

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXIII NO.1

September 12, 2020

NEWS FROM THE SUMMER

Spirit of Speech Day

The Spirit of Speech Day challenge and Covid Response Fund raised over £60,000 and allowed the School to fund a summer programme supporting young people facing significant barriers to progress.

The money we raised was offered to local young people's organisations who applied for grants to run their summer programmes. Sixteen charities were awarded summer grants. These included the Wish Centre who supported 15 teenage girls who had been the victims of gang-related sexual violence or child sexual exploitation, and CAAS who ran a programme of support for young people with autism who were particularly affected by the lockdown.

Your generosity allowed these organisations to run vital summer programmes for vulnerable young people. This made a significant impact locally and was only possible thanks to the efforts of the School community.

We also opened the School site to local charities working with young people over the summer period. We were able to provide important support to hundreds of young people throughout the summer months. This support involved full funding for all on-site projects, use of facilities and School staff and hundreds of lunches available on request. The scheme and funding were administered through the Harrow Development Trust in partnership with Young Harrow Foundation.

This provision, combined with beaks providing online lessons for children in care, means that the School has helped over 1,000 vulnerable young people this summer.



(Above: The first Shells in 2020 in new era of COVID.)

HERE AND THERE

Summer 2020

Jack Gosden, *Lyon's*, was awarded an Army Scholarship over this past summer, which is enormous accomplishment for a highly competitive scholarship.

Olly Harrison, *The Knoll*, has recently been selected for British Shooting's World Class programme, which gives him a chance for Paris 2024.

Henry Arundell and Ricky White, both *The Knoll*, have been selected for the England Rugby Under-18 training squad for a camp which will take place in October.

In late July, six Lower Sixth scholars took part in the four-day Hwa Chong Global Young Leaders Convention entitled Concord: Standing in Solidarity, Chartering a New Era. Arvind Asokan, *Bradbys*, Bilal Rashid, *Elmfield*, Shubb Malde, *Elmfield*, Deepan Sakthivel, *Bradbys*, Q Sun, *Moretons*, and Kevin Zheng, *Newlands*, were superb ambassadors for Harrow. Delegates were assigned to one of ten fictional countries in an alternative reality, engaging in heated debates on key moral issues, including medical ethics and income inequality.

THE LAST OF HILL LIFE

The Lockdown Life of an Upper Sixth Leaver

I, for one, am extremely happy – and somewhat smug – that I had the foresight to bring most of my belongings home with me when life on the Hill was brought to an abrupt halt back in March. As I watched friends eagerly cram a backpack and sprint out the door (probably eager to get a round in at The Globe before their train), I waited and completely emptied my room. This has had the benefit, when Harrow went online, to ensure I have everything I would have had at School: folders, textbooks, notepads, tennis-player posters etc...



To collect my remaining belongings, I drove back up to the Hill over the course of the Easter break. It was an eerie and somewhat macabre experience. As any Harrovian who has been on the Hill for any reason such as a trip outside term time (and, I imagine, any beaks remaining on the Hill when School is out) will attest: it is a very different place. The Hill's grey spire still greets the day; however, it is bereft of almost any life. There isn't a sea of hats or Harrovians bustling around the Houses or Hill to attend to the various activities that normally are packed into any single day. The scene that greeted me was worse still. As the nation isolated, there weren't even the buses, cars, trains, planes or traffic of people who move around the Hill when we are gone. When I entered my House I was shocked; it looked as if a deadly and infectious global pandemic was threatening all life and everyone had left in a disorganised and fearful hurry, intent on ransacking everything and taking as much with them that they could as they fled from this invisible mugger...

As I picked my way up the staircase and down the corridors avoiding cupboards, drawers, clothes, wires, food and other such detritus that was littered all over the hallway, I noticed a variety of rooms. Some had been completely emptied, leaving no sign of life other than an over-spilling bin; others looked as if Mount Vesuvius had erupted – Harrovians had obviously quickly burrowed through their wardrobe, strewing clothes everywhere and had only taken the bare essentials, while others looked entirely untouched (these must have belonged to the boys who were so fearful of the invisible mugger that they had run out of the door as fast as their legs could carry them). Being in my final year, I couldn't help but feel a sense of melancholy; would this be my final time in my House? Is it the last time I will tread the Hill as an Harrovian? Or worse still, is this what the end of Harrow looks like? Will Covid-19 push us into some apocalypse, and the few survivors will discover our Hill in the future and, picking through this scene, will conclude that 'these people truly lived like savages'?

The Hill, even as it opens, must still resemble this strange state. However, while there may not be the usual intense buzz of activity, our education has not been drawn to a halt; instead it has taken to the airways as well as the form rooms, and has reached Harrovians across the globe through our ever-present (tele)screens.

I found my experience this summer quite surreal, being of the one remaining year group who had started their education on the Hill with pen and paper. And having taken all my belongings home, I have been able to recreate a similar desk to my one on the Hill, but a few folders, desk tidy and pencil case is where the similarities end. The online experience was one far removed from the barmy Hill. Not only are we no longer surrounded by our contemporaries, but we also do not have the musty smell of books that accompanies lessons in the New Schools or the creaking wooden panels of the Old Schools or even the fresh air and views of the Modern Language Schools. Instead we sit in different corners of the country (or indeed world) listening to our beaks who likewise have a wide range of backdrops behind them.

There are, obviously, a great many losses in the online experience: no views, no sports, no ceremonies, no Chapel, no Songs, no debating, no tomfoolery and a great many others. In short, dare I say, we lose many of the core pillars on which our community depends when we're away from the Hill. And while we all live very similar lives on the Hill, the breadth of Harrovians 'lives in lockdown' – at least from what I've established from my handful of friends – is vastly different. It did make me wonder over the course of the summer what a great loss it is, to lose the normal turn of life on the Hill. Life is better on the Hill, and where else does or could Harrow impart to those once they have left and gone? Leaving aside a first-class education and numerous lifelong friends, is it the spirit of "Harrovian-ness" or our habits and disciplines that will stay with us for life? If so, with all of us working from home, have you seen any?

For me, isolation had been splendid and, being blessed with a garden, I had not run out of things to do. However, those of us young gentleman lucky enough to have a garden, I am sure, will be quickly realising that those immaculate Vaughan lawns and the playing fields of Ducker are very hard to imitate at home and, if achieved, cost much in the way of toil and sweat.

