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BITTERSWEET

The End of a Second Year of the Global Pandemic

Did you hear about the two installations of sweets in the Vaughan Library and the War Memorial Building? Did you go and see them? Did you notice the ambiguous labels that weren't helpful in the slightest? What was the point of them? Who are the renegades responsible? Are we allowed to eat the sweets or is it art? There did appear to be wrappers in the bins around the School so...



The two installations were inspired by American-Cubist artist, Felix Gonzalez-Torres. His colourful 'candy' artworks were installed in museums with equally intriguing titles: *Untitled (Ross)*, 1991, *Untitled (Blue Placebo)*, 1991 and *Untitled (Public Opinion)*, 1991. Visitors were left with a similar conundrum: normally, we are not allowed to touch the artworks – but surely this installation invites us to, is too good not to?

And what does it actually mean? Despite the apparently fun and generous nature of Gonzalez-Torres artworks, they are actually imbued with a quiet sense of elegy, meditating on the taboo subject of the HIV crisis that particularly impacted the queer community in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Gonzalez-Torres himself was gay and was deeply implicated in the epidemic, witnessing the death of many of his friends and peers. He also nursed his partner, Ross Laycock, watching him slowly fade away until his eventual death in January 1991. The artist himself would also die of AIDS-related complications in January 1996, aged just 38.

The original 'candy' installation, entitled *Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)* from 1991 started at 175 pounds representing the ideal weight of Gonzalez-Torres' partner before diminishing as museum visitors would gradually remove the sweets. As the artist himself said, "[Ross] could build you a house if you asked him to... I've seen this beautiful, incredible body, this entity of perfection just physically, thoroughly disappear right in front of your eyes... He was becoming less of a person."

The ephemeral sculptures therefore serve as memorials to a generation affected by an epidemic and the members of the Summerson Society inevitably saw parallels with the situation that we find ourselves in today. Fake news and conspiracy theories increased the spread of the disease, then as now, and

as new variants of the coronavirus emerge, we also see the false persecution of communities. Thinking of our own community, the two mounds of sweets were based on the weight of an average beak and an average boy.

Our participation is therefore instrumental in activating the artwork. As we take the sweets, perhaps gorging in the library (as the bins suggest) or stealthily filling our pockets to eat back at House, the sweets and their wrappers spread like a contagion through the School community – but thankfully doing no more damage than a slight sugar rush.

So, please: fill your boots, but be kind and remember those who have been affected by such global tragedies.

RAYLEIGH LECTURE

Professor Neil Ferguson, 27 May

The School's Rayleigh Lecture is the most prestigious (scientific) lecture at Harrow, given annually by one of the world's leading scientists. The lecture itself is named after John William Strutt, known better as Lord Rayleigh, OH, one of the greatest scientists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and one who was awarded the full Nobel Prize in Physics in 1904 for his isolation of the inert gas argon. We were very lucky, this year, mid-COVID-19 and the accompanying regulations, to welcome such a prominent epidemiologist to the School to give a lecture on the most important current global event: the COVID-19 pandemic.



This year's Rayleigh Lecture was given on Thursday 27 May by Professor Neil Ferguson, OBE FMedSci; Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Imperial College, London; (former) epidemiologist at the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies; and founding director of the Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics and MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis. The Professor is best known for the real-time mathematical and statistical modelling of emerging infectious disease outbreaks, having worked on the SARS and MERS coronaviruses, Ebola, Zika, and, more recently, COVID-19. He has also worked on advising bodies such as the World Health Organisation and the British Government.

By about 4.30pm, CDB had already confirmed safe receipt of Professor Ferguson and was setting up in Speech Room as some boys and beaks were already taking their seats. When the lecture was set to begin at 5pm, Speech Room was full, so around 100 boys and beaks were “packed” in like socially distanced sardines. As is standard with all Rayleigh Lectures, CDB began the preamble for the lecture with some words about Lord Rayleigh (similar to the first paragraph of this write-up) before Henry To, *The Grove*, one of the four superb Scientific Society Secretaries, introduced Professor Ferguson with some words about his work (similar to the second paragraph of this write-up).

After a round of applause, Professor Ferguson took his place on the lectern and began by introducing his own lecture as containing slides that had, as of that point, only been shown to a number of scientific conferences and governmental audiences. Moving on, Professor Ferguson outlined what epidemiology is and how he ended up there: after studying a branch of string theory for his DPhil at Linacre College at the University of Oxford, he moved on to epidemiology, which, for him, was described as not “a big jump”, as the modelling of epidemics can be found in non-linear dynamics and other branches of physics. He moved onto a quick synopsis of his lecture, addressing first the gravity of the pandemic, with some 3.5 million deaths reported as due to COVID-19 by the end of May 2021, although, as Professor Ferguson stated, the true figure is almost certainly closer to twice that due to severe under-reporting and under-diagnosis. The virus has reached every corner of the world, and it has severely affected the United Kingdom due to a combination of bad luck and delayed intervention.

To start the lecture off, Professor Ferguson began by explaining how epidemic modelling is non-linear and infection is a chain reaction, thus showing the parallels with branches of physics. As we’re sure everyone has heard for the past dozen months, the rate of infection is governed by the reproduction (or R) number (which is the mean number of infections each infected person causes). Since this is a chain reaction, this leads to exponential growth. With more physics jargon here (sorry, non-STEM boys and beaks), the order parameter for an epidemic is that, when $R > 1$, growth occurs, and, when $R < 1$, there is no growth, for fairly obvious reasons. Importantly, the value of R tells one how much effort one must put in to controlling an epidemic. If $R = 2$, one must eliminate more than 50% of all transmissions, whereas, if $R = 4$, one must eliminate more than 75% of all transmissions. Measles, for example, must have 90% of all transmissions eliminated to be blocked. Since R is not constant, it must be determined by observation and through the biology and infection times of the disease etc.

Professor Ferguson showed Speech Room the basic model of transmission: the SIR model, which stands for susceptible, infected and recovered/removed (which are assumed to be immune). “You can think of the population as a gas”, Professor Ferguson stated, and model a population through the random movements of particles colliding with one other. When an infected particle collides with a susceptible particle, both particles are then infected, hence exponential growth occurs when there are not many infected particles nor removed particles but many susceptible individuals, since the collision between an infected and susceptible particle is very high. This interaction leads to the classic epidemic curve with more random exponential growth initially followed by clear exponential growth. If nothing is done to combat the epidemic, the curve turns over as a sufficient proportion of the population will have become infected such that most of the people an infected person collides with will be removed. This is termed “exhaustion of susceptibles”, also known as herd immunity. However, susceptibles are often introduced into systems, like children, so epidemiologists are estimating that COVID-19 will become a childhood disease that won’t be eliminated, merely controlled by early vaccination.

Regarding how science is conducted in a pandemic, Professor

Ferguson explained that science during a pandemic is conducted completely differently from how it would be otherwise. Surveillance data will be, and was, initially poor; uncertainty starts high and slowly, gradually reduces; and “perfect is definitely the enemy of the good”: scientists and policymakers must try and act in a timely way and not in a perfect one in such a sea of uncertainty. Since data is so unclear, policymakers and governments must look to multiple studies to gain information, and build a somewhat more coherent picture of the situation. Here, as Professor Ferguson said, cherry-picking evidence and taking a biased approach is not advised if one is to understand the entire situation. Hence, early challenges in epidemics include finding the true scale of the epidemic, finding the speed at which it is spreading, quantifying the danger it poses to wider society, and determining what can be done to limit its effects.

Regarding scale, Professor Ferguson pointed us towards a study he was a part of approximately a year ago, where, although authorities had only reported 41 cases in Wuhan by 16 January 2020, a quick arithmetic calculation showed that ~1,800 cases should have been present in Wuhan at the time. Later, by 3 February 2020, of ~6,400 reported cases, estimates show that there should have been 111,000 cases in Wuhan. Hence, there was a ten- to twenty-fold under-diagnosis of cases due to authorities only testing hospitalised people.

Regarding severity, Professor Ferguson showed us the case fatality ratio (CFR - the proportion of cases who will die) which is, once again, difficult to find due to the typically long times between infection and death and the uncertainty in early epidemics. In early February 2020, the symptomatic case fatality ratio stood at 1.4%, and, since half of cases were asymptomatic, the infection fatality ratio was around 0.7%, nearing 0.9% when the virus came to the UK due to its older population. To compare this to other respiratory diseases, SARS had a CFR of ~10%, H1N1 in 2009 had a CFR of ~0.01%, and the Spanish flu in 1918 had a CFR of ~2%. Using the UK data later in the same year, the IFR was refined to around 0.8-1.2%. On the other hand, in countries like Nigeria where well over half the population is under the age of 20, the IFR is under 0.15%.

In order to intervene and avoid an “exhaustion of susceptibles”, policymakers must employ behavioural and non-pharmaceutical interventions to limit the spread of the virus, since they cannot rely on pharmaceutical interventions, vaccines not being available in the near-term. These preventions include case isolation to homes, voluntary household quarantine, closure of schools and universities, stopping mass gatherings, social distancing of the entire population, and shielding those over-70 (which, as the Professor noted, no country has successfully achieved due to the fact that others were needed to support over-70s). Professor Ferguson then brought up mitigation, such as herd immunity or flattening the curve, which doesn’t crush all transmission but minimises the scale of the epidemic while only having one epidemic wave. The only issue with this policy is actually getting it to work, since mitigation is a delicate balance, and the critical-care capacity of healthcare systems could be overwhelmed if that balance is performed incorrectly.

Professor Ferguson then moved on to talk about suppression strategies, also known as lockdown strategies, which try to reduce the reproduction number to below one by reducing the number of “collisions” of human particles, which, in context, entails reducing the contact between people on a physical level. From the observed data, suppression strategies reduce demand on critical care ~3 weeks after their introduction and can ‘flatten the curve’ by ensuring critical-care capacity is not exceeded. They also prevent sufficient herd immunity from being achieved, so coming out of a lockdown would cause another surge in cases, akin to what happened in the UK at the end of summer 2020. The challenge, as Professor Ferguson mentioned, is balancing the shutting down of the economy with saving lives and we, in Speech Room, were presented with a shocking statistic: if the UK Government had decided to lock

the country down one week earlier, the deaths from the first wave would be more than halved, from ~37,000 to ~15,000, but a delay by a week would almost triple the deaths from the first wave: from ~37,000 to ~100,000. An extra day after that would quadruple the total deaths.

Professor Ferguson stated that epidemiologists believed that it would be necessary to lock down multiple times after surveying the capacity of critical care and balancing that with the economic benefits of easing the lockdown. Since suppression is hugely economically costly and, when measures are lifted, the gains made by the lockdown may be lost as the R-value creeps above 1 again, an alternative to this is what many European countries adopted during Summer 2020: test and trace, early cluster detection, and local lockdowns. However, the Professor then showed a table, published in a paper in *The Lancet*, which showed that there was (proportionally) a lot of pre-symptomatic infection and asymptomatic transmission, which also showed that prompt case isolation can reduce the value of R by 30%. Further measures that were shown to work were household quarantines, which increase the reduction of the R-value by 40%, and contact tracing of all external contacts, which can raise that reduction further to 65%. Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam achieved this with intensive tracing and cluster detection, though the UK and most of the other European countries only achieved a 35% reduction, which was insufficient to maintain an R-value below 1 during Autumn 2020.

For the reasons above, many countries saw a resurgence of transmissions in September 2020, also known as the “second wave”, which had a much slower growth than in March 2020 due to some measures already being in place. The IFR was much lower than in the first wave due to vast improvements in clinical care and treatment. Professor Ferguson displayed a graph of time against deaths per million per week (on a logarithmic scale), commenting that the logarithmic scale is the correct way to display this information due to the exponential nature of epidemic growth, which showed a similar peak number of deaths per million per week but over a much longer period of time. Hence, the second wave was much deadlier than the first in most countries, like the UK.

However, there were political challenges to the second wave too. Politicians in Europe were very slow to act in the autumn of 2020, and policymakers were concerned about the economic and social impacts of control. Hence there was a fragmentation of political consensus in society and parliaments. Compounding this with the fact that many were tired of lockdown saw governments developing an incremental and localised approach that acted slower. The saddest thing about the events that unfolded is, as Professor Ferguson stated, the many thousands of lives that would have been saved by acting earlier, with a decrease in economic losses and a decrease in the period of lockdown.

Realising that time was of the essence, Professor Ferguson then spoke about how real-time modelling worked, covering an almightily confusing mechanistic transmission model (like the SIR model) which is used to track the epidemic and look at the impact of different policy options. These models are fitted to multiple data streams, such as cases, hospital admissions, bed occupancy, deaths, serology and infection prevalence. The goals of these mechanistic transmission models are to estimate the R-value, generate medium-term projections, and evaluate potential policy options. These models can be used to model regionally and specifically care home deaths, for example. Markov chain and Monte Carlo methods are used to generate computational models from specific data streams. Professor Ferguson proceeded to show Speech Room some real-time models conducted in October/November 2020, and they predicted, correctly that a third lockdown would be necessary in January 2021.

Onto the speaker’s antepenultimate section on variants (and I sincerely apologise to the Editors and SMK for the ungodly length this write-up seems to have forced itself to become), starting with the B.1.1.7 alpha variant first discovered in Kent

and originating in August/September 2020, with its incidence accelerated in November/December 2020 to spread globally. The phylogenetic tree shows that the alpha variant was the dominant variant for a long time, and the global sequence database showed that, by December 2020, it became the dominant strain in Europe. Professor Ferguson added that, since the variant is displacing and out-competing other strains, it shows that it must be much more transmissible than the others.

During the second lockdown, when the alpha variant was just growing in “popularity”, cases declined in areas which were non-variant and cases increased in areas which were mostly variant, though the proportion of cases caused by the variant increased nearly everywhere. Across all the regions of England, the variant became dominant between the two-month period between lockdowns. Professor Ferguson then showed a Bayesian transmission model of the new variant with a plot of S- against S+ (variant against non-variant), which showed a 50-80% increase in transmissibility (R=5).

Penultimately, Professor Ferguson talked about vaccines and how amazing it was that, as a society, we developed, by May 2021, more than five vaccines with phase three trial results, three of which (Pfizer/Biotech, Moderna and Oxford/AstraZeneca) were licensed in the UK (though they were mostly rolled out in high-income countries, like the UK and the US, with a much more limited availability in low-income countries). Professor Ferguson then explained that the vaccines give a >80% protection against hospitalisation and some even reduced transmissions by more than 50%. The predicted vaccine rollout schedule can be used to refine models, allowing for a better roadmap for the easing of restrictions. These models can allow epidemiologists to balance immunity and the reproduction number, R. However, as the speaker warned, the effect of lifting specific measures is extremely uncertain, so incremental, staggered relaxation driven by data is key. He noted that there will probably be a third wave of infections in the country, which will, it is hoped, be acted on much more quickly than the previous two waves, and he also proposed that, unless we want to stay in lockdown forever, we should accept the fact that there could be many more waves.

The B.1.617.2, delta variant, first discovered in India, was imported into the UK in April 2021, and is out-competing even the alpha variant, with the previous four weeks of data as of the end of May 2021 showing that the delta variant has been the cause of almost half of all COVID-19 cases in all regions of the country. Professor Ferguson warned that the increase in the value of R could be between 50% to 70% higher than in the alpha variant. The protection due to the vaccines is shown to have reduced effectiveness against the delta variant with just one dose, but two doses seems still to be fine (dependent on the vaccine given). We were then shown a sensitivity analysis, where the number of deaths was plotted against the level of “escape” (how much the variant can “escape” the effects of the vaccine), and the challenge for epidemiological studies and organisations is to evaluate how far escaped the variant is and how many measures must be re-introduced to prevent a certain number of deaths.

Skipping over a slide in the interests of time (once again, apologies to the Editors and SMK – in the Scientific Society’s defence, the Rayleigh Lecture always has ten times the content of any other lecture on the Hill, so sorry for these 3,000 words), Professor Ferguson moved onto his final slide: the lessons we should learn from the pandemic. Testing was inadequate in February/March and travellers were misdirected and not given systematic surveillance, leaving the Government and institutions in the country in the dark about the virus. This, coupled with testing the wrong people (travellers from Asia, not the European continent), led to many infected particles ‘infiltrating’ the susceptibles and, when data came along, epidemiologists realised the epidemic was much farther ahead than first understood.

Secondly, if suppression is the method that is being employed,

it should definitely be employed earlier rather than later, thereby dampening negative economic effects and saving thousands more lives. Moreover, contact tracing can only have a limited effect at low incidences, though it is still somewhat effective. The second wave was entirely predictable, but unclear if it was avoidable due to the pressure from the public to reopen society. Finally, politics seem often to act contrary to science, with cherry-picking of data, disinformation, attacks towards scientists, and conspiracies proliferating (as with climate change and vaccination). However, the Professor was very clear that “scientists should avoid becoming politicians”.

What you’re all probably hoping now is that the lecture is over. However, no! There’s more. After an extremely long and well-deserved round of applause, a barrage of questions was fired at the speaker. Among them was a question from ERS regarding giving the UK government a rating from one to ten on their performance in tackling the pandemic, which the Professor ducked lest he be mentioned in a news source; and another regarding the percentage of people who would need to be vaccinated at this point to allow $R < 1$, to which Professor Ferguson stated that near enough 80% of all individuals must be vaccinated with the current delta variant.

After questions, Q Sun, *Moretons*, another of the four Scientific Society Secretaries, thanked Professor Ferguson for his lecture. It’s not often that, in one of the largest global events of the past century, one of the world’s leading scientists who is chest-deep in the issue offers to give a lecture at Harrow, and it is certainly one of the finest lectures given in Speech Room over the past few years, attracting all of the science beaks and the best Harrovian scientists too. Thank you to everyone who attended the lecture, to WMAL and CDB for organising the lecture, to the Scientific Society Secretaries who made the whole event possible, and to Professor Neil Ferguson, of course – we’ll see if he reads this.

PIGOU SOCIETY

Siddharth Prasad, “The World of Finance”, OH Room, 25 May

The Pigou Society was delighted to host Siddharth Prasad. Mr Prasad is Head of Global Finance at Nomura and spoke about careers and pathways in investment banking.

To begin, Mr Prasad explained the structure of banks: he noted the distinction between commercial banks, which deal with deposits from and loans to the public, and investment banks, which offer financial services to corporations, governments, and investors. Following the 2008 financial crisis, however, many such banks were combined to form universal banks, which participate in both kinds of banking activities. Mr Prasad then described how the investment banking side of a universal bank is split into markets and advisory, the latter of which deals with capital markets and corporate finance. The capital markets arm involves clients’ debt and equity, and so may help clients raise money or hedge clients’ risk. Corporate finance, however, provides clients with strategic advice, such as in mergers and acquisitions.

With this key knowledge shared, Mr Prasad detailed the timeline for those wishing to break in to the world of finance. Shorter exposure and experience programmes exist for those in the Sixth Form and the first year of undergraduate study at university, whilst more formal programmes like summer analyst internships are applied to in one’s second year at university. Mr Prasad noted the importance of these positions, especially as they frequently lead to job offers. He explained that these programmes are highly competitive, and that applicants will have to undergo psychometric testing as well as an interview, where one’s skills and fit are assessed.

Mr Prasad was then able to offer invaluable advice on succeeding in this process. He explained that the subject of one’s degree is not of great relevance, given that banks train their new hires, and instead emphasised obtaining a 2:1 degree or better from a Russell Group university to signal one’s ability to employers. He described how interviewers value applicants with similar traits to their own, such as being motivated and hard-working, rather than sharing a socioeconomic background. Mr Prasad also stressed the importance of being proactive and using contacts to gain experience, including in off-cycle internships.

Pertaining to recruiters, Mr Prasad explained how applicants are chosen for their ability to add versatility to a team, and that additional skills such as proficiency in multiple languages could be of benefit here, especially given the global nature of banking. As far as A levels go, Maths was the most valued, as comfort with numbers is essential to banking. Mr Prasad encouraged applicants to prepare early and prepare thoroughly, quoting a JP Morgan interviewer who noted how many candidates only began reading the Financial Times a week before their interview. He also advised doing one’s homework on the industry, and being able to articulate clearly in an interview what one wants to do at the bank.

Offering more personal advice, Mr Prasad encouraged candidates to have motivations in banking beyond earning money to achieve the best outcomes. He advised having patience and an open mind to new ideas as a new hire, and warned against assuming one already knows things. The importance of values was stressed, with Mr Prasad offering Merrill Lunch as an example, a bank which etches its values on a wall. He noted how these values resonated with the Harrow values of Courage, Honour, Humility and Fellowship, and stated that employees are seriously expected to conduct themselves by these values.

Finally, Mr Prasad spoke about contemporary trends in the sector, such as decreasing profit margins, the impact of Fintech and Artificial Intelligence (which he explained is larger in commercial banking than investment banking), and the disintermediation of jobs. Despite this, Mr Prasad explained, client facing roles, such as in the investment banking industry, will always remain.

The Pigou Society would like to thank Mr Prasad for his incredibly informative talk and his invaluable advice. Thanks are also due to DMM for organising the event.

ALEXANDER SOCIETY

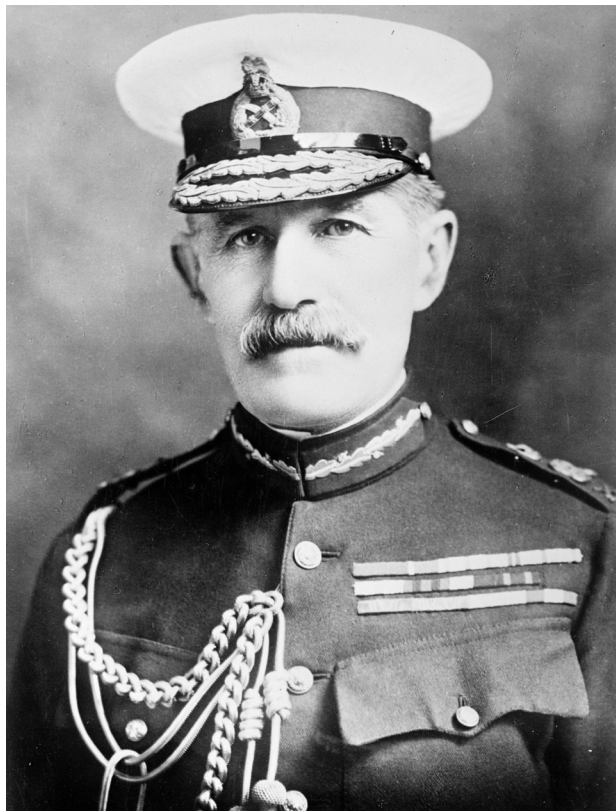
Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, 15 June

On Tuesday 15 June, the Alexander Society met to hear a talk from the Head Master on Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, who was nicknamed “Smithereens” for his explosive stand against the German advance in 1914.

WMAL began by taking the group (who were more notable for their enthusiasm than size, it being Trials week) out to see a series of portraits of Old Harrovians outside of the OH Room on the War Memorial staircase. The portrait of Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien hangs next to that of Sir William Flaggate, who was a significant figure in fundraising for the OH Room. Flaggate, along with all of the other Old Harrovians in the War Memorial, is generally listed among the ranks of alumni who the School describes as “Giants of Old”.

Smith-Dorrien was born on 26 May 1858 as the 12th of 16 children. Little is recorded about his early life until he enrolled at the School in The Head Master’s in 1871. While at Harrow, he gained renown in The Harrovian for his successes at sport and shooting, before he went up to Sandhurst to begin his training as an Imperial Officer. Although he wanted to join the Rifle Brigade, he ended up enrolling in the 95th Foot, which later became known as the Sherwood Foresters.

He then went off to serve as an Imperial Officer across a series of wars from 1878 until the end of the Boer War. This began with the Zulu War, in which he was blooded in at the Battle of Isandlwana, which was a significant British failure. He was one of five officers to escape with his life but, as the transport officer, he also saved a significant number of privates. For his care and heroism, he was nominated for the Victoria Cross but failed to receive the award itself. However, this demonstrated his lack of concern for the difference between officers and ordinary fighting men that would go on to characterise many of his modern policies. Another such example was his recommendation that a more liberal distribution of supply would lead to increased efficiency.



After his time in the Boer War, he served in Egypt at the Battle of Ginnis in 1885, in which a Mardi Muslim insurgency was defeated to end the First Sudan Campaign. The next day, Smith-Dorrien was given his first independent command, with 200 cavalry members. Although he wildly exceeded the boundaries of his mandate, he was largely successful, gaining early plaudits. Then, after stints at Staff College, he gained an admin-based role in the governance of India. This culminated in his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on 1 January 1899, after which he was given a position leading his Sherwood Regiment.

He also served at the Battle of Omdurman: the last British operational cavalry charge. At this battle, support weapons (including machine guns and artillery) and co-ordination, combined with the use of prepared positions, led to a victory against larger numbers. In 1899, in South Africa, Smith-Dorrien was sent to fight in the 2nd Boer War during Black Week. On 11 February 1900, he was made Major-General, ending his jump of three ranks in less than a year. This position made him one of the youngest-ever men to achieve the rank, within which he combined arms, the use of engineers and careful assault. It also, more significantly, led to him rubbing shoulders with men like Douglas Haig, Lord Kitchener and Sir John French. In a campaign which damaged generals, he was one of the few to come out well.

From 1901 until 1907, he was Adjutant-General of India. At this point, he had seen the transition from square formation

redcoats to the very model of a modern major general. In 1907, he returned to his Victorian family in Britain to take command of first Aldershot and then the British Southern Command. During his time serving, he was known for his promotion of marksmanship, sport and individual initiative. He was also known for speaking to non-officers and seeing the cavalry as a mounted infantry, rather than a type of force in their own right.

It was the latter of these, coupled with his criticism of French's flamboyant private life, which led to a conflict with Sir John French, who was himself a Harrow Reject. When French became Chief of the General Staff, Smith-Dorrien was put in charge of the 2nd Corps of the British Expeditionary Force, which was stationed near the French 5th Division. Sir William Hague was his counterpart at 1st Corps, which faced Alexander Von Kluck's flanking 1st Army. However, they were without an organized allied, unified command, with uncertain orders being delivered.

For example, at the Battle of Mons, he was instructed by Sir John French to "give battle along the Mons-Condé Canal". However, when Smith-Dorrien asked whether to attack or defend, he was told "don't ask questions, do as you're told". However, Smith Dorien engaged with the enemy, took the brunt of the German force and was forced to retreat. At the Battle of Le Cateau, Smith-Dorrien is likely to have deliberately misinterpreted an order and he decided to make a stand. In doing so, he gained thousands of casualties and lost hundreds of guns. However, he significantly slowed Von Kluck's advance, which allowed General Headquarters to fall back. The most important consequence was the irreplaceable breakdown of the relationship between French and Smith-Dorrien. By this point, Sir John French was openly criticising his subordinate.

At the 2nd Battle of Ypres, Smith-Dorrien proposed a strategic withdrawal, which Sir John French responded to by withdrawing his command. His replacement asked for withdrawal and was his request was accepted. Subsequently, it was clear that Smith-Dorrien's position was untenable and he offered his resignation. However, this was rejected because Sir John French wanted to sack him instead.

For the remainder of the war, Smith-Dorrien was appointed to West Africa but he contracted pneumonia. As a result, he was made Lieutenant of the Tower of London. From 1918 until 1923, he was Governor of Gibraltar, becoming the first to supervise democratic elections. He worked with veteran charities like the Royal British Legion. However, he is most remembered for his magnanimity in serving as a pall bearer at the funeral of Sir John French, his old rival.

Overall, Smith-Dorrien was not a perfect man. Between his frightening temper, the fact that his moralising tendencies could lead to fights and his part in imperial expansion, one does not want to follow his lead entirely. However, he is certainly a figure who has had a significant impact on history and should be remembered for it.

Thanks must go to WMAL for giving such a wonderful talk and DF for organizing it.

PEEL SOCIETY

Munachi Nnatuanya, The Knoll, "International Espionage in the Spanish Civil War"

Over the course of this term, the Peel Society has been hearing talks around the subject of espionage. The concluding meeting welcomed Munachi Nnatuanya, *The Knoll*, to speak about 'International Espionage in the Spanish Civil War'.

The lecture was concise and yet packed with interesting facts and stories. First, the Spanish Civil War was set in its context. It was suggested that it was of pivotal importance among the

origins of the Second World War, and that it is sometimes overlooked when the focus is exclusively on Hitler and the actions of Germany under the Nazis.

The talk then took us back to the declaration of the Spanish Republic in April 1931 and the ongoing rivalry between the first, left-wing government and the conservatives who subsequently overthrew it. Against this background, the talk covered the wider geopolitical clash between the communist Soviets and the West, and looked at the roles played by some British figures in the conflict.

The actions of the Cambridge Five – Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Anthony Blunt, Kim Philby and John Cairncross, all British spies educated at Cambridge University – was explored. In particular, we learned about Philby's mission, under cover as a reporter for *The Times* newspaper, to assassinate the Spanish right-wing leader, General Franco, probably on the orders of Josef Stalin. The plot, of course, failed and Franco went on to win the Spanish Civil War and to rule Spain until he died in 1975.

Another famous British protagonist in the Spanish Civil War was George Orwell, who reported from the front line and had loose connections to the Spanish Marxist party, the POUM, who were caught and imprisoned.

The talk concluded that espionage did not play a major role in the result of the Spanish Civil War. However after the war, conservative rule continued in Spain and eventually, on Franco's death, the monarch was restored. In many respects, therefore, Spain's politics came full circle, and Europe's wider history played out elsewhere in the battles against Hitler and then against Soviet communism, in both of which fights espionage was a central and effective weapon.

OH AVIATION SOCIETY

During the final weekend of our extended half-term, three Upper Sixth boys had the privilege of experiencing one of the OH Aviation Society's annual 'fly-ins' (the group had unfortunately been decimated by Covid). A short minibus journey brought us, accompanied by RRM, to Elstree Aerodrome near Watford, where we were met by Old Harrovian members of the society. After an informative chat about the process of obtaining a pilot's license and what recreational aviation generally entails, it was time for lift off.



Our first flight was in light aircraft, four-seater planes with propellers; it felt like stepping into a time machine. After a remarkably thorough series of checks to ensure all was well with the aircraft, the OH pilots taxied onto the runway and took to the skies. The experience is markedly different from flying in the usual commercial airliners, as the plane stays low

enough to be able to see what's below us in detail. After passing over Chequers (and spotting a blonde figure sunbathing in the garden) we headed back to Elstree and got into the four-seater helicopters, also piloted by OHs. The three choppers headed towards Chiswick in formation, with the Ride of the Valkyries faintly audible as we approached the River Thames. Once we reached it, we traced its path all the way to the Millennium Dome. To have the city laid out beneath us, with all of its buildings, landmarks and streets still recognisable, was a surreal experience; it was like experiencing Google Maps with virtual reality goggles. As the skyscrapers of the City and Canary Wharf towered next to us, London seemed to me for the first time to actually be quite small. Following such an exhilarating tour of the capital, we were treated to a VIP return to the Hill, landing on the Julian Field. It was overall an utterly unforgettable day, and many thanks go to the OH Aviation Society and to RRM for organising it.

WESTWOOD SOCIETY

Freddie Slater, Moretons, "Military Influence on Fashion", 15 June

On Tuesday 15 June, Freddie Slater, *Moretons*, gave an inspired insight to the Westwood Society on the military influences within the fashion world. Slater provided a succinct, informative lecture, in which he covered four different aspects of the military that have influenced modern-day fashion: Ceremonial Dress, Campaign, Camo and (perhaps surprisingly) Dazzle were his subheadings of choice. He suggested that, due to the impeccable dress standards upheld by the military, the notion of military dress fitting perfectly into high fashion and onto the runway was only natural. This brought the two worlds closer than one might initially expect.

Slater's discussion of the connection between Ceremonial Dress and modern-day couture was enlightening. Originally intended to be worn on the battlefield in order to impress and terrify the enemy, designers were able to use the vivid colours involved, as well as the tales of dress, to inject feelings of heroism and chivalry into their collections. Examples included: The Beatles, who adopted the now iconic Hussar jackets for *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The jacket was donned also by Jimi Hendrix in 1971. Slater conveyed his deep understanding of how the lines between the runway and ceremonial military dress have become blurred due to popular culture.

The Campaign aspect of military clothing has also made its way into fashion with clothes such as trench coats and aviator jackets. However, something familiar like the trench coat, created by English tailor Thomas Burberry, owes its popularity to British soldiers during World War 1. Slater went on to emphasise the role military clothing had in creating our own personal mythology. Youth gangs and political movements throughout history have been drawn to the subversive associations certain clothes have with military discipline and order (or lack thereof). Slater intensified his point by issuing examples such as English mods appropriating the green army parka, and US hippies adopting US navy bell-bottoms, and khaki or camouflage drill jackets to denounce the Vietnam war.

It would be impossible to appreciate the military influence on fashion without looking at how the fashion world has adopted the patterns and colours of different types of camouflage around the world. Slater gave an insight on the first breakthrough camouflage had in the fashion world during the 1990s. Camouflage trousers, paired with the notorious Timberland boots, were modelled by Jay-Z and bricklayers worldwide. Freddie then explained that the significance of camouflage in the fashion world should not

be understated, and could, for some, demonstrate a pacification of a martial symbol. Mentioned examples included Donatella Versace's response to the US military issuing new kit in 2015 with her inspired spring/summer collection – where she aims to 'make love not war' using inventive forms and strikingly varying styles of camouflage.

A personal favourite subheading of Slater's, Dazzle, was the final aspect that he introduced to the audience. The genesis of Dazzle arose soon after WWI had begun in 1914, and consisted of disruptive patterns from the animal kingdom, particularly the zebra, jaguar and giraffe. These 'razzle dazzle' patterns were used by the US to make their Torpedo boats less conspicuous and harder to locate with enemy range finders, as they are more comparable to an Escher painting than a weapon of war. Dazzle was a unique addition to the runway, and the aesthetic had been grasped by the menswear designer Simon Spur, who credited his inspiration as Norman Wilkinson, the artist responsible for the WWI ships. Ultimately, the aim was to confuse the eye to accentuate certain areas of the human body and camouflage perhaps less flattering regions.

I came away from Slater's lecture with a sense of understanding, and a few more designers and artists to look up in my free time. His lecture, although brief, gave a perfect overview of just how directly fashion has been influenced by military history, and I'm certain the Westwood Society can only be bolstered by a talk such as his.

EVOLUTION OF TARGETED CANCER THERAPY

James Pang, Druries

Cancer is the uncontrollable growth of cells caused by mutations. Mutations are alterations in genetic sequences mainly caused by erroneous DNA replication, which give rise to disruption in gene expression, dysfunctional proteins and metabolism. Certain mutations can result in the negation of checkpoints in cell division, hyperstimulation of cell division or preventing daughter cells from differentiating, all of which could lead to oncogenesis. The start of the battle between cancer and medicine dates back to 250 years ago. Initially, the only available cancer treatments were through surgical removal of the tumour itself but cancer treatments were revolutionized in the late 19th century/early 20th century. The introduction of the radioactive elements of radium and polonium by Marie Curie and the discovery of x-ray imaging by Wilhelm Roentgen gave rise to radiation therapy, whilst WWII brought about the usage of alkylating antineoplastic agents and antimetabolites (antifolates) in chemotherapy. Although these treatments caused temporary remissions in cancer patients, these treatments cause severe adverse side effects in patients, making them unsuitable for the elderly, the frail and children. Sparked by theories of "immune surveillance" and cancer-caused chromosomal damage (respectively proposed by Paul Ehrlich and Theodor Boveri), targeted cancer therapy emerged as a potentially effective cancer treatment in the early 20th century without the significant drawbacks of systemic chemotherapy. Targeted cancer therapies are treatments for cancer that focus on selectively interfering with specific molecules associated with oncogenesis or the cancer cells, including products of oncogenes and tumour-specific antigens. The most successful of such treatments, known as immunotherapies, present immunogenic tumour-specific antigens to the immune system, bearing the capability of launching a powerful adaptive antigen-specific immune response against cancerous cells whilst minimising damage to healthy tissue. By the late 20th century, targeted therapy became the forefront of cancer treatments. Many

oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes, such as HER2 and TP53 genes, were identified and used as therapeutic targets for monoclonal antibodies and immunotherapies. In short span of 20 years from then, in the 21st century, significant advances in cancer treatments have been achieved. This essay will explore the development of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, adoptive cell therapies, oncolytic viruses and other immunotherapies.

Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies

The invention of monoclonal antibodies started from the invention of hybridomas by César Milstein and Georges J.F. Köhler in the late 20th century. Mice were immunised with target antigens, and spleen cells of the mice were harvested and immortalised by a cell fusion with B lymphocyte cancer cells (myeloma). The hybridomas were then screened to identify those that are making monoclonal antibodies against the target antigens. Although this technology generated many useful reagents against certain proteins and cells, these monoclonal antibodies could not be injected into patients without triggering a potentially fatal immune response because of the foreign "mice" epitopes the monoclonal antibodies possess. Instead, Sir Gregory P. Winter proposed the idea that the antigen-binding site, which is a protein scaffold of beta-pleated sheets that is surmounted by 6 antigen-binding complementarity-determining region (CDR) loops, can be grafted from the mouse antibody to the human counterpart. This results in an "humanised" mouse antibody which is up to 95% of human origin. Additionally, somatic immunoglobulin hypermutation creates structural variability in variable regions of antibodies secreted by different plasma B cells. As a result of this mechanism, the immune system gives leeway for structural differences in the CDR loops; hence, grafted CDR loop epitopes have a low immunogenicity. Despite that, humanised mouse monoclonal antibodies could still potentially elicit an immune response. To eliminate that problem, Cambridge Antibody Technology and MRC Lab of Molecular Biology worked on creating a solution in designing human monoclonal antibodies with binding affinities to target antigens. Their solution was to create diverse libraries of human and mouse antibodies by randomly forming combinations of heavy and light chains from previously sampled V genes or V gene fragments (genetic sequences that encode the variable region of the antibody) which were sequenced beforehand. These libraries enable antibodies (along with their respective V gene sequences) with high binding affinities to specific targets to be easily discovered. To produce human therapeutic antibodies, folded antibody fragments are displayed on the g3 protein of filamentous bacteriophages which are used to transfect a culture of E. coli bacteria. The phages then pass through multiple rounds through antigen affinity columns, each time enriching the sample by a thousand-fold and producing therapeutic drugs with a high concentration of monoclonal antibodies. At present, there are many therapeutic human antibodies, most of which (e.g. adalimumab¹¹) target pro-inflammatory cytokines and mediators such as tumour necrosis factor – alpha (TNF-alpha) and are treatments for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn's disease. Some, nevertheless, inhibit tumour-associated proteins that are specifically products of strong driver mutations, giving rise to many subsets of therapies. For example, several therapeutic monoclonal antibodies selectively inhibit immune inhibitory checkpoints. They are surface proteins which can activate inhibitory pathways to regulate and debilitate immune responses, minimising collateral tissue damage and preventing the development of autoimmune disorders. Although this is normally a favourable mechanism, cancerous cells can also adapt to abuse this mechanism to disguise themselves from natural immune surveillance. By inhibiting immune checkpoints with monoclonal antibodies, it enables cytotoxic T lymphocytes to recognise and trigger apoptosis in cancerous cells. This is known as checkpoint inhibitor therapy and there are many examples, such as ipilimumab and pembrolizumab which target CTLA4-1

and PD-1 immune checkpoints found on CD8+ T lymphocytes. Although the invention of monoclonal antibodies brought about a vast array of effective off-the-shelf cancer treatments, they only target a few selected driver mutations which can be easily evaded by cancer cells as they adapt. The immune system, however, can target many more tumour-associated antigens with high specificity and can adapt to better destroy tumour cells as time goes on. Immunotherapies, therefore, is a more permanent and flexible solution to cancer which is why it has taken over conventional cancer therapies, such as monoclonal antibodies, in the race of curing cancer. Whilst not perfect, off-the-shelf therapeutic monoclonal antibodies were useful treatments in prolonging life in many cancer patients and they have established their place in the armamentarium of the oncologist. Moreover, monoclonal antibodies have also introduced many useful therapeutic reagents against specific proteins and other biological molecules which contributed heavily to the development of immunotherapies. Their significance can be seen in the development of T-cell transfer therapy.

Adoptive Cell Therapies and CAR T-cell Therapy

Cytotoxic / CD8+ T cells are highly specific and potent effector cells in the immune system for oncolysis. This has led to the development of various technologies in harnessing the cytotoxic activity of the patient's own T cells to target cancer-specific antigens. Most of these technologies have a low efficacy, owing to the various mechanisms cancer cells can develop to evade T-cell recognition and prevent an antigen-specific T cell response, including the loss or downregulation of Major Histocompatibility Class I (MHC-I) proteins. However, some methods can circumvent these mechanisms and still be able to elicit an antigen-specific antitumour T-cell response. One of most successful strategies is Adoptive Cell Therapy which divides into Tumour-Infiltrating Lymphocyte (TIL) therapy, Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell Therapy, Engineered T-Cell Receptor (TCR) Therapy and Natural Killer (NK) Cell Therapy. These methods share a common theme in that they all involve the harvesting of T-cells from the patient's blood, modifying and growing the T-cells ex vivo before being reinfused back into the patient. The most successful method is Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell Therapy: a chimeric antigen receptor is a recombinant receptor consisting of an extracellular single chain variable fragment from the antigen-binding domain of a specific monoclonal antibody, a transmembrane subunit and an intracellular CD3 ζ domain (with additional costimulatory domains), which can deliver a primary activation signal. The CAR therefore combines the high specificity and affinity of monoclonal antibodies and the cytotoxicity of T-cells. Using a gammaretroviral or lentiviral vector, genes encoding CAR are inserted into T lymphocytes that were harvested from the patient's blood through leukapheresis, and the modified T-lymphocytes are grown ex vivo for 10-14 days before reinfused back into the patient. This redirects the patient's T lymphocytes to specifically target and destroy cancer cells. CAR T cells have been most extensively investigated for treating patients with B cell malignancies, in which the CARs target CD19 which is found on B cells. There are currently 5 FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapies used to treat B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, B-cell, mantle cell and follicular lymphoma and multiple myeloma, and their overall response rates are at a promising 80-100%. However, despite being an effective therapy against B-cell-associated cancers, they can also induce rare but severe adverse events, such as Cytokine Release Syndrome (excessive release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and hyperactivation of the immune system) and Immune Effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (damage to the brain causing a large array of neurological symptoms that may be fatal). Additionally, clinical application of this technology has proved more challenging, owing to the immunosuppressive tumour microenvironment (TME) that limits T-cell persistence and cytotoxicity and limited T-cell survival before reaching

the tumour cells. Nevertheless, there have been some potential solutions, such as genetically engineering CAR T-cells to express pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-12) that has shown some success in overcoming the hurdle of TME.

Oncolytic Virotherapy

Although T-cell therapies are relatively ineffective against solid tumours, this could potentially be resolved using oncolytic viruses. Oncolytic virotherapy is the usage of genetically engineered replication-competent viruses that selectively target and destroy tumour cells without infecting healthy human somatic cells. It is also considered as an immunotherapy as direct lysis of tumour cells leads to release of tumour-specific antigens, viral pathogen-associated molecular patterns and danger-associated molecular factors, which recruit antigen-presenting cells and later tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes to the tumour. Currently, the only FDA-approved oncolytic virotherapy is talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) for the treatment of inoperable and advanced metastatic melanoma. T-VEC is a recombinant double-stranded DNA virus human herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1), with ICP34.5 and ICP47 genes deleted. The deletion of ICP34.5 prevents viral expression of HSV-1 neurovirulence protein 34.5 which allows HSV-1 to avoid detection of PKR in somatic cells, eliminating possibilities of pathogenesis. ICP47 inhibits antigen presentation on MHC-I molecules by binding to the transporter associated with antigen processing and removal of ICP47 gene therefore enhances antigen-specific immune responses against tumour cells. Additionally, T-VEC encodes 2 inserted copies of human granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF). The viral expression of GM-CSF enhances the innate immune response by promoting antigen-presentation on antigen-presenting cells (APCs) such as dendritic cells and macrophages. Tumour cells often disrupt the protein kinase R (PKR) pathway as it is a significant regulatory mechanism that prevents oncogenesis. However, oncogenic disruption of the PKR pathway also leads to uninhibited and preferential replication in cancer cells by oncolytic viruses, as the PKR pathway also regulates intrinsic cellular antiviral responses. Randomised clinical trials have been conducted for T-VEC on patients with advanced melanoma which showed an overall 26% response rate. Despite being theoretically promising technology, oncolytic virotherapy faces many long-term and short-term challenges and problems. The obvious issue with oncolytic viruses, despite being excellent tumour-killing agents, is the risk of pathogenesis. Moreover, efficacies of treatments that involve viruses are usually hampered by high rates of neutralizing immunity, owing to their high immunogenicity and the efficient opsonization of the viruses by complement proteins, which results in low initial response rates and decrease in response rates after further uses of the same oncolytic virotherapy. In some cases (where adenoviruses are used in oncolytic virotherapy), severe adverse events, such as ad5-induced thrombocytopenia (mediated by P-selectin and von-Willebrand factor) could be elicited.

Personalised Neoantigen Vaccines

Although oncolytic virotherapy has been shown to have its limitations, new immunotherapies have been developed that far surpasses oncolytic virotherapy and such great strides were due to technological advancements from the 20th to the 21st century. Sanger sequencing technology commonly used in the 20th century was replaced by next-generation sequencing technology in the 21st century, significantly reducing the time taken to sequence entire genomes from decades to days. The 21st century also introduced artificial intelligences, which are now used to make predictions of antigens and epitopes based on genetic information using proteomics and bioinformatics, replacing wet lab with in silico approaches. As a result, the time required for the development of therapeutic drugs has suddenly shortened drastically from years to months. This has enabled us to develop personalised cancer treatments, specifically vaccines

that can present highly immunogenic tumour-specific neoantigens that activate cytotoxic T cells to recognise and infiltrate into tumour cells. Most targeted therapies and immunotherapies target public neoantigens: known neoantigens that repeatedly occur in many cancer patients which are often products of strong driver mutations found in commonly mutated oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes. However, personalised neoantigen vaccines target patient-specific neoantigens that are mainly products of passenger / non-driver mutations that are not responsible for oncogenesis and are unique to the patient's tumour. Although these passenger mutations would normally take a long time to identify in a laboratory, *in silico* approaches accelerate this process by comparing genomes of healthy and cancerous cells that were biopsied from patients with solid tumours. Despite being a quicker method of identifying potential neoepitopes, there is no guarantee of the immunogenicity of the neoantigens, hence some neoantigen vaccines are polyvalent and encode many potential neoantigens to ensure high response rates. The most promising personalised neoantigen vaccine candidate is mRNA-415737.38, which consists of lipid nanoparticles, similar in structure to those in COVID-19 vaccines, encasing mRNA molecules that encode up to 34 public or private neoantigens. This is one of the many mRNA-based drugs that Moderna has put through clinical trial even since their success in developing mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Whilst lipid nanoparticles are excellent nucleic acid delivery vehicles, they also have a higher packaging capacity, higher thermal stability, lower production cost and lower immunogenicity compared to viral vectors. mRNA, with a high innate immunogenicity, enhances antigen-specific humoral and cell-mediated immune responses by activating certain toll-like receptors that promote the secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as TNF- α . This creates a powerful and enduring adaptive immune response against targeted neoantigens and is exclusively shown in the pandemic, where mRNA vaccines have been far more successful than any other type of vaccine in terms of efficacy. mRNA-based drugs also circumvent integration of genetic material into the host genome hence avoiding the risk of mutagenesis. Owing to the fact that there has not been any personalised neoantigen vaccines that have been through Phase II trials, it is hard to gauge their actual response rates and side effects but the promising qualities of mRNA-based cancer vaccines and the success of prophylactic mRNA vaccines make them strong candidates for future cancer treatments.

Conclusion

Possessing specificity, adaptability and memory against tumour-specific antigens, targeted therapy has revolutionised the landscape of therapeutic treatments for cancer. Therapeutic monoclonal antibodies not only gave rise to many useful and popular off-the-shelf drugs that can be used in conjunction with other cancer treatments, but also became a foundational basis for immunotherapies in the 21st century. Although oncolytic virotherapy and adoptive cell therapy prove to be effective cancer treatments in concept, both immunotherapies have major challenges that need to be overcome in order to be successful treatments with high response rates. Currently, mRNA personalised neoantigen vaccines show promise in early stages of clinical trials but, due to the lack of clinical data and the relatively young age of the technology, we cannot predict accurately whether this treatment will be successful or not. Nevertheless, prophylactic mRNA treatments provided the proof of concept that implies the great potential of this technology. With the continuous advancement of technology, various aspects of science have been increasingly crosslinked. Subsequently, successful future development of such therapies will require multidisciplinary collaboration. Although we do not have a sure-fire treatment for cancer, ever-increasing knowledge on proteomics and bioinformatics will bring about a new wave of more promising and advanced cancer treatments in the future.

METROPOLITAN

EDITORS' VALETE

Adam Ait El Caid, Druries

In the past couple of months, as I became more and more acutely aware that the end of my time on the Hill was fast approaching, I found myself reminiscing on the past five years increasingly often. Though it has been an eventful journey with numerous twists and turns, I noticed that one thing has been constant throughout, metronomic of my progression through Harrow, and that is the fresh batch of articles coming in on a Tuesday afternoon to be edited. Just as they have been chronometric markers for me personally, The Harrovian performs the same role for the School as a whole, as, with the passing of each week, it records within its pages the achievements of the preceding seven days.



Indeed, I think that is what I have most enjoyed about the role: witnessing how much the School has progressed throughout my time here, in every sphere. Before sport was interrupted 15 months ago by the COVID-19 pandemic, I recall being astounded week in and week out by the score-lines of the Shells and Removes' rugby and football matches, with teams from the As through to the Fs not only all winning, but winning emphatically. Across all disciplines, our teams have excelled, from the rugby Junior Colts As reaching the semi-finals of the National Cup to the judo and swimming teams continuing their dominance. The thorough (and often humorous) match reports covering the various sporting endeavours are as riveting as live commentary!

Similarly, in academic matters, it has been a pleasure to see the School go from strength to strength. Perhaps the biggest change that has occurred at Harrow is a shift in culture; the environment now is one that encourages boys of all year groups to thrive to the maximum extent in super-curricular matters. To see the number of boys of all ages giving lectures and engaging with every opportunity on offer increasing rapidly has been hugely heartening. Success in inter-school competitions such as the recent History Bee & Bowl are testament to Harrovians' commendable academic drive and diligence.

The addition of the 'Metropolitan Lines' section has been a fantastic way to include creative writing and artistic entries, putting on display Harrovians' cultural prowess. As part of The Guild's presentation for Founder's Day, it was great fun delving into the annals of history and reading past editions, going all the way back to the 1950s. After all, The Harrovian has an extensive history which goes back almost two centuries, beginning in 1828. It has been an honour, then, to be a part of

an institution that is so integral to Harrow. The editing sessions in Deyne Court (sadly interrupted by Covid) were always cherished moments in the week, a chance to take a break from the busy schedule of Harrovian life and have a good laugh over snacks and refreshments. My experience as Editor has been undoubtedly enriched by SMK's brilliant leadership of the paper, and I extend my warmest thanks to him for making these past four years so enjoyable.

Paddy Breeze, Elmfield

Harrow is an odd place to arrive as a 13-year-old, fresh from being the top of the pile at prep school: there are these scary blokes in weird hats staring down at you from their six foot four heights on the High Street, whilst those adults the boys call 'beaks' bark at you for munching your popcorn on the street outside Hill Shop – a personal experience of this Editor. Very quickly these things become commonplace, such that at prep school reunions it is the Harrovians (barring of course those from the other place) who are the ones using archaic terminology and generally confusing everyone. Often belittled, our traditions bind us together as a school community, creating an atmosphere and ethos achieved nowhere else.

The Shell year is an odd time in a Harrovian's life: you are dropped into a year group full of people who frankly you have no idea about, and it's pot luck whether your first room-mate turns out to be your future best man or just a plain creep. It is, however, a great time for making mistakes, although it would be fair to say that a Harrovian spends the final two years of his career trying to erase what he did in the first three. The curse of 'Removitis' strikes us all, myself unfortunately rather heavily, and the temptation of having younger boys to boss around is often just too great for even the most moderated boys; it remains a great regret of mine that rather than spending my time as a Remove building meaningful relationships with the Shells, more of it was spent distanced, and too focused on self-achievement.

I feel incredibly lucky to have stumbled upon Elmfield as a boarding House at Harrow. So much of the choice is luck and, in fact, after one year of MJT, the House was to be taken over by AJC; there is always a lottery as to the chemistry you develop with any incoming House Master. Thankfully, Elmfield and its two House Masters have been amazing, and as a House ethos I believe that we are one of the most competitive Houses on the Hill, but also one of the kindest. The boys in Elmfield are an eclectic bunch, often pretty weird actually, but nonetheless are the part of Harrow that I will miss the most.

The Sixth Form at Harrow is really a culmination of three years of having your life dictated by studying several subjects you didn't enjoy at GCSE; the ability to select and choose your passions for A level makes life so much more interesting. I have always had an interest in Classics and have been incredibly lucky to have some amazing beaks in the department, including SMK, to inspire me in this subject. Being in the Sixth Form also brings with it responsibility, particularly once you reach the Upper Sixth, and the more formal positions of responsibility in the School. Depending on your House Master, a Head of House can either be very involved, or non-present, and thankfully AJC has been very good at allowing the senior boys in the House to try and help younger boys as they progress through the School. However, with responsibility comes the opportunity to fail, and to make mistakes that have an impact on others as well as yourself. As a House, we've had time to reflect on the mistakes that all of us have made over the past year, to grow and create a culture and environment that is healthier, and one that is deserving of the trust that the beaks in the School put in the boys under their care.

It has been great fun editing The Harrovian this year, although for some reason SMK has seen fit to burden me with some articles barely deploying the English language at all.

Thankfully this term I've had the cricket reports, as SMK has taken advantage of an Editor with even a fleeting knowledge of sport (it tends to be a rarity on the Board), although it has left me often frantically in communication with SMK about the impossibility of the scores, with one report even claiming that a bowler ended with figures of 14-0, a mathematical impossibility in a 30-over game.

I will always be incredibly grateful to Harrow for what it has given me, and for the people that I have met and become friends with over my five years here. It is a very special place, and one which mustn't be taken for granted, because, as the Covid pandemic has proven, so much of what we thought to be normal has collapsed around our eyes. Having missed the best part of two terms of school, all of us in the School know the cost of missing out on that 'fix' you get from being on the Hill, and my one piece of departing advice would be to grab hold of every opportunity you can, and don't let go.

THE AUGUSTUS FLEET POETRY PRIZE

Winners 2021

Home

by Oscar Wickham

Roadside tarmac, plagued by sirens' wails;

A cardboard box, guarded by a ragged sheet;

A meagre sleeping bag pierced by bitter gales;

A dented car, trapped in melting heat.

Home belongs to no substance, no hearth;

Home provides a rest from life's path.

No noise, no storm, no frost, no swelter

Can deter a spot of settled shelter.

Home

by Otto Marre

Tonight I walked out but the wind wasn't whistling like it should.
Instead it was rattling the leaves of heart-stained shutters,
Summoning soiled paper bags and menus never ordered
Beside a single-file graveyard, stalled steel dreams ground to a halt:
Memorials of a thousand abandoned journeys.

That was left. Right (before me) my city tells a different tale.
Uniform papers delivered: the early morning mail,
Breakfast smells of bacon or toast and money.
Well-oiled machines growl past,
Sweet dreams are rich as honey.

If I turned back and cared to look
In the doorway across the roaring road,
Yesterday's news is embraced as a creased and crackling cover,
A shroud of gloom which rises and falls
With every breath of the man who sleeps but is not at peace.

'The city is a melting pot,' people sometimes say,
But each man fears an invisible fence
Which keeps the other away.
A fence as high as a prison wall and as strong as a heart of stone
Divides this place which both sides call their home.

Home

by Arturo Saville-Mascioni

Sitting on the low wall, above the bike-shed covered in snails,
Wearing uniform, a grey shirt and black shorts,
Picking at a grazed knee,
Red and orange leaves littering the short path to school,
The wooden fence along the lane, glowing red.

A bubbling of a pan of boiling carrots,
The smells of dinner, wafting down the terraced road,
Races around the sides of the park,
Dad vanishes behind the bushes,
Until we meet on the other side.

Popping out peas with your fingers,
The pods, piling up on a wooden stool.
I hear oil spitting and a clicking stove.
Smile for a photo, to be incarcerated in plastic,
then slipped into the pages of mum's album,
To be viewed when I am taller.

Sitting with the baby sitter in the cab with the rubber smell,
We arrive at the house next to the one with the chicken coop,
On Beachcroft Road, near the junction and the craft shop,
Emptiness inhabits the new rooms,
A treehouse in the garden,
I reach out to the door knob, opening new memories.

THE JEREMY LEMMON SHAKESPEARE PRIZE 2021

'Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly.'
(*As You Like It*)

This year's Jeremy Lemmon Prize for an essay on Shakespeare asked candidates to write essays on a friendship in one of Shakespeare's plays, considering it in light of the line in Amiens's song, 'Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly.' (*As You Like It*). Several would-be critics cleared the first hurdle (expressing interest in the prize), only to fall at the water-feature of the second (actually submitting a piece of work). Nonetheless, the judges enjoyed those corridor and Callover discussions.

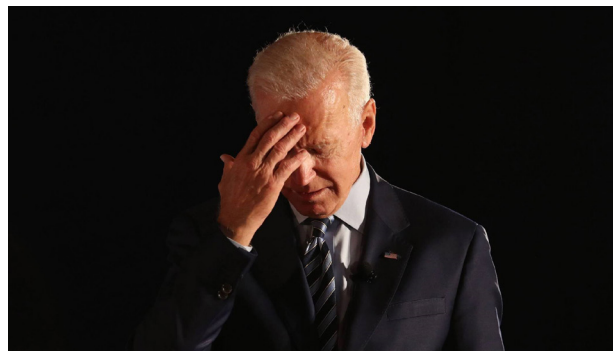
The prize was awarded to John Richardson, *Elmfield*, for an essay on Hamlet and Horatio, whose friendship, surely, is one of the few robust and healthy elements in that poisoned Danish court, the canker of which galls all the infants of the spring. Richardson wrote a wide-ranging and enjoyable investigation of their friendship. The Lower School Prize was awarded to Alexander Newman, *Druries*, who wrote on *Julius Caesar*, and Marc Antony's epideictic, apophatic fireworks show ('I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.'). A friend to Caesar he may be, Antony, but he is also a politician. In many ways his famous speech to the Roman people is far more false than Brutus's, but masterfully weaponised. Congratulations to the winners, and our thanks to all the honourable men who took part.

OPINION

CORRUPTION AND HYPOCRISY OF THE DEMOCRATS

A reply, by Daniel Sidhom, The Knoll

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, once said, "to anger a conservative, lie to him. To anger a liberal, tell him the truth." Being a conservative and a traditionalist myself, I am going to put forward a few more reasons why I believe the Biden administration, and the Democratic Party more generally, is corrupt, and how it is destroying the United States of America.



The Biden administration has clearly become a rush of bad government, citing false crises and end-running constitutional limitations. With the way that it is heading, I think Joe Biden will only be a one-term president. For instance, in late May 2021, Biden proposed his six trillion dollar budget. Let us break this down. In his first six months, Biden has now proposed a two trillion dollar stimulus plan, a two trillion dollar infrastructure plan, a two trillion dollar "American Families" plan, and now a six trillion dollar budget. All this, when accumulated together, works out to be a sum of 12 trillion dollars. However, the entire GDP of the United States in 2019 was 21 trillion dollars, according to the World Bank Group (WBG), and the highest levels it has spent in terms of government spending to GDP ratio from 2015 was around 35%. With Biden's so-called "astounding and ground-breaking" six trillion dollar budget proposal in addition to the other plans, this would imply the USA to be spending well in excess of 50% of GDP. When Barack Obama created the four trillion dollar budget, every single year from that day onwards the USA has had a four trillion dollar budget – this was also the case under Trump. However, Joe Biden wants to increase the American budget by 50% in the middle of an inflationary cycle, which, in my opinion, is completely absurd. According to the New York Times, "President Biden will propose a six trillion dollar budget on Friday, that would take the United States to its highest sustained levels of federal spending since World War II, while running deficits above 1.3 trillion dollars for the next decade." From this we can calculate that at least 13 trillion dollars will be added to the national debt over the next decade; and the national debt at this current stage in the United States is already approximately 28.3 trillion dollars. Not only is this going to expand the debt to an unprecedented degree. According to Joe Biden, the USA needs to spend money to the tune of a 1.3 trillion dollar debt for the next ten years in order to "attain a middle-class lifestyle", because nothing says middle-class lifestyle quite like a redistribution of wealth through punishing entrepreneurialism.

Secondly, let us discuss Joe Biden's beloved son, Hunter, whom Joe once said was the "smartest man he knew". However, Hunter is in hot water again after messages show him using

the “n-word” multiple times. He has been caught calling his white lawyer the “n-word” multiple times as well as saying “I only love you because you are black.” And what is the media’s response to all of this? According to the *Daily Mail* Hunter Biden was simply “using the n-word multiple times in banter with his lawyer”, and that it was “acceptable as they were two white men having a joke with each other.” This brings to light the immense double standard to the sort of language allowed, as long as you are related to a prominent Democrat. The common trend is that if you are a prominent Democrat, there are very few boundaries to what you can do unless you happen to become useless to the Democratic Party. This is clearly seen in the situation of Bill Clinton, where people were making excuses for his rape allegations when he was President from 1993 to 2001. The minute that Clinton left office, he received a huge blow of hate, but as soon as Hillary Clinton started running for office, he became useful again to the Democratic Party and the public downplayed all of his failures.

Thirdly, the constant theme today, emanating from the Democrats and the media, is that there is a “deep abiding threat to American democracy from the Republican Party”. This view is from Vice President Kamala Harris, in an interview she gave with NBC News in June 2021. She pulls out the race card at any given moment to prove the existence of any problem in America, and she is a woman who has not even visited the Mexican border to witness Biden’s hugely unsuccessful immigration policy. These actions are from a party and an administration that openly attempts to push social media, another institution dominated by the Democrats, to shut down people who disagree with them. This was most clearly seen when conservatives like Ben Shapiro and Candace Owens criticised the Black Lives Matter movement for its “violent nature” and “creating an anarchy within the country”, which in my opinion is very true.

The Biden administration has now even begun pushing a governmental policy which is overtly racist and discriminatory, aiming to seize money from the private sector and then waste the money on completely useless plans, while using the excuse of the Capitol riots on 6 January to justify its complications. But the true authoritarian threat to the USA is not a bunch of fools running around into the Capitol building, but the overarching change that the Democrats want to bring to the country. In my opinion, cultural radicalism, racial polarization, the breakdown of democratic institutions and the proposed abolition of the Senate are some of the real threats to the USA that the Democratic Party wishes to push forward. On 2 June, Barack Obama even said that, “we have a serious problem in the United States when Iowa has as many votes in the Senate as California.” However, that is not a problem with the system. That is the system specifically designated so that the states have the power to check federal ambition. Again, it is one of many other reasons why the Democrats and the Biden administration, in my belief, is proving to be completely hypocritical and corrupt.

SPORT

SWIMMING

*Gala v Bishop’s Stortford College Boys, 17 June
Harrow 113 v Bishop’s Stortford 68, won by 45 points*

Bishop's Stortford				
Under-14	Under-15	Under-18	Open	Total
35	25	0	8	68

Harrow				
Under-14	Under-15	Under-18	Open	Total
39	49	0	25	113

Harrow competed in its second ‘live’ competition of the year against Bishop’s Stortford College, who brought along a solid and able team, complete with two girls to challenge our boys in the Under-14, Under-15, and Open age categories.

There were some absolutely phenomenal swims. The entire team swam to the best of their abilities, challenging both themselves and their opponents with full resolve and determination.

Swimming personal best times today were:

100m individual medley	
Raulph Lubbe, <i>The Grove</i> (Shell)	1.28.82

500m freestyle	
Hugo Bourne, <i>The Grove</i> (Shell)	27.54
Alexander Moore, <i>Lyon’s</i> (Shell)	25.61
Tom Pearce, <i>Newlands</i> (Shell)	25.25 **
John Yap, <i>Newlands</i> , (Shell)	28.65
Henry Gray, <i>Lyon’s</i> (Remove)	24.55
Nick Finch, <i>Newlands</i> (Remove)	24.75
Joe Storey, <i>Newlands</i> (Remove)	25.24
Archie Smith, <i>Rendlls</i> (Lower Sixth)	27.50
James Rates, <i>Newlands</i> (Fifth Form)	24.47 *
Rowland Eveleigh, <i>The Grove</i> (Fifth Form)	29.46
Apollo Wilkins, <i>The Knoll</i> (Lower Sixth)	27.85
Max Wilson, <i>The Park</i> (Lower Sixth)	29.94
Hanno Sie, <i>Newlands</i> (Lower Sixth)	28.67
Nicklas Host-Verbraak, <i>The Head Master’s</i> (Lower Sixth)	31.87

100m freestyle	
Henry Gray, <i>Lyon’s</i> (Remove)	54.02***
Tom Pearce, <i>Newlands</i> (Shell)	55.59 **
Tamir Zolboo, <i>The Head Master’s</i> (Remove)	1.09.26

100m individual medley	
Henry Emerson, <i>Newlands</i> , Remove	1.17.28

100m breaststroke	
Kiefer Yeo, <i>The Head Master’s</i> (Remove)	1.11.51

50m butterfly	
Data Photpipat, <i>The Head Master’s</i> (Remove)	28.89

100m butterfly	
Nick Finch, <i>Newlands</i> (Remove)	54.73 ****

50m greestyle	
Tamim Downe, <i>The Grove</i> (Shell)	45.46

*.07 off from the Torpid record of 24.40

** New School record

***.09 from Torpid record

****Fastest time for 100m butterfly ever swum at Harrow; new Torpid record which is faster than the Senior record

Tom Pearce once again set two new Shell records in the pool this afternoon.

James Rates was within .07 of a new school Torpid record that has been held since 2005.

But the swim of the day went to Nick Finch, who, despite his humble and unassuming manner, ripped through the water today to swim a blistering 54.73 in his 100m butterfly event. This beats the Senior record, held by Ben Hooper, a former full GB team swimmer, by nearly a second.

ISGA NATIONAL FINALS

Marriott Worsley Park, 5 June

Ninth place.

Aidan Wong, *The Park* +3 (placed 16th individually)Finlay Matheson, *Druries* +5 (placed 21st individually)George Williams, *Druries* +15

The recently crowned regional champions were whisked off to Manchester at 6am on Tuesday morning. The bus was alive with positive energy and eager chatter, for all of two minutes before each of the boys fell asleep – cheers. We were on the way to the home of Rick Shiels Golf (the world's most popular golf YouTuber – just ask CJFB!) for the National Finals.

We made good time on the drive up and even had time for a warm-up! This was a risk, as none of the boys knew how to warm-up for a golf match, but luckily none of them managed to injure themselves on the range or the putting green. Slowly but surely, more and more groups teed off (surprisingly many into the trees down the right) and it was time for the Harrow three to step up to the tee...

We were led out by Aidan Wong, *The Park*, and he duly found the middle of the fairway with his opening drive and matched this with a glorious 7-iron to find the middle of the green (even if JRP was somewhat less “invisible” than he had planned!) and 2-putts made for a nice, nerve-settling par. Wong continued with five more pars on the card, striking it well and getting himself up and down from a few tricky positions. The par 3 7th was into the breeze and Wong under-clubbed, finding the water. Thankfully, he has been practising his underwater golf in Hong Kong this year and he again managed a long putt to only drop one shot. The 8th is a dastardly beast and Wong found himself in the fairway bunker. He managed to lay up just short of the green, but another bogey saw him at +2 by the turn. The 12th was drivable but a weak fade off the tee meant that he had to settle for par. JRP spotted that the young maestro needed a lift and so gifted Wong an extra bottle of water which got him back into the groove. He birdied the par 5 13th after a brilliant flop shot and putt. The par 3 14th was a perfect 8 iron for Wong, and, with his best strike of the day, he put it pin high, seven feet away. Trying to convert for back-to-back birdies, the putt bobbled and lipped out. Wong worked hard to keep his cool over the next few holes (thank goodness for that water!) as he struggled with his game, dropping a couple more shots. The 17th was a short par 4 but he was not able to get up and down for birdie. On the 18th tee, Wong went for a big drive which hooked into the other fairway. It took two shots to get back on the fairway and then he holed a marvellous chip for par from short of the green. Memories of many chip-ins in Hong Kong and thoughts of Chelsea winning the premiership inspired this brilliant finale and Wong had made a superb start to Harrow's title chase!

Second out, Finlay Matheson, *Druries*. It was an interesting beginning to Matheson's round after he pulled one left onto the 18th fairway from the first tee. There was immense drama as his ball happened to be hit by a local Mancunian who was

negotiating the 18th, and this resulted in Matheson having to replace his golf ball at no penalty. Shoving such early drama aside and with JRP onlooking, Matheson hit a clean iron strike to find the dance floor and ensure a soothing par to begin his campaign for the day.

Despite five consecutive dodgy strikes with the driver, Matheson was +1 until he reached the devilish, water-laden, par 3 seventh which had already caused Wong some worry. Unfortunately, his ball also found the water as it bounded backwards off the bank, yet Matheson also managed to salvage bogey with an up-and-down from the drop zone. With Matheson opting to retire the driver for the day, he began to find the short grass and from there, iron after iron was pured. Matheson struggled with club choice due to how the warm, sunny and firm conditions were, certainly resulting in the ball travelling much further than he was usually accustomed to, but luckily he possesses the short game prowess of the late Seve Ballesteros. These left him with numerous birdie putts on the back 9 but they all refused to drop! Still, a fine performance of 1 under net and 5 over gross.

Two good rounds out of three. Time for George Webster, *Druries*, to come to the party. Buoyed by the extension to the McDonald's budget and the use of a trolley, Webster had a spring in his step, but sadly it would later appear, no sun cream... Webster's round started off nicely with a tidy par on the first after a lovely little chip from just short of the green. He did struggle with the greens however and saw far too many three-putts on the front 9. The back 9 was a very different story though! Webster made a change to his pre-shot routine – he usually likes to take on average 18 practice swings, removing on average three tonnes of top-soil in the process, but he now decided to do away with any pre-shot routine at all. A long string of pars were to follow including a strong bunker save, but as Webster stepped onto the tee of the drivable 17th hole, there was only one thought in his mind; how to celebrate an albatross elegantly. However, the one thought should have been the looming tree trouble on the right-hand side and as a result Webster incited his only lost ball of the round and left with a triple bogey. A strong par to finish thanks to the nerves of steel to hole a 4-footer in front of a beckoning crowd. The stroke play format certainly did not play into Webster's hands as he found it difficult to psyche out the course with his Tango, unlike the normal human opposition who are instantly annihilated by such a power move. The lack of halfway hut didn't help either. Anyway, in summary, great day out, the weather was perfect, the journey surprisingly pleasant, the round decent, sadly no Rick Shiels, and the McDonald's, well-earned.

The boys finished a very commendable 9th place out of 18 schools.

Please do all be very careful around Webster this week – he is nursing some lobster-esque sunburn.

Special thanks to the boys for sleeping for the majority of both the outward and inward journeys – great company.

CRICKET

16 June

Colts A v Wellington College – National 40-over NatWest Cup round of 16

Wellington 129 all out, Harrow 130 for 2, won by 8 wickets

An imperious performance in the National Cup Round of 16 as Harrow emphatically beat Wellington. Rawal, *Rendalls*, and Artis, *The Head Master's*, were the pick of the wicket takers with three each, whilst Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, stifled Wellington with their economical bowling.

Harrow were swift in their response with O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, and Ellis, *Rendalls*, beginning the chase strongly, leaving Patel and Sheopuri to bring it home.

St Edwards 1st XI v The School, won by 36 runs

	B	R
J Marsh c T Sheopuri *† b J Gray	15	9
K Barman c M Ferreira b J Richardson	66	46
D Driscoll c b B Sheopuri	79	50
A Horton † c M. Ferreira b John Koutalides	60	65
S Brown b J Connell	41	28
L Charlesworth * run out (T Sheopuri *†)	28	23
E Hyman not out	12	17
Extras		13
Total	251	for 6

	O	M	R	W
J Gray	10.0	1	50	1
John Koutalides	9.0	1	46	1
J Connell	9.0	0	47	1
M Ferreira	2.0	0	7	0
J Richardson	10.0	0	44	1
B Sheopuri	10.0	0	53	1

	B	R
J Connell c J Marsh b S Brown	23	21
C Ellis c A Horton † b S Brown	15	10
T Sheopuri *† st A Horton † b G Macleod	47	20
V Patel c A Horton † b A Turner	82	50
M Ferreira b J Marsh	50	29
G. Cutler c J Marsh b S Brown	49	40
B Sheopuri b L Charlesworth *	15	13
J Richardson c E Hyman b L Charlesworth *	14	5
J Gray b L Charlesworth *	3	1
Unsure 18 not out	1	1
John Koutalides not out	1	1
Extras		24
Total	215	for 9

	O	M	R	W
S Brown	7.0	1	39	3
L Charlesworth *	9.0	0	23	3
G Macleod	8.0	1	20	1
C Turner	4.0	0	20	0
J Marsh	10.0	0	40	1
A Turner	10.1	0	48	1
K Barman	2.1	0	17	0

After winning the toss, the XI put the visitors in to bat in conditions that somewhat favoured the opening bowlers. Gray, *Newlands*, and Koutalides, *West Acre*, started off well, beating the bat on numerous occasions and extracting strong seam movement from the pitch. Despite a wicket within the first powerplay, however, St Edwards played proactively and managed to tick over at a good rate, punishing the bad ball and running hard between the wickets. In the middle overs, their aggressive nature was matched by Richardson, *Elmfield*, and Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, who bowled tightly and created a couple of chances. However, two dropped catches allowed the visitors to press on and continue attacking and carry momentum into the final ten overs, allowing them, despite strong finishes from Gray and Connell, *Rendalls*, to pick up their run rate and reach a very solid score of 251.

The XI started off strongly, with Connell and Ellis, *Rendalls*, playing positively and taking the attack to the St Edwards bowlers. However, the two quick wickets of the openers halted the chase, and brought Sheopuri and Patel, *The Knoll*, to the crease. With the wicket of Sheopuri ten overs later putting Harrow in a shaky position, a good couple of partnerships were in need, which were brought about by Patel, Ferreira, *The Grove*, and Cutler, *The Knoll*. All three played proactively, with Patel reaching his 50 with a lovely slog sweep, and Cutler rotating the strike

with some fine ramps and reverse sweeps. However, too much was left too late, as the rising run rate proved too much for the lower order, and left the XI 36 runs short in the end.

2nd XI, won by 8 runs, Henry Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, 34, Oliver Wills, *Elmfield*, 51*), St Edward's, Oxford, 152-8 (30 overs) (Wills 3-26, Sachin Vyas, *Elmfield*, 3-36)

Harrow won the toss and elected to bat, but only one member of the top order performed. Whilst wickets tumbled around him, captain Henry Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, anchored the side with a vital 34 off 29 balls, and he looked well set to make a big score before he was caught. At 69-7 Harrow were in deep trouble. Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, was the only other batsman in the top eight who showed any resolve and managed to reach double figures, scoring 27 off 35 balls. But it was Oliver Wills, *Elmfield*, Harrow's number 10, who turned Harrow's score into something respectable. Wills scored a spectacular 51 not out off 45 balls in a partnership of 71 with Shirvell, meaning St Edward's would have to chase down 160 in their 30 overs.

Herbie Smith, *Newlands*, and James Nelson, *Bradby's*, both bowled tight spells that restricted St Edward's to around 3 an over, which was well off the required rate of just under 5.5. Flushed with success from the first innings, Wills took 3-26 in his four overs, meaning his name will be spoken of with reverence around the quads of Oxford for years to come. To their credit, St Edward's never gave up the chase, and they batted positively to reach 125-6 off 25 overs. With the light fading, they needed 20 off the last over, which was to be bowled by Leo Wright, *Elmfield*. The first ball was hit high into the air and caught in the deep by Shirvell, who then accidentally carried it over the boundary for 6. However, the St Edward's batsmen were only able to muster another six runs off the last five balls.

This was the 2nd XI's second close encounter in the space of three days. Although their batting performance was one of the poorest that 2nd XI devotees can remember, it was pleasing that the result went their way, especially as the Harrow team was a weaker side than that which lost to Eton earlier in the week.

Colts A v Tonbridge School, Lost by 32 runs

Harrow went down to a tidy Tonbridge side in a 25-over game. Tonbridge batted first and, despite some early wickets, one batsman was a thorn in Harrow's side, scoring an impressive 70 as he took to Tonbridge to 158-9. In reply, Harrow started slowly but were buoyed by another impressive knock from Sam Harrison, *Moretons*, of 37 and great work from Kit Keey, *Druries*, to reach 31. Ultimately, Harrow's slow start cost them as they were forever behind the rate and some soft wickets contributed to a loss by 32 runs.

Yearlings A v St Edward's School, Oxford, Won by 91 runs

Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, scored 53, Henry Porter, *Moretons*, scored 50, and James Lester took 3-13.

Yearlings A were due a good performance having alternated between the sublime and the ridiculous in their last few matches. With Tuesday's fixture being the ridiculous, DAE and AGJ were confident that a top performance was to be expected against St Edward's and that was exactly what Harrow provided. Maintaining his record of never losing a toss in his Harrow bluer, Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, chose to bat on a wicket that showed some evidence of the rain of the night before, but looked a good one nonetheless. Not for the first time this season, the Rendalls opening partnership of Miles Herron and Harry Owens, *Rendalls*, got the side off to an excellent start, assisted by plenty of extras from the away team. By the time Owens departed, the score sat at 76 from 10 overs and the momentum was with Harrow. Herron reached yet another 50 in double-quick time and, when he fell, Porter joined Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, for another partnership of well over 50. Despite almost running each other out more than once, the pair took Harrow to an imposing position. Snow fell for 27 and Porter

for 49... or so he thought. The reaction as he was told that that was his score whilst trudging off was an entertaining one, but balls later when the 30 overs were completed, he was delighted to learn that the opposition scorer made his score 50 – a nice reward for a well-crafted knock.

Having posted 210-6, Yearlings A seemed determined not to let such a position of strength slip through their fingers. James Lester, *West Acre*, put his stamp on the run chase by starting the innings off with a wicket maiden, and following that up with another scalp in his third over. Barnett took two of his own to follow and then introduced the spin duo of Tom Campbell Johnston, *Druries*, and Jenkyn Keigwin, *The Knoll*, who took a further three wickets between them and kept things tight in the middle overs. Despite some strong hitting from the St Edward's opener who posted a half-century, the visitors never looked in the game, and the return of Lester saw the last wicket fall with 91 still required and only three overs remaining. It was a clinical performance from Harrow, who seemed to find the focus they had lacked in their previous game. The boys look forward to a promotion to Maclaren pitch on Saturday, where they take on Radley.

Yearlings B v St Edward's School, Won by 6 wickets

From the very first ball of the innings Teddy's were in serious trouble with the bat, as James Talamai, *Druries*, sent the opening batsman's off stump flying with a particularly juicy full toss. The flow of wickets continued as Michael Samuelson, *The Head Master's*, found two edges which flew through to keeper Hal Hersee, *Newlands*, who also completed two stumpings on the day. Aaron Patel, *The Knoll*, took three wickets, and was just one ball away from the Yearlings B's first hat-trick of the season, as Teddy's sank to a sub-par total of 55 all out.

The second innings did not last very long. After Rory Grant, *Moretons*, and Eddie Cooke, *The Park*, diligently saw off the new ball, an unknown batsman who only goes by the name of 'Extras', scored 15 runs to see Harrow home within 11 overs. Special mention must go to the sixes of Josh Ashley, *Moretons*, and Jack Allen, *West Acre*, which were so massive that the Teddy's fielders could not locate the ball amongst the dense brush of the Bessborough B foliage.

Man of the Match: Hal Hersee for a wonderful performance with the gloves (two catches and two stumpings) and some useful runs.

Moment of the match: Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, running onto the pitch in a state of complete exhaustion to hit the winning runs against his brother's school.

Yearlings C v St Edward's School, Oxford Boys Under-14B, won by 8 wickets

A hybrid Es side made short work of St Teddy's, with incisive bowling holding the opposition to 73, which Harrow chased in 13 overs.

Archie Young, *Rendalls*, 31*; Otto Marre, *The Grove*, 2 for 4; Sama Othman, *Newlands*, 2 for 8

Yearlings C, won by 13 runs

The School 1st XI v Radley College, 19 June

	B	R
James Hayes lbw b B Sheopuri	79	30
Ethan Berlusconi * c J Connell b B Sheopuri	92	39
Jamie Sharp run out (B Sheopuri)	56	21
George Acheson-Gray † c J Gray b B Sheopuri	24	2
George O'Connor run out (T. Sheopuri *†)	9	8
Rollo Harrap b J Gray	8	1
Max Jardine-Brown c B Sheopuri b C. Ellis	14	9
Benji Tucker b C Ellis	17	12
Zayn Hussain c C Ellis b C Ellis	8	6
Ben Wilson not out	17	7
Freddy Loveland run out (C Ellis)	6	5

Extras	14
Total	154 for 10

	O	M	R	W
J Gray	10.0	1	32	1
John Koutalides	5.0	0	18	0
J Connell	1.0	0	3	0
C Ellis	11.0	1	30	3
J Richardson	11.0	4	13	0
B Sheopuri	8.0	2	18	3
P Ashworth	9.0	0	34	0

	B	R
J Connell c Unsure b James Hayes	23	21
C Ellis lbw b Zayn Hussain	15	10
T Sheopuri *† c Unsure b James Hayes	47	20
V Patel c G Acheson-Gray † b G O'Connor	82	50
M Ferreira lbw b George O'Connor	50	29
G Cutler c Unsure b George O'Connor	49	40
P Ashworth b James Hayes	15	13
B Sheopuri not out	14	5
J Richardson lbw b Zayn Hussain	3	1
J Gray not out	1	1
Extras		36
Total		155 for 8

	O	M	R	W
Zayn Hussain	9.5	0	40	2
Freddy Loveland	9.0	2	20	0
James Hayes	4.0	0	22	3
Ben Wilson	1.0	0	13	0
Rollo Harrap	4.0	0	20	0
George O'Connor	8.0	1	25	3
Max Jardine-Brown	1.0	0	8	0

Having been greeted with wet conditions and a slightly soft pitch, Harrow won the toss and elected to field first. The opening partnership of Jasper Gray, *Newlands*, and John Koutalides, *West Acre*, managed to keep the scoring rate of the Radley openers to a low level but the team were still awaiting a breakthrough as a number of half chances evaded the awaiting Harrow fielders. John Richardson, *Elmfield*, followed suit and immediately purchased some turn and bounce from the wicket as he built up the pressure over by over which allowed for the wickets to come from the other end. Richardson finished with tight figures and only gave away 13 runs from his 11 overs. Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, bowled quickly and aggressively over the course of his two spells and picked up three wickets and Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, also bowled tightly as he too ended up with three wickets from his spell. Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, helped to further keep the Radley run rate low as he bowled skilfully despite the batsmen beginning to play some shots. Harrow put in a good effort in the field and managed to bowl out the visitors for 154.

Harrow began their reply with the bat as Johnny Connell, *Rendalls*, and Ellis played with positive intent and struck the ball nicely. Unfortunately, Ellis was struck on the front pad early on and so Connell was joined by Tej Sheopuri, *Lyon's*. Both batsmen continued the positive style of play as they began to rebuild well when Sheopuri was dismissed. Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, joined Connell at the crease but Connell was caught by an athletic effort at backward point just a few overs later. Max Ferreira, *The Grove*, strode out and managed to rotate the strike nicely whilst also putting away the bad ball when he too was trapped in front and out came George Cutler, *The Knoll*. Cutler and Patel continued on in a similar manner but Patel was caught behind shortly after drinks which saw Ashworth join Cutler in the middle. Cutler fell next and Harrow inched closer towards the target as two quick wickets followed. Gray knocked off the final runs with Brij Sheopuri as they brought

home the Harrow victory.

2nd XI, lost by 40 runs, Radley College 138-7, School 98 all out, Oli Newall, *Druries*, - 2-19, George Hamblin, *Moretons*, 2-27, Olly Wills, *Elmfield*, 24

Radley ran out convincing winners in a game that threatened briefly to be a close encounter, before a flurry of wickets saw Harrow's chase peter out. Harrow started promisingly restricting Radley to 12-1 off the first 9 overs of their innings. However, a change to a more aggressive approach from over 10 onwards was met with a lack of energy in the field, resulting in Radley posting a total which was some distance above what looked possible after such a slow start.

In reply, Harrow didn't really get going until the arrival of Olly Wills, *Elmfield*. A partnership of some substance began to grow between Wills and George Hamblin, *Moretons*, but was curtailed by an unfortunate run out. Hamblin continued to try his best to rescue victory from the jaws of defeat, but to no avail. A quick recovery is required before the final two games of the season.

Colts A, Harrow 207-8, Radley 93 all out, won by 114 runs

A superb performance from the Colts A in their first 50-over match of the season. Batting first on a tricky pitch, Harrow scored 207-8 with Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, top scoring on 57. In response, Harrow bowled well and a spell of four wickets in five balls, with Inpan, *Bradlys*, claiming two along with two run outs caused Radley to collapse to all out for 93 and an emphatic Harrow victory.

O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, 57; Inpan, *Bradlys*, 4-26

Junior Colts A, 99 all out, Radley 100 without loss, lost by 10 wickets

The result decided by the toss of a coin. The JCAs were sent into bat in what proved to be extremely difficult conditions. The downfall in the end for the team was their determination and application to dig deep and face all their overs. A steady breeze and a lengthy tea break aided the drying of the surface and the Radley openers knocked off the 99 run total set none down.

Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, 27; Ben Taylor, *The Knoll*, 26

Junior Colts B, won by 4 runs

Junior Colts C, won by 16 runs

Junior Colts D, lost by 18 runs

Yearlings A, Radley 122-6, Harrow 114 a/o, lost by 8 runs

Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*, 4 for 18

Harrow were looking to build on an excellent performance against St Edwards Oxford just two days prior and become the first team to beat Radley all season. Harrow started well with Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, and James Lester, *West Acre*, bowling tight lines on what looked like a difficult pitch to score on. Harrow had restricted Radley 33-2 off 12 overs and shortly after Harry Beresford Piers, *Elmfield*, dismissed Radley's top run scorer for the season. At the 20 over mark, Harrow had Radley at 63-6 and were well and truly on top thanks to some brilliant bowling from Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*. However, Harrow were not able to show the same level of consistency in the final 10 overs and numerous mis-fields and dropped catches proved to be extremely costly. Radley finished on 122-6.

Despite the poor end to the first innings, Harrow knew that

they were chasing a below par total and had an excellent chance of claiming a major scalp if they could beat Radley. The opening batsmen Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, and Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, got Harrow off to a brilliant start with a 61 partnership. Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, continued to provide stability to the Harrow run chase and they found themselves comfortably ahead of the rate on 82-1 after 17 overs. However, the game was anything but over. The ball was moving off the pitch and the rain had started to fall, further slowing down the outfield. In painfully similar circumstances to Hampton earlier in the week, Harrow's batting order collapsed and they found themselves 98-9, needing 25 runs from 24 balls. The job was assigned to Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, the only remaining designated batsman to guide the team to victory. Winters showed experience far beyond his age and handled the pressure superbly to get Harrow back ahead of the run rate. At the other end, Jenkyn Keigwin, *The Knoll*, valiantly defended his wicket for the limited balls that Winters had left him to face. Requiring only 9 runs to win off the last 11 balls, Keigwin was unable to hold out the barrage from the Radley bowlers and the last wicket fell. Harrow had lost by 8 runs.

Yearlings B, won by 9 runs

Jack Allen, *West Acre*, 26; Hal Hersee, *Newlands*, 31; and James Talamai, *Druries*, 2 for 17

After being put in to bat openers Rory Grant, *Moretons*, and Eddie Cooke, *The Park*, patiently saw off Radley's opening bowlers, who bowled with good pace and plenty of swing. Throughout the game there was a great deal of tennis-ball bounce on what was a very slow pitch, and so the openers did an excellent job of laying the foundations for today's victory. After this, a match defining partnership between Jack Allen, *West Acre*, and Hal Hersee, *Newlands*, who scored 26 (52) and 31 (39), dragged Harrow to a total of 110-5, which was probably a par score given the nature of the pitch and the overhead conditions.

A miserly opening combination of Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, and James Talamai, *Druries*, produced two wickets for the latter, including one hooping inswinger that was practically unplayable. The squeeze continued throughout the innings through regular wicket taking, which was spread around all of Harrow's bowlers. Needing just 10 to win off the last two overs and with one wicket remaining, miscommunication between Radley's final pair allowed Talamai to execute a match-winning run out with a direct hit. Harrow did not let the adverse weather conditions affect them and ran out deserved winners – even if it was closer than it should have been!

Man of the Match: Talamai for his two key wickets and high-pressure run out.

Moment of the match: Josh Ashley's, *Moretons*, cameo performance which included being bowled off a no ball before hitting two sixes and then being caught going for a third in the same over.

Yearlings C, match drawn

Yearlings D, lost by 4 wickets

Yearlings E, lost by 6 wickets

This is the final edition of the year.

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