

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXII NO.15

February 1, 2020

RAYLEIGH LECTURE

Professor Sir Gregory Winter, 16 January,
Speech Room

Since the inaugural Rayleigh Lecture in 1989, the School has welcomed speakers covering a range of science disciplines: Norman Ramsay, Harry Krotto, Alastair Fothergill, Peter Wothers and Nicholas Patrick, to highlight a few. This lecture series – like the School’s observatory - is named in the honour of former pupil John William Strutt, later Lord Rayleigh, for his significant contributions to scientific research. He and Sir William Ramsay were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in 1904 for their discovery of argon and he remains the School’s only Nobel Laureate in the sciences (a fact we hope to report has changed in a future *Harrovian* article!).

In December 2018, Professor Sir Gregory Winter received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry with Frances Arnold and George Smith. Barely a year since delivering his Nobel Lecture at the Aula Magna, Stockholm University, Sir Gregory delivered the School’s 2020 Rayleigh Lecture. Both Lord Rayleigh and Professor Winter received their PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge University, before beginning highly successful research careers based almost entirely in Cambridge – for Sir Greg, at the Medical Research Council’s LMC (Laboratory of Molecular Biology) where he is now Emeritus Professor. Until very recently he served as Master of Trinity College, where he remains a fellow.



Professor Winter has pushed hard to maximise the benefit to humanity of his discoveries. Humira is currently the best-selling drug in the world, used to treat a range of auto-immune conditions like arthritis and Crohn’s disease. In 2006, it was bought for £702 million by AstraZeneca. Thanks to his pioneering research, his business sense and commitment to the public good, his work led to the rapid generation of an entirely new class of drugs known as monoclonal antibodies or MABs. Other well-known examples of MAB drugs include Heseptin for breast cancer and Evastin. In 2018, the global market for these drugs was \$70 billion.

It was in 1988 when Sir Gregory first engineered humanised monoclonal antibodies. Previous attempts to turn mouse MABs into drugs were rejected by patients. To maximise the benefits of his work, he then ensured the knowledge of how to do this was available to all pharmaceutical companies – not locked up with

just one, which is so often the case. He then set about raising funds to research a new way of creating MABs that he hoped would enable new drugs to be produced much more quickly. This is the work that won him the Nobel Prize.

His evening’s lecture started with a slide titled with the profound question, ‘What is Life?’. This was answered in a fitting scientific fashion: life consists of many related chemical reactions in pathways in the cell, which are catalysed by encoded polymers. A good example of this is the process of protein creation using the information encoded in the trillions of DNA strands present in our bodies. Professor Winter then addressed the origin of life, which is speculated to have started by the building of proteins using strands of RNA, which together produced DNA. Proteins were described by Professor Winter as ‘the workhorse of the cell’, as they are responsible for all binding, structure and speeding up of chemical reactions in all living things.



Professor Winter next addressed what disease was, describing it as improperly controlled reactions in the cell, and that enzymes control reactions which would otherwise never happen. Next, another protein was addressed – the antibody – which has been his area of focus for most of his career. He explained that they are large protein molecules that protect against infectious diseases and have great longevity in the body. It was thought that modified versions of these could be used to treat diseases like cancer, which they are widely used for today.

Natural antibodies treat infectious diseases in the body by binding to special structures on living objects called antigens, but they do not bind to the body’s own antigens. Professor Winter explained how mouse antibodies were used in patients in the 1980s, but due to concerns of them being identified as foreign to the body, humanised MABs needed to be produced.

The next section of the lecture was based on how to produce these sought-after MABs, which can be produced by design (through genetic engineering) or artificial evolution. Designing MABs involved replacing chunks of the genetic code that cause a mouse antibody to be produced with human DNA, enough so that it still functions fully but without being perceived as foreign by the body. This method initially produced positive results, with a patient suffering from terminal non-Hodgkin lymphoma (a type of cancer) being treated in less than a month. These antibodies caused the human immune system to kill the cancer itself, which would not have happened otherwise.

Producing MABs through artificial evolution is a modern

idea, the development of which won Professor Winter his Nobel Prize. He explained that the directed evolution of these MABs involved tools such as antibody libraries (where completely new antibodies are generated through random genetic modification and their structure archived) and phage display (a technique developed to produce and identify the best antibodies). The antibodies generated would be poured into a special affinity column, which lets all but the most effective ones pass through. The ones that remain in the column can be collected and reproduced, so that more potent antibodies can be identified through successive cycles of this process. This allowed for the production of new and effective pharmaceuticals with a hugely wide variety of uses.

The final section of Professor Winter's lecture was about his current work and its possible future applications. Although antibodies are an extremely effective type of medicine, they do have downsides: they penetrate body tissues very slowly and are too big to be able to pass through some cell membranes. If there was a way to shrink antibodies so they could maintain their function but could penetrate tissues much quicker, they would be much more effective. A major method to do this (the subject of Professor Winter's current research) would be using 'bicycles'. These consist of two small loops of amino acids joined to a chemical acting like a scaffold. Like antibodies, large libraries with many different loops can be made which can act on sites of disease much quicker than normal antibodies. Due to their reduced size, they can also act as imaging agents, where a picture of what is occurring inside a patient can be obtained.

A further use of these bicycles elaborated on in the lecture was the possibility of being coupled with a drug or toxin with a breakable link. In the blood, the drug or toxin would be inactive, as it is joined to the bicycle, but when the site of disease is reached, the link can be cleaved and the drug can give an effective, localised treatment. With this method, Professor Winter and his team were able to treat life-threatening mice tumours within 28 days, so it clearly shows great promise for the future. Like antibodies, these can be developed through directed evolution, so could eventually be used to treat a huge range of illnesses.

We are incredibly lucky to be able to welcome such an esteemed speaker to give an inspiring talk on such an impactful and exciting area of science. The Science Society and the School are extremely grateful for this opportunity, and it will surely be difficult to find a speaker more relevant, passionate and well-known in their subject.

ARTICULATION

Francis Bamford, Bradbys, Regional Heat, 16 January

On Thursday 16 January, the regional heats for ARTiculation, a competition on public speaking about art, took place at London's V&A Museum. The competition asks students from across the country to present a personal response to any artwork; the talks last between seven and ten minutes. Having progressed through the two in-School rounds, Francis Bamford, *Bradbys*, presented a talk, alongside eight other students from schools across the London area. The competitors spoke on artworks from Exekias' Attic Black-Figure Amphora, 540-530 B.C., to Barnett Newman's *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow, and Blue III*, 1966-1970, and topics ranged from considering our approach to the female nude, to the morality of defacing works of art.

In the first half, we watched talks on Mark Rothko, Nic Ut's 1972 photograph of Vietnam, *The Terror of War*, and Exekias' Amphora, before Bamford presented his talk on James McNeil Whistler's 1871 painting *Nocturne: Blue and Silver – Chelsea*. Bamford explained how Whistler created his nocturnal works, going at night to observe the scenes, and then painting from

memory in his studio, and how they are intended to be appreciated primarily for their formalist qualities – the element of abstraction. He then continued to discuss the painting in relationship to music of the era, and how the Whistler references the layout of a piano score in his visual composition. To lighten his rather serious talk, Bamford entertained the room with a witty remark here and there – Jack Chen, *Rendalls*, helping out by laughing extra loudly to encourage the kind of response that such comic genius deserved. Luckily, there was no need, as the whole of the V&A lecture theatre was laughing hysterically anyway.

We then heard a passionate talk on the work of the contemporary American artist, Lynn Hershman Leeson, which the Harrovians in the audience found particularly impressive. An interval followed, giving the group a chance to discuss what we had seen.

In the second half, there was an energetic talk on Newman's *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III* (more than you'd think), an interesting but perhaps sanitised look at Egon Schiele's *Nude Self-Portrait seen from Behind*, a (slightly familiar?) talk about Mark Rothko's *Seagram Murals*, paying tribute to Simon Schama's contribution to Rothko scholarship, and a brilliant presentation on the woodblock *Kristus* (1918) by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff.

When the time came for the adjudication, the award-winning architect Jamie Fobert CBE, was forced to decide which two students would progress to the next round, taking place at London's National Gallery. Fobert praised all of the students, with Bamford's talk on Whistler and the talk on Nic Ut's *The Terror of War* being chosen to go through.

All in all, it was a great afternoon, and a nice little hiatus from the Hill. Bamford performed fantastically, and we wish him all the best for the next round.

CAREERS CONVENTION

SCH, 19 January

On Sunday 19 January, the School hosted the annual Careers Convention in conjunction with the Harrow Association. The event took place in the Shepherd Churchill Hall and was a real success. The Convention allowed boys and, for the first time, some students from other schools, to talk to over 100 advisors from different fields of work. These career advisors, some being Old Harrovians and parents and friends of the School, are all very experienced in their professions, and speaking to them enabled us to discover different career paths in more detail. These advisors gave up their valuable time to present a thought-provoking experience for many of us, for which we are deeply grateful. Speaking with these experienced advisors is incredibly valuable, especially when many of us are facing important decisions such as A level choices and university options and courses.

The format required boys in the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth to come prepared with specific questions and many of us carried out research before the event to know exactly which advisor to look out for when we arrived there. Some of us discovered a new field of work that we were not aware of before, while others who already had a clear employment goal focused their conversations with those relevant advisors.

There was an impressive variety of careers for students to sample, ranging from technology and finance to fashion, drama and entrepreneurship. The advisors were helpful and engaging throughout the event, and answered questions based on their own experience and provided useful advice for us to take away. From an individual perspective, the advice I received on the tech sector made me aware of the need to keep up with the cutting-edge innovations in this fast-changing field. One of the finance advisors recommended doing internship programmes to increase employability chances, and another presented the context of his

work and the intellectually challenging aspects of finance to us. He also mentioned that being skilled quantitatively, albeit useful in the profession, is only one part of the main business. Soft skills such as the ability to persuade and the ability to work as a team are also required. Not only did they give us technical advice, they also provided us with more general advice on being a real investment banker – someone who has passion for what he is doing and has a ‘flame’ in his heart and mind to achieve something. “Most importantly, do not enter the finance industry just because you want to make money!” was the most memorable piece of advice that I was given.