All is not lost though. Online lessons brought a great many amusements. I do not speak of simply giving us something to do in the summer months without exams; I like to think I'm a little bit more creative than that and could easily think of something to do with my day (sleep aside). While nothing can replace the insight into a person's character that a face-to-face meeting gives, a backdrop is a good second. Take our beaks, for example. Normally stony-faced and wrapped in gowns, they sweep boys out of their storming path as they strut down to their lessons, and any ill-placed comment is immediately met with

grisly punishment. Yet, Microsoft Teams offers an interesting insight into our imperial masters. I had beaks ranging from suit and tie to tracksuits and t-shirts. Similarly, their backdrops ranged from a messy bed or punk rock posters to scholarly bookshelves or walls with awards proudly displayed. When would we have ever had such an insight into a beak's personal life on the Hill? Other such hilarity comes from an unfortunate boy forgetting to put themselves on mute and screaming obscenities to someone in their room or – in one such case – about the beak, when they received yet another essay assignment. And almost every day it was fairly obvious to guess which boy had been awoken by a Team call and took his lesson in bed. The lesson of St Joles' springs to mind...

In a wider context, there continues to be much debate on whether or not government action of countries throughout the world over has been correct or not. So many "what ifs"; so much wartime rhetoric; such a profusion of rumours swirling; and yet no real clarity of direction to give us the focus that the public are demanding. Twitter is alive and becoming increasingly hostile as the tribalism of Brexit is reinventing itself between isolationists and globalists. Trump has not hesitated to point the finger at China and locked borders, punished the WHO and has exacerbated a phenomenal surge of nationalism.

It is no different in our School setting. How long will Harrow reconvene for the 2020-21 academic year? What happens if the School shifts back online, what happens to the societies, Monitors, The Guild, The Phil, heads of sport? And although these question pale by comparison to any risk to life, they are very pertinent to the smooth continuation of "normal" life for us and you. We do many things (particularly in a Harrow context) in a quirky way, because that is how they have always been done. Will we remember the online Speech Room on a Monday in quite the same way? What about online whole-School bill in the windy yard; online speeches and prizes on a future digital Speech Day; no battling of light blue and dark blue on the hallowed turf at NW8; and how will fresh, new intakes in the Shells face a new Harrow – they've not known anything else.

But, at the start of this academic year, we must keep our faith in the scientists and in the Government to direct the right course of action. In my view, the "Keep calm and carry on" slogan has regained its relevance. Perhaps we, rather than the likes of Piers Morgan, should evoke our Churchillian war time spirit (as we did when we remained on the Hill during WWII, giving refuge to Malvern School from 1942 to 1946) as in the Churchill verse of where 'grim and gay we mean to stay and stick it to the end, sir'.

THE PANDEMIC

Climate change in a post-Covid world

When the virus came, the whole world stopped in its tracks. The cars were locked in garages, flights cancelled, examples of mitigation began to appear all around us. The whole world was frozen. Why? Because Covid-19 was an imminent and apparent threat. The steadily rising death toll and case count were like something from a horror movie, and thus we reacted. We prevented most of the potential damage by acting swiftly and efficiently. We saved lives by doing so.

However, we are in the midst of another pandemic, one which, though less visible, is a larger threat in both scale and size: climate change. Every year we use more of our Earth's resources than we can renew. It is estimated that we need 1.7 planets to support the average lifestyle of the human race. Before coronavirus, despite the talk of radical reform, fossil-fuel emissions were at an all-time high, with 2018 emissions being 2.7% higher than the previous year. Yet we talk constantly about climate change. We march. We protest. We tweet and hashtag about it. But there is still a problem.

The truth is, we are the problem. That is the whole human race – not just the ‘boomer generation’. Think back about how much waste you had on a daily basis in a pre-pandemic world: every Starbucks coffee cup, or plastic packaged item, or even the packaging on food. We are producing 300 billion tons of plastic every year – 50% of which is non-recyclable. Half a billion plastic straws are used on a daily basis, and one trillion plastic bags are used annually. As a society, we have become careless. Us and the problem are not mutually exclusive. We are a part of the problem. You are a part of the problem.

Today we hear these incredible stories about the skies clearing and dolphins swimming through the rivers of Venice: a world reborn. Despite all of humanity's attempts to slow this metaphorical virus eating away at our planet, it took a tragedy to begin to make a change to the promise we pledged to fulfil. The fact that it took a virus that forced us into our homes and took away our very lifestyle to make the smallest changes displays that the answer to climate change is clear. We need to change our lifestyle.

Throughout lockdown, I have been living a much healthier (and carbon neutral) lifestyle - the two are not exclusive. I have been eating fresh vegetables and meat from local grocers and butchers respectively. I have no longer been driving to school, and into town when I needed something. And I have been consuming and buying less unnecessary waste, for example bringing a reusable bag to the supermarket to lower the risk of my catching the virus through transmission.

Throughout lockdown we have proved that a more sustainable lifestyle is attainable. It is possible and it is just as luxurious. Not only does it help local small businesses, many of whom are struggling in the wake of the pandemic, but it improves both our health and that of the planet.

As lockdowns around the world come to an end (although they may soon be back in place!), we must reflect upon what we did right. Just because the effects are not being seen yet does not mean the problem is not there. For all our talk on climate change may raise awareness but only our actions can bring the required change. To quote Mahatma Gandhi ‘Be the change you wish to see in the world’. So make change and save our planet.

COVID and the "Fake News"

Fake news: the term gets thrown around a lot, particularly by certain politicians who use it to further political agendas and attempt to shut down any claim that their opinion may be wrong.

While the Oval Office brands fake news as anybody who doesn't agree with them, real fake news – conspiracy theories – are a key problem. We love to surround ourselves with gossip and rumours and, as most people know, rumours only grow. Normally these rumours are small, mildly humorous things: Abe Lincoln and Kennedy's assassination connection, aliens built the Pyramids and Hitler's secret life in Finland.

However, this year along came COVID-19, a disease that created a pandemic of rumours, fake news and counter-knowledge. Normally in times like these it is easy to walk away from these rumours, for the majority of people to just ignore them or laugh them off. However, it is now incredibly difficult to distinguish the boundary between fact and fiction for one simple reason: the bearer of this news is our sole source for survival as a human race: the internet.

Fake news and gossip are spread primarily by social media. There has been an explosion of news content on social media, particularly Facebook, which has 2.6 billion active users. If something goes viral it reaches everybody. Even if companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google carefully monitored the content on their sites (which they don't, as displayed by Brexit and 2016 US presidential election which both used illegal targeting of users' data) they would not be able to police every corner,

group chat and subsection without information being spread. Another key reason for people searching for ‘news’ on social media is their lack of trust in mainstream media. It is commonly accepted that most people have an agenda: a set of ideals that they want to push forward. If I am being honest, this belief is correct. Many left-wing newspapers have suddenly been pushing an anti-government, anti-Boris agenda and have exaggerated justifiable criticisms, while, on the flipside, many right-wing newspapers are refusing to see any error in the Government's actions. Readers do not believe that everyday people have any particular agenda to achieve or are notoriously biased so cotton onto what they hear on social media.

Inevitably, this sort of ‘independent news’ is shared to hundreds, thousands, millions of readers across the globe and many believe it, as they believe their friends and family are reliable sources of information. This ‘fake news’ agenda being pushed by certain politicians about mainstream media isn't benefiting the situation either. It also amplifies biases. If the people of the United States are told by their president that CNN is fake news, they are likely to disregard any stories which CNN publishes and follow the publicly endorsed Fox News, who some would argue seems to have more sway in the US government than Dr Fauci himself. This is the power of branding something ‘fake news’. If politicians want to attack fake news, they should be attacking the rumours that circulate across social-media platforms, rather than attempt to fulfil their political agenda.

The news is there to provide us with information about the world. It is there to offer opinions and views. The day it becomes a source of gossip and conspiracy theories is a day when we can assert the opinion that ‘anarchy’ is on its way. If we cannot trust our news sources, who can we trust? It is in that spirit that I urge you, the readers of news, not to believe everything you hear on social media. It may be a prank, a misinterpretation or simply ‘fake news’.

FAREWELL FROM OUTGOING EDITORS

Theodore Seely, The Head Master's

It is rather odd that a place that has been the centre of my life for the past five years is soon going to be a memory of the past. Although I have not even officially left, the line ‘yet the time may come ... when your heart will thrill at the thought of the Hill’ now appears to be properly settling in.

In a way, the 2020 Leavers have had some luck. No revision over the Easter holidays and no A levels – the dream of most Upper Sixth students. However, that has come at a cost: most have not had a chance to prove themselves and results day might not reflect what they could have achieved in those last months, nor will we have a proper post-A-level summer or start to university. For many, not being able to spend those last few months at Harrow will be frustrating and sad. For my part, I did not get the chance to finally take up Dr Crowe's multiple invitations to come to the Observatory that he sends out to the School regularly (after telling myself that, after five years, I ought to go at least once).

Looking back at my five years at Harrow, I could offer my opinion on a number of things. However, I would like to reflect on the nature of the multiple communities that one is a part of at Harrow. Nowadays, in an age of ‘bubbles’ and ‘households’, these words might echo even more for many. While one has plenty of opportunities to succeed as an individual at Harrow, the ability to be part of an ensemble is truly special. My family has been at Harrow for several generations. In fact, we have an unbroken line going back to the mid-19th century, with a Seely or two in the Fourth Form Room. I have always felt as

if this School were my home, and for a long time I believed it was because of that lineage. It is only now that I realise that, for a Harrovian, Harrow feels like home regardless of whether they are the first of their family to go there or not. The ability to train and fight for one's House and for one's school really is a unique experience of belonging – there is nothing quite like a game of Harrow football in the Cock House Final to make you realise that, as I found out quite recently. Perhaps the best example of that feeling of unity was doing Churchill Songs in the Royal Albert Hall. Seeing the faces of thousands of people who had experienced the same emotions for five years, be they positive or negative, really was a marking moment for me. It reinforced the feeling that Harrovians are Harrovians no matter what, not just because of who they are, but because of what they lived through in their time at Harrow. The fact that a 70-year-old man can talk to a Lower Sixth like they have known each other for years just ten minutes after meeting each other simply because they were in the same House, or because they were both actors in a Shakespeare play, or maybe because they were both in the Corps, demonstrates that feeling which I believe is so unique to Harrow School. That is what I experienced before Songs last year, when I struck up a long conversation in the War Memorial with an OH who had been at the School just before my grandfather had been. It is one of the reasons why I love the School and why it will always hold a special place in my heart.

I have read what the leaving editors have written year on year, and there is always a reflection on *The Harrovian* itself. Their role at the heart of it is, after all, what has earned them the right to leave a few words in its pages. I cannot say I attended many Harrovian meetings, but the few that I did were certainly a highlight of the week (especially the end-of-term beer and curry). Seeing the results of the weekly surveys and reading the letters that had been sent in almost made the editing of the sports page worth it, although the hours spent looking up what house little Caspar and little John are in because they scored one try for the Yearlings E team were something I always rather dreaded. I have already lauded *The Harrovian* and explained the importance of its role at the heart of the School community in the previous edition, but I would like to reiterate its uniqueness: not many schools have a forum where one week, a Shell can write a complaint in a newspaper read by the whole School community and where in the next, the Head Master and House Masters respond openly. It is a place for freedom of expression and speech, and I would like to stress that it is a powerful and important tool for the students, and something that should be cherished.

It does get reviewed on Thursday mornings before publication by the powers that be and I am aware of a few times when brilliantly witty or extremely controversial articles (by boy and beak) have been forbidden because they were not deemed acceptable by the School – I wish to emphasise that these were exceptional, extremely rare occasions, but nonetheless they did occur. I would like to encourage all those involved in the vetting process to enable as many pieces of writing as possible to be included, so that everyone's opinion may be heard. It is the sign of a civilised establishment that it can be scrutinised openly, and the open forum of *The Harrovian* demonstrates that Harrow is just that. The School does not hide, but rather, embraces its community and does its best to ensure that everyone is included, is responded to and feels a part of Harrow School.

Overall, I am pleased that I engaged in as many aspects of Harrow life as possible. I cannot think of many places in the world where the opportunities we have access to here are available, if any. I leave the school after five years feeling that I have truly taken part in the "Harrow experience" I was so excited about when visiting the School for the first time, and I look forward to the next step in my life, at university. I can only encourage others who are reading this to do the same.

Harry Lempriere-Johnston, Druries

It's Friday lunchtime and the bell has just rung for lunchtime Call-over. However, it is not just my House Master waiting behind his desk, but a mountain of that yellow paper, neatly stacked high with *The Harrovian* popping out into your eyes. One at a time, it would be passed around, normally so boys could see the Gaffe and Gown and the cricket scores from the last week. The occasional boy would take the time to read an article about a lecture which was hidden on the middle page. This yellow and black paper, which often occupied the inner lining of the boy's bins, would sometimes catch the eye of some keen readers and writers: me included.

I had written for *The Harrovian* many a time in my first three years at Harrow, mainly cataloguing any interesting lectures or plays I had attended, or simply just tagging along with some interesting and controversial letters which had stirred up a fuss (much like the infamous "Disharmony Choir" of 2018). However, when I was finally asked to be an editor, I had no idea what that would consist of. I went to an Upper Sixth boy at the time and looked to him for some words of wisdom on what I should be prepared for and what I could do to make my job as an editor as fulfilling as possible. He simply looked at me and laughed. I was prepared for some gruelling hours behind a computer screen, in silence, with nothing but my own mind to keep me entertained. This was far from the truth. In came SMK, with his quick wit, endless mountains of snacks from none other than Dave's itself, and the occasional drink (non-alcoholic, of course). I would say that these Tuesday afternoons were tiring and full of hard work and editing, but in fact it was much more than that. Some of those afternoons were the highlight of my week and were what got me through my days. It was always a sad sight to see those emails from SMK stating that he was unable to have a meeting.

There were certainly some interesting moments in SMK's form rooms when it came to going through the endless letters and write-ups. What I will never understand is that we all go to one of the top boarding schools in the country, yet day in day out, is the number of sentences, even paragraphs, that looked like a sleep deprived Shell the night before a block test had just tried to mash 1,000 words on a lecture he hadn't even attended. It certainly was like deciphering code when it came to certain write-ups. I could just imagine how the editors before me would have reacted to my atrocious grammar with my various 2am write-ups. At the end of the day, *The Harrovian* would always make it to the tables with zero mistakes; well at least we liked to think that.

In my last year at Harrow, I remember there being a letter in about the appalling job the editors do on checking for mistakes. Sadly, the writer was anonymous so I wasn't able to give him Custos or double the second I saw him in the High Street. I was given the task of editing this article and the temptation to select all and delete was very near to overcoming me. I had to stride on and just hope that a boy would later send in a letter arguing against it in support of the editors. I was right! Luckily, the dignity of the editors was restored, and the boy stayed quiet and did not ever question the work of the editors, however lazy we can occasionally be. It was not like SMK would want the edits done by 10pm and I would be sat in my room around midnight still trying to get through my first section.

Through my two years with *The Harrovian*, I learnt that, although certain aspects of Harrow life can be sometimes covered up and censored, mainly through the push of a button from the editors, the life of Harrovians goes much further than their day-to-day activities. It was great to work for an aspect of Harrow where I got to understand the inner workings of how certain boys felt about certain things. Although my time was cut short, it was a true highlight of my time at Harrow.

Leopold Florescu, The Head Master's

A couple of weeks ago, I returned to the Hill for the final time, to collect the last of my possessions. It was raining, damp. As I wandered aimlessly and in awe about the School, I was confronted with flashbacks of a past which I had forgotten existed. It was all slightly surreal, a slightly surreal cliché, as I'm more than sure that what I felt, everyone has felt before me. As it happened, almost all of my memories, or at least the most amusing ones, were from my first year at the School, and perhaps that's because I can so scarcely recognise myself as that plump and unknowing Shell, that he only exists as a memory.

One of the earliest activities I can remember, was being taken on a tour of the Art Schools, before my first lesson there. I was so struck by the mood, and was so eager to try something new, that I sent the following email:

Dear Mr Hedges,

I was wondering whether it would be possible for me to do extra art at any time, or for me to come to the Art Schools in any of my free time, as I absolutely love art. Although I am not particularly great at it, I would love to have a lot more practice and help. The Art Schools inside looked great.

Thank you,

Leopold Florescu.

Reading that now, I am more than tempted to scoff, perhaps because I know that I would now never write something so unguarded and honest. But in that sense, I probably admire my brazen 13-year-old self. Five years on, most emails I write are either checked multiple times, to ensure that I'm not humiliating myself, which is normally the default, or are never written at all.

In fact, five years on, I'd like to make a parting confession, although I imagine that I'm not the only one to have felt this. I never really enjoyed my first year at the School, and as it came to a close, I was determined not to return. Obviously, I never did leave, for which I have a few people to thank. I'd like to thank Mr Hedges, my Art teacher, Mr Reynolds, my piano teacher, and Mrs Walton, the curator of the OSRG. As much as I struggled to cope with the pressures of life on the Hill, I felt that persevering was worth it, if just for the forgiving encouragement and joy of those three teachers. So, although I'm surely supposed to feel superior and triumphant, I'm probably more aware of the fragility of the past five years, knowing that had it not been for those three teachers, I might never have survived one, for which I'm more than grateful.

ORIENTAL SOCIETY

Cody Xu, The Grove, on "Chinese Dining"

During the Summer term, the Oriental Society had the opportunity to listen to Cody Xu talk about the very strict and superstitious world of Chinese dining and how we should present ourselves at the dining table without being disrespectful. Since returning to China due to the pandemic, Xu has learned and observed a lot about dining traditions and wished to share his learnings with the rest of us.

Firstly, he highlighted the importance of obeying proper seating arrangements and being aware of the social hierarchy, with the elder members often having priority over the youth. As with many Chinese restaurants, the tables are circular, with the most important guest taking the middle seat first before the rest of the guests seat in a circle around him in descending importance. The seat with the least important guest would be where the food is served.

Next, Xu went on to speak about eating and drinking manners. One should always pour tea for those beside oneself first before refilling your cup, while being sure to hold the lid of the teapot. Xu also told an interesting story about a Chinese Emperor who went undercover in the village to observe the villagers. To protect his identity, his servants would bend their index and middle finger to seem like a bow as a sign of gratitude whenever he poured tea for them. This gesture has carried on to the present and can sometimes be seen at the table.

