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AI WEIWEI

On Thursday 15 September 2022, Harrow School was fortunate to host world-renowned artist Ai Weiwei. Ai Weiwei is a Chinese contemporary artist, documentarian and activist, described by the *Financial Times* as ‘the most influential artist living today’. In Britain, he is most recognised for his installation *Sunflowers* in the Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern, as well as an exhibition at the Royal Academy. His works can be found in nearly all of the major art galleries of the world. He has recently released a book entitled *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows*, an autobiography detailing his life as well as that of his father Ai Qing, Mao’s celebrated poet. He was here primarily to discuss the contents of this book.



Ai Weiwei grew up in the far north-west of China, where he lived in harsh conditions because of his father’s exile in 1958. As an activist, he has been openly critical not only of the Chinese government’s stance on democracy and human rights but also of any country that infringes on the rights of others. He came to prominence as an activist when he exposed the Chinese government’s cover up of the deaths of thousands of children during the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, which were the result of the shoddy construction of school buildings. In April 2011, Ai Weiwei was arrested at Beijing Capital International Airport for “economic crimes”. He was detained for 81 days without charge. Ai Weiwei emerged as a vital mover in Chinese cultural development, an architect of Chinese modernism, and one of the nation’s most vocal political commentators.

Ai Weiwei encapsulates political conviction in his poetry, in his many sculptures, in his photographs and in his public works. In doing this, he makes use of Chinese art forms to display Chinese political and social issues. After being allowed to leave China in 2015, he has lived with his family in Berlin and in Cambridge, and, since 2021, in Portugal.

Having the opportunity to meet and host Ai Weiwei in person here at Harrow, talking to and listening to him first-hand, was a humbling experience for all who came to see him speak on behalf of the Oriental and Art Society.

Very quickly after meeting Mr Ai, his unique and extremely nonchalant nature became apparent. His presence and perceptions had gravitas, in happy contrast with his sudden outbursts of humour, and his unrelenting kindness and respect. He had a genuine fascination with all aspects of the School and life here,

expressing a particular liking for the Fourth Form Room. He commented that “clearly [we] have many artistic minds at the school”, seeing the names of the Old Harrovians carved into the walls. Following a tour of the School, Ai Weiwei kindly met with Harrow’s Art Scholars in the Art Schools to discuss current projects with the boys, offering opinions and gaining an insight into the high standards of art at Harrow.



Followed down the Hundred Steps to the Ryan Theatre by an avalanche of boys, Mr Ai was met by the Head Master, who gave him the Harrow 450 book of photographs of the School and thanked him for his generosity in giving his time to come and discuss his story with the boys.

RMT, Head of Oriental Languages, who led the discussion-based talk, warmly welcomed Ai Weiwei to the stage. He began the discussion by giving us an insight into his life while in exile in Xinjiang as a young boy, and how that experience shaped his political objectives in art. He explained that we identify ourselves through our upbringing, that the culture by which we are surrounded and our memory have indisputable, lasting effects on the person we ultimately become; in his own words: “It is not enough to love the land, but you need to have a deep understanding to be able to accept it as part of who you are”. But most of all, rather than loving a specific place, he said, “I love Earth”.

His father Ai Qing, a renowned poet, played the most influential role in his early life. We were honoured to hear Ai recite Qing’s poem ‘I love this land’, in the original Mandarin, for the first time in public:

Ai’s love for the collective can be seen to stem from his father’s literature. Through it, Ai has felt compelled to speak out, through his art, against injustice and to use his platform to nurture humanity.

One of Ai Weiwei’s most renowned political artworks is *Safe Passage*, an installation of 14,000 discarded refugee lifejackets from the Greek island of Lesbos suspended on columns in front of the Konzerthaus in Berlin. This installation paid tribute to the refugees who had recently died at sea while trying to escape war and poverty in the Middle East and North Africa. Despite media backlash, a seemingly undisturbed Ai Weiwei doubtlessly chose the timing deliberately in order to maximise exposure for his project, as it coincided with a period when the attention of the international press was focused on Berlin and its film festival. Mr Ai mentioned throughout his visit that he loves to utilise technology, social media and the press to ensure that his

messages are as wide-reaching as possible, and that this is the language of the present and future. Ai explained that “within art, the medium is our vocabulary to tell the stories that must be told”. Whether it is through his numerous installations from lifejackets to filling the Tate Modern with ceramic sunflower seeds, Ai’s viewpoint is that his “art should be able to describe itself”, regardless of how it is presented. It is indisputable that Ai’s work has very clear iconography and represents important issues that he feels need to be shared.

Another notable moment from Ai’s talk was his response to the prompt: If you could save only one piece of your art and all else had to be destroyed, what would that one piece be and why? In what can only be described as a surprising answer, Ai stated that his books would be the one piece of art that he would want to save. He explained that writing enables him to be abundantly clear in his message and intentions. For him, it is the rawest form of sharing experience and a way for him to create a permanent mark on the world. It is the legacy that he wants to leave behind.

To summarise, Ai still feels impelled to spread awareness of and try to end the maltreatment of others. He suggested that this stemmed from his treatment in his youth, from his father’s exile to the demolition of his studio space in Beijing by the Chinese authorities. This is the purpose he finds in his work. His demeanour suggested that his work is driven less by anger than stemming from a place of love. His work continues to remain relevant, as does his love for humanity:

“If humanity is our highest value, we need to cherish it” – Ai Weiwei.

