The South American state has a population of 10 million and is 4.5 times bigger than the UK. According to the International Monetary Fund, it is also the poorest country in South America in terms of GDP per capita. Its nominal GDP per capita is \$3,719; 39% of Bolivians live in poverty. Much of its population relies on agriculture, natural resources and, unfortunately, drugs to make their money.

Linares moved on to introduce us to Evo Morales, the current president of Bolivia. He came to power when he won the 2005 election and, as a matter of significance, is the country's first indigenous president. Unsurprisingly, he has support from the indigenous majority, and through his policy of nationalising natural resources, he paved the way for an unprecedented level of economic growth in the country. Poverty has been greatly reduced in accordance with the bolstering of the economy during his time as president.

Morales was democratically backed to change Bolivia's constitution so that he could run again in 2014; however, in 2016, a nationwide referendum was held to see if Morales would be allowed to run for a fourth term. Fifty-one percent of the country voted against the proposal. In a complete violation of democratic principles, the Supreme Tribunal of

Justice disregarded the constitution and claimed that no public office was subject to a term limit, allowing Morales to run for president yet again. Their excuse was that 'foreign support to the opposition campaigns' rendered constitutional rights null.

Morales is currently the favourite to win the 2019 Bolivian election, scheduled to be held on 20 October. However, for the first time in his presidency, he faces unadulterated, true competition in the form of former president Carlos Mesa. Morales is currently polled at under 40% while Mesa is polled at 32/33%. A candidate needs to win at least 50% or 40% and beat the second most popular candidate by 10% to become president. Should this not occur, there shall be a second round of voting. However, Morales has the support of the military - an incredibly influential group, especially in Bolivian politics, given their historical context.

Many Bolivians think that if Morales is elected he will continuously ignore democracy (as he has by running again). The government has already started to act as if they answer to no-one instead of serving the people, and human rights abuses have started to increase. It could develop into a crisis similar to Venezuela's, Argentina's under the Kitcheners or Cuba's under the Castros. In the last few years, Bolivia's debt has increased significantly and foreign reserves have decreased, leading to a devaluation of the currency and a higher rate of inflation.

Although it is far poorer than its neighbours because of its central position on the continent, Bolivia has historically had a strong influence on the rest of Latin America. It was the first country to rise up against Spanish rule, one of the first countries in South America to be ruled by a dictator and one of the first to adopt democracy. Many people fear that if Morales stays for a fourth term then dictators may rise again in South America. Morales' blatant disregard for democracy has led to mass protests across the country and the commencement of the campaign 'Bolivia dijo no' - 'Bolivia said no'. Unsurprisingly and dictatorially, Morales has used the army to limit protests and has not been afraid to use violence. In London, around 50 to 100 Bolivians went to protest outside the embassy and many people have signed online petitions against Morales' presidential run.

Next up was Carlos Ohler, *The Knoll*, who spoke on the current Venezuelan crisis. Mass protests going on in the country have received considerable media attention. They started when the election of legislators was suspended and the Supreme Court took over the National Assembly. The Supreme Court ruled that the entire National Assembly was in contempt, as the National Assembly had refused to approve PDVSA, the country's state oil company. The protests started in Caracas and continued as demonstrators protested against hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicines.

The nation is in a pitiful state. The rate of inflation has increased over 50% since 2014 to 536.2% in 2017. The government says it is a victim of economic war - Venezuela's oil production fell by 20,000 barrels per day since 2016 and fell by 250,000 barrels per day in 2017. President Maduro has dismissed the possibility of a default, and the economic crisis has hit Venezuela's public health system. Crime and violence is also on the rise: in 2016, 27,479 people were killed. As one of the protesters put it, 'We are protesting because we are in disagreement with the government of Nicolas Maduro. We are experiencing a serious crisis that is suffocating us.'

The Democratic Unity Roundtable is the political opposition to President Maduro's regime. It is a coalition of different parties including centrist, centre-left and centre-right parties. They have faced challenges, as many Venezuelans distrust parts of the coalition. The strength of the coalition has been hit by internal power struggles as well as disagreements over ideology and policy. There is also the constant threat of imprisonment and harassment by Maduro's government.

In March 2018, Venezuela postponed its presidential vote from 22 April to 20 May, following a pact between Maduro's

government and opposition parties. In February 2018, Venezuela launched the pre-sale of its new digital currency - the petro. President Donald Trump signed an executive order barring any US-based financial transactions involving the petro. On 10 December, Maduro declared that opposition parties that boycotted the last municipal elections were no longer part of the political landscape. The desperate situation in Venezuela continues.

JUNIOR LABORDE SOCIETY

Rise of China, 19 September

On Thursday 19 September, the Junior Laborde Society was treated to an excellently researched and presented lecture on the rise of China, by Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*. China is the second-largest economy in the world with 1.4 billion people (nearly one seventh of the world's population) yet, until recently, it's economic and political activities have been relatively unknown. Napoleon once stated, 'China is a sleeping giant. Let her lie and sleep for when she awakens, she will astonish the world.' This article will explore how China became one of the world's greatest powers and how it strives to maintain that position.

When talking about the great empires of history we often study the Romans or the British, or perhaps even the Spanish, but rarely do we speak of the great eastern empire of Genghis Khan. His empire covered most of Asia, extending from China to Moscow, to Baghdad and Tibet. However, by 1900, China had lost much economic and political stability with Britain and other European powers occupying major ports such as Shanghai and Hong Kong. In 1895, Japan had taken Korea, Taiwan and Port Arthur from Chinese control. As a consequence of China's weakened state, western powers claimed 50 of China's most prosperous ports as 'treaty ports', meaning that anyone could use or occupy them. In 1949, following the 22-year Chinese civil war in which Mao Zedong's communist forces prevailed over the Kuomintang forces of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, China was re-established as the 'Peoples Republic of China', which was officially founded on 1 October 1949 (The country celebrates its 70th birthday next week.). Mao's first target was the deconstruction of the Chinese land ownership system (which operated like the feudal system in England in the Middle Ages) by executing the landlords and merchants who controlled most of the land. He then implemented a socialist structure based on that of Soviet Russia and started to build factories and preach equality. He called this 'The Great Leap Forward'. It is estimated that between 40 million and 70 million Chinese citizens died due to forced labour under Mao's leadership. However, there were benefits to the Maoist era. The percentage of literate people in the PRC increased from 20% to 65.5% in 30 years and the economy began to flourish. China also began to reclaim its lost territories. In 195, the government occupied Tibet and began to rebuild it as a part of the PRC. Its economy is now 151% larger than in 1950 and it has had an increase in literacy of 55%, which can be credited to the work of the PRC. China also uses Tibet as a sandbox to test new policies and ideas before implementing them in China. The PRC continued to expand from there, claiming small countries with failing economies and rebuilding them. The perfect example of this is the most densely populated country in the world, Macao, which has been transformed from a poverty-stricken country to an internationally popular casino spot. However, these occupations don't always go well, with a major case being Taiwan, whose attempt to declare independence but was rebuffed by China. The PRC has also refused to negotiate with any country that recognises Taiwan as independent.

Even today, China is still trying to increase their physical and economic empire. China has claimed hundreds of acres of international waters and seven coral reefs in the South China Sea to build artificial islands and ports for 'military purposes' and to mine for oil and minerals. This also poses a threat to

American trade, the PRC's biggest competitor, as they use these waters as trade routes. The PRC is also the largest manufacturer of goods due to its large factory workforce set in place in the 50s and 60s by Mao. As a result of this, China controls some of the largest international companies worldwide.

China has begun to increase its political empire by loaning large amounts of money to LEDCs in Africa and the Middle East, creating unpayable debts (e.g. 73% of Zambia's debt is owed to China). This allows the PRC to set up puppet governments in these countries, monitoring and controlling decisions, using the constant threat of calling in debt to do this. China also encourages mass support for the socialist movement, not allowing the practice of religion in any capacity. The Chinese firewalls block any non-government-approved websites, meaning that people cannot be influenced by external media that disagrees with Chinese beliefs. Then there's the Huawei scandal, which is the only thing holding up the implementation of 5G networks due to concerns that, since Huawei is run by an ex-minister of the PRC, it may be leaking data to its government. Finally, the PRC is building a new international trade route with North African, Asian, Middle Eastern and European countries called the Belt and Road Initiative. So far, 60 countries have signed on to it with many more expected to. This trade route will establish China as an even greater global superpower and prove how far it has come in the last 70 years.

Once again, I would like to thank Winward for delivering such an engaging and interesting lecture. I went in knowing absolutely nothing about China's rise as an economic power and came out knowing everything you see above. If you are interested in attending or giving a lecture to the Junior Laborer Society please contact Lucas Maia, *Druries*, or PSL.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

Privilege and Diversity in the Arts, 16 September

On a cold and busy Monday night last week, the Cross-Curricular Lecture Series resumed with an excellent talk from APC on 'Privilege and Diversity in the Arts'.