During the meal, instead of racing for that juicy chicken thigh, one must be patient and let the seniors have the first pick. When it comes to your turn, you should have decided beforehand what you want to put on your plate instead of hovering your chopstick over the sharing plates, which may make you come across as being picky. When toasting or, as Xu called it "Gan bei", it is also polite to have the rim of your cup touching the bottom of your elder's cup as a sign of respect.

Thirdly, Xu was also oddly specific in asking us to not lick, suck and tap our chopsticks on our bowl, as this doesn't reflect well on you at the dining table, and the latter even suggests you are a beggar! On top of that, Xu also exposed a common mistake, which is sticking our chopsticks upright in rice, which is similar to what they do at funerals to offer food to the dead.

Finally, Xu talked about art of "fighting" for the bill and how guests should always offer to pay without actually paying in the end so as to not offend the host. It was an indeed interesting and eye-opening talk for all of us, even the Chinese among us, to learn more about the rich Chinese culture.

As is the case with this report, it was at this stage that the tone of the meeting took a dramatic turn; it was time for Xu's Fifth Form counterpart, Brandon Chang, *Druries*, to take charge of the afternoon/evening's proceedings. His talk, rather intriguingly, was titled 'The Unknown History of Hong Kong'. In the lead-up to this, there was a certain degree of fear and anxiety among certain Oriental Society bigwigs that this was going to be a talk marred by politics and controversy. To their relief, this was not the case. There was nothing cryptic about the title at all. Quite literally, this talk centred around events the rest of the world didn't know very much about. Needless to say, Chang had piqued our collective interest.

Due to time constraints, Chang was only able to share two events with us, the first of which was the Leftist Riots of 1967. As expected, most of the group, including several Hong Kong natives, had never heard of this. Well, good thing we had Chang. Right off the bat, we were told that these riots were more significant, certainly in terms of impact and severity, than the protests which took place last year, a time when news stories sparked discussion rather than resignation. The reason these riots were so significant was because they played a key role in shifting public opinion of the British colonial government, eventually leading to Hong Kong's handover some 30 years later. But I get ahead of myself.

Before the riots, times were tumultuous. Back in 1958, Chairman Mao made one small step to kick off a Great Leap Forward for his people. Or so he thought. Widespread famine and fatality were enough to convince many Chinese people that the leap they were going to make was one across the Causeway into the Fragarant Harbour. To say that handling the massive influx of Chinese refugees was a challenge for the British would be an understatement. Basic resources, namely water, were in short supply, raising many monocle-clad eyebrows. This was problematic for the British, not least because the lion's share of their water supply came from, finish the sentence, China. Regardless of this issue, the population continued to grow. It soon reached a point where 55% of people were under 25. Many of these refugees were forced into low-paid labour in poor conditions and they were not happy with this arrangement, which makes sense. After all, who would be? This, coupled with the lack of British action, stoked anger and frustration in the hearts of the masses. Come 1967, the Cultural Revolution was

in full swing, and the masses took to the streets. Although the initial protests were sparked by a labour dispute, the underlying sentiment was clear: nobody wanted to be under colonial rule anymore. In May and July, mass demonstrations took place, many of which turned violent, hence the use of the term 'riot' was justified. The riots eventually fizzled out after an attempt to call a general strike went largely unanswered. By then, 51 had been killed by the police, with a further 800 injured. The lasting uncertainty surrounding this event led many residents to sell properties, settle overseas and live scappily ever after.

The next event, which took place just one year after, was scarily topical given what is happening today. I am talking, of course, about the Hong Kong Virus – and they say medical nomenclature is a difficult task. This virus was highly contagious, reaching 500,000 cases within two weeks of the first reported case. Thankfully, it was not deadly. Being a variation of the flu we all know and *a-choo* love, herd immunity was there to save the day. Well, 99.5% of the day. Unfortunately, one million people lost their lives. These were mainly young children and the elderly, who were the most vulnerable to this disease. During the crisis, clinics were overwhelmed and had no clear-cut treatment plans in place. As such, people were ordered to stay at home. In the fallout of the Vietnam and Korean Wars, many Asians migrated to the United States looking for a better life. Who knew viruses shared the same goals? By nestling themselves in the bodies of returning servicemen, Hong Kong Virus made the harrowing trip across the Pacific. Four months later, a vaccine was developed in close collaboration with the WHO and disaster was successfully averted. As a last hurrah, Hong Kong Virus proceeded to infect three whales in SeaWorld because all publicity is good publicity.

And with that, the talk drew to a satisfying close. As was indicated by the raucous applause behind muted microphones, Chang's talk was highly informative, engaging and well received by the surprisingly healthy number of attendees. As far as originality is concerned, he certainly gave Xu a real run for his money, which I gather he didn't use to pay for dinner being the polite person he is. All in all, it was another great day at the Oriental Society, thanks to two equally excellent presentations. Special credit should be given to Xu, who stepped up at very late notice to prepare his talk.

JUNIOR PIGOUS SOCIETY

Alexander Newman, Druries,

"Brexit; will the Economic ship sink or sail?"

On the penultimate week of term, Alexander Newman, *Druries*, was the first Shell to deliver a lecture thus far. Newman was speaking on a highly debated and highly controversial topic: 'Brexit: Will the Economic Ship Sink or Sail'. The lecture was to be delivered to the Junior Pigou Society and news of this topical lecture had spread, meaning that upon my arrival a large crowd was already gathered anxiously around OMS desperate for a front row seat (remember when crowds were legal).

As the screen at the front of the room lit up, the room fell heavy with silence, each breath noticeably distinct and audible. Newman rose from his seat and began to deliver his lecture. He explained that his lecture had four sections. The first was a recap of the events which had taken place as of March 2020, courtesy of a video from the Independent. The other three main sections would analyse the impact Brexit may have on the economy, the workforce and the individual. I stress 'may' here because, as Newman continued, he explained that we truly were, to quote David Cameron, "taking a step into the unknown".

The pound has lost the gains made after Boris Johnson's

Conservatives won the biggest majority in more than 30 years at the general election, amid concern that Britain could end the Brexit transition period in December without an EU deal. Sterling had soared by about five cents against the US dollar on the foreign exchanges to above \$1.35 after Johnson's landslide victory. However, it has slumped back down to \$1.30 as of the 18 March after Johnson warned he will not extend the time for trade talks and could diverge from EU rules – causing disruption for businesses. The pound remains more than 10% down on its level before the Brexit vote almost four years ago, a drastic and impactful reduction.

The employment rates have grown relatively sharply since the referendum to leave the European Union in 2016. While employment growth slowed in 2019, the labour market remains tight and the number of vacancies is still very high.

As a result, the share of organisations reporting recruitment difficulties has increased for many employers. This is partly because the increase in the number of EU citizens that have come to the UK to work has not risen in line with the overall employment growth in recent years.

According to the CIPD's Labour Market Outlook (LMO) report, the share of organisations reporting hard-to-fill vacancies increased from 56% in the Spring 2017 report to more than three in five (61%) organisations in the Spring 2019 report. In response, many organisations are raising salaries, especially for key staff and new starters. According to the LMO Autumn 2019 report, 59% of private sector employers reported raising salaries to help offset their recruitment difficulties.

The tight labour market therefore seems to be putting upward pressures on wages for many workers. However, it is curious why employment investment in skills has continued to decline over this period.

Given the shrinking supply of skills and labour, it seems that Brexit has not dampened employers' interest in employing EU migrant workers. At the beginning of 2018, some two-thirds of organisations said they would continue to recruit EU nationals. The most common reason given by employers for employing EU workers is that they do not consider nationality when hiring, but simply choose the best person for the job. For semi-skilled or unskilled roles, the main reason given was that employers could not find domestic applicants to fill those vacancies.

Ahead of the introduction of new migration restrictions in 2021, employers will need to ensure they have made the necessary preparations to ensure they continue to have access to the skills their business needs.

Citing the Martin Lewis website *Moneysavingexpert*, Newman went on to debunk some common myths around Brexit's impact upon our housing market, as well as discussing one of the most critical things to our survival: mobile phones. What is the future of data roaming? What impact will 5G have?

After discussing the economic impact, Newman went on to analyse the three potential trade deal options that face Britain.

On 1 January 2021, post-transition Britain and the EU could have one of three relationships. Firstly, a trade deal between the UK and EU upon leaving: the UK remains extremely optimistic that this deal can be reached – with Number 10 assuring us that it will be ready by the end of the year. However, head of the EU Commission Ursula Von de Leyen is less hopeful, warning that the time given to the EU and Britain is simply not enough to negotiate an appropriate deal.

The second option is one which strikes fear into the heart of anybody who has read the news over the last year: 'no deal!'. If a deal is not reached by 31 December then it is highly likely that Britain would leave with no deal to pursue trading agreements in other countries (EU trading regulations still apply during the transition period). However, if this were the case, until trading deals were established the UK's trading would drop by half and exports of technological parts, raw materials and pharmaceuticals would stockpile. We would abide by WTO trading laws and that would be it.

The final point is that the transition period might be extended beyond the end of this year. However, this seems highly unlikely as our 'divorce bill', so to speak has, already racked up to 49 years' worth of EU membership fees. Furthermore, while we remain in the transition period, we are required to abide by EU laws and agreements, meaning that we are not allowed to put into action trade deals with other nations (although they can be planned, as Trump has famously stated about Britain's alleged trade deal with the USA).

To conclude, Newman stated that he wanted to try and determine if, based off the evidence in front of us today, Brexit could potentially be beneficial for the UK economy, or if our economy will end up sinking faster than the Titanic.

Realistically, it is unlikely that the UK will be able to successfully establish a trade deal with the EU by the end of 2020. Trade deals are monumentally complex. When Greenland, a country with a population smaller than that of Uxbridge and an economy based essentially on a single industry (fishing), withdrew from the EU in 1985, it took three years to negotiate its future relationship with the bloc.

Ceta, the EU-Canada deal, took seven years to negotiate and was about 22 years in the making. But this was a relatively simple trade agreement that does not include the services provisions and deals on non-tariff barriers that a big exporter of professional services such as Britain will almost certainly require. The average length for the negotiations of trade deals is 20 years, so if what Boris promises will come true then we will probably leave with no deal and operate on WTO rules only.

A good economic position is a cushioned period of certainty, where we have nothing to fear and our economy thrives. To quote David Cameron, Brexit is "a step into darkness". However, Brexit provides us with one certainty: a self-certainty, a sense of nationalism, a feeling that we are the captains of our ship and we are the masters of our fate. There is also the 'black swan theory'; sometimes we cannot begin to conceive ideas of what is to come, and we must wait.

We would like to thank Newman for delivering such an insightful and formative lecture and AR for presiding over it.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

Krish Nigam, Q Sun, Moretons, on "Digital Storage"

This week, the Science Society was delighted to have Krish Nigam, *Moretons*, and Q Sun, *Moretons*, give a virtual talk regarding forms of digital storage and the role of magnetism in data storage. The talk was entitled 'From floppy disks to SSDs: Why magnetism is still anathematic to data' and explained the physics behind magnetism, as well as the problems encountered when putting magnetism together with data.

Q began the talk by introducing the two primary forms of storage: magnetic storage and semiconductor storage. Two common examples of magnetic storage would be floppy discs and hard drives, the latter being the one most likely to be used in personal laptops. These technologies were invented by IBM in 1967 and 1956 respectively – and were surprisingly bulky at the time; in order to store a PowerPoint, you would need a dozen floppy discs. Although floppy discs have now long been forgotten, hard disc drives have continued to evolve and become more compact, potentially storing 4 terabytes (or more!) in the palm of your hand. Generally, magnetic storage consists of a layer of magnetic discs, and a read/write recording head extending onto the disc, which is able to magnetise the metal either north or south, representing the 1s and 0s of the data. Additionally, the recording head can determine the magnetism using sensors, effectively reading the data back as 1s and 0s to a machine. As for semiconductor storage, there are solid state drives and RAM. Unlike magnetic storage, these forms of

storage have no moving parts, and therefore cannot be affected by small dust particles and the like, while also having much faster access times in computers.

Moving onto the theoretical side, Nigam followed up by explaining Lenz's Law and Faraday's Law of induction, which states the voltage induced in a wire is directly proportional to the rate of change of magnetic flux. To further explain this, Nigam gave the example of a straight wire with electricity flowing through it, with a magnetic field around the wire, created by the electric current. If we move another loop of wire into this magnetic field, we will observe a current flowing through the loop – according to Faraday's Law. This induction of current or voltage depended on the change of magnetic flux, which is, simply put, magnetic field strength multiplied by the area of the surface. Going back to the original definition of Faraday's Law, we can see that if we change the magnetic flux more, by making the magnetic field stronger, or changing it over a shorter period of time, we can induce higher voltages. From this, it is possible to derive Lenz's Law: whenever magnetic flux changes through a conducting loop of wire, a current is induced in a particular direction to produce a magnetic field that balances the original change in magnetic flux – in other words, it's used to determine which direction the induced current will flow. These laws are very important and prominent in magnetic storage, whose technology is based on the principles of induction. However, this means that external magnetic induction from external sources is also able to interfere with magnetic data storage devices, corrupting the data stored inside – and as such, seemingly harmless magnetic materials could potentially destroy massive amounts of data.

Despite this problem, Q Sun raised the question 'how do we keep data for longer?'. This mainly concerns two factors: space and the materials/energy required. Magnetic forms of data storage gradually degrade over decades and to try and solve this researchers from MIT attempted engraving data onto silicon discs. Although this does not take up much space, there would be the problem of mass producing and creating such discs that would be easily readable and compatible. Magnetism, as we know now, can both create and destroy data – but is there a way to store data more efficiently, whilst avoiding this problem with magnetism? To answer this, Nigam concluded the talk by considering the possibility of using a library of solid-state drives, instead of hard disk drives, since they are minimally affected by induction. However, high storage capacity and low cost are essential to the long-term storage of any data and, currently, using SSDs would not be sustainable for mass data storage would be too costly. Additionally, SSDs have a limited read/write capacity and will wear down after each read/write operation. Consequently, HDDs and magnetic tape are the most efficient ways to store data in bulk, especially with technologies such as Faraday shields, which effectively block magnetic waves, protecting the data.

This talk was extremely interesting and provided the audience with an understanding of how the technologies of data storage, something integral to all computers around the world, worked on a practical and scientific level.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

*Vincent Song, The Head Master's,
"Why Everything Your Physics Beak Taught You is Wrong"*

Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*, gave a talk with the snazzy title 'Why Everything Your Physics Beak Taught You is Wrong'. He started off by stating the flaws of the GCSE Physics syllabus, that many of the materials taught were oversimplified, leading to incomplete knowledge. Song gave the example of distance and time being taught as absolute. However, Einstein showed

in his special theory of relativity, which has been vigorously tested, that they are relative, and based on reference frames. There isn't only a single timeline in the Universe – in fact, there are multiple timelines, correct to the observer. Even the concept of simultaneity is at stake here. Suppose a rabbit emits light in the middle of a train. According to classical physics, it should reach both ends of the train at the same time, in other words simultaneously. However, a rabbit on the platform will see a different order. Song stated that neither of their observations were wrong; the same event can be simultaneous and asynchronous to different observers.

Song then moved on to the nature of particles. Although we are taught that electrons move in orbits around the nucleus, he said this simply wasn't true. In reality, electrons are probably clouds around the nucleus. On a similar note, Song claimed we often associate particles as the most fundamental building blocks of everything. As you might expect, this was another misconception. The most fundamental things are actually fields. Quantum field theory theorises that these fields penetrate everywhere.

A vacuum is generally thought to be an area with nothing in it – no matter, no energy, no particles etc. The general pattern of the talk, that apparently everything we have learned in Physics is wrong, prevails again, as empty space is theoretically impossible. The reason for this is Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, which states that it is impossible to know for certain the position, velocity and energy of something. This arises from quantum fluctuations – as a result, the velocity can never be zero. We may think that this quantum phenomenon has almost no effect in reality, but this isn't true; small discrepancies ultimately make themselves seen in the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation, which is the main evidence we have in support of the Big Bang Theory.

Black holes, you would think from the name, are black. Wrong again. Although this hasn't been conclusively proven, black holes should emit Hawking radiation, named after the great physicist Stephen Hawking. This is due to the previously discussed Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. As there are small energy discrepancies, anti-matter particles and normal particles pop in and out of existence at the event horizon. Sometimes, one of the particles falls in, and the other stays outside the event horizon. As the conservation of mass still holds, the black hole has to lose some mass, to compensate for the lost particle.

To conclude, Song gave the audience a few questions to think about. Is time a fundamental property? Is it emerging? Is it continuous? Is it discrete? Lastly, what gives time a direction? Is it the increase of entropy, or something else? All in all, it was a fascinating talk by Song, and many thanks to the Physics beaks who set up the teams live event.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Despite entering lockdown, Harrow's debating team has been hard at work under the careful guidance of SMK and Mr Dolan. Their efforts have resulted in weekly internal debates throughout the term on a diverse and thought-provoking range of issues, from topical issues such as arming the police to philosophical debates over whether targeting religious sites is correct. These training sessions culminated in the highlight of the term for anyone who was thatching as future Mace team, composed of Aakash Agarwal, *Lyon's*, Edward Blunt, *Elmfield*, William Wauchope, *The Knoll*, and Dylan Winward, *Lyon's*, took to the virtual podium against and international Rwandan team. Alongside Mr Dolan on the adjudicatory committee were Alexander Newman, *Druries*, and Indi Abrams, *The Grove*, armed with pen, paper, and a readiness for one of the best debates of the year.

The topic was one which merged both the philosophical and the political, 'THW create a marketplace for the buying and selling of citizenship between private individuals.' Harrow proposing the motion, opened with Blunt as its first speaker. His calm, collected presence, allowed for a careful cross analysis of his arguments, that it was freeing to allow people to choose their citizenship, that it was a commercial right just as much as a house and could be treated as such. As the Rwandan team took the floor in rebuttal, offering impassioned arguments which left the Harrow team thinking on their feet. Aggarwal responded with a strong line of rhetoric, addressing the opposition's points whilst elaborating on his prior colleague's ideas.

The standout points made by opposition were surrounding the security side of the motion. Should paedophiles and bank robbers be allowed to move freely between countries just because they can afford to. How do we prevent them from doing the same thing again? Despite struggling with wifi, the Rwandan speakers made excellent points. responding by making the case for freedom, with Wauchope citing John Locke in an impassioned speech about how citizenship should be an inalienable right. That is, until they have committed a crime and then they should lose their rights.

The third speaker for the opposition introduced the idea of how national self-esteem could be affected by selling identity. To put a physical value on one's life is a truly awful thing, that is what that motion introduced.

As fourth prop, Winward lead a vigorous assault upon the opposition with his usual cantankerous rebuttal, as well as summarising the debate. 'We can change lives by pulling people out of social inequality by allowing citizenship to become a commodity' he stated in a burst of passion. The fourth speaker for the opposition took the opposite opinion stating that 'trading citizenship deepens social inequality'. This clash of values and ideals is what made this debate so excellent.

Despite an exhilarating debate, there can only be one winner. Although the decision was a hard one due to the high standard of the debate, it was unanimously agreed that Harrow took the victory. Despite strong use of rhetoric from both sides, it was felt that Harrow had more of a structured approach to the debate – something both sides need to improve going forward.

Overall, it was a very strong performance from the Harrow side, and this team has much more to bring to the table as they move into the Sixth Form.

OPINION

WHY ARE WE RACIST AND HOW CAN WE SOLVE IT?

2020 has been the year of a societal revolution. In the midst of a pandemic, the people of the world have had their eyes opened to the systemic racism which the BAME community around the world faces. Whether it be in schools, the workplace, or even at activities or clubs, racism is everywhere. We read in the news about horrific incidents that have taken place around the world. The deaths which have acted as catalysts for the resurgence of this movement. Police brutality, derogatory terms, micro-aggression: racism is all around us. As a biracial, brown-skinned student, I am subject to racist remarks. Most of these are not with malicious intention, comments such as 'where are you really from?' and 'with a tan like that you can't be fully British'.

Many dismiss these comments as the comments of the few, a vocal minority. I disagree. Racism should not be a part of young people's lifestyles and yet it is. This is who we are. Our society is built on the idea of racism.

This is not an idea instilled in people from birth, but an instinctive formation of bias at a young age. A good example is when a child arrives at school. They are immediately trying to figure out who is cool, who is popular, who isn't, who will help them climb the social ladder. Generally, people instinctively look for a group who will keep them safe. This stems from our primal desire to be the alpha in any given society or, if not, to be favoured by the leader. There are, of course, a multitude of skin tones, races, religions and other protected characteristics – so why are we racist? We create social constructs where we favour a white, heterosexual, cis male because that is what society has drawn as the perfect human over the last 2,000 years. We have deemed this particular set of characteristics preferred. In my opinion, the main cause for this problem stems from the media. Scrolling through my Netflix account, a majority of the shows I found with black leads focused directly around their characters' blackness. Shows such as 'Dear White People' or 'Black AF', though raising awareness of the struggles of POCs in a dominantly white community, also reinforce the idea that the BAME community is defined by the fact that they are in the BAME community.

Furthermore, the likes of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor have reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement. Whilst this has once again brought much support to the fight against racism, actions taken to riot and tear down statues only further upset those opposing the movement and urge on the actions of the far right. (I also feel it is important to note that many supporters of the movement have withdrawn support in response to violent actions.)

Racism is formed and reinforced by the culture surrounding us today; a culture which celebrates the work of slave owners and racists. How do we change this? It's about changing what is acceptable in society. Eradication of terms such as the N word do much for societal change. We have to change what is appropriate and acceptable in society.

People often complain about 'politically correct' culture, and while this should not hinder freedom of speech, it adds a filter to people's external reactions meaning that their comments are less likely to effect someone else's internal bias.

In the long term, we as a society need to invest in grants to help less socio-economically developed communities get the same opportunities as more economically developed parts of the UK. 14% of the UK population are non-white; of those, 49% are living in poverty, as opposed to 20% of the white population. The benefits of investing in less-well-off communities are obvious. It gives more opportunities to disadvantaged yet talented children from around the world to rise up and make a successful career, by improving diversity at the top we improve the whole system.

Finally, we must not let the minority define the BLM protests. Like many things, they stemmed from a good cause – a genuine desire to move mountains and make change. They are now being used as an excuse for unnecessary, irrelevant violence and destruction. Despite this, we must look at the majority of protesters; the ones who are still social distancing in marches, the ones with masks.

To conclude, change needs to start from both ends if we ever truly want to combat racism in society. We need politicians and leaders to lead the way for socio-economic change, to open doors which have been previously closed. And we need everyday people like you and me to reflect: reflect upon how we speak, how we act, who we choose to be as humans. I want to conclude with a quote from Martin Luther King.

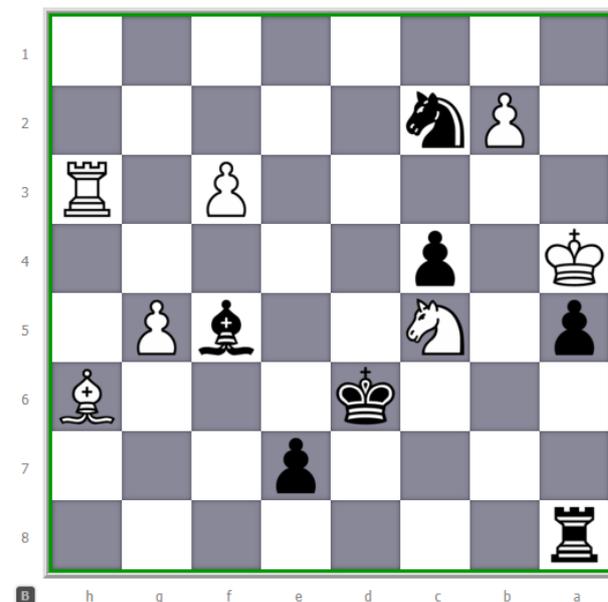
'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.'

These are troublesome times but we, as the new generation, must decide which side of history we want to be on. Let's choose the right side – the side of all people.

CHESSE 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 2 moves.



Last puzzle's answer: 1. ... Qxh2+ 2. Rxh2 Nf2#

SUDOKU

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