On behalf of Harrow School, we would like to thank Ai Weiwei for coming to visit us on the Hill, for his honesty, for highlighting the importance of art, for stressing the necessity of accountability, and for encouraging us to actively challenge ourselves to sustain a better world and, ultimately, humanity. As the final line in his book states: ‘Self expression is central to human existence. Without the sound of human voices, without warmth and colour in our lives, without attentive glances, Earth is just an insensate rock suspended in space.’

GORE SOCIETY

Tim Yu, Moretons, ‘What is Philosophy?’, 13 September

The first talk of the Gore Society, ‘What is Philosophy?’, was delivered on 13 September. It is rather a big question to discuss. The Greek roots of the word ‘philosophy’ – ‘philo love’ and ‘sophia’ wisdom – show that philosophy means ‘love wisdom’. However, the nature of philosophy is much more complex than a translation from ancient Greek.

To explore the nature of philosophy, it is important for us to know what we gain from philosophy. It is obvious that philosophy cannot provide us with knowledge, because all knowledge comes from our senses, and we do not deal with the things that can be empirically observed in philosophy, which suggests what we gain from philosophy is not knowledge. Instead, we explore the limit of knowledge. For example, the philosophical statement ‘all knowledge is either analytic or synthetic’ tells us the ‘knowledge of knowledge’, which is understanding.

The next thing we need to do is distinguish understanding from knowledge. The most common and traditional definition of knowledge is the JTB analysis, which stands for ‘justified true belief’. In this definition, a subject S knows proposition P if:

- i) P is true.
- ii) S believes P is true.
- iii) S is justified in believing P is true.

Understanding is also an important concept in philosophy. Professor Jonathan Lear said ‘to have episteme one must not

only know a thing, one must also grasp its cause or explanation.’ Bradford Skow played with the Explanation-Understanding Condition:

- Something E is an explanation of some fact F only if someone who possesses E understands F.

The first thing Skow did was to rephrase it:

- (EU) Something E is an explanation of why Q only if someone who possesses E understands why Q.

He then gave one of the possible ways of interpretation:

- (EU1) A proposition P is the answer to the question why Q only if anyone who knows P understands why Q.

This interpretation suggests that possessing the answer why Q is the same as having knowledge of the answer to the question why Q, but, clearly, possessing the proposition to why Q is not sufficient to understand why Q since ‘understanding is a greater achievement than knowledge, not a lesser one.’

Wittgenstein later argued that philosophy is the starting point of all scientific studies because all scientific study needs to be expressed by words. Therefore, if a scientist does not have a good grasp of the language he uses in his research, he does not know what he is studying.

PERCEVAL SOCIETY AND DA VINCI SOCIETY

Zak Banton, Newlands, ‘An evaluation of Africa’s contemporary engineering advancements’, OH Room, 13 September

Last Tuesday, the Perceval and Da Vinci Societies were delighted to welcome Zak Banton, *Newlands*, to the OH Room not only to wonder at two ambitious engineering projects in the east of Africa, but more importantly to bring to light a very important issue facing African society today: the exploitation of resources and easy access to power. Banton began by placing a £1 coin on the table in the centre of the room, instructing the audience to keep an eye on it and not let it move from its place. He then used this same coin as an analogy for Africa: the old version of the coin, cast away, worthless, abandoned, unable to be used in the shops of the modern world, and the new version of the coin, precisely crafted with ruthless efficiency, pristine, established and well recognised. This represents the great potential that African countries have compared with the reality of their situation and lack of opportunities.

The first major contemporary engineering project that Banton mentioned was the New Administrative Capital of Egypt, built 45km east of Cairo on an area of desert the size of Singapore. This project is immense and has been under construction since 2015. It is expected to house embassies, government agencies, the parliament, 30 ministries and up to 6.5 million people. It was designed to be the hub of all activity in Africa. In the centre of this lies the Octagon, which is a monumental structure and an astonishing piece of engineering. One of the key elements of the materialisation of this place are structures that have dominated architecture for thousands of years: columns. These vertical members, where the load is transferred parallel to the longitudinal axis as compression, support the roof beams and carry the accumulated weight of all the floors above. They are distributed evenly and deliberately about the floor of the structure for maximum effect. However, it is not these pillars that the function of the building relies wholly on, but the utilisation of highly effective heat-resistant glass. Both light and heat are forms of energy, but they behave in different ways. Sunlight contains heat, light and energy in transferred in the forms of electromagnetic waves. These waves whizz past at speeds of 300,000km per second. Our eyes are only capable of seeing a very small, very limited band of the electromagnetic spectrum known as visible light. In order to reduce the amount of heat that

gets inside the building, to prevent the expensive transportation of energy to such a remote area, solar control glass is used. The glass reflects most of the ultraviolet waves and infrared radiation from the sunlight. The remaining radiation is generally absorbed by the glass, only allowing a small percentage of the original radiation into the building, keeping the inside cool without using too much energy. Banton then explained how this represents the new £1 coin in the potential of African countries, where productivity and ingenuity coalesce to create a masterpiece of exemplary human innovation.