APC began by talking about the recent play running at the Royal Court entitled *Posh* by Laura Wade. This play is about the arrogance and superiority of the infamous Oxford University Bullingdon Club and describes a meeting of drunkenness and debauchery in which the principal characters trash a rural gastropub. After picking on an unsuspecting member of the audience to read the lines of Alistair Ryde, the speaker described how the waves of middle-class British conservatives reacted to an exaggerated portrayal of their Machiavellian intentions.

He then talked about the process behind a play like this and the links between actors, writers and the audience in influencing the show. Shockingly, we then discovered that 89% of the directorial workforce identify as white and 79% of them are upper class and upper-middle class. He also explained how the directors of major productions are largely centred around London. As a result, drama is largely unrepresentative of the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, it is difficult to get into UK showbiz without starting off in a wealthy background. Nearly two-thirds of directors would argue that their first production was self-produced. Perhaps even more indicative was the fact that all five of the most recent directors of the National Theatre (which is publicly subsidised with £17.6 million of public money) were "posh". Four of them were educated at Cambridge University and the most recent one was at RADA (the Royal Academy of the Dramatic Arts).

We then looked at the question of whether or not the arts still deserved to be funded by taxpayers' money on account of the inherent class divide. In spite of the discrimination, arts do provide an asset to the economy. The creative industries

contributed £101.5 billion to the UK economy and in London alone there are 22 million annual visitors, more than the Premier League football matches. Perhaps even more complimentary was ADT's comment that drama is "the best thing you can do in the Super-Curriculum", a comment that raised a few eyebrows from other beaks in the audience.

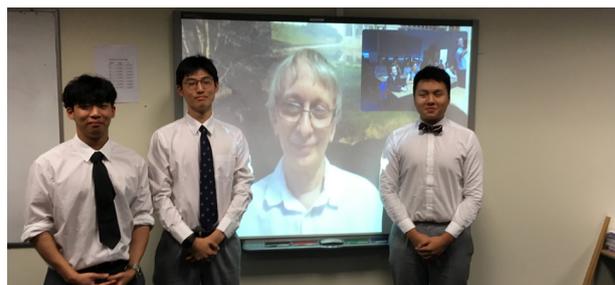
But according to a Paulette Randall interview in the *Independent*, theatre can also be a working-class pursuit, with theatre tickets being not much more expensive than going to a party.

We concluded by interrogating APC on his stance on affirmative action in the arts and whether or not it would devalue the achievement of reaching the top positions. Thank you to APC for a highly informative lecture and to ADT for organising the series. We look forward to hearing what Mass Praditbatuga, *The Knoll*, has to say about financial dividends and diversity in economics next week

SCIENCE SOCIETY

Dr David Deutsch, Oxford University, "Constructor Theory: a radically new way of expressing laws of physics", Physics Schools, 17 September

The Science Society was addressed last Tuesday by Dr Deutsch on 'Constructor Theory'. The writer of this article does not and will not pretend to have wholly understood the talk, so it would be appreciated if the reader kindly took the following drivell with a fistful of salt.



After a few tense seconds, a bespectacled mug-grasping Dr Deutsch appeared on the projector screen and gave a small wave, to be received by characteristically exaggerated waving from the Harrovian audience. After a short introduction from the head of society on his many accolades, Deutsch began by anti-climactically stating that most physicists have probably never even heard of constructor theory, and the few that have are quite sceptical of it. In fact, he explained, there's only a handful of people currently working on it.

The reason for this is that it is not a theory yet. It is still a work in progress and, at the moment, they aren't quite sure as to what the theory will actually say; however, what they do know is its mode of explanation. It will present a new way to explain the phenomena and structure of the physical world – one that Dr Deutsch believes to be superior to the current one.

But, before that, Dr Deutsch first told us about a book he had received from a relative as a child. On one of its pages, it explained that the human body is made of so-and-so of each element, but it hurriedly carried on to explain that, obviously, if you just piled all these elements into a vat together and mixed them, a human wouldn't pop out. But, thought his younger self, why not? Why not just try anyway? We could look at the result and make adjustments, maybe use a larger vat or stir a little faster, right?

Well, one could say that that was exactly what happened. When the universe was young it was composed mostly of hydrogen plasma. A few thousand years later, they had condensed into hydrogen gas and, later still, some of it condensed because of the gravitational instability of the gas clouds to create stars. The eventual supernovas created new elements which enriched

this gas and, after a period of this, our solar system formed. Evolution occurred and eventually came us. Quoting Ted Harrison, Dr Deutsch said, 'Hydrogen is a light, odourless gas which, given enough time, turns into people'.

But what did Ted Harrison leave out in his story? To Dr Deutsch, he left out the fact that it was not a story about the conversion of matter and energy, but about the evolution of knowledge from no knowledge. This story is about information, the information contained in genes (genetic knowledge) and human knowledge. This story, however, cannot really be expressed in the 'prevailing conception of fundamental science', which is why there is a need for constructor theory.

The 'prevailing conception of fundamental science' is centred around the idea that one can use dynamical laws to calculate a trajectory from an initial state, thus forming a fairly accurate prediction as to a future state. In other words, if you know the state of the universe at one instant, you can use the laws of motion to calculate the state of the universe in other instances. The prevailing concept states that everything is explicable through extrapolation from an earlier event. This idea is ingrained in science.

However, challenges Deutsch, what more do we know by knowing the laws of motion as opposed to just knowing what happened in a particular moment of time? For one thing, if you insist that the only valid way to explain events is in terms of earlier events, you cannot explain the first event that occurred. This is anathema to Deutsche; he explains that the inexplicable to him is equivalent to the supernatural, and the supernatural should never be resorted to when attempting to explain the natural.

There are other problems with the prevailing concept, aside from its inability to explain the initial state. Philosophers in the time of Galileo realised, for example, that it does not explain causation and instead can only stress strong correlation.

The cure is constructor theory. There are no statements that determine what will happen if a particular condition is satisfied, as in the prevailing concept. There are only statements about which tasks are impossible, which are possible, and why that is the case. What then is a task, and what are the mysterious 'constructors' of constructor theorem?

A task is an action in which an object is physically transformed, such that the object initially has some attribute and, after the transformation, has a different output attribute. A constructor is simply something that is able to reliably perform a certain task or tasks and, crucially, does not change itself. No matter the number of times a constructor performs a task, there must be no net change to the constructor.

Task are then split into possible task and impossible tasks. In constructor theory, an impossible task is one wherein no constructor can perform the task at an arbitrarily high accuracy, while a possible task is anything else i.e. a task that can be performed by a constructor at an arbitrarily high accuracy.

Dr Deutsch explained that, with this information, one can see that aspects of constructor theory is already present in existing scientific concepts – catalysts, for one, are constructors. When you have a complicated brew of chemicals, the mixture could form a vast array of exotic compounds over enough time. If you put in the right catalysts and the right reagents, however, a certain product will be produced. The catalyst is necessary in practice to make the reaction happen but does not participate – that is the definition of a constructor. Another quick example is a steam engine: it converts fuel into motion, but the engine itself remains unchanged.

One of the positives of rephrasing the laws of physics in terms of which transformations are possible and which are impossible, is that impossible tasks are explicitly stated in the laws of physics while, in the prevailing concept, no such distinction is made. This is useful as the very fact that a certain task is impossible can be used to explain why the possible tasks are possible.

On a final note, Dr Deutsch expanded on why he was spending

so much time researching constructor theory when it was so far removed from conventional physics and could turn out to be completely incorrect. Besides the obvious reason that it could be right and could change the course of science, its potential failure would allow Dr Deutsch and his fellow researchers to assess where the theory had failed and use this information to create a new, superior theory. Either way, research into constructor theory will have a positive impact on physics, science and human progress.