Many of the School’s beaks were also present, giving valuable advice on careers that link with their subject as well as advice to Oxbridge and potential US university applicants. Not only did they give useful individual feedback on course selections, they also answered general inquiries about the lengthy and gruelling process of applying to US universities. This ensured that we had a better idea of what further steps we need to take to achieve our final objective of going to these universities.

The messages that the advisors gave us were repeated by the Head Master in Speech Room, that we should seek the most fitting jobs for ourselves based on our interests and abilities as well as to take individual actions to make ourselves more employable people.

PEEL SOCIETY

*Jun Wha Shin, Elmfield, on “Hiroshima & Nagasaki”,
20 January*

On a rainy Monday night, the Peel Society gathered in Old Schools to hear Jun Wha Shin, *Elmfield*, speak about Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Shin argued that the American nuclear bombing of those two cities ultimately prevented the death of millions.

To understand this argument, Shin took us back to 1941 and the attack on Pearl Harbour. The Japanese, led by Admiral Yamamoto, launched a surprise attack on the USA’s Pacific fleet based at Pearl Harbour. This attack caught the fleet off-guard and significantly damaged it. Fortunately, none of the USA’s aircraft carriers were present, meaning that the fleet was not deemed redundant. So, in June 1942, the USA launched their own attack at Midway. Though at first Yamamoto looked to be winning, a few too many tactical blunders led to an ultimate US victory. The USA now had dominance over the Pacific.

Shin then fast-forwarded to 1945. The vast Japanese empire of the South-East was now on the edge of defeat. The Allied naval blockade cut off much of the empire and brought economic hardship to Japan itself. The USA (led by General MacArthur) successfully captured the Philippines and an island known as Okinawa. Okinawa was of strategic importance as it was the nearest major island to Japan. This meant it was the perfect place from which to launch an invasion. From here, the US

launched Operation Meetinghouse. This operation took place in March 1945 and involved firebombing the whole of Tokyo. Over 100,000 people died and most of the city was burnt to ash. It is said that the operation used more bombs than the Blitz, the bombings on Germany and the bombing of Dresden combined. Shin made an intriguing point that, although the attack caused major damage, it had big propaganda value for the Japanese as it caused the people to rally behind their cause.

The Japanese knew that they would not be able to win the war, so they launched Operation Ketsugo, meaning ‘Operation Conclusion’. Victory was not the goal of this operation. Instead they aimed to damage the American morale and cause a retreat. The ultimate goal was to win more favourable terms of surrender. The Americans knew that the casualties of a land invasion would be high: it was estimated that it would cost between 1.7–4 million US casualties, and 5–10 million Japanese casualties. This would result in it being the bloodiest conflict of the war. The estimated casualties of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki were 3.98% of the minimum casualties or 2.99% of the upper. Shin didn’t want to digress too much into ethics, but the difference was immense.

Shin went on to describe some futile attempts made for peace by Japan through the USSR, but Japan refused the unconditional surrender desired by the USSR. On July 22 1944, the Japanese cabinet made a statement that said, ‘With regard to unconditional surrender, we are unable to consent to it under any circumstances whatever. Even if the war drags on and it becomes clear that it will take much more bloodshed, the whole country will pit itself against the enemy in accordance with the Imperial Will so long as the enemy demands for unconditional surrender.’ This message suggests that Japan would not be bullied into a peace, and if none was agreed than they would fight to the end. However, history tells us they would not be willing to keep on fighting a nuclear war.

After ‘Little Boy’ was dropped on Hiroshima, the Japanese knew that their time had come and they started to consider peace. However, this did not materialise before ‘Fat Man’ was dropped on Nagasaki; soon after, peace talks started. Shin argued that the bombing of Nagasaki was a catalyst for the surrender of Japan and a result of the Japanese cabinet’s indecisiveness. The bombing was effective for several reasons: it caused devastating damage to the cities, killed civilians (thus demoralising the rest of the country), and sent a message that the USA had a stronger military than Japan. Fearing that Tokyo and the whole country would be devastated by more nuclear bombs, Emperor Hirohito made a broadcast on 15 August 1945 announcing the unconditional surrender of Japan, thus concluding the final theatre of the Second World War.

Overall, this was a very interesting talk aided by some excellent presenting by Shin. Intriguing evidence gave everyone a feel for the intense final moments of the war in Japan. I am also certain that by the end of the talk everyone was persuaded by Shin that the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ultimately prevented the death of millions.

DISSECTION SOCIETY

Biology Schools, 14 January

During a cold Tuesday night in Football Lane, the lights of Biology Schools 5 were lit and the first Dissection Society meeting of the year commenced. Lower Sixth boys with aspirations to dissect more than your average fish gills and sheep hearts during the infamous double Biology periods gathered, with scalpels at the ready, to find out what mysterious creature was on offer.

Introductory verbiage aside, after vast amounts of planning and sorting by legendary dissector, who happens to be our

resident Biology beak, OWM, the Dissection Society received the green light to start with the dissections. As wax dissection trays, scalpels, tweezers and scissors were provided, we set up our little spots in the lab, with similar likeness to 20 miniature BTEC operation rooms, with our patient/cadaver, which was a frog.

(In my following account, I will try to tend more towards the scientific aspect of this dissection, though I warn you that my Stephen King-esque writing may make a cameo.)

The frog cadavers were held in plastic sealed bags which we opened to find a slit across each frog's neck (ventral side below the head section). First, we were told to examine the mouth and the first section of the GI system and the respiratory system. After several attempts at prising the mouth open, the frog's entrance to its GI tract was visible, as well as its tongue. The next section for dissection was the skin and muscles. Using the scalpel, a horizontal incision was made on the ventral side of the frog from the neck to in between its upper legs. After pinning the epidermis and muscle layers down, the frog's internal organs could be observed. The lungs, gall bladder, liver and kidneys were all present. After all the systems were dissected and the gut-wrangling smell died down, the procedure was complete.

Many thanks to those who came to the society meeting. There is one more meeting this term and many more in terms to come. If you have any interest or questions, drop OWM an email.

JUNIOR PIGOU

*Edos Herwegh Vonk, Newlands, "J.P. Morgan",
OMS, 8 January*

The Junior Pigou Society held its first meeting of the term with a talk from Edos Herwegh Vonk, *Newlands*. Herwegh Vonk spoke about J.P. Morgan, the founder of one of the largest investment banks in the world, J.P. Morgan & Co. (which holds total assets worth over \$2.7 trillion). He also delved into two financial crises which J.P. Morgan was able to avert around the era of the Gilded Age.

Herwegh Vonk began by outlining J.P. Morgan's privileged upbringing; his father owned his own bank, J.S. Morgan & Co., which allowed him to enter the banking world and form connections that would prove vital for the foundation of his banking empire. A number of these connections enabled him to finance his early investments. By 1895, Morgan had renamed his father's firm to J.P. Morgan & Co. after 38 years of experience in banking.

Herwegh Vonk later mentioned Morgan's ability to transform businesses and make them more profitable, which is known as Morganisation. The most famous example of this was his control over the railways, which he reorganised and financed so that they could develop. Railroads were especially important in America in the late 19th and for much of the 20th century because they connected America, allowing access to farmland and enabling sellers to compete in both the domestic and international markets.

Herwegh Vonk outlined the causes of the Panic of 1893, which highlighted the ineptitude of the Independent Treasury (a government body responsible for managing money supply). It is believed that the panic was caused by overproduction and underconsumption: farms were producing too many crops (production doubled from 1870–1890) while the population only grew by 67%. In addition, competition from India and Egypt meant that there was less international demand for American crops. Decreasing consumption led to inventory accumulation because the slowdown meant fewer customers. As a result, firms lowered production and got rid of more employees. Around about 1890, European economic activity also dwindled,

causing less investment in America. Subsequently, stock prices fell. Furthermore, Herwegh Vonk explained that the McKinley Tariff was also at fault for the Panic because it set the duty on imports to approximately 50%, which had a negative impact on consumers. The tariff was a protectionist one, meaning it was meant to protect domestic producers. In addition, the 1890 Sherman Silver Purchase Act made sure the government had to buy 4.5 million ounces of silver per month. The government's legal exchange rate for silver to gold was 15:1 which undervalued gold. Investors took advantage of this and used silver to buy gold which became known as Gresham's Law. Eventually, the US Treasury reached its minimum allowed capacity of gold. This forced a repeal of the Sherman Act, meaning many people lost money as the value of silver fell.

Herwegh Vonk also spoke on bank runs and how when the NCC (the most actively traded stock) declared its insolvency, many people withdrew as much money as they could from their bank before it became too late and the bank couldn't pay back the deposit. This led to a credit crunch; banks were afraid to give loans in case of bank runs, which had been occurring every five years in the late 19th century. This had negative implications for businesses that relied on bank loans to help them succeed. Many banks and businesses failed and unemployment reached over 10%. President Grover Cleveland ended up turning to the Morgan and the Rothschild families to restore gold reserves.

Herwegh Vonk explained how the Heinze brothers and Morse's failed manipulation of the UCC stock, which caused it to plummet, meant people lost faith in the banks (including those in which Heinze and Morse held senior positions) to pay back their deposits. Realising the banks were taking a turn for the worse, people decided to withdraw their money sooner rather than later. This is why, Herwegh Vonk said, runs on certain banks occurred. Though the situation remained stable because people just credited back the money they withdrew into other banks, the general mistrust of banks and trusts (a company that looked after assets) that followed meant that bank run panics spread further to other big trusts and banks.

During this time, presidents of companies sought Morgan's assistance in rescuing these trusts that were failing because of the lack of public confidence for them. To alleviate the effect of the crisis, Morgan invited all the prominent bankers of the time to his home. He took them into his very extravagant and lavish library, locked them in and would not let them leave until they were convinced by his plan to save the economy. Morgan demanded that the bankers invest \$25 million (\$680 million today) to prevent what appeared to be an imminent stock market collapse. Morgan even called the head of the Associated Press to tell him that Morgan would invest half his personal fortune in the stock market, in an attempt to restore confidence. The following day, with the bankers tired and their opposition weakened by Morgan's resolve, they finally agreed to put up most of the money demanded. At 4.45am, Morgan unlocked his library and allowed them to leave.