The second project that Banton introduced was the new oil pipeline to the east of Cairo and stretching across much of Africa. Recoverable oil was first discovered in the Lake Albert Basin on the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo by British company Tullow Oil in 2006. This has since played a huge role in converting energy for useful applications. Oil pipelines are crucial for an effective system, ensuring that all parts of a country, or even a continent, receive the resources they need to satisfy their energy demand. The project consists of three main parts: the Tilenga and Kingfisher upstream oil fields on the shores of Lake Albert and the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), which will link the oil fields via 1,443km of heated underground pipes to a storage and loading terminal at the Tanzanian Port of Tanga. The idea was not the problem: owing to the long distance that the oil pipeline had to cover, corners have been cut in the production process. Copper, which corrodes over time, was used to construct the pipes. Contractors also set the pressure of the oil way too high in an attempt to increase the speed of the oil transportation. This combination of decisions was detrimental to the success of the project, as leakages and even bursts in the pipeline were exposed. Banton then explained that the majority stakeholder in the faulty pipeline was Japan, along with the UK and US.

This shows the root of the problem, which was the basis of Banton's overarching message. Foreign countries do not invest in African nations with their best interests in mind. It is simply an easy way for rich countries to exploit resources and gain power. It is African people and African governments who need to take charge and drive their own projects to get optimum results. They should not rely on other governments who will try to take advantage of them. Banton turned, looking down at the table, the £1 coin was no longer there. Misdirection, trickery, deception, illustrating how distracted people do not see what is really going on behind the scenes.

I/O TRIUMPHIE

[*"Input-Output Triumphie" is a new science and technology section in The Harrovian. Boys are encouraged to send their views of the latest news in science and technology for inclusion each week. – Eds*

[*"An utterly detestable title for this new section. But at least it has a sprinkling of Latin."* – SMK]

CRYPTOCURRENCY

'Utopia or Dystopia: will the asset class with a once nearly \$3 trillion market cap lead us to a better world or will it be our downfall?'
by Maxim Van Aeken, Newlands

The first cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, was officially created in 2009 on the heels of a global economic recession. Since then, the asset class of cryptocurrencies has evolved, with nearly

7,000 unique tokens including stablecoins, coins with market caps over a trillion dollars, and coins that can be bought for a hundred thousandth of a single dollar. The question posed by this article is whether this advancement will lead to a utopia where we all live happily ever after with our wallets full to the brim of shiny tokens and our virtual walls covered with NFTs, or whether it will bring about a dystopia similar to that pictured in 1984 or Mad Max. This is, of course, all my personal opinion as no one truly knows what the future holds, especially that of cryptocurrency, which evolves so rapidly. Governments are realising the massive potential for money in this sector and are rushing to introduce regulations and sanctions. Originally, the cryptocurrency community was steadfast against regulations; they were considered contrary to Satoshi Nakamoto's (the creator of Bitcoin) original vision. However, the cryptocurrency market has increased both in value and importance, so regulators are tightening their scrutiny on digital asset-related businesses. For example, Germany is one of the first countries in the world that enabled financial institutions to custody crypto assets as a new type of financial service by incorporating it into the German Banking Act. Banks are also making slow but sure moves to enter the cryptocurrency sphere.

The original aim of Bitcoin, when it was created, was to offer a way for people to send money to other people over the internet without a need for a centralised institution. Before then, there had always been a dependency on banks and other financial institutions when you wanted to send money. This caused any transaction to take multiple days, with both parties obliged to have fully registered bank accounts, and resulted in endless hassle if trying to send money abroad, especially to less developed countries. Each one of these issues can be solved by the widespread adoption of cryptocurrency: instant transactions, simple account set-ups, and equal access to wallets from anywhere around the globe. Take remittance, for example: sending money home to your family would incur massive fees and it would take absolutely ages for the money to arrive. However, with crypto, this transfer can be sorted in three simple steps: both sides set up a crypto wallet, one side sends the money over a cryptocurrency of their choice, and the other side receives the money after a short verification. The money can now easily be converted into the local currency (or in a "perfect" world, you could spend the crypto in any shop without the need to convert).

There are, of course, many upsides and downsides to crypto, but some depend completely on who you ask. For example, crypto is infamous for having very little regulation. If you asked someone who was laundering money, I'm sure they'd love that governments aren't looking over their shoulder. But if you asked a bitcoin trader, they might want regulations to protect against theft and bankruptcy. Another point of contention is crypto's volatility. The price of Bitcoin shifts massively after every Elon Musk tweet or any rumour. This has been especially obvious after the recent crash in cryptocurrency prices. This makes it very difficult to use it as a day-to-day currency: you might be able to buy a car with your coins on one day, but only a small loaf of bread on another. This volatility, however, is very attractive to traders as they can make a lot of money out of these price changes.

I do believe there are many things to look forward to in a cryptocurrency-surrounded world, the main three being:

- 1) A completely digital world with no need for a bank card, everything working seamlessly from a phone.
- 2) Easy and reliable access to funds across the world, especially critical in developing countries.
- 3) NFTs as daily use items, used for buying real-estate, art, and much more without the need for expensive lawyers.

I have no doubt there are other holes in society that decentralised finance will manage to fill with easier, more reliable alternatives.