JOHN STONEHAM MEDICAL LECTURE COMPETITION

Adjudicator Dr J J Thompson-McCormick

Winner: Alex Saunders, *The Knoll*

Runner-up: Harry Saunders, *The Knoll*

Special mention: Ewan Josserand, *Newlands*, Muhammad Hammad, *Bradbys*

The School year is still in its early weeks and already The Medical Society was in full force, starting with an impressive set of lectures from aspiring medics in the Upper Sixth. The Medical Society was lucky enough to have Dr J J Thompson-McCormick to judge the competition, which also allowed the Upper Sixth to receive an insight on how to create and present professional presentations about all things medical. Furthermore, aspiring medics from other years, the majority being in the Lower Sixth, were also present at the lectures, as well participating in the form of asking many exceptionally intelligent questions to test the Upper Sixth on their full understanding of their chosen subject. Starting off the presentations, Ewan Josserand, *Newlands*, talked about 'Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)', a type of surgery to treat epilepsy or OCD when medication has little to no effect. It involves the placement of a neurostimulator, also known as a brain pacemaker. The stimulator sends electrical impulses to specific parts of the brain. The next talk was by Tim Carden, *Elmfield*, who talked about the dangers of pseudoscience. Pseudoscience is another name for fake science. Tim explained the term using examples of misconceptions in the medical field such as wine decreasing the chance of cancer or MMR treatment causing autism. These facts are based on lack of evidence or presumptions, which could lead people into worsening their health. Next, we had Muhammad Hammad, *Bradbys*, who talked about sleep apnoea. There are two different types of sleep apnoea, OSA and CSA. OSA is caused by the blockage of the airway due to the relaxation of the throat and CSA is caused by the failure of the brain to send signals to respiratory muscles. Tests to detect sleep apnoea include nocturnal polysomnography, which consists of the patient being hooked up to equipment to check normal functions whilst sleeping. Sleep apnoea can cause excessive strain on the cardiovascular system and other serious mental health problems such as depression or confusion. Next up was Harry Saunders, *The Knoll*, who talked about robotic surgery and what the future holds for machines in surgical suites. The advantages of robots are enhanced precision, flexibility and control, allowing surgeons perform more intricate tasks such as keyhole surgery. The disadvantages, however, include the very expensive cost as each robot is worth about £2 million and not all surgeons are fully trained for such a new method of surgery. Archie Bradley, talked about psychobiotics and the relationship between the brain and the gut. Psychobiotics is only its preliminary research stages but it is the idea that if a person ingests the right live bacteria in certain controlled amounts, their mental health will improve. As a test, 200 pregnant women with clinical depression took L.rhamnosus (a non-pathogenic bacteria) and the results showed that all 200 women became less depressed. The next talk was by Alex Saunders, *The Knoll*. he spoke about personalised medicine

and the idea of creating medical care that is customised for an individual patient. For example, medical professionals analyse the genome of a patient in order to create unique medicine for him/her. Problems that can be helped using personalised medicine include familial hypercholesterolemia, which is a genetic disorder that increases the chance of high cholesterol. Kingston Lee, *Elmfield*, talked about the placebo effect and its importance in the world of medicine especially in pharmacy and clinical medicine. A placebo is an inert substance that has no therapeutic value. It acts as a control when testing new drugs. It is made to resemble and act as a new drug in order to prevent the recipient in knowing if the treatment is active or inactive. It also contributes to the release of dopamine and is labelled as 50% as effective as the real drug. Lee proceeded to present a few ethical questions on whether or not placebo is another form of deception and if lying to patients is ok. Next, Ahsab Chowdhury, *West Acre*, talked about different lung diseases. An example he gave was idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, an irreversible and progressive disease which involves the scarring of alveoli in the lungs due to infection or from inhaling dust or other dangerous particles. Finally, the last talk was given by Thomas Khan, *West Acre*, who talked about the psychology of anorexia, an eating disorder that makes people lose more weight than is considered healthy for their age and height. It affects many people around the world, mainly young women. Anorexia is hard to treat and has a very high mortality rate. Findings have stated that it is difficult to alter the thinking process of an anorexic and they have difficulty replicating complex, visual images as well as difficulty with planning and organisation. These cognitive functions are controlled by the prefrontal lobe in the brain. Patients showed deficits in cognitive flexibility, and CT scans show decreased brain volumes in underweight patients. Congratulations to all those who participated. Overall it was exceptional evening and a good turn out.

ETON RAPIDPLAY CHESS

15 September

Last Sunday, the noblest of all Harrow sports teams congregated outside Flambards Lodge for a day of intellectual jesting at the highest level. As a conversation ensued about how early each member of the team had got up, we noticed that one member of the team hadn't turned up. As it turned out, Jacob Goldberg, *Bradbys*, had been awoken precisely ten minutes after the agreed meeting time.

After overcoming the standard morning hiccup, we arrived in enemy territory. We then were led by JPBH in assisting our hosts with setting up the boards (shockingly, the Etonians seemed to be strangely absent when it came to getting their hands dirty). This process largely involved attempting to match oddly miniature pieces with disproportionately large boards. In spite of our helpfulness, we gained an unfortunate draw from the machine of infinite wisdom.

In our first match, we were paired up against the City of London School, who had a frighteningly competitive grade of 897. This led to a whitewash across the majority of the boards, but we did manage to gain half a point through an excellent individual performance from the captain, Long Hei Ng, *Newlands*. Particularly impressive was the ability of Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, to lose his game in under two minutes.

Again, events and pure luck conspired against us to pair us with a strong Millfield side, but Long Hei Ng seemed to be on fire, winning his game convincingly on board six, and we saw a particularly strong performance from debutant Gareth Tan, *Moretons*.

After this point, the team enjoyed an extended lunch break. Following this, some of us wandered down the road for a panini and super-food milkshake (the athletes needed to refuel). We also had a conversation with JPBH about re-shuffling the boards for the third round.

We had another even game in the third round, in which our Harrow side was largely frustrated by a team we would be expected to beat. We were paired up against a team we beat convincingly last year but unfortunately only managed three wins. In spite of two of the players showing up a couple of minutes late, we still had problems converting early leads into solid points and this was the match in which we could have gained more points towards national qualification.

Another re-shuffle saw David Liu, *Bradbys*, brought onto board six for a much better game against Nonsuch School. In this tie, we finally began to show some of the results that we were looking for and took five points off a side who were much more manageable, leading to some increasing optimism.

However, this quickly evaporated when we got the worst draw that was still possible for us. In an unfortunate series of events, we were drawn against a Hampton School team that has some strong players but was on the same amount of points as us, rather than Henrietta Barnet School whom we could definitely have beaten. Even more annoying was the way in which we started very strongly, but a series of mistakes and blunders saw us just fall short of our goal and we only gained two and a half points. I feel I also must congratulate Phillip Truscott, *Elmfield*, for an excellent showing on board one against players who were considerably older than him.

Thank you to JPBH for an excellent day out and Sean Hargraves, *The Head Master's*, for finally turning up to chess after four years.

PASMORE SOCIETY

Saatchi Gallery, Sweet Harmony, 19 September

On a pleasantly sunny Thursday, a group of four boys, accompanied by LWH and NEP, embarked on a journey to Sloane Square to visit the Saatchi Gallery, which was exhibiting a feature entitled 'Sweet Harmony: Rave | Today'. The exhibition captured the journey through the acid house revolution in the 80s and took us through to how rave culture has emerged in today's society. As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon off the Hill, it was a great opportunity for the boys to gather material and inspiration for their own work.



Raves, which were most prominent in the 1980s and 1990s, typically are and were organised dance parties at often-abandoned private properties such as fields or warehouses. These raves would last all night and into the early morning. Having said this, the abundance of drugs has made them illegal nowadays for the most part.

Throughout the exhibition, rooms were composed of multimedia installations, large-scale photographs, audio-visual works and live music. A couple of rooms even featured music mixers for everyone to create and adapt their very own rave hits. One of the first sights the group was greeted by was a Lotus Elite spinning upside down. This particular installation helped conjure memories of having to spend hours on the motorway to find the raves. The locations of such raves were only disclosed shortly before the event and were often relayed orally or via crowded phones at petrol/service stations. One of the most intriguing features was 'A Life of Subversive Joy' by

Vinca Petersen. The work included a chaotic timeline of dates, personal photos and flyers. Beside the timeline there was also a bouncy castle (which was unfortunately marked 'do not touch'). The bouncy castle, which was taken by Vinca Petersen to places such as Eastern Europe and West Africa as part of Laughter Aid, was also documented in her timeline. Further to this work, the exhibition was mostly made up of large-scale photographs. These photographs portrayed the raves in a nostalgic way and captured movement as if to place the viewer in the rave first-hand. The photographs were typically stylistically faded, blurred and flared. Needless to say, the movement and excitement captured would likely have brought back vivid memories for those formerly in the midst of rave culture.

Towards the end of the exhibition, we were drawn closer to the modern day. The photographs become more photojournalistic as the anti-rave ban protests and rave culture in the Brexit Remain campaign were portrayed. The consistency through the shots was particularly striking and this, together with the energy captured in the photographs, helped convey images of passion and drive for the causes mentioned.

All in all, the group was captivated by the portrayal of rave culture as well as the variety and style of the work which was bold, immersive and often unconventional.

Many thanks to LWH for organising the trip and to NEP for accompanying on the day.

METROPOLITAN

REVIEW: THE LION KING

"This child is getting wildly out of wing"

In 1994, *The Lion King* was established as a cultural icon for generations to come. Fast forward to the present and we find ourselves in a time when Disney's magical charm seems to be fading year by year. Aware of this, our friend Mickey had a solution in mind, a solution we have seen far too often in the past decade: remakes. Over the summer, he put on his beloved white gloves, climbed up Pride Rock, held young Simba to the sky and hoped lightning would strike for a second time. It didn't.

After watching the remake of *The Lion King*, it hit me. Mickey wasn't looking for lightning; he was looking for some quick and easy cash. As a borderline obsessive Disney fan myself, that realisation hurt. Mickey had morphed from a fun-loving, steamboat-driving, dancing pile of laughs, into a tired businessman with a gambling problem. Disney has to realise sooner or later that a filmmaker as pioneering as they are has to stop trying to relive its glorious past. The more they do so, the more they seem to undo their predecessors' hard work. *The Lion King* goes to show just that.

From the beginning, it seemed as if money was the endgame. Just by looking at some of the casting choices, eyebrows can already be raised. Perhaps the most telling of these was the casting of Beyoncé. She is a phenomenal singer and a legendary performer. Nobody can dispute that. However, I can't help but feel that 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight', arguably the greatest and most compelling love song in Disney history, was forcibly turned into a power ballad and a solo act; Donald Glover's voice was effectively inaudible towards the end of the song. Unfortunately, it is this overpowering strength of Beyoncé's voice that attracts swarms of adoring fans. Worse still, as a vocal actor, she doesn't quite do justice to the complexity that exists in Nala. What we get instead is Beyoncé's signature 'Queen Bee' attitude, which, as with almost every other decision concerning her role in the film, appears to be more of a calculated crowd-pleaser than actually fitting to the story at hand.

Besides the casting, I should revisit a point I touched upon earlier: the fact that remakes are in general becoming as plentiful

are they are is a sign that the desire for money has come to the fore. The cosmic success of Disney's recent wave of remakes has convinced Mickey to keep rolling the dice until excitement dries up. But, as *The Lion King* and *Aladdin* have proved, that buzz will remain for a long time. For me, the main reason is top-notch marketing. The high doses of nostalgia, coupled with the presence of the biggest faces in cinema, combine to form a prospect so tantalising viewers simply cannot afford to miss these films. With this vital ace up Mickey's sleeve, he manages to cash in every single time, despite producing comparatively meagre films. The cycle of deception never stops spinning.

This is especially annoying when one considers Disney's other ventures. The *MCU* and *Star Wars* franchises, along with its other independent concepts (e.g. *Inside Out*, *Moana* etc) have performed exceptionally well at box offices and continue to command vast viewership and praise. Why they want to milk the remake cash cow is still baffling. We don't need more theme parks; we need stories that leave lasting memories, the same way the original *The Lion King* did. Surely Mickey has a degree of moral accountability for the films he is producing, and for how they affect us as viewers?

But let's not be too harsh on dear old Mickey; credit must be given when it's due. The visual effects were nothing less than breath-taking. The ultra-realistic renderings of both the animals and the background are a serious achievement in themselves, and the animators behind that can certainly be satisfied with their work. However, that level of realism has come at a cost, and not just a monetary one. Much criticism has been aimed at the purported lack of emotion on the characters' faces. After all, if one looked at a real lion's face, they would probably only be able to see two modes: rage and indifference. Unfortunately, to pull off a story as demanding as *The Lion King*, more emotions are going to be needed than that. But that simply isn't possible with the new style of animation. So, what we wind up with is a film that looks a lot more like Disney than Disney.

So, that begs the question: why did they do it that way? Because it follows on from the style the producers used when they made the (anomalously) acclaimed remake of *The Jungle Book*. People liked those effects then and so there is no reason for them not to like it now that they are even better. One could argue that this was another tactical money-making move, but perhaps that is taking it too far.

As for the film itself, visual effects aside, there are some positives to take note of. At the very beginning, the shot-for-shot recreation of the glorious 'Circle of Life' scene was very effective in stirring up nostalgia among viewers, more so than any other scene, I would argue. Moreover, I thought the Rogen-Eichner partnership worked really well, and they brought some much-needed laughs to an otherwise dull film. Particularly funny was their well-timed reference to 'Be Our Guest'. Despite having big shoes to fill, Chiwetel Ejiofor and John Oliver do well in their vocal roles. Ejiofor deviates from Jeremy Irons' charismatic Scar to a darker, more deceptive take on the character - an angle that was well suited to the tone of the film. Having said that, his mostly-shouted rendition of 'Be Prepared' was questionable, but excusable. John Oliver was an equally good addition to the cast, bringing Zazu to life in a similar way to Rowan Atkinson, which is no small feat. Unlike Scar, it is hard to reimagine Zazu any other way, and Oliver does a sterling job.

But those pockets of goodness do not justify the overall disappointment the film brings. Though it is trivial to most, I have particular disdain for the portrayal of Rafiki. From a comical, wise, and important supporting character in Simba's development, Rafiki turns into a nonsense-yelling laughing stock in the remake, whose relevance to the plot was glossed over. Furthermore, the only thing that really held the film together, with all its pomp and predictability, was an underlying affection for the original version. Nostalgia alone made the movie watchable, and such will be the case for any other remakes Disney opts

to make in the near future. Yet even with nostalgia, one can't help but feel rather empty leaving the cinema. The spark that enthralled us as children just isn't there anymore.

To conclude, *The Lion King* may be King of the Box Office, but it most certainly is not the King of Pride Rock. The original film reigns supreme and no number of remakes can ever change that. Unless Disney can engrain that idea into their heads and move on to new concepts, even if they are less lucrative, fans can settle in for a string of further disappointments, and the magic will keep on fading.

REVIEW: THE BELL JAR

An Examination of Plath's Great Work

Sylvia Plath is remembered as one of the brightest literary talents of the past century. Clinically depressed for most of her life, her mental condition was worsened by abuse at the hands of her husband. She was incredibly intimate and open about her emotions in her works, encouraging other young women to be confident in themselves and assertive in their independence. She tragically committed suicide, aged 30, after sticking her head in an oven.

Her body of poetry is monumental – the scorching verse that gave a voice to the feminist movement. Consequently, her prose has been dissected by many scholars for insight into her great works of confessionalism. *The Bell Jar* is the only place they can find answers. In her debut (and only) novel, Sylvia Plath writes a *roman-à-clef* about a talented young woman who struggles with mental illness. Esther Greenwood is a thinly veiled stand-in for Plath herself and it is clear to see why *The Bell Jar* has become *de rigueur* on most teenage girls' reading lists.

As an individual piece, *The Bell Jar* is admittedly not her strongest work. It is often criticised for its juvenile and, at times, over-eager writing style. It was, after all, Plath's first novel. At times, the pacing feels slow and the secondary characters one-dimensional. In fact, Plath's original publisher was disappointed with her manuscript and did not publish it at all. *The Bell Jar* does not manage to reach the consistent stratospheric heights of *Daddy*, which George Steiner describes as 'the Guernica of modern poetry'.

However, it still does provide insight into the female psyche. *The Bell Jar* was written by Plath after she separated from her abusive husband, the Poet Laureate Ted Hughes. It was written by a gifted woman just set free from the constraints of domestic violence, eager to expand beyond the realm of poetry. In this, *The Bell Jar* is a unique chronicle of a woman's liberation in the misogynistic 1950s. It is a window into the immediate euphoria of freedom. Moreover, Plath's poetic genius, while occasionally drowned out by a sea of mediocre writing, is still present. The sentence 'I took a deep breath and listened to the old brag of my heart: I am, I am, I am, I am' remains one of the greatest lines she has ever written. But Sylvia Plath has become an entire mythology unto herself, and it is in the role of another volume in her mythos that *The Bell Jar* becomes incredibly significant. It was published under a pseudonym only a month before her dramatic suicide. Thus it is a rare source in the search for meaning behind her untimely death.

The Bell Jar deals in the intimate effects of electroshock therapy that some people believe scarred Sylvia Plath for life. It also deals with the demands of motherhood that some people believe the author both resented and loved, and with the struggles of mental illness that some believe plagued Sylvia Plath and only intensified in her later years. The novel is an incredible starting point for anyone seeking to understand her. As a story about a university student, it is her origin story. As a story about Sylvia Plath, it is modern feminism's origin story.

In the end, regardless of your feelings towards Sylvia Plath, it is important that men (especially ones educated in an all-boys, all-boarding school) try to understand women to some degree. *The Bell Jar* is an ideal place to start.

AS TRACKING

An interpretational poem

Maybe
Probably not
Possibly
Maybe
Probably not
Possibly
Probably not

by Anonymous

AUTUMN

The green seems changeless and forever.
What is forever?
Mere symbols veined together
to echo every second.
Creating a junction between now
and tomorrow,
going further into all tomorrows.
Entrapping summer in its shell.

What is between tomorrow?
A chance to sing to yesterday
and blow bronze towards the breeze
scattering the forgotten plans into the moulding.
A moment, while it floats.
Given to console experience and gains.
Then sit away from the scene
and whistle it on
until the leaf 'composes back to forever.

by Arusha Pillay

SUDDENLY STORY

A group yarn

This story below is not yet finished and, from this week onward, every member of the School is able to contribute to it.

A gust of sometime summer air did not shake Little Barrington, but the church remained solemn, still. Within, Christ of beard and hair was looking down from stained glass, and there was chanting; children chanting – from earth-born passions set me free, through darkness and perplexity – muffled through the Norman walls. And across the field was a second figure, reaping that which had been sown. She moved slowly, yet with purpose.

That's when she heard the distinct discharge of a Gruukvut hand laser cannon and smelt the acrid whiff of singed hair. She dove over the cemetery wall and hid behind the headstone of a certain Mr Wellington. "How did they find me?", she wondered as she pulled out her favourite Vunkraks blaster, which was always strapped to her leg. "They'll never take me alive."

Cautiously, she peered through a crack in the wall. There are about six of them in all, all in their distinctive white tunics. As she took aim, a bee flew past her head. Little sprang up, took a quick shot at the nearest Gruukvut, and ducked back down behind the headstone. The bee flew in front of her face again, and this time she paused to observe it. "It's flying backwards," she realised.

The cruent stains of dried blood still fresh on his nose, he aimed a Sisyphean dive at the crumpled powder-sachet that lay forever out of his reach, spitting and retching in his last stand to swallow another failure; what was that he saw? Gruukvuts? Vunkraks blaster? He rose up out of his Mechanical Anima. The visions disappeared and he rubbed his eyes.

Next week... send your submissions to one of the Editors below, or to Dr Kennedy, smk@harrowschool.org.uk.

OPINION

STATE OF THE UK ECONOMY

With the prospect of a no-deal Brexit in October looming over our heads, the UK economy is in a political predicament. The nation is currently facing severe uncertainty, clearly reflected by the low value of the pound, which has significantly decreased over time against both the dollar and the euro. This is due to fewer investors being interested in purchasing the UK currency because of the uncertainty of the UK's current economic prospects.

Although GDP growth has improved since the financial crisis, it remains low, with PwC projecting growth rates of 1.4% in 2019, along with an even lower 1.3% for 2020, which does not compare well with the long-term average of roughly 2%, hence highlighting how the UK economy is slowing. Moreover, the GDP per capita has also been in decline since 2014, when it was \$46,800, having decreased to \$39,700 (2017): a substantial change of roughly \$7,000. The GDP per capita of the UK also lags behind both Canada and US.

The UK inflation rate in 2016 was lingering around 0%. However, the situation has changed since then as interest rates have rapidly increased to 2.1%, which is above the Bank of England's target of 2%. The increase in the inflation rate, combined with a lowering GDP per capita has resulted in British residents facing lower real earning. Furthermore, the plummeting exchange rate has further led to imports from the EU becoming more expensive, which could potentially become worse if tariffs are introduced as we exit the European Union and are forced to trade on World Trade Organisation rules, which will surely damage the economy and affect the lowest earners in society most.

The interest rates have recovered since the financial crisis and are still above the 0.5% limit set by the Bank of England for emergency situations, with the rate currently set at 0.75%. However, there is the chance that the interest rate may soon plummet to near zero following Brexit if the government leads us to a no-deal Brexit. A substantial drop in the interest rate would be necessary in order to avoid a recession. This would work, as a low interest rate on loans and mortgages would increase the spending of the population on such loans, thereby avoiding a recession. This would be important for the housing market in particular as, although the rate of housing price increase has slowed, perhaps due to a smaller pool of buyers reducing demand due to the uncertainty of Brexit, house prices remain high and unaffordable for many. A low interest rate would benefit the housing market, which is clearly facing lowering property value. But it is likely that such a low interest rate would soon be increased again to a similar rate that is currently used.

Although the GBP has decreased in value, resulting in imports from the EU becoming more expensive for consumers, this weaker currency may have the potential to elevate the UK out of its current trade deficit as a weaker currency encourages more investment, as the currency is easier to purchase and often has greater returns. However, it is unlikely that the economy will reap these benefits until the uncertainty of Brexit passes.

As the UK is now a post-industrial economy with the majority of the jobs in its tertiary employment sector, industry has substantially declined and now makes up around 10% of the UK GDP, compared to 36% in 1948. This shift has led to increased unemployment, leaving people in the north disproportionately affected, which has exacerbated the north-south divide in the UK. Although unemployment is not a large issue in the UK as the rate is very low at 3.8%, the divide still exists and schemes like HS2 are being used in an attempt to solve it. Despite this, it seems that it will not be a problem easy to solve as HS2

is an extremely costly project, with estimations of the cost continually increasing and the expected completion time being continually extended.

The UK also has an insufficient workforce, which can be most clearly illustrated through the example of the NHS, which is already significantly overburdened and relies on immigrants in order to fulfil the needs of all its patients. Immigrants make up at least 13.1% of the workforce, which highlights the importance of the UK allowing the immigration of highly skilled workers in order to fulfil the needs of our deficit. It is likely that a points-based system will be introduced once the UK is removed from the restrictions that give preference to EU nationals regardless of their skill and use to the British economy.

Over the past three years, we have begun to notice the preparations made by many companies to move out of the UK due to Brexit. This is most clear in the car manufacturing industry. However, the new Chancellor Sajid Javid is likely to decrease the rate of tax, which could potentially act as an additional factor stopping some companies from leaving the EU. The chancellor has previously worked in Singapore and has seen the economic benefits of a low tax system, which could be mirrored in the UK, with decreased corporation tax and increased productivity.

Decreases to individual tax would also increase productivity. However, such changes will also have the additional effect of reducing the amount of funding available for public services, including schooling and healthcare, which will affect the lowest income families most and result in increased economic inequality in our already unequal society. The decrease in funding for public services will probably decrease the quality of life for low-income individuals, while the wealthy will remain unaffected as they would be able to afford private services.

Overall, although the UK economy has recovered quite well since the financial crisis, the uncertainty brought by Brexit has led to a drop in the value of the pound and decreased FDI. GDP growth is not meeting targets and economic inequality will increase with changes to the taxation of the wealthy. The country is facing the issues of an insufficient workforce in the NHS, which is dependent on immigration. Finally, the combination of inflation, falling GDP per capita, a weakening currency and the prospect of trading on WTO rules are all contributing to the population having a shrinking amount of disposable income, correlating with a decreasing quality of life, particularly for those with low incomes.

IMMIGRATION

It's a public credence that immigrants have wounded the economy and, if not the economy, then at least our choice of jobs. Yet, such views are myopic. The labour market is not a zero-sum game and the number of jobs available is also not fixed. Kevin Shih, a professor of economics, notes that the reality is 'much more complex'.

The economic benefits may first appear very small but this is erroneous. Often it is seen that, if immigrants are substitutes for domestic workers, then, macroeconomically, the impact is zero. If immigrants complement workers then the impact is positive but ultimately small. In both cases, the economic impacts appear trivial. However, this view is cavalier in considering the world as static. The view forgets that the world is dynamic and ever-changing. Indeed, the benefits from immigration arise from dynamic competition and specialisation, not static comparative advantage.

One would be hard pressed to find an economist who thinks free trade is a bad thing. Labour, as just another factor of production, follows the same reasoning. Immigration is just cross-border trade of labour. Increased trade increases competition. Increased immigration increases competition in the labour market, diversifying the supply chain and creating innovation. Increased trade brings new products and new services. Increased immigration brings new skills and new aptitudes. In fact, because many immigrants will have networks in their previous countries, immigration complements trade. ‘Many economists have found evidence that natives quickly adjust to the labour market forces of immigration and in a way that often yields positive benefits’ – says Shih.

Furthermore, what is also forgotten is that, in living in the country, immigrants buy things. In doing so, immigrants increase domestic demand and, in fact, create jobs. Macroeconomically, this is seen in the positive effects on GDP. Ian Goldin’s research even goes as far as to suggest that two-thirds of US growth since 2011 is directly attributable to migration. While, in the UK, if immigration had been frozen in 1990 so that the number of migrants remained constant, the economy would be at least 9% smaller than it is now.

A deeper point is that there is no analytical difference between trade and migration across towns and trade and migration across geopolitical borders. Analytically, it doesn’t matter if one is migrating to Hull or Argentina. There is no inherent difference. Ultimately, then, hypocrisy is present in anyone who argues against foreign immigration but for free movement within a country. Strict migration controls should, in fact, be synonymous with strict migration controls on the domestic population.

The implications of these points are clear. Economically, the government should promote free immigration as a default. Depending on opinion, this could be done in conjunction with social policies that compensate the losers; like trade, there will be distributional effects. Even the points system adopted by Australia and New Zealand should be scrapped. Indeed, centralised restrictions assume the government knows what type of workers firms want – a clearly problematic assumption. In contrast to the points system, for instance, often firms need low-skilled (not high-skilled) workers. Basic economics tells us that the market, as a discovery process, finds the workers with the skill levels wanted without government regulation. Even in the case of the economy needing STEM graduates, then, in a market system, the higher demand will increase wages, incentivising STEM migrants.

Overall, common analysis of immigration is too static. Such analysis forgets the dynamic factors of people within a country and the hugely positive results that arise as a result. Indeed, free immigration, like trade, is indubitably a positive economic phenomenon. At least on economic grounds, governments should remove barriers to migration.

CHAPEL SHOULD BE CONFINED TO CHRISTIANS

by Hector Michelin, Elmfield

Throughout my three years at Harrow, there have been lots of times when I have heard people asking, “Why do we have to go to Chapel on a Tuesday and Thursday when I’m not even a Christian?” Now, this question is entirely valid as I am sure I am not alone when I think of the prospect of dragging my dead limbs up the hill to St Mary’s as unappealing, or find getting the timing just right to avoid Custos’ s searching eyes when entering Chapel a nerve-racking process. But why should people who are Hindu, Muslim, Jewish or any other religion

be compelled to go and participate in a liturgical service that they have no affiliation to? Harrow takes pride in its diversity but, as a secularist might argue, this is a form of confessional teaching, leading them to call for an abrupt end to the compulsory services at once!

On the one hand, most people see Chapel three times a week as a burden – although Harrow School is a Christian school and therefore as the law requires it must engage in an act of religious worship at least once a week. However, I am not proposing the abolition of Chapel, but instead for people of other religions, an alternative: like the Thought for the Day run on Sunday but now also on Tuesdays and Thursdays so that they can focus on their chosen religion.

Moreover, in extreme scenarios, the compulsory Christian services that do not accommodate any religion other than Christianity could make people feel bad or even embarrassed about their religious identity, as seeing all their friends engaging in a rendition of ‘Jerusalem’ together might cause them to feel ostracised because they feel as though they are unable to participate.

Similarly, one could state that having separate, more intimate Thought for the Day sessions instead of a group Chapel service might promote these same feelings as, in this instance, instead of not being able to join in they are left out of the service altogether. But some people, and their parents, may prefer specific religious worship.

It could be argued that having communal worship can do the opposite of ostracisation and bring you closer to your friends. While you may not share the same views or actively participate in the service, you are still with your friends, which can make any situation better. There is no real attempt at evangelism during Chapel and thus there is arguably no attempt to diminish or reduce the significance of different religions.

In conclusion, I think that there should at least be the option for non-Christians to go to a variation of Thought for the Day instead of Tuesday or Thursday Chapel. However, they should not be prevented from attending Chapel if they choose not to take part in the alternative service.

HILL LIFE

Niall Ferguson in an article for *The Times* recently raised the question: ‘What dystopia are we living in?’ To start, I think we can certainly rule out H.G. Wells’ alien invasion, but an Orwellian, Huxleyan or Zamyatian future seems to be haunting us with an ever-closer and darker relevance.

The Hill can in many ways act as a parallel to the world outside. Without democracy, it could very well be seen as a totalitarian-style of rule with no external threats, excluding a potential Labour government. How many of us would have possibly dreamed at the start of last week that one day having a Harrow education might mean never leaving your room at home? With CCTV always rolling, capturing everything, missing nothing; our laptops recording every private key typed; our phones always listening, harvesting data and – who knows – maybe even watching like Orwell’s perverted telescreen, the technology for these horrific dystopias has already arrived.

The question we face is: which path will the powers-that-be decide to pursue?

Obviously, test-tube babies such as in Huxley’s *Brave New World* are not quite a reality, yet. However, education is where a person is formed. A person’s work ethic, hobbies, physique and characteristics are found, reinvented and grown throughout their school years. As such, school, to that extent, forms the people we become. A synthetic, autocratic, black-and-white school system would no doubt either cause drop-outs or produce

zombies, not inquisitive hard workers. Our Giants of Old were certainly not the former. It is through their individuality and testing of the boundaries that they formed many of their heroic qualities. How would Byron now lie ‘Where Byron lay’ doing no work and contemplating life, the universe and everything if there was online registration? Churchill, a renegade at school, wrote English essays for another boy – believed to be Leopold Amery – in exchange for his writing the Latin for Churchill; would today’s plagiarism programmes have permitted him from mastering the English language? Fox Talbot’s experiments – which once deafened a master for an entire day – would no doubt land him in considerable trouble these days, possibly even in a cell at Harrow Police Station.

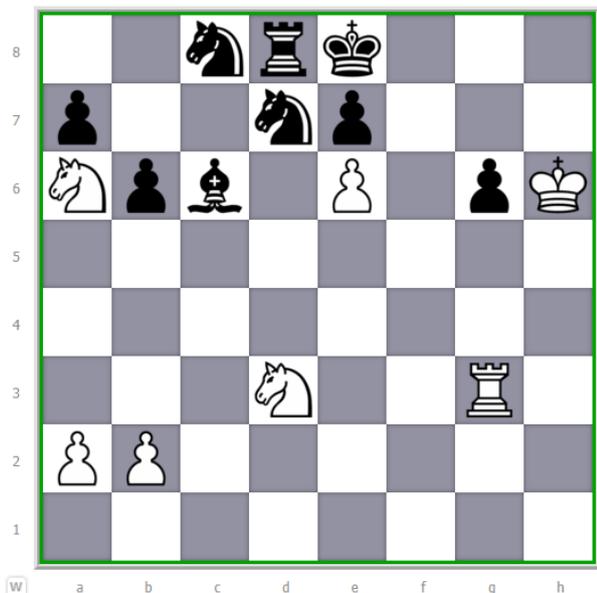
Looking at the world, this once science fiction is becoming increasingly real. China’s Social Credit system is evidence of this. Citizens can receive “good” and “bad” points registered by cameras for things such as not paying a ticket or crossing the road in the wrong place. In fact, some classrooms in China are equipped with artificial-intelligence cameras and brain-wave trackers to monitor pupils’ concentration levels. The line ‘you have nothing to fear if you’re following the rules’ is crass and myopic. How far do we find ourselves, in our splendid isolation on the Hill, from that Chinese reality...?

The constant progression of technology not only brings money and opportunity, but also gives a dangerous administrative power to those in charge – not even to mention the likes of Apple and Google. Ingenuity, individuality and creativity arise from the “mistakes” people make, taking this away through further restriction and digitalisation would not only kill the individual but also kill the happy days of youth.

CHESS PUZZLE

The weekly Chess Puzzle set by JPBH. Email your solutions to him (jpbh@harrow.school.org.uk) to enter the termly competition. Answers are published with next week’s puzzle.

This edition’s puzzle: White to play and mate in two moves.



Last edition’s answer: 1. Qf8+ Kg7 2. Ng5#

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

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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

DAME VAUGHAN

Agony Aunt

Dear Dame Vaughan,
 Sing, O Dame, of the heartache of Achilles;
 He who on the Achaeans keened and wrought them infinite ills.
 Though you, in your epically-erected edifice,
 Are truly the cunning She of twists and turns,
 Of arms and of war I sing; of arms wrapped in arms,
 Unlocked and unclasped by the smothering embrace of war.
 Spin and weave the threnody of Patroclus bereaved,
 Lament in lost love’s requiem of Achilles greatly grieved.
 Breathe life and make love living in these two young lovers’ sighs,
 Celebrate an epic love which history denies.
 Of love, not homosocial, these two soulmates I desire,
 An example of gay happiness amidst our current ire.
 Let Ancient heroes stand and contemporary battles fight,
 Show me beauty and devotion of an intimacy bright.
 As summer winds bring winding down, content my warming heart,
 Of battles, grief and romance sing, and lovers torn apart.

Yours classically,
 ERNIE URNING

Dear My Iliad-idyllic idealist,
 My, well you know how to versify a Dame, don’t you! How gently beautiful to receive such a soft song. As I’m sure the Classics department will testify, the Ancients are by no means dead – their stories, examples, philosophies and influence are still alive and felt today. So to look to the past as a way of dealing with the present and forging a future is a wise policy indeed sir – as long as it is not your only policy! Why, I remember when I was teaching a young Mary Beard – one knew she was going to be a ferocious classicist, even then – and having this exact discussion. ‘How!’ she would cry out, ‘can you understand the building, if you don’t understand the foundations?!’. It was amazing she didn’t go into architecture. Then again, her obsession with gender roles and classical depictions of masculinity and femininity would never work in an architectural firm. Too many inappropriately shaped towers and courtyards for the respectable climes of Oxford. Anyway, having myself translated multiple, best-selling adaptations of

the great Classical epics, I have the perfect suggestion for you: *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller. A retelling of Homer's Ancient Greek epic *The Iliad* through Achilles and Patroclus' relationship, the novel follows Patroclus, an awkward young prince, and his exile to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, Achilles befriends the shamed prince, and as they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond blossoms into something deeper – despite the displeasure of Achilles's mother Thetis, a cruel sea goddess. When the Trojan war calls Achilles away, Patroclus, torn between love and fear for his friend, goes with him, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they hold dear. A gorgeous and skilful retelling of a millennia-old tale, Miller's novel is one of my favourite books of 2019, and the perfect classical answer to your contemporary conundrum.

Yours earnestly,
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]



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GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

“Sir, how can you read that?” “... what? It is in English.”

“Can anyone name a colour that begins with ‘s’?” “... Sand?”

“Sir, why are we all in a circle?” “Quiet boys, we’re summoning Satan.”

“You boy, why are you late for bill?” (*with food still in mouth*)
“I eated a bit.”

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the editor

DEAR SIRS,

I was pleased to read Mr Vyas' letter to the editor in the 14th September edition as I too had spotted the mistake and was alarmed by the slack editing which had allowed such an egregious and disrespectful error to be printed. I was guilty, at that point, of thinking the issue had been addressed and that we could leave this controversy behind us.