In addition, Morgan supported the Trust Company of America in liquidating its assets (converting them to cash) so withdrawals could continue. Morgan also continued to raise money to ensure the survival of trusts. Such protection resulted in the public being reassured and trusting in the banking system.

Herwegh Vonk concluded his talk by stating that the Federal Reserve System was established in order to prevent a Panic (like 1907) from occurring again. This was because it could offer monetary support/loans to banks or financial institutions at times of financial difficulty (this is known as a lender of last resort). This counteracted bank runs from happening and provided steady confidence as investors knew that the Federal Reserve would be able to intervene if something was to go wrong again. All in all, the talk was both fascinating and intriguing, informing boys about one of the more obscure parts of history and economics.

OSRG ARTS SOCIETY

Tate Britain, "William Blake", 21 January

On 21 January 2020, Mrs Walton, LAM and five bright-eyed boys boarded the underground to Tate Britain to marvel at, admire and question the works of William Blake. William Blake was one of the most controversial and provocative artists of his time, and his poetry, paintings and etchings have been recognised to have both philosophical and artistic merit.

Stepping into the first room of the exhibition, the Harrow group was hit with an explosion of colour in the form of Blake's *Albion Rose*. I will not even begin to attempt an interpretation of what Blake's art means as it is created in such a way that its message is in the eye of the beholder, but whatever it is, it's always something special. The first room entitled 'Blake be an artist' showed how Blake began to break away from the Royal Academy's (where he trained) perception of good art and began to develop his signature 'Gothic' style, through the medium of relief etching. Blake perceived art as becoming overrun by artists who were full of self-interest – they only undertook 'safe' portrait painting, to ensure that their work would be appreciated. Blake admired artists who created ambitious and individualistic works which would provoke thought and urge discussion (Blake's dream was to have one of his works enlarged and turned into an altar hanging). Consequently, Blake found much inspiration in the works of Barry and Flaxman – the latter's work is currently on display in the OSRG – who heavily influenced his artistic style. Whilst both Blake's poetry and art paint a vivid picture of beautiful country landscapes, one might find it curious to discover that he grew up in the centre of an industrial London (his inspiration for the famous hymn Jerusalem). We also saw Blake's famous etching of Joseph in this room, which really did show a likeness to Fuseli's work.

The second room led to much excitement and wonder – we saw an original print of the classic *Tyger* whilst the rest of Blake's famous *Songs of Innocence and Experience* were spread out across the room. The flowing lines, smooth shapes, simple palette and light tones were in stark contrast to the paintings on the opposite wall, which portrayed bleak images of death, hell and everything in between through a riot of complex colours. These dismal images really split opinion. Despite recognition of the symbolism, members of the party felt that they weren't pleasant to look at. They weren't wrong; the paintings were both terrifying and haunting!

In room three we witnessed the beginning of Blake's change of artistic direction as he started taking portrait commissions for stately homes and book illustrations. The room also contained some of his more famous images such as that of *Newton with a Compass* and *Nebuchadnezzar*. The artworks in this room really made me sympathise with Blake as it portrayed the greatest conflict he would ever have to face. His goals and integrity of creative freedom and the struggle of having to survive in a market-driven art world.

Room four illustrated how William Blake fell 'as Lucifer did from heaven', from being one of the greatest artists to being forced into retirement after a period of tragic rejection. Blake had had his *Canterbury Pilgrims* series rejected in favour of the artist Thomas Stothard. Blake nevertheless decided to display his *Canterbury Pilgrims* and other assorted works in his childhood home at 27 Broad Street – but it proved a critical and commercial disaster which sent Blake into decline. The Tate exhibition did an excellent job in recreating this room with illuminated images which brightened the colours of the paintings to show how they would have looked when they were first displayed in 1809.

The final room was one of hopefulness, displaying Blake's final years: how he surrounded himself with younger artists and there was a resurgence in popularity for his work. Room five showed his assortment of sketchbooks, as well as his final

book – an unfinished work, Dante's *Divine Comedy*; and as we exited the exhibition, profoundly moved by what we had seen, we saw the small, yet majestic *Ancient Days* painting.

In summary, the exhibition truly told the story of Blake's life through his art: his rise through the unconventional, his war with commercialism and his return to recognition in his final days. I would like to thank Mrs Walton and LAM for such a fantastic and thought-provoking trip and I urge all readers to sign up for the Troy visit at the BM on 13 February. I would like to conclude with the words of William Blake 'What was proved was once imagined.'

SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

Away at Cambridge, 17 January

On Friday 17 January, the Fifth Form academic scholars attended a gifted and talented conference at Cambridge. After a reasonably swift journey containing some intellectual debate and discussion (as would be befitting for a scholars trip), we were shepherded into the Emmanuel United Reform church who had kindly agreed to host the day's lectures.



Up first was a lecture from Julie Arliss on 'Examining Epistemology'. The lecturer began by defining the difference between ontology (what actually exists) and epistemology (how one comes to know that). This is a key distinction because of the power that knowledge and information yields. Immanuel Kant's *Copernican Revolution* stated that the world as we perceive it is not identical to the external world because all sense data is processed and interpreted by our mind. This leads to a gap between ontology and epistemology, leading us to believe in sensory falsehoods.

She then spoke about the ways of filling this void. Empiricists would argue that senses are all we have and people like John Locke would say that we are born with a blank slate and even our imaginations are based on our past perceptions. However, this has a number of problems including morality and emotions. Philosophers like Plato or Descartes would say that children are born with the inherent ability to learn and progress and can expand from there.

Next was a talk from Dr James Orr of Cambridge on Embodied Cognition and the possibility of the body containing knowledge. It is impossible to devise thoughts from observing the physical matter of the brain. Artificial intelligence aims to resolve the mind-body problem. By having different thought zones, one can improve an AI robotic component. Despite the spending of several million dollars, Honda's Asimo is unable to climb a set of stairs. However, a much cheaper AI with compartmentalised cognition (Boston Dynamics' Big Dog) is far more effective at achieving its goal.

We are both limited and empowered by being constrained by the body. According to Yale, outward symbols affect how we think. Regardless of the merits of an argument, if the recipient is forced to nod along, they are more likely to agree. Similarly, if they are forced to shake their heads, they are more likely to disagree.

Our third talk (by Dr Christopher O'Neill) was on the 'secret to happiness'. Happiness leads to better success and even living longer. 95% of the top quartile optimists live to 86 while only 34% of the least cheerful quartile do. Happiness can be measured using subjective metrics such as life satisfaction or meaning and purpose but it can also be looked at more scientifically. There is a rise in studies of objective wellbeing and flourishing.

There are several ways of becoming happier. On a societal level, contented crowds and environments can make a group happier. But there are also personal things like sensual pleasures, meditation and finding your niche that can make you happier in the short term.

The final lecture of the day was about 'Philosophy, Love and Relationships in Ancient Greece'. Contextually, the Ancient Greeks were obsessed with the physical. At a symposium hosted by the up-and-coming Agathon, several prominent philosophers of the day decided to avoid the usual levels of alcohol and discuss the different types of love. While many of the young men in the room believed that love was about the physical or finding "the one", Socrates gave a different spin on it,

He argued that love should be about an *agape* notion of equality, with *eros* being an intellectual force which drives us up in society towards leaving a legacy. He believed that love is about trying to search for another beautiful mind. This was revolutionary in pre-dating unequal relationships and served as the basis for future ideas about Christian equal partnerships.

We then finished by walking around Cambridge university to see some of the local sights. A huge thanks must go to HRM and LAM for what was an incredibly enjoyable day.

SUMMERSON SOCIETY

*"The Psychology of Colour, Shapes and Semiotics",
Louis Malhamé, The Head Master', 23 January*

On a cold Thursday afternoon, a large crowd was present in the OH Room waiting for the highly anticipated talk by Louis Malhamé, *The Head Master's*, on 'The Psychology of Colour, Shapes and Semiotics'. Malhamé started off by explaining how much of an impact advertisement has on consumer behaviour and what choices we make as consumers in buying certain products.

He addressed that, according to many interpretations of the classification of art, advertisements have not and cannot be considered art. However, he pointed out that there are many formal qualities of art theory present in various advertisements.

Malhamé explained that adverts work upon anxiety. Glamour stimulates envy. What stimulates envy? Insecurity. What stimulates an insecurity? A superior form or being. Effective luxury advertisements are full of these superior forms that stimulate anxiety in the viewer.

He moved on to outline how various colours attract the eye and did this well by showing us images of Dior's Sauvage campaign. Louis hinted that the darker and less saturated colours which featured in the Sauvage advertisement were particularly prominent in masculine-directed advertisements. He also drew attention to how the reverse effect of *chiaroscuro*, used by the well-known artist Caravaggio, played a part in grabbing the viewers' attention. Furthermore, the reflections on and around the fragrance bottle resembles water and thirst, and the barren wasteland featuring in the Sauvage advertisement makes this fragrance appears even more appealing, representing an oasis in

the desert. The palette used in this advertisement is particularly evident with other men's fragrance brands, with the likes of Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein using similar colours. Another notable aspect that Malhamé cleverly pointed out was the resemblance between the shapes of the figures and bottles. Though this, the bottle acts as a personification of Johnny Depp. Malhamé then went on to talk about the psychology of colour and shapes with regards to female fragrances.

Advertisements directed towards a female audience seem to use brighter and more saturated colours. An interesting advertisement that Malhamé picked up on was J'adore by Dior. Malhamé outlined that the pink and yellow colours throughout the advertisement psychologically induce pleasure in the viewers. One example of the application of the psychology discussed was how Norwich City football club painted their away dressing room pink in an attempt to gain an edge on their opponents; pink is said to lower testosterone levels and would make their opponents less competitive and prone to losing.

The common belief that "sex sells" was addressed in the talk. Although sexual adverts are more memorable, they are actually less commercially successful. They do, however, increase sales of 'low-risk' products at low prices. They promote the notion that if you can buy the product you can be more desirable. Idealised models induce anxiety about their looks in the viewer, and the products displayed in these advertisements appear to offer remedies to these anxieties, just in the viewer's reach.