So, will our future be a hopeless dystopia where crypto ruins our lives or will these digital coins be our saviours? I think

it will be neither. Crypto is not a magic bullet shot through a golden gun that will save us all for evermore. Nor is it the start to a horror story for our future. Instead, I believe crypto will result in a Protopia, a society that makes our lives just slightly better. There will be small, everyday use cases for crypto that'll just make you think "wow, this is so much easier now". In some situations, crypto may be a lifeline that'll help people out of poverty or away from an over-controlling government. However, for the most of us, crypto will become a commonplace phenomenon that you won't even blink twice at – and now is the start of that journey. Crypto is here to stay and we should welcome it with loving arms.

METROPOLITAN

DINNER AT DOUGLASS FARM

A short tale by Nick Arnison, Moretons

Within the arms of Bremmen Crag is strewn the cobbled walls and thatched gates of Douglass Farm. A smallholding; lined with country pride. Loosely stacked walls make uncivilised borders between the Douglass cack piles; splashed messy-like among pastures of mycelium-grass, whose roots slurp minerals from whatever died in ancient times between the washboard rocks. Young rangy Sheep and lambs often twine and laip on these sparse grasses. Herdwick sheep: hardy and strong. Meat like boiled cotton, but nothing else survives in this foggy paradise.

From the thoroughfare on a shelf of the overlooking Bremmen Crag, one can see the farm in its entirety. The slaughterhouse: tactfully hidden within the lakeside forest, through which a drunkenly straight wall protrudes. Following which, the droving barn and the fruitless trough. They say a roman road, "Benny's way", once crossed this forsaken morass. Towards the farmhouse, past the surreptitious sign and nonsense trough for already watered sheep, it travelled. Or so the ramblers say. Past the wind-combed wall, past the tossed bracken, the small lochs of rain and craggy rocks. Upon Douglass House it ended. Manor of god-knows-where.

Through the single-glazed window of the house looks Father Seal, coating the farm with his sentient glare. He holds his tea like a gambler holds his tumbler. Upon the moorland crevasse of his childhood, dragons play and gallop. Knights squabble and burn witches after dark. The fire behind him spits and grumbles, but his mind races. Like many, Father Seal likes stories. He never did gorge and glut on the Bible as he does on 'Le Morte D'Athur' for instance. He lusts for fantasy violence. "James, get the children," said Mrs. Seal, a timid sort. The fields, in his sight, ring with cries of battle. "James." The dwarves of Bremmen are in a trap, the fools. "James." Encircled by Theresa, the witch, the dwarves capitulate in a fantastically gory fashion. "James." As the wolves gorge on dwarf-flesh, yonder, the city of Selton cinders amber; cooled only by the screams of dwarven-born kin. "James! Get the children, James."

The Seal children, three to be precise, queue before the Aga. Mrs Seal grasps the copper pot, squirming with carrots, yow and other native delights, and plumps it on the fine bone china plate which foully squeals and bends double.

Father Seal, awoken from fantasy-comatose, takes the chinaware from the farmer's cupboard by the fire. Chuffed, still, with his fruitful mind-epic, he cradles his grandmother's 'Silver Jubilee – George V, Soburn Church, 1935' chinaware plate set within his arms. He sprawls the mugs and plates gracelessly across the length of the Georgian-wood table. From

the point where each plate stopped its friction-riddled journey along varnished wood, he limps his veiny clobbers across to the site and readjusts.

At last, the table is set. Each family member stands behind their allotted chair. Father Seal sits, and thus do the other Seals. Forthwith, Seal Family dinner commences. Without as much as much as a word.

PATRIOT

Mac McDowell, Elmfield

Trapped in a cell of their own design,
Honour and pride as polished bars
With victims happily trapped Inside.
They sing loudly of their triumph
While suffering silently in the dark
Blinded by direction and mislead by the trusted,
Mocked by the media and scrutinized by outsiders.
Deceived by their own ignorance
Thinking it too far to denounce
What once gave reason to live,
A life spent in tribute to a lie
A lie that's melted into hearts
When finally acknowledging the faults
Their souls fall like shattered glass onto the floor.

'WAYS OF SEEING'

by John Berger

A review by Omar Ait El Caid, Bradbys

John Berger is at his best when he is describing the relationship between art, class and capitalism and he makes some interesting points on these topics. The idea that I found the most captivating in his book was the idea of what he calls 'mystification'. I thought that this was a helpful idea, which he explains with a very refreshing approach.

Mystification is the way in which conservative art critics or historians explain artworks in a manner that intentionally de-politicises them or obscures their political origins, or even write about these artworks in a way that makes them seem as if they are praising the ruling class or capitalism or current social order. Berger writes: 'The art of the past is being mystified because a privileged minority is striving to invent a history which can retrospectively justify the role of the ruling classes. Since such a justification can no longer make sense in modern terms, inevitably it mystifies.' On page eleven of *Ways of Seeing*, Berger cites two paintings completed by Frans Hals, a 17th-century Dutch artist, and explains that Hals was commissioned to make two portraits of the Governors and Governesses of an alms house. Berger proceeds to cite an art historian who writes about these paintings, providing an opposing perspective: '... here the composition is written about as though it were in itself the emotional charge of the painting'. He explains how critics transfer the emotion provoked by the image from the plane of lived experience to that of disinterested 'art application'. Berger goes on to explain that Hals was one of the first artists forced to paint the characters and the social conditions created by capitalism. There is no love in the paintings and he was clearly resentful. This can be seen in the faces of those he painted: pale and lifeless. The art historian was using mystification to justify the social conditions that led to the creation of the paintings.

I find the mystification a useful term to describe something that does still exist in the art world, and so I was really grateful for that. Later in the book, Berger talks about the Gainsborough painting 'Mr and Mrs Andrews', quoting a passage from Kenneth

Clarke, where he discusses the painting – that it represents the sitter and their love for nature. Berger, of course, disagrees with this. He gives a statement that is about landowners with their property, about depicting them as proud of it, and that it was being used to justify the privileges of the ruling class. I liked Berger's opposing perspective and how each critical view would constantly contrast with each other; but also how, with contextual knowledge, one interpretation can become closer to the truth of its original intention, and hence the importance of the history of art. Classical painting is not talked about in a political way very often, yet we can see it undoubtedly was political; and it is through the conflicts of the political nature of classical art that made *Ways of Seeing* one of the most important art books in the world today.

OPINION

SUDOKU

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SPORT

BADMINTON

Harrow v Eton College, Won

On Thursday, Harrow's 1st XIII badminton team took on our old rivals, Eton College. The team were anxious to start the year off with a bang, though this would prove difficult, as we currently do not have a coach. Captain Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, and Vice-Captain Vlad Plyushchenko, *The Grove*, ensured that team spirit was high and provided well-structured training sessions. They are both to be commended for their good attitude against the odds. Eton's team were fresh faced and eager to put up a fight, with game faces that were to be

expected. The 1st XIII, though playing with smiles, and an awful lot of energy, brought impressive technical skill and dominated the courts. Seven of eight matches were won by the Harrow team, with stellar performances from John Kwong, *Lyon's*, and Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, who exhibited outstanding prowess. Plyushchenko and David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, impressed with a clean sweep and played with precision and focus. In Pair 2, Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and JB Leung, *The Knoll*, remained a dynamic duo, with infectious positivity and effortless control. Finally, Pair 1's Chris Liu and Sunny Ye, *Rendalls*, met their match with some very experienced players. There were a number of very close games and, ultimately, they won one of two matches. The first fixture of term was thrilling to watch and marvellous in its result. Many congratulations to the team; we look forward to visiting Eton later in the term.

Coopers' Company & Coborn School, Won

Emerging from our triumph against Eton, the Harrow 1st VIII were geared up with positive energy to take on The Coopers' Company & Coborn School. Pair 1's Chris Liu and Will Wang, both *The Head Master's*, secured a win against Coopers' second pair. Both Liu and Wang demonstrated a masterclass in powerful shots and put up a real fight against the first pair. Though there were some very close matches, Cooper's had the edge in the second match. Pair 2's Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and JB Leung, *The Grove*, approached their matches with characteristic communication and energy. A pleasure to watch, they secured a win against Coopers' second pair but, though putting up a very good fight, lost to the first pair. The star players were Pair 3's Vlad Plyushchenko, *The Grove*, and David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, a captivating duo to spectate. They cleaned up their games within minutes, playing with surgical precision and unstinting focus. Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, and John Kwong, *Lyon's*, played excellently, winning both matches; Kwong shone with a powerful smash and Leung's quick rallies alongside the pair's grace and light footwork made them a force to be reckoned with. The fixture ended with a number of friendly singles that many of the boys participated in and enjoyed. We are looking forward to hosting Coopers' again later in the term.

FENCING

The School v Abingdon School, Lost

The Fencing team started their season playing Abingdon. The Epee A and B teams showed great courage throughout their tough matches but unfortunately lost 45-27 and 45-18 respectively. The Foil A and B teams won both their matches, with some great first debuts from Robert Young, *The Grove*, and Sinan Basak, *Elmfield*, for the Foil B team, the scores being 45-37 and 45-28 respectively.

FOOTBALL

The School v Charterhouse, 17 September

Development A XI Away v Charterhouse Lost 2-3

The Development A squad played in a training session against Charterhouse, using four sets of conditioned 20-minute quarters to build up match fitness and work on tactics. The boys played in a different formation each half and had to adapt both to tactical restrictions and the weather conditions. It was a useful exercise and Harrow got better and better with each 20-minute period, setting themselves up superbly for the first match of the

term against Forest School. Included in the match were two excellent goals, one from Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, and a high press, and the other from Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, which followed a fine team move.

Development B XI Away Lost 0-4

The Development B squad travelled to Charterhouse looking for their first result of the season after a week of internal trials. The squad welcomed many new members with no less than ten players in the Lower Sixth making their debut performance.

Harrow started off the game well, digging in to deny Charterhouse some early opportunities and finding their form as they began to play themselves into the game. Ayomide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, came close with a whipped shot flashing just past the post. Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*, also came close following a skilful run down the right-hand side to open up the Charterhouse defence with only his finish letting him down. It was a competitive half on a slick playing surface with both teams equally matched. Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, was a stalwart figure between the sticks performing some spectacular saves to fend off Charterhouse. It was deadlock entering half-time with both sides smelling blood in the water.

Unfortunately, Charterhouse were the first to get their claws out and Harrow conceded early, which led to a slight collapse, leaving us three to the bad after ten minutes. Harrow then dug in and began to play some of our best football of the day, making greater use of the wings and creating some excellent opportunities and they were unlucky not to convert. With the final kick of the game, Charterhouse secured their fourth, signing our death warrant in the process.

Despite the result, it was still a really positive performance with some excellent phases of play that we will look to build on in the coming fixtures. The emphasis of this term is on development and the team is full of a young crop of players all of whom have much potential.

Development 16 XI Won 4-3

The Under-16s played a brilliant first half and held out for a great win. Ralph Collier Wright, *Rendalls*, was superb and Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, scored the pick of the goals.

Development A XI home v Forest School Lost 3-4

Harrow went in to this annual opening fixture with Forest full of excitement ahead of what the season ahead holds. The development squad is full of talented players who have the potential to make a technically gifted and enterprising outfit. Forest always offer a stern test of the Harrow style, with a physical side to their game that gives the fixture plenty of bite and competitive spirit.

Harrow got out of the blocks quickly, making good use of Thursday's extra set-piece training to score two early goals. The first, from a corner, saw captain Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*, ingeniously peel off to the back post and nod back across goal, to which a Forest defender inadvertently turned into his own goal. Taylor was pivotal in the second goal moments later, whipping an excellent free-kick in from a deep right-wing position which Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, was able to turn home.

Harrow were in control of the match through their passing, with the midfield trident of Walton, Taylor and Kyan Simpson, *The Knoll*, working the ball nicely between each other, while Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, Mide Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, and Ralph Collier Wright provided plenty of energy in a forward press. It was good to watch but not infallible, with both sides still having chances. Harrow let Forest back into the match with an individual error in defence on 25 minutes, letting the Forest number 9 snatch possession and tap in from close range. However, Harrow kept working the ball nicely and Simpson scored a sublime third goal before half-time, driving into the box from the left before cutting in on his right and striking the ball low to the left out of the keeper's reach.

The second half proved to be a completely different kettle of fish. As the Harrow team evidently tired, they just couldn't get any flow to their football and found themselves camped in their own half for much of the period. Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, made several good saves to keep the score at 3-1 going in to the final 15 minutes. However, he was powerless to stop Forest getting a deserved goal when a pass-back was played right into the Forest striker who duly took the ball around the Harrow keeper to score a tap in. Harrow couldn't adapt to the waves of Forest attacks and, despite defending corners well throughout the tie, conceded a penalty from one with another defensive error.

Harrow suddenly burst into life and started to play some passing football with the score at 3-3, but the momentum was with Forest and they scored a deserved winner when Harrow failed to deal with a long ball, the Forest number 9 finishing off his hat-trick from the set of errors.

The Development A showed plenty of potential in their first-half display but there's a lot of work to do to ensure that they can keep their standards high for a full 90 minutes.

Development B XI v Forest School Draw 1-1

In a promising game in which the boys demonstrated some great passing football, Mubarak Tinubu, *The Knoll*, scored an opportunistic goal. A draw followed as Harrow were unable to defend the lead or breakthrough a second time despite some strong play.

Development C XI v Forest School Lost 1-2

The CXI showed great fighting spirit, but lost narrowly against a strong opponent. Melvin Ackah, *Newlands*, scored and Josh Ashley, *Moretons*, put in a man-of-the-match performance.

FIVES

Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, Won

Caspar Stone, *The Park*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, led the way for Harrow, with four of the five pairs winning comfortably against Mill Hill.

It was an excellent start to the season from all the pairs for Harrow. Early wins allowed for a rotation of our players so the majority of the boys managed to get a game in.

GOLF

Harrow 0 v 3 OHGS, Denham Golf Club, 15 September

Golf is back! After a long, hot summer of working hard to bring handicaps down, the bus was full of optimism as we had half a dozen single-figure handicappers onboard ready to take on the OHGS at the stunning Denham Golf Club.

Leading the way for the boys in blue were the Moretons duo of Jonty Williams and Victor Grant. After a heart-warming reunion with former Harrow golf cult hero George 'The Dragon' Webster, *Druries*, on the practice putting green, the boys got their match underway against the formidable M P Gibben, *West Acre 19843*, and the steady J L Pool, *The Head Master's 19853*. After an early exchange of pars, the OHs took a 1 up lead thanks to a birdie from Poole on the 7th. However, the boys hit back straight away, with a birdie from Grant, *Moretons*, on the par 3 8th bringing the match back to all square. The match continued to hang on a knife edge, with a crucial putt from Williams, *Moretons*, on the 11th and a long par save from Grant on the 12th keeping the OH pair at bay. However, the boys never managed to kick on and, after a string of pars and birdies from Gibbens, Williams and Grant eventually succumbed

to a 3 & 2 loss.

The second pair of Varick Rajayogan, *The Grove*, and Fred Hewer, *The Park*, were up against a strong OH pair of A C C Wong, 19873, and Webster. A rapid start from the Harrow pair with birdies on the first three holes led to a 3 up lead through 3, but their momentum slowed, as they struggled with a number of temporary greens and a closed hole on 4. The match stayed at 3 up until the OH pair pulled back, winning 8 and 9. From there the game went up and down, with Harrow winning 10 and 12, while the OHs won 11, getting the better on the back-to-back par 5s 13 and 14, resulting in going all square with four holes to go. Two solid pars from Harrow on 15 were enough to win the hole, but it was given back on the 120-yard par 3 following a gimme birdie and an unfortunate horseshoe lip-out from Hewer. All square with two to play, errors from the tee from the Harrow pair led to the OHs winning 17 and a long-range birdie putt on 18 from Rajayogan burnt the edge, resulting in a halve and overall 1up win for the OH pair.



The final pairing was looking to salvage some sort of dignity from what was turning out to be a torrid afternoon. The School started steadily with Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, making two solid pars to begin. However, the trend didn't continue and Harrow went 4 down quickly, with the OHs making five consecutive pars. Thomas Tian, *Newlands*, stepped up to the 10th and made a brilliant par save from the trees. A brutal lip out from Cheuk on 11 saw Harrow go 5 down. Cheuk managed three consecutive pars but the OHs matched all of them, even winning a hole with a birdie. Harrow soon ran out of holes and the OHs won 5 & 4.

A disappointing start to the season but a building block nonetheless!

RUGBY

*The School v Dulwich College, 17 September
The XV at home won 40-12*

The XV returned to Harrow to face Dulwich following a superb week-one win away at Wellington. After last year's shambles at Sherborne, it was pleasing to get off to a good start away from home; now, with the sun shining, and The Sunley looking absolutely pristine (props to Mike Kemmett and his outstanding grounds team), The XV returned home for a feisty clash with Dulwich College. Dulwich is one of the most famous rugby schools in the world, renowned for their period of dominance in the 2000s and 2010s, and this was to be no easy task. There was, however, the concern of a hangover from the Wellington win; to exert so much energy and focus into one fixture left the potential for a banana-skin event.

Harrow saw two changes to the side that defeated Wellington. Du Roy, *Elmfield*, came in for Dunne, *Elmfield*, at hooker and Simpson replaced the injured Cross, *Newlands*, at full-back as Edjua, *Lyon's*, slid onto the bench to provide extra back three

cover. Otherwise, the side remained the side and, after Ellis, *Rendalls*, led the side down The Sunley steps and an impeccable silence was observed, the game was off.

Harrow got off to poor start. The kick off was dropped and a penalty conceded immediately. This led to a swathe of Dulwich attacks that Harrow meekly batted back; slow line speed and poor tackle technique were allowing Dulwich to make good yards with some less than imaginative attack. Harrow did eventually force turnover ball and started to canter away before a dropped pass let Dulwich back into the attack. Finally, Harrow got their breath back as Hammick, *The Knoll*, secured a turnover and Harrow could relieve some pressure. A fine 50:22 from Edstrom, *Bradlys*, backed Dulwich up in their own 22. A mistake at the ensuing lineout gave Harrow a scrum in a good attacking position. The Harrow backs ran an excellent set piece move; Miall, *Newlands*, carving through a gap, offloading to Nsouli who looped a pass over to Simpson who finished well for his first Harrow try. We'd had the ball for about 30 seconds and managed to score. Now, we just needed to up our game in defence.

Sadly, that didn't happen. Chaos at the ensuing kick off once again allowed Dulwich to regain the ball and eventually get a penalty for Harrow's inaccuracy at the breakdown. They kicked to the corner and, after a decent shift maul, managed to pick and go over the try line; it looked a tad short but the referee gave it and it was 7-5.

Harrow pumped the kick off deep and Dulwich threw a poor pass onto the floor and Tuipulotu swooped in to pick up the Dulwich attacker and propel him back over the line for a Harrow 5m scrum. Again, Harrow struck with a well-worked scrum move; Tuipulotu, *Druries*, peeled off the back, fed Black, *West Acre*, who found Nsouli, *The Knoll*, to finish powerfully in the corner. 12-5 and once again, Harrow had shown their potency in attack. Yet, Harrow were once again the architects of their own downfall. A scrum on the half way gave Harrow a strong attacking position. A well-worked move saw Ellis feed Edstrom who put Simpson into space and then Griffin was released down the wing; Griffin, supreme in power and step, galloped down the left wing and was just pulled down 5m out. Harrow were out-rucked, however, and Dulwich meekly box-kicked clear, but only about 10m and only to Ellis. Spotting space across the field, with Nsouli looking for the ball, Ellis sent a cross-kick over. Harrow's captain, however, didn't quite strike it and it wobbled through the air, hit the floor and then found the Dulwich winger who streaked down the wing to run in the try from 80m out. In many ways, it summarised Harrow's first half-moments of absolute class overshadowed by too many brain-farts.

And so, the game was tied up at 12-12. Harrow, however, were not done scoring for the first half. Pushing Dulwich back with some excellent defence, Harrow secured a 5m scrum and, once again, scored from a well-worked set piece play. Tuipulotu shot off the base into the open side. Pulled down short, Black was quick to fire the ball in the opposite direction as the Dulwich scrum scrambled back into defence. Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, took the pass and dropped a lovely tip pass onto an on-rushing Truscott, *Elmfield*, to storm over for a third Harrow try and a 19-12 lead at the break. Lovely stuff and the sort of clinical attack Harrow should be about. 19-12 Harrow at half-time.

The second half started in much the same way as the first. Harrow's inaccuracy at the tackle, slow line-speed and inability to 'play' the referee kept us on the back foot. Resilient goal line defence did keep Dulwich out and Black was very effective, with his box-kicking managing the game well. Yet, with the ball, Harrow were now beginning to falter a bit too—inaccuracy at lineout and slow ruck ball meant most attacks fizzled after a few phases. Yet, as a good side does, even when things were going poorly, chances were made. Ellis flew up and made a good defensive hit in the outside channel; the ball dribbled out of the ruck and Ellis scooped it and gave a diving pass to

Hammick who fed Miall for a straight-forward run in. Harrow were now up 26-12.

More stout Harrow defence kept Dulwich at bay. Tuipulotu, after much discussion over the legality of the jackal, finally got rewarded for his strong body position and Harrow could relieve the pressure. After a successful scrum move once again sprung the consistently effective Griffin down deep into the 22, Dulwich had a lineout. Edwards leapt well and stole it, dropping it down to Black who fed Edstrom. A quick carry in the midfield and the forwards sprang round the corner. The forwards were working well in unison with little tip passes finding extra yards. Soon, quick ball sprung Ellis round the corner who fed Edwards in the wide channel. Marauding down the touchline, Edwards offloaded well in field to Thayil, *Rendalls*, who in turn found Edjua, who was brought down just short of the line. The forwards piled forward in support and Cockburn-Miller, *Bradbys*, burrowed over for a score and a 33-12 lead.

The final ten minutes of the game went rather slowly. Inaccuracies on both sides crept in, the game was played mainly between the 22s. Harrow finished well with a good defensive set, forcing an erratic Dulwich kick. Thayil fielded to pass inside to Miall who finished sharply to add a final score and a 40-12 final score.

After the jubilation at Wellington, this was a drop down in performance from The XV. The scoreline reflects the power of this side; an ability to score points from little good ball and how can they pull teams apart when they are at their clinical best. However, the performance itself was in many ways a reverse of all that was good at Wellington; sloppy breakdown accuracy, limited line speed, sloppy set piece and an issue in maintaining possession long enough to pull teams apart. With all that said, this was still an emphatic victory on the scoreboard and, although better will be needed against Whitgift, is another fine victory in the end for this ever-developing XV.

2nd XV, Won 26-5

3rd XV, Won 32-14

4th XV, Won 51-19

Colts A, Away, Won 19-7

The Colts A showed great courage to close out a hard and tightly fought contest, outscoring their opposition by three tries to one. Joshua Oliver Willwong, *Bradbys*, scored two tries and Captain Sam Winters, *Elmfield*, scored the other.

Colts B, Away, Won 17-0

Colts C, Away, Dulwich College, Won 47-24

Two early tries gave Harrow the confidence to go on to a resounding victory. At half-time, the score was 19-12 but, in the second half, great runs by Tochi Orji, *The Park*, and Louis Deshpande, *Moretons*, and conversions by Mungo Lawson, *Elmfield*, sealed the win.

Junior Colts A, Home Won 34-19

Dulwich started well, with hard fast carries off nine and good offloading giving them forward momentum. Lapses of concentration and being second best at the breakdown meant we were 12-0 down with ten until half time. A good kick chase, followed by various penalties mean a quick tap from 5m and Gus Chukwueke, *Druries*, couldn't be stopped. This led to

more confidence and two more tries, one from Tom Dargan, *Druries*, after some powerful pick and goes and another from the debutant Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, showing express pace and great footwork to skip past three tackles and score in the corner, meaning a 15-12 lead. A set move try, rounded off with some pick and goes put Dulwich into a 19-15 lead, but after it was all us. Chukmueweke ran powerful, incisive lines from hammers gave us easy yards and great go-forward which led to tries from Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, and Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, respectively. While the other was a strong maul, followed by going wide and allowing Jack Mapletoft, *The Park*, to jink through the scrambling defence to score. Jake Turner, *Druries*, added two conversions to make the final score 34-19. A tough game against an improved opponent ending up with a good first win of the season.

Junior Colts B, Home, Lost 25-29

Junior Colts C, Home, Lost 5-55

Junior Colts D, Home, Lost 0-45

Junior Colts E, Home, Lost 43-46

Yearlings A, Away, Won 21-7

Harrow attempted to overpower the opposition with an agricultural style of individual runners and through sheer determination managed to steal an early score. However, taking their lead from the opposition, Harrow eventually began to play a more expansive game and were rewarded with consistent line breaks that saw them ease away from Dulwich by the close of play.

Yearlings B, Away, Won 20-19

Yearlings C, Away, Won 73-7

Yearlings D, Away, Lost 22-25

Yearlings E, Away, Lost 20-39

Yearlings F, Away, Lost 31-32

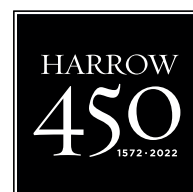
The yearlings Fs sadly lost 31-32 against Dulwich. Dominating the first half with the help of Gary Li, *The Knoll*, ploughing through the Dulwich forwards, in addition to Fred Feng, *The Knoll*, and Nico Older Gut, *The Park*, supporting him on the wings, we were able to score some fantastic tries.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

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CELEBRATING OUR PAST
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE