

THE HARROVIAN

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THE KNOLL HOUSE PLAY

“Rope”, Ryan Theatre, 26 and 27 May

Initially scheduled for January but delayed by the pandemic, The Knoll took to the Ryan Theatre stage under the masterful direction of APC to perform *Rope*, Patrick Hamilton's 1929 thriller. As is often the case with House plays, it was a pleasure to see veterans of the Ryan performing alongside faces fresh to the theatre, although on this occasion the extended months of rehearsals paid dividends on the night, with the entire cast and backstage team coming together to deliver an suspenseful and engaging hour of drama – something that has been dearly missed on the Hill over the course of the last year.



Upon settling down in the socially distanced auditorium and peering through the customary smoke-machine haze, it was possible to make out the impressively intricate set. The lavish furnishings of vintage books, a jazz-age gramophone, candelabras and a plush cream divan and gilded chest were all arranged around a circular marble flooring, drawing the audience's eyes across the stage to bring the opulent 1920s Mayfair drawing room to life. Even more remarkable was the subtly menacing chandelier made out of miniature nooses and the clockface markings on the circular flooring, surreally hinting at the play's themes of time and suspense.

Enter with gusto Jasper Smallwood as Brandon and Leo Jiang as Granillo in matching scarlet waistcoats and tails, depositing the murdered body of their fellow student Ronald Kentley inside the centre-stage chest. The two provided a dynamic beginning to the play, with Smallwood grabbing the audience by the collar as he revelled gleefully in his wicked crime and dastardly plot of having his dinner guests dine off the chest containing his victim; Smallwood executed every gag well, and his nausea-inducing swagger paired with his sinister outbursts of anger, made him a perfectly odious antagonist. This, in turn, was balanced out by Jiang's electric anxiety which he maintained throughout the performance; his petrified presence on stage was always a refreshing contrast to the play's other characters.

Anton Shashenkov was precise in his role as Sabot the butler, executing his lines solemnly whilst serving drinks, laying the table (or rather the chest) and in his pyrotechnical display of lighting the candles. Like bumbling elephant hawk moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars in

came the guests, attired suitably in black tie until they were all cramped in the circular stage, the claustrophobia of which added to the underlying tension. First to arrive at the party was Sasha Sebag-Montefiore as Kenneth Raglan, in his theatrical debut at Harrow, slipping easily into his silk scarf and role as a Chelsea-based socialite. He was soon joined by William Tate, playing Leila Arden, who overcame the challenge of playing a member of the opposite sex with ease as he quipped and tantalizingly speculated with the other guests about the contents of the chest. William Wauchope's acting experience came through in his distinctive characterization of Sir Johnstone Kentley, the victim's father, as a wizened old man, poignantly changing the pace of dialogue whenever he spoke. Although he was only on stage for a brief time, Netanel Lawrence-Ojo delivered a well-rounded Mr Debenham up until his curt and humorous exit, which provided some much-needed comic respite from the volatile plot.

Last to the party, but immediately catalysing the energy of the play, was the seasoned Gabe Rogers playing an inquisitive Rupert Cadell. Rogers strolled around the stage with ease, demanding the attention of both fellow party-goers and audience members with his elocution and compelling development of suspicion regarding Brandon's crime. Together, Rogers and Smallwood created a brilliantly charged atmosphere in their fiery interactions, which were aided by Jiang's injections of comedy and spluttering nerves. Their performance spurred on the engaging plot and provoked sincere intrigue within the audience as to the play's outcome which – no spoilers – was tickety boo...



As if the quality of acting were not enough in itself, the audience were treated to the wonderful piano playing of Enhe Hu in the background. Hu's 1920s jazz was choreographed perfectly with the action on stage, creating a vivid sense of the party and adding to the play's heated atmosphere. This was all topped off by the neat light-switching, vivid illuminations of lightning on the back curtains and thundering SFX from the backstage team.

A massive congratulations is owed to all Knoll boys involved in such a strong House play, to APC for his excellent direction and to the theatre staff who were involved behind the scenes. It was a thrilling hour of entertainment and a delight to be in the theatre after such a long hiatus.

RAYLEIGH OBSERVATORY

Sun hides its face

A partial solar eclipse occurred 10 June at 10:07 in the UK and reached its maximum at 11:14, concluding at 12:26.



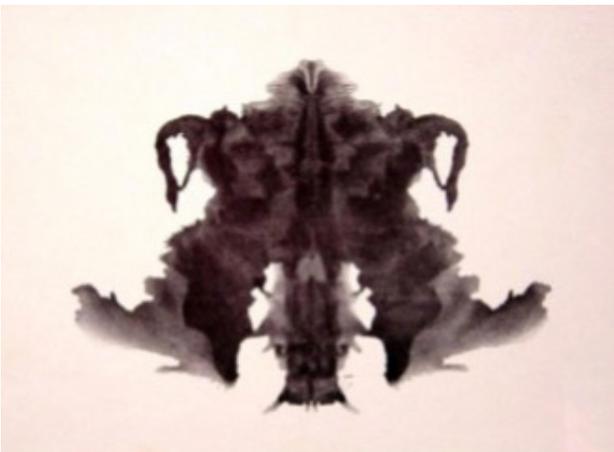
Solar eclipses happen when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun – the three celestial objects are aligned so the Moon casts a shadow on Earth. If the Moon is at its closest point to Earth (called the perigee) it can block out almost all the Sun's rays when viewed from the Earth, creating a total eclipse. However, if the Moon is aligned with the Sun when it's near to its furthest point (called apogee) from the Earth, it won't block out all light. Instead, it leaves a red ring or 'annulus' (Latin for 'ring') visible, creating what's known as an annular eclipse.

The photo above is what we saw from the observatory!

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

*Alex Adefarasin, The Grove, "Rorschach's Inkblots",
20 May*

Last week, Alex Adefarasin, *The Grove*, spoke to the Psychology Society about Rorschach's Inkblot test in a talk chock full of psychological insights, comedy and practical demonstrations. The talk began with a simple question from SMK: "What does it mean?" A member of the audience confidently replied with "Nothing." Fortunately, Adefarasin went on swiftly to disprove the slander, at once giving a history of the inkblot test, as well as defining its uses.



The Swiss psychologist Hermann Rorschach created the test in 1921, drawing inspiration from Japanese calligraphy and Egyptian hieroglyphs, and Leonardo da Vinci and Sandro Botticelli's uses of ambiguous designs to assess personality, as well as Justinus Kerner's book of poems inspired by inkblots and Alfred Binet's use of inkblots as a measure of creativity. Having experimented with several hundred inkblots, Rorschach collated the ten most consistently insightful and consistent pieces a year before dying. Adefarasin assured the crowd (many of whom entered the room sceptical) that the test has been proven to have genuine clinical use in areas such as the identification of schizophrenia, as well as providing a window into our preconscious and our subconscious, if administered correctly.

He explained that the test focused on individual perception and how we approach the task of describing the inkblots. Adefarasin picked out ten of the most insightful signals (out of an obscenely long list!), including sexual responses, whole /outline/division responses, movement responses and colour, shade and texture responses.

Adefarasin proceeded to show various inkblots and psychoanalyse the audience's responses. In exploring card 7, the 'mother card' (see attached), I learned of my own distance from my mother; the 'father card', card 4 revealed a fellow Grovite's reverence of authority and card 3 outed a member of the audience as a misogynist, among other things. Needless to say, our administration of the test was far from scientific!

Finally, Adefarasin took a volunteer from the crowd to create an inkblot of his own. The finished product, attached below, gave rise to a number of fascinating and revealing responses. My focus on the negative space, seeing the face of a deer in the top half of the image, hinted at my (seemingly undiscovered) tendency to work around problems rather than face them head on. SMK's focus on the texture of the ink revealed his inner loneliness (who can blame him, in the midst of Covid!) and the common response of two people sitting back-to-back angrily was indicative of empathy; however, one boy's perception that it was in fact one person sitting next to a mirror, marked him a narcissist. Indeed, the collective ignorance of colour in the piece suggests that Harrovians are all emotionally repressed!



Card 7

In all seriousness, it must be noted that our own inkblots and, indeed, our administration of the earlier tests, were not scientific and no real insights can be gleaned from our responses (and thank goodness for that!). This does not, however, detract from the validity of the test itself, rather it demonstrates the risk of the inkblots being used incorrectly, something which, as Adefarasin noted, became almost inevitable as the tests seeped out of the clinic and into job application processes and wider culture.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Adefarasin, SMK, and all boys in attendance for what was one of the finest lectures that I have attended in my time at the School.

ORIENTAL SOCIETY

Benjamin Thu Ya, Elmfield, "The February 2021 Military Coup in Burma: What Happened and Why? Is Democracy Gone for Good?", MLS 17, 24 May

For the Oriental Society's last lecture of the academic year, we welcomed Benjamin Thu Ya, *Elmfield*, to speak on the history of Myanmar and the recent coup. Being Burmese, Thu Ya began with some of the questions people often ask him: "Where is Myanmar?" (sandwiched between India and Thailand), "Is it called Burma or Myanmar?" (its official name is Myanmar; Thu Ya prefers its former name, Burma), and "Was it a part of the British Empire" (Yes – it became independent in 1948).

The man who brought Burma to independence was Aung San, benefiting from then British prime minister Clement Atlee's espousing of decolonisation. Despite being hailed as somewhat of a saintly "Father of the Nation", many of Burma's issues today stem from his failure adequately to consider minorities and his insistence that Burma should gain independence as a union and not a federation, and led to continuing friction between the nation's some 130 tribes.

A bicameral political system was formed and a hopeful democratic state emerged. Insurgencies, however, grew across the country, feeding the growth and influence of the military. Eventually, the civilian government handed over power to the military to restore law and order for two years, before elections would choose a new government. The election went ahead in 1960 but, two years later, continuing instability allowed for a coup that turned the country into a socialist military dictatorship.

The one-party state endured for more than two decades before falling in the 1988 uprising; a new coup allowing another group of military officials to take power. During this time, Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San, returned to Burma to look after her ailing mother, having lived abroad while pursuing her studies. Many Burmese began to rally around her, seeing her as a suitable leader given that she was the daughter of Aung San. Elections were held in 1990; Aung San Suu Kyi won by a landslide but the results were nullified. She was put under house arrest and her colleagues were arrested while the orchestrators of the coup formed the SPDC (State Peace and Development Council), which controlled the country.

The military junta remained in power until 2008, when a new constitution was drafted, beginning a transition to a quasi-democratic system (the constitution mandated that 25% of each house be reserved for military appointees and it gave the military junta the power to stage a coup if there was a threat to "national security"). Elections were held in 2010; the military won due to little opposition. Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest at the time. They remained in power until 2015, when Aung San Suu Kyi's party was allowed to participate in the elections.

Her party, the NLD (National League for Democracy), won a supermajority in both houses, and she was made State Counsellor – she was barred from the Presidency as she was married to a foreign citizen.

Under her leadership, the country made great progress. Foreign investors rushed into the country and its real GDP expanded. The country saw stability and its citizens gained greater freedoms and internet access. However, she remained silent during the Rohingya crisis in 2015, which many have called a continuing genocide. Thu Ya believes that, had she spoken out, it would have only caused the military to take the country over in a coup.

Burma held elections again in 2020. The NLD gained 70% of the vote, at the cost of the USDP (the military-controlled Union Solidarity and Development Party) and 30 or so minority parties, which accused the NLD and electoral committee (the UEC) of electoral fraud. The NLD and UEC refused a recount, stating that neither they nor any foreign observers found evidence of

electoral fraud.

In the early hours of 1 February, the military top brass declared a one-year state of emergency and took control of the country through the "State Administration Council". Aung San Suu Kyi and 80% of her party's MPs were detained, though some were released a few days after. Thu Ya recounted his personal experience on the day, waking up to hear on the radio that Aung San Suu Kyi's home had been barricaded and it seemed a coup had taken place. After returning from the loo, he found that he had no radio signal, wifi, telephone signal or mobile data.

After a few days, people began to protest, with around 5 million people gathering on the streets at the height of the protests. The military began to crack down, first with high-pressure water hoses, then rubber bullets, and finally real ammunition. Private media had their licenses revoked, though they continued to operate on social media. The financial system meanwhile had crashed and withdrawals were limited to \$100 a day.

An armed resistance grew in the jungles and rural areas, helped by training from existing ethnic guerilla groups. The military raided homes at night to abduct those identified as protestors or resistance members, sometimes assaulting those abducted, sometimes leaving only dead bodies that families had to pay for to collect for burial.

The UNSC and the Secretary-General of the UN condemned the coup. The US and its allies imposed sanctions on the military, while China, Russia, India and others remain neutral and claim that it is an internal affair. ASEAN released a five-point plan calling for the cessation of violence, the commencement of dialogue with the help of a special envoy from the UN and ASEAN and the provision of humanitarian assistance through the World Food Bank.

The day before the lecture, Aung San Suu Kyi, the president and the mayor of Rangoon (the capital) appeared in court on several charges; the most serious was incitement of hatred against the military and breaking of the national secrecy act, but included too were accusation of illegal walkie-talkie ownership. Thu Ya believes that there are two likely future scenarios: the NLD will be allowed to run in "elections" again with its remaining members, or peaceful dialogues will be brokered by ASEAN with the help of a UN special envoy. An all-out civil war, or the military's submission, are unlikely.

Many thanks go to Thu Ya for giving a superbly informative and well-presented lecture, as well as RMT and the Heads of the Oriental Society for organising the talk.

PIGOU SOCIETY

*Alexander Rusby, "Behavioural economics",
OH Room, 19 May*

The Pigou Society was honoured to welcome back former Harrow beak turned behavioural scientist Mr Alexander Rusby. Mr Rusby, having now completed a master's degree in behavioural science, returned to give a talk on the subject and informed the audience of firstly the nature of behavioural science, several key cognitive biases and then some solutions to real-world problems.

Although he admitted that defining behavioural science was not something that had even been done successfully by members of the community itself, Mr Rusby explained that it was largely a mixture of psychology and economics. Where psychology seeks to describe human behaviour and economics seeks to predict rational human behaviour, behavioural science seeks to describe, explain, predict and offer a solution to irrational human behaviour. Unlike a behavioural economist, a behavioural scientist's solution to a problem would not include incentives but would instead focus on other means to change human behaviour.

Mr Rusby then presented the audience with two questions. Firstly, would you prefer £100 now or £110 in two weeks? Secondly, would prefer £100 in a year or £110 in a year and two weeks? For the former question, the audience was equally split; however, the latter question brought a consensus with all audience members preferring to receive £110 in a year and two weeks' time. This is an example of present bias where we perceive far away rewards differently to those more in the near term and thus value those rewards differently. Hence, despite the fact that in both questions waiting an additional two weeks is worth just £10, we value the time periods differently because of their proximity to now. Present bias can also be shown when we delay doing our prep because we ignore the long-term benefits of completing it and instead focus on the short-term gratification from endlessly scrolling Instagram or browsing Reddit. In response, a behavioural scientist would suggest simply turning off the phone and removing the distraction (useful advice for some Harrovians), whereas a behavioural economist may implement incentives for completing the prep.

One way in which we make decisions, primarily decisions that can or should be made quickly such as catching a ball, is by using heuristics. These are a set of mental shortcuts that all people have which help us to make decisions efficiently without thinking too much. However, these shortcuts are susceptible to our cognitive biases, including representativeness bias, anchoring bias and availability bias to name just a few. Representativeness bias is, in essence, the illogical conclusions we make about someone or something by making assumptions about people or things in a certain category, and assuming anyone or anything with that trait belongs to that category. In other words, stereotyping is a form of representativeness bias. The anchoring bias, famously shown in the discounts offered by Sports Direct that make goods seem like better value for money, is when our expectations of something have been "anchored" by something we know. In the case of the Sports Direct discounts, a consumer may see that the good was originally priced at £50 but now that it has been discounted by 50% to £25, the consumer's expectation has been anchored by the original price and so they assume it is a bargain. Finally, the availability bias is when more recently acquired information is prioritised in decision making. For example, people may think that more people have died from COVID-19 than heart disease due to COVID-19's prevalence in recent news.

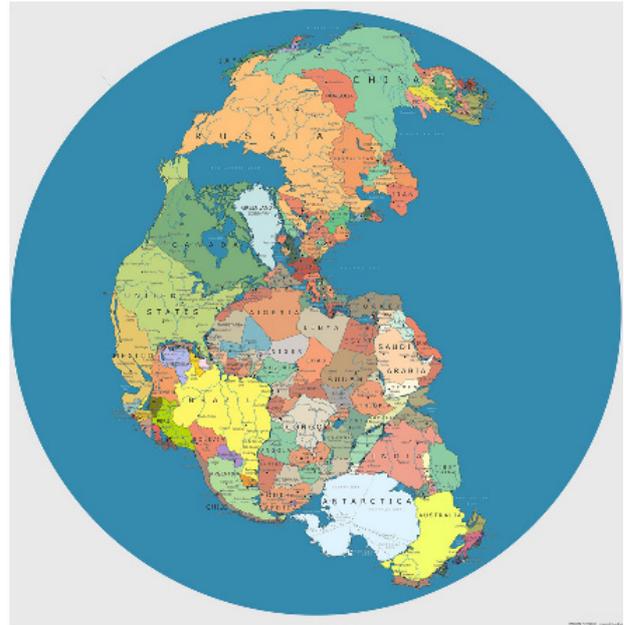
Being a good behavioural scientist is like being a good handyman, Mr Rusby explained, in that a behavioural scientist must be well equipped with a range of tools. To successfully diagnose and remedy a situation, a behavioural scientist must gather evidence, evaluate the evidence and intervene, with ethical considerations accounted for. A good behavioural scientist would also recognise the effectiveness of an intervention in context. Mr Rusby then outlined ways in which behavioural scientists have been successful. In a factory in China, workers threw refuse on the floor, creating a dangerous work environment where accidents were rife. Initially, the factory hired economists who proposed providing financial incentives to discourage workers from throwing refuse on the floor. However, this strategy proved ineffective and the factory hired behavioural scientists to solve the problem. The solution the behavioural scientists gave was far more innovative: they painted gold coins on the floor. The gold coins, being a symbol of good luck, helped to cut workplace accidents by roughly 40%.

Mr Rusby concluded his talk with some sage practical advice for Harrovians. He suggested Harrovians do four things. One, make the economist your home screen as it will encourage you and remind you to read it more. Two, set a default time to call your parents as it will force you to opt out of doing so, which humans find more difficult to do than opting in. Three, turn off your phone during prep; it will help you to avoid being distracted and be more productive. Four, surround yourself with good people; you tend to adopt the traits of those you mix with, so

choose wisely. Mr Rusby then answered a number of questions from a fascinated audience before being thanked for returning to give his talk. The Pigou Society would like to thank DMM for organising the talk and Mr Rusby for returning to give the intriguing lecture. Please email either DMM or Edward Blunt, *Elmfield*, if you are a Sixth Former who would like to give a talk to the Pigou Society in the future.

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Freddie Taylor, *Newlands*, "How was the UK made?",
8 June



On Tuesday 8th of June, Freddie Taylor, *Newlands*, presented an engaging lecture to the Senior Geography Society on the formation of the UK from its physical foundations to the development of its culture. Taylor started by explaining how the UK moved to the physical location that it is in today before continental drift. Between 1 billion and 620 million years ago, the continental crust that we now identify as the UK was found beneath the equator as a part of the supercontinent Rodinia. This continent began to split about 750 million years ago, forming a second supercontinent known as the Vendian or Pannotia supercontinent. The subsequent drifting and splitting of this landmass meant that more continents were formed, and the northern and southern parts of the UK were on separate continents for another 100 million years.

As a result of the UK being subject to a variety of plate and tectonic processes over an extended period, the geology of the UK is extremely diverse. All three types of rock are found in the UK with igneous rock found in Scotland and Northern Ireland, the sedimentary rock found in the south of England being the most common rock type in the UK, and metamorphic rock found in the north west of Scotland being the oldest rocks in the UK and some of the oldest rocks in the world, dating back 2700 million years. In addition to this, the physical geography of the UK varies greatly, consisting of mainly lowland terrain with upland and mountainous terrain typically found in the north west. The variation in the terrain was largely determined by glaciation. During the Devensian glacial period, Scotland and much of the Midlands were covered completely by an ice sheet and, as this ice sheet started to retreat, landforms such as Striding Edge in the Lake District were formed.

Following this, Talor went on to discuss the human factors

that have formed the UK. The UK is currently the 21st-most populated country with a total population of 68.2 million. Within the UK, England is the most populated, with London and the south east of England being the most densely populated. Global migration is one of the reasons for rapid population increases within the UK and has also served to increase the diversity of the UK, specifically ethnically, with 14% of the total population being foreign born. The age demographic of the UK is predominantly made up of people aged 20 to 50, generally because of the increase in birth rates in the 1960s, and 17% of the population of the UK is above the age of 64 because of an increase in birth rates after the Second World War.

The economic geography of the UK not only reflects its current position in the global economy, but its long history as a trading nation and an imperial power. The UK's primary industry was dominated by the coal industry, which was heavily concentrated in the North, the Midlands and South Wales. However, output fell by more than 75% between 1981 and 2003, in line with the global shift where it became cheaper to extract resources in low-income developing countries. The major primary industry in the UK today is in the North Sea, where about one quarter of the oil reserves in the UK are located.

Heavy manufacturing in the UK drove the industrial revolution and a map of the major UK cities today gives a good picture of where this activity occurred. The UK experienced deindustrialisation and therefore there is no longer a heavy manufacturing industry in the UK but a larger growth in the tertiary and quaternary sectors of the economy. The finance industry is the biggest industry in the UK and is heavily concentrated in the City of London, namely Canary Wharf; with back-office and administrative operations dispersed around the south of England. The service sector in total contributes to about 80.2% of the GDP as of 2016. However, due to the global pandemic, the UK's spending on services has drastically decreased and this has had a large impact on the performance of the UK economy.

In terms of politics, the UK is governed by a parliamentary democracy and is currently held by the Conservative Party who decides how the country will run, led by Boris Johnson.

Taylor tied this lecture up by explaining how a combination of these factors has led to the culture of the UK being formed. Almost 60% of the UK population would describe themselves as Christian. However, between 2001 and 2011 the percentage of Muslims and Hindus in the UK grew by around 4% each, possible due to inter-regional migration from countries such as India, Pakistan and China. Migrants have also brought their different ideas and integrated them into British culture. Traditionally, British cuisine consists of unfussy dishes that are made with quality local ingredients. However, one of the national dishes of the UK is now chicken tikka masala, which has been branded an Anglo-Indian dish and shows the combination of different cultures that forms British culture.

Many thanks must go to Taylor for presenting this lecture, which was much enjoyed by the members of the Senior Geography Society.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Samuel Quist, The Grove, "Vaccines - How they work, and why they are important", Biology Lab 2, 25 May

This week, the Medical Society was delighted to have Samuel Quist, *The Grove*, give a talk on what may be our most powerful tool against COVID-19. The talk was entitled 'Vaccines: How they work, and why they are important' and described the main types of vaccines, their production and their application in modern medicine.

Quist started his talk with the beginning of vaccines, detailing the events leading to their invention. He explained that Edward Jenner noticed how those who were infected with cowpox in the past were more likely to be protected from serious smallpox infections. To test this hypothesis, Jenner, on 14 May 1796, inoculated pus from a cowpox sore on James Phipps. While James Phipps fell into a mild illness for a rather short period, he was able to recover fully and was spared from smallpox. Quist explained that while it was not understood why vaccines worked at the time, the reason Jenner had succeeded was due to the cowpox virus being in the same family as the smallpox virus. With this discovery, Jenner more or less pioneered the branch of immunology in modern medicine.

Quist then moved on to the different types of vaccines, focusing first on inactivated vaccines. The inactivated vaccine, also known as the killed vaccine, is made up of killed or inactivated pathogens, such as viruses and bacteria. The inactivation process may involve exposing these pathogens to heat, toxic chemicals or UV radiation. An example of this would be heating viruses to a temperature of 60–65 degrees Celsius or reacting pathogenic particles with formaldehyde, causing the cellular biochemical reactions to stop due to cross-links between formaldehyde and certain chemical groups. Diseases such as hepatitis A, flu and rabies are prevented with this type of vaccine.

Next, Quist explained the live-attenuated vaccines, which involve weakened strains of the pathogen. Viruses are adapted to infect specific organisms. Those which infect humans are most suited to causing disease in humans. By culturing the same virus in cells from other organisms, the virus must adapt and change via mutations and new selective pressure. Over time, the virus becomes weaker against the human immune system and therefore becomes suitable for use in the vaccine. Viruses can also be attenuated through reverse genetics, which involves finding out what phenotypes are coded by specific gene sequences and changing them to produce the desired physical trait. While live-attenuated vaccines can induce a strong immune response and thereby long-lasting immunity, they could potentially be dangerous to those with weaker immune systems and need to be kept in cold temperatures, preventing the pathogen from being altered by environmental factors.

After that, Quist advanced towards mRNA vaccines, which, most notably, are being produced by Moderna and Pfizer to combat COVID-19. This vaccine contains a fragment of the viral RNA sequence and, when injected into the body, is taken up by dendritic immune cells. These cells read the genetic code, produce the corresponding surface proteins of the virus and cause an immune response in the body, leading to immunity. Samuel explained that a reason mRNA vaccines were used was due to the ease of production, including faster design and relatively low costs. Another advantage is that the mRNA fragments themselves do not cause disease, and so decrease the risk the vaccine has on the patient.

Moving on, subunit vaccines contain one or more antigen types from the pathogen. The term "subunit" points to a fragment of the pathogen, which could be a protein, peptide chain or polysaccharide. While these antigens can simply be isolated from the pathogen and administered directly, this risks the antigens being denatured and altered to an unusable state. Instead, the gene which codes for the antigen is engineered into another pathogen, producing a recombinant subunit vaccine. Similar to mRNA vaccines, the subunits do not cause disease and thus are safer for those with weakened immune systems. However, the immunity does not last very long and often requires booster doses to maintain it. The specific antigen may also be difficult to isolate, therefore making the vaccine harder to mass produce.

Quist ended the lecture on toxoid vaccines, which consist of weakened toxins. Like the live-attenuated vaccines, the weakening process also involves chemical or heat exposure, which alters its structure but allows for the retention of immunogenicity. The immune response is induced by the molecular markers of

the toxoid and thus builds up immunity against a specific toxin.

Overall, Quist gave a very enlightening talk, providing insight into what a large population of the world is using against the current pandemic and the tool that mankind has used in previous ones. He explained the technical details with simple and straightforward language, delivering content that could be easily understood by all year groups.

METROPOLITAN

AUGUSTUS FLEET POETRY

Winners 2021

No such other place.
by Jake Henson, *The Park*

There is no such other place which mixes fantasy,
in a dull cooking-pot,
No fields of blissful constancy,
That somehow, we forgot.

No seven-years-soup of thoughtful broth,
Which over time exceeds
Its origin of chequered cloth
To starlight poppy seeds.

You place of rock! You changeling bricks,
Whose colours seems so indistinct,
Than that which to a better lens,
A colour gives that far transcends.

But feeble is that which we see,
Of greyscale, crippling sanity,
And greater that, which in its grasp,
Combines the dreamlike things long passed.

How wretched that on simmering stove,
The parts are on a one-way road,
Yet Seven-years-soup won't taste the same,
When spoiled by tartness of the sane.

Iran // Home
by Que Ahkavan Zanjani, *Druries*

“is where the heart is, I've been told”; but I can't help but feel
That in the midst of this adolescent detumescence,
This bandari-beat rhythm is out of time. Who am I –
Or rather, who was I – to place the blame?

I did once bear love for my true home,
But the truth screamed from four walls;
Blood weighed in black gold stripped from her flag,
And displaced by the crescent of a grinning moon;
The sun, the lion, under a new regime,
“The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed,
But not a truth was spoken.
The church-bells had awoken”.

And from those darkened minarets
I felt this bleeding heart arrest;

And I found the last saved for the best
The night,
Our nation died.

A man sold his soul for a piece of the American Pie;
Now we, the generation of bottled water,
Beneath the springs of our own dissent,
Run hands through dried dreams
Of what we were,
What we could've been.

Home. Home is where the heart is, as I've been told.
But I can't help but feel,
That in a burning land,
Beneath man's eighth plague,
I am one of the lucky few;
Who gets to nail the coffin from without,
And yet feel the nail from within.

Under the smiling Tabriz tree
I sold you and you left me.
I'll plead you, and you'll clean me
Under the smiling Tabriz Tree.

Home
by Christopher Liu, *The Head Master's*

My home I have departed long ago.
Our kinsmen they are scattered far and wide;
The comfy house and garden set a-glow
Destroyed, burnt out, they plundered our lost pride.

When I recall the distant days now past,
Youthful joys and ripe wheat in the earth.
Our merry shadows by the sun were cast,
And dreams were sweet, near the fiery hearth.

Dire death and war led to our saddened fate.
Old photos of friends have been left behind;
The flame of hope is losing its warm blaze,
Yet home will always be in longing minds.

LAMENT FOR A STRAWBERRY

*A reflection on the 'Covid' Lord's Match,
May 22 2021*

'Twas the year, eighteen, hundred and five,
When Nelson, at Trafalgar, gained victory and died.
Harrow played Eton for the first time at Lord's,
And Byron, in defeat, putteth pen to the sword.

Afar and asunder, o'er two hundred years on,
Eton taunts wither, whilst Byron's stay strong.
But in this masked year of the Covid vaccine,
A sour Eton mess hath now sullied the scene.

For under the eyes of Old Father Time,
Lord's did bear witness to fresh cricket crime.
'Whoso doth eateth all of the pie?'
I heard the strawberry Eton boys cry.

Parted were those who dared sing on the day,
Coronavirus restrictions, the order of play.
It was ne'er going to be the Battle of the Boyne,
As the match had been won by the toss of a coin!

Can ye command the winds and the weather,
The urge for a burger or strawberry pavlova?
Yet every Harrow man followed-up to his duty,
Think Nelson’s last stand - sic gloria mundi.

OPINION

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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SPORT

GOLF

The School 2 v 1 OHGS, 8 June

The rumours are true: golf is cool, and it is slowly but surely taking over Harrow School. “Good luck in your match today, Sir” was now met with the reply “Which one, boy?” (insert Jeremiah Johnson nod of approval gif). Two matches in one afternoon?! That’s right, watch out JM, there’s a new major sport in town...(Sadly the second match was cancelled by Hampton School.)

On a gloriously sunny day at Moor Park, it was wonderful to see the Red Arrows as Finlay Matheson, *Drurries*, and George Webster, *Drurries*, sent their drives left and right respectively on the first hole. Nevertheless, Matheson scrambled well out of a bunker to ensure they halved the first hole in par. Webster, following a stunning approach on the second, ensured the match remained even stevens and Matheson followed suit on the third also. Such dovetailing in the first three holes may seem promising, yet suddenly Matheson and Webster’s game dropped and resulted in Matthew Gibbens (*West Acre* OH) and Jeremy Fricker (*Elmfield* OH) gaining a 3up lead by the halfway

mark. The OHs displayed their true experience with magnificent dovetailing and ensured that any efforts made by Matheson and Webster to save the match were unsuccessful. After a gritty tussle over the back 9, unfortunately (or fortunately for any OH reading!) Matheson and Webster fell to a 4&3 loss, but they had a truly awesome day and praised the friendly company of the OHs. They will certainly be searching for the A game for the coming weeks! As Webster would say, you can’t spell Tango without A (struggling, sorry).



The second game saw Fred Hewer, *The Park*, and Jake Forster, *The Knoll*, take on Head of Shells TGE and Jerome Ponniah (*The Head Master’s* OH). It was TGE’s first outing with the golf team and debut for the OH, his “greatest honour and privilege, I couldn’t be prouder or more thankful to JRP for this huge step up in responsibility” (TGE, 2021). Forster had a cracking start, winning the first two holes for Harrow. Hewer, who didn’t finish the first two holes, woke up and managed to par the par 3 3rd hole with an excellent up and down to halve the hole. Harrow were 3up at the hut before TGE found his magic touch on the 9th to get it back to just 2. The par 3 12th hole was a challenger, weighing in at 215 yards into the breeze with a slightly elevated green. Only one of the group managed to find the short grass, yet all players somehow sank putts for par. Luckily enough, it was a shot hole for Harrow and the boys found themselves 4up. Harrow won the game on the 14th green, winning 6&4. (The main highlights appear to have occurred after the final whistle had gone...) On the par 3 18th, Hewer hit his tee shot to 12 feet and had a lip out birdie attempt. TGE sadly had a different outcome on the tee and the ball made it half way down the 152 yard par 3. But, with some sort of magic touch, he chipped to about 3 feet and holed out for par. Commendable effort to Forster for shooting 81 on the very challenging High Course.

Riding the high from their previous win, the devilish duo of Ben Swan, *Moretons*, and Peter Cartwright, *The Grove*, confidently stepped up to the first tee. Following a confusing explanation of WHI from golf fanatic Cartwright, an obvious ploy to get into the OHs’ heads, the Harrow duo hit lovely drives down the middle of the fairway and began their round. Fighting hard, the boys went one up through the first hole. Hoping to replicate his shot on the first hole, Swan gripped it and ripped it, the ball barely making the front tees. It was now up to Cartwright to save the hole for the duo. Following a valiant fight and a shot advantage, Cartwright managed to secure the half. A bit of back and forth ensued over the rest of the front nine and the boys successfully went up 3 holes at the turn, Swan having 4 birdie putt opportunities, converting just one. Heads held high, Swan and Cartwright were unaware of the battle ahead. Following a quick Fanta at the halfway hut, Jonathan Pool (*The Head Master’s* OH) and Alastair Hill (*Elmfield* OH) hit lovely drives down the middle of the 8th fairway and put the pressure back on the boys. Cartwright opted to hit the first drive and stepped up confidently to the tee. Playing his usual game, he managed to shank it so far right it

landed in the nearby housing. He took a provisional, choosing to continue his efforts with the driver. As expected, this drive went further right and Cartwright strapped on his hiking boots and backpack as he ventured into the wilderness to find his balls. A bead of sweat trickled down Swan's forehead. He needed a good drive. Channelling his inner Bryson, Swan smashed a 300 yard drive down the middle of the fairway. While heroic, his efforts weren't enough to stop the inevitable crumble. Although Cartwright managed to find a par to send the boys 4up, the duo fell in quick succession from 4 up to 2up with three to play. A delicious birdie putt from Swan on the 16th ensured that the duo would at least tie the game. The tension building up on the 17th, Cartwright swung hard and hit an absolute bomb down the middle. Measuring 265 yards, he reached the limit of his driving capabilities. Following Cartwright whispering 'Go on Brooksy' into Swan's ear, Swan proceeded to hit 305 yards down the middle of the fairway – landing in a different postcode to Cartwright's drive. Swan began feeling the heat of the day and decided that a beach trip near the green would be appropriate to cool down. Cartwright was in no mood to tan, and hit a glorious 9 iron to 4 feet from the hole. Securing the win on the 17th, the now famous duo won the match 2&1 – adding to their stellar School golfing career of 2-0. A car ride blasting Olivia Rodrigo's hit single *Good 4 U* seemed to be the perfect reward for Harrow pair as they look to turn pro in the coming years.

The School v Stowe School, 10 June, Lost 4-2

Ironically, for the first time in two years, all of the boys turned up to the bus on time but our lunches were late. Not a good start. When the sweet chilli wrap then ends up dripping onto your lap, you start to think it's just not going to be your day. Nonetheless, George Webster, *Druries*, was there to keep spirits high as he entertained the bus with stories of the 108 holes he had played in the past few days. I hate to think how much Tango was consumed during these rounds.

We were on the way to the stunning Stowe School (Webster kindly researched Stowe on the journey and discovered it is only 98 years old – only 27 years older than Tango!). We passed at least half a dozen McDonald's on the way up so the boys were starting to feel more comfortable. On entering the austere grounds, we knew we were definitely in for a treat on Stowe's brand-new golf course. The only problem with having a school set in 750 acres is that it can be devilishly hard to find your destination. Nonetheless, after some swift three-point turns and not a single stall in sight, we were on the first tee and raring to go.

First up Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, was facing an old foe. Both were away well on the tricky, blind par 4 with water immediately ahead of them. Shirvell quickly got into his stride and put the hammer down. He was keen to watch the test match and wasn't going to let this golf match get in the way! He made light work of the new course, thundering a huge drive down the 570-yard par 5 fifth, leaving himself a 7 iron into the green, which he would birdie to go 5 up through six holes. He finished off his opponent on the 11th to win the match 8&7 and Harrow were in the lead!

Second saw Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, taking on another +2 golfer on the Stowe team. After starting with a poorly hit drive, his accurate second shot allowed him to win the 1st hole. On the 3rd, another approach shot was hit inside 5-foot to go 2up. During the middle of the round, Shirvell's opponent managed to make some vital birdies and get the score back to A/S. On the long par 4 14th, Toby spanked a drive that left him with a soft 9 iron into the green. A par was enough to go 1up with four to play. The Stoic Stowic was not done and managed to sink a 30-foot putt on 17 to take the match down the 18th A/S. Toby took the sensible option of a 2 iron rather than a driver and found the short grass before hitting a super

approach. Yet again, the opposition managed to power a superb recovery shot just short of the green and bravely get down in two putts to halve the match.

Aidan Wong, *The Park*, has been getting some serious pre-Micklem training in over the half-term break and was looking to put this to good use at Stowe. He was up against an impressive youngster on the Stowe side, however, and the match would see-saw throughout the afternoon. Wong was looking good with some lovely straight drives and a soft touch around the green, which got him out of trouble on occasion. The putting stroke is certainly looking more confident too! Again, the match went up the 18th all square but Wong's choice of driver got him into some deep rough, which then grabbed the club on impact, sending his ball left and OB. A valiant effort against an opponent playing off scratch!

The match was teetering on the edge and so we were in need of a brave young Harrovian to steady the ship. Who better than George "The Dragon" Webster. Usually reliant on his "fade" off the tee, Webster was shocked to see one stay straight, and go straight into the thick rough on the first – lost ball, one down. Webster has been here before though and was able to dust himself off and carry on. Sadly, despite his courage, Webster just couldn't hold on to the impressive young Remove from Stowe (playing off 4) and would find himself 5 down through 11 holes. A win on the 12th saw him back to just 4 down but it was always going to be a tough ask to come back from that sort of deficit. He was without his trusty sidekick, Finlay Matheson, *Druries*, upon whom he relies for inspiration, and, perhaps, if Matheson had been there, the story would have been oh-so very different. Alas, Webster would lose 5&4.

Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, was out in the penultimate group and looking to build on his fine form shown at Moor Park this season. He made a nice par on the 1st, after an errant tee-shot, to start the day off well for him. He then went in the water off the tee on 3 getting the match back to all square after winning the 2nd. Pars on 4,6,7, and 8 allowed Oelhafen to have a 2up lead through 8. However, a string of poor wedge shots on 9 and 10 saw his lead quickly diminish back to all square. The battle on the back nine continued with pars for both players on 11 and a win on 12 for Oelhafen. However, birdies on 13 and 14 for Stowe made him take a 1up lead. Oelhafen then missed a 4-foot putt on 17 to go 2 down and he would eventually lose the match 2&1.

It was great to see Victor Grant, *Moretons*, out for the team again this year. He is a talented chap and so often finds himself on the cricket pitch by accident too (JRP and JLM are currently locked in a transfer small-print battle). He showed his class immediately off the first tee, sending the best drive of the day towering down the first fairway, while his opponent hit his worst shot of the day into the water 100 yards in front of him. This was not the tone for the match, however, as another game would go down the 18th. This time, Grant was battling for a half point to save some blushes for the blues. He found another beautiful drive while his opponent found the famous rough that had been so busy on the day. Grant kept his cool, hitting another superb approach to seal the half point, meaning Harrow would walk away the wrong side of 4-2 but with plenty of positives to take forward.

SWIMMING

Harrow hosted a head-to-head gala with Dulwich College at home. This competition was in lieu of the Bath Cup (UK Independent Schools' Championships) that was cancelled and rescheduled three times this year due to Covid. Dulwich College were the 2020 winners. This was the much-anticipated climax to a non-competitive season due to restrictions.

The Bath Cup and John Nalson Relays consist of a 4x100m freestyle team (Bath Cup) and a 4x50m medley team (John Nalson Relay).



For many of the swimmers, this was the first time that they had raced competitively, inter-school, for the past 15 months. Expectations and fever pitch was high. Anything could happen.

Bath Cup

After much deliberation, time trialling and discussion, the team selection along with their times for the 100m freestyle were as follows:

A team:
 Henry Gray, *Lyon's* 53.95
 (.01 off from the Torpid record held since 2005)
 Nick Finch, *Newlands* 51.70
 (Would be a new record but does not count as was not the first leg)
 Tom Pearce, *Newlands* 54.53
 (Would be a new record but does not count as was not the first leg)
 Maxwell Brooks, *West Acre* 55.06
 Total time: 3.35.24
 (.02 seconds faster than the Bath Cup short course all-time record swum by Harrow in 2009 of 3.35.26)

Dulwich team winners
 Swimmer A 52.20
 Swimmer B 53.83
 Swimmer C 54.64
 Swimmer D 51.42
 (fastest time swam in this event)
 Total time: 3.32.09
 (3 seconds faster than the all-time record)

Thus, unbelievably, both teams beat the all time record for the Bath Cup, so no more could have been expected of Harrow swimmers. We were simply outclassed by a stronger Dulwich team, who deserve full congratulations and praise.

Also swimming in this Bath Cup event were a further three Harrow teams. Here are their times:

B Team
 Henry Pearce, *Newlands* 54.93
 George Rates, *Newlands* 57.71
 James Rates, *Newlands* 56.68
 Ethan Yeo, *The Head Master's* 54.85
 Total time: 3.43.97
 (a time that would have won the Bath Cup before 2004)

C Team
 Sebastian Moscoso, *The Knoll* 57.29
 Joe Storey, *Newlands* 1.00.42
 Z-Za Bencharit, *Elmfield* 58.42
 J. Changbencharoen, *Lyon's* 57.28

Total time: 3.53.51
 (a time that would have won in 1994)

D Team
 Kiefer Yeo, *The Head Master's* 58.95
 Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradby's* 1.05.21
 Adam Wong, *The Park* 57.50
 Alexander Moore, *Lyon's* 56.62
 Total time: 3.58.28

John Nalson Relay

This was a more closely fought race, with only a second dividing the two teams. The race kicked off with Henry Gray setting a new Torpid record in his 50m backstroke leg of 27.87. Alexander Moore, Shell, on the B Team, also set a new record of 28.93. Harrow were in the lead after the first leg. Second in for the A team was captain Ethan Yeo, who dived into the water for the breaststroke 50m and, despite swimming a near personal best time, was outswum by the Dulwich monolith of a swimmer (complete with moustache), who clocked 28.41, which is an outstanding time. Dulwich were now in the lead. Next up was Nick Finch who had quite a lot of work to do to recover the win. He put in a great effort and swam faster (at 25.24) than his Dulwich rival (at 25.55), but it was not enough to even the teams. Last in for the A team was Henry Pearce, who swam a blistering 24.39, again faster than his Dulwich rival at 25.17, but not quite enough to take the win.

Dulwich:
 Backstroke 28.21
 Breaststroke 28.41
 Butterfly 25.55
 Freestyle 25.17
 Total time: 1.47.34

Harrow A:
 **H. Gray 27.87
 E. Yeo 30.81
 N. Finch 25.24
 H. Pearce 24.39
 Total time: 1.48.31

Harrow B:
 T. Pearce 30.05
 A. Wong 30.71
 M. Brooks 28.03
 J. Rates 24.45
 Total time: 1.53.24

Harrow C:
 Changbencharoen 31.43
 K. Yeo 29.16
 B. Bencharit 25.60
 J. Storey 25.60
 Total Time: 1.57.32

Harrow D:
 **A. Moore 28.93
 H. Bourne, *The Grove* 35.70
 G. Rates 28.45
 S. Moscoso 25.80
 Total Time: 1.58.88

Thus, although Harrow were beaten today in both events, two new records were set by our swimmers. Many of the swims were personal best times. No one could have asked any more from our team; we were simply outswum by a superior team of four exceptional Dulwich swimmers.

TENNIS

The School v Tonbridge, 12 June

1st Team v Tonbridge School, Won 7-2

The 1st VI played some excellent tennis to convincingly beat Tonbridge 7-2. The 1st Pair Ciaran Timlin, *Bradbys*, and Thomas Cheah, *The Head Master's*, were particularly dominating in all of their three wins. Federico Ghersi, *The Head Master's*, and Hugo Anderson, *Newlands*, showed great resilience and skill to save eight match points in their win against the Tonbridge first pair. Anderson and Ghersi played with great verve to win all three sets. Cameron Timlin, *Bradbys*, and Henry Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, played with real spirit to beat the Tonbridge 2nd pair before narrowly losing their other two sets.

2nd Team v Tonbridge School, Lost 2-7

Despite a 2-7 defeat all the boys performed well. The star pair were Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, and Adam Chambers, *Rendalls*, who won two of their three sets but were denied a clean sweep by losing their last match 5-7 against the top Tonbridge pair.

JCA's v Tonbridge School, Won 8-1

The JCA tennis team secured a convincing win over Tonbridge. Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, only lost a solitary game in three sets and Elliot Chua, *The Knoll*, and Porter, *Druries*, are to be commended on winning two out of three matches on their debut.

JCB's vs Tonbridge School, Won 6-3

The JCB tennis team secured a comfortable win over Tonbridge. Oliver Bailey, *The Park*, and Harry Duckworth, *The Head Masters*, Theo Stockmeier, *Druries*, and Zain Ayoub, *The Knoll*, and Maxi Farah, *The Park*, and Ollie Chambers, *Rendalls*, each won two of their three matches.

JCC's v Tonbridge School, Lost 3-6

The JCC tennis team lost to a strong Tonbridge side. Congratulations to Harry Burt and Misha Newington, both *Moretons*, in pair 3 who won two of their three matches.

JCD's v Tonbridge School, Won 5-4

The JCD tennis team fought to the very last match to secure a narrow win over Tonbridge. Congratulations to Sebastian Ordonez, *Bradbys*, and Leo Waschkuhn, *Lyon's*, pair 1, and Zane Akbar Khan, *Moretons*, and Leo Mazrani, *The Park*, pair 2, who both won two of their three matches.

Yearlings A v Tonbridge School, Lost 3-6

Yearlings B v Tonbridge School, Won 5-4

Yearlings C v Tonbridge School, Won 8-1

Yearlings D v Tonbridge School, Won 8-1

CRICKET

Colts A v RGS, Guildford, Harrow – 129 for 4, RGS – 130 for 6 Harrow lost by 6 wickets

In a tight T20 game, Harrow batted first, scoring 129-4 with Harrison, *Moretons*, and Stone, *The Park*, the pick of the batsmen. In reply, there were some outstanding moments of fielding including stunning catches by Keey, *Druries*, and Artis, *The Head Master's*, along with a fantastic run out from Keey as well. However, RGS' batting was too strong and they chased Harrow's total down in 18.3 overs. Harrison, S, *Moretons*, 35* Stone, C, *The Park*, 26

Junior Colts A v Rosedale Hewens Academy - Middlesex T20 Cup Quarter-Final, Harrow – 219 for 5, Rosedale – 30 all out Harrow won by 189 runs

Harrow won the toss and elected to bat first with Charlie Nelson and Gus Stanhope to get the show on the road. Charlie Nelson saw the short ball and was unfortunately caught at mid-wicket. An early blow for the home side! Filip Edstrom came in to steady the ship. Gus Stanhope, with some lethargic running, picked up 54 runs off 35 balls. Sadly, it came to an end by popping a sitter up to cover. Filip demonstrated some big hitting, resulting in a superb 53 runs off 34 balls. As Filip wanted to kick on after reaching his half-century, he decided to pull out the slog sweep, sadly resulting in another wicket. Ben Taylor was unfortunately dismissed for 0 by a quick stumping from the Rosedale wicketkeeper. Sam Phillips then came in and certainly enjoyed himself before Mr Furber decided to retire him to give James Felton a chance at the crease for the last over. The scoring shots were the highest of the season for the batting unit with a very respectful 75%. A very successful start to the match for the Hill.

The bowling started well for Harrow. William Stabb took a phenomenal diving catch in front of him to pick up the first wicket for Harrow. This was followed up by some safe hands by Gus Stanhope in gully off William Stabb's bowling. The Rosedale batting unit soon started to tumble, with Filip Edstrom, Ben Taylor, Charlie Nelson and Freddie Dinan all picking up some wickets. If Harrow had restricted the extras, Rosedale would have been all out for 11! Freddie Dinan showed off at the back end, picking up 3 wickets for 2 runs. Charlie Nelson bowled consistently to finish the match with 2 wickets for 0!

All round a very successful day for the home side. Not the toughest match we will play. Nevertheless, a great warm up for the match against Eton on Thursday.

Gus Stanhope (Man of the Match)

1st XI v Free Foresters, 10 June

Won by 2 wickets

	B	R
Al Russell c B Sheopuri b J. Richardson	106	83
Wasid Shah c J. Gray b B Sheopuri	62	28
Ollie Soames lbw b B Sheopuri	12	8
Bradley Parry c J Connell b B Sheopuri	34	18
G Schreuder c T Sheopuri *† b B Sheopuri	5	3
D Heggie † c T Sheopuri *† b B Sheopuri	18	7
Rob Wood c B Hope b B Sheopuri	34	12
J Hamilton c T Sheopuri *† b B Sheopuri	5	1
Babs Oduwole run out (P. Ashworth)	21	10
D O'Sullivan st T Sheopuri *† b P Ashworth	9	2
Pratyush Ramesh not out	4	2
Extras		1
Total	175	for 10

	O	M	R	W
J Gray	5.0	1	14	0
J Blackwood	6.0	1	26	0
J Richardson	19.0	1	63	1
M Ferreira	4.0	0	16	0
B Sheopuri	15.0	2	52	7
P Ashworth	2.0	0	4	1

	B	R
J Connell run out (Al Russell)	96	70
C Ellis c Dave O'Sullivan b Dave O'Sullivan	4	0
T Sheopuri *† c G Schreuder b Dave O'Sullivan	62	44
V Patel lbw b P Ramesh	33	23
M Ferreira lbw b P Ramesh	16	2

B Hope st D Heggie † b P Ramesh	5	6
P Ashworth not out	17	12
B Sheopuri lbw b Dave O’Sullivan	4	4
J Richardson lbw b Pratyush Ramesh	1	0
J Gray not out	4	2
Extras		13
Total	176	for 8

	O	M	R	W
Dave O’Sullivan	12.0	0	56	3
James Hamilton	5.0	1	13	0
Pratyush Ramesh	10.0	2	31	4
Wasid Shah	3.0	0	25	0
Bradley Parry	4.0	0	17	0
Gareth Schreuder	6.1	0	25	0

Harrow started off brilliantly with the ball having won the toss and put the opposition into bat. The opening partnership of Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, and Jasper Blackwood, *Elmfield*, was relentlessly accurate and gave very little away; however, their hard work generated little reward as Harrow put down some difficult chances, leaving the Free Foresters 135-2. The skipper turned to John Richardson, *Elmfield*, and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon’s*, to try and claw back some control. Harrow from this point onwards were excellent with the ball and this superb bowling partnership displayed immense control, putting the pressure back onto Free Foresters. Harrow began to reap the rewards of this discipline and managed to break the key partnership, with Richardson picking up the set batsman before the middle order crumbled to the wizardry from Sheopuri. Having been 135-2 the Free Foresters were 175 all out.

In reply, Harrow stuttered early on and lost Ellis early. This brought the captain, Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon’s*, and Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, to the crease. This partnership consisted of plenty of boundaries from Sheopuri and a compact innings from Connell. The pair put on 97 before Sheopuri was dismissed for 44, bringing Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, to the crease. Patel joined Connell and made batting look easy, milking the spinners for plenty of singles and exhibiting the odd powerful pull shots off the quick opening bowler. Sadly, Patel was dismissed for 23 and Harrow found themselves 142-3. A Harrow middle order collapse followed which left Harrow with only a few wickets in hand as the chase neared its conclusion. This meant that Jasper Gray and Phoenix Ashworth were both needed to see the team over the line as Harrow chased 175 8 wickets down to secure victory.

Junior Colts A v Eton College, Eton – 184 for 7, Harrow – 165 all out, lost by 19 runs

John Edwards, *Moretons*, 2 for 10, Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, 2 for 51 and 50 runs, Henry MacDonald, *The Park*, 39.

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, having lost the toss, Harrow were made to bowl in the first 40-over fixture of the year. Harrow got off to a flyer of a start with Hope taking a diving catch low to his left at second slip off a nice away swinger from Edwards. The new batsman, intimidated by the three slips and a gully from Harrow, was sent back to the pavilion facing only 1 in -swinging delivery from Edwards. Then Eton set into a rhythm, scoring slowly but sticking at the crease amongst some tight bowling and fielding from Harrow. With Eton 70 for 2 off 20 overs Harrow looked in a comfortable position; however, Eton climbed back into their innings, making it to 184 off their 40 overs. Edwards and Hope took 2 wickets each and Dinan had a tight spell of 0 for 7 from his 8 overs.

Harrow started nicely; however, both the openers of Nelson and Stanhope departed early as Baker and Macdonald began to rebuild. Then Baker had to go to a short one that stuck in the wicket. Macdonald and Hope started to rebuild, putting on a good partnership, steering Harrow in the right direction. Macdonald then went to an off spinner that slid under his bat.

Eton began to find rhythm in the middle overs, taking wickets at regular intervals as the Harrow tail began to diminish. Harrow fell to 165 all out. Hope 50, Macdonald 38.

Junior Colts B v Eton College, lost by 6 wickets

Junior Colts C v Eton College, Eton 82 all out, Harrow 80 all out, lost by 2 runs

Harrow’s Scott and Anderson bowled their full allocation of 5 overs each at the start of the innings, at the end of which the score was 23-6 thanks to both bowlers’ excellent line and length. They bowled aggressively at the stumps, as did Max Bloomfield, *Elmfield*, who returned figures of 2-10. However, Eton recovered from 38-8 to 82ao despite only scoring two boundaries in this period. Their numbers 9 and 10 batted with composure and guided the ball into the gaps, whilst Harrow bowled too short and did not take the chances that came their way.

The Harrow innings was disappointing. Six batsmen threw their wickets away, often by hitting the ball in the air. The scorecard shows a huge number of dot balls, despite Eton bowling a less consistent line than Harrow. The Harrow batsmen threw their hands at the ball and frequently failed to make contact. Scott played with great composure and situational awareness, guiding a great many balls through the under-protected third man region before eventually being castled by a rare straight ball. The final pair valiantly took the score from 67 to 80 but could not get Harrow over the line. The game was lost since seven of the top eight scored six runs or fewer.



Yearlings A v Eton College, Eton – 134 for 8, Harrow – 99 for 6, lost by 35 runs

The Yearling As returned from half term well-rested and eager to build on the momentum they had taken into the break. After a swift bus journey with the customary tone-deaf singing being led by Henry Porter, *Moretons*, at the back of the bus, Harrow arrived at Eton only to find no opposition in sight. 60 minutes later, still with no opposition, it became clear that Eton had decided to resort to mind games to throw Harrow off their stride.

Despite a delay of another 30 minutes, Harrow started the game with laser-sharp focus and the opening bowlers, Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and James Lester, *West Acre*, put the Eton batsmen under serious pressure from the outset. After a deadly spell of swing bowling, it was James Lester who made the breakthrough with a superb delivery that caught the outside edge. An over later, an audible sigh of relief could be heard from the Eton batsman as Henry Porter had to leave the field with a side strain. However, Harrow were not phased and Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, entered the attack and sent the off stump flying with just his 2nd delivery. Another wicket fell from Teddy Barnett’s, *Rendalls*, first over and Eton found themselves 31-3. A spirited 4th wicket partnership put Harrow under some pressure in the field and provided Eton with valuable runs. Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*, eventually made the breakthrough thanks to a superb diving catch from Edward Swanson, *Druries*. A lower order

surge from Eton put them back in the game as they raced up to 117-6 but some excellent death bowling from James Lester, Henry Snow and Teddy Barnett restricted Eton to just 17 runs off the last 4 overs, leaving them on 134-8.

Harrow entered the batting chase full of confidence and Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, and Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, weathered the new ball well, pushing the team to 29-0. They both then fell quickly to some excellent full swing bowling from the Eton opener. Henry Snow and Teddy Barnett looked to rebuild but some accurate bowling and some disciplined fielding made runs very hard to come by. Harrow became bogged down and found themselves on 39-2 off 14 overs. Teddy Barnett attempted to take the fight back to the bowlers but could not manage to stay on top of his pull shot and was caught in the leg side. Harry continued to struggle and despite attempts from Henry Snow to attack the spin bowlers, Harrow could not get on top of the run rate. Some quickfire runs from Henry Porter and Mungo Lawson made the score look a bit more respectable but the reality was that a poor batting performance let down what had been an excellent 1st innings in the field.

Man of the Match - James Lester, *West Acre*, 2-15



Yearlings B v Eton College, Harrow – 99 all out, Eton – 100 for 6, lost by 4 wickets

After electing to bat, captain Josh Ashley, *Moretons*, got his team off to an excellent start, scoring a run a ball 30 before being caught out following a full toss that was extremely close to being a no ball. It was a brilliant innings that included some fluent drives through the covers and one truly gigantic 6 down the ground. Unfortunately, no other Harrow batsman was able to make a significant contribution to the total.

Such a low total was always going to be very tough to defend but Harrow produced arguably their best bowling and fielding performance of the season. The delivery of the match was undoubtedly an off-cutter from Michael Samuelson, *The Head Master's*, that totally bamboozled the Eton opening batsman.

Man of the match: Josh Ashley, for a brilliant innings that deserved to be for a winning cause.

Moment of the match: Rory Grant's, *Moretons*, first ball wicket that was delivered in the middle of a laughing fit due to some extremely dodgy dance moves from wicket keeper Hal Hersee, *Newlands*,

Yearlings C v Eton College, Harrow – 114 for 7, Eton – 117 for 6, lost by 4 wickets

Our first competitive fixture since returning from the half term break was the big crunch match as we took on Eton in the boy's first experience of being part of the oldest annual schools' fixture in the world. Despite weather forecasts predicting blue sky and full sun the conditions were overcast, a classic setting for the English game. Eton won the toss and elected to bowl. Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, and Nathan Karri, *Rendalls*, opened the batting and got off to a quick start before a thick edge of Karri was skilfully caught by Eton. Jack de la Poer Beresford, *The Park*, then came in to bat and formed a strong 28-run

partnership with Williams before Williams was caught just as he had begun to settle into the innings, finishing on 13. Beresford was unperturbed and crafted a skilful 27 with a partnership of 33 with Harry Murton, *Newlands*. Beresford was also caught after ticking a ball down the legside to a waiting fielder. Disaster then struck as Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, was out for a golden duck leaving Harrow on 68-4 with 14 overs left to play. Freddie Emery, *Moretons*, and Murton then dug in and played maturely to ensure that Harrow batted out the innings, with Murton finishing on 19 and Emery 11. In the last few overs, as Harrow tried to turn to screw two more three more wickets were lost as Harrow finished on 114-7.

Knowing that the score was defensible with effective fielding and accurate bowling, Harrow headed into the field with a clear goal in mind: bowl Eton out. Harrow's opening bowlers, James Flach, *Moretons*, and Jaden Odofin, *The Grove*, bowled magnificently, putting Eton under much pressure, taking five wickets between them, posting figures of 2-17 off 5 and 3-18 off 5 respectively, leaving Eton on 31-5 with 18 overs to play; things were going to plan. However, Eton's partnership between their 6th and 7th Batsman proved too much for Harrow, forming a formidable partnership of 75 which moved Eton into a winning position. Harry Murton, *Newlands*, was able to gain a skilful wicket in the closing overs; however, this was not enough as Eton reached their target after 17.5 overs. Overall, it was an excellent afternoon of cricket with real skill shown by both sides.

Yearlings D v Eton College, Eton – 227 for 7, Harrow – 40 all out, lost by 187 runs

Eton batted a very impressive 227-7 but Harrow came very short in response at 40 all out. Though not an ideal result, the match gave the Yearlings D team a clear path to improvement.

*1st XI v Whitgift School, 12 June
Won by 2 wickets*

	B	R
A Gill c T. Sheopuri *† b J. Gray	6	2
G Roberts c T. Sheopuri *† b J. Gray	19	10
T Lloyd c B. Hope b M. Ferreira	34	23
V Jani c T. Sheopuri *† b M. Ferreira	23	5
S McDowall c V. Patel b J. Richardson	53	16
J Baxter * c T. Sheopuri *† b B Sheopuri	85	46
B Karpal c M. Ferreira b J. Connell	38	34
T Patel not out	32	41
E Fitzgerald † not out	11	8
Extras		16
Total	201	for 7

	O	M	R	W
J Gray	10.0	0	49	2
J Blackwood	5.0	0	21	0
M Ferreira	10.0	2	31	2
J Richardson	10.0	0	33	1
B Sheopuri	10.0	1	45	1
J Connell	5.0	0	20	1

	B	R
J Connell b K Anand	21	16
C Ellis b K Anand	19	16
T Sheopuri *† c V Jani b T Patel	51	31
V Patel lbw b M Shroff	66	38
M Ferreira c B Karpal b J Baxter *	23	12
B Hope c B Karpal b M Shroff	16	13
G Cutler b T Lloyd	46	26
B Sheopuri lbw b T Lloyd	23	12
J Richardson not out	21	12
J Gray not out	11	7

Extras				20
Total				203 for 8
	O	M	R	W
K Anand	10.0	0	40	2
B Karpal	6.0	0	38	0
M Shroff	10.0	1	28	2
T Patel	10.0	0	34	1
J Baxter *	7.0	0	38	1
T Lloyd	6.0	0	22	2

Whitgift won the toss and elected to bat first on a scorching day on the VI Form Ground. The Whitgift side were full of representative batsmen and so the Harrow XI were expecting a good challenge in their first Saturday fixture after half-term. Despite the rumours, a strong opening spell from Gray, *Newlands*, and Blackwood, *Elmfield*, saw Whitgift fall to 24-2 after 6.2 overs, Gray picking up 2 to set the tone for the Harrow bowling attack. Following on from the opening spell, Ferreira, *The Grove*, and Richardson, *Elmfield*, joined the attack and both kept the pressure to restrict Whitgift. Ferreira saw off the number 3 and 4 batsmen with a double wicket maiden in the 14th over. The XI's fielding standards remained high despite a commendable middle order partnership of 63 from Whitgift. Richardson, Connell and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, all picked up a wicket a piece throughout the last 20 overs of the Whitgift batting effort. A strong display of death bowling from Gray and Sheopuri limited Whitgift to 201 in their 50 overs.

After another delicious lunch in the CDH, Connell, *Rendalls*, and Ellis, *Rendalls*, headed out to crease to start the Harrow chase. The openers got Harrow off to a great start and it seemed like they were striking the ball well, but sadly Ellis was bowled by a good delivery in the 7th over and he was swiftly followed by Connell 3 balls later. Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, and Patel, *The Knoll*, came in and it looked like the game was going to be won comfortably. However, a few lapses in judgement and some good bowling saw the Harrow middle order steadily tumble. A great innings from George Cutler, *The Knoll*, on debut steadied the ship and put Harrow back on top. With 1 needed off the final over with 2 wickets in hand, Gray stepped onto the tee to smoke the Whitgift opening bowler back over his head for 4 to win the game for Harrow.

2nd XI v Whitgift School, Harrow – 194 for 9, Whitgift – 132 for 9, won by 62 runs

Archie Chatwin, *West Acre*, 64, James Nelson, *Bradlys*, 4-31

On the hottest day of the summer so far, Harrow won the toss and elected to bat on a characteristically flat Northfield pitch at Whitgift. From the outset, Archie Chatwin, *West Acre*, and Jack Hedley, *The Head Master's*, made Whitgift toil in the heat. Chatwin and Hedley's positive start to the innings was a result of a cocktail of clean, hard hitting and suicidal running. After 10 overs, Harrow were 46-0. When Hedley was bowled in the thirteenth over for 24, Chatwin started to accelerate and he reached 50 in the sixteenth over, simultaneously bringing up the team's 100. Chatwin hit three sixes in his innings, including a beautiful clip off his legs that went over the boundary at deep backward square, which was surely one of the best shots of the day. At 113-1 after 20 overs, Harrow looked well set to post a sizeable target. Alongside Chatwin, George Hamblin, *Moretons*, batted responsibly to make 10 before being run out. However, the dismissal of both precipitated a collapse from a strong start to 167-7, and catastrophe was really only averted by Henry Ferneyhough's, *Elmfield*, fast and firm 28, which included five 4s. Paddy Breeze, *Elmfield*, and John Koutalides, *West Acre*, ensured the run rate picked up at the very end and that Harrow batted all their allotted overs, and the innings ended after 35 overs with Harrow on 194-9. Herbie Smith, *Newlands*, and Oli Newall, *Druries*, allowed Whitgift to make a speedy start in reply, but both settled into a rhythm after a

couple of overs and Smith was unlucky not to take a wicket. He bowled with venom, but it was Newall who finished with 2-16 off 7 overs. James Nelson's, *Bradlys*, 4-31 off 7 overs did much to decimate the Whitgift middle order, who never really fired, and at 74-4 off 20 overs, Harrow sensed victory. Spells of bowling by Koutalides and Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, alongside some sharp keeping by Breeze, two catches by Hamblin and a run out by Hedley helped to further restrict Whitgift, who finished on 132-9.

3rd XI v Whitgift School, won by 8 wickets

4th XI v Stowe School, Harrow – 150 for 5, Stowe – 130 all out, won by 20 runs

After a fairly long trip up to the very stunning, Capability Brown-designed but highly isolated setting of Stowe School, both Harrow 4ths and their Stowe School counterparts were eager to get the game started. Due to the length of journey involved for Harrow it was decided that the match would take a T20 format and be played along traditional lines with no free hit nonsense or any other TV friendly innovations.

Stowe 4ths won the toss and put Harrow in to bat. After losing an early wicket, Orlando Hill, *The Head Master's*, played a strong innings of 35 that laid the foundations of the Harrow effort. After a couple of wickets were lost cheaply, skipper for the tie Nathan Shepard, *The Park*, came to the crease and got the scoring rate going again. In the last five overs his knock of 41, with the help of Jeran Jeyanthan, *Bradlys*, was able to boost the run-rate to such an extent that, at the end of the 20 overs, Harrow 4ths finished with a very creditable score of 150-5.

The Harrow bowling attack started in a promising fashion and initially pinned down the Stowe openers effectively. However, there was a building sense of frustration that a number of, albeit quite tough, catching chances had been put down. This gave the Stowe batsmen the opportunity to start taking a few more risks and, for a while, it looked as if they were on course to get to their target of 151. However, Harrow didn't let their heads drop and wickets taken by Jeran Jeyanthan and Tom Roe, *Druries*, helped peg back Stowe. Further steady bowling from Tom Roe and a strong second spell from Nathan Shepard ensured that Stowe finished some 21 runs shy of their target resulting in a well-earned win for the 4ths.

Despite a very good performance by skipper Nathan Shepard, man of the match must go to Michael Chiimba, *Newlands*. Not only did he take a wicket, his hugely positive and energetic performance in the field, including some very impressive stops that saved many runs, helped keep the pressure on Stowe throughout and prevented their threatened fight-back from gaining any ground.

Colts A v Whitgift School, Harrow – 177 for 7, Whitgift – 178 for 7, lost by 3 wickets

On a glorious day, Harrow set a competitive target of 177 off 30 overs with runs particularly from Caspar Stone, *The Park*, Conor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, Arnaud Du Roy, *Elmfield*, and an excellent fifth from Sam Harrison, *Moretons*.

Whitgift batted aggressively and, despite a few excellent moments of bowling from Harrison and Gupte, *West Acre*, Harrow could not prevent Whitgift reaching the target.

Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, 52* and 3 for 18, Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*, 2-34 and Adi Gupte, *West Acre*, 2-27

Junior Colts A v Whitgift School, Whitgift – 171 for 7, Harrow – 165 for 8, lost by 5 runs

Harrow in reply lost wickets at regular intervals and made the run chase difficult for themselves, having to routinely rebuild partnerships and never allowed themselves to apply any pressure to the field. As such the JCAs fell an agonising five runs short. A brief synopsis with the team at the end of the game highlighted a disappointing stat of over 100 dot balls

from the 180 balls faced. An area of focus for the team at the start of the season, who have made large strides to improving their scoring shot percentage, and one which highlighted the reasons for the narrow defeat. Henry Macdonald, *The Park*, 26 and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, 40.

The JCAs will look to re-evaluate their individual contributions this week and work on their shortcomings in training ahead of their County Cup Semi-Final.

Junior Colts B v Whitgift School, Whitgift – 98 all out, Harrow – 102 for 3, won by 7 wickets
Maahir Puri, *Lyon's*, 2 for 12, St John Smith, *Newlands*, 3 for 15 and DJ Banda, *Lyon's*, 66

A balmy afternoon down on a firm Grimston track saw Harrow JC Bs restrict their Whitgift counterparts extremely well in their allotted 25 overs. Smith and Puri executed their opening bowling roles expertly, using pace, swing and aggression to take two early wickets and ensure the Whitgift opener Sachania - who looked the pick of their batsmen - wasn't able to set the tone for his team. Instead, sharp fielding and tight bowling remained the theme for the majority of the innings as Ballingal, Hewer and Sohal also picked up wickets in a strong team bowling performance. Restricting Whitgift to 98 on such a good batting track meant job one was complete.

It was over to the batsmen and Stratton and Overall both looked solid in seeing off the new ball until Stratton was stumped in strange fashion with the keeper standing back and Overall was caught. With the innings well set and the shine off the ball, Banda entered the fray and went on to hit an impressive 66 from 56 balls that included some imperious hitting of anything that even dared to pitch too short. Aply supported by Smith, Banda was run out before Tuipulotu dispatched a mammoth six to bring the game home. Lots of smiles on faces and an excellent team performance. A few tactical creases to iron out before our fixtures next week.

Junior Colts C v Whitgift School, Whitgift – 86 all out, Harrow – 90 for 2, won by 8 wickets

Whitgift were delayed by not booking enough coaches, and then when they did set off they hit heavy traffic, but a 25-over game eventually got underway on Bess B shortly after 3:15. Unfortunately, Whitgift only brought 9 players, but Harrow acquitted themselves well in the field. Algie Anderson, *Moretons*, was again metronomic and ably supported from the 'A312 end' by change bowler Max Bloomfield, *Elmfield*. At the 'Hill end' there was less success initially, but in the tenth over Paddy Mulqueen was introduced and his finger spin proved both fairly economical and increasingly accurate. He took a great reaction catch to claim a caught-and-bowled, and also effected a run out, before concluding his spell by clean-bowling the strongest Whitgift batsman. As in the previous game, the weaknesses were that there was a gap in the spinners' fields in the backward-point/third man region, and that the field was far too defensive against the opposition's tail.

Guy Paton-Smith and captain Netanel Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*, put together their most assured batting performance and looked well set to win the match by ten wickets, until Paton-Smith was given out lbw and Lawrence-Ojo contrived to throw away his wicket instead of closing out the match in a composed manner. Until then, they looked after their wickets well and ran confidently. Without their first-choice keeper, Whitgift conceded many byes, but Harrow were generous in lending two fielders so that Whitgift could play with eleven.

Yearlings A v Whitgift School, Harrow – 157 for 6, Whitgift – 158 for 6, lost by 4 wickets

Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, 36, Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, 30

After a painful coach journey battling London traffic, Yearlings A hit the ground running on arrival at Whitgift, clearly pumped up for what would be an extremely tough challenge against

a side featuring ten county age group players. Winning the toss and batting on a flat pitch, Harrow made a positive start through Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, and Miles Herron, *Rendalls*. However, quick wickets left the visitors needing to rebuild from the slightly precarious position of 76-4. Captain Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, (36) and Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, (30) steadied the ship with an exceptional partnership of 67, in which they ran a well put-together Whitgift fielding unit completely ragged. It was fantastic to see how well they and the rest of the batters had taken on the lessons about strike rotation and positive intent from the Eton game two days before. Finishing on 157-6 from their 30 overs, Harrow knew that they had posted a strong score, but they would have to bowl and field exceedingly well to defend it against an intimidating line up.

Harrow made the best possible start to that mission, with both James Lester, *West Acre*, and Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, taking a wicket within their first two overs. Barnett took one of his own soon after and the fielding side looked to be on top. High quality players kept coming though and Whitgift's numbers 4 and 5 oozed class as they put on an effortless 67 in quick time, despite disciplined bowling and fielding from Harrow. They looked to be taking the home side to a comfortable win until Jenkyn Keigwin, *The Knoll*, provided a breakthrough to give Harrow hope. Even then, with only 13 needed off 4 overs, it looked like too much to hope for. Barnett went back to his strike bowler Snow, and once again he delivered, trapping the set batsman lbw and delivering a wicket maiden that completely transformed the equation - 13 still needed, but this time off 3 overs and with one new batsman. Barnett followed that up with an equally impressive over, clean bowling the other set batsman and giving away only 3 runs. Suddenly, possibly for the first time in the game, Harrow looked favourites - 10 needed off two, with two new batsmen at the crease. It was then that the cricketing Gods turned against the visitors, as three fine edges down to third man and fine leg yielded the required 10 runs in the 29th over. Devastatingly, Harrow had lost with 6 balls to spare. Despite the result, this was a phenomenal performance by Harrow against a team who have gone unbeaten in their last eight games against top opposition - they should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Yearlings B v Whitgift School, lost by 6 wickets,

Yearlings C v Whitgift School, won by 3 wickets

Yearlings D v Whitgift School, Harrow – 121 for 7, Whitgift – 123 for 5, lost by 5 wickets

A GENTLEMAN'S A-BOWLING

Haileybury away, Colts B in Good Style

There have been times this season when to look out of the window in the Copse, to see yet another torrent of water raining down, to consider rushing to pick up a sandwich from the Shepherd Churchill, and then moving at log-flume speed down West Street to reach the sodden nets, has felt like a bit of a challenge.

There is little that compares to the beauty of a warm, wet, blue morning, the birds rehearsing their Glee's and Twelves in the fat green trees, the lowering threat of constant rain at last behind, and an away match to Haileybury meaning both an untaxing distance in a coach, and a permitted absence from 2e.

The Colts B were joined on the bus by a very sizeable doughnut delivery courtesy of the Team Nutritionist (Casper Kingsley's mother). On arrival – weather still good, a little cooler, clouds scudding beneath Hertfordshire's welkin – we were sent over

to a locked pavilion. We were met there by the Haileybury captain, whose proposition of a T20 occasioned boos heard all the way to Hoddesdon. The Harrow Colts B were here to play cricket, and a damn good game of cricket at that. Our counter bid was 40/40. Captain Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, settled on 25/25.

Harrow were to bowl first, and Philip Truscott, *Elmfield*, opened the account. He is a bowler of speed and brawn, if not of guile. His height too means he's on his way to becoming formidable. There were four extras in the first over, but he tightened up as the game went on, making a maiden in his fourth and posting 0-21 (5).

Olowe, *The Grove*, from the other end boasted chasteningly sober numbers, taking 2-12 (5), and he would have kept that even tighter if it hadn't been for devastatingly strict application of the leg-side wide rule by this author. There is something of the Oliver Cromwell about this fine young puritan, and it is lucky that cricket is a summer game, for Christmas is most certainly cancelled when he takes command of the crease. Meanwhile his shouts from fine leg, when he should really be taking a breather, are bold, resolute and uncompromising: with every 'Come on, Harrow', you sense he's really saying 'Anything less than the evisceration of the enemy will be remembered as failure.'

Eight overs in, and Haileybury were 22-1. They didn't seem to bat very far down, and we were being very consistent, but not quite accurate enough. Time for a change. The Team Captain entered the fray, and logged a very respectable maiden.

It should be said at this point that Captain Ferneyhough and the coaching team had imagined a variety of scenarios on the journey to Haileybury, considering how he might adapt his line-ups depending on the toss, on overs agreed, and so on. We had consulted various weather apps to get a sense of what the bookies call 'the going' (it turned out to be 'not firm', certainly in the outfield). One of cricket's pleasures is the impact of the uncontrolled variables.

But on one point we were clear. In any form of the game, from the backstreets of Lahore to the immorally green pitch of the Gabba in drought-ruined Australia, bowlers play in overs. And when they've bowled one of those overs, they have to cede control to another bowler. Such are the rules of cricket. The issue with this rule, if those cricketers happen neither to be in Pakistan nor Brisbane nor another cricket-playing part of the world, is that they might possibly be in Harrow, or in the grounds of one of the schools that Harrow happens to have on its fixture list, and this means inevitably, ineluctably, inescapably, that they probably have to give the ball to Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*.

It is surprising that this serene and affable fellow should be capable of such disturbing evil. And thus the left-arm spinner sent his wicked invitation down the wicket, only for it to be returned, with interest, straight over his head for six. 'Oh dear,' he murmured. Long off moved a little finer. Cover edged himself into deep. Back came Artis. Forward the batsman, his front knee seeking the ground in an imitation of talent, and missing, and almost turning round in time enough to see the ball greeting off stump.

Haileybury's fourth man came out. He held out his bat much as the novice hunter holds a spear and hopes the tiger will simply jump on it. The ball whistled past off. A fourth delivery, and Haileybury's non-striking captain charged through screaming for a single. Artis had now given away 7 from the over, and this would not do. Two more balls, and two more wickets: their captain-opener trapped lbw on his back foot, and his tyro replacement sent back sharpish to the pavilion, bowled again.

Ferneyhough returned for his second, skittling the next fellow, and after Artis's second, Haileybury was 38-5 (12). Artis's third, a wicket maiden (W.....), left them 44-6, and here the coaching staff made an executive, if regrettable, decision: we removed Artis from the attack, endangering his chance of a five-for. It is hoped that Artis will accept our apology, and

this analogy: if he had been watching on at Alexander the Great's destruction of Darius at Gaugamela, and had known a posteriori, as we know now, that this would be the decisive moment in the Macedonian's conquest of Asia before the age of thirty, and he (Artis) had had the power to stop this happening, well, would he not have used it? Only he (Artis) will know the answer, but the Colts B's coaching staff believes in drawing the fight out a bit, and not being back on the bus by 3.30pm, and so we reclassified him *functus officio*.

Artis muttering murder, the captain brought on an array of different bowlers. Josh Owens, *Rendalls*, is a human incarnation of football's VAR system (if considerably less controversial and much more likeable). He reviews every ball he bowls, running it over from a variety of angles, always asking himself how it might have been better. In nets, he asks troublingly specific questions of his beaks, all about physiology, things to do with rotation and torque and improving the dynamic momentum of the torso's fulcra at every stage of the bowling action. Coach TMK is currently doing some research into these taxing questions in the eleventh edition of Marks' Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers, but until then, FSW will have to fob Owens off with vague comments about getting his head over the ball, which would be top-quality advice if he was asking about batting. Anyway, he got two overs and two wickets, one caught by the ebullient Turner, *Elmfield*, at mid-on, and the other slapped right back to Owens, who held it very well, and just after he'd been hit for 6. This, along with Kay's, *Lyon's*, tidy over, and his pump-action run-up, left Haileybury on 63-8.

Finlay Douglas, *Newlands*, tried out finger spin instead of his customary pace. It didn't work particularly well, but it's exciting to think of the variety available to this young man as the unstoppable work of time forces him to abandon the long run-up. Jimmy Turner had a traumatic over, which was unfair given his improvement in the nets and his excellently hearty Team Spirit. Captain Ferneyhough then brought the openers on to finish the dishes, and Olowe clean bowled Haileybury's actually rather good number nine. The range of bowlers had opened the game up a bit, and they were down to their last man with on 105, 22 overs remaining. Artis was recalled, and had six balls to work his nefarious and dastardly spin. But the first did what we expected it to do, lamped off-stump, and ended Haileybury's innings. Artis, 5-13 (3.1).

A quick and perfectly adequate tea, with orange squash in the correct proportions of sweetness (squash 7:1 water), and Harrow was out to the crease at 4pm, seeking 106 to win. Olly Hills, *The Head Master's*, and Casper Kingsley, *Elmfield*, were the vanguard this time, with Kingsley hot off a rather punchy 70 against Charterhouse the week before. Hills, a player of timing and poise, has not had an easy season at the helm, but he takes on a job that many shy away from, and his steadiness is not easily eroded: one can imagine him thriving in a twelve-day test match. He had a lovely time at the crease, always looking for quick singles on a soggy pitch, and he eventually carried his bat with 36 from 47 balls, and five 4s. Haileybury didn't get many wickets until their fourth-change bowler.

Casper Kingsley had assured this author that we'd be in Edgware by 5pm, which would have required a laudably ambitious rate of about 20 an over. He initially offered some skilled leg byes, reminding everyone present what a formidable threat the U16 B football team would have been if they'd had any games this season. Three 4s and a good 6 helped things along, before he was stymied, shocked, and knocked through middle stump: 22 and walking. 72-1 from 10 overs, and the coaching staff rather glad that others would get a bat before close.

Du Roy, *Elmfield*, came out at third, and he meant business. His keeping had been sometimes controversial, standing up to Captain Ferneyhough when he should probably have been further back. But there had been no debate about the acrobatics of this human petaurista, who had almost brought about one of the most stunning run-outs the Colts B had ever seen, twisting

like a dolphin to catch and place a ball on the stumps. The batsman scraped him, but he is a bright hope. His batting game is good and strident too, with a 90 the week before. It was three solid singles and out this time, however, whacking it down the throat of mid-off. Douglas came out and took 9 before being caught, and then Captain Ferneyhough had an entertaining spell in the middle, wherein Haileybury almost convinced the umpire to give them a stumping appeal, long after the ball was dead. These were the fitful final moments of a team that had been relentless pressured by Harrow, and Ferneyhough's two 4s in a row saw Harrow finish with eight wickets and six overs remaining.

In the course of writing this, it has struck us quite how many Elmfieldians were in the line-up, and we're hoping that AJC is going to bottle and share whatever he's been feeding them. All in all, a tight and tidy game from a team that's produced some good performances over this season.

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