A final point that Malhamé addressed were the figures shown in all the advertisements. Most, if not all, of the models were idealised. The models shown in the adverts can create false influences, having a negative effect on the buyers. Digitally enhanced pictures, such as those of Justin Bieber and Kim Kardashian in Calvin Klein's adverts, are clearly shown to be unrealistic. Striving to achieve the same bodies as these celebrities will leave many people depressed.

So, in conclusion, we need to address what the future may hold for these luxury brands and their adverts. Although brands have to continue to depict the supernatural to stimulate envy, brands need to be clearer about the devices used to show them in this way.

Overall, it was a fascinating talk. Malhamé will be delivering another talk to the Summerson Society on 'Why We Appreciate Art and Enjoy Listening To Music', which will take place on 12 February at 5.30pm in the OSRG.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

*His Excellency Professor Arkady Rzegocki, Ambassador of Poland to the UK, "Poland's Political and Economic Transformation over the Last 30 Years"
14 January, OSRG*

The Slavonic Society was honoured to host His Excellency Professor Arkady Rzegocki, the Ambassador of Poland to the United Kingdom. His Excellency gave a fascinating talk that encompassed much of the history and culture of Poland and the reasons why this unique history has allowed the country to be so successful following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. Professor Rzegocki studied Political Science at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, one of Poland's most prestigious universities and has subsequently carried out research at Oxford, Cambridge and in the US.

He began by saying that Poland is currently the most dynamic nation in Europe. As one of the largest nations in Eastern and Central Europe, Poland has played a vital role in the region and

continues to desire co-operation among nations. In particular, Poland seeks a strong relationship with the United Kingdom and continues to have one. It was only recently that Poland moved 100 tons of gold from the Bank of England (where Poland's gold has been stored since the Second World War) to Poland. This, Professor Rzegocki, said was a clear sign that Poland has had a very strong relationship with the UK.

His Excellency then stated that to understand Poland we must first understand and know its history, and he began by talking about Poland in the 16th century when it was known as the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, a kingdom that occupied much of Eastern and Central Europe. Unlike most countries at the time, the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth was a partially democratic society where the king was elected. The ideals of freedom and tolerance were prevalent, there was a strong tradition of limiting the power of the king and freedom of speech was respected and protected. No religious wars ravaged the kingdom. People of all faiths were represented in Parliament and, in 1573, a law of tolerance was enacted that ensured nobody would be punished for their religious beliefs. The kingdom itself was very multicultural, with Ukrainians, Jews, Belarussians, Poles and even Scots inhabiting it. In fact, almost 30,000 Scots emigrated to Poland and, in the late 17th century, the Mayor of Kraków was a Scottish immigrant. For many, the 14th–17th centuries were a golden age for Poland. The country even became the first nation in Europe to adopt a codified constitution on 3 May 1791.



However, by the end of the 18th century, the Commonwealth had been broken up and both Prussians and Russians closed in on their weakened neighbour. The country only temporarily gained independence after the First World War, from 1918–39, when Poland, being the first nation to actively oppose Hitler's advances, was overrun and divided between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. His Excellency noted that this year, being the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, would be an important milestone for the UK-Poland relationship, as 17,000 Polish airmen and women fought side by side with Britain. Poles also fought with the allies on the continent at Monte Casino and Bologna. Unfortunately, their brave fighting was to no avail as, after the Second World War, Poland fell under Soviet occupation. Therefore, many believe today that for Poland the Second World War only ended in 1989, when the country finally gained independence from the Soviet Union.

In spite of occupation, invasion and years of repressive rule, Poland has had 28 consecutive years of GDP growth since gaining its independence. Nowadays, Poland has strong relationships with its neighbours and is a member of numerous trans-national organisations. These include the Three Seas Initiative (a group comprised of Central and Eastern European states), the Bucharest 9 (an organisation aiming to improve infrastructure between nations), the Visegrád Group (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia) and, of course, the European Union.

Professor Rzegocki believed that there were a few reasons for Poland's incredible success. Among them, he included the

number of people with higher education (rising from 7% in 1990 to almost 30% nowadays). Furthermore, the Ambassador said that structural reforms, foreign investment and effective privatisation had also contributed to the country's rapid development. Poland has, since gaining her independence, had a steady stream of immigrants who continue to contribute to Poland's economy. The most recent factor, however, was funding from the EU which enabled infrastructure projects to occur with reliable investment. Poland's success, the Ambassador claimed, has helped Britain too as almost 60,000 companies have been created by Poles in the UK (although almost 200,000 Poles have now returned to Poland).

This positive sentiment should continue, Professor Rzegocki told us, because people are now voting with their new-found wealth. This greater political engagement will have significant positive knock-on effects across the country. Domestic consumption (consumer spending) continues to remain high and the Program 500+ that aims to promote larger families has showed signs of working by addressing the problem of slow population growth (that is an issue throughout Europe). The programme allows families to claim money for every child they have regardless of the material situation of that family, and even allows families to get discounts at shops.

With all this optimism, the questions began with a pertinent topic as a boy asked what Poland was doing to reduce its reliance on coal as its primary energy source. The Ambassador responded by saying that Poland was indeed moving away from coal and was the first nation in Europe to create a Ministry for Climate. Moreover, since 1989, Poland has in fact reduced its emissions by 40%. Although, the Ambassador acknowledged that this was partially the result of Soviet inefficiency and waste, the figure is promising. In Kraków, burning coal has recently become illegal, and big initiatives have begun to make houses more efficient. Lastly, Poland is moving towards gas as a source of energy but is careful not to become reliant on Russia. To this end, the country has recently opened a huge gas port on the Baltic sea, which not only allows Poland to receive gas from other various suppliers but also to distribute it to neighbouring countries. The Ambassador also answered numerous questions on defence and Poland's capabilities and concerns. Professor Rzegocki explained that Poland now had more tanks than France and Germany combined. Poland, being a member of NATO, does in fact spend 2% of its GDP on defence unlike many of its fellow members. The country has also recently become equipped to deal with the spread of misinformation, originating usually from its larger Eastern neighbour. In a sentence, the Ambassador said: "we love freedom and freedom-loving nations".

At the end of the lecture, Richard Hayward, *The Knoll* – the only Harrovian who is currently mastering Polish as a foreign language, despite having no connection to the country, bravely thanked Professor Rzegocki for his visit to Harrow School in Polish. Then, KAF also thanked our guest for addressing the Slavonic Society and for kindly donating a collection of fascinating books about Poland as well as books by some of the most famous Polish authors translated into English to Vaughan Library. In return, the Ambassador received a book about Harrow School and a more personal gift from KAF – a history book published in Poland which she had translated from English a few years ago.

To conclude His Excellency's visit to the Hill, several boys joined him and his colleague Ms Clarinda Calma for a very pleasant dinner and a productive discussion during which our guest answered many more questions concerning Poland's history, politics and economy. The thought-provoking talk undoubtedly enlightened many boys on this often-forgotten part of Europe that has become increasingly important.

Professor Arkady Rzegocki was the fourth ambassador to visit Harrow this school year and the second one from Eastern Europe. The Slavonic Society would like to thank KAF for organising yet another brilliant event.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

Arion Beckett, *The Knoll*, and Alexander Newman,
Druries, on “Climate Change”, 15 January

The Science Society hosted a rather unusual event this week – a debate, between Arion Beckett, *The Knoll*, and Alexander Newman, *Druries*, on whether climate change is man-made or not.

First to speak was Beckett, who was arguing that climate change isn't caused by human factors and is in fact completely natural. He argued that the effect of anthropogenic CO₂ on warming the globe is a lot less than we think, and there are a lot of natural factors that affect climate change. Many people claim that the Earth's orbit changes too slowly and the sunspot cycle has a miniscule effect on climate change. However, Beckett declared that sunspot data for the past 400 years matches up to the temperature increase that has been occurring; therefore he concluded that the solar cycle was largely responsible for the climate change. He then proceeded by stating that the IPCC (a UN body) gathers scientific reports and decides which are the most important to implement policy. However, no models that explain climate change recognised by the IPCC include the Sun, and he explained the reason for this later on.

Beckett's next reason for climate change was Pacific Decadal Oscillation, a 30-year cycle of cooling and warming in the Pacific Ocean. He proclaimed that it has had a massive impact, and tree ring studies show this. Pacific Decadal Oscillation also matches the data of temperature rise much better than the amount of CO₂.

Global warming, Beckett argued, is nothing to be frightened about. He stated that the spikes we're having currently are similar to the year AD 1000. Since we've only just come out of an ice age, the temperature can only rise, and it's no surprise that temperature records are broken every year. Beckett contended that there has been no warming or cooling in Earth's history related to CO₂. In fact, he argues that the solubility of CO₂ in oceans decreases due to heating up, so in fact climate change itself is causing CO₂ to rise. Additionally, CO₂ only attributes to 3.6% of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and 95% of the greenhouse gases are actually water vapour.

The media and some scientists claim that man-made emissions are solely responsible for climate change, but Beckett claims that their track record is shocking. He gave an example of a BBC article in 2007 predicting that there would be no ice during the Arctic summer in 2013, and we all know that didn't happen. Beckett also pointed out that every time a hurricane or flood occurs, it's linked to climate change automatically, and that some climate scientists rely on false predictions for more funding. He showed some examples, including the University of East Anglia's leaked emails, the leaked Copenhagen texts, and the fact that Al Gore, a former vice president of the US, has made 300 million dollars from giving speeches and campaigns. Finally, he states that neo-imperialism is disguised as environmentalism. A lot of African and Middle Eastern countries rely solely on oil for their economy, and environmentalism has caused them to remain as poorer countries. He also stated that “sustainable development” is an oxymoron, and will not help African and Middle Eastern countries develop at all. It is just a scheme to stop Africa and the Middle East from becoming too powerful.

