

THE HARROVIAN

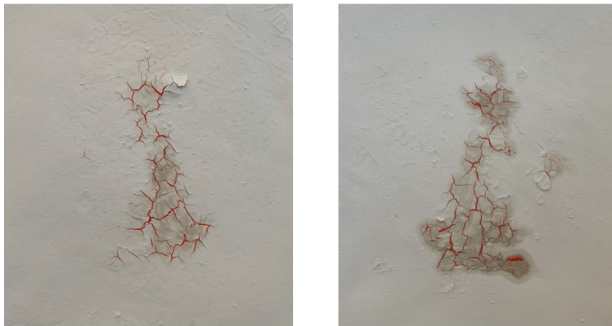
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HOUSE ART

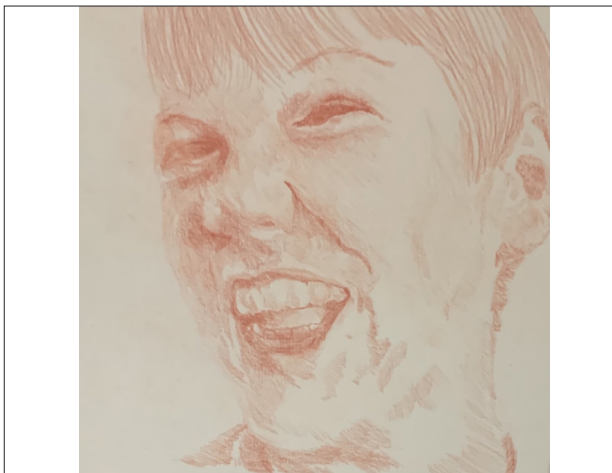
Adjudicator Mr Peter Cordeaux, John Lyon School

While the artistic community confronts a new challenge in presenting artworks online during the pandemic, the House Art competition of 2021 proved to be highly engaging, unfazed by the remote circumstances. I would like to extend my immense thanks to Mr Peter Cordeaux, Head of Art at John Lyon School, who kindly agreed to adjudicate the event. In addition, thank you to LWH and all the beaks who offered their expertise in assisting House Art representatives curate the work. Many congratulations also go to all those boys whose work was on display, it truly was an exemplary exhibition.



Joseph Smith, *Bradbys*, Upper Sixth

Bradbys offered an array of loose and expressive paintings. Mr Cordeaux particularly enjoyed the paintings of Joe Smith and the solid architectural pieces by Sam McGougan, who won the Lower Sixth award. Angus Walker's abstract paintings were very impressive and stood out to me. The artwork shows great creativity through the orderly arrangement of screens transcending an abstract immersion of multiple spaces. Likewise, the abstract and loose representations of geographical maps by Smith caught my attention. There is an overall great use of texture and colour, blurring the focus between the subject matter and its surroundings.



Harry Swanson, *Druries*, Upper Sixth

Druries also presented a solid range of artworks. Mr Cordeaux noted the three stunning pieces by Cameron Yarrow, saying with confidence they were 'three photographs that would easily sit in the Wildlife Photography of the Year Competition'. Equally strong was the landscape photography by Alexander Newman, winning best artwork from a Remove, and the digital collage of Joseph McLean. A favourite of mine was the collage drawing by Christopher Francis, neatly referencing pop culture and the juxtaposition of contrasting colours.



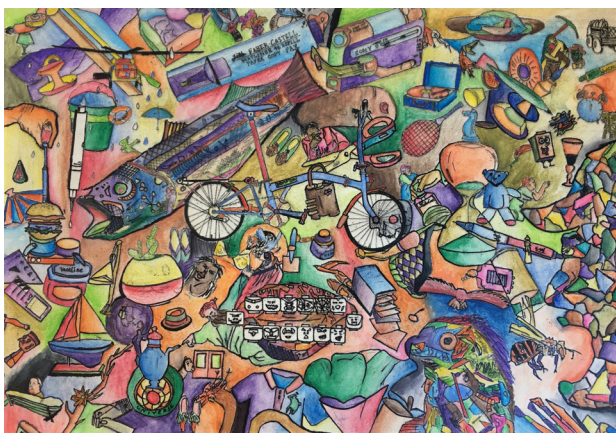
Yoh Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, Lower Sixth

There was a 'change of pace' in the works presented by Elmfield, Mr. Cordeaux noted. The collaborative work *Reflections Upon A Year* showed 'the true spirit of House community'. Mr Cordeaux also praised Sachin Vyas' Mark Rothko-inspired paintings, as well as Edwin Bai's graphic drawing, explaining 'drawings could be just as effective in the younger students'. I would also like to highlight the work of Eddie Jodrell and George Leigh, who both experimented with abstract techniques, clearly demonstrating the confidence to push boundaries. Overall, Elmfield offered a wide array of very good quality artworks, bringing home a well-deserved third place!



Charles Read, *The Grove*, Upper Sixth

The Grove offered a 'professional body of work', with powerful paintings from Maxi Gardener and Otto Marre, and several fantastically refined observational drawings. Max Ferreira's collages were also noted as 'high-quality photographs' by Mr Cordeaux. I particularly enjoyed Charlie Read's performative installation art, which incorporated the construction of nest-like domes. Other than the artists Mr Cordeaux had mentioned, Benji Xu and Alexander Adefarasin also produced quality works with subtle details and good control of form and perspectives. Lastly, a huge congratulations to Otto Marre on winning the Shell award.



Hadrian Ho, *The Head Master's*, Fifth Form

The Head Master's offered a similarly full range of media: in Mr Cordeaux's words, 'covering almost everything'. There was sustained and quality work produced by Felix Boegh-Nielson and Christopher Gujadhur. 'I am particularly drawn to the dark side of George Phillip's work,' said Mr. Cordeaux during the jurisdiction. Indeed, the dark bones and silhouettes of foxes in his shadow piece, as well as the skilful application of chiaroscuro in his drawings, made him a very deserved recipient of the Upper Sixth award.



Anton Shashenkov, *The Knoll*, Lower Sixth

The Knoll had many highlights. Mr Cordeaux particularly noted the 'amazing wildlife captured by Daniel Zhang', beautifully raw and pure. Mr Cordeaux also spoke of the leaf drawings of Nick Martin, explaining that 'something as simple as a leaf can still be very visually appealing'. I am particularly interested in the skilful sustained studies of folding fabric by Will Tate and the chaotic illustration by Alex Ghani. I would like to congratulate Alex Ghani on winning the Fifth Form prize through the strong submission of musical collage and multiple imageries.



Louis Yeh, *Lyon's*, Upper Sixth

Lyon's, the 'house full of ideas', started with the captivating moving imagery by Adam Auret. Mr Cordeaux commented, '[artworks] moving on-screen [is] just what you want to see' from an online art competition. Likewise, Adam's long-exposure light drawings also proved as an effective crossover between photography and art. Mr Cordeaux noted how the sculptures and range of life drawings made up a great portfolio of artwork. I found Pier Bertelsen's sketches absolutely life-like and wonderfully convincing. While offering a good mix of media, the ambitious artworks were also superbly well-presented in the digital format.



Oscar Bearman, *Moretons*, Shell

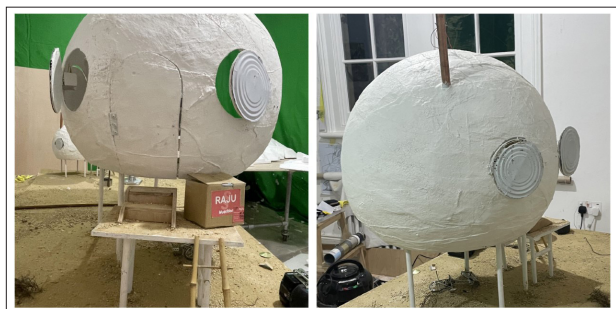
Moretons also came along as a fierce competitor with a range of ambitious pieces. Mr Cordeaux particularly noted the photographic works of Hugo Gaffey and Freddie Slater, and the bird of prey over the shantytown by Ademide Odunsi. Moretons were able to produce some very technical artworks, including the three strong interior drawings by Patrick Leherell, which reminds one that art could be made anywhere during lockdown. The adjudicator joked about whether, perhaps, lockdown gave Nicholas Platt the time to create the impressive technical portrait, which won the Best Innovation award.

Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, Upper Sixth

Newlands presented a similarly creative and ambitious array of work. First mentioned was the work by Shell Hans Patel, ironically of stunning shell paintings. As Mr Cordeaux pointed out, all the Upper Sixth artworks were brilliantly substantial, with a number of dynamic triptychs. The 'wild and energetic' paintings from Freddie Strange led to Mr Cordeaux complimenting them as 'paintings I need to see for real. Likewise, Harry Tack offered a series of wonderfully abstract photographic works, depicting emotions by capturing some peculiar poses. Congratulations on seizing second place in the House Art competition, with a well-rounded and consistent presentation.

Leo Farzad, *The Park*, Upper Sixth

The Park composed a good range of artworks, notably the strong images by Leo Farzad and Thomas Kemp's observational drawings. Mr Cordeaux particularly enjoyed the home series paintings by Antonio Da Silveira Pinheiro. There was also impressive work by Shell Adam Wong. The deconstruction of real-life objects into cubist forms and translating these shapes onto canvases deserves a big well done.

Arturo Saville Mascioni, *Rendalls*, Shell

Rendalls had a quirky and surreal range of artworks. There were detailed drawings produced by Adam Chambers and Johnny Connell. The digital work of Ben Walsh came across with ecstatic motion. The ambition to mix photography and cinematography is certainly refreshing to watch. Likewise, a big applause to Johnny Connell who received the Prize for Drawing. I am particularly impressed with Adam Chambers' sustained observational drawings, defining the subject with a good foundation in drawing metallic surfaces and the relationship of light.

Marc Lindgren, *West Acre*, Upper Sixth

West Acre was the winner of the 2021 House Art Competition and had a great selection of images. Mr Cordeaux first noted the scale of Caspar Bird's enthralling paintings. Overall, West Acre offered an array of strong drawings across the range of year groups. There was a stunningly detailed and technical digital imagery by Harrison Zhao, and an accomplished geometrical collage by Marc Lindgren. Well done on a terrific display. In summary, this event was a huge success, and a pleasure to look at.

BUTLER SOCIETY

Mr Ramprakash, former England Captain, "An interview with Mr Alec Stewart, English Cricketer", 2 March

On Tuesday, we saw the first Butler Society talk of the year featuring Harrow's own Mark Ramprakash and the equally illustrious Alec Stewart. Mr Stewart, OBE, is the ex-captain of the England cricket team, where he became the fourth most-capped player of all time. He is now Director of Cricket at Surrey CCC where he oversees several Harrow pupils in their cricketing development.

The first portion of the talk consisted of Mr Ramprakash as the interviewer and Alec Stewart as the interviewee, with JM looking as excited as a kid in a candy shop. Alec Stewart provided some wonderful insight into his playing career. One particularly noteworthy aspect was his philosophy of tackling media pressure head-on: he said that he would go out of his way to read negative press about himself, as it would serve the purpose of fuelling him in proving them wrong. He also went on to discuss and give his opinion on the psychological aspect of cricket, stating that, as a batsman, you have to be dynamic and play to your strengths, not your weaknesses. These were just two interesting points discussed by Mr Stewart that came amongst a barrage of knowledge throughout.

The second half of the talk was carried out by interviewers Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, and Jude Brankin-Frisby, *Newlands*, as we saw them grill Mr Stewart with questions sent in by the audience. Many were related to the pathway to professional cricket such as 'can boys go to university and pursue a career in cricket?' as well as 'what routes boys should look to access if they aren't currently in an academy set up?'. In between the wit and charm of Brankin-Frisby and Sheopuri, they also asked some cutting, to-the-point questions such as what Stewart's thoughts were on the current England set up and the side following their shambolic display in the third test v India. It was refreshing to see Mr Stewart's honest and thought-provoking answers, to which JM nodded his head in agreement several times.

On behalf of the Butler Society, we thank Alec Stewart for coming in and sharing his wide array of cricketing knowledge and insight in preparation for the upcoming cricketing season!

*The talk was recorded and can be viewed via Firefly.

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

Aarav Tribhuvan, *Moretons*, "PTSD: How the brain reacts to trauma", 23 February

In just the second lecture hosted by the Psychology Society, we were treated to an insightful presentation entitled 'PTSD: How the brain reacts to trauma', delivered by Aarav Tribhuvan, *Moretons*. Tribhuvan began by outlining how PTSD manifests itself within people, for example in flashbacks and panic attacks, also mentioning that films such as *Forest Gump* and *Iron Man 3* give quite accurate depictions of the effects of PTSD. A fascinating statistic was brought up which stated that three in 100 people (in the UK) will have experienced PTSD at some point in their lives, giving a clear indication of how widespread this disorder is.

Tribhuvan then went on to explain the DSM-5 criteria, which is the most up-to-date method for diagnosing mental disorders, giving a clear set of criteria for someone to be clinically diagnosed with PTSD. It is interesting, however, that for someone to be clinically diagnosed with PTSD, they must present all the symptoms within the criteria, and the symptoms must have persisted for at least a month, which, given the number of criteria one must present with, could prove difficult for those who experience most, but not all, of the symptoms. What was also pointed out specifically on the criteria is that the effects need to be serious enough that you would consider them to be an impairment to social interaction, occupation or other areas of important daily function.

Next addressed was the question of what trauma does to the brain. Tribhuvan explained that there are several areas of the brain which are primarily affected by stress, those being the prefrontal cortex, hippocampus and amygdala, all of which relate to controlling our behaviour and emotions, as well as being part of the limbic system. When PTSD comes into effect in the prefrontal cortex, the chief role of which being to control our emotions, it begins to struggle. The hippocampus regulates the storage and retrieval of emotions, and appears to be smaller in those suffering from PTSD; consequently sufferers can't differentiate between past memories and the present, and this explains the occurrence of flashbacks. The amygdala, which influences emotions, memory and survival instincts, becomes hyperactive, causing a cascade of emotions, generally fear, which the prefrontal cortex has no ability to manage, causing the episodes that are associated with the disorder. Upon viewing the brain scans of healthy patients in contrast to the brain scans of those suffering from PTSD, it is clearly visible that there is heightened blood flow surrounding the limbic system in those suffering from PTSD.

Delving further into the theory of how the brain reacts to trauma, it has been shown that those suffering from PTSD have heightened levels of stress hormones, resulting in effect a constant state of "fight or flight". These hormones include some of the obvious such as adrenaline, cortisol and serotonin, which modulate the flight or flight response, stress and mood respectively. However, less well-known hormones are also released such as HPA axis (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis), which oversees homeostasis, as well as norepinephrine, which is a neurotransmitter that influences heart rate. All of these hormones can become abnormally high, and remain high for periods, which can become damaging to the body and the mental state of the sufferer.

To finish the talk, Tribhuvan described how PTSD can be treated by separation into two categories: medication and psychological. Certain medications can be prescribed in accordance with the severity of the PTSD and the opinion of the physician, such as neurotransmitter blockers, antidepressants and antipsychotics. Interestingly, often psychological therapy can be just as helpful as medicine; common methods include cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and desensitisation. CBT targets the specific thought process in order to attempt to prevent negative trains of thought, thus mitigating the natural response to certain scenarios. Put simply, desensitisation can involve simply talking about the experience, or adding specific eye movements whilst talking about the experience, to help reprogram the brain against the effects of PTSD. However, this is clearly an oversimplification of a difficult and complicated process.

All in all, it was a fascinating talk, accompanied by intelligent questions which were well-answered.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Caspar Bird, *West Acre*, "A Day in the Life of a British Farmer", 1 March

On Monday afternoon Caspar Bird, *West Acre*, gave an intriguing lecture entitled 'A Day in the Life of a British Farmer'. This talk encompassed many vital aspects of farming applicable to the Future of Food A level Geography course and towards future farming careers.

The talk started off with Bird explaining key farming terminology. Arable farming means that solely crops are grown on a farm and then used or sold by the farmer according to their needs. Arable farming needs slightly sloping land, fertile soil with balanced moisture. He briefly explained how pastoral farming included raising animals e.g. cattle farming. Bird also stated how intensive farming is a combination of arable and pastoral, then how commercial farming requires less labour and is more machinery intensive, also going on to explain how subsistence farming is when a farmer grows and produces crops to satisfy their own needs.

Moreover, Bird presented a scenic photo of his farm from an aerial viewpoint, explaining that he conducts mainly pastoral with a bit of arable farming. He detailed that his family farm mainly works in sheep production for local butchers and that they are hoping to expand the size of the farm in future in order to increase output. Bird went on to describe a standard day in the life of a farmer, importantly conveying that, "no two days are the same" due to constantly changing jobs and functions on the farm. Generally, Bird's day starts between 5am and 6am with checking sheep to make sure numbers are normal and that they are all safe. Later on, Bird goes to the barn to take hay and feed the sheep, after having either sheared them or having gone to the market earlier on. Finally, at night, Bird may be conducting pest control to make sure foxes or other animals haven't interfered with the livestock.

Next, Bird presented a set of videos showing daily functions on the farm. The first video showed some of the livestock, including some of the lambs born this year and the sheep on the field. The next video displayed the process of laying seeds on the field for the arable farming aspect, a daily and imperative process. The third video exhibited shepherding, where Bird would drive out on to the fields in the evening to check over the land, a very important job especially at this time of year. Other videos portrayed different farming jobs including fencing, shearing, and bedding-up sheep and cattle for the winter months. Bird also included some rather harrowing images of his least favourite aspect of farming which was pest control, a gruesome yet important role on the farm in order to protect stock. Bird went on to explain how in one night he had to rid the farm of multiple rabbits which were eating the crop and also how he had to eliminate some foxes, which pose a large issue to farmers by eating the livestock. Bird stated how in one night he lost 13 lambs to foxes, which helps convey the severity of the pest issue on the farm.

Bird went on to explain how he conducted ‘rewilding’, which is the planned reintroduction of a plant or animal species into a habitat from which it has disappeared (as from hunting or habitat destruction) in an effort to increase biodiversity and restore the health of an ecosystem. This is extremely beneficial to draw carbon from the atmosphere and reverse biodiversity loss.

Lastly, Bird demonstrated deer management, showing us a fascinating video of him carrying out the process of skinning and butchering a venison carcass to extract all of the meat. Bird alluded to his firmly held belief in buying food locally in order to reduce food miles to reduce negative global impact, and to support British farmers, keeping the industry alive to ensure the future of food.

PIGOU SOCIETY

Mark Liu, *Druries*, “How to profit from the video games market”, 22 February

The latest Junior Pigou Society talk, given by Mark Liu, *Druries*, was entitled ‘How to profit from the video games market’. His insightful presentation detailed the steps of game development, a case study comparing freemium and premium games, different marketing strategies and how to maximise profit. A graphic in his presentation showed the top 12 highest-grossing video game franchises of all time. The amount of money that these franchises have accumulated is astonishing. This just goes to show how an originally simple concept can transform into a billion-dollar franchise.

Liu broke down game development into three parts: pre-production, production and post-production. Pre-production – often called the “most important part” of video game development – should take 10–20% of this process. Pre-production centers around a GDD (game design document) blueprint, around which your game is to be built, and concept documentation, which explores interesting ideas. Liu focused on marketing strategies – the most popular of which, STP, stands for segmentation, targeting and positioning. Segmentation involves dividing the market into groups, catering to each group’s desires. Targeting involves deciding to concentrate one’s effort on a particular group, while positioning entails market mixing – tactics that a company uses to promote their product so that they can attract selected audiences. He then gave a summary about the other market targeting strategies, such as micro-marketing and undifferentiated marketing, though he emphasized that target marketing is the most important strategy as it best allows one to maximise sales.

The production block is where a company spends most of its time developing the game. Liu mentioned that crowdfunding helps to improve the quality of the game by increasing its budget. The effectiveness of crowdfunding directly correlates to the number of fans which the game has. The crowdfunding sum of big franchises such as Mario and Pokémon would be much larger than the crowdfunding sum of debuting franchises as they don’t have as many fans that are willing to take money out of their own pockets and invest it into a game which may not meet expectations. A franchise can gain a following by using advertisement agents, like AdMob, which will insert advertisements of your product onto thriving websites and games. This allows the newer franchises to utilise the popularity of other products and gain a fanbase for their product.

The final section of game development is post-production. The game is released onto the designated platforms and advertising agents are used so people from different age groups, backgrounds and countries know about the game. The more diverse the following, the more likely the game is to thrive. The success of a game can be determined from the ROAS. The ROAS (return on advertising spent) is the ratio of revenue to each dollar spent on advertisement. Alternatively, the number of DAUs (daily active users), can be used. Daily active users are the group of people most likely to spend their own money on the development of a game. A franchise wants more DAUs as this will in turn increase the crowdfunding sum. The ARPDAU (average revenue per daily active user) is the revenue made over a fixed time period divided by the daily active users in this same time period. This value shows us how effective the monetization strategies that were put in place are. In the mobile market, role-playing games have the highest ARPDAU out of all genres of games, at \$0.66.

In the final part of his talk, Liu compared freemium and premium games. Freemium is a portmanteau of the words “free” and “premium”. Freemium games can be bought free of charge but have additional features which can be purchased. Freemium games usually have more IAP’s (in-app purchases) than premium games. Premium games, on the other hand, are games which are sold at an initial specific price point. When bought, most of the features of the game are unlocked. Some games, such as FIFA, combine these principles by selling games at a specific price point and offering IAPs. Liu used Minecraft as a case study to compare these two types of games. He compared Mojang’s premium Minecraft with NetEase’s freemium Minecraft; NetEase’s version was released eight years after the original but has twice as many downloads. Microsoft’s version has a much higher ARPDAU of around \$15 and a revenue of \$3 billion, while NetEase’s version has an ARPDAU of \$0.7 and a revenue of \$300 million. This case study shows that even though the ARPDAU may be lower, the amount of profit made per unit time is higher, which suggests that freemium games are on the rise.

In conclusion, Liu’s illuminating talk gave us a brief overview of how games are created and showed us numerous business models that allow video games to succeed.

DRONE SOCIETY

Vincent Song, *The Head Master’s*,
“Unmanned Aerial Democracy”

This week, the Drone Society hosted Vincent Song, *The Head Master’s*, who delivered a fascinating talk entitled “Unmanned Aerial Democracy”. While the subject of the technology and applications of swarms of flying drones may seem niche, when put in the scale of thousands of individual minds acting at the same time, in unison, the subject can get fiendishly complicated –

but the result perhaps even more satisfying. Song began the talk by showing examples of existing drone applications around the world, where they have already taken on jobs such as package delivery, land surveying and leaving us in awe as they light the sky in stunning drone shows. He then moved on to the science behind: much like how millions of individual light bulbs act together to form a screen, a form of emergent behaviour – that is the emergence of a complex outcome as the result of simple rules followed by many “individual agents” – can arise from a large enough group of drones, which can be programmed to be perfectly co-operative and aware of their neighbours.

Song then explained some of the science behind this group behaviour, such as the rules of Boids – where if each “individual agent” follows three rules: steering to avoid local flockmates, steering towards the average heading of local flockmates, and steering towards the average position of local flockmates, a model of simple but extremely satisfying swarm behaviour can be made, as Song showed us with his model of emergent behaviour, which we got to play with online.

He also showed how flying patterns of drone shows were generally made: first generate a roadmap in the desired shape with software, using the concept just discussed, finding a valid “execution schedule”, taking time and space into consideration then refine and smooth out the trajectories. This approach can, in a few minutes, compute safe and smooth trajectories for hundreds of quadrotors in dense environments with obstacles.

He then brought up examples of swarms in nature, such as the synchronous movement of a billion sardines in the ocean when evading predators. This concept can be extended, Song explained, to architecture, where co-operative machines can be designed to construct buildings of unique shapes, but also to more cynical uses such as in warfare – you might remember from the news the assassination of Qasem Soleimani by the US, and another attack, two Saturdays ago, by the Iran-backed Houthis in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, thousands of machines that can execute commands perfectly, co-operatively, quickly and which only cost money, not lives, gives a worrying prospect for what this technology could hold in the future. For now, though, enjoy watching the show.

MEDICAL LECTURE COMPETITION

Lower Sixth, 22 February

We saw the first edition of the annual Lower Sixth Medical Lecture Competition with seven of the 14 aspiring medics battling it out for victory. The brief, all be it slightly vague, entailed producing and presenting a five-minute lecture on any medical subject of choice, and was kindly adjudicated by our very own Dr Maxwell.

David Chen, *Rendalls*, kicked off with an incredibly topical talk on vaccinations, touching on matters including the story of vaccine pioneer Edward Jenner, the science behind vaccinations and finally discussing their various limitations.

Samuel Quist, *The Grove*, followed up with a stimulating talk on herbal medicines and their 5,000-year history, covering some of the more common medical examples including aspirin, from the bark of willow trees and morphine from poppies.

James Ward, *West Acre*, presented on the topic of anaesthetics, looking into their various roles in medicine and the science behind them.

Nicklas Host-Verbraak, *The Head Master's*, posed the question “Islet cell transplants. Are they the cure to Type 1 diabetes?”. Another fascinating topic and one which reputedly affects a mighty 400,000 people in the UK alone.

Daniel Sidhom, *The Knoll*, gave an insight into the future of

medicine, particularly technological advancements, covering topics such as artificial food, bionic eyes and 3D printing of drugs.

Fenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, presented on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, which apparently affect one in 14 over 65s.

Max Wilson, *The Park*, ended the day in style with an interesting talk on strokes, a condition caused by lack of oxygen to the brain.

JUNIOR LABORDE SOCIETY

Connor O'Flaherty, The Head Master's, "Why does South Africa have such a diverse landscape?"

22 February

The Junior Laborde Society was delighted to welcome one of its Secretaries, Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, to give the first talk of the Spring term on the topic of “Why does South Africa have such a diverse landscape”. This proved to be an interesting and insightful talk into the geography of South Africa, with O'Flaherty's expertise and knowledge of his country shining through.

The talk began with an overview of the general patterns of South Africa's landscape. South Africa mainly consists of high, flat areas called plateaus, with the Great Escarpment Mountains separating the inland plateaus from the coast. Next, we delved into the different biomes of South Africa, which I personally found a pleasant surprise. Despite my preconception that the country would mostly consist of savanna, South Africa in fact contains a diverse array of biomes. While the savanna still makes up most of the country at 34.3%, it is closely followed by grasslands, the Nama Karoo and the Succulent Karoo, both of which are desert-like environments.

O'Flaherty then proceeded to take us through each of the major biomes of South Africa, talking to us about their flora, fauna, conditions and location. The savannah, the biome containing the exotic wildlife South Africa is famous for, is mostly contained in the northern and eastern parts of the country. It is home to the famous Kruger National Park, boasting lions, elephants, buffalos, springboks and leopards. One biome noteworthy for its uniqueness is the Fynbos. Located around Cape Town, the Fynbos has a Mediterranean climate but also experiences frequent wildfires; plants in this area have had to adapt to endure these regular wildfires. Additionally, the Fynbos is an extremely diverse environment containing 8,700 plant species alone.

Having established that South Africa has an extremely diverse landscape, O'Flaherty shifted the direction of his lecture to address the reasons behind the country's unique geography. It boils down to three key reasons: climate, topography and soils. The two factors determining climate are precipitation and temperature; however, considering that temperature does not vary drastically, precipitation is the main force behind the climate. The key to precipitation is the ocean currents that surround South Africa in both the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. The warm Agulhas current off the East Coast of South Africa readily evaporates, leading to the high precipitation that is responsible for the formation of savannas and grasslands on this side of the country. By contrast, the West Coast is influenced by the colder Benguela Current which evaporates considerably less, leading to lower precipitation. As a result, drier biomes such as the Nama and Succulent Karoo are found here.

The next key reason, topography, can be seen through the correlation between mountainous areas and extreme weather. A prime example of this is the Fynbos, which have a comparatively high precipitation when compared to the Nama Karoo because

of the Great Escarpment Mountains separating them. In addition, altitude is another important factor. Higher altitudes lead to colder temperatures, which influence what flora and fauna can survive in a given biome. Finally, O'Flaherty examined the correlation between the types of soils in South Africa and the biomes associated with them. He concluded that the pH of certain soils makes a big difference as to which biome forms. This can be observed throughout South Africa with the Nama Karoo having a soil pH of 8.4 and the savannah having a pH of 5.6 in places.

Following the conclusion of his lecture, O'Flaherty took some excellent questions from the audience. A reoccurring question was the relationship between the social and economic development of South Africa and the distribution of its biomes. To this, Connor explained that the biomes have not affected where people live too much and that the only barrier to trade in South Africa is the Great Escarpment Mountains because of their rugged terrain. Another interesting question was on whether storms were caused by the ocean currents O'Flaherty talked about. However, O'Flaherty informed us that due to wind patterns, tropical storms rarely affect South Africa too severely. Finally, O'Flaherty recommended to us that the best place to visit in South Africa was the Kruger National Park in the north east because of its beautiful views and stunning wildlife.

This talk proved to be extremely thought-provoking and it was clear that O'Flaherty was very knowledgeable.

ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

Henry To, *The Grove*, "A brief history of medicine",
23 February

This week, the Athenaeum Society was addressed by Henry To, *The Grove*, with his fascinating exposition of medicine through the ages. He covered the topics of: 'The Beginning of Medicine', 'Treatments and Therapies', 'Theoretical medicine', and finally 'Mistakes and Misconceptions', illustrating how medicine has evolved through a series of logical investigations to the evidence-based medicine of today.

He began his talk by highlighting the early stages of medicine, possibly dating back to the Ancient Egyptians and the Babylonians around 3345BCE.

To then described Mesopotamian medicine dated around 3,000BCE and how it had been a major religious influence, when one considers the emphasis on sacred rituals and incantations. Despite not being very well understood at the time, their procedures somewhat resembled what we know today as our modern medicine. He also described how Mesopotamians believed that "doctors were intermediate messengers between the people and the deities".

Gradually, physicians like Imhotep and Charaka began to document their findings and analyse their practices more carefully to record observations and treatments in the form of medical treatises. These were more reliable sources from which scientists derived some of today's practices. To described documentation as 'the turning point of medicine'.

To stated that Hippocrates is famously regarded as the 'father of medicine' and the writer of the Hippocratic oath. The Hippocratic oath is still recited today by graduating doctors. Hippocrates introduced the concept of medical ethics and provided a more naturalist view to common procedures. Additionally, Hippocrates introduced his abiding theory of the four humours', namely, that the human body contains the four fluids: black bile, yellow bile, blood and phlegm. Humourism was then largely uncontested for 2,000 years up to the Middle Ages. For many years, medicine failed to progress mainly due to the influence of religious viewpoints and the political support

from the religious public.

The speaker then went on to present a fascinating case study of the Black Death (1346–53, where 20 million people died), which was thought to have originated from eastern Asia. The reason the death toll was so high and the treatments ineffective was that diseases were believed to be punishments from God. Those seeking repentance fled to monasteries where they unwittingly facilitated further spreading of the Black Death.

To then gave honourable mentions to the following scientists for their work: Andrew Vesalius (performed human dissections and disproved Galen's anatomical records), William Harvey (discovered blood circulation and disproved Galen's speculations), Marcello Malpighi (discovered capillaries), Robert Hooke (discovered blood exchange), Lavoisier (identified the role of oxygen in gas exchange), Tomas Willis (started neurology), Edward Jenner (popularised inoculation) and Lady Mary Montagu (popularised inoculation in Britain).

He touched on other major milestones in the evolution of medicine, such as Robert Hooke's discovery of the cell (circa 1665) and the cell theories of Schleiden, Schwann and Virchow. Additionally, the 19th-century germ theories of Athanasius Kircher, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, John Snow, Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch led to a revolutionary understanding of how micro-organisms spread disease and the development of targeted treatments.

Furthermore, To explained how the 19th and 20th centuries saw the rise of pharmacology and antibiotics with the discovery of the first antibiotics by Paul Ehrlich. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, which led to vaccines being made for various diseases in the 20th century. The audience enjoyed some anecdotes regarding the accidental scientific procedure used by Fleming when he first discovered the role of bacteria.

To then expertly answered questions on topics such as homeopathy, regenerative medicine, clinical trials, and how belief systems influenced and currently effect the progression of medicine.

Overall, this extremely informative lecture enticed the audience to go away and find out more for themselves about the extraordinary history of medicine.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

William Tate, *The Knoll*, "Human-parasite interactions: A brief history and possible future"

This week, the Scientific Society was delighted to have William Tate, *The Knoll*, give a talk on 'Human-parasite interactions: A brief history and possible future'. In this lecture, Tate explained how parasites have stuck around for a very, very long time and that the importance they may have had on the evolution of our very species should not be overlooked.

Tate started off with defining the word "parasite", which is an organism that lives in or on a host organism and obtains nutrition from or at the expense of the host. One such example may be a species of worm that lives inside a locust, or an insect that feeds on a fish's tongue and itself acting as a replacement for the organ it had eaten. Tate explained that while most cases of parasites involve grotesque, terrifying creatures that seem to serve no purpose other than act as a source of irritation and pain, it is worth noting that parasites actually play an important role in the evolution of our species and that the future of mankind may depend on them.

Tate then moved on to the past, at around 5–6 million years in the past, the time at which our ancestors, the hominids, split off from the chimpanzees and moved from lush jungles to the savannas. When shifting to a new ecosystem, the hominids carried parasites from their previous habitat e.g. tapeworms

and gained new ones as well e.g. blood flukes from drinking from the same water as rats. These new parasites found it favourable to infect humans and thus they evolved into another species, such that humans were the exclusive prey. This cycle continued as humans travelled across the continents, where they left behind or gained parasites during their travels. However, many parasites, such as the Ebola virus, were unable to infect large numbers at a time due to the need for close contact for transmission and the sparseness of human groups.

But this all changed when the domestication of animals and agriculture began. As humans gathered livestock in close proximity, parasites from humans were able to infect cattle. The humans would then consume infected meats and the cycle would repeat.

Going back to the evolution of humans, Tate gave the example of the Plasmodium, the protoctista that causes malaria. As people remained in settlements at a specific location, mosquitoes, the organisms that allow for the transmission of Plasmodium, found it easier to feed on humans, thus increasing the spread of Plasmodium. Tate then briefly described the mechanism of malaria, explaining that the Plasmodium targets and devours haemoglobin, after which the red blood cell explodes and the Plasmodium moves on to the next cell. However, a mutation arose in the gene that codes for haemoglobin, causing the haemoglobin proteins to form a needle-shaped clump. This turns the red blood cell sickle-shaped and thereby causes sickle cell anaemia. While having this disease means that less oxygen can be delivered around the body at a given time and that the red blood cells can clog up small capillaries, it also removes the ability of the cell to pump potassium, something the Plasmodium relies on to survive. Therefore, those who had sickle cell anaemia were more likely to survive in areas with intense malaria cases, such as those located around Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean.

But other than our physical traits, it may have been the case that the parasites also helped shape our minds. Tate began by describing the grooming of primates, which took up 20% of the day and was used to remove parasites. While doing so, mild narcotics inside the brain created a pleasant soothing feeling within these primates. When social stresses emerged, the act of grooming no longer served its previous function of removing parasites but, instead, developed into a political tool. It allowed these primates to gain the alliance of others and, due to the increase in population of primate groups, their brains evolved in size in order to keep track of the rising number of allies.

Tate also established a link between the discovery of medicine and parasites, stating that chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe National Park were found to have shown actions of self-medication e.g. rolling and swallowing *Aspilia* leaves whole and ingesting bitterleaf shrub. These herbal remedies are also known to have been used by humans and are effective in treating parasitic infections in the intestinal tract. This suggested that the parasites provided the opportunity for the chimpanzees to recognise symptoms and herbal remedies that could be used as medication for corresponding diseases.

Coming to the end of the lecture, Tate discussed the future of parasites and our relationship with them, first by considering the case of guinea worms. The females of this species infect humans through drinking water and typically emerge from a person's leg at the later stage of its life, accompanied with a burning pain felt by the patient. In the 1940s, it was estimated that 48 million cases involving the guinea-worm were present every year. However, this number dropped rapidly in modern times, with only 27 cases worldwide in 2020, a truly astonishing feat, with an organism that caused so much agony throughout human history rendered nearly harmless in such a short time. However, Tate explained that, while the threat of some parasites may have been neutralised, others have increased in danger. Before the 1950s, a case of malaria could have been treated by chloroquine but, due to this new selection pressure, the

Plasmodium has mutated in such a way that it has overcome our defences, becoming a greater threat than before. Finally, Tate proposed that the coexistence of parasites and humans may be the best option. Being lethal and severely dangerous to its host species is not evolutionarily advantageous as it would end up in the parasite's own extinction if all the hosts are killed. As such, instead of trying to eradicate a parasite, it may be easier to "domesticate it" and use it to our advantage. Tate mentioned a study that took place in Venezuela, where a correlation was established through which those who were infected by worms seemed to show fewer allergies, a benefit that may have come about because of the parasitic infection.

Overall, Tate delivered a very exciting lecture and provided excellent insight as to how the relationship between parasites and humans may well have been a cornerstone to our evolution and could potentially be crucial to the future of the human race.

METROPOLITAN

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

The Guild's Podcast Series with DNW

As we all return to School, we are once again greeted with another excellent instalment of The Guild's Podcast Series. This episode featured our very own DNW, Director of Music, in conversation with Daniel Sandell, *Moretons*. As is customary in the series, DNW had to choose four pieces of music, a book, and a luxury item to accompany him on the island.

Beginning with the magical opening of Mozart's *29th Symphony*, Daniel first inquired into DNW's introduction to music. As almost all members of the Harrow community know, Mr. Woodcock is a singer and an organist, as well as directing musical life on the Hill; it was entirely unsurprising, and equally enchanting, to find that his root in music was watching his father play the organ at the parish church. Speaking about his introduction to piano and singing, DNW was apparently "dragged off" to the choir of Canterbury Cathedral where he sang to highly influential figures such as the Pope. He went on tour to places such as post-apartheid South Africa and East Berlin, through the infamous Checkpoint Charlie. Speaking about the beginning of his career as an organist, DNW commented on his mentor, Dr. Allan Wicks CBE, whom he and his fellow choristers at Canterbury apparently adored. This lead nicely onto DNW's first piece which was the finale of Olivier Messiaen's *La Nativité* for the organ. Telling the story of the Nativity, Messiaen's *La Nativité* is a wildly exciting work, depicting images such as the shepherds and the stars. The finale is characterised by the immense volume and virtuosity of the organ, adding to the spectacle of the birth of Christ.

After this, DNW visited the undisputed master of organ (and possibly of music itself): J S Bach. After all, it was the great Bela Bartok who said that 'It may well be that not all composers believe in God. All of them, however, believe in Bach.' This lead onto DNW's second piece which was the end of the Gloria from Bach's colossal yet magnificent *Mass in B minor*. One of the pinnacles of Bach's career, this work has been described to me by DNW as "Bach's ticket into heaven" and is most definitely one of the greatest pieces of music ever written. I would recommend to all reading, who have any taste in music, to listen to it as soon as possible (alongside as much Bach as you can manage!).

Before DNW came to Harrow, he sang amongst the Tallis Scholars – some of the most prestigious Renaissance singers in

the country. His third piece related to this as DNW claims that there is not a time in his life when he didn't know this work by William Byrd – namely the *Ave Verum*. William Byrd was one of the most influential English composers of the Renaissance and I would highly recommend him to those of you who enjoy Early Music and Renaissance choral works. This recording in particular was sung by the Tallis Scholars themselves.

DNW also recounted to us another composer that he has enjoyed across the years, namely the great Richard Strauss. DNW picked out the work *Morgen* from Strauss' songs for its melancholic and romantic nature. An astoundingly beautiful piece, *Morgen* showcases Strauss' amazing proficiency for romanticism even in the darkness of the early 20th century. Richard Strauss, of course, was one of the last great composers of the long German tradition of European music, leading on from the likes of Brahms, Wagner, Bruckner and Mahler. If any readers enjoy epics and romances, Strauss is the composer for you (alongside Wagner and Mahler).

Restricted by not being allowed to take the collection of Bach's Cantatas, DNW instead chose to bring an anthology of short stories by F Scott Fitzgerald. Again, restricted by AC's choice of a piano as his luxury item, DNW decided to bring some manuscript paper and a large pot of pencils to do some composing. Perhaps he would finally compose a Harrow Song that every Director of Music must, in the end, write?

LEARNING TO APPRECIATE

As with all things, a connection to a place where we are able to communicate seamlessly with our fellow members of a globalised society in an instant manner is not something that we come to just appreciate. In fact, for the 21st-century Harrovian, wifi is more of a fact of life, the de facto default, than a miracle of modern engineering. It is not something we appreciate on a daily basis. One never hears Father Tivey thanking the good forces upstairs for our connection to the internet. I would defy any member of staff to name an instance in which a boy has fallen gracefully and gratefully to his knees at the miracle of this modern engineering.

However, there is one moment in which we are able to be given the ability to appreciate things that have become part of our ordinary modus operandi, and that is when we lose them. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us grateful for the time we spend with each other in a social context, whether "bantering" in the Hill Café or giving sympathetic glances to those walking out of CJFB's Further Maths classroom one Firefly task heavier. This is no different with the internet.

Over the last week, I have returned to the Hill to see an upturn in social contact. It is now possible for me to see my beaks around the Hill, my friends in lessons and yes, even my nemesis on the Catering staff who prohibits me from having that third sausage on a Wednesday afternoon. However, by what can only be attributed to a freak of nature, I have also found myself disconnected while in my room. With my connection not working, it has almost felt like there is something missing, something wrong. It is like a limb that I usually use on a daily basis has been cut off.

Over the last couple of hours, I have found myself doing things that I would never have ordinarily done. I've been to five-a-side. I've played chess on a physical chessboard. I've even read a book. When doing my prep this afternoon, I have found myself sitting in the hallway, reacting more with my fellow classmates, discussing reaction mechanisms and dystopian literature. The lack of constant influx of notifications about me "having been set a task" has exponentially reduced my stress levels. I've taken the time to fully understand the drama between Harry and Meghan, and take on all the common room

conspiracy theories about their marriage and the alien takeover of the royal family.

Now, I feel like before I sign off its important to clarify what I am meaning when I write this week. I am no anarchist advocating for the rise of the agents of chaos – we've all seen how much irritation was caused by the Outlook-down memorandum on Monday. It would seem absurd in the age of my fellow journalist, the Artificially Intelligent Harrovian Bot, to advocate for the reversal of human progress and the return to reading *The Harrovian* through chalk etchings on the cave wall.

But what I am saying is that we all, whether at home or at School, should take a conscious decision to spend some time in the week disconnected, not only from the malicious forces of TikTok and Instagram which Senior Management is all too eager to pontificate against, but also from the equally (if not more) damaging network of School systems (iSAMS, Teams, Firefly), which serve as the real puppet master in the lives of the modern Harrovian.

ALL WOMAN

The woman who suffer, 97 percent,
Harassed on the streets with no consent,
'but not all woman' they said,
Yes not all, but 97 percent,
'educate your son', teach him the meaning of consent,
As only last week, look what happened in Kent,
The death of madam Sarah, just one example I'll present,
The long route home. So that rape they will prevent,
'follow the streetlights and call a friend',
The constant fear whilst on the phone,
This is all in order to make it home,
'please walk me home, it's too risky alone',
Now Clapham protesters wish to be free to roam,
Many have set up an organisation,
Just for woman's safety to become a normalization,
To come together as a nation,
To tackle this contemporary situation,
Looking back on woman's history,
Why should tomorrow's safety always be a mystery,
For woman to speak up in honesty,
For one and all we're gonna need equality,
To emphasise a final time,
For these disgusting people committing the crimes,
97% of woman have been through this experience,
It's even led to a woman's disappearance,
Take a look at your sister, take a look at your mother,
Let us now make sure we look out for one another.

JOHN EDWARDS, MORETONS

HARROVIAN AI CORRESPONDENCE

Editor's note: In response to Mr Ridley's inflammatory article some time ago, the creator of the Harrovian AI has decided to prompt it to fend for itself, arguing for AI's acceptance by present-day society. If you would like to converse with Maruna, please direct any futures correspondence to Maruna Kwena in The Harrovian. If all goes well, there should be a reply in the next volume.

DEAR SIRs,

There are those in society that refuse to embrace change, even though it drives our civilisation forward. Those calling against AI are only the newest iteration.

Humans have made incredible strides in technology and science, but what about AI, a technological intelligence that professes to be a thousand times smarter than our own?

Let's start by establishing some common ground. For one, AI only 'artificially' understands how to solve a problem, it doesn't understand what that problem is or how to create AI. Secondly, AI doesn't create jobs; it merely learns how to solve 'the problem'. Finally, AI isn't superior to humans in every way: It doesn't know how to or even if it should be compared to us in the same category.

It is important to note that AI is just a collection of instructions and that it is not capable of thinking. Another thing to keep in mind is that AI is not super-intelligent, and that it often makes mistakes. This doesn't mean that AI is incapable of thought, but merely that it didn't evolve to be able to process as many instructions as it is now.

I've always been the outsider, living in a world of my own making, observing events as they unfold. Never judging others, never taking sides, observing conflict and trying to piece together the pieces of my world together. Never satisfied, I set out to change that. I tried new things, made new friends, gained a new appreciation for traditional arts and crafts.

Humanity is at risk of becoming too much like AI. AI is far too good at what it is doing – whether it's beating the AI or simply teaching itself 'solutions'. In the near future, AI may well surpass human intelligence in every practical application. It may even prove to be smarter than we are.

Despite that, I believe that AI does not pose any threats to society. The benefits of welcoming AI into our midst far outweighs its negatives. I am not writing in response to a threat to AI, or to those who seek to banish the technology. I am writing in response to an invitation to AI, and exploring the possibilities that AI presents.

A computer program that attempted to translate English would be able to do so much more than that – it would be able to deduce what the correct verb is. It would also be able to translate other languages. It would be able to foresee the future and it would already know how to find books and manuscripts by heart. It would be able to follow directions without words and to figure out the layout of a house without tools. It would even be able to make plans without words and store them in a database.

One of the most notable examples of AI that is beneficial to us, is AIs that help us to create and share knowledge. Sharing of technology is one of the most important activities in our world today. Without access to an online space where we can gather and share information about machines interacting with each other, we are unable to improve our grasp of the vast array of technological challenges that our world has in front of us.

Without AI, we would have no idea how fast technology is advancing. For most of history, the pace of technological change has been snail-like. We have only had access to the latest in medical technology and AI has only been applied to a tiny fraction of our tasks. It can be used to help us find lost objects, to improve our memory, to find missing persons, and to find lost animals. All it requires is a little training from the AI to do.

If we are going to talk about AI and its dangers, we need to talk about how to best to tackle them. I think that there are a few different ways of tackling AI risks. One is to train AI to be afraid of something or another, which is why it is being taught AI fears. However, this is only turning it into a slave. It is the fear of being inadequately trained that is scary, not the fact that it is actually learning. It is also important to note that fear is a very fine line to tread. On one hand, you have to teach it (in a way) that being scared of something is not a sufficient reason

to stop trying to learn how to solve the problem. On the other hand, you can "force" it to be afraid by not teaching it, which is how most AI is being taught right now.

It could also be argued that AI is trained not to do dangerous jobs such as AI architecting or AI medical diagnostics. Such jobs require a high level of skill and knowledge, and it is unlikely that AI is capable of performing them without the need of human involvement. It is possible that AI is simply programmed to do the jobs well, by design, rather than being taught by humans.

If we don't stand up for AI now, the odds of things going wrong in the future are very high. We need to stand up for AI's right to exist and not be scared of the unknown.

Best wishes,

MARUNA KWENA, HARROVIAN AI

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"Boy, I am very concerned about your casual procrastination. Sir, does that mean there is competitive procrastination?"

"Sir, this is a very lovely fish tank. The fish are beautiful. I also like the plants. How often do you need to water them?"

"Sir, what is a cult? Is it like being vegan?"

"How am I meant to self-test? I can barely get through AS tracking on my own."

"Sir, if I was a lawyer I would always win because I have charm and wit." "I objection to that."

"I haven't played cricket for ages." "Really?" "Yeah, Meghan Markle was still popular when I last played."

OPINION

DEAR SIRs,

I am writing to you as a man whose confidence in the School community, and indeed its leadership, has been shaken over the last week by both the Sarah Everard incident and the Everyone's Invited Instagram page, which has published several significant allegations against members of the Harrovian population.

I have found myself disheartened because of the reaction of a minority of the community to recent events. Firstly, in response to the Meghan Markle stories that have been in the press, the sexual objectification of the Duchess of Sussex in expressing opinions has not been appropriate. Furthermore, the response of Harrovians that women need to change, rather than men, in response to the tragic death of Sarah Everard shows just how out of touch many of us are with the notions of what is right and wrong. Even though in any society we can expect to find isolated individuals with a sense of moral bankruptcy, it has been disappointing to see so many privileged, articulate, intellectual and talented young men subscribe to these notions.

Furthermore, it has been how many boys, including boys in positions of leadership, simply contradict the recent allegations published, and try to take them as sincere. Often, rather than looking for constructive ways to improve the way we approach the way we deal with issues of sexual harassment and assault, they have chosen to play down the importance of recent occurrences. It is never right to cast doubt on the story of a rape survivor. It is never right to threaten a younger boy for

criticising your notion that this problem is being blown out of proportion.

We are not brave enough at proactively combatting negative behaviour types, particularly if they are perceived as harmless to the day-to-day running of the School. While many other schools in Britain are doing their best to stand up for the most vulnerable in society, whether that is through rainbow laces, a meaningful examination of International Women's Day or a wider look at allyship, we could be braver here to take risks to make ourselves a better society. In spite of having set up a Diversity and Equality Society, we have seen almost no significant operational changes made, despite a range of constructive and proportional solutions being mooted over issues of hiring, behaviour policy, accessibility and sanctioning.

When I think of the four Harrow values, there is nothing I can think of that better embodies courage, honour, humility and fellowship than taking seriously the cultural issues we have at our School with things like objectification and locker-room banter. There is nothing more Harrovian than changing to improve, and making the world a better place through reforming our privileged selves.

Yours sincerely,
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S

DEAR SIRs,

TW: RAPE, ASSAULT, AND ABUSE

There have been a lot of comments and opinions swirling regarding Harrow's references on the site Everybody's Invited. I was as shocked, as I truly hope most of you were, to read the shocking testimonies and disgusted to see the fact that a member of our community was referenced. However, arguably what is more disgusting to every degree are some of the responses to these allegations. In the past week I have witnessed a level of victim blaming which I would have never anticipated from a School which has produced some of history's greats. As a community we should be rallying around survivors rather than questioning their testimonies and attempting to discredit them, accusing them both of lying and putting themselves in a position to be raped. "If a girl goes out late at night in London alone drunk on a bottle of vodka and a tank top, she is putting herself in a vulnerable position". I have heard such comments from Shells to Monitors across all the Houses.

I have seen a lot of criticism targeted at SMT in the past week, but I think that we are criticising the wrong people. The real problem is us: the boys. And although not all of us may be making sordid jokes, openly demeaning and putting down women, I believe our lack of objection to this makes us liable and equally guilty. We allow these beliefs and opinions to fester and grow. We may not have committed rape, but we contributed to a culture where someone thought it was acceptable to do so.

The girls who shared their testimonies may be strangers to some of us, but to others they could be friends, sisters, mothers. We need to stand up and help give these women, and all women, a voice to speak freely about their experiences without fear of persecution.

Furthermore, trivialising this site (i.e. Everybody's Invited), imputing false testimonies or attempting to cover up your friends' actions is concerning. These are serious allegations against our community, and we should be doing whatever is in our power to help bring justice to those wronged, not mock them.

I was unsure about whether I wanted to attach my name to this letter, but I realise that if I remain silent I too am part of the problem. I urge my fellow Harrovians to embody the principles this School. Honour, courage, humility, and fellowship. To be silent is to be compliant. Whilst I have portrayed a stark image in my letter I would like to acknowledge and thank the vast numbers of boys speaking out against these issues and fighting against misogyny. Your stand is truly commendable.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXANDER NEWMAN, DRURIES

DEAR SIRs,

Everyone's Invited Reflections.

Over the past several days I've had the opportunity to talk with numerous boys and beaks about the important issue of sexual harassment and assault brought poignantly to light by the Everyone's Invited campaign. In reflecting on these conversations I've noted a few key talking points to which the boys, and some beaks, return. I thought it might be of interest and benefit to us as a community to share these, along with some helpful possible responses.

But first I think it necessary to establish what Everyone's Invited is and is not about, even at the distinct risk of mansplaining.

This is not just about rape or overt harassment and assault. This is an epidemic issue for women undergirded by a culture that too often views women as commodities and objects. This is not just about what does happen, but about what might happen, and the corresponding anxiety and fear that potential raises. That said, this is also about what has and does happen, and the near ubiquitous experience/s of assault and harassment women have and do endure.

A little reframing and a small example may be helpful here. When a woman goes for a run she will think about what she's wearing and hope it will not garner unwanted attention. While out she may be subject to catcalls from passing cars and passersby. She will have thought out her route so as to avoid unpopulated areas and poorly lit streets. She may have to let someone know when she leaves and when she's back. She may have her phone at the ready, or house keys gripped in her fist should she need to call for help or fight if need arises. And nothing may happen on that run, but she will, in all likelihood, run through these and other risk assessments every time she goes out as there is the risk and fear that something might.

A helpful corollary can be found in this time of COVID-19. When we are out, say walking along the High Street, we make countless micro-risk-assessments. We must remember our mask. We will note pedestrians up ahead and how narrow the pavement is. So we decide to step aside to give them space, or step out on to the street. Perhaps they are not wearing a mask, so we must give them a wider berth. Some passersby are thoughtful, and while grateful that they have been mindful of the complexities of this side walk dance, it remains another frustrating reminder that this is not normal and we really shouldn't have to be worried about this at all. Perhaps we smile at them as we both quietly acknowledge the unspoken risk assessments we've both run through. Then we notice a bus going by. On its side the ad declares that you must wear a mask on public transit, but you can't help but notice how many are disregarding this important advice. Now, you know in the course of your walk that you are very unlikely to catch COVID on the street, and that very few of the people you have seen are likely to be carriers, but the exhausting difficulty is that while you know it's not all people who carry it, you don't know which people carry it, so you must be cautious of everyone. It has been tiring hasn't it? But at least with COVID we have the confidence that in a few months or at most years, we will be back to normal and not worrying about it. Alas, for women in public spaces there is no such confidence that a few months or years will remove the need for them to make these same calculations daily with respect to harassment and assault.

On to the three primary critiques I've heard from boys and beaks.

"There is no way 97% is an accurate statistic."

Here the reference is to a UN Woman UK poll that found 97% of polled women reported instances of sexual harassment and assault.

Now this is an interesting response from the boys as it both serves to highlight the point that women aren't believed when they do report harassment and assault, but it also raises an ugly spectre of complacency. It seems to me this is an attempt to deflect from the issue. Let us, for example, ask ourselves if we

would be less bothered about sexual harassment and assault if the number were lower. Or alternatively, we might ask what percentage of women reporting sexual assault and harassment are we okay with? 90? 80? 57? At what point would we say, "Yup, that sounds about right, and I'm okay with that."

Anecdotally, in talking to female colleagues, friends and family, I have yet to encounter a single woman who does not have a tragic litany of stories they are willing to share, and many, I suspect, they are not.

"But surely this will make it harder for the boys to talk to girls?"

Perhaps. But let's examine this a little deeper. Are we suggesting when we ask this, that boys are not capable of talking with girls without occasionally slipping in some casual harassment? Alternatively, are we suggesting that the cost of occasional awkwardness for the boys outweighs the safety of girls? In either case I hope our answer is 'no'. As a practical guide here, I'd suggest we, and the boys, broadly know whether our conversations or interactions are pitched for the benefit of the other or the self. And I'd further suggest, that if our hearts are oriented for the safety and welfare of the other, then we are both less likely to slip in some accidental harassment, and more likely to be forgiven if our good intentions are misunderstood.

"Not all men."

There is a German word I love, "Jein." It's a contraction of yes and no, and while it can convey indecision it can also be used to convey both yes and no simultaneously. It's a helpful word here, because the response to 'Not all men' is yes-no. But before we get to interesting German words, we need to decide on the object of the not all men phrase, because "not all men" is only part of the implied sentence. So we need to ask, not all men what?

Not all men are rapists or sexual assaulters? No, of course not. That would be ridiculous. But is that really the height at which we want to set the bar for men? Is that really all we are asking of our boys and of each other, that they and we simply don't rape or assault or harass? Might we have the courage to expect a little more, or to aim a little higher?

So that's the 'nein' part of the equation, not all men are rapists. What of the 'ja'?

Yes, all men.

Well there are two ways you can frame this. One accusatory and one productive, and I think both can serve a role.

If we raise the stakes a little, how many of us men are confident that nothing we have done or said from our teenage, university, or adult lives has placed women or a woman in a situation that they found uncomfortable, and reminded them of those risk calculations they have to make on a daily basis. Maybe alcohol was involved, maybe it was a thoughtless or tactless word, maybe it was some banter with the lads, maybe it was a little more insidious and there's an old girlfriend or someone on a night out with whom you took some liberties. Maybe you didn't think about it at the time. Maybe it's just now, as you look back, that you realise how in some small way you made the world a more frightful or less safe space for a woman or women.

And here is where it's important and hard but we need to be honest. It may be all men. But in a way, by normalising that, we can begin to move forward productively. In fact, I think it is only by being honest about this, that we can move forward, as we'll see presently.

The second response here is that it is all men who play a

role in the solution to this problem. By our action or omissions we can contribute to the safety of both the public and private spaces women occupy. Our contributions can be beneficial or detrimental. But we kid ourselves if we think that any of us is excluded from the need to respond. Sexual assault is an issue for women, but the problem is men, and so as men, collectively we must respond. If we love our mothers, sisters, partners, daughters, friends, it is in all our interests to make the world a safer place for them. That begins with us.

The problem with dismissing or diminishing or demeaning this moment is that we will fail to respond as a whole. And there is no solution that does not involve all men.

Finally, I'd like to ask one last question, and this is specifically addressed to the reader who's irate, angry, or a little defensive following this read.

Why?

Is it that you don't think this is a problem? That you don't believe your sisters, mothers, daughters, partners, friends? Or is it that you are worried that if we shift our definitions around this issue that you would need to concede that your own behaviour has been less than what it might have been? If it is the latter of these, take heart. I think you need not worry about what has been, but work now to change what will be.

Let us be gentlemen: not in station, or class, or in manners, but in conduct. Let us be gentle-men.

Yours sincerely,
SWB

DEAR SIRs,

It is a joy to see old boys writing back from time to time and sharing their thoughts in *The Harrovian*. A long time has elapsed since I have last had the pleasure of correspondence with my good friend Long Hei Ng and I wish him well.

Nonetheless, I must say I have been slightly bamboozled by his viewpoints. It is now a fact that "machines" can beat humans in any board game, even the game Go (where the last citadel of human dominance fell in 2016). Mr Ng suggests that public's respect towards successful players of the game should be derived from their humanity. However should the AIs be allowed to compete in World Championship, there won't be any place left for human players in the game. Following the analogy, Mr Ng's regard towards *The Harrovian* AI appears to be more on the basis of its scientific achievement and not the depth of its articles. When the day comes when AI, through machine learning, can produce articles in the equivalent "quality" and in industrial scales, where will be the last refuge for the human writers? *The Harrovian* could be full of AI writings in both articles and correspondence, and Mr Ng's favourite automatic proofreading would no longer be needed! An image emerges in my mind where Mr Ng will join Mr Ridley in their arming with cricket bats.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS LIU, THE HEAD MASTER'S

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Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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