

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXII NO.8

November 9, 2019

GLEES AND TWELVES

Speech Room, October 17

Adjudicator Mr Hugh Morris, Director of the Royal School of Church Music

Wreath (winner of the Glee): The Grove
The Harp (runner-up): Druries
Third and fourth place: Elmfield and Moretons
The Bell (winner of the XIs): Elmfield
The John Cotton Trophy (runner-up): Lyon's
Third place: The Grove

The Glee

It was a packed Speech Room as we kicked off the 2019 Glee and XIs – the energy was alive. DNW stood up to introduce the evening – a few catcalls and whistles were expected as the School's Music Director cut the dash – and there was a hearty round of Harrovian applause for our adjudicator as The Grove took the stage with *I say a little prayer*. There was a sense of energy from the outset which was infectious, and maintained. The group started strong with good dynamic control, but there were a few moments when the blend within and between groups slipped a bit. Overall, it was an enjoyable performance.



(Above: The winning Grove Glee)

Newlands followed with Seal's *Kiss from a Prayer*. It was an expressive performance that showed off a good range, but the group struggled to get their vowels across. The arrangement overall was well executed and most of the performers were fully committed to the tune.

Bradbys was up next with *Shut Up and Dance*, with Bamford leading a small quartet and showing some excellent leadership to the younger boys. The words were clear and generally offered a good text. The control of the ending was impressive.

The Knoll sang *Some Nights* with a well notched crescendo and good communication between performers, but they needed to watch that their hands didn't distract the audience. Their tuning was generally good.

The Head Master's came to the stage with a sense of enjoyment and the whole group did an excellent job of allowing different voices to emerge from the group and bring life to the melody of their choice, *Stars*. They needed to watch that they didn't over-sing parts, which can make the tuning hard to control. Their chorus certainly sang with conviction.

Lyon's performance of *Somebody to Love* had a clear sense of direction from the singers. But copying Freddy Mercury is always a challenge and it led to some less polished moments, but the audience clearly enjoyed the rhythmic sway of the piece.

The Park was up next with *Yesterday*. There was a solidity to their performance which came from the bass parts; the arrangement put a lot of strain on the lead vocalist, who rose to the challenge well. 'Free' alto parts could have used a bit more dynamic control in the phrases.

Moretons went with *All Of Me*. There was a really good blend from the group for all the voices and it was impressively sustained. They had excellent rhythmic control but there could have been a bit more contrast in the group. It was a simple piece, but very effective.

West Acre performed *Say Something* with lots of expressive singing, which was sustained through the lines. It didn't quite feel, however, that the audience was the focus of the performance and the group could have perhaps used the text a bit more as a 'driver' for the song.

Rendalls had a good 'sweep' to the performance of their chosen song, *Can you feel the love tonight?* The backing provided a secure platform for the lead vocalist. The harmony in the group was generally secure, although there were a few odd lapses at times.

Elmfield ended the Glee with an arresting performance of *Seasons of Love*. The song itself was quite a challenge to control, with its full arrangement. They allowed for complex layers, which was smartly emphasised by the arrangement of singers on stage. There was a good rhythmic impetus throughout.

The XIs

Bradbys had a beautiful song to start off the XIs, with their choice of *Another Love*. Their phrases were shaped very nicely, although there were a few moments of over-singing that weighed some parts down, but there was significant unity throughout.

Elmfield gave a really strong sense of enjoyment in their performance of *Another Day of Sun*, which featured a strong use of dynamic planning, and they were excellent in the ensemble – the song requires a full contribution from all performances, and the audience got it.

The Grove went with Sondheim's *The Ladies Who Lunch* and, as the adjudicator noted "they really understood the song". The XII really worked as one; there was superb diction and an excellent idea about the details of the dynamic, making for a captivating performance.

West Acre sang *A Thousand Miles*, a song which features very difficult 'vocal lives' to control. It was overall an excellent performance, but they could have thought more carefully about their phrases and sections.

Lyon's performance of *It's Raining Men* earned them the John Cotton Trophy for their clear understanding of what the song needed – it felt comfortable to the performers. They had solid rhythmical control, although there were a few rare moments when the pitch slipped slightly in the crescendos. Overall, an effective performance.

Rendalls' performance of *King Herod's Song* was bold and confident from start to finish, although perhaps a bit too

mannered, which might have washed away the song's irony. A few of the high notes were over sung, but the audience enjoyed the performance.

Newlands made a convincing go of *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat*, with a precise delivery. At times, the sound was a bit too strong, which impacted the quality of the diction that is crucial for the song.

The Park sang an emphatic version of Dylan's *Make You Feel My Love*. In their performance, the lines were generally executed well and their pitch was secure. Their opening notes, however, could have used a bit more polish.

Druries made a feature of rhythm with their version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *My Favourite Things*. The whole group was going for a fun vibe but could have employed more dynamic contrast.



(Above: Part of the winning Elmfield XIIIs)

The Head Master's sang *You and Me (But Mostly Me)* from *The Book of Mormon*. They had a lovely stage presence, but the tessitura of the song was felt to be quite high and it presented a challenge for the group. While it was a strong performance, it drifted from the pulse of the accompaniment towards the end.

Moretons' *Can't Take my Eyes off You* was good, controlled, and accurate – their softer sections were well executed.

The Knoll was the final contestant with *Downtown*, the culmination of an excellent evening. The group had an excellent commitment, the refrain was well paced and the key change was well handled. The whole thing felt like an on-the-front-foot performance.

The biggest applause was reserved for Mr Devine, who brought out the podium in a fantastic overcoat, and for our adjudicator on the awarding of the Wreath to The Grove, and the Bell to Elmfield. Well done to all the beaks and boys who were involved with the practices and performances. It remains one of the best whole-School events every year!

LONG DUCKER

Around the School, 3 November

This year's Long Ducker was new in many ways: there was a new course, a new Head Master and new shirts (red and blue in the spirit of our chosen charity, Spear) but the original meaning behind why we run remains the same. It has always been a charity event, and the record-breaking sum raised last year set the standard for this year.

The course certainly played a part in the day's events. The steep climb up Football Lane left many looking for divine inspiration as they passed the church, and Sudbury Hill proved a monumental challenge. The wet conditions around Northwick Park and Harrow Park provided a new and exciting dimension to what had been previously a road race. The new route also allowed for more interaction with the local community, which was evident with the support being given throughout the event.

The 10km showcased the young talent rising through the Harrow ranks, with blistering times coming in from runners undaunted by the gargantuan hills and the marshy Northwick

Park. In third place overall was Julian Abass, *Elmfield*, the fastest runner in the Shells, in a time of 42 minutes and 2 seconds. Second place went to Tom Emery, *Moretons*, the fastest Remove, in 40 minutes 59 seconds; and in first place Graham Lambert, *Lyon's*, in a swift 40 minutes 20 seconds, the fastest Fifth Form runner. The fastest runners in the Lower and Upper Sixth were Ethan Yeo, *The Head Master's*, and Arthur Leney, *The Knoll*.



The half-marathon event had a strong showing this year with over 50 boys running and numerous OHs also participating. Third place went to William Thompson, *Elmfield*, in 1 hour 33 minutes, who had run the whole distance with this father; and second to Luke Esposito, *Newlands*, in 1 hour 31 minutes. In first place, in a brisk 1 hour 26 minutes, was Carlos Ohler, *The Knoll*, who defended his title for the second year in a row.

The superb performances continued with the beaks. In the 10km event, the fastest beak was TGE in a shade under 45 minutes; in the half-marathon event, the fastest female beak was LSA in 1 hours 25 minutes, and the fastest beak overall in the half-marathon was RCHA in 1 hour 20 minutes.

LONG DUCKER POOLSIDE

"Ere the Days of Old", 3 November

By Simon & Ingrid Kimmins, guardians to Ogyen and Norbu Verhagen (The Knoll 2008 and 2010)

It's not difficult on Long Ducker morning to mourn the passing of the race-day which once was. Ask MJT, ERS, CJFB, PD, RMT or GHW – a faithful disciple of Long Ducker, bravely heading the rear-guard – and they'll tell you a thing or two about a day the memory of which they treasure. But back for the moment to the present.

It's now 5.30am on Long Ducker morning 2019. I am sitting at the poolside amidst a scene of astonishing activity. Ten swimmers in six lanes all competing for different profoundly testing objectives.

Lane 1: ERS, Registrar and once proud House Master of The Knoll, ever a super-enthusiast and steady swimmer HJ—both attempting the 5km swim.

Lane 2: MJT and RMT engaged in a traditionally intense family battle, together a renowned ex-House Mastership of Elmfield.

Lane 3: CMC, 5km, courageous rehab survivor of serious motorcycle injury.

Lane 4: Two doughty parents. Mr Ohler (10km and second-time Double Ducker), father of Carlos in The Knoll, star runner. And Mr Anderson, (km and 21km) father of Hugo in Newlands.

Lane 5: Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield*, chasing the 10km and Finn Deacon, *The Park*, one of three after this year's Long Double Ducker, made up of the 10km swim within three hours followed by the 21k run within 1hr 50mins.

Lane 6: The other two Long Double Duckers: Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, eating up the School 10km record with lithe, feline grace

to re-set it at 02:04:38, re-setting the 5km record on the way at 1:00:16. Alongside him, George Rates, *Newlands*, just like Finn on his way to nailing a Long Double Ducker for the first time.

A second, better-slept contingent of 20 boys were still to appear, ready to go to work at 8am, preceded by two at 6.30am, all going for the 5km swim with or without the 10km run.

This whole crowd is alive with joyful athleticism – and joyful it is despite the atmosphere of Dawn Patrol with a grey cloudy sky lighting up through the big windows facing East – casually off-beat in their undertaking of intense effort which produced four winners and three record breakers.

2019 Results

5km/200 lengths

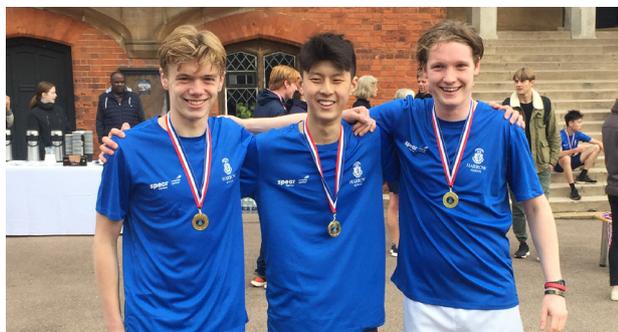
Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*, broke the Torpid record: 01:00:49
Nicholas Finch, *Newlands*, a second Shell record: 01:07:24

10km/400 lengths

Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, broke the Senior record: 02:04:38

Short Double Ducker 5km swim + 10km run

Henry Pearce, *Newlands*: 01:54:53



Long Double Ducker 10km swim + half marathon

George Rates, *Newlands*, 03:58:25

(Above: Double Ducker competitors, G Rates, A Hong, F Deacon)

Andrew Hong's swim was quite remarkable, beating the previous record by more than five minutes. He and all the 2019 Long Double Ducker Warriors are the descendants of one gallant, solitary Knollite, Nick Humphries.

On a misty Long Ducker morning in 1997, he simply got up early. Made himself a breakfast of toast and marmalade. Persuaded Roger Uttley, former England Rugby 15 captain and then Harrow Director of Sport, to open up the pool. Swam a mind-killing 10km of 400 lengths. Wandered up to Bill Yard munching a couple of bananas. Ran the 20-miler down to Marble Arch and back in 02:50 something, boosted up Sudbury Hill by a flapjack supplied by his father. Accepted some well-earned applause. And went back to bed.

The first Double. Spontaneous. Quirky. Very much in the Harrovian tradition of get up and go. "It taught me," he said, later commissioned in the Paras with several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, "a thing or two about forcing the mind to cope under extreme physical fatigue".

Nick was followed by five other individualists. Jamie Stewart, from South Africa for just one Fifth Form term in 1999 and keen to make his mark, succeeded alongside his Head Master's Sixth Form housemate Tun Lin Foo from Singapore. Tun Lin's younger brother Gen Lin did the same two years later. Russell Bruns, a Sixth Former from South Africa, hearing of the Foo brothers' achievement, emulated it in 2005. Rufus Gordon-Dean, later commissioned in the Household Cavalry, did the Double in 2000. "It was the high point for me at Harrow. It catapulted me from 'coins in the shoe for a crafty MacD on the way' to riding guard behind the carriage at the Royal Wedding".

The stream then ran dry until 2013.

Beckwith Scholars have to face the gauntlet of making a speech at the annual autumn lunch given to 'his boys' by Peter Beckwith. Norbu Verhagen – our second guardian son, a Beckwith Scholar and a swimmer – was foolhardy enough in his Lower Sixth speech to undertake to revive the Double in his Upper Sixth year. Motivated, I guess, by his elder brother Ogyen winning the 20-miler in both 2011 and 2012. Intention declared before Peter Beckwith, the Head Master and ERS (his House Master) he was well and truly committed.

2014 and The Verhagen Cup

So in 2014 he did it. The 20-miler in the morning, kindly paced by Ogyen who had come back from St Andrews just for that purpose. An ice pack bath. And then a long, lone swim of 02:49 with powerful swimalongs beside him for encouragement by fellow Knollite Nana Antwi (later representing Ghana as a swimmer in in the Commonwealth Games), ERS and Will Stokes. A very, very different occasion from what I see before me now. Twenty-six boys – cheerful, fit, determined and competitive young athletes – full of camaraderie, reeling off the lengths, with marshals and timers at work before many of them shoe up to run.

Nonetheless, compared with his predecessors Norbu did pretty well. Second-fastest. Here are their times:

	Run	Swim	Total	Avg
1997 Nick Humphries	02:55	02:43	05:38	02:49
1999 Jamie Stewart	02:53	02:48	05:41	02:51
Anthony Foo	02:46	02:42	05:28	02:44
2000 R Gordon-Dean	02:50	02:54	05:44	02:52
2001 Gen-Lin Foo	02:23	02:45	05:08	02:34
2006 Russell Bruns	02:46	02:46	05:32	02:46
2014 Norbu Verhagen	02:31	02:49	05:20	02:40

Hence the first Long Double Ducker Cup, The Verhagen Cup, now matched by cups for the various distance alternatives.

Alastair Land, when Deputy Head Master, had this to say about the 2012 Long Ducker in which he ran the 20-miler: "The richest seam of worthwhile endeavour. The gleeful involvement of Masters, boys and parents is testament to that." Although Marble Arch no longer figures, those atmospherics have not been lost. RMT, in charge, and Will Stokes – swimming coach par excellence – have seen to that. The distance combinations may be different, but the mindset of cheerful, effortful achievement isn't.

2016 and Resurrection of the Double

After catching its breath in 2015, and harking back into history, the Long Double Ducker: 10km/400 lengths swim followed by the 21km run to Wembley in under 5.5 hours – parameters now firmly set and established, swim first, run second – was reborn with only one entrant, Albert Tremlett, *The Park*. On a dark November misty Sunday morning, diving into the pool at 4:20am, he was alone except for the ever-faithful Will Stokes counting his lengths, his two sisters taking turns pacing him, parents swimming a 5km in an adjacent lane. Albie ran the 21km to Wembley and back with his father, MJT, and duly won the Verhagen Cup in a total of 04:27:20. Albie was the first recipient of the now much-treasured Double Ducker tie.

Long Ducker swimming took place as usual with two events.

10km/400 lengths: winner out of 4, James Bailey, *Newlands*, 3rd 10km win: 02:15:59

5km/200 lengths out of 17, Michael Ma, *Moretons*: 01:10:00

2017 and The Short Double Ducker is born

10km swim winner out of 10, James Bailey, *Newlands*, fourth 10km win: 02:27:21

5km swim winner out of 20, Maxwell Brook, *West Acre*, Shell record: 01:07:33

Long Double Ducker 10km swim and 21km run
Winner out of 3, Dan Shailer, *Rendalls*: School Record 04:26:42
Oliver Bater, *Rendalls*: 04:27:24 (also qualified for the tie).
Albert Tremlett, second-time qualifier (received the first bow tie).

Short Double Ducker 5km swim and 10km run
Winner out of 4, Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*: 02:08:24

2018 Results

10km swim winner out of 5, Harrison Layden Fritz, *West Acre*: 02:39:15

5km swim winner out of 13, Maxwell Brooks: 01:02:50 (new School record by one second)

Long Double Ducker winner out of 2, Oliver Bater, *Rendalls* (new School record and second-time qualifier with bow tie): 04:15:47

Finn Deacon, *The Park*: 04:29:13 (received a tie)

Short Double Ducker winner out of 10, George Rates, *Newlands*: 01:54:25



(Above: Short Double Ducker competitors this year, H. Pearce, M Brooks, N Finch)

This stream won't run dry again. Committing months before to training for a distance in the pool linked to a distance on the ground, getting up before the autumn dawn to train and compete and, as a Long Double Ducker, wearing a much-admired tie (with a bow tie added for a second-time qualifier), makes you a member of a select band.

It is a great new tradition and, if you like, the closing of a circle. Years ago, the Ducker was the School swimming pool, close to where Northwick Park Hospital now stands. There's a big picture of it behind the Reception desk of the Sports Centre. Why the run down to Marble Arch was christened Long Ducker is a mystery lost in the mists of the past but, with swimming established as it now is, one can think of the name coming home to roost.

In closing, here is a quick glance at what Long Ducker once was; special House pasta dinners the night before for 20-milers; tactics and advice; an early-morning fleet of buses directed with regimental precision by PD transporting Housefuls of rather queasy Shells; all four subsequent years, parents and beaks dumped at Marble Arch or, in later years, at the Albert Memorial; making the ten miles back, uphill all the way, through the seedy streets of Harlesden and across a multitude of dodgy road crossings; the 20-milers a cheerful jumble in Bill Yard setting gaily off downhill. 160 – I say that again – 160 marshals, mobile cyclists, helpers of all sorts; all directed at that really serious last challenge of Sudbury Hill and then, glory be, home safe in Bill Yard full of stories, memories and something very, very challenging achieved.

That era is gone. "Long Ducker before the challenge was scaled down" as MJT, competing for the 25th time, described it this morning, shaking the water of a 10km swim out of his ears, halfway through his attempt to be the first beak to complete the

Double. Done for wisely by the mounting flood of impatient London traffic before anyone got hurt, the Long Ducker of memory is no more. Replaced, though, by great challenges more appropriate for these times and still providing boys with great memories that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

As RMT says – to whom, with the coaching of Will Stokes, the credit for this vibrant element of the Harrow way of life belongs – it is unique events like the Long and Double Duckers that make Harrow what it likes to claim that it is: "the best boys' boarding school in the world". Done wholeheartedly, these events square up a young boy's mental fortitude, drive, determination and perseverance, qualities crucial to the building of a strong character. Add to that the fact that one is doing it not purely for oneself, but for the benefit of others, it is priceless, educative material. Winner or not – you're a winner within yourself because you're pushing your comfort zone and known parameters big time!



5km Swim and Double Ducker 2019

	Swim	Run	Total	Rank
1 M. Brooks	01:00:49	01:01:09	02:01:58	4
2 J. Rates	01:07:24			
2 N. Finch	01:07:24	(Shell record)		
4 H. Pearce	01:07:45	47:08:00	01:54:53	1
5 A. Wong	01:08:16	46:52:00	01:55:08	2
6 St. J. Smith	01:08:26	49:49:00	01:58:15	3
7 K. Yeo	01:12:12			
8 A. Wilkins	01:19:15	54:34:00	02:13:49	7
9 H. Webster	01:20:08	01:02:26	02:22:34	10
10 C. Elliott	01:20:22	44:55:00	02:05:17	5
11 A. Ma	01:21:56			
12 H. Sie	01:22:17	58:54:00	02:21:11	9
13 J. Changbencharoen	01:22:54			
14 A. Chambers	01:24:22	53:07:00	02:17:29	8
15 W. Tate	01:24:22	48:46:00	02:13:12	6
16 D. Photpipat	01:25:14	58:55:00	02:24:09	11
17 A. Shashenkov	01:30:31			
18 RMT	01:38:48			
19 A. Kong	01:41:16			
20 HJ	01:42:26			
21 T. Shirvell	01:45:54	01:30:50	03:16:44	12
22 ERS	01:51:00			
23 S. Anderson (father)	01:51:00			
24 J. Edwards	02:11:09			
25 H. Miell (kicked the 5K)	02:15:08			
26 CMC	02:22:00			
27 F. Hewer	02:22:48	01:11:50	03:34:38	13

10km Swim and Double Long Ducker 2019

	10K	Swim	Run	Rank
1 A. Hong*	02:04:38	02:01:55	04:06:33	2
2 G. Rates	02:17:26	01:40:59	03:58:25	1
3 Z. Bencharit	02:30:07			
4 F. Deacon	02:31:26	01:48:44	04:20:10	3
5 MJT	03:21:06	01:41:00	05:02:06	4
6 D. Ohler (father)	03:35:06	02:06:41	05:41:41	5

* His 5K time 1:00:16 is a senior 5K record.

ORIENTAL SOCIETY

*Jun Wa Shin, Elmfield, "Battle of Inchon",
8 October*

Last week, the Oriental Society was honoured to welcome Jun Wa Shin, *Elmfield*, as the second speaker of the evening to enlighten us with a talk on the Battle of Inchon, which was a turning point in the Korean War.

He began by explaining the context of the battle. He suggested that there was a rising tension between the Korean peninsula and the US government, who feared that communism would devour Korea. On 10 August 1945, two officers, Dean Rusk and Charles Bonesteel, were told to define the American occupation zone in Korea. Due to short notice, they divided the country at the 38th parallel, but it was surprising how the Soviet Union accepted this division line. From 1946–47, the Soviet-US Commission worked towards a goal of a unified administration, but increasing Cold War tensions and Korean opposition to trusteeship made it impossible to make progress. Over time, the division between the North and South steadily deepened, thus political and ideological differences drove the two 'Koreas' apart. On 15 August, the first president of 'The Republic of Korea', an anti-communist Syngman Rhee, took power from the US military while, in the North, Kim Il Sung was chosen as prime minister of the Red Army.

Shin moved on to speak about the overture of the Battle of Inchon, which was split into three aspects: selection of troops, the significance of Inchon and the element of surprise. It was General Douglas MacArthur who previously oversaw the US occupation of Japan from 1945–51. He felt that he could turn the tide of the war if he made a military assault behind North Korea, away from Pusan. Therefore, he launched an amphibious assault, code-name 'Operation Chromite'. The speaker emphasised that Inchon was not the only option but was the best choice because of a number of factors. Mudbanks from the shore stretched as far as 5.4 km and would be exposed during low tide. There were also huge tides from 9–11m! In addition, the restricted channel had limited operating space for ships that would be undertaking shore bombing, and the harbour itself was defended by a small island. Moreover, the element of surprise was a fundamental aspect of the battle if they wanted to succeed. Therefore, they needed to divert attention from Inchon, so they directed naval bombardments while a small ROK raiding party landed at Kunsan. On the East Coast, the USS Missouri bombarded the port of Samcheok.

Jun Wa Shin went on to explain the ultimate and most significant part: the landing at Inchon. At midnight on 14–15 September, Lieutenant Eugene Clark lit the lighthouse of Palmido Island, indicating to the Fifth Marines that they should sail into Inchon harbour. The 5th Marines entered Wolmido accompanied by gunfire support ship at 5.45 am. Following the marines, the tanks arrived, furnished with flamethrowers and bulldozer blades. They managed to overwhelm the 500 NKPA defenders who escaped to Inchon, they killed 120 and took a further 180 prisoner. The American flag was raised 47 minutes after the first landing. Naval bombardments commenced at 2.30pm to cover the Red and Blue Beach. Air cover was provided by the Royal Navy Seafires and Fireflies, hence the landing forces arrived successfully at the Red Beach, due to the lack of enemy resistance. However, the landing at Blue Beach was, Shin informed us, less of a slick operation. There was confusion, apparently because one soldier was asked to produce a compass and said, "No idea, two weeks ago I was driving a bus in San Francisco." However, once ashore, the confusion was diverted and Marines began to move north-east to cut off Inchon town from the east and work their way to the industrial areas. The speaker suggested that the battle was ultimately a success for the United States and South Korea. Overall, this was an intriguing talk giving us insight into Korea

during the Cold War. The question he left with us at the end was: is success due to luck or skill?

HISPANIC DRAMA FESTIVAL

NLCS Theatre, 10 October

On Thursday evening, eight of the School's Sixth Formers performed in the 7th Hispanic Drama Festival at North London Collegiate School in which pupils from a dozen schools including Eton, Bradfield, St Paul's Girls', Wellington and Mill Hill performed short extracts from plays in Spanish to exceptionally high standards. The event was a great opportunity for the boys to immerse themselves in Hispanic theatre and culture, as well as to enjoy an exciting evening off the Hill.

The festival began in the early evening, after the boys had made the short trip to NLCS and gone through some final run throughs in their prep room. Shortly after a midway interval, it was Harrow's turn to take to the stage. The School performed *Fuenteovejuna* – an adaptation of the famous work of Lope de Vega. To provide some brief context, a group of friends in a secondary school attempt to register a complaint about the unreasonable behaviour and poor teaching of their intolerant and tyrannical maths teacher.



The extract began with schoolboy Raúl (Will Holyoake, *The Head Master's*) looking to steal some exam papers from an empty staff room in order to elevate the class's grades. Swiftly following this, we first see the tyranny of the maths teacher, Profesor Ruiz (Théodore Seely, *The Head Master's*), as he has a particularly heated confrontation with timid pupil Luis (Pedro Azagra Tojar, *Bradlys*). Following this, we witness a discussion among the class (Archie Rogers and Shubh Malde, both *Elmfield*, Kit Davidson and Johnny Hagg-Davies, both *Rendalls*) and their plots to oust their teacher. The extract concludes with headmaster (Ben Davies, *The Grove*) firing the Profesor Ruiz after the students recorded one of his unreasonable outbursts.

After all the extracts ended, the theatre was entertained by a karaoke of various Spanish pop songs while the judges came to their decisions. Eventually, and just before the frustration of the karaoke truly kicked in, the judges returned and the awards were distributed. It must also be added that this process was not conducted without controversy, as one or two winning students seemed to be partially native. Prizes included a vast range of books as well as educational trips to Colombia and Spain and were awarded in a number of categories. Moreover, the judging panel included prestigious figures from the Spanish and Colombian embassies and the Cervantes Institute. Théodore Seely in particular must be congratulated on winning the 'Best Actor' category for his animated role as the despotic Profesor Ruiz.

All in all, the experience was a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching one. Many thanks must go to LAM for the preparation and rehearsals before the evening, and for accompanying the boys on the day.

HISTORY OF ART

British Museum, 18 October

Last Friday saw the art historians take a trip down to the British Museum in high spirits. Although the thought of taking the Tube was disheartening to some (Sebag-Montefiore, *The Knoll*), we arrived full of eagerness. After a brief demonstration of what type of building the British Museum was by George Phillips, *The Head Master's*, given with his usual eccentricity, we set off into the labyrinth that held some of the art we had been studying over the past few weeks. Fuelled by prawn cocktail crisps and a Dairy Milk bar, we were lucky enough to see three iconic prints, *The Great Wave of Kanagawa*, *Melancholia*



and Rembrandt's *Christ Preaching*. These were presented by (in order) Francis Bamford, *Bradlys*, Jack Chen, *Rendalls*, Eden Prime, *The Head Master's*, and Archie Martine, *Lyon's*, presenting his with Leopold Florescu, *The Head Master's*. After hearing three wonderful presentations, we were left to our own devices for half an hour and were set the task to meet at the Rosetta Stone. This separated the boys from the men, as the boys immediately fled to the café, and the men continued to look at the historic art. Although some would argue that a flat white is more precious than a mummified human, we soon began circling the foyer in order to find this Rosetta Stone. With the boys having (finally) found the Rosetta Stone, we set off to see the frieze of the Parthenon, collected by Lord Elgin. For the Lower Sixth boys who had just been studying the splendour of the Parthenon, this was particularly exciting. However, several art students seated around the great room soon caused a distraction for some of the boys, who preferred being face to face with an art student instead of a classical medium relief.

After much talk of art, but not particularly of the Parthenon, JESB thought it best to relieve the poor girl Sebag-Montefiore had his eyes set on, and head back to the Hill. Although, the 'trip' was over, the talking was not, as Max Hattersley and Angus Hill soon started talking to the man outside the museum, who was selling caramelised peanuts. With high-fives flying around London as we walked back towards the tube station debating how much work we should receive a week, we made it back to the Hill.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Importance of Chirality in Drug Synthesis
16 October

On Wednesday 16 October, Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, gave a talk titled 'The Importance of Chirality in Drug Synthesis' to the Science Society. Stepping out before a burgeoning class of young scientists, Hong began by laying out his reasons why chirality piqued his interest; these ranged from a genuine love for chemistry to its importance in modern medicine. Whatever the reason, the presentation has certainly buffed out his Oxbridge application.

He then swiftly launched into introducing the room to stereoisomers (molecules with the same molecular formula and structural formula, but different spatial arrangements) and its two main branches: geometric and optical isomers. He explained that it is optical isomers that demonstrate chirality and that they are molecules with non-superimposable mirror images. To make things conceptually simpler, he said that our hands demonstrate chirality. They are mirror images and when placed on top of each other they do not match up completely. Even though they are the same thing – a hand – they have different spatial arrangements, such as the thumbs being on different sides. He stated that substances which show optical isomerism exist as two isomers called enantiomers. Then, using a moly mod kit, showed us how these molecules would look as well as their chiral centres – a carbon with four nonidentical atoms/groups attached.

Having formed the groundwork for his talk, he began to explain how these enantiomers could be identified using plane-polarised light. The isomers (labelled R for the right-hand isomer or S for the left-hand one) will rotate the plane polarised light in opposite directions. However, this can only be done in a chiral environment and when the light is shone through pure chiral compounds. He also spoke about how our body was a chiral environment since there are specific enzymes with active sites that can only fit the spatial arrangements of certain molecules.

Leaving theory behind, Andrew then looked at some real-world examples and showed the Science Society why chirality is so important in drug synthesis. Beginning with thalidomide – a drug made in the 1960s that alleviated morning sickness in pregnant women. It was believed to be safe and effective. As an antidepressant, it was administered to women but doctors soon realised that women who were taking thalidomide during pregnancy had babies with severe birth defects. Later, scientists found out that basic (alkaline) conditions in the liver caused the breakdown of thalidomide to form an S isomer that caused teratogenesis (disturbance of the development of the embryo and foetus), whereas the R isomer formed would produce the sedative effects. These incredibly different isomers can also be seen in drugs such as methamphetamine, Lipitor and a revolutionary new cancer drug called Taxol.

Hong then emphasised the importance of chirality in drug formulation. With approximately 60% of all drugs made expressing some form of chirality, it is incredibly important to be able to identify the different isomers. He then finished confidently by answering some questions and receiving a round of applause. Overall it was a brilliant talk that even pleased WNES.

SPEAR

OH Room, 15 October

Just as the new academic year started to gain momentum, 18 Lower Sixth boys gathered in the OH Room for the first of their inductions for the Spear charity. In this two-hour session, we were introduced to the invaluable charity that helps 16–24-year olds get their lives back on track and find jobs. The session began with a game of catch where, once you had caught the ball, you told the group why you signed up. Answers ranged from 'To give back to those who aren't as fortunate to come to Harrow' to 'To gain a greater understanding of the world outside the "Harrow bubble"'. We were then shown a video of Harrison's story. Harrison struggled in school and ended up leaving, which left him feeling that he had no options left so turned to gangs and violence. After he was stabbed and his best friend was killed, Harrison knew that he could not stay on that path. He found out about Spear and went along to see

if it was for him. After two or three minutes, the coaches at Spear convinced him to join the programme, which gave him the skills he needed to find employment.

After completing the programme, he began fishing coaching with his brother and now he works alongside the CEO of a global recruitment agency. The boys were understandably surprised at how helpful Spear was and at how much it changes people's lives. During the session, we tried out one of the activities that the coaches use at Spear, where we got into a circle and were told to think of a song. We were then told that we would all have to sing our song to the group and asked who would like to go first. Naturally everyone was reluctant, until Patrick Tallentire, *Lyon's*, put himself forward. Just as he was about to start singing, the coach told him that he didn't have to and that the exercise was to show how everyone is in the same boat and it's ok to feel nervous. Needless to say, he breathed a great sigh of relief!

Jumping forward a few weeks, we had the Spear Celebration evening, in which graduates of the programme were given awards for their achievements. After some refreshments and mingling downstairs in the War Memorial, accompanied by some fantastic cello playing by Kieran Leung, *The Park*, the Head Master gave a speech about the strong relationship between Harrow School and the Spear charity, going back to 2013 when a Spear classroom was opened up in St Peter's Church in West Harrow. We then headed upstairs to hear the stories of the trainees and for the awards ceremony.



The following day, we went for our final training session in which we discussed some of the trainees from the night before, inspired by one trainee who had been offered a job on that same day. We were also told what we would actually be doing when we went down to the centre and about how to get there! A big thank you must be given to the coaches at the Spear centre for taking the time to come and give us these training sessions and to HRM for organising everything (and providing juice and flapjacks!).

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

Saddab Mannan, The Park, 7 October

Towards the end of half-term, there was the fifth instalment of the Cross-Curricular Lecture Series, given by Saddab Mannan, *The Park*, on his experiences as a Harrovian.

The lecture resembled a party rally for some particularly excitable Parkites as Mannan began with some crowd-pleasing comedy to illuminate the differences between the UK and his home country of Bangladesh. He spoke of the extremity of sardine traffic in Bangladesh, with it being normal to drive down a hard shoulder (or perhaps even pull out one's grenade launcher to clear space for cars). Still, one supposes that is the peril of a country with 100 million more people and a third of the space to put them in. The weather is also hugely different:

when Mannan first arrived in the UK, it was colder than his refrigerator in Dhaka, he said.

He then spoke of his background as a grandson of an orphan who had made good by being awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and how having such an imperious figure in his life motivated him to be the driven figure that was standing before us today.

After that, the Mannan began to explain the quirky world Harrovians live in, with questions on what is meant by "marmite" and "beaks". In some sense, we are in an "artificial" community that is largely oblivious to the problems of the real world and many of us don't know anything of war, poverty and starvation.

He also talked about the difference in education between "the boarding school near Heathrow airport" (which is apparently the Google search that first let him discover the Hill) and his hometown. In Bangladesh, funding for teaching expertise is limited because there is a maximum fee which schools can charge, holding back the progress of the private sector as a whole. This created large class sizes and a vacuum of talent even in the top schools, but did make education consistently accessible for all (listening, Jeremy?). In spite of this, the large class sizes and lack of individual attention led to a wide range of abilities co-existing even in one class. He said that the education is also poor in suburban areas because there is a lack of funding.

He argued that change is desirable and we can only get that through mad ideas. Copernicus was declared mad when he first published his theories, but he did bring an improvement to science and astronomy as a whole through his statement that the Earth is round. At Harrow, we need to strike the fine balance between respecting tradition and keeping our minds open to innovation and development in the future.

I would like to thank Mannan for his excellent oratory and delivery. It must have taken an incredible amount of bravery to "stick his head above the parapet" and tell it like he saw it. Thanks must also go to ADT for organising a fantastic series so far.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

JPM, "Women in History", 14 October

On Monday 14 October, the Cross-Curricular Lecture Series resumed for its sixth instalment: a talk by JPM on 'Women in History'.

JPM began with Clio, and those of you who study Classics will know that Clio was in fact the muse of history. JPM then took the popular step of making a mockery of his own society, saying that this "condescension of posterity" was "male, pale, and stale". Even today, the way we look at history is skewed towards men, with the alleged greatest 100 Britons only containing 13 women (and even they caused degrees of controversy). Similarly, the BBC series *Icons* failed to include any women, instead discussing seven men.

This was first remarked on properly in the 1970s, the era of second-wave feminism. According to Joan Kelly, many male historians had mislabelled periods according to the fortunes of men. Although Rome was considered to be civilised, women were largely reduced to a dehumanising and concubine existence. Similarly, the Renaissance promoted ideas that women were either passive and submissive or to be executed for witchcraft. Even the Enlightenment did not lead to a higher standard of education for women.

However, all changed during the period of female suffrage, during which women succeeded in becoming increasingly

empowered. The Votes for Women campaign imprinted slogans onto images of the King. This mass of illegal defacement required an immense amount of effort and conviction, and eventually achieved the aim of raising public awareness of the movement. Indeed, there now exist commemorative coins to remind us of this period of female suffrage, complete with our female monarch on the reverse.

In the lecture, an unsurprising rant against Michael Gove's educational revolution followed. There are now only two women on the Key Stage 2 History syllabus, and both of them were born into the role of monarch. At Key Stage 3, which takes students up to the end of the Shells, the National Curriculum only covers five women, three of whom are in a specific topic labelled as women. Ultimately, in A level Politics, feminism is regarded as a 'minor political movement' and the period of suffrage already mentioned is described as a 'pressure movement'.

Of course, women were also politically significant before the period of suffrage. For instance, women played a notable part in the American Civil War by refusing to work. In turn, the wealthy refused to work and wrote letters begging their conscripted husbands to desert, so that they could come back and protect them, fundamentally undermining the military movement.

Another rather anecdotal instance of women changing the tide of mainstream politics is that of Abigail Adams, who wrote to her husband (the second President of the United States) when he was at the continental congress, stating her desire for him to 'remember the ladies'.

Perhaps in contrast, much can be seen from the points in history in which women have struggled to a greater extent. In the British Colonies, women were generally expected to stay at home and were not encouraged to have a significant social presence.

Within the academic discipline of history, women have understandably faced both opportunities and challenges. The dominant role of men in recorded history makes contemporary research on many female figures comparably more difficult than research on their male counterparts. Ultimately, the lack of female figures in recorded history makes a negative impact on the possibility of contemporary research. Perhaps this is why so many Harrovians are less immediately eager to study female figures in history.

In addition to this, the dominant role of white men in contemporary academia potentially results in an unbalanced range of critical opinions. However, one argument against the notion of increasing the amount of women's history studied concerns the unhelpful practice of categorising history. That said, perhaps it would be more sensible to simply include more female figures in the established canon, as opposed to creating a separate, almost by definition subsidiary, canon focusing on women.

Ultimately, the academic discipline of history is dominated by white heterosexual men. For instance, many members of our audience had not heard of Chevalier d'Eon, a colourful and famous bisexual figure in politics, diplomacy and spy craft. He was offered a pension by the then King of France on the condition that he dressed as a woman, and he was sketched fencing in a black dress to defy traditional gender stereotypes. Many historians might wonder whether this is men's history, women's history, another distinct category altogether, or simply a forgotten part of history's fundamentally singular canon.

JPM finished by speculating about how future historians would look at us. In fact, even in areas where progress is considered to have been made, perhaps not enough has been done. The first female prime minister had no women in her cabinet. Last year, Nicola Thorpe was sent home from PwC for wearing heels that were high not enough. Today, Britain only ranks 49th in a global ranking of gender equality.

We would like to thank JPM for an excellent talk, and would like to thank ADT for organising the series thus far.

OSRG PRIVATE VIEW

From Reynolds to Matisse: Treasures of the OSRG Collection, 3 October

It was the unexpected gift of the superb portrait of Mrs Andrews née Penrose of Shaw House last term, by an Old Harrovian now resident in California, that prompted the idea for this exhibition. The acquisition of such an artwork painted by the founder of the Royal Academy of Art no less – Sir Joshua Reynolds – needed to be celebrated. Another such gift, from a friend of the School, of a Matisse painting – a painting that had been accessioned in 2015 but had been lacking an ideal context for display – provided the perfect title and timeframe for the exhibition: 'From Reynolds to Matisse: treasures of the OSRG collection'. A selection of the very best artworks by the finest artists working between the birth of Reynolds (1723) and the death of Matisse (1954) was easy to compile.



An astonishing fact became apparent as the shortlist of artworks was drawn up – that apart from one little pencil-and-wash drawing of the Hill that was purchased, all other artworks in this exhibition were gifted. We owe much to the generosity of Old Harrovians, Governors, parents and other kind benefactors who are happy to give or bequeath their treasured possessions to our care. Donors can have confidence that we undertake never to sell those gifts unless specifically instructed to do so.

The exhibition contains not only works by Reynolds and Matisse, but also Joseph Turner, John Constable, John Sell Cotman and, in the 200th anniversary of his birth, John Ruskin. The circle of artists who worked under the patronage of the enlightened physician Dr Munro (1759–1833) included Robert Cozens, Turner and de Wint – all of whom are represented in the exhibition. Other artists who in turn were influenced by that group are also on view. It seems that in the early 19th century there was considerable contact between the leading artists – and not only where art was concerned – Arthur, the son of Joseph Severn (who painted Keat's portrait displayed on the north wall of the gallery) married John Ruskin's cousin Joan. Joan was Ruskin's travelling companion on his continental sketching tours. Some connections were therefore closer than others!

Ruskin was a great supporter of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and we are very fortunate to have Thomas Woolner's sculpture of Elaine, forlorn in her unrequited love of Sir Lancelot, as our sole example of the PRB's reformist style: a style that was at complete variance with that of Sir Joshua Reynolds – whom the Brotherhood called Sir Slosua'!

The discovery quite recently – in the OSRG storeroom – of an album of engravings from the drawings by John Flaxman was extraordinarily fortuitous. The album covers and contents were in need of specialist conservation, and our Conservator, Danila Narcisi, expertly removed the pages in order to give the necessary cleaning and treatment. The loose pages have been mounted for this exhibition but can be returned to the covers should that be required in the future. The subject of Flaxman's drawings is the Christian Acts of Mercy (both corporal and spiritual) and they are rendered not so much with an eye to

anatomical detail but more towards the emotional message. From their compositions it is easy to understand how Flaxman became renowned as a designer of funerary monuments. The works are very poignant and are well worth studying. Boys studying TP will certainly be considering them later this year.

Upstairs, in a quite different vein but within the timeframe of the exhibition, are eight enchanting Chinese paintings. They were painted in the early 19th century. Four are delicate landscape views that the artist dedicated to his third eldest brother; four are Buddhist scenes depicting characters known as ARHATS. By process of elimination we believe these paintings were given to us in 1943 by an OH artist called William George Stirling, *The Grove 1901*², who had worked as a civil servant in Singapore and was a collector of Far Eastern art. It is recorded that he visited the School in 1943 and gave a number of items from both Japan and China. The Chinese paintings had lain in a portfolio since that time as it was evident that they had not been in the best condition when donated – they showed signs of considerable insect damage. The evidence would indicate that a cooking pot with food residue on its base might once have been placed on top of the pile of paintings because insects have very neatly eaten away almost a perfect circle through the layers of paper. We now have the expertise in the OSRG team to repair such historic damage and, after several weeks in the Conservation Suite, the paintings are now restored to tip-top condition and can be put on display.

Fellow scholars from the University of Leiden, from SOAS and from UCL have assisted in interpreting the inscriptions and identifying the characters depicted in the paintings. The paintings are on display for the very first time accompanied by labels that accurately describe their content.

Every exhibition sheds light on our collections. Research is on-going. In this regard, acknowledgment must be made to Carolyn Leder, former OSRG Curator, whose investigations into the Hegan Bequest has provided the basis for much of the information on the watercolour labels. The present Curator is indebted to her. OSRG exhibitions are the culmination of months of planning, research, conservation, co-operation and administration involving many people working together to deliver what they hope will be a memorable experience. Special thanks are extended to Jo Payne and Hui Di Li (OSRG Administrative Assistant and OSRG Volunteer respectively) for their tireless efforts in assisting Mrs Walton with this project – up to the eleventh hour! Finally, several thanks must go to Mrs Walton for her dedicated and meticulous work that makes such wonderful exhibitions possible.

GUTHRIE CUP

October 13

On Sunday 13 October, ten boys braved cold conditions to compete in the annual Guthrie Cup. Named after Giant of Old, Field Marshal Guthrie, the Guthrie Cup is a military skills' competition with stands ranging from Shooting in the range to First Aid. The day began at 7:30 for the team, enjoying a delicious breakfast in the Boyer-Webb, prepared for them by Mrs Davies. After a pep-talk from WMAL, the team headed out to the parade ground for the beginning of proceedings. The first stand was target indication: a stand which tests the ability and skill of cadets while giving orders to a group of soldiers. After a heartening performance, the team headed down to the next stand: shooting in the range.

This stand was judged by the accuracy with that cadets could get their hits on their targets. Impressive shooting by Edward Cleeve and Jake Ramus, both *Lyon's*, saw the team later find out that they had come second in this stand, by 0.6 points out of 100. After shooting, the team was called to the parade ground for their drill presentation. This had been painstakingly practised for, with the team practising every day for the past

couple of weeks at seven in the morning. This practice paid off, with a fantastic performance giving the team an early first place and holding it for the rest of the day. After this fantastic performance, the squad were in high spirits for their next stand: fitness, consisting of a 60m back and forth dash, with the prize going to the team which got the greatest number of runs in 10 minutes. Starting in the press-up position, cadets had to wait



for their teammates to cross the line before getting up and sprinting. Particularly impressive performances were seen from Remi Jokosenumi and Sebastian Classen, both *Lyon's*, who was competing with an injured ankle. After an enthusiastic fitness stand, first aid was next. Two casualties with burns on their hands and legs were an interesting challenge for the medics in the team, but they handled it with expertise far beyond their training, with Richard Hayward, *The Knoll*, making particular contributions to this stand. Following first aid was the Military Knowledge stand, which saw myriad questions regarding equipment, tactics and basic knowledge combined in an exam-type paper, topped off with a timed Kim's-game-type activity that tested both memory and speed. The Section Attack stand was next, and, after donning camouflage paint and rifles, the squad made their way out onto the Hempstall fields under the watchful eye of Peter Cartwright, *The Grove*, and William Tate, *The Knoll*, acting as scouts. Upon being assaulted by an enemy, the team worked hard to win the firefight and defeat the insurgents, with impressive leadership being shown by Archie Heilpern, *The Knoll*, and Harry Lempriere-Johnson, *Druries*, in organising their fire teams. To take the pressure off slightly, the next stand was an observational one, in which attention to detail and memory were being assessed. With ten minutes and a pair of binoculars each, the team, positioned on the fourth tee of the golf course, had to find 20 objects that had been hidden in the surrounding environment, and memorise them to relay back afterwards. Finally, the last stand, the "Bushtucker Trials", tested cadets' skills at living in the field, with cooking and building shelter being assessed. A little role play was required for the final part, in which two warlords joined the cadets to hold peace talks and were expecting identical meals. Team Captain Harry Cleeve, *Lyon's*, took charge of the cooking, assisted by his second in command, while the other members of the team set up camp and acted as sentries. Good preparation and team spirit saw the team do well in the competition, coming fourth overall. We look forward to next year!

TREVELYAN SOCIETY

Mr Will Wainwright, "Reporting on Hitler", 8 October

On Tuesday 8 October, the Trevelyan Society hosted Mr Will Wainwright, author of *Reporting on Hitler* and a respected journalist, who spoke to those gathered in Speech Room on journalism in Nazi Germany.

Mr Wainwright was first prompted to investigate the topic of journalism in Nazi Germany after finding a letter from his relative Rothay Reynolds. Rothay Reynolds was a journalist for the *Daily Mail* and was one of the first journalists to give an

interview to Hitler. Mr Wainwright felt compelled to investigate due to his background as a journalist and his interest in history, and he documented his findings in his book *Reporting on Hitler*. Reynolds moved to Germany shortly after WWI, only to find a country on its knees. It had been crippled by the Great War and much of its population was starving. Weimar Germany had come into existence in debt and in anguish. However, Reynolds also found a liberal nation; Weimar had one of the most extensive systems of rights of any country at the time, giving freedoms to its people that even citizens of the UK did not possess, such as the enforcing of the constitutional equality of pay for women. Moreover, the attitude to homosexuality in Weimar Germany was incredibly liberal, with certain businesses in Berlin advertising directly to gay men. Weimar also temporarily challenged Paris as the cultural centre of Europe, being home to artists like Otto Dix and, of course, its famous cabarets. The Hitler that Reynolds interviewed was far removed from both Weimar and the public eye: he was still a relatively unimportant politician. In the words of Reynolds, Hitler spent 45 minutes raging at him and was marked as a fanatic in his eyes. Little did he know how much that fanatic Bavarian politician would change and how much he would do.

Once the Nazis did come to power in Germany, they made their policies very clear: they would not tolerate any dissent. In 1933, Goebbels invited a large number of journalists to meet with him and told them that the Nazi government knew not only what they had sent in their telegrams but also in their private letters. They also showed their hatred of dissent by expelling journalists who took an anti-Nazi view in their articles. In 1933, Noel Panter was the first journalist to be expelled, after having spent weeks in prison. This silencing of journalists was not surprising; after the Reichstag Fire in February 1933, Germans had lost both of their freedoms of speech and assembly in less than a month. Eventually, expulsion from Nazi Germany became a badge of honour for many journalists, who refused to bend to the commands of the Nazis. Other respected correspondents, such as Norman Ebbut, a journalist for *The Times*, was also expelled. However, the process of expulsion did provide an interesting moral conundrum to the journalists: did they refuse to obey and get expelled, or did they play by the Nazis' rule and remain able to report on them?

However, the journalists often had more than the Nazis to contend with: they were censored by their own editors. Reynolds' editor, Lord Rothermere, was a famous advocate for Nazi Germany. He believed that a strong Germany was crucial to the prevention of the spread of Communism, which he feared above all. In many of his letters, Reynolds complained that much of his journalism was censored by Lord Rothermere. Similarly, Norman Ebbut complained of being censored by his editor. However, behind closed doors, Rothermere informed British politicians of some of the horrors of Nazi Germany. Mr Wainwright also pointed to the Manchester Guardian as being the most anti-Nazi newspaper. Their foreign correspondent in Berlin, Frederick Voigt, was famous for taking eyewitness reports about the persecution of Jews. After the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939, almost all newspapers followed the lead of the Manchester Guardian and adopted an anti-Nazi stance.

Reynolds, after his interview with Hitler, continued to be a foreign correspondent for *The Daily Mail* until he left Germany in 1938, having been slowly sidelined by Lord Rothermere for his anti-Nazi views. After a short stint as a lecturer, he moved to Rome after the start of the War, hoping to both avoid the Nazis and to serve as a foreign correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*. However, these plans were ruined when Italy joined the war as an ally of Germany. Reynolds fled to Jerusalem, hoping to establish an office. He died in the summer of 1940, alone and childless.

Many thanks to JPM for organising such a successful lecture and to Mr Wainwright for taking time out of his busy schedule to give such a riveting talk.

SENIOR DEBATING

OH Room, 11 October

On Friday 11 October, the House Debating Society congregated to discuss the issue that 'This house believes that private schools' days are numbered'.

Mr Tom Foster of Newlands began by framing this contentious issue as a factual one rather than a moral one. In spite of this, much of the proposition's later argument did seem to centre on the reasons why we should abolish the private sector. His definition also refused to acknowledge the fact that people and reasons drive change. His first point was that the highest-ever proportion of children were in the state sector, marking a clear trend towards the destruction of independent schools. He talked about how his side believed that the abolition of private schools was more likely to be a slow decline rather than an immediate event. He talked about how the redistribution of assets would lead to a fairer, freer, better society and even managed to do it without sounding too much like Jeremy.

The opposition then began by talking about the importance of English schools for the image of the UK. Ashab Chowdhury of West Acre talked about how the likes of Harrow and Eton's refinement is part of how we project ourselves to the world. He argued that the abolition of private schools would be a threat to liberty, expression and individuality, but I think that this is slightly rendered as irrelevant due to the existence of grammar schools. It must be noted that Mr Tan, *Moretons*, and Long Hei Ng, I, sprang up like the components on a whack-a-mole set but were continuously returned to a sedentary position by the speaker. He concluded by discussing self-interest. People will carry on going to private schools because they are more likely to earn more money. However, the audience seemed to be less taken by his argument that the end of private schools would inevitably lead to the end of university education and anarchy.

Mr Ng then talked about how the modern generation prides itself on equality. It was Thomas Jefferson who said "*we hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal*" and he talked about how private schools make our society less equal. He said that, without private schools, we would have a fairer, freer and more liberal society, despite studies to the contrary showing that the wealthy would still get a head start through the use of textbooks and private tutoring. He spoke of how the Labour Party has proposed change, and that this could result in a serious action next time they get into power. He then mapped a trend showing an increased amount of economic adversity is going to spark the existence of fewer private schools.

The second speaker for the opposition, Mr Sam O'Dell, *West Acre*, began by giving some rebuttal. He was excellent in mentioning the importance that should be placed on private schools for society's fringes, with special schools for those less fortunate than us. Religious schools (like Harrow) allow young people to grow up in a tolerant community. The speaker discussed how the charitable activities of private schools (including scholarships and bursaries at schools like Bedales) justify their existence.

At this point, Morgan Majdalany of *Moretons* spoke about how private schools still provide a distinct advantage to their pupils. The current prime minister, alongside many of our judges and even Diane Abbot, were all privately educated. He spoke about how private schools are too expensive so that people no longer attend them. In spite of this, I don't really see a thirteenth-generation Etonian with plenty of disposable income sending their child to the local comprehensive with 26 people in every class any time soon.

Henry Lozinski of *Lyon*'s spoke of the massive class divide and how the desire to stay on top would lead to the continued existence of private schools. He spoke about the impossibility of their days being numbered because as they are essential to

the way in which our society operates on a day-to-day basis.

Gareth Tan then returned to the issue of defining the motion, a rather odd position for the seventh speaker of the evening. He said that the proposition did not need to give a reason for the decline of private schools, only to say that they would decline (which rather defeats the purpose of having a debate in the first place). He then proceeded to discuss the reasons for the decline of private schools. He talked about how affirmative action against the stereotype of extreme privilege would lead to employers discriminating against the “posh”.

Harry Cleeve of Lyon’s then talked about how private schools are a cornerstone of modern society. Rather than most of their money being funds that could otherwise be devoted to the state sector, he mentioned the influence of rich foreign students who would continue to strive for an upper-class British education. This concluded the speaking in what had been a very entertaining debate.

We were then treated to an intellectual floor debate touching on the issues of the American dream phenomenon (in which people vote to protect their interests for a hypothetical future where they will be rich rather than thinking pragmatically in the present. There was also the point that the word ‘numbered’ suggests an immediacy that was swept under the rug by the proposition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank SPS, EPM and all the speakers for yet another fantastic debate.

trade war began, which has seen China lose 2 million jobs (0.25% of the labour force) and the US to lose 300,000 jobs (0.1875% of the labour force). Because the jobs lost due to the war are still a small percentage of the labour force, Huang said that these were not worrying figures. Huang then spoke about how the trade war is intensifying to the point that tariffs have been placed on oil for the first time ever. Huang touched on the Trump administration’s policy of blacklisting Chinese firms such as Huawei. Huang then spoke about how China is reacting to the trade war by the ‘Road and Belt’ initiative, where China is funding infrastructure projects in developing countries across Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. However, this scheme has received criticism as some say China is merely doing it to increase political power and is leaving countries such as Sri Lanka with ridiculously high debts. On the other hand, Huang noted that America has been forced to spend \$28 billion subsidising farmers whose production costs have increased. Huang explained that in order for America to survive the trade war, it must produce cheaper goods in order to be self-sustainable and not rely on China. Huang concluded his lecture by saying that a fair deal was unlikely as it required both superpowers to want the same things at the same time and so it is more likely that each country is going to find new trading partners. Overall, Huang used an effective technique of very comedic slides, good knowledge (even going above and beyond the topic to give further context) and reliable statistics to give a very informative lecture that further highlights the increasing quality of the Pigou lectures we have heard this year.

PIGOU SOCIETY

David Huang, *The Knoll*, 1 October

On Tuesday 1 October, David Huang, *The Knoll*, gave a lecture to the Pigou Society on the China-US trade war. Huang began by giving some background information such as China’s entrance into the World Trade Organisation under the US-China trade pact in 2000.



Huang explained that relations between the countries were good until Trump became president and began an aggressive policy towards China, with a series of tweets including “China is neither an ally or a friend – they want to beat us (America) and own our country.” Huang explained that Trump started the trade war as he was furious that the US had a trade deficit of \$621 billion. Between 6 and 7 April, Chinese president Xi Jinping visited Trump’s estate where they formulated a 100-day plan for peace. Unfortunately, the plan failed and the

CHESS

On the first Thursday back after half-term, the chess team met for an away match at Wetherby prep school. In spite of there being a time setting for the match, which the team were not accustomed to (on the occasion, we played one match taking a total of about two hours), the chess team did tremendously well to come out with a hard-fought draw.

On board one, Phillip Truscott, *Elmfield*, played against a very highly graded opposite number. Unfortunately, he fell victim to a difficult opening sequence against an opponent who was very strong. Harrow also had an unfortunate result on board two, where Jacob Goldberg, *Bradlys*, lost against another magnificent performance from our opponent. However, our fortunes were significantly stronger on the third board, where Sean Hargraves, *The Head Master’s*, capitalised well on a late mistake and gained a much-needed positive result.

The fourth board also produced a good result, with Gareth Tan, *Moretons*, emerging victorious and pouncing well on an early mistake with a fantastic discovered attack. He continued to dominate throughout the game, gaining an efficient checkmate.

The captain, Long Hei Ng, *Newlands*, had a favourable start to the game and dominated throughout. In the end, he was very unlucky to fall victim to a plucky checkmate.

On the final board, Dylan Winward, *Lyon’s*, delivered a convincing win, albeit in a slower and more laboured manner than was perhaps possible.

Altogether, we would like to thank JPBH for kindly taking us to an amazing afternoon of chess (and additionally for sitting in traffic all the way back). This was a promising result that left open the possibility of qualification for the next round in our match later this term.

METROPOLITAN

A CONFESSION

I scorn you, Mr. Wilkinson
 These ditties poorly penned
 You dream to write like Dickinson
 Because you lost your friend

You know exactly who you are
 The Neolithic Bopsulai
 Who saw the drawing on the bark
 And thought her man did die

I bet you know how we should think
 Like only you can do
 And clicking G-2's in black ink
 And never getting skewers

Oye, eres no muy listo
 si loqui laponica
 supeingo o hanashite mo
 Yě bú huì suàn cōngmíng dào nǎr

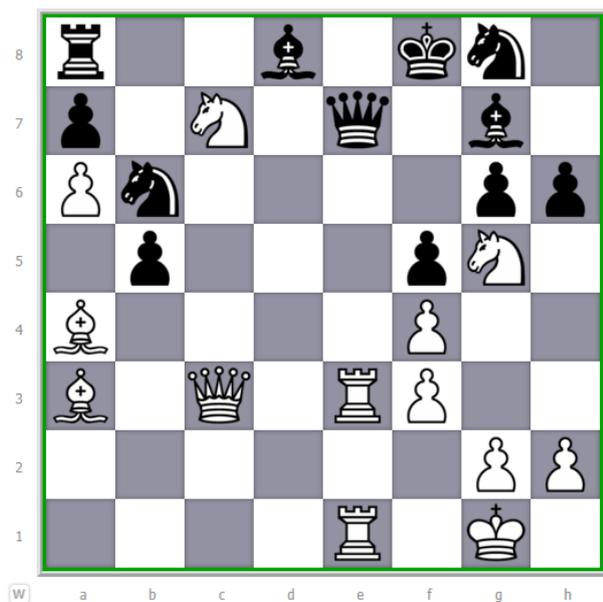
I've had enough of that manure
 Step up! Admit! Confess!
 And tell yourself each day that you're
 A person slightly less

Anonymous

CHESS PUZZLE

The weekly Chess Puzzle set by JPBH. Email your solutions to him (jpbh@harrowschool.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 2 moves.



Last edition's answer: 1. ... Rc1+ 2. Kxc1 Re1+ 3. Nxe1 Qxe1#

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!

NO EXIT

What could one do with three minimalist sofas, a metal statue, a knife and four actors. Well, Kit Akinluyi, *The Head Master's*, directed a tense, funny and at times terrifying production of Sartre's crowning work *No Exit* with these things. Most would not notice that this was a student-directed play due to its slick dialogue and perfectly co-ordinated movements as each character interacted; yet it was. And it was brilliant



The opening scene between Vincent Cradeau (Archie Ross, *The Knoll*) and the Valet (Columbus Mason, *The Head Master's*) was full of witty, sarcastic dialogue establishing that hell isn't all that it seems. Without instruments of torture or red-hot poker, why is this hell? Then Cradeau meets his roommates: the cold, cruel, vindictive Ines Serrano (Reuben Ackerman, *The Head Master's*) and the high society, flirtatious and tragically wicked Estelle Rigault (Johnny Kajoba, *Lyon's*). The actors had perfectly chemistry, with their respective characters seeming like a second nature to them. As each individual tried to cover up more of their secrets, more of their true personality was revealed: Estelle – a stone-cold murderer who had killed her own child; Cradeau – a philandering coward who died desperately; and Ines – who stole her cousin's wife, Florence. The cousin killed himself and, shortly after, Florence killed Inez and herself by turning on the gas stove while they slept. As tensions build between the characters, each one becomes the torturer of the other two. Estelle and Cradeau's flares of passion torment Ines, who in turn reinforces Cradeau's fear of being a coward and scares Estelle with her advances. While Estelle rejects Ines' actions to join her and plays on Cradeau's insecurities, they each descend further into madness until finally Estelle snaps and tries to murder Ines, who merely points out that 'they're already dead'. In my opinion, the final scene was directed perfectly, as each character in turn began to laugh in a strange, cold, inhuman way that gave the audience chills. And then Black. It had us wanting more, yet was a conclusive finale and the climax of the piece, and really left the audience wondering what the future of the characters whom we had come to both empathise with and hate over the course of the play would do with each other for the rest of eternity.

Dylan Winward's, *Lyon's*, excellent light and sound sequences enhanced the play, especially during the flashback moments, and the lighting, though simple, set the tone of the play extremely well and allowed the audience to understand that it was hell. The use of the Drama Studio was a smart decision on Akinluyi's part as it allowed for the audience to really feel the characters' emotions and gave us a much closer visual perspective on them as they operated around them rather than just watching the scene unfold in front of the audience.

I would like to congratulate everybody involved in the design, backstage work, lights and sound, acting and directing as *No Exit* was an excellent first play by the Rattigan Society. We look forward to seeing what excellent piece of work they put on next.

OPINION

DAME VAUGHAN AGONY AUNT

Dear Dame Vaughan,

Urgh. Whatever, DV, in your blah-blah-blah. Honestly, the pretension oozing out of the letters to you is ridiculous. Everyone's just a bunch of phonies in this grand game to appear intelligent or afflicted. I've been thinking about this a lot over half term, away from all the angst and posturing and technological torment of our youths. We're so intent on being grown up we forget to be young when we are, and then it's too late. There's always pressure, and expectations, and THE NEXT THING, and before you know it you're middle-aged with a wife and two kids. Home was just as bad during half term – my parents always on my back and telling me to grow up, nagging me about my schoolwork, forever suffocating me. One day I just had to get up and walk. Walk away. Clear my head and take time. I swear, I would have kept walking if it weren't for my little sister. She needs me – God I need to protect her from the world. She's so sweet: all smiles and blond hair, and she thinks the world of me I swear. Every time I see her I just want to buy her an ice-cream and look after her and just let her play, like the child she is, forever, and let nothing spoil her. I would drop everything for her. I did, over half term. I mean, I saw other people, gave them time to. Like, there's this girl I saw for a bit, I gave her the time of day. But then she too just became all smile and affectation and no substance, classic drone of our generation. Such a phony. Not like me sister: she's real, you know. Real. Anyway, yeah, I like, need a book or whatever.

Colden Haulfield.

Dear My Testosterone-Tormented Teen,

Doctor Dame Vaughan here, and if I may be so bold, I diagnose you with a classic case of puberty-induced disillusion. Growing pains. Youthful dissatisfaction. Adolescent Angst. Jettisoned Juvenescence. Moping Moodiness. I won't quite call it ennui because that is far too grand and romantic term for the transitional temperamentality you're going through, but you get the gist. Ah, to be young and headstrong, forever thinking the world is wrong, opinions full and opinions strong, giving off a sweaty pong (because let's be honest, puberty isn't the most fragrant of times...). Everyone goes through it – why, even I, whom I'm sure none of you can envision as anything other than the paragon of womanhood and adulthood that I am today, went through the emotionally enraging, pimple producing, societally cynical disenchantment of those liminal years and nascent maturity. I ran away from home for three weeks and became a nomadic soothsayer in the Spanish purlieu (great word, look it up) of Tibidabo (don't ask why there, there aren't enough characters in this column). I taught myself sword-swallowing and flame-throwing, and ended up anonymously penning a selection of poetry in which all vowels were omitted (not that I wish to brag, but it won Chile's most coveted national poetry prize). We all deal with puberty in different ways. In this diagnostic light, therefore, I have the perfect book recommendation for you- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D Salinger. This iconic and popular classic follows the disaffected seventeen year-old school dropout Holden Caulfield, kicked out of his fourth school and struggling with the challenges of growing up in a society full of 'phonies'. As he plays hooky – and grown-up – in New York, encountering old friends and new experiences, Holden starts to work out who he is, and his place as a teenager in a society he doesn't believe in, only truly caring for his little sister.

Salinger's classic deals with themes of angst and alienation, critiques societal superficiality, and elevates the protagonist to become an icon of teenage rebellion through its dealing of issues of innocence, identity, belonging, loss and connection. You may find some resonances, my dear...

Yours in the rye,

Dame Vaughan

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIRS,

I write to you in response to Archie Kyd's, *The Park*, most recent letter regarding the misspelling of J.W. Shin's name. I do not protest his concern about the accuracy and spelling of words, especially covering the spelling of names. However, I do wish to implore Archie to watch former President Barak Obama on "call out" culture. This idea of correcting others and pointing out misspellings, wrong verb tense or punctuation errors is not activism. I do not dispute Archie's point on how spellings should always be correct (especially with editors), but I do not appreciate the nature of calling it out so blatantly. The action in doing so provided a negative atmosphere which consequentially achieved nothing. As said in Matthew in the King James version of the Bible: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Now, I am not saying that Archie has an obvious fault or anything of the sort, I'm just presenting how he has been quick to jump on the spelling mistake and point it out. In a nutshell, Obama explained how we should have a greater aloha approach to life, giving more respect and honour to one another and not seeking out mistakes from one another as it provides no change or activism in which you may think you are achieving.

Kind regards,

JONATHAN BARLEY, THE GROVE

Dear Sirs,

Imagine my surprise when, after a fascinating lesson from ERC on ways in which forests are managed sustainably across the world by NGOs, I flipped my Harrow-distributed pad of lined paper to see what plethora of stamps of certification from organisations such as the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) it had – it had none.

For the readers of this paper who have no idea what I am on about at this point, the FSC is an organisation that certifies sources of paper and other products produced from trees to ensure that they are sustainable and not contributing to deforestation. For example, instead of all the trees in one area being cut down in a scorched-earth policy, only the old and sick trees will be removed and saplings planted in their place. Once the FSC has certified the source, it gives the distributor a stamp which is heavily advised to be displayed clearly on the product. An absence of this stamp clearly indicates the source has not been ratified or the distributors are complacent (lazy) in their marketing.

Therefore, if our Harrow paper lacks this mark this means either Harrow has failed to keep such an important marketing stamp visible on its merchandise (which I highly doubt), or it is sourcing its paper from unsustainable and possibly (in some countries) illegal sources. This means that our proud School could be one of the institutions keeping people who destroy rainforests, which are essential habitats for over 50% of all species on Earth, in business.

I now see why the SMT is so keen to go paperless!
This is unacceptable and I hope a reasonable explanation is forthcoming

Respectfully,
ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

HILL LIFE

We are now already cruising through November: England have been kicked out of the World Cup Final in more ways than one, Brexit looks as if it is not going to happen... again and, at the time of writing, it is only the 3rd, yet the UK has already experienced two weeks' worth of rainfall; but, hey, at least Corbyn has semi-backed-down from his pledge to destroy public schools.

However, this is not, dear readers, why I have taken to the keyboard (yet again) to feverishly write to you this week. I wish to talk to you about one of our great Giants of Old: the greatest Britain of all time, Nazis conqueror, world-saver and often partial to nudity, Sir Winston himself.

This thought occurred to me after a conversation, after a shower, with dear Matron. I was mid-rant about the preposterous narrowness of my bed when my towel fell. Can you imagine? Luckily for Matron and the Shell behind me, I was also clad in a dressing gown, although the Shell was less lucky when I bent to retrieve my fallen towel.

Sir Winston had less fortunate moments. However, they, from the stories, did not seem to faze him as much as they did the awkward bystanders whose ranks included the likes of President Roosevelt. Alas do not fret, he turned out as stoic in his Birthday Suit as in any ensemble from his quirky wardrobe.

At the start of the terrific 'Darkest Hour', Churchill horrifies a maid as he scuttles from the tosh with his baby-like, gleaming red flesh on show; President Roosevelt, upon wheeling into Churchill's natural post-soak strolling, immediately tried to excuse himself but, as the His Excellency Woody Johnson recently reminded us in his address, Churchill at once exclaimed "The prime minister of Great Britain has nothing to hide from the President of the United States". Indeed, our very own Churchill Songs – which we will enjoy again next Thursday – started after our own Jock Colville happened upon a Churchill *St Jole* sing-along in the bath.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"Sir, have you seen *Ben Shapiro Destroys Liberals With Facts and Logic*?" "I am confident Ben Shapiro is an antonym for facts and logic."

"But I've never met anyone who died in childbirth." "Well, I assume that's because they're dead."

"It's answers like that that make me wish I could give concussions to boys."

"Maybe this Uber driver can drive me back to School?" "...no, I'm pretty sure that's a drug lord."

SPORTS

RACKETS

The School v Tonbridge School

Senior 1st Pair Won 3-2

An excellent effort from Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*, and Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, who came from behind to win 3-2 including a nail biting 17-15 victory in the final game.

Colts 1st Pair Lost 0-3

A tough match for Federico Gherzi, *The Head Master's*, and Sam Owston, *Moretons*, who showed plenty of spirit despite a 0-3 loss to a strong pair.

Junior Colts 1st Pair Won 3-0

A fine effort from Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Alonso Fontana, *Grove*, who won 3-0 against a previously unbeaten Tonbridge pair.

FENCING

Bouts v Abingdon School

Open Lost 86-180

Foil A lost 14-45

Foil B lost 14-45

Epee A lost 36-45

Epee B lost 22-45

Harrow lost against a very strong Abingdon side on Thursday – the most successful club at Abingdon and one which includes a number of GB and international fencers. A sobering encounter at the beginning of the second half of the term, with plenty for the team to work on as the term progresses.

Bouts v St Paul's School

Open Won 135-93

Foil A won 45-34

Foil B won 45-22

Epee won 45-37

The School played a thrilling game versus St Paul's and came away with a convincing win by three blades to nil. The Foil teams took to the piste to start with and both were very close up until the final third of the match, when Harrow pressure finally overcame the St Paul's defence.

With victory already assured, the Epee team then started their bouts brimming with confidence. Despite some stiff resistance from their opponents, they held firm to bring home a clean sheet of victories. Mention must go to Yujin Koshiba, *Lyon's*, for coming out of early retirement to fence for the Foil A team and to William Wauchope, *The Knoll*, who fenced successfully in both Foil B and Epee teams.

FOOTBALL

Development A XI v Brooke House College

Won 3-0

Scorers: Ben Harrison, *West Acre*; Josh Davis, *Moretons* (2)
A slick and entertaining performance from the A XI, who showed good spirit to grab the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half by working hard and scoring three well-earned goals.

Development C XI v St Marylebone CofE Drew 1-1

Scorer: Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*,

Man of the match: Theodore Seely, *The Head Master's*,

The CXI performed well in this inaugural fixture against St Marylebone. Blustery conditions on the AstroTurf made control and passing accuracy challenging, but both teams acquitted themselves well in a competitive, but good-spirited, match. Harrow came close to scoring in the early exchanges, with Eden Prime's goalbound shot deflecting onto the crossbar. Indeed the home side imposed themselves well, showing some composure in possession. St Marylebone grew into the game gradually, however, disrupting the CXI passing rhythm and running dangerously into the spaces behind midfield, getting a number of shots away from distance. If the visitors just edged the first half, Harrow was in the ascendancy in the second. Hari Moondi's, *The Park*, quality down the right-hand side was a highlight, with a typical captain's display from Theodore Seely keeping things tight at the back. The breakthrough came midway through the second half, with Paddy Breeze connecting with a right-wing cross to bundle the ball home. Yet, as the adage goes, a team is often at its most vulnerable just after scoring, and St Marylebone hit back instantly, with an unstoppable toe-punt from the edge of the box going in off the underside of the bar. The remaining portion of the match was more open, with both teams tiring a little and spaces opening up. Leo Farzad, *The Park*, was controlled and combative in midfield, keeping possession well and Michael O'Callaghan, *The Head Master's*, looked assured in defence. While it was disappointing not to find a winning goal, the draw was a fair result from an entertaining fixture.

RUGBY UNION

The School v Tonbridge

1st XV Lost 8-13

This was a performance characterised unfortunately by a lack of accuracy and energy. The XV never got going and were unable to break down a tough Tonbridge defence, despite several chances in good areas. Tonbridge kicked smartly and took points well and Harrow, after taking the lead at 8-6, couldn't keep momentum and allowed a soft try, gifting Tonbridge the game. Scott MacNaughton, *Bradlys*, pulled out another storming performance and Pierce O'Toole, *Druries*, produced good service as ever from 9.

2nd XV Lost 14-24

3rd XV Lost 14-15

The 3XV suffered a heart-breaking, last-gasp defeat to Tonbridge, going down to a last-minute penalty, despite a dominant performance and two excellent tries from Phillip Benigni, *Newlands*, and Zac Yardley, *Druries*.

4th XV Lost 0-19

It is rare for teams at this level to use the scrum as an attacking weapon. In many ways, this match was a bit like watching the World Cup Final, as Harrow simply couldn't retain possession at scrum time. Unfortunately, this writer cannot remember a match with so many scrums and, just as with England, this proved to be Harrow's downfall. Some time on the scrum machine is required ahead of the match against Wellington. Harrow boys are to be commended for showing excellent tackling and spirit throughout the match. Neither heads nor discipline ever dropped, and it is a shame that the same cannot be said for the opposition, who conceded repeated penalties for backchat even when they were 19-0 up.

If we can sort out the scrum, we can look forward with confidence to next week's match at Wellington.

5th XV Won 27-0

With a large squad of 21, we took on the always strong Tonbridge side. The first half was disjointed with too many players looking to take on their opponents on their own, and so there was lots of turnover ball. Eventually Sui Ittipakorn, *The Park*, scored and the try was converted by Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*. Seb Rugge-Price, *The Park*, then bundled himself over just before half-time. After a stern team talk, Harrow came out much more focused and communicating with one another in a more enthusiastic manner. The impressive Archie Mackenzie-Smith, *The Park*, scored and the try was converted by Caspar Bird, *West Acre*. There were some further excellent brakes before Guy White, *Lyon's*, scored. Finally, a text-book move: the forward drove in front of the posts and fed the ball back to man of the match, Robert Litton, *Newlands*, who calmly dropkicked the ball between the posts. The first dropped goal I have seen in Vth's rugby! 27-0 to Harrow.

Colts A Lost 7-8

Tonbridge were fast out of the blocks and took the game straight to Harrow with their kicking game testing the Harrow back three from the outset. Harrow weathered the Tonbridge storm and held on for the first quarter, despite the wind favouring Tonbridge heavily. Ill-discipline at the breakdown from Harrow led to Tonbridge kicking a penalty and, shortly after this, Tonbridge navigated themselves into strong field position again and were successful at crossing the whitewash to take the score to 8-0 at half time. The team started the second half strongly and, with the wind at their backs, seemed confident at turning the score-line around. Iyanu Ademawagun, *Druries*, and Lukas Edstrom, *Bradlys*, were ferocious in defence and Tonbridge couldn't find a way through the Harrow defensive line for the entirety of the second half. Iyanu Ademawagun, *Druries*, eventually crossed the try line from close range to take the score to 8-7 with ten minutes to go. Harrow had a number of possessions to mount an attack on the Tonbridge line but, like much of the rest of this performance, lacked the accuracy to reap any reward. Tonbridge finished the victors 8-7 and Harrow will need to show much greater accuracy and intelligence in their play next week at home to Wellington College.

Colts B Won 24-0

Playing into the wind for the first half on such a gusty day was always going to be a challenge. The boys started strong, putting in some powerful tackles and working very hard to win turnovers in the ruck and secure the ball. This persisted for the entirety of the game and is a real testament to the boys' desire and commitment. Some excellent possession and build-up gave Vlad Skorobogatko, *Rendalls*, the opportunity to power through some tackles and get over the line just before the half-time whistle. Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, converted to take us into half-time 7-0 up. We had the wind with us in the second half and the likes of Digges, *West Acre*, and Blackwood made sure we played the rest of the game in their territory. This gave us a great platform to play from and allowed Jack O'Connor, *Druries*, to continue to dominate at the line-out. Off this, we were able to implement a very well structured driving maul that led to Michael Chiimba, *Newlands*, stumbling over the white paint. Continuous strong carries from the pack gave us space for our backs to play with some pace. In the end, this, paired with a tactically sound kicking game from Digges, meant he had two opportunities to put points on the board. Another impressive performance with our weaker areas continually improving.

Colts C Lost 0-59

After a disappointing morning of rugby, the afternoon held no solace for the Colts Cs. The first half began with Harrow receiving the ball and being greeted by a very aggressive Tonbridge side. Tonbridge committed heavily to every ruck and turned over the ball many times during the game. The Colts were not used to this style of play and the first half

ended at a disappointing 0-24. The second half saw some good defensive passages from Harrow but it was not enough to stop the Tonbridge forwards driving through. There were some handling errors from both teams in the damp conditions but Harrow were unable to break through.

Colts D Lost 10-65

The Colts D sustained a 65-10 defeat to a skilful Tonbridge side. Harrow started positively, playing in the opposition half for a sustained period and being rewarded with an opening try from Hugo Bishop, *Bradbys*, within the first five minutes. Unfortunately, that opening momentum shifted quickly in the other direction, with a powerful line break from a Tonbridge back drawing them level just a few minutes later. The opposition playmakers showed real skill in moving the ball quickly through their hands and out to the wingers, stretching the Harrow defence again and again. Despite some resilient tackles, Tonbridge went over several more times in the first half. However, just before the break, Harrow mounted another attack and went over for their second try, giving them a glimpse of hope at mounting a comeback. However, Tonbridge showed their class again after the restart, putting the game beyond doubt early in the second half. Alvaro Talayero Osio, *Newlands*, and Josua Biles, *Bradbys*, stood out in both attack and defence for Harrow, but the skill of the Tonbridge backs ultimately proved too much.

Junior Colts A Won 33-17

Apparently a rugby match took place in the morning but this writer is not aware of what happened.

The journey to Tonbridge went smoothly but, for some reason, five Tonbridge teachers asked if we were late despite arriving 45 minutes before kick-off. I'm not sure how much time they think is necessary to warm-up. It reminds me of the commentary on an earlier match that I have completely forgotten about.

The Tonbridge five-hour warm-up seemed to do them good as they started superbly, moving the ball effectively and penetrating the defence right from the kick off. Several phases later, they scored the first try of the game but missed the conversion.

Dani Neal, *Moretons*, scored his first of the game, picking up from 8 and barrelling through their winger to score and injuring him in the process. He was superb all day and scored the next try from 40m out. His pace was superb. He scored a third in the second half, carrying four or five players on his back.

The game was poised at 12-10 at the oranges, but Harrow were in the ascendancy. Kit Keey, *Druries*, came on at half-time, eager to make an impact. He used his trademark "show and go" to good effect and timed a pass to Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, to perfection. Cam went the length to score, fending off well. He also pinged two sublime conversions from the touchline and kicked four from five on the day. He missed his first of the day but got all the rest like another number 10 in some other game that I don't know anything about. Conor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, who seemed really happy about something unknown all morning, made a superb return from injury, making his usual heap of tackles.

Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, timed an intercept to perfection and had the pace to go the length from the 22.

Matthew Gaffney, *Bradbys*, defended lineouts very well as did the rest of the excellent forward pack.

Tonbridge had the last laugh, scoring from their uncontested scrum. Harrow must tighten up the defence of their try line.

The referee was a former Harrow beak, whom we will call Chris Beades (to disguise his identity). His watch stopped working but his whistle didn't.

Cup match at home on Tuesday.

Junior Colts B Lost 7-10

Junior Colts C Lost 7-37

Junior Colts D Lost 0-55

Junior Colts E Lost 5-36

Yearlings A

Match abandoned 20 minutes into the match. Harrow was leading 17-3.

Yearlings B Won 19-7

Following a wholly unconvincing performance from the England side was never going to be easy. Add to that an afternoon of downpours and the toughest opposition yet, and we have all the ingredients for a season-defining fixture. It is fair to say that Harrow started slowly. Tonbridge forced handling errors and sparked attacks of their own, causing Harrow difficulty on the wings. The momentum appeared to shift to the away side, as we spent phase after phase in Tonbridge's 22. Several penalties later, we still hadn't crossed the whitewash and our attacks were still thwarted by a resolute defence. Tight forward play led to an opportunity out wide. However, quick line speed enabled an opportunistic Tonbridge centre to snatch an interception and race away for the first score. Further difficulties were overcome when captain Charlie Nelson, *Bradbys*, was forced off with a head knock. Masato Higuchi, *West Acree*, capably filled his boots, having involvement in Kitan Akindele's, *Newlands*, superb try. Half-time: 7-7. Pouring rain made handling difficult. However Harrow exacerbated the issue with poor ball presentation at rucks. Tonbridge pounced on this and continued to disrupt Harrow's attacking platform. Success eventually came from tight, consecutive pick and goes, which gave Fikunmi Olutunbi, *Lyon's*, an opportunity he was never going to pass up, and Harrow's total was doubled. Tonbridge used their kicking game to good effect all afternoon. Johnny Codrington, *Rendalls*, swept up loose ball effectively from full-back, minimising any threat. DJ Banda, *Lyon's*, was also a standout in defence, eager to tackle at all opportunities. Akindele, *Newlands*, finished the afternoon with another superb solo effort, breaking away from the halfway line to seal a deserving victory.

Yearlings C Lost 5-22

Yearlings D Drew 12-12

Yearlings E Lost 0-41

Yearlings F Won 26-24

Continuing their undefeated season, the Yearling Fs delivered another strong team performance. Leading through a tough match the final result was 26 to 24.

The Academy XV Won 32-12

The Academy XV continued their undefeated season, winning against Tonbridge 32-12. Tries were scored by Doan, *Bradbys*, Safronov, *Lyon's*, Morgan, *Lyon's*, Kirk, *The Grove*, and Adejolu, *West Acree*.

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