Newman contested this by stating that there is unarguable evidence climate change is caused by humans. He named a couple of tragedies caused by climate change, including the destruction of ecosystems and the Australian wildfires, which he claimed have killed 1 billion animals and 28 humans. He stated that, when CO₂ and methane is emitted, it causes huge warming. There are currently 37 billion gigatons of suspended carbon in the ocean, and when the CO₂ is released outside the natural cycle, the land and ocean aren't able to absorb all of it and therefore will contribute hugely to the greenhouse effect. The atmospheric CO₂ has been the highest in the past

million years, and human emissions have upset that balance. Man-made CO₂ has increased a third since the industrial era. Furthermore, commercial airlines emit 150 kg of CO₂ per hour. There have been sea level rises of 3mm per year, and the UN states that by 2050, 50 million people will be displaced from their homes. Newman also said that politicians are owning up to climate change, and all major party leaders have outlined goals for declining climate change. He also argued that solar fluctuations since the 19th century have only contributed to a 0.1 degree increase.

Afterwards, there was a Q&A session from the audience, with questions directed to both Beckett and Newman, and an intriguing exchange between Beckett and DH to end.

METROPOLITAN

DAME VAUGHAN

Agony Aunt

Dear Dame Vaughan,

O Dame, in your steady stone-built study, though wind and rain may smooth your edges and erode your detail, you remain strong and sturdy through time's tempestuous trials. I, on the other hand, am broken, and it's only week three. I am tired; I am weary, and the weather's bleak and dreary. The looming stretch of school-days gives no reason to be cheery, and I've also lapsed into inadvertent prose doggerel, which is never a good sign. See, as that oft-frazzled figure – an Upper Sixth – I'm in the final throes of study before the endless days of revision blight my sleep and haunt my waking hours. Moreover, I came back to School to work in lessons, yet I was given so much work over the Christmas holiday that, really, it was less a Christmas holiday and more a chance to work unhindered by lessons. That sentence, by the way, was an example of chiasmus. If I'm going to be working hard over my holidays learning to identify and construct such things, I at least want beaks to know I'm doing so. Otherwise, what's the point? As for the exeat break just passed – don't make me laugh! 'Exeat' – more like 'exit, pursued by an un-bear-able amount of prep'. That's not even remotely witty – that's how exhausted I am. I reiterate, I am broken. So please, Dame Vaughan, can you give me a book of stirring courage, a valiant tale to embolden my sapped spirit and give me strength to fight the good fight: Education, Education, Education.

Yours studiously,
A SIXTH FORMER

Dear My Slightly-Stressed Sixth-Former,

Bless you, my dear. I must confess, this is slightly earlier than I expected to be receiving anxious epistles seeking soothing literary solutions. Normally, they start to emerge during the summer term. However, I myself experienced the same thing all those years ago – perennially a mildly exhausted, slightly nervous pigeon cooing in academic fear. I remember in Sixth Form – I was specially chosen as an acolyte at the International Institute of Librarians (only twenty novitiates chosen from around the world) – studying got so tough that it wasn't uncommon to see world-weary trainees mumbling the Dewey Decimal System to themselves like some kind of prayer, as they travelled between classes. As for holidays – Bah! We had no such thing! Time not in lessons was spent training with the US Marines, a heavily regimented structure of physical endurance and mental fatigue. Librarian – it's a state of mind. Yes, it broke us down, but it

built us back up again, and it made me the fabulous Dame I am today. So, to summarise – I know exactly how you feel. As for a book suggestion, may I recommend *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand, a gripping true story of a World War II US soldier Louis Zamperini. As a young boy embroiled in petty crime, Zamperini found a gift for running and competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, before joining the Air Force during World War II. Shot down over the Pacific, Zamperini survived one of the longest periods of time solo on a raft dogged by sharks and ferocious storms, before being captured by the Japanese and sent to a PoW camp. A truly inspiring and unbelievable tale of endurance in the face of overwhelming odds, and a testament to the strength of human spirit, *Unbroken* sounds like the perfect heroic tale to inspire your broken spirit back to strength.

Yours in strength,
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]

HERE AND THERE

Last Wednesday, Olly Harrison, *The Knoll*, travelled to Malaga to compete in a European Championships shooting event representing Team GB. One of 60 competing in the event, Olly managed to qualify in third place, going into the final, which was made up of three athletes representing GB and one each from Finland, Norway and Estonia. A shaky start saw Olly having to fight hard but, as conditions worsened, the GB athletes were in their element, taking all three steps of the podium. Olly took gold on behalf of Team GB and shared the podium with his teammates.

Congratulations to all boys who competed for the Singing Prizes last Thursday. The winners were Harry Burt, *Moretons*, Edward Pagani, *Lyon's*, and Harry Lempriere-Johnston, *Druries*.

Congratulations for James Yuen on passing his ATCL diploma on piano with distinction.

CHURCHILL ESSAY

Sultan Aben, The Knoll

"Protesting is necessary to defend democracy."

On the morning of December 17, 2010, fruit vendor Mohamed Bouazizi pushed his unlicensed cart towards the local market in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. Unfortunately for vendors like Bouazizi, local Tunisian police were a constant source of harassment and theft. On this particular day, police stopped Bouazizi and tried to take bags of his fruit. After trying to pay a bribe, one of the officers, Fedya Hamdi, retaliated against Bouazizi. She slapped him in the face, spat on him, and insulted his dead father. The police then beat him with a baton in front of more than 50 witnesses. The fact that his attacker was a woman only deepened his humiliation. After the confrontation, Bouazizi went to the local governor's office to complain, but the clerk ignored him, telling him to go home. Local police dismissed his claims as well. The deeply humiliated man had reached his breaking point. Bouazizi returned to the market and told his fellow vendors he would let the world know how unfairly they were being treated, how corrupt the regime was. He would set himself ablaze. A short while later, the vendors heard shouts from a couple of blocks away. Without another word to anyone, Bouazizi had

positioned himself in front of the municipal building, poured paint thinner over his body and lit himself aflame. Word of Bouazizi's self-immolation and violent death went viral on social media, sparking outrage. Tunisian citizens were all-too familiar with the arrogance of the local government, and they set their revolutionary sights on the president himself, ending the dictator's 20-year reign a month later. Bouazizi became a legend in the movement known as the Arab Spring. Throngs of protestors stormed into the streets across North Africa and the Middle East, their protests seemingly weakening the power of the oppressive autocracies from Libya to Bahrain. Bouazizi's individual act of opposition activated the simmering rage of the people, just as the Tsar of Love and Techno put it: 'a single whisper can be quite a disturbance when the rest of the audience is silent'. However, 18 years since Bouazizi's death, what was once hailed as a brave and idealistic movement for democracy is now labelled as a tragically naïve attempt for change, with several participant nations now in a far more worse state. The Arab Spring served as an experiment for the rest of the world to test the effectiveness of protest and change driven by the simple folk against the repressive, nebulous entities that ruled over them, and it showed that the installation and insurance of democracy was dependent on factors far less interesting than the dualist epics between the evil dictator and the courageous revolutionaries.

It is undeniable that major geopolitical and cultural changes across the globe have been sparked by simple demonstrations. After all, protests are the passionate symbols of the people's voice and the raw expression of differing emotions and opinions. They are the most awe-inspiring example of freedom of speech and allow change to transpire from the lowest echelons of society. When thinking of protest, most people would immediately picture an image of angry masses crying for social improvement akin to the US Civil Rights movement in the 1960s or Poland's Solidarity movement, but more subtle acts of resistance are perhaps just as influential. The poignant images of Vedran Smailović's emotional defiance as he played his cello in the midst of a devastated Sarajevo inspired the international community to act, while Colin Kaepernick's simple act of kneeling during the US anthem stirred a national debate about race relations and the restrictions of patriotism. These, and many other protests, have highlighted the previously ignored daily challenges and problems the public has had to endure, and have evolved into improving far more than originally thought possible.

Protests allow the deprived and the disenfranchised to force policymakers, who can't relate to their daily challenges, to alter the country. It allows key problems to be underlined and the power to be seized by the people.

At least that is the theory.

There has been a rise in the worldwide number of protests, leaving many across the globe overwhelmed and confused with the swelling multitude of issues being fought against. Despite not truly understanding these wide-reaching demonstrations, most still look at the cacophony of disputes and label it as 'global democratisation', a progressive fight for freedom and equality.

Protests in the form of social activism and organised ideological displays such as parades that don't necessarily attack the government itself and aren't meant to force the policymakers to change certain policies, but instead raise awareness to fellow citizens, is a healthy display of democracy. Political activity such as this socialises and educates people while curbing powerful elites. These types of constructive protests, when in an appropriate number, support democracy, whether aggregative or deliberative, as the influenced population has the power to change the policies.

Although many might consider frequent protests a positive indicator of democracy, this is only one side of the story. Increasingly, political scientists believe that frequent protests are a detectable symptom of a failing republic. Democracy isn't the absence of iron-fisted authoritarianism, when people are

‘allowed’ to voice resistance and protest. That is a very low bar. If people must band together and fight to have their voices and concerns heard by the authorities, that is not a well-functioning democracy. Constant protests, which can be seen even in the most developed nations such as Germany or the US, are not necessary for a functioning democracy, as there would be an official system that takes the people’s demands into consideration. What the global increase in protest truly represents is either the increasing political awareness of the population allowing more to truly see the flaws of their institutions, hidden behind a façade of a ‘thriving democracy’, or the slowly deteriorating political stability that ensured the continued existence of those democracies, as demonstrated by the rise of autocracy in Europe, with Presidents Erdogan and Orbán consolidating more power in their respective nations. In both cases, it is the maintenance and sometimes even complete upheaval of institutional infrastructure that is necessary for true democracy. Of course, political activism and organised ideological displays will still occur, but these must be the exception, not the norm.

The introductory example perfectly demonstrates the necessity of working institutions for democracy to continue. While the Arab Spring catalysed thousands of protests and revolts, in Egypt, the dictator Hosni Mubarak was ousted from power. His downfall was partly due to a lack of control by his fragile government, filled with incompetent and corrupt loyalists. After two successive failed governments, Egypt is now under the control of a military dictatorship. The problem, shared between similar events throughout history, is the unwillingness or inability of the replacement government (which would rather fight injustice than deal in fair fiscal policy) to completely change the previous institutions. Granted, rebellions and revolutions might seem too dramatic and too unusual to exemplify the act of protest, but in fact less cinematic forms such as the nonviolent parades of the Civil Rights movement showcase this too. The march on Washington, which involved around 250,000 demonstrators, created political momentum that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and further suffrage to the African American population.

Compare this to the 2003 Iraq War protest on Feb 15 that amassed an incredible number of 30 million protestors, or the infamous Tiananmen Square protest of 1989, which involved one million people from different backgrounds. Both examples, although being far larger in scale, were clear, botched applications of democracy. The international protests against the Iraq War was a failure due to the central decisions being determined by world leaders, including then called ‘Imperial President’, that weren’t willing to fulfil the democratic wishes of their constituents. Indeed, President George Bush went on record belittling these large protests by calling them simple ‘focus groups’. The Tiananmen Square protests, despite producing the ‘Tank Man’ photo, the emblematic image of democratic resistance, were quickly and viciously stopped by the Chinese military, the eventual outcomes only strengthening the Communist Party’s tight grip over the nation through the introduction of martial law and the defensible withdrawal of several civil liberties. The effects of this failure are even more evident today with President Xi Jinping’s firm domination over China. In both examples, protests do not create effective political change without the support of proper institutions. The civil rights movement owes most of its success to the democratic interpretations of the US constitution that allowed for the potential of political change, a prospect that many countries with failed protests do not have.

The UK is another good, and perhaps more applicable, example of the need for good institutions and democratic foundations. Before the 19th century, most of the UK was a timocracy with daily policies made by spread-out fiefdoms. Only 3% of the population was eligible to vote, the elite that kept power within themselves through flourishing corruption and cronyism. After all, democracies at the time seemed to be destined to fail, as demonstrated by France’s revolutionary democracy that regressed into a pool of civic blood, or the despotic chaos

of the democratic United States during its Civil War. ‘If there were a people of gods,’ wrote Rousseau, ‘they would govern themselves democratically. So perfect a government is not for men’. It wasn’t until the complete upheaval of the legislative institution started by the Great Reform Act of 1832 did the new civic religion of democracy truly plant its roots. This Act increased the eligible voting population as well as correcting corruption, while also creating political momentum that created a truly democratic foundation by the dusk of the century for long-lasting political changes. The 20th century success stories of women’s suffrage and the Race Relations Acts capitalised on this change in institutions.

The necessity of protests is almost negligible for a truly democratic system of representation and decision-making. However, while the political effectiveness has been judged, the cultural impact of public mass displays of belief and ideological is substantial. Leonardo Da Vinci once wrote, ‘nothing strengthens the oppressor so much as silence’, a phrase that truly encapsulates the emotions of protest. The previously mentioned failed protests might have done little to make actual political change, but they displayed the people’s passion and intent about their respective issues. The current Hong Kong riots have achieved little towards their demand of complete autonomy for the city, but they have added another chapter to Hong Kong’s rich, yet tumultuous cultural tapestry, and have shaped the city’s social identity permanently, for worse and better. Without protests, whether passive displays or passionate commotions, there wouldn’t be an equivalent output for raw public opinion.

The world often feels bleak right now. With civil liberties being violated, targeted and violent hatred aimed toward marginalized groups, and the imminent threat of suppression of opposition, this feels like a new kind of dark ages. Tensions are being stretched even further with the increase in protests and international disagreements, but it is important to remember that, to defend a democracy and to treat a waning one, it is the ‘moral duty’ of every individual to use the egalitarian foundations and institutions that make up the democracy they fight for.

OPINION

HILL LIFE

With Britain’s grand exit from the European Union now upon us, there is one thing, I’m sure, that everyone can agree upon and that is the damaging division this process has caused. Take this 50p drama, for example: how some figures such as Lord Adonis can become so opposed to Brexit that they are refusing to use it is beyond me. I imagine it is in part due to the clear cut ‘in or out’ (Remain versus Brexit) dynamic that causes such bipolar division. Whatever it is, it is neither healthy nor satisfying having a country split apart – thank goodness the election has brought some clarity!

However, the Leave v Remain, us v them, cops v robbers dynamic is one that is, unfortunately, immediately recognisable here on the Hill. I refer to, of course, the teacher/boy mindset. For the majority of our School’s history there existed a firm bond between beak and Harrovian. Not so long as 40 years ago, Harrovians regularly dined with their beaks, musing over a glass of sherry (or two) as to the rhetorical techniques practised by Cicero, or debating to the extent at which Homer could be

regarded as the father of literature. Indeed, the house system we have today was originally the hospitality of locals giving shelter to those early Harrovians as they embarked upon their education; taking them in not as students, boys or underlings, but as guests. As the School expanded, Harrovians used to run the houses themselves. In fact, it was a Harrovian who, upon hearing the excellent musical talents of John Farmer at the opera, invited him to teach on the Hill – to whom we owe the vast majority of our songs.

Gone are these days.

Modern-day dinners permit (for VI³s) only two glasses of wine and there is no mention of fortified wine (now banned). Far less from inviting beaks to the School, the beaks now rule over us with an iron fist: we must be in bed on time, awake on time, our every movement logged, constantly watched by cameras, and God have mercy on the soul who misses a deadline in the age of One Note. We are threatened with double and are lured by Send Ups like the proverbial donkey is with the stick and carrot. Our mouths are muzzled and our minds goggled. I have heard of fellow Harrovians' letters to this very paper being turned down to avoid "antagonism" and most Harrovians will remember The Goulash withdrawal. In fact, yours truly had to remove a sticker (a sticker!) from my laptop as it made 'an uncomfortable working environment' for my beak at the time.

This is not, I don't think, the beaks' or the School's fault but rather society's obsessive compulsion towards bureaucracy. Take this absurd notion from Ann Francke that football should not be discussed in the workplace, for example: (leaving aside the basic infringement upon freedom of speech) it draws obvious parallels to the aforementioned cases. One beak was telling me of the significant grief they were given as a result of a tutor group that arrived back a little over an hour later than the pre-disclosed time. This was as a result of the strict health and safety paperwork. As is evident from Brexit, people are fed up with these regulations – live and let live. In fact, as we (Harrovians and beaks alike) get buried under this increasing mountain of rules, perhaps we should remember one of Sir Winston's pearls of wisdom: 'if you make ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law'.

Less is often more.

inquisitive Papparazzi, giving them leeway to snap and snatch pictures till their hearts are content. The Press across the pond are also rather savage, being allowed to print, quite literally, whatever they want. For all they could care, they could say 'Meghan is an Interdimensional Space Demon, Who Is Slowly Draining the Life Force From the Royal Family.' Actually, that might be slightly too accurate. I suppose that if they would like to go out of the frying pan, and into the fire, that is their responsibility. Meghan and Harry have made a grave mistake, and they are just as unpopular in the States and Canada as they are in Britain. I fear, much like vampires, they will feed off the momentary wokeness of the host nation, before taking flight. I wish Meghan and Harry Mountbatten Windsor all the best in leading lives of private citizens, and raising their son, Archibald Harrison Mountbatten Windsor as a normal child, in their words. Good luck with that name! I would continue this rant, but I am off to Tesco to collect my copy of "Kate's Cuties" given complementarily by the kind people at the Daily Mail! Thank you Mr Dacre!

God Save the Queen,
HENRY RIDLEY, THE PARK

DEAR SIRs,

I am writing in regard to a new initiative set up known as 'flocks'. These are sessions of 20 to 30 minutes of conversation with boys throughout the years talking about questions provided. On the surface, these 'flocks' seemed very useful. However, I now believe them to be about as useful as new Shells. I find it unlikely that the (more than) 100 flocks found in the School's feedback are individually analysed. I mean, for all I know, it is just an exercise to present the illusion of democratic opinion and that the information is printed before being thrown into the fires. Why do I think this? Well, has anything you have actually written in a flocks meeting come to pass? I do not actually have to ask this, as the answer is 'no'. Furthermore, these 'flocks' tend to meet in prep, which steals the precious time in which people are (more) motivated to work as compared to the rest of the day, which many 'waste'. Furthermore, the term 'flocks' seems to imply that we are nothing but sheep to the organisers of this grand conspiracy and are just being fattened up for slaughter at GCCSs and A levels. Are we naught but food and fur? Are we just what feed them and clothe them?

Respectfully yours,
ARCHIE KYD, THE PARK

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIRs,

Alas, I fear it has come to me to break the ice. Flipping through the pages of this esteemed publication, I see a discernible lack of, cough cough, royal-themed letters and articles. Undoubtedly, I would have thought that a school so politically aware would have at least had a couple of Republicans and Royalists sending mildly disapproving or congratulatory letters in? Instead, we have had Mr Kyd complaining about the state of Natural Selection in the Shepard Churchill and Mr Winward complaining about the Existing Schools Customs, undoubtedly not a book many boys take time to read. I shall take the mantle of responsibility, and enlighten the readers who think that the recent flight from the Home Isle is, in any way, shape or form, a good thing. Harry and Meghan Mountbatten Windsor have gone over to Vancouver Island (ironically the area with the highest amount of Monarchist support in Canada) under the pretence that they will get a break from the press! The Harrovian has visibly complied with this request, but, to use the rather crass term, they've "Yee'd their last Haw". American and Canadian laws are far kinder to the



HARROW SCHOOL
SHORT COURSES

HARROW SUMMER SCHOOL 2020
UPPER SIXTH JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for Activity Staff to work with us this summer!

- Gain valuable work experience in a familiar environment
 - Work in a friendly and high performing team
 - Competitive salary + meals and accommodation included
- Run exciting onsite activities and trips to Thorpe Park, Warner Brothers Studios, Chessington, West End Theatres, Cruises on Thames, Brighton, Cambridge + many more

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY AT

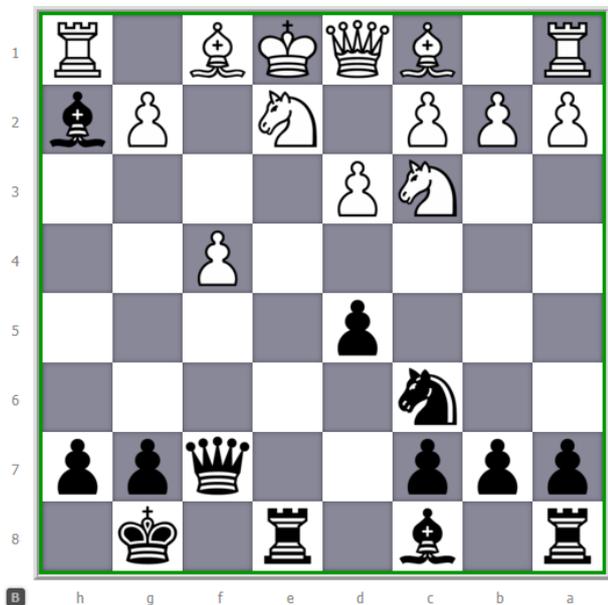


www.harrowschoolshortcourses.co.uk/contact/work-for-us/
 Or email us at summerschool@harrowschool.org.uk

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: Black to play and mate in 3 moves.



Last puzzle's answer: 1. Qd6+ Qc7 2. Qxc7#

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!

CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF

From the desk of AC

The use of data has been a topic of conversation in many contexts recently, including elections, referendums, advertising campaigns and government regulations. It has been a talking point in schools too, and much has changed. Mark books have always been kept and examination results have always been analysed, but there is now software to monitor progress in learning and there are artificially intelligent platforms designed to respond to patterns discerned in work done online. It is a brave new world of education, in which a cursor hovering for a little too long between two options in a multiple-choice test can be turned into advice to a teacher to spend longer on a formula or a point of grammar and translated into an individualised programme of subsequent testing for the student.

Harrow has experienced the same trends. We have used data for a long time, academically in the analysis of examination results and pastorally in the Living Together Survey, but it has become a much sharper point of focus over the last few years. IH was appointed in 2016 as Head of Data Analysis to lead our work in this important area. Most obviously, we have created the Harrow Tracking System (HATS) which pulls together information from all over the School into one platform. Rewards and sanctions have moved from House Masters' notebooks and filing cabinets onto iSAMS (our online information management system); the Harrow Prize is no longer on pieces of paper in the Old Armoury but on graphs visible to House Masters and tutors; results from admissions tests, baseline tests, Trials, mocks and public examinations are all kept centrally and pulled automatically into HATS pages for every boy in the

School. The benefits are immense and obvious: information can be more easily shared; trends can be analysed; outstanding performance can be celebrated; the causes of underperformance can be investigated; the fulfilment of potential can be more reliably monitored.

But five years at Harrow are about much more than the fulfilment of potential. They are also about expanding that potential from the Shell to the Upper Sixth, by developing an interest in ideas through the Super-Curriculum, by offering opportunities to try new things in the co-curriculum, and by allowing boys the freedom to chart their own course through the academic curriculum. It is for that reason that tutors and House Masters only ever use HATS and the data available through it to inform and to guide conversations with boys, never to replace them. Just as the idea of "big data" makes many in society nervous, so the greater use of data in the School leaves some boys anxious about the imposition of greater pressure to perform and some beaks worried about the loss of the personal, human element which is at the heart of boarding. It is for that reason that guidelines were published when HATS was launched, to ensure that it was not misused or over-used, and it is for that reason that data are not automatically shared with boys or parents. Graphs and tables are not to be read by anyone in isolation; rather they are to be talked through by people who know the stories in the background, who understand why performance inevitably ebbs and flows, who can help boys to bring the lines and the numbers back not only to where they should be but also to take them higher to where they could be.

GAFFE AND GOWN

"Oh, ya? Well, I'm going to get into both Oxbridge and Cambridge."

"Sorry I am late Sir, I was let out late." "...But your last lesson was in this exact room."



MONEY WELL SPENT

Everything about a service from J.W. Shin & Co. – from a simple varnishing job to a major restoration – has a certain sureness. This is by no means expensive when you consider the Outfitters or Billings & Edmonds. Every hat service you get from J.W. Shin & Co., a sound investment.

- Varnishing from only £1 per coat
- Silk top hat polishing service (Monitors) – Free of charge

J.W. Shin & Co.

Hatters & Hat Repairers

since 2017

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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

SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Senior v Eton college, Won 56-43

Our Senior team began with a challenging first quarter against a physical and aggressive Eton side. With a narrow lead at the end of the first half and with both sides pressing hard, the outcome was unsure. However, with patience, resolve and impressive sportsmanship our boys delivered again and again to maintain their lead.

Fine free-throw shooting from the captain Justin Donohugh, *Newlands*, rebounding from Charlie Christie, *Newlands*, and defence from Ire Ajibade, *The Grove*, clinched the match in our favour with 56-43 the final score.

WATER POLO

The School v Oundle School, 21 January, Draw 6-6

Scorers: Archie Hogben, *Newlands*, x 3; *Newlands*; Finn Deacon, *The Park*, x 2

In a nail-biting stalemate, Harrow drew 6-6 away at Oundle. Thrown by the unusually rectangular shape of Oundle's yards-denominated pool, a typically highly structured Harrow side struggled to find its feet in the first few minutes and conceded two early goals. With some heroic swimming and a solo goal from Finn Deacon, *The Park*, Harrow found itself back in the game and took the lead, with Charlie Christie, *Newlands*, assisting several times from in goal. In a tit-for-tat contest, Archie Hogben, *Newlands*, scored a hat-trick and Deacon went on to complete his brace. An impressive defensive effort was made by Tom Gianasso, *The Grove*, throughout, whose efforts at the back prevented what would have been many more conceded goals for the visitors.

FENCING

The School v Abingdon School Lost 3 blades – 0

The School put up a spirited fight against Abingdon on home soil in the eaves of the Salle on Thursday, losing closely by 3 blades to 0.

The Foil A team started off slowly against Abingdon, losing 15 points while only replying with 3. However, Francois de Robert Hautequere, *Lyon's*, steadied the helm by winning his next fight by a clear 14 points, bringing Harrow back into the game. With the momentum in their favour, Harrow were snapping at Abingdon's heels right up to the final bout, only trailing by one point. However, it was just a bridge too far for Harrow and they eventually lost 45-42, making Abingdon fight for every last point and giving the best Foil team on the circuit a real run for their money.

The Epee team also took the piste and put up a good fight against some tough opposition. Despite the Harrow Epée captain, Finn Deacon's, *The Park*, spirited resistance halfway through the match, it was too much and the home team eventually succumbed 45-27.

The Foil B team also gave their opposite numbers a decent match, with particularly impressive passages of play from Indi Abrams, *The Grove*, and Adil Shaydullin, *Elmfield*. However, Abingdon did not give up their early lead easily and ended up winning the third and final match 45-40.

Overall, an excellent and much-improved performance from the Harrow side and, despite the loss, they have much to be proud of after their display.

Foil A lost 42-45
Foil B lost 40-45
Epee lost 27-45

FIVES

The School v Berkhamsted School, Home, 23 January, Senior Won 1-0

A friendly match saw Jake Henson, *The Park*, and Angus Hill, *The Park*, prove too strong for the Berkhamsted pair, winning comfortably with cunning use of vollying and set pieces.

Colts Drew 2-2

A disappointing day for our first pair of Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, and Jonny Barley, *The Grove*, saw them lose for the first time this season, but wins for Nathan Shepard, *The Park*, and William Tate, *The Knoll*, at second pair and Joe Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and George Ferguson, *Newlands*, at fourth rescued the tie.

Junior Colts Won 2-1

Good wins for Leo Gordon Pullar, *Newlands*, and Adi Inpan, *Bradby's*, as well as Oliver Bailey and Alex Aneken, both *The Park*, who played up a year to see Harrow to a well-deserved win overall.

Yearlings Lost 1-2

The boys put in a strong performance against a very strong Berkhamsted team.

The first pair of Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, played their best fives of the season with some stunning set pieces and quick early vollies to beat last year's Under-13 National Champions 3-0. The last two sets saw them totally dominate.

The other two pairs put in valiant attempts against boys who have played for over five years.

RACKETS

The School v St Pauls, 23 January

Senior 1st Pair Away, Won 3-2

A fine win in a fluctuating match for Ben Hope, *Rendalls*, and Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*. They played some excellent Rackets to lead 2-0 and 14-7 but squandered two match points and St Paul's levelled at 2-2. Ben and Rishi regained their momentum to convincingly win the final game.

Colts 1st Pair, Lost 0-3

Max Shirvell and Federico Ghersi, *The Head Master's*, played well in the rallies but were out served and lost 0-3 to a strong pair.

Junior Colts 1st Pair, Lost 0-3

After six consecutive wins, Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, were a little inconsistent and didn't take their chances to end up losing 0-3.

Junior Colts 2nd Pair Lost 2-3

An entertaining and hard-fought match ended in a 14-17 defeat in the final game for Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, and Veer Patel, *The Knoll*. Both boys should be proud of their effort and performance.

FOOTBALL

Junior Colts B v The Oratory School A, Won 3-1

Scorers: Kurran Calvert-Davies, *Druries*, x 3

After a frustrating first half of football with lots of missed chances, the team showed great resilience to dominate the second half with a well-earned hat-trick from Calvert-Davies securing the win.

Yearlings A v The Oratory School, Won 4-0

Scorer(s): Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, x 2, Max Baygual Nespatti, *Elmfield*, Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*

After a frustrating first period, Harrow sprang to life in the second to play some concerted, high-quality, attacking football and punish a physical, well-organised Oratory side. Oli Mitchell, *Rendalls*, took the Man of the Match award for a strong performance down the right with Akindele scoring a brace.

Yearlings C v The Oratory School B, Won 3-0

Scorers: Toni Alaka, *The Head Master's*; Felix Doan, *Bradlys*, x 2

Yearlings Cs were up against a physically strong and imposing team – The Oratory School's Bs. The boys looked worried as they looked up at their opponents, but the worried faces soon dwindled as the boys started moving the ball around quickly and dribbling around their opponents with ease. Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*, eased past a defender and was descending on goal when an opposing player scythed him down from behind inside the box, but no penalty was awarded, nor was the player penalised. Reflective of the values the boys hold, Harrow made no fuss towards to the referee as Tinubu limped off to the side. Moments later, Alaka raced through on goal, beating two defenders with sheer pace and finishing calmly to the goalkeeper's left. Doan, who was struggling with injury after running into a wall knee-first, scored two goals (one from the penalty spot after the opposition confused football with rugby). Overall, the boys performed well against a tough, physical opponent.

Yearlings D v The Oratory School C, Won 9-1

Scorers: Guy Clarke, *West Acre*, Valentine Ballingal, *Moretons*,

Gabriel Harrington-Myers, *Bradlys*, Freddie Dinan, *Rendalls*, Leo Waschkuhn, *Lyon's*, and Harry Duckworth, *The Head Master's*

The Ds had a fantastic second game away at The Oratory School. We arrived as the sun was setting over a recently thawed pitch; any part of the field that was frozen when we started had been burnt to a crisp by our quick passing. Some emphatic goals were scored early on with some great runs through the defence from Duckworth and Harrington-Myers. The defence held very well against a strong pressing side, but they only managed to squeeze one away in the last play of the game. It was a great performance from all involved.

SQUASH

The School v Wellington, 23 January

1st v Won 4-1

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-1

SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Won 3-0

WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Lost 1-3

FAW Murley, *The Park*, Won 3-1

H Qureshi, *The Park*, Won 3-0

Junior Colts Won 4-1

I Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 2-3

AC Seely, *The Head Master's*, Won 3-2

DJP Wauchope, *The Knoll*, Won 3-0

HAM O'Shea, *Druries*, Won 3-0

DG Doros, *Elmfield*, Won 3-0

A critical moment has arrived. The season is on a knife edge. It could limp on with the present dogged mediocrity or completely collapse. We have so far specialised in dogged mediocrity and this has been the major achievement of this team. The ability to grind out defeats even when threatened with unlikely victory has been a hallmark of this special group of players. They are desperately clinging on to their familiar routine but the pressures are mounting. The muscle memory is there – their bodies instinctively remember how to keep going against all the odds – but even these supermen have their limits.

The Scorched Earth Policy (SEP) has meant that we are down to the bare minimum of five available players. There were six until Tiger decided to go skiing.

Coach: How's the injury?

Tiger: Much better. I should be available for the last match of the season.

Coach: Thanks, that's very helpful

This means that there can be no rotation policy to rest tired bodies. Orr Ewing and Sebag-Montifiore are hanging on by their fingernails, which are probably the only parts of their bodies that have not been decimated at some stage. Sebag has survived years of hurt to become the Only Lower Sixth Former Playing Squash (OLSFPS). This has added to his isolation and mental anguish. But his body also continues to fall apart. Before the Wellington match came the familiar email.

Dear Sir, just to warn you I might be injured. On getting up this morning I immediately limped quite badly. We can discuss when I arrive at the courts. Yours, Sasha.

What does this mean? Is this code for "I can't play"? Or is it code for "I will play but don't expect too much"? Sebag later enters the courts with an exaggerated limp.

Sebag: Pulled a muscle back here (points to bottom)

Coach: In your bottom?

Sebag: Think it's called a glute.

Coach: Are you OK to play?

Sebag: I assumed I have to play. It's just that I might limp.

Coach: No, you mustn't limp. Just stay on the tee and play winning shots from there. You do not want to rally.

Sebag did not follow instructions. He insisted on limping around the court in comic theatrical fashion.

Wellington Coach: Is he injured? Coach: No, he always walks like that.

Sebag proceeded to stagger to a rather surreal victory, his opponent claiming that he never plays well against wounded animals. "Once you see the limp the adrenalin just drains out of you." The irony is that Sebag rarely wins when fully fit. Orr Ewing is in the same category. Any activity other than squash seems to end in tears. House Scrabble would be enough to put him off eccentric. Orr Ewing always shuffles into the courts as if he is about to collapse. He has the world on his shoulders and last smiled on 4 October. He sums up the knife-edge situation the team finds itself in. The comfort zone of dogged mediocrity or complete collapse. He competed gamely, trying hard to remember how to play, but amnesia has set in. Can he keep going to the bitter end?

The three Upper Sixth are the great survivors. They have been pedalling the Cycle of Misery (COM) for so long that defeat cannot affect them. They have become hardened to despair, immune to mental disintegration. The years of hurt have built character, their 10% win ratio no longer an issue. But exams are the threat on the horizon, the elephant in the court. For Orr Ewing this will be his biggest challenge yet. Murley and Qureshi are glued to the Airfix Dome at the moment, often the only human presence in that desolate wasteland. They quietly go about their business, playing each other for the 1000th time, expressionless and seemingly free of any sort of emotion. They look determined to see this torture through, but to what? Relegation from Division One of the Roehampton Tournament? Winning the National Plate Final? If there is any justice, something nice will happen to these boys.

Murley plays some pleasant squash, wobbles in the middle as the reality and fear of victory takes hold, and then comes through to win in the 4th. Murley, as ever, is understated and unemotional.

Coach: How did that feel?

Murley: Quite good.

Coach: What happened in the 3rd?

Murley I'm not sure.

This is about as animated as Murley gets. Surely he will fall on the right side of the knife-edge? Qureshi goes on court against what appears to be a beginner and quickly goes 2-0 up.

Coach: It all looks pretty straight-forward.

Humza: I'm taking nothing for granted. I've lost from being 2-0 up before.

Coach: I think you would win today if you were blindfolded.

Years in the COM mean that Humza is completely grounded, bolted to the floor. He has a quiet steeliness about him at the moment and because the ball flies off his racket in all sorts of unpredictable directions he is actually becoming quite difficult to play against. He wins 3-0. You could probably get about 500/1 against both Murley and Qureshi winning on the same day but it is unlikely that anyone took the gamble. We have learned not to celebrate the rare victories to lessen the inevitable fall to later despair.

So where do they all sit on the DOG Scale? In other words, out of 10, how likely are they to see Dogged Mediocrity through to the end? Murley and Qureshi are in danger of completing the full COM, both 6/10. Tarquin, despite recently moving like someone's auntie, is 7/10 because as a Remove he is as yet untainted with the mouldy whiff of mental trauma. Sebag-Montifiore (4/10) and Orr Ewing (3/10) are looking over the precipice. It could just take one large blister or one bad test result for either to snap. That would mean a call-up for Ilyas Qureshi, a player slower than his own cardboard cut-out. Complete collapse could be imminent.

HARROW FOOTBALL

The 1st XI v Eton College, Friendly, Won 11-1

Scorers: Nana Amaning, *West Acre*; George Craven, *The Grove*, 2 bases; Harry Cleeve, *Lyon's*; Philipp Benigni, *Newlands*, 3 bases; William Dutton, *Newlands*; Charlie Christie, *Newlands*, 3 bases.



It was a perfect day for Harrow football with brisk winds and a clear sky. Eton arrived animated with a clear desire to beat Harrow at their own game. CDLM and the committee members met our opponents outside the Sports Centre and took them to the mighty Hemstall 6, in order to showcase a real sports pitch. But CDLM took pity on the Etonians and coaxed them onto the pristine lawns of Park Lake. They felt confident after playing on a soccer pitch, but they were about to find out that Harrow football was a different game in the hallowed Hemstall pitches. Eton got to have another warmup but this time on Hemstall 6, with Harrow boys and our visiting gentlemen splitting numbers. After five minutes, their animated faces began to look unsettled. Needless to say, Harrow took a commanding lead at half-time with the score being 4-1 with uphill conditions. In good spirit, the Harrow boys offered to carry on playing uphill but Eton did not want any special treatment and accepted the uphill battle in the second half. The Harrovians took no prisoners and ultimately won a resounding 11-1 victory. Although Eton were battered, they seemed to enjoy the afternoon, getting a taster of what is (indisputably, I think) the superior game. It was an impressive and convincing win for the XI.

SWIMMING

The School v Abingdon School, 21 January, Won Harrow 165, Abingdon 89

The Harrow team managed an emphatic win over Abingdon, with swimmers in all age groups raising their game to compete at the highest level. Despite minimal margins in many races, often within a body length at the touch, Harrow succeeded in winning all races in all age categories. Abingdon put in a total of ten second place finishes.

In the Under-18 age category, Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield*, Ahsab Chowdhury, *West Acre*, and Alex Banfield, *The Knoll*, swam the most impressive personal best times.

In the Under-16 age category, our four OT scholars of Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre*, Cosmo Freeland, *Lyon's*, James Rates, *Newlands*, and Henry Pearce, *Newlands*, swam a near-Torpid record in their relay event.

However, once again in the Under-14s, another Shell record was broken, this time by Henry Gray, *Lyon's*, who has been chasing the 50m backstroke record all season. He finally broke that record, held since 2009, in a time of 30.08. Keifer Yeo, *The Head Master's*, and Joe Storey, *Newlands*, also swam personal best times.

School v Wellington College, Won, 173, Wellington 87

Senior Results: Harrow 57, Wellington 27

We welcomed Wellington College to a head-to-head gala on Thursday. Despite being the first inter-school gala after the Christmas holidays, the swimmers were all on fine form, winning every individual race and often coming in second as well. Apart from the usual stellar performances from the two captains, Tom Khan, *West Acre*, and Andrew Hong, *Lyon's*, Ethan Yeo, *The Head Master's*, Bencharit, and William Pattle, *Newlands*, also swam impressive personal best times.

Intermediate results: Harrow 58, Wellington 26

Impressive Intermediate personal best swims came from Freeland in the 50m backstroke, and Seb Moscoso, *The Knoll*, and Anton Shashenkov, *The Knoll*, in the 50m freestyle.

Shell results: Harrow 58, Wellington 26

The Shells were once again a sight to behold. Gray, who has been chasing the Shell 50m backstroke record, swam within .05 of a second. However, the highlight of the gala came from a new School record from Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, in the 50m breaststroke event, in a time of 31.80. Nick Finch, *Newlands*, then went on to break his own School record in the 50m butterfly event, touching in a time of 27.41.

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