However, upon returning to the 7 September edition of the Harrovian online after the incident, I was shocked to find that the misprint had been changed. It was not the alteration which struck me, but the lack of acknowledgement of the mistake. The editorial mishap had been erased from the records and the article now correctly referred to the victim as 'Mr. Vyas,' without any reference to the adjustment.

This is particularly concerning, as it paints Mr Vyas as a fool to anybody accessing the online archive, which is likely a large proportion of the readership due to strong OH interest and limited current Harrovian interest. Furthermore, it raises concerns about the power that the editorial board of the Harrovian has. Though this may seem innocuous, it sets a dangerous precedent about the ability the board possesses to adjust past volumes post-publication. What is to stop the editors from altering the victors of a House competition, or erasing letters criticising the editors from Harrovian editions past? In truth, leaving this power unchecked essentially gives the editors free roam to rewrite the annals of this school, and turn our history into whatever they want it to be.

I understand that it may just have been an attempt to save face, but if we want this publication to be taken seriously then it must obey what is general procedure within the media world. A simple correction notice would suffice, something like:

“*this article previously read ‘Mr Vayl’ which has now been corrected to Mr Vyas.’

Otherwise, we the readership run the risk of reading one newsletter which could be completely different to the one our OH counterparts are reading, or the ones we will view when looking back as OHs ourselves. In the era of fake news, I would advise the editorial board to be more cautious and transparent with its corrections. In no way am I questioning its integrity, but rather hoping to ensure that this issue is treated with the proper procedure in order to avoid any future exploitation of the editorial privilege.

Yours with concern,
RYAN CULLEN, THE GROVE

[Caught red-handed. *inprimisque provideat, ne scriptio vitium aliquid indicet inesse in moribus*, etc. –SMK

Dear Sir,

I am writing angrily to you with regards to the last edition of *The Harrovian* newspaper. As many of you may know, *The Harrovian* is a weekly newspaper for our school that has been in circulation since 1828. It is an integral part of Harrow life, and a source to catch up with all the extra-curricular and other notable events that are ongoing across and throughout the school. As such, one would expect *The Harrovian* to be a highly respected and prestigious newspaper.

However, *The Harrovian* has again and again come to disappoint me. In the last edition of *The Harrovian*, just by skim-reading the pages, I have come across two mistakes: the shameful misspelling of “heel” as “heal” on page 577, and the appalling and utterly unacceptable mistake of referring to me as from The Grove on page 579.

The misspelling of “heel” as “heal” is embarrassing, as a quick proofread would have been all that was needed to find the mistake.

The last straw on the camel’s back is saying that I am from The Grove. This is absolutely unforgivable for the clear lack of effort to proofread for mistakes and for such an embarrassing and blatantly obvious mistake to drop into The Harrovian.

Critics may be quick to point out that the editors of *The Harrovian* are very busy and thus such “insignificant” and “trivial” errors may occasionally slip through the eyes of the editors. However this has not just been an one-off; in fact, from the 14 September edition, *The Harrovian* had already been berated by Vyas for its “brainless editorial team” that had been overseen by a “muppet” for yet another spelling mistake.

This just goes to show that this is a continuously recurring event. It is completely unacceptable and I hope that from now on *The Harrovian* editorial team should spend every single second of their free time strictly dedicated to proofreading *The Harrovian*.

Yours vividly,
CHRIS LIU, THE HEAD MASTER’S, NOT THE GROVE

[Harumph. *acutius atque acrius vitia in scribente quam recta videre*, etc. From now on, I’ll give out 40x double to each editor for every typo that remains. –SMK

POLL OF THE WEEK

Should Harrovians have permission to join the Climate Strikes on 7 October?

Something is happening. You know it is, you can feel it. You are called on to be part of it. Because time is running out. We’re almost at the point of no return. The governments are doing nothing. Businesses are doing nothing. Should the boys at Harrow School join the Climate Strikes on Monday 7 October against government inaction on Climate Change?



When the poll went out on Wednesday evening, nearly three-quarters of the School had voted within the first hour, so this is a topic that had obviously grabbed attention. An overwhelming 77% of Harrovians believe that they should be allowed to add their voices to the growing call by citizens concerned by the inaction of world leaders. Greta Thunberg’s speech at the UN, that politicians have stolen young people’s future with their empty words, has obviously resonated with Harrovians – and they want to do more than just talk, and this is the time that action is needed.

A solid 23% of the School (no doubt) is also concerned about the damage to the world’s ecosystem caused by the enormous volume of pollutants which are poured into the air and sea, but is striking the right approach to fixing the problem? They don’t think so. A lot of criticism is levelled at the selfie-driven protests, which, although they raise awareness, do little to drive change.

Perhaps the Head Master may allow a School-wide floater in two weeks’ time so that Harrovians can march? We wait to see..

SPORTS

SQUASH

The School v Wellington (away), 19 September

1st V Lost 1-4
WTC Sotir, *Drurries*, Lost 0-3
SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Lost 1-3
WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1
FAW Murley, *The Park*, Lost 0-3
H Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 2-3

2nd V Lost 0-5
CD Powell, *The Grove*, Lost 1-3
HAX Sie, *Newlands*, Lost 2-3
I Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 1-3
HC Oelhafen, *Lyon’s*, Lost 0-3
HC Michelin, *Elmfield*, Lost 0-3

Junior Colts Drew 2-2
WTC Sotir, *Drurries*, Won 3-0
AC Seely, *The Head Master’s*, Lost 1-3
IWJ Doyle, *The Park*, Lost 0-3
HAM O’Shea, *Drurries*, Won 3-0

FOOTBALL

The School v Forest School

Development A XI Harrow Won 3-1
Scorers: Ben Harrison, *West Acre*, Andrew Holmes, *The Grove*, Ademide Odunsi, *Moretons*
The Development A XI began the season with a disciplined, hard-working performance against a strong Forest side. Harrow were clinical in front of goal and resolute in defence with Harrison Scott, *Rendalls*, outstanding in goal.

Development B XI Harrow Lost 2-3

Development C XI Harrow Lost 0-1

The Development CXI played well against a Forest senior side and, despite the narrow loss, can be proud of their performance. Notable mention goes to Ben Davies, *The Grove*, making his debut in goal, who produced a series of excellent saves, including two close-range reaction stops of the highest quality. This was a combative fixture, with strong challenges going in, and neither side imposing a fluent passing game. Composed play from Farzad, *The Park*, in midfield, linking well with Wilson, *West Acre*, produced some positive moves, and the diligent efforts of Sam Lussier, *The Knoll*, up front meant that the opponent could never relax. They did, however, take the lead late in the first half, an accurate shot striking the inside of the post and going in. Harrow responded well in the second half. Archie Rowllins, *West Acre*, came on to good effect, harassing Forest defenders and creating chances. In particular, a cross from Shemtob, *Rendalls*, was met at the far post by a header from Breeze, *Elmfield*, that the keeper just managed to keep out. Also, Litton, *Newlands*, tidy in possession as ever, narrowly fired wide when through in a promising position on the left side of the box. At the other end, the defence was marshalled by Seely, *The Head Master’s*, ably supported by Antipovskiy, *West Acre*, whose calm authority, winning challenges and averting dangers prevented Forest from adding to their lead. While it is frustrating to have lost this game, the CXI can be encouraged by that performance and look to the next fixture with confidence.

BADMINTON

The School v Eton College, 19 September

Open 1st Won 8-0

The 1st VIII beat Eton 8-0 at home in what was a convincing display by all pairs. Pair 3 (Henry To, *The Grove*, and James Yuen, *Lyon's*) are to be congratulated on conceding the fewest points overall in the fixture, only dropping 36 points overall. Pairs 1 and 2 played with exceptional precision, aggression and style, showing that new partnerships are proving fruitful.

GOLF

The School v OHGS, Lost 2-1, 19 September

1. Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, & Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, Lost 3&2 playing Jerome Ponniah & Sam Ponniah
2. Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, & Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, won 1up playing SNP & Henry Howard-Jenkins
3. Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, & Leo Wright, *Elmfield*, lost 3&2 playing Adrian Gracey & Neil Scaife



After a disappointing opening match at West Sussex, the team was hoping for better fortune as the sun shone on a beautiful track at Denham Golf Club. There was a slight westerly breeze giving food for thought and the fairways were in mint condition. The greens, on other hand, were sadly in a "right old state".

Whilst Rory McIlroy capitulated in the PGA Championships at Wentworth, the Harrow boys took on a fierce set of Old Harrovians and a familiar face in Mr Simon Page. Bus-time team-talk topics this week varied from inspirational quotes relayed from Finlay "Maths" Matheson's lesson from IH to some offensively poor impressions of Ian Poulter. JRP was just hoping these boys would indeed deliver on the day.

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, came up against a strong family partnership in Jerome and Sam Ponniah. Jerome, himself an ex-pro, demonstrated a clinical approach, reminding the top pair of his credentials with accuracy off the tee and hitting it a damn long way. Connell really struggled for form on the front nine, coming close to raising his bat by the turn. The golfing gods decided to hand him a break, however, and he had a superb back nine, dropping only two more shots and finishing up with a superb par on the last in front of a packed-out crowd (JRP and SPB). Shirvell showed sparks of genius in his round and I felt a really low score coming! He came home in a remarkable 31; the highlight was a stretch including two birdies and an eagle. The Ponniah's were ultimately too strong for our opening pair who put in a gutsy performance having been 5 down through 10 holes, to lose 3&2.

The second match was arguably the most exciting round of the day, with golf of the highest quality. SNP complained of rust on the range, quoting how little he had played in the past few months. He, of course, went on to have a stormer! His

playing partner, Henry Howard-Jenkins found his swing early, firing a towering drive down the first, his modest handicap of 6 immediately referred to judiciary panel. It was, however, a day for the young guns in this thriller. A string of pars got Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, and Jonty Williams, *Moretons*, off to a great start by going 2 up. Birdies from the opposition resulted in the match swinging full circle and the Harrow boys found themselves 2 down. At the turn, the deficit was reduced to 1 and the brilliant golf continued with all four placing shots within 12 feet of the hole on the par 3 12th. The charge came on the 13th, when Matheson holed a crucial 15-footer for the half, following this up with a fantastic up-and-down for birdie on the 14th. The attack didn't relent when Williams played the perfect hole to gain another birdie on the 15th. The team was pegged back with a birdie from the opposition and a swinging 20-footer was holed by Matheson to maintain the lead. Williams showed nerves of steel to secure a par on the 18th, leaving both SNP and Howard-Jenkins a putt each for the half. In reply, SNP's legs began to shake and he was unable to sink the putt, coming up woefully short. Williams' driving was unbelievable, as was Matheson's short game in this brilliant contest.

The final match saw the long-hitting Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, teamed up with the fluid swing of Leo Wright, *Elmfield*. Wright struggled with his opening tee-shot, perhaps a result of skipping lunch ("I don't need any more protein, Sir") twinned with the distraction of his own wildly untucked linen shirt, perhaps mistaking Denham (Buckinghamshire) with Denham (the coast of Western Australia). The pair found rhythm late on in the round but sadly the damage was already done after a brace of opening birdies from Neil Scaife and Adrian Gracey. Wright's Ian Poulter impressions definitely did not deliver! The boys managed to get back to all square but, as energy levels dipped, the old heads found a way to ultimately grind out an impressive 3&2 win.

It was an awesome day out for the boys in stunning conditions. Thank you to the OHGS and Simon Berry in particular for fielding such a competitive team. We look forward to a return fixture in the summer.

FIVES

The School v Eton College, 19 September

1st Team Lost 2-1

A great match against Eton in the sun resulted in the seniors losing closely 2-1 overall. Victory for the third pair Caleb Efemuai, *Newlands*, and Fred Prickett, *The Park*, were too strong for their opponents and ran out the confident winners once they got into their straps. The other two pairs played well but the second pair narrowly lost the last two sets on sudden death, which meant, with the first pair losing, we lost overall 2-1.

Colts Lost 1-3

A depleted team with injuries to key players and others moving up to the seniors gave opportunities the some boys who have not played in higher pairs. The first pair of Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Adam Zackhir, *Lyon's*, playing a year up, battled hard to earn a well-deserved draw. The other two pairs got stuck in but did not manage to break through.

Junior Colts Lost 1-2

An amazing match for those representing the School at Eton, with the overall result hinging on one shot. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, playing up a year, triumphed by winning their match 3-0. The second pairing of Casper Stone, *The Park*, and Leo Gordan-Pullar, *Newlands*, proved to be the game of the day however. Having fought back from two sets down, the match was in the balance at sudden death in the last set. Harrow missed their chance unfortunately and Eton managed

to go on to win. It was great credit to Casper and Leo though to give themselves the opportunity to win, having been so far behind at one stage. The third pair lost, resulting in defeat for Harrow, but much heart can be taken from the fact that others played up in the Under-16s and we are looking forward to the three-pair competition coming up.

Yearlings Lost 0-2

A great day for the boys with all of them having played this new sport a couple of times.

SWIMMING

Coopers' Company & Coborn School Gala

	Warwick Coopers	Harrow
Under-14s	16 (3rd)	17 (2nd) 27 (1st)
Under-16	10 (3rd)	20 (2nd) 30 (1st)
Under-18	16 (2nd)	14 (3rd) 30 (1st)
Overall	44 (3rd)	55 (2nd) 93 (1st)

Harrow hosted two of the premier swimming schools in the land to a home gala on Thursday. This was our season's opening fixture and there were some excellent swims by all members of our team. Special mention to Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield*, who won the 100m backstroke race in a personal best time of 1:05.63. Ethan Yeo, *The Head Master's*, in his debut for Harrow, won all of the three Senior events that he entered and came within four-hundredths of a second of beating the School Senior 100m breaststroke record. Co-captain Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, swam a personal-best time in the 100m IM. Rowland Eveleigh, *The Grove*, put in a very gutsy performance in the 50m butterfly.

RUGBY UNION

The School v Dulwich College, 21 September

1st XV Lost 24-27

Despite scoring off the first play of the game, the XV fell to a physical, committed and well-drilled Dulwich side. Harrow will be disappointed by their lack of accuracy and general lethargy in a very sub-par performance. Henry Arundell, *The Knoll*, and Will Shankland, *Druries*, scored two well-taken tries each and captain Nic Neal, *Moretons*, and prop Scott MacNaughton, *Bradlys*, had commanding performances.

2nd XV Won 14-10

The Second XV revenged last week's loss in an outstanding fashion. Despite two early Dulwich tries and the loss of key players to injury and the first team, the Harrow boys showed admirable grit, determination and patience to get the game over the line.

3rd XV Lost 12-17

The Third XV were narrowly beaten by Dulwich in an attritional game that ended 17-12.

4th XV Won 36-5

Tries: Jack Gosden, *Lyon's* x 3

An excellent performance from the 4th XV against a decent Dulwich side. There were six tries in all, including a hat-trick

for Gosden who finished off some excellent team moves from the right wing.

5th XV v Skinners' School 3rd XV Won 12-5

Tries: Rugge-Price, *The Park*, Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*

Cons: Jossierand, *Newlands*

Colts A Won 27-5

Colts A showed resilience and determination to keep a tough Dulwich side at bay. Tries from backs Ed Garuba, *Newlands*, George Cutler, *The Knoll*, Luke Ritchie, *Newlands*, Partick Lehtrell, *Moretons*, and Oli Newall, *Druries*, on the counter-attack highlighted Harrow's ruthlessness with ball-in-hand.

Colts B Won 24-15

Tries: Falcon, *West Acre*, Digges, *West Acre*, Quist, *The Grove*, Blackwood, *Elmfield*, Cons: Blackwood x 2

Colts C Lost 20-37

Colts D Lost 25-61

Junior Colts A Won 50-10

Waleed Nsouli, *The Knoll*, continues his scoring run with another hat-trick. Fin Smith, *The Knoll*, also finished two superb tries on his return to fitness.

Tries: Harrison, *Moretons*, Ellis, *Rendalls*, Nsouli x 3, Edjoua, *Lyon's*, x2, Smith x 2, Cons: Ellis x 3 Keey x 2

Junior Colts B Won 58-5

Tries: Calvert-Davies, *Druries* x 3, Olowe, *The Grove*, Walton, *West Acre*, Heywood, *West Acre*, Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, Calvert-Davies, Kantaris, *Lyon's*, Smith, *Newlands*

Cons: Douglas, *Newlands* x 4

Junior Colts C Lost 22-42

Junior Colts D Won 36-19

Junior Colts E Won 44-34

Tries: Kunitomo, *The Knoll* x 3, Lord, *Lyon's* x 3, Magomedov *The Knoll*, Nakornsri, *The Knoll*, Cons: Lord x 2,

Yearlings A Won 73-0

Tries: Stockmeier, *Druries*, Tuipulotu, *Druries* x3, Edstrom, *Bradlys*, Jang, *The Park*, Brindley, *The Park*, Griffin, *The Head Master's*, Abualsaud, *Elmfield* x 2, Hope, *Rendalls*

Cons: Edstrom x 8, Hope

Man of the match: Brindley & Tuipulotu.

The Yearlings As produced an excellent first home performance against a disorganised Dulwich XV, running in an emphatic 11 tries, the pick of which was the sixth try of the match where the young Harrovians went the length of the paddock, displaying some silky handling skills to open up the Dulwich defence while keeping the ball alive with some very pleasing off-loading in contact. Almost every player on the pitch handled the ball before Seb Brinley dotted down for one of his two tries. Phillip Edstrom was again outstanding with the boot kicking 8 from 10.

Yearlings B Won 61-12

Yearlings C Won 43-19

Yearlings D Won 50-0

Yearlings E Won 50-22

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian* online at harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan