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GOOSE MATCH

1st XI v Wanderers, 13 September, Sixth Form Ground

On a glorious day at the Sixth Form Ground, the 1st XI welcomed the Harrow Wanderers back to the Hill for the traditional Goose Match fixture. It was pleasing for everyone involved that the scheduled match was allowed to go ahead, even if there were slight alterations to usual proceedings, and seeing cricket back at Harrow was a pleasure for all.



Captain of the Wanderers, Mumtaz Habib, won the toss and elected to bowl first in the 45-over match. The OHs got off to the best of starts when Christian Boland dismissed Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, with a snorter of a delivery that nipped back through the gate and onto middle stump. With the opening partnership ended early Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, walked out to the middle and immediately began to rotate the strike with Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*. Both batted positively, showing an array of aggressive but well-thought-out stroke play, building a 72-run partnership in quick time. Some fantastic driving through the covers from both Connell and Sheopuri began to put the pressure back on the Wanderers and, with Harrow's total accumulating, captain Habib introduced himself and Jafer Chohan into the attack. The situation quickly changed. Habib struck first, trapping Sheopuri in front for 35 from 37 balls in the 17th over, leaving the 1st XI 87-2. Chohan and Habib bowled tightly in partnership, with the former delivering again two overs later with Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, falling lbw for a duck, leaving Harrow 89-3. Chohan had Connell out the following over for a well-played 43 off 69 balls, but Harrow were now faltering at 89-4.

Things went from bad to worse for the 1st XI as Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, was run out by Habib for a duck and Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, who started positively with a flamboyant shot over mid-off, was unlucky to be brilliantly caught and bowled by Robert Nelson the following ball. With four wickets falling for just 13 runs and the score 100-6 at the halfway point of Harrow's innings, a steady and slow scoring partnership between John Richardson, *Elmfield*, and Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, prevented the falling of any more 1st XI wickets. Despite runs drying up, both batted for over an hour to steady the ship and when Ashworth cut Maxim Ayliffe for four 4s in the 37th over,

the 1st XI's innings got going again. After some good rotation of strike from the pair, Richardson was caught by a superb catch at slip from Habib, the score now 147/7 after 41.3 overs. Handy runs at the end left Harrow on 161/9 from their 45 overs after Habib and Rahul Wijeratne bowled tightly to close out the Harrow innings. Ashworth finished with a vital 38*. Top performers with the ball for the Wanderers were Mumtaz Habib, 8.0 overs, 24 for 3 and Robert Nelson with an economical 5.0 overs, 4 maidens, 5 for 1. Harrow entered the field knowing that 161 was a very defendable total given some early wickets and these came immediately from both Henry Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, who had Shailen Assani caught at mid-wicket from a short ball, and Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, who cleaned up Spencer Crawley for a three-ball duck. The Wanderers found themselves 2-2 after just 1.3 overs. Ferneyhough then had Alex Spencer caught at second slip after a quick reaction from Patel who parried the ball up to Connell, leaving the Wanderers at 20-3 and the 1st XI with their tails up. However, despite some tantalising deliveries from Ferneyhough, a fourth wicket with the new ball never came as Rahul and Rishi Wijeratne set about reducing the required run rate, with both dismissing the bad ball mercilessly and batting aggressively. A series of sumptuous cover drives from Rishi later and the pair had put on 72 from just 11 overs. Shrey Rawal, *Rendalls*, and Connell were introduced into the attack in a change that brought the wicket of Rahul, as he pulled a short Connell delivery hard to Ellis, who took a sharp catch at mid-wicket. Rishi kept motoring on though, and, despite some tantalising bowling from both Ashworth and James Nelson, *Bradlys*, he quickly brought up the Wanderers' 100 and his own 50. With the required run rate dropping well below 3, new batsman Charlie Witter rotated the strike well, allowing Rishi to continue dismissing anything slightly loose from 1st XI bowlers.



When Rishi was eventually dismissed by a top edge off Richardson for an exquisite 79 off 86 balls, the Wanderers only needed 12 runs from the remaining 14 overs of their innings. Ferneyhough bowled Witter with a yorker an over later, but it was too little too late from the 1st XI. The Wanderers won the game by five wickets with Dhiren Da Silva and Chohan the unbeaten batsmen at the close. Ferneyhough was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 7 overs 26 for 3.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE

CMC, "From Tesla to TikTok", 14 September

The Cross-curricular Lecture Series is always a definite highlight in the first term at Harrow. It is a series of around ten lectures presented by boys and beaks on a spectrum of topics all connected by one idea – communication. This year's first lecture, delivered by CMC, was entitled 'From Tesla to TikTok'. The lecture focused on how technology had allowed our communication with the world to develop and where it is heading next.

The air was heavy with a keen sense of anticipation as one by one students bustled in the room armed to the teeth with the notebooks, pens and Surface Books in a manner reminiscent of a pre-Covid time. To their excitement, greeting them was a video of the rising value of companies, displaying how, over time, online and tech companies had risen to the top in nearly unfathomable figures. While everyone was cheering for their favourite company, CMC took the podium.

He began by discussing Nikola Tesla and his startlingly accurate sets of predictions from the idea of a wireless communication device that uses radio waves, which would be so small we could fit in our pocket, to technology in our body and self-driving automobiles. Of course, CMC pointed out, Tesla was not always right. He predicted the fall of the male sex and the dominance of the female one, and, interestingly, that eventually anything a human could do a robot could do more efficiently. While this prediction is yet to be realised, we are seeing a vast rise in computers replacing humans for certain functions.

To understand how we could get to the point of robotic dominance, we must first understand the story of the rise of the internet. In 1957, ARPANET created a central hub to store data and the Rand corporation created redundant networking. This system is still used today. CMC then explained the concept of NPL, a system that allowed lots of people to use the same network through the use of packet switching. However, WIFI networks used to only be based in one country. The UK had a different one from the US, Europe and Canada. Cyclades communication solved this problem, with the introduction of the modern form of WIFI, which meant that from the WIFI one could surf the web, watch films, or look at lol cats.

As computing power increased, a man named Gordon Moor produced a graph predicting how computers would increase in speed as they evolve. For a couple of decades this graph, entitled Moor's law, was almost entirely accurate, up until roughly 2019 where we saw that computer power is no longer increases so much each year as it once did. Is this a sign that the end is in sight for Moor's law? CMC does not think so – stating that human intellect will always find a way to achieve a more powerful computing system.

CMC then moved on to discuss what he described as the "single most important discovery in the history of mankind": AI.

The quest for true AI, he argued, is important not just for societal benefit but also so that we acquire an understanding of what true intelligence is. If a computer is chemically identical to the human brain is it intelligent? In an audience poll on whether this was true intelligence or merely a simulation, an audience was split in a 30/70 fashion.

In May 2017, 352 experts concluded in a survey that within our lifetime AI will play a prominent role in human lifestyle. Already it helps with manufacturing and driving, and programmes computer far more efficiently than any human ever could. The perfect example of this is a song made by a TikTok AI. Based on data about the type of music people would dance to, it generated its own song. Indeed, when CMC started playing this song everyone in the room began to tap their feet to the beat. AI is fundamentally based on trends in behaviour. CMC displayed this when he showed a simple way to make a very basic AI with only nine lines of code. Before he concluded, CMC stated that the last thing mankind ever need invent is AI,

as AI will invent all new things moving forward. The perfect example is AlphaGo Zero, which detected new strategies for Go and was able to beat top players with entirely new forms of gameplay which are now used all over the world.

CMC ended the lecture by telling us that we would see AI within our lifetime and, when we do, we must hold its hand and point it in the right direction to help it evolve and make everyone's life better.

GLOBAL DIGITAL YOUNG LEADERS CONVENTION

Hwa Chong Institution, 18-21 July

Exactly a fortnight after the end of term, six delegates from Harrow School were joined by delegates from 16 other schools around the world for the inaugural Hwa Chong Global Digital Young Leaders Convention. This entirely virtual event is the successor of the much older Asia-Pacific Young Leaders Summit, which Harrow has attended in the past. The convention's theme was 'Concord: Standing in Solidarity, Chartering a New Era' and its purpose was to investigate the world, discern perspectives, take action and communicate ideas. It served as a fantastic platform for delegates around the world to meet, make friendships and share our connections while also discovering what makes us unique.

Preparation began weeks before the convention itself. Delegates were required to complete various tasks which took the form of an executive summary and character task cards. The purpose of this was to familiarise us with the workings of the convention. The convention took the form of an alternate reality set in the future, where things work a little differently while still bearing a vague semblance to the real world. The challenge for delegates was to channel our creative thinking and problem-solving skills as we manoeuvred through the crisis of the century, a pandemic. Responding effectively to the crises earned nations GD credits, injecting a competitive element into the event.

The first day of the conference afforded delegates and gamemasters the opportunity to know one another better as they engaged in novel icebreakers across the screen. As HC-GDYLC took off, delegates from all around the world could tune in to insightful speeches given by professionals from different fields and learned much about how COVID-19 was affecting various sectors of society. The day ended with cultural presentations, where we got to open our eyes to diverse foreign cultures and got a glimpse into how our overseas counterparts live, work and play. It was a blast watching handcrafted videos and live demonstrations!

The second day saw one case study after another being churned out by the gamemasters. Delegates put their skills to the test as they worked together in their respective countries to solve the various crises. This day also saw the introduction of regionals, whereby delegates entered a new reality where they had to solve diplomatic tensions with neighbouring countries as well as strike trade deals to better the circumstances at home. Delegates and gamemasters had a whale of a time working together to defuse the line-up of crises, and it was a truly exhilarating experience, to say the least.

The crisis persisted on day three. Delegates were faced with even more complex challenges and unexpected roadblocks. From piracy in the East to strained economic diplomacy in the West, delegates discussed extensively on key issues as they sought to keep healthy levels of indicators during the convention. This day saw the international mode take centre stage. During the international mode, delegates from all ten countries convened to discuss international crises as well as improve situations at home through diplomacy and co-operation. The international

conflict intensified too, as countries took sides and forged alliances to rise against other powers. Delegates engaged in fruitful discussions as they hustled to establish trade partnerships and innovative deals with one another.

As day 4 came, the end was in sight. A vaccine emerged, but things were far from concluding. From medical ethics to income inequality, delegates engaged in heated debates on key moral issues as they contemplated ways to distribute and use the vaccines back at home. Storyboard drew to a close, bearing a whole new perspective towards global issues.

At the closing ceremony, the Republic of Yeru, of which Arvind Asokan, *Bradby's*, was a part of, won the Outstanding GD Country award. This was followed by a debrief with the gamemasters, where we all collectively reflected upon our journey together over the previous four days and the things we had learnt throughout the convention. This was followed by emotional goodbyes. Over the course of this short period, delegates from around the world had formed strong bonds. In a short time, delegates had become so close that they considered each other true friends. In my opinion, being able to meet people from across the world and being able to hear their unique perspectives on things was the highlight of the convention.

We are all grateful to HRF for her guidance of the Harrow delegation to the HC-GDYLC. From initially highlighting this opportunity to us to painstakingly making sure that we were all best prepared for what lay ahead, our whole experience of the convention would have been profoundly different without her.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

Mr Joshua Rasera, PhD student at Imperial College London, "An introduction to Lunar Mining"

Mr Joshua Rasera, a PhD student at Imperial College London, kindly gave this year's inaugural lecture to the Science Society, titled 'An introduction to Lunar Mining'. The talk is the first of an exciting four-part series from Professor Jan Cilliers' team at Imperial on space resource utilisation and mining on the moon.

Mr Rasera first visualised the varied mineral deposits of the moon through a white-light-stripped photograph. He emphasised the spots of concentrated blue, which indicate areas dense with ilmenite, a valuable titanium-iron oxide. He then walked us through what space resources are and their importance. Although the technology to retrieve gold asteroids is still far in the future, the abundance of rare metals is a promising aspect. The resources on Earth are finite, whereas space is infinite, and so are the materials within our universe.

The main objective is to mine oxygen on the Moon. The moon is rich with vast and varied resources, such as iron, silicon, radioactive materials, hydrogen and sodium. Furthermore, there are approximately 3–6 billion tons of water within the moon. Water is the first extraterrestrial produce holding financial value; the United Launch Alliance (ULA) has offered \$3,500/kg for water in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and \$500/kg on the moon.

The lecturer then introduced different methods of approaching space resources. Old Space, or the institutional approach, encompassed government-funded organisations such as NASA and ESA. He argued that this provided prestige and power in a time of uncertainty, especially during the Cold War. Old Space sent out a big political message; at the Apollo programme's apex, the US invested 4.5% of its GDP in NASA, providing a massive boom to the economy as well as a boost in morale for US population. Moreover, Old Space was interested in using SRU to facilitate exploration, science and technology while lowering costs. Since leaving Earth's gravity well and atmosphere is highly inefficient, using the Moon as a launching point would significantly decrease the cost of further space exploration.

On the other hand, New Space approaches space resources commercially. From 2015, private company investments increased

from almost nothing to \$1.8 billion, and the trend has continued ever since, with the global space industry's predicted growth standing between \$1.1 and \$2.7 trillion. With the introduction of New Space into the modern space race, the competition between companies is expected to increase significantly, further pushing the growth of the space industry.

Mr Rasera then introduced space resource utilisation (SRU), a broad term encompassing exploration and sampling to mining and eventual refinement. The long-term objectives from SRU on the Moon include construction and manufacturing, acquiring lander/ascent propulsion, power generation with H₂O₂ fuel cells, and successful production of oxygen and hydrogen from water. He then produced a flowsheet to demonstrate how the SRU works. First, the material is excavated, hauled back and characterised. The objective material (e.g. ilmenite) is sorted whilst others are dumped. To increase efficiency, scientists will set out areas of high ilmenite concentration. The material is then beneficiated (e.g. ground and thus reduced in size for a larger surface area) to be extracted.

The most common way to extract oxygen from regolith (lunar soil) is molten regolith electrolysis. An electric current is passed through molten lunar soil, bubbling oxygen near the anodes. Carbothermal and hydrogen reactions (passing these gases through hot regolith) acquires water via a similar process. In theory, these processes are straightforward but the Moon's challenging environments make everything more problematic. To understand the difficulties, he explained regolith (lunar soil): regolith is highly cohesive, electrostatically charged, abrasive, and a dense substance. Therefore, they easily penetrate and stick in fibres and into electronics.

Mr Rasera further outlined the challenges of lunar mining. The Moon has virtually no atmosphere, exposing the surface to the vacuum of space, with the surface reaching 400K during the day, 100K at lunar night. Electronics suffer heavily from extreme temperatures, and the swing is the greatest challenge faced by engineers and researchers. A typical lunar day/night lasts 13.5 days, increasing the duration of exposure to the extremes.

The Outer Space Treaty signed in the 1960s outlines that no nation or individual can lay claim to the Moon or any other celestial body. However, the treaty is ambiguous on the appropriation of space resources. In place, people apply the Law of the Sea as a legal analogy to SRU, allowing for global scale SRU.

Luxembourg legalised this in 2017. The law allows one to mine under the Luxembourgish flag and sell space resources. Many other countries, such as the UAE and China are following suit. The finite resources on Earth and the current negative view on mining companies are pushing many to gain interest in SRU. Mining on the Moon will have a significant benefit on the global space economy as well as move destructive mining from Earth to other celestial bodies.

This was a talk that aimed for the stars and, even with failure, hit the Moon. In a few decades' time, maybe we'll be buying jewellery made from lunar materials and batteries from the red planet. Until then, we'll have to stick with plain old gold and lithium.

OPINION

WHY ARE CULTS SO PREVALENT IN SOUTH KOREA?

Sarang Jeil, Shincheonji, Unification Church. Names you might have heard of, most likely not. In 2020, Covid-19 in South Korea has exposed these fringe church groups ever more than before. In February, cases rose exponentially to become the largest

epicentre outside mainland China. Members of the Shincheonji Jesus Church gathered in Daegu City to commemorate the group's founder, organised by his brother Lee Man Hee. Only did months of fortitude, resilience and aggressive contact tracing quell the numbers. However, after five months, the Republic teetered on the edge when a massive ultra-right-wing rally set up by Pastor Jun Kwang Hun of the Sarang Jeil Church refused to disperse from Gwanghamun Square (a massive road leading to Gyeongbukgung Palace). The demonstration, mostly filled up by men and women in their 60s and 70s, criticised Moon's liberal left-wing government for their failed housing plan, their oppression of religious leaders, and their softness towards the communist North.

Most Koreans understand and feel the widespread prevalence of fringe Christian groups dominating the outskirts of Korean society. My mother was a semi-devout Calvinist (she does not go to church now), while Dad, well, was from a Protestant family but never cared and hated Sundays. As educated, upper-middle-class people, they do not feel like outcasts from society, nor shun the Confucian remnants of the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897), often intertwined in the city office culture. However, increasing numbers of young and old are joining these ambiguous, sometimes dangerous, cults.

Fringe groups developed from the late 19th-century and early 20th-century Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries from America. Christianity hit a peak during the colonial period (Japanese occupation from 1910-45) and the Korean War (1950-53). The learnings mingled with Confucian teaching and Korean Shamanism to become one massive, unorthodox, weird, capitalised religion. Even today, Shamanism plays a vital role in South Korea. The people's underlying fear of unseen powers such as ghosts and demons runs deep and they rely on shamans to choose a building site or expel evil. There are many anecdotes about those who suffered from spirits and were saved by exorcism. The reader perhaps can imagine how this might mix with modified American Christianity.

Many "cults" have a deep root in the government, international organisations, even the Republican Party. The founder's economic power and use of the church as a business empire have allowed members to work inside the church's grasp without the need to seek jobs outside its bubble. The Unification Church, founded in Seoul in 1954, has worldwide headquarters, owns the New Yorker Hotel, has established multiple higher-education facilities with eventual enrolment in the Ivy League, founded the Washington Times, owns a Brazilian soccer team, and much more. Collectively called the Moonies, the founder of the Unification Church, Reverend Sun Myung Moon, is quite fond of mass marriage (e.g. Moonies' mass marriage at Madison Square) and proclaimed himself to be the Messiah. Interestingly, cults became known in the US due to Moon's controversial claims and the number of followers during the 20th century.

The North Koreans captured the Reverend Moon three years before the Korean War, imprisoning him in a harsh labour camp. His hatred for the communists reflects the church's anti-communist sentiments and activities. Similarly, other major fringe groups such as Sarang Jeil are ultra-right-wing and condemn any sympathy towards the North. Hence the demonstrations in August against President Moon and his "communist" heavy taxation of the middle and upper class (I semi-agree that his housing plan failed horribly and has led to the recent stagnation of the economy), leading to Korea's second wave.

Due to the cults' heavy involvement with politics and major companies such as big pharma, fringe groups have multiple "educational" centres where pastors reel in students from schools and work-laden office workers from orthodox churches. JMS (another cult) strategically built community centres around girls' high schools and offered free dance and guitar lessons. Later, when the utopian community entrapped victims, the lead pastor, hiding in Hong Kong, would ask for sexual engagement and nude photos because "God said so". He was eventually captured

by Chinese officials and sentenced to ten years imprisonment in South Korea.

So why are cults so prevalent in the Republic? Not only is the economic power of churches overwhelmingly great (the Yoido Full Gospel Church is one of the largest pentecostal churches in the world), the government's reluctance to deal with them and societies' general neglect of "failed" people has led to outcasts seeking community and support with the wrong people. As a self-proclaimed democratic free nation, multiple governments in turn have ignored the potential backlash from a full crackdown against pseudo-religious groups. Critics have complained the inactivity is ruining the lives of millions addicted to harmful practices within the religion. The Grace Road Church, founded by Shin Ok Ju, enslaved over 400 people on a Fijian island and ritualised violent physical beatings. One American teenager kidnapped by her mother and brought to the island eventually escaped by running from the church and reaching a local convenience store. Furthermore, escapees have made allegations against the Fijian government for potential involvement, which shows how deeply rooted the Korean fringe problem is.

South Korea is the longest-working developed nation, topping the OECD and ranking at 2,096 hours per year. Parents coerce children to work in major companies and office blocks for fair pay. Although recent years have seen improvement in the office working climate, toxic seniority remains and dominates most companies. Young and new members work as slaves and must attend long-lasting drinking parties, otherwise, they lose a promotion prospect. For women, many are sexually harassed and put up with it because any resistance will result in the loss of their job. Students attend schools and hagwons (cram education) from grade school onwards, sleeping on average 3-4 hours a night. A failed standard university exam (suneung) means a failed life; many Koreans without higher-education degrees are shunned as failures and often seen as lower-class labouring citizens. In such an inhospitable, competitive reality, many break and flee to seek a community who will embrace them. While others view escapees as weaklings of society (an educational Hunger Games), cults see them as potential members. Therefore, cults are an attractive option for those who want to escape the horrible reality and find acceptance.

There is nothing wrong with seeking comfort from an over-competitive society. However, the way fringe-groups and their leaders use the vulnerable for their pleasure and power are wrong. These churches continue to grow and, even after the Covid-19 scandal, the government has not cracked down on leading members. The prevalence of cults demonstrate the faults of Korean culture, how people are downtrodden and punished for lack of success, but before we endeavour to "fix" it, Moon's government should abandon their failing attempts to socialise the economy and seek to help those in despair.

REAL WORLD

The stated aim of my old school is to make pupils 'real world-ready'. This is a project conceived as one of boundless ambition in a time before the almost inconceivable consequences of Covid-19 could be imagined. The world is now almost immeasurably different and 'real world' has taken on an entirely new complexion and meaning. What the Covid-19 virus has done is to throw into stark relief the weakness and vulnerability of the West and its woeful lack of preparedness in the face of both disease and the manifest power of China to make the weather.

China looms large in the lives of younger people everywhere. What Napoleon foretold – 'When China awakens, the world will tremble' – has come to pass. The speed of its rise over

the last 30 years has been astounding. The transformation achieved by the UK through its Industrial Revolution has been accomplished by China in under half the time. Its per capita income has increased 30 times since 1990 (by comparison, that of the US has increased only 2.5 times). 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty. This is a country like no other. Unlike modern nation-states, it is an ancient empire currently striving to join a deep-rooted past to a new global order, to re-connect with its true place in the world. Its people long to be understood, for their achievements to be acknowledged and respected. They are enormously energetic, active and entrepreneurial. Yet they have been hampered by a century or more of turmoil and foreign encroachment, a bitter price to pay for their transition to modernity.

Now, with the revival of their innate capacity for invention and innovation, the Chinese people seek to go global as the leading manufacturers and main suppliers by mid-century of railways, computer chips, jet planes, electric cars and satellites. Their missions to Mars are underway and their extension of trade routes across the Eurasian landmass and by sea through new infrastructure and electronic connectivity makes them a prime locomotive mover of the world economy. They have also become a champion of development in the global South in Africa and Latin America.

What this means is that the younger generation need to acquire a degree of 'China literacy' to enable them to engage more effectively with China's culture and to negotiate with the Chinese on the basis of Western principles and Eastern practicality and pragmatism. This does not necessarily mean becoming fluent in Chinese (although this is clearly an advantage), but it does mean achieving a level of cross-cultural understanding (the Chinese know much more about the West than we do of them) based on extensive networking, organisational initiative, interpersonal skills, critical/adaptive thinking, emotional intelligence, collaborative capacity and a high level of computer literacy. In this way, 'domain' knowledge and know-how in areas like science, engineering, software, education, the environment, the arts and sport may be transferred to mutual advantage, while much of the traditional areas of law, medicine and finance is likely to enter the realm of artificial intelligence.

This engagement is imperative for the UK (not at the expense of our US and European allies) to secure a stable future and to address intractable common problems like global warming, clean energy, food security, nuclear proliferation, healthcare and space exploration. Our object must be to achieve social cohesion based on collective purposes via diplomacy and the negotiation of a free trade agreement and a dependable economic partnership.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIRs,

"The world is a village", they say in German. A couple of weeks ago I had a wine in Auckland with a friend of mine from Harvard. His son has been one of your students at the School. A keen one too, I gather. Here, the Ministry of Education is seeking to remove Latin from the secondary curriculum. Some of us are fighting vigorously. Last evening I gave a talk about Mr Churchill's knowledge of Greek. The topic itself would be short, but I rounded it out by citing to FM Wavell's experience at Westminster.

I attach a copy below, in the aspiration that you might like to publish it also.

Kind regards
MR THWAITE, AUCKLAND

CHURCHILL CLUB DINNER

Held at Auckland, New Zealand

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S KNOWLEDGE OF GREEK

Mr Gregory Thwaite

A writer in an earlier era described a contemporary as having "small Latin and less Greek." He could have been speaking of Winston Churchill. He never shined in either language. Yet Mr Churchill went on to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. As to the contemporary – well, he ended up as William Shakespeare.

Still, in the last quarter of the 19th century Greek was an integral part of education for the upper classes at a public school (known in the Southern Hemisphere as a *private school*). One such student was Anthony Eden, later an ally of Mr Churchill across three decades. His father had consciously exposed him to French and German. Young Anthony had to put them aside when he entered Eton, so as to study Latin and Greek.

The focus of study was the antique form of Greek. The history of its ebb and flow can be charted in four overlapping phases.

In the first phase, from about 1,500 BC, Greek was spoken in the area at the top of the Aegean Sea, around the current border between Greece and Turkey. Over the period, it spread down both sides of the Aegean Sea, and onto the islands as far as Crete and Cyprus.

In the second phase, colonisation, adventure, and trade took Greeks into the western Mediterranean. Marseille in France was founded as a colony. The site of its Greek *αγορά* – public square & marketplace – occupies an envelope of flat land a little up from the waterfront, which is now occupied by a French *place*.

The cities in the south of Italy were Greek. In 62 BC, the Roman orator Cicero defended a poet called Archias, whose citizenship of a Greek town in Lucania was under challenge. The dialect of the 'Ndrangheta Mafia in Calabria retains a Greek vocabulary. The Mafia's name derives from the Greek word for heroism - *ἀνδραγαθία* (andragathia).

Much of Sicily was also Greek. Archimedes, the man who exclaimed Eureka and clambered out of his bath, lived in Syracuse, on the eastern shore.

In the third phase, in the fourth century AD, as the Roman Empire started to split into the Latin-speaking west and the Greek-speaking east, Greek began to shrink as a language in Italy. The eruption of Islam in the 630s along the southern shore of the Mediterranean and into Mesopotamia led to Arabic supplanting Greek as the government language. The Fall of Constantinople on Tuesday, 29 May 1453 replaced a Greek-speaking monarchy with a Turkish-speaking one. In the Islamic world, Greek became the language of the priest at the liturgy, of the merchant among his wares, and of the peasant at the plough or the scythe.

In the fourth phase, from the 13th century, Ancient Greek became better known in the Latin West. In Spain, the Muslim civilisation honoured some of the Greek writers – philosophers and mathematicians. A number of their works were translated at Cordoba into Latin or other Western languages, and then circulated. Meanwhile, scholars from Constantinople began to emigrate west. They brought a knowledge of the Greek classics – including the dramatists, poets, or orators. A study of Greek began to complement that of Latin.

Further impetus to Ancient Greek was the 18th century Grand Tour around the Mediterranean, undertaken by gilded youth. They marvelled at the architectural ruins, in the town of Athens and elsewhere. The Greek struggle for Independence from the Ottoman Empire aroused enthusiasm in the early 19th century, reaching a high point in the 1823 death of the poet Lord Byron in Greece.

So, Ancient Greek was at the heart of the curriculum. Three forms from different periods were of interest.

The initial one was the Greek spoken in Attica; that is, the area around Athens. It produced some of the great writers in the 5th

and 4th centuries BC, such as the historian Thucydides and the orator Demosthenes.

Retroactively, the Attic dialect became fixed as the unofficial official language of Ancient Greece. Some writers, such as the historian Herodotos and the doctor Hippocrates, lived in Ionia (in modern Turkey) and spoke a similar dialect.

When familiarity with the Attic dialect was established, a student could study backward, into the epic poems of Homer from about 800 BC. The language of Homer has some grammatical differences from Attic Greek, and a vocabulary specialised in ancient warfare. A link with Homeric Greek is the Pontic dialect of Greek in the Black Sea area of southern Russia. After millennia outside mainland Greece, Pontic communities abandoned the collapsing Soviet Union, and were resettled in northern Greece.

Or the student could study forward, into the New Testament. The oldest manuscripts are in a Greek known as κοινή (*koine*)—"common." The Jewish canon had already been translated from Hebrew into Greek, in Alexandria, Egypt. This simplified Greek was a common language for Greeks and non-Greeks in the eastern Mediterranean, after Alexander the Great's expansion.

Whether Attic or Homeric, Greek is hard. It has three genders for nouns, with different endings – usually *os* for masculine, *a* or *e* for feminine, and *on* for neuter.

There are three moods of the verb: active, subjunctive, and optative. Some verbs have three forms: active, passive, and middle. It is said that only one completely regular verb exists in Greek – the verb λυεῖν (*luein*), "to release." Every other verb has some curiosity. As does the character of each highly individualist Greek.

The late Dr Will Richardson was one of a cluster of world-class Classics academics at the University of Auckland in the 1970s. He specialised in grammar, and wrote a short summary of the key points of Greek. "A messy language", he once described it.

Yet possibly the finest grammarian of the era was a Sicilian. For work he drove a taxi. An Italian woman told me that while in a Classics high school in Milan, she had travelled on a class trip to Sicily with the other girls, studying the magnificent Greek architecture. The driver picked their northern accent, and learnt of their interest. He started quizzing them on Latin grammar. Soon he had exhausted their knowledge of the finer points. He then switched to Greek grammar, with the identical result.

They inquired as to his background. "Well", he said "as a young man I was an assassin for the Mafia. I was eventually caught, and sentenced to decades of prison. On day one I realised I needed a long-term intellectual challenge. So I obtained a grammar book for each language."

At the school of the kindly Thomson sisters in Brighton young Winston was engaged in Greek. He acknowledged it as his weak point, and at age 10 was already "rather backward with Greek", what with the attractions of swimming and riding. Still, he studied lists of irregular verbs. Presumably the *seriously* irregular ones. The magisterial biographer Martin Gilbert identifies four different sets. This study formed a masterful discipline in concentration and memory.

Through taking part in a play-reading in English, he explored the *Knights*, by the comic playwright Aristophanes. He acquired a Greek-English Lexicon (or dictionary). He studied in Greek the historian Herodotos. A productive effort: he cited to him in a later book.

His mother engaged the young scholar James Best to prepare him for the Latin exam for Westminster. Mr Best had a particular interest in Greek.

When his father decided on Harrow instead of Westminster, young Winston focused on the Greek verbs. In the entrance exam, he reported that the Greek translation section was very hard. He was disappointed at the absence of a section on Greek grammar, in which he had hoped to score well.

This was the background when young Winston appeared at Harrow. He was assigned to the Third Remove of the Fourth

Form, designated the *Army Class*. The aspirant warriors were exempted from Latin and Greek.

At the end of his Harrow time, at the age of 18 he would have to sit a Latin exam when he applied for Sandhurst. He would engage a tutor to cram for this attempt. Greek was not required.

For a school of perhaps 500 boys, there were 12 Classics Masters. Three were clergymen, and one was a barrister from Tasmania, Australia. The boys were provided with a *florilegium* ("selection of flowers"). This was a collection of the best pickings from major authors.

Often a standard text of an author was a little book with one piece. A number of the editors were a clergyman/scholar. I have a Greek text along this evening. Its first edition appeared in 1888, when young Winston was aged 13.

The pedagogical milieu of that era is best caught in observations of a contemporary of the Prime Minister. Like Mr Churchill, he was an Army officer from a young age, with a Scottish regiment [Black Watch]. While Mr Churchill spoke French, he spoke Russian (and had served alongside both the Czarist Army, and the Stalinist one). Like Mr Churchill, he had a great love of English poetry, and could recite many poems, even publishing a collection of the ones he knew by heart.

However, they were hardly friends. In 1943, as Prime Minister, Mr Churchill posted him out of the Middle East as an unsuccessful commander. A blow that was absorbed with the fortitude of a Stoic philosopher. Nor did Mr Churchill attend his funeral in June 1950. [As our own Sir Bernard Fergusson, another Black Watch Colonel, icily notes in his brief biography].

The contemporary was Archibald Wavell. He remembered Greek at Winchester school as follows:

I read the account of Xenophon and his ten thousand with intense boredom, partly because no one ever attempted to explain to me what Xenophon was doing or the great historical romance that lay behind the bald record of the number of 'parasangs' which marked his daily advance.

The plays of Sophocles also failed to interest me: their characters seemed unreal and the language stilted, and my teachers were apparently more interested in the niceties of grammar than the dramatic or literary qualities of the writer.

The barrenness of the teaching is confirmed by Prof William Goodwin, of Harvard. His classic book *Greek Grammar* was first published in 1879, by the Macmillan Company. Yet again Mr Churchill emerges: this was the family company of his Cabinet colleague Harold Macmillan.

Prof Goodwin observed in 1894:

When it was thought that a pupil must first learn his Latin and Greek Grammars and then learn to read Latin and Greek, it was essential to reduce a school grammar to its least possible dimensions. Now when a more sensible system leaves most of the details of grammar to be learned by the study of special points which arise in reading or writing....

Hence, Field Marshal Wavell, and presumably Mr Churchill, were deprived of full enjoyment of the works of Xenophon. His great fame was the *Anabasis*, in which he recounted the March of The 10,000 to the sea. They were a mercenary army, which campaigned in Persia. With its leaders tricked and murdered, the men elected their own leaders, and a democratic Army marched north to the Black Sea. This march foreshadowed the fighting withdrawals of various British armies, such as one to Dunkirk, and another through Burma.

Xenophon's other great work was a memoir of his friend Socrates, the non-conformist who was the gadfly of Athens. Field Marshal Wavell was himself an unconventional thinker, and sympathetic to others. Likely Mr Churchill would have classed Socrates as another version of the "fakir ... striding half-naked up the steps", as he derided Mahatma Gandhi. Around Mr Churchill, Mr Churchill was the one who asked all the questions.

They also missed out on Sophocles' tragedies. In *Antigone*, Polynices had revolted against his uncle, the King. Polynices was

killed, and as a lesson the King forbade a burial. An unburied corpse was a religious horror for Greeks, as far back as the fourth and fifth lines of Book 1 of the Iliad:

Ἡρώων, αὐτοῦς δὲ ἐλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν
Οἰωνοῖσι τε πάσι.

"The heroes, their bodies made into the prey for dogs and birds."

Antigone - the King's niece - determined to bury the body. Loyalties clash: to one's private life, or to the state. Such a clash was played out in the Abdication Crisis, with King Edward VIII's preference for Mrs Simpson. (She was known tartly as the *American divorcée*. In that era - as perhaps also in modern circumstances - it is unclear whether the noun, or the adjective, more disturbed the noble class.)

His judgment on the classical languages was as follows:

Naturally I am biased in favour of boys learning English. I would make them all learn English: and then I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honour, and Greek as a treat.

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

(in honour of the SCH new cuisine) "The age of chicken is over. The time of the sausage has come."

"Open up your OneNote folders. And remember. Big Daddy is watching you."

"Exams? Yeah I mean if worse comes to worst, I think I'll just go on *Made in Chelsea*."

"Thanks boys, that's Callover finished. Any announcements from boys?" "Up the toffees!"

".. are you eating caviar in the Common Room?" "So?"

"That Scottish beak smells brilliant. Like a scented candle."

"This is the first time in my life I've had more alcohol on my hands than in my mouth."

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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

SPORTS

RUGBY

School Super League, 12 September

As we slowly return to competitive fixtures, the Harrow School Super League has been set up to run on Fridays and Saturdays to provide all boys a weekly competitive outlet. Each year group has their own league with teams of completely mixed ability, all named after their own sporting mascot. Matches are 10-a-side and ten minutes long. The rules challenge the boys to reach their 'attack zone' in four phases of play. Once in their 'attack zone', they have four more phases to score a try or perhaps go for a one-point drop goal.



On Saturday, bathed in glorious September sun, the Harrow School Super League kicked off for the Junior Colts, Colts and Seniors. There was both some outstanding rugby on display and some less outstanding play as teams thrown together the night before got used to one another and boys learnt the rules and secrets to playing the game. In the Senior League, JLM's Spartans ended the day top of the league with four wins, closely followed by JAA's Lions. The talk of the Senior League, however, focused on a 1-0 win for the Lions with Archie Chatwin, *West Acre*, slotting a last-second drop goal to claim the win. In the Colts League, it was ATRP's Sharks who proved themselves the dominant force, winning all four of their games; the pick of their wins came in a 5-4 thriller with MJMR's Honey Badgers, where Kit Keey's, *Druries*, drop goal secured the victory for the Sharks. In the Junior Colts League, Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, ran rampant for JDC's Pirates, cementing his team as a very real threat to take on the current league leaders, the Hogs.

It was a great first run-out and all the boys should be commended for playing the game in the right spirit; when gasps for air are as common as howls of laughter, you know the right level has been found.

Team of the Week:

Patrick Lehrell, *Moretons*, (Seniors)
 Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, (Junior Colts)
 Marcos Kantaris, *Lyon's*, (Colts)
 Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, (Seniors)
 Henry Pearce, *Newlands*, (Seniors)
 Luke Ritchie, *Newlands*, (Seniors)
 Jonah Peppiatt, *The Park*, (Seniors)
 Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, (Colts)
 Filip Edstrom, *Bradlys*, (Junior Colts)
 Jasper Smallwood-Martin, *The Knoll*, (Junior Colts)

Tables after Gameweek One

Seniors League

	GP	W D L	GF GA	GD	PTS
<i>Spartans</i>	3	3 0 0	14 4	10	9
<i>Lions</i>	4	2 1 1	7 4	3	7
<i>Vikings</i>	3	1 1 1	10 10	0	4
<i>Outlaws</i>	4	1 1 2	8 9	-1	4
<i>Rhinos</i>	3	0 3 0	4 4	0	3
<i>Rams</i>	4	0 3 1	10 12	-2	3
<i>Eagles</i>	3	0 3 2	6 16	-10	1

Colts League

	GP	W D L	GF GA	GD	PTS
<i>Sharks</i>	4	4 0 0	15 8	7	12
<i>Panthers</i>	4	3 0 1	16 8	8	9
<i>Honey Badgers</i>	4	2 0 2	10 9	1	6
<i>Bulldogs</i>	4	1 0 3	6 6	0	3
<i>Bulls</i>	4	0 0 4	4 20	-16	0

Junior Colts League

	GP	W D L	GF GA	GD	PTS
<i>Hogs</i>	4	4 0 0	14 2	12	12
<i>Pirates</i>	3	3 0 0	13 6	7	9
<i>Wolves</i>	4	1 3 0	4 2	2	6
<i>Gators</i>	4	1 2 1	11 8	3	5
<i>Gorillas</i>	4	1 2 1	6 6	0	5
<i>Samurai</i>	4	1 0 3	6 10	-4	3
<i>Tigers</i>	4	0 1 3	2 10	-8	1
<i>Bears</i>	3	0 0 3	2 14	-12	0

CRICKET

1st XI v Leavers XI, 10 September

After a Summer term where not a single cricket ball was bowled, the 1st XI returned early to the Hill to play their first games of the season against last year's Leavers. As the School reopened and the boys returned to the Hill, the 1st XI made the most of September's slim slice of the cricket season, competing in three fixtures against an Upper Sixth Leavers XI as well as in the traditional Goose Match fixture. A two-match series had been agreed on the first Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of term and, with the September sunshine pouring down on the Sixth Form Ground, the Leavers opted to start the first match by batting first.

Jafer Chohan, *Lyon's*, and Henry Wilson, *Elmfield*, were sent out by Leavers XI captain, Rishi Wijeratne, *The Head Master's*, to open the innings, but the School XI were not in a charitable mood. Two wickets fell in the first ten overs as both openers were dismissed by Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, and Jasper Gray, *Newlands*. Panav Patel, *Elmfield*, steadied the innings but was caught behind off Ellis' bowling before he could shift into top gear. Patel's partner, Wijeratne, cruised to 50 with some fluid

stroke play and faithful assistance from Woody York, *Rendalls*, at the other end. Despite Wijeratne's powerful resistance, the School kept adding to the wickets column and they eventually toppled Wijeratne for 62. The Leavers' innings ended shortly after with a total of 121 all out – four wickets for John Richardson, *Elmfield*, three for Ellis, two for James Nelson, *Bradlys*, and one for Gray.

After a quick sanitisation break, the teams switched roles and the School XI sent in Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, and Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, to open the chase. They started strongly, with Brankin-Frisby taking the role of the aggressor. Brankin-Frisby fell lbw to Ward in the sixth over and this brought Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, to the crease. Connell and Sheopuri gradually increased the tempo of the run chase and their partnership took the game away from the Leavers. Sheopuri eventually fell for 57 as he was caught out off of Archie Nicholls' bowling, while Connell was dismissed just after by Chohan for 31. Hope and Patel knocked off the final few runs to cruise to a seven-wicket victory in just 22 overs, sending the Leavers home with plenty to ponder before game two of the series.



They arrived back on the Sixth Form Ground a few days later with a refreshed attitude, and had decided that a less cavalier approach could lead to more success. On a surprisingly warm and sunny September day, the School XI decided to bat first. Brankin-Frisby and Connell opened again, but this time it was Connell who set the pace of the innings with a brisk 44 before chipping a catch up off the bowling of Robin Guthe, *Elmfield*. After a flurry of wickets and running mishaps, George Cutler, *The Knoll*, and Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, bided their time and built a steady fifth-wicket partnership to take the School XI past 100. Richardson and Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, batted intelligently during the final few overs of the innings to take the batting total to 163 after 36 overs.

The School XI once again started well with the new ball and reduced the Leavers to 6-2, Shrey Rawal, *Rendalls*, taking both wickets. It was once again left to Wijeratne and Patel to rebuild and they put on 51 for the second wicket, but as the momentum started to shift to the Leavers' favour, Wijeratne fell to Ashworth, leaving Patel and the Leavers XI with 70 runs to win. Wijeratne and Patel had scored with enough fluidity for the run rate not to be an issue, with wickets being the key trading currency for the School XI. Patel continued to take the chase, with loyal cameos from Gray and York. Connell tried to wrestle the match back into the School XI's favour with the dismissal of Patel for 61, but with two wickets left, Tom Ward, *West Acre*, bludgeoned 17 quick runs to take the Upper Sixth Leavers XI beyond the required total and secure victory.

Both games were played in a fantastic spirit and were well supported by current and past parents. All the boys and umpires adapted to the COVID-19 regulations and guidelines quickly and smoothly, and, despite these odd changes, the atmosphere was wonderful.

Thanks must go to JM and Mr Ramprakash for organising the two days of cricket despite the obvious difficulties and helping it run so smoothly.

SQUASH

*Simon Halliday, Master-In-Charge
of Squash 1983-2020*

This was always going to be a challenging year after the entire first team left in June 2019. There had been a long run of very successful and talented Harrow squash teams but a rebuilding phase was now inevitable. Such is the case periodically in all schools. Although this meant that defeats were incurred against the current strong set-ups at Eton, Epsom and Aylesbury, there were close matches and some victories in the contests with Lancing, Brentwood, Radley, Wellington and Charterhouse. The School finished with a victory at Brentwood on March 12th before the boys went home due to the virus. This meant of course that the Roehampton Tournament was not played which preserved Harrow's proud record of never having been relegated from Division 1. However, Harrow did not qualify for the National Finals and had to make do with losing to Abingdon in the Plate Competition.

Much depended on the youthful Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Sasha Sebag-Montefiore, *The Knoll*, who filled positions one and two in the order. Both have talent and performed manfully, winning at least as many matches as they lost. The experience will stand them in very good stead next season. The engine-room of the team were the joint captains Freddie Murley and Humza Qureshi, both *The Park*. They were utterly reliable in their commitment and devotion to Harrow Squash and carried out their duties to the letter. It was a big step up from second team squash but due to long hours of practice they both showed startling signs of improvement and were never a push-over down at 4 and 5 in the order. They were role models in their approach and attitude to the sport.

William Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, usually played at number 3 in the order and he started in great form in September and October, only to rather lose his way when exams loomed in the Spring term. However, he was a real battler and showed welcome signs of a return to form before the enforced early end to the season. A big loss from the squad was Tiger Powell, *The Grove*, who missed most of the season due to a skiing injury. When any of the first five were not available the fifth formers Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, and Ilyas Qureshi, *The Park*, would step up. Both have the potential to fight for a regular first team place next season.

The Junior Colts had an excellent close-knit squad and enjoyed a successful year. They practised as a team and developed a real bond and spirit. Tarquin Sotir often spearheaded the team at number one and he was backed up by the rapidly improving pair Alex Seely, *The Grove*, and Duncan Wauchope, *The Knoll*. There were the equally determined Harry O'Shea, *Druries*, Dante Doros, *Lyon's*, and Inigo Doyle, *The Park*, competing for places down the order, all of whom have the potential to become mainstays of Harrow School squash. We were sometimes honoured by guest appearances from Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, which made the squad even stronger.

I have been privileged and honoured to have been associated with Harrow School Squash since 1981 and can look back on many happy days both on the Old Courts, Ice Dome, and the New Courts, Airfix Dome. Thank-you to all the boys who have made life so enjoyable and rewarding over the years.

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