

# THE HARROVIAN

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## HEAD MASTER'S AND MORETONS HOUSE PLAY

Ryan Theature, 11–12 November, "1984"

*'Don't you enjoy being alive?'*

Last Friday's Moretons and The Head Master's production was an adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian novel *1984*. The play follows the life of Winston Smith (played by Max Morgan), a low-ranking member of 'the Party', who becomes frustrated by the constant surveillance of his world, and its ominous ruler Big Brother. The book is among the greatest texts of the 20th century. A rare piece of literature that seems to grow more hauntingly relevant as its futuristic hellscape becomes more possible in the world today. This, then, was an ideal choice for the Moretons and The Head Master's House play.



On Friday, after a short Rendalls Bill, I scampered through the frigid evening, down the Hundred Steps, towards the Ryan Theature. An ominous mist obscured the usual unfolding view of the English countryside, perhaps foreboding what was to come. I shuffled through the crowds at the mouth of the theatre and, like a new-born duckling, made my way towards any recognisable face. After finding the people I would be spending the evening with, we made our way to our seats.

Smoke filled the stage, lit only by the buzzing lights of 23 stacked televisions. A numinous glow surrounded the screens, as the theatre lights began to dim.

A crowd of workmen in uniform arrived on stage, and I was suddenly transported into the world of Big Brother. A world of constant surveillance, forced reform, and one preaching of collective good, whereas really enriching the lives of those at the top of the regime.

The backbone of the play was built from a scene that stretched throughout. The repetitive beginning transported the audience into a world where human beings are treated as machines. An official in the secret police ('thought police') was using our protagonist (Winston, 793F) and his life experiences as a training tool. The commanding voice of the official O'Brien (played menacingly by Archie Tate) haunted the play and seemed to demean Winston's cause for freedom.

Winston worked in the records department of the Ministry of Truth, sifting through records to change history. A fitting occupation for a revolutionary. Winston was interested in

language, obsessing over the reduction (as he perceives it, regression) of the English language. Branded as 'new-speak', the new words reduce speech to emotionless statements – bad becomes un-good, excellent becomes plus-good. His days sweep past, as he progressively finds his society revolting. The passing of time is a choreographed endeavour. The ensemble (led with great force by Rory Grant) marched through changes in the soundscape to mimic the relentless drag that is the progression of time. The choreography was splendid, in complete unison, and offered a perfect contrast to Winston's nonconformity. A few members of the ensemble adopted CCF buzzcuts, which seemed very pleasing in my mind and awoke the same stored images that I pictured when first reading the novel years ago.

It is in these scenes where Winston meets Julia (played subtly by Aryan Dassaur, who stole the show), a beautiful free-thinking young woman. When the two are together, sitting on the edge of the stage, looking into the audience, the sound design shifted to a hopeful flute, in a sadly minor key.

"These days you can't have pure love or pure lust."

Winston and Julia discussed the inequities in the system in which they live. They seek to escape the draining lives they lead. Julia finds real bread, milk, sugar and coffee on the black market. It seems that the rule for the people differs from that of the party elite, who indulge in the spoils of the people's labour. Rather than being his duty to have sex, to produce offspring for the party to indoctrinate, as he does with his wife, Winston and the young Julia defy the rules. Pleasure is not productive, but it is life. In a world where all that makes one human is outlawed, Julia's youth contrasts with her astounding wisdom, and builds a truly hopeful crescendo that suffused the play. In the workplace, a sweet song erupted from the angelic voice of Charlie Arnison. However, this great hope overreaches.



Beneath a skyline created from the tower blocks of televisions, a plan was made, one that would end this affair of living.

Winston and Julia seek to join a group that aims to end the regime and defy Big Brother. They meet undercover with a party official. Slowly, the lights shifted and the sounds changed. The mood of the play became cold. The couple are asked to end their lives, commit murder, and obey orders – all to destroy Big Brother. They agree to these terms, even after it becomes clear that they will never live to see the demise of their hated system.

When the two returned home from this meeting, the secret police suddenly arrived with a flurry of strobe lighting and an air-raid siren. The stage glowed white-blue and the realisation that this honeymoon is over, gripped the theatre.



*'Here comes a candle to light you to bed,  
Here comes a chopper to chop off your head'.*

The lovers are split apart, and so begins a sequence of torture and suppression. Winston is thrown into prison, and briefly meets a madman, fittingly portrayed by Nick Arnison. The man speaks of why he ended up incarcerated: his daughter spied on him when sleeping, chanting the words "Down with Big Brother", and reported it to the police. This story was not only beautifully and stirringly told but also serviced a path towards the great realisation: in this world, there is no one on your side. Soon, the torture began.

The final stage of *1984* involves indoctrination and showing the audience that anything is possible with fear. Winston is painfully forced to admit that  $2 + 2 = 5$ , in the ultimate demeaning destruction of a person's truth. His being was destroyed by O'Brien, the agent we met at the beginning, culminating in Winston's admission to Room 101. The stunning acting from Morgan during these scenes was an incredible sight to see – tears of submission, fretting when asked simple questions ('what is  $2 + 2$ ? '5, 6, 7!?? Whatever you want!').

He capitulated to the lies, but capitulation was not enough. Winston was required to become 'sane' – to love Big Brother. He is forced into Room 101. There, his worst fears are let loose, and a cage filled with rats is placed upon his head. He submits: "I LOVE YOU BIG BROTHER!"

With brilliance and flair, the production of *1984* was the most gripping House play that this reviewer has seen in his time at Harrow. The acting was brilliant, specifically from Max Morgan, Archie Tate and Aaryan Dassaur, who led with such force that I felt emotions from the audience vibrate through the seats. The direction from LSA was superb, the use of lighting (often from the set itself) and sound design at times (literally) outshone the rest of the play.

In *1984*, written 72 years ago, our society is given an allegory about the loss of freedom and democracy. It is crucial that we heed Orwell's warning. The truth is that Orwell's dystopia has become, in certain ways, a reality in our own day. The truth is what we are told.

## LONG DUCKER

7 November

On a slightly drizzly Sunday 7 November, the fateful day of Long Ducker once again emerged from its dormancy. After an evening of heavy rain, a new water feature presented itself just before Northwick Park on both the 10km and half-marathon routes. All in all, the conditions were damp.

Setting off at 8.45am, the half-marathoners began their 3x7km loops, which involved a full lap around the Hill and finishing back at the Bill Yard. This course featured a quick start down Peterborough Road, the 'puddle', a flat section through a flooded Northwick Park, and the significant incline that began on Sudbury Court Drive and Sudbury Hill. After a less than desirable photography session in the pouring rain, the energised athletes made their way off of the start line to begin their half-marathon. In the beaks' competition, RCHA came in first place with a time of 01:18:39, followed by RC in 01:19:14 and EWS in 01:22:18. In the boys' race, Tom Emery, *Moretons*, emerged victorious in 01:23:03, followed in hot pursuit by Thomas Hobbs, *Newlands*, in 01:23:34 and finally Inigo Doyle, *The Park*, in 01:28:00. Overall, the course was even more challenging than normal owing to the adverse weather conditions, and all those who finished the half-marathon should be proud of their efforts.



The 10km race kicked off with a somewhat chaotic mass-start on the drenched Ducker fields. The course involved the cross-country loop, which then fed into the half-marathon route after ascending Garland's Lane and heading down Peterborough Road. The winner of the event was Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, in 00:35:34:19, second place was Henry Barker, *The Park*, in 00:36:53:31, and third place was Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, with a time of 00:37:40:00.

There were also fantastic efforts in the swimming pool, with James Rates, *Newlands*, and Sebastian Moscoso, *The Knoll*, prevailing in the 21km run and 10km swim 'Double Ducker' event. All swimmers had to begin their event in the early hours of Sunday morning, making their feats even more impressive.

Lastly, the School climbing team embarked on the incredible feat of a 24-hour climb. With all members of the team contributing, there were thousands of ascents of the Sports Centre climbing wall made within the 24-hour time frame.

Although the weather was less than ideal, having to suffer for an hour or two in those conditions truly put into perspective how important it was to raise money for the Harrow Club. This organisation supports vulnerable individuals in West London, who may not have a safe place to sleep or spend time. By focusing on the Harrow Club this year, we are able to continue to support them far into the future.

### Long Ducker Swimming

Although by 5am, the climbers had already been completing their climbs for some time, it was still an early enough start to add to the challenge that awaited those swimmers in the first Long Ducker swimming session. Those boys who attempted the 10km swim, as well as others who wished to combine either their swim of that length, or the shorter 5km version with the corresponding run later in the morning, broke water just gone the hour. There were three excellent swims from James Rates, *Newlands*, (who finished in just under 2 hours 30 minutes),

Seb Moscoso, *The Knoll*, and Justin Changbenchareon, *Lyon's*, to round out the podium places in the 10km. Although Rates won the 10km event in the pool, it would be Moscoso, after a strong run, who would go on to win the Long Double Ducker. The three boys who attempted the Short Double Ducker all swam well, with Rei Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, setting the fastest time of the three in the pool, which would subsequently form the foundation for his victory in that competition. The remaining 5km swimmers then started at 9am and it would be Raulph Lubbe, *The Grove*, who would be victorious, just edging out Joe Storey, *Newlands*, by 27 seconds.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY AND REQUIEM

*Sermon by The Head Master*

*Reading: John 15: 9-17*

Whenever we come back from a break, boy and beak alike, you are polite and ask each other what have been the goings on in the holidays. And I sense with each passing vacation you grow increasingly wary of asking me what I have been up to, as you know that you might be in for a Land download on whatever the most recent cycling adventure for me and my family might have been.



The longest running of our sagas of cycling has been the completion of the length of the Loire, source to the Atlantic. There's lots going for this route and we have reckoned that the cities, towns and villages *au bord de la fleuve* are in a hierarchy based on whether they have: a chateau, how good a chateau, a cathedral or basilica, a gallery, gastronomic offering, a wine *appellation* and an episode in history. Some hamlets have none of these and they pass without reckoning and some locations seemingly have it all. One such place is the town of Saumur – a word that some of you will have seen on a wine bottle but has

an astonishing piece of history relevant to us all here today.

In mid-June 1940, the situation in France is dire: Germany has invaded, the French army is disintegrating in retreat, Paris has been declared an open city, Churchill's genuine offer to make a Union of France and Great Britain, to make the two countries one, is not accepted, and a chain of events is set in train which will lead to the collapse of the French government and it seeking terms for a peace with the Nazis. In this milieu, de Gaulle makes his call for Resistance and in Saumur the Cadets of Cavalry School and their commander face a difficult decision. Do they obey Pétain's order and sue for peace, or do they follow de Gaulle and resist. The line of the German army is unmistakably coming towards them from the north, gaining about 60km per day. The Cavalry School was there to train young men, the same age as those of you in the Colour Party of the Rifle Corps today, in military horsemanship and the basics of armoured warfare. They numbered at that time about 800, our number here on the Hill. They were almost exclusively of the new intake, the senior cadets having been posted out in the months before: they had three months' training only. Colonel Charles Michon, the Cavalry School Commander and a First World War veteran, had in front of him two plans: an outdated official one from Paris that modelled how to hold his 40km length of Loire at its strategic centre (the plan started with the requirement for 80,000 fully equipped regular troops); he also had his own plan, a week-long battle exercise, one that he ran every year with his cadets where they staged their own mock defence of the Loire around Saumur. He went with his own plan, substituting blank ammunition for live rounds. He went to the townsfolk and explained, but they were against him. They wanted Saumur to be declared open and to not risk damage. The cadets, though, insisted that they would hold the line. To me it is a breath-taking commitment to make a stand. They were your age, your number: imagine all of us, but only us, holding a length of the Thames equivalent in distance from Windsor to central London. In front of the cadets of Saumur was the largest mechanised and, to date, undefeated army ever seen; they had contradictory orders, equivocal local support, and behind them was more chaos, no evacuation, no route to safety and, around them, refugees streaming past. In all that, they said, "Yes, we'll hold the line, we will make a pitch to give others the chance to get away." They did it because it was right.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

They answered what is the highest possible call in an unimaginably precarious situation.

For three incredible days they held up, stopped dead in fact, the entire mass of the 1st Cavalry Division of the Wehrmacht. There was no resupply, only what they had in the armoury; no reinforcements, only whatever bits of French and Colonial forces would be drawn towards them. So they blew bridges, repelled amphibious assaults, dug in, fought light with manoeuvre, used prepared firing positions – and held. The opposing Nazis resorted to sending troops disguised as refugees through the lines to then open fire in the rear to try sap and morale. They held night and day, the cadets of Saumur. It was only when a full armistice was signed between France and Germany on 20 June, and when the cadets were in danger of being encircled on both flanks, that Colonel Michon withdrew the defenders to the Abbey at Fontevraud, burial place of Richard the Lionheart, so that they would not be captured and interred. de Gaulle described the battle as *La Haie Sante* – the Sacred Line – and the first act of resistance to Nazi occupation.

I think of the cadets of Saumur, and I look at you and think to myself: *Would you? Could you?* And I know the answer is emphatically *yes*: you *would*, you *could*. I have no doubt you would stand forward: all four Harrow values behind you and the words of the Gospel in front of you.

But do I wish that on you? Do I want that circumstance to pass for you so that you can articulate your ultimate humanity

through laying down your life? No, absolutely not. You are teenage men with hopes, joys and exhilarations ahead; in fact I hope it never comes to that pass. I do not want for you to have to go through the Gospel test of no greater love. If instead of giving your life (a gift beyond price of infinite value and only spent once, total and final), I would hope instead you would give your living.

As we mark in Remembrance the hundreds of Harrovians, among the other millions, who in the words of the Kohima



epitaph “When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today”, we can play our part; we can be active in our honour of the sacrifice of life by devoting our living, by being courageous and standing forward against any tyranny, oppressions, by a willingness to serve and volunteer in a cause, military or otherwise, that stands for morality and seeks to raise the circumstances of all. So give your living by being that much more devoted and committed to your Shaftesbury Enterprise project, by volunteering in a community group at home in the holidays. Give your living by being keen and alert to those who need support and not shrinking away from what might have to be overcome to do so. Give your living now to honour the lives past, by facing down bullying, racism, homophobia, sexism and all other behaviours that make for discord and division. Give your living now to honour the lives past, by being a good and steadfast friend, a Shepherd and a Mentor. And give your living in the future, after Harrow, to honour the lives past, by being a reservist, a special constable, a first responder, a charity leader, a councillor, an environmental warden – anything that keeps the threads of civic society strong enough to hold the fabric of our culture, and anything that elucidates a humanity firm enough to encompass, in faith, the challenges that are sure to come.

### *Requiem*

On Sunday evening in Speech Room, a combined choir from Francis Holland School (Regent’s Park) and Harrow came together to perform the Mozart *Requiem*. Accompanied by an orchestra involving both boys and professionals, there can be no doubt that this occasion was a profoundly suitable way for Remembrance Sunday to draw to a close at Harrow.

This choral masterpiece by the Austrian composer, written in the final year of his life (1791), takes listeners on a turbulent and highly emotional journey that must certainly have been a reflection of Mozart’s own state of mind before his death in December that year. From the tyrannical and thrilling ferocity of the Kyrie early on in the work, to the glorious divinity of the Recordare that follows later, every different movement conveys contrasting colours and images. Boys sang some excellent solos, and these came from Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master’s*, Jiho Ro, *The Park*, Henry Macdonald, *The Park*, Ray Moon, *West Acre*, Rowland Eveleigh, *The Grove*, Enhe Hu, *The Knoll*, Harry Jang, *The Park*, Sebastian Murray, *West Acre*, and there was a particularly cracking moment for Fergus McKie, *The Grove*.

DNW did not fail to maintain his usual high levels of energy throughout the performance, which certainly helped to bring out passion and intensity from everybody on stage. Overall, the audience in Speech Room thoroughly appreciated the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. High levels of musicianship were shown throughout and, as a result, this year’s performance of Mozart’s masterpiece will definitely not be an occasion that will be forgotten easily. A moving and graceful conclusion to Remembrance Sunday on the Hill.



## VERNEY PRIZE 2022

The Verney Prize is a significant Sixth Form Speech Day prize awarded for argument. This prestigious School prize consists of two rounds, with the second round being judged by an external adjudicator. The external adjudicator this year was the Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford, Professor Graham Ward. The prize itself was donated by His Honour Judge Lawrence John Verney in 1974 to mark the link of 200 years between Harrow and the Verney family.



Over the summer holidays, 47 boys read Professor Ward’s paper on ‘Decolonizing theology’, published in 2017, and on their return to the Hill sat a timed essay on the statement: ‘Decolonisation is the future for good theology’. These first-round essays were marked internally in the first instance, and a shortlist of ten essays were sent to the external adjudicator who, in turn, selected three finalists.

The final took place on Thursday 3 November in the OSRG. Professor Ward asked finalists to prepare an oral argument of ten minutes on the question ‘If theology is about truth, then what is the relationship between theology and ideology?’

After their ten-minute oral argument, Professor Ward cross-examined each boy before deciding the winner, and at the end of the evening selected Hing So, *Newlands*, to be this year’s Verney Prize winner. The Head Master will award the Verney Prize to Hing So on Speech Day.

Here are summaries of the arguments presented by the finalists:

Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*,

Before developing any opinions or points, I shall first look closer at the topic and define key terms. Then I will address the role of truth in theology and ideology, before explaining their relationship.

By 'about' here, I take to mean the core goal of a discipline, much like how 'physics is about describing the world with mathematical laws'. It is also important to note that theology is not just the act of believing, but the study of beliefs themselves. So, what is considered 'truth' in theology? How can 'truth' be the core aim of theology, if the latter inevitably carries subjectivity? Well, we must understand that truth in theology is not truth in the scientific sense. It is a truth primarily concerned with internal symbols; theology is introspective. The aim of theology, as Daniel D Williams (20th century theologian serving in the faculty of UChicago) puts it, is to use "Christian symbols" for the "disclosure of truth about the objects of Christian concern: that is, Christ, man, sin, salvation, the church".

But what about ideologies? Here I take ideology in its broadest and most intuitive definition: political ideologies. These include, for example, fascism, socialism, and liberalism. We notice that ideologies are not primarily searches for truth; rather, they assert some 'self-evident' truths, then employ them to achieve social ideals.

It is appropriate that I disentangle here the popular belief that ideology is a secular replacement for theology. I believe this is misguided for three reasons. Firstly, what does replacement even mean? Does it suggest that ideology is a better, more logical version of theology? Just because ideology is rid of God does not mean it is inherently more logical and bulletproof. The tenet of Marxism, of viewing history from the lens of class struggle, is no more secure than the tenets for the existence of God. Fundamentally, they involve the same arbitrariness in dictating how we view the world. Secondly, ideology seeks to improve the present by radically changing it. Theology improves the present by making sense of it. Theology takes as its central matter the explicating of the unknown, the elucidation of a mystery – our existence, our faith, our beliefs. Meanwhile, ideologies more often ignore the individual, only mobilising people to achieve social goals. The aims of the two are fundamentally divergent. Lastly and most importantly, theology is a meta-study: the study of religion itself. So whilst I am an atheist, I can still 'believe' in theology because of the way it structures its arguments and investigations. But I cannot believe in an ideology without actively participating in it. One is a process of enquiry, the other is a call to action.

What, then, is the relationship between theology and ideology? I think ideology is to theology what casting is to sculpting. Sculptors inherit tools from their predecessors, but dynamically create and innovate. They are constantly re-interpreting and discovering beauty for themselves. They judge, evaluate, and improve – the process is just as important as the result. All in all, like theology, it is an individual process of introspective discovery. Casting, on the other hand, gives a standard for beauty. It seems more precise in its making than free form sculpting, but is no less random in its choice of aesthetical basis. It requires the caster to first believe then execute, not to judge and believe. Fundamentally, the aim of casting is to produce masses, not about creating a one-to-one process in the discovery of beauty. In a nutshell, casting, like ideology, emphasises an extrospective outlook of change on the broader society.

Given their different aims and methods, it is unsurprising that ideology and theology don't mix. In Cyril Hovorun's article "Ideology and Religion" published in the Kyiv-Mohyla Humanities Journal, we see evidence of this incompatibility: Ukraine's three Orthodox churches do not recognise each other, due to political dissent over Russia and other ideological issues. This warns us of the division which ensues following

the infiltration of theology by ideology.

In short, theology uses the present to refine internal truths; ideology asserts truth to refine the present. Both are potent in aligning minds, but differ fundamentally in their goals: one for truth, one for change.

Connor O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*,

Theology is the study of God and beliefs about God. Truth aims to represent actual events that happen, and ideology is a set of general beliefs that an individual or group of people adhere to. A keyword in both the definition of theology and ideology is 'belief', but this does not necessarily imply the truth. I will expand on this relationship by using two well-known conflicts.

In 1948, when the white National Party gained power in South Africa, they began to introduce an ideology of separatism or Apartheid. This ideology was based on a theological interpretation of the Bible as espoused by the Dutch Reformed Church. Their interpretation outlined how it was God's will that different races and nations should be separated to live apart from each other. Apartheid was ultimately dismantled, so what exactly happened from a theological and ideological point of view?

People of colour in South Africa were introduced to liberation theology. This is a Christian theological approach emphasizing the freedom of the oppressed. The Black Consciousness Movement, as it came to be named, challenged the interpretation of Apartheid theology. Subsequently, the Dutch Reformed Church changed its theological interpretation and declared in the 1980s that racial separation and the minority-white rule were morally wrong and unjustifiable in the Bible resulting in a complete reversal of the support for the Apartheid system, which was ultimately dismantled. If theology is about truth, it seems that a unique ideology can be justified by various interpretations of theology and be adapted and changed as the world evolves to develop a new version of the truth.

A more recent example in helping to establish the relationship between theology and ideology is the present-day Israeli vs Palestinian conflict. Towards the end of the 19th Century, Palestine was mainly inhabited by Arab Muslims, whereas the Jews were dispersed across the world. Christian Zionism, an ideology developed by Christians at the time, believed that Jews should return to their Holy Land. Again this was theologically backed by the book of Jacob and Judah. This ideology, formally established as a political movement in 1897, called for the creation of a nation-state for the Jewish people in Palestine. This created significant conflict in the region as Jewish people moved into the area. To solve the conflict, on the 29th of November 1947, the UN voted for the "Plan for Partition with Economic Unions", which would provide an independent Arab state and an independent Jewish state. Today, tensions between Israel and Palestinians remain high. As with Apartheid will this conflict ultimately be resolved through a changing theological interpretation.

In conclusion, if theology is about "truth", then there is indeed a relationship between ideology and theology. Ideological beliefs as we've discovered through the Apartheid and the Israeli-Palestine conflict stem from a theological interpretation to justify an ideology. However, the extent of this relationship is finite and adaptable and changes as the norms of society change. Will the search for the "truth" ever lead to peace in the World?

Hing So, *Newlands*,

I argue that theology and ideology are in tension with and inherently compete with each other because they fundamentally tell different kinds of truth.

First, while both theology and ideology try to provide a comprehensive, all-encompassing truth about reality, the content of their truth is very different. Truth in theology is a sacred truth about God's relationship with man, with a focus on more spiritual concerns, while ideology can, at most, provide an oversimplified, overgeneralised representation of reality. If we

take utilitarianism as the ideology, for example. Its principle is to create the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people. But these ideological truths or, principles, are very partial – can we explain everything purely based on utility? Meanwhile, theological truth gives us a much richer picture with broader concerns like spiritual growth, finding life's meaning, and so on.

Second, theological truth is absolute, while ideological truth is not. Theology has an abstract truth, of the communion between man and God. This abstract truth can't be tested, it's just a 'leap of faith'. It isn't something that you can question, but simply a matter of belief. In contrast, the antisemitic ideology of the Nazis can be tested, where you discover there is no morally superior race. You can defeat this antisemitic ideology based on facts, which you can't do with theological truth. You cannot say if it's right or wrong based on its correspondence to reality, since by its very nature, it transcends our reality. This inability to question theological truth compared to the fallibility of ideological truth shows the innate tension between the two.

Third, is the idea of theological truth being used as a tool to challenge ideological falsehood. It can be used to challenge ideological falsehood in two distinct ways.

One way is that theological truth relies on a holy, absolute authority against a man-made, secular authority. The truth from theology carries a higher, if not absolute authority of God, which is higher than the secular authority of the head of state. This is because intrinsically, God holds a higher authority than man. Therefore, divine truth holds a higher authority than man-made truth. There is a reason why we worship God and not humans.

Another way theological truth can be used to contest ideological falsehoods is how, by relying on transcendental theological truth, the content of these truths can be used to contest partial ideological truths. For example, Martin Luther King Junior relied on transcendental religious truth to argue against the ideology of racial segregation. The Christian value of the moral equality of all human beings was used as the basis for his argument for equal rights.

Through these reasons, I think it is clear that since theology and ideology fundamentally tell different kinds of truth, they are in friction and constantly compete with each other.

## MUSIC PRODUCTION SOCIETY

5 November

On Saturday 5 November, the Music Production Society hosted their annual gig at the Music Schools, in collaboration with guests from Wycombe Abbey. Formerly known as the Rock Concert, the event has been a highlight for the schools' bands for over 20 years, giving performers the chance to showcase their talents in front of a live audience, playing a variety of covers, and also debut originals. The event also hosts audiences from both schools, for listeners to enjoy the exciting performances put on by their peers.

This year, the school hosted seven bands from Wycombe Abbey, adding up to a total of 35 performers. With high demand, the Music Schools hall was filled to its capacity, with 50 girls in attendance as a visiting audience, and a further 45 boys from Harrow. To kick-off the Harrow performances, the first Harrow band, The Aftercare, performed a thrilling set. The band members, Tom Pollock, *Druries*, Ben Ashley, *Moretons*, Charlie Arnison, *Moretons*, and Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, performed a set featuring two originals, *Spaceman* and *Viator*. The Aftercare have released a range of singles on Spotify and have amassed nearly 200,000 streams of their songs.

In between the Harrow sets, the Wycombe Abbey bands put on an enthusiastic performance of songs ranging from old-school rock to more modern pop music. In an unanticipated

turn of events, a Wycombe Abbey band was interrupted by a blaring fire alarm, (which surprisingly complemented the tune of the song they were playing at the time!). All musicians and audience members quickly and safely evacuated the building, awaiting further inspection from the School's fire department. Fortunately, after only a brief period of waiting in the cold and rain on Football Lane, the building was clear for everyone to go back in, and continue with the show!



Following the unexpected intermission, the crowd was re-energised, and ready to pick up right where had been left off. The final performance of the night came from the School's newest and most exciting band, TV Club. The band members, Omar Ait El Caid, *Bradlys*, Keith Au-Yeung, *Newlands*, James McWilliam, *The Park*, Fred Hewer, *The Park*, and Viktor Van Den Berghe, *The Grove*, performed a memorable and exciting set, including two originals, *Motel Home* and *Coke Can*. The performance included a great range of crowd interaction, with one band member even halting the music to take a lucky audience member's 'BeReal'. The band put on a brilliant performance – the perfect way to close the night!

The Music Production Society Gig is the home gig of a two-legged event. The return leg at Wycombe Abbey's Rock Soc will be taking place this coming February. To participate with your band, get in touch with SM to express your interest in the Music Production Society today!

## PEEL SOCIETY

Tony Shi, *The Grove*, 'Renaissance: Redefining European Civilisation', 8 November

On Tuesday 8 November, the Peel Society welcomed Tony Shi, *The Grove*, who delivered an outstanding lecture on how the Renaissance reshaped and redefined European civilisation. Shi started the talk by introducing the background of 14th-century Italy and how it led to the beginning of the Renaissance. He pointed out that Italy is a mountainous region with easy access to the sea, which led to frequent trade and good relations with both Eastern and Western civilisations. Additionally, the majority of Italy's population lived in city-states, so it had a large urban and educated population. This made Italy the centre of cultural development in Europe at the time.

Due to the classical texts preserved by English and Irish monks and Italy's political structure's demand for classical rhetoric, humanism began to develop as a popular ideology. This was mainly based upon Cicero's idea of *humanitas*, or the studies concerned with the refinement of human virtue and nature. It included literature, poetry, art, music, rhetoric and philosophy, among many others. Thus, the minds of the time were able to think more profoundly about humans, as opposed to thinking about God, which the ecclesiastical authorities focused on. Thanks to the rise of humanism, the Renaissance, literally meaning 'rebirth', was brought about.

Shi then talked about specific fields of European culture during the Renaissance and how they were affected as a result of humanist ideology. He first talked about literature and the great Proto-Renaissance poet Dante Alighieri. Shi outlined the story of Dante's life and how his lover Beatrice Portinari's tragic death later affected his literature; indeed, Dante wrote *La Vita Nuova* specifically in memory of her. He then introduced Dante's masterwork, *The Divine Comedy*, in which Dante expresses his philosophical and religious views, combined with experiences from his life. *The Divine Comedy* is told through three canticles: 'Inferno', 'Purgatorio' and 'Paradiso'. In this masterpiece, Dante wrote about his reflections on his own life, the feudal political system and his visions of utopia with respect to how it may be achieved. Shi pointed out that, in *The Divine Comedy*, we see the transition between the divine to the human, with Dante himself at the centre, and the realms of hell, purgatory, and heaven based around him.

Secondly, Shi talked about the influence of humanism on art. He uses Da Vinci as an example. He suggests that the movement from the divine to the human was clearly visible in the life of Da Vinci, demonstrated by the differences between *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*. This also demonstrated a wider societal change in ideology as Da Vinci worked for wealthy patrons who commissioned works from him, and the humanist transition of his work reflected the transition of the wider society too.

Thirdly, Shi talked about the birth of science, which was a direct consequence of the Renaissance. The Renaissance period saw the lives of many great pioneers of modern science such as Galileo. Shi introduced some of Galileo's works, including his major improvements to the telescope, which led to his discovery of four moons of Jupiter, his works in confirming heliocentrism and, most importantly, his theories on dynamics and especially inertia, which precedes even Newton. Shi argued that such new discoveries were due to new scientific methods based on evidence and not the dogma and religious beliefs promoted by the ecclesiastical authorities at that time. This led to many other scientific inventions and major progressions in mechanics and invention, including the numerous inventions proposed by Da Vinci.

Finally, Shi explored the historic impact of the Renaissance on European civilisation. He suggested that the Renaissance gave rise to individualism, which was the foundation of the Enlightenment and many great minds during that period including Rousseau, Kant, Hume and many others. They promoted the use of rationalism and reason, redefining European civilisation. Shi also attributed this success of reason to the employment of the printing press, which saw a ten-fold increase in the number of printed books between 1500 and 1600. The impacts of the Renaissance also spread to religion, and the Reformation demonstrated the impacts of humanism in the long and bloody Thirty Year's War and the religious divide that continues to this day. Scientific societies were also formed across Europe to encourage and monitor the use of scientific methods based on evidence.

To conclude, Shi used the painting *The Ambassadors* to ask the audience to spot the symbolism contained within this painting. The hidden representations of religious schism, human mortality and political disturbance in the painting are perhaps the best ways to describe the Renaissance. Many thanks should be given to Shi for what is arguably one of the best lectures ever delivered to the Peel Society, one of the best societies on the Hill.

## MEDICAL CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Medical Centre Committee was established in the summer of 2021. It aims to improve the health literacy of all pupils by increasing engagement, discussing ideas and implementing

improvements to the already exceptional health and wellbeing services offered at the School. The boy-led committee is made up of representatives from each boarding House, chaired by Monitor leads. The committee meets termly, with meetings centred around a particular theme, such as the accessibility of the services offered by the Medical Centre. Smaller groups may also meet frequently if they work on specific projects (such as podcasts).



So far, there is an ongoing Health and Wellbeing podcast series featuring beaks, external speakers and boys. These podcasts provide ideas for managing stress, sleep and other challenging topics. Additionally, the committee has been raising awareness of the 'Asking for a Friend' anonymous advice and support initiative, which can be found on the Medical Centre section on firefly.

Going forward we will have a regular feature in *The Harrovian* and will write about health issues that the committee feels will benefit all pupils. There will also be articles introducing staff members of our health and wellbeing team such as the nurses in the Medical Centre.

To learn more about the Medical Centre Committee, don't hesitate to contact [OGradySD@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:OGradySD@harrowschool.org.uk) or speak to our committee members.

## COP 27

COP 27 is a summit that is taking place on 6–18 November in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. It has brought stakeholders and nations together to discuss climate change. COP stands for the Conference of Parties, and this is the 27th such conference since the first in Berlin.

Negotiators will work together to secure agreements over reducing climate change. It builds on the Paris Agreement of 2015, in which countries agreed to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. That agreement was concerned with mitigation and adaptation, yet at this conference climate change, biodiversity and a just transition will be viewed as being significantly important in the two weeks of the conference, with inequality, water and diversity being more crucial in the second.

Nations around the world are willing to increase their NDCs or 'nationally determined contributions'. They are essentially key pledges, which ought to be made in a time where Earth's temperatures are rising at an unprecedented rate. This is causing rising seas, ocean changes and Arctic ice thaws. Temperatures have risen by 1.1C and are heading to 1.5C according to UN scientists, and 20 million people are estimated to face food-security loss due to drought. Countries' aims are not big enough, and even rich nations will be affected by the crisis, let alone developing nations. CO2 rates are on track to rise by 10% by 2030 (based on 2010 levels), which will impact humanity universally.

While the targets established at last year's COP26 were some progress, there is still a long way to go before nations are primed to make effectual change. Only 24 plans set at the previous COP have been completed or updated. Long-term strategies to deal with the climate account for 47% of the world's population, but should still improve. WMO recommends \$3 billion be spent over the next five years, and some nations are promising to splash the cash, while other superpowers are not at the negotiating table.

But what is the domestic state of play with climate policy and intentions? Rishi Sunak has said that "We can bequeath our children a greener planet and a more prosperous future ...there really is room for hope". But how is Britain squaring up to our lofty promises and rhetoric?

Emissions from energy have fallen by 73.4% in the UK over the past 40 years, but fossil fuels still make a huge amount of electricity per terawatt hours (140). UK governments have continued coal and oil exploration in the North Sea, even though it has been warned against this by environmental experts. Tree planting has declined, daily meat consumption has done too. Climate justice coalitions, mass mobilisations for justice and rather controversial styles of protests are supported by many charities and protests groups, such as Friends of the Earth and Just Stop Oil. Although protesting about and legislating for sustainability and the environment was not taken seriously as recently as the 1970s, green politics is now in the mainstream. Events such as COP 27 and Green Careers Week have recently shown how this ideological imperative for the survival of our planet has infiltrated many parts of life, even the workplace.

At Harrow, we marked Green Careers Week (which happens to coincide with COP) with many events for example a Scandinavian Society talk titled 'Denmark and their shift to renewable energy' a discussion held by Mr Iain Farrell, called 'How not to be a one-trick peony, and the ongoing House energy competition. A highlight of the week was Professor Philip Stevenson from the University of Greenwich delivering a Green Careers Lecture.

Despite the international work, and the careers market undergoing a paradigm shift towards going green, people on a personal level have been asked to change travelling habits (going electric and ditching planes), change living habits (insulating their home), and change their shopping habits (less meat, more green – in both senses of the word!) in order to save the planet. While this is a noble and essential cause, gargantuan changes can not only take place on a (relatively) small scale. Large, carbon-guzzling, eco-disregarding, change-blocking corporations and countries are the groups that ought to make the most pledges, plans and funding to truly with these matters, once and for all.

But the question: "can we summon the collective will to deliver on those promises?" will remain the overarching and crucial question that must be answered.

# METROPOLITAN

## THE GENDER OF VIOLENCE

These poems are taken from a collection entitled 'the gender of violence' by Aditi Banerjee (Harrow School Online)

*As the line breaks so does she*

Statistic-based mechanical tone

on Monday a man I do not know called me a slut on my walk home

on Tuesday a husband kills his wife

the cashier says it wouldn't kill me to smile

on Wednesday a boy in my class calls me hormonal in the hallway

the teacher gives me detention when I tell the boy to go to hell

on Thursday Kate wears long sleeves and exists on edge

on Friday a woman is killed by her ex

we go out for my birthday on the weekend

and my nail polish turns drug red

on Monday a girl dies while the man's hands wear blood coated gloves

on Tuesday Kate shows me the bruises she covered up

on Wednesday a boy skims a rape joke like a stone

into a lake which lands in ripples of laughter drowning out the distant sound of a scream

when the rock sinks like a body

to the bottom of the body of water, we still laugh

on Thursday another dead girl is found at the park

on Friday I get a taxi to London and the driver asks

me for my number 3 times,

the 4th time he doesn't ask

on Saturday I woke up with amnesia some place dark

Sunday a man with a hurt ego hurts a woman until her body turns blue.

on Monday Kate is late to school, with a bad excuse.

on Tuesday she doesn't turn up at all.

every 3 days a man kills a woman in the UK.

### *How we hard-boil men Specular (Mirror) Poetry*

As it falls,  
the eggshell is warned not to crack  
upon impact.

Trap the softness of its yolk within  
walls which are caving in  
shrinking  
any gentleness left.

Boys on the brink of breaking  
record heights of  
the male suicide rate  
fuel the body with rage  
to substitute vulnerability.

Taught  
greet a face with a fist.  
Told to  
treat conflict like a ball.  
Throw punches and catch tears before they fall.

The sadness rises like helium.  
All balloons burst  
when too much pressure builds up within enclosed spaces.  
The yolk spills out like tears.  
Once the weight of rain gets too heavy  
even the sky opens into a storm.  
The boy cracks.

The boy cracks.  
Even the sky opens into a storm  
once the weight of rain gets too heavy.  
The yolk spills out like tears  
when too much pressure builds up within enclosed spaces.  
All balloons burst.  
The sadness rises like helium.

Throw punches and catch tears before they fall.  
 Treat conflict like a ball.  
 Told to  
 greet a face with a fist.  
 Taught  
 to substitute vulnerability,  
 fuel the body with rage.  
 The male suicide rate:  
 record heights of  
 boys on the brink of breaking.

Any gentleness left  
 shrinking.  
 Walls which are caving in  
 trap the softness of its yolk within.

Upon impact  
 the eggshell is warned not to crack,  
 as it falls.

### *The sanctity of life*

From the perspective of pregnant people subject to forced birth  
 I am pro-life  
 I believe in the sanctity of life  
 the life of a 16 year old girl who died after doctors delayed  
 chemotherapy that might have treated the cancer growing inside  
 her body because she was forced to grow a baby inside her too.

I value the lives of all the pregnant people who will be  
 murdered by men who refuse to be fathers

I believe she shouldn't have to die from an unsafe abortion  
 just because she cannot afford  
 to feed another mouth when the children she already has  
 are hungry

I believe that someone shouldn't have to choose suicide  
 because the state law mandates they give birth to their  
 rapist's child

I believe in the sanctity of life for the living  
 the ones that will die now that roe is overturned.  
 The 23000 lives lost per year from unsafe abortions.  
 Lives of those living in states where law mandates forced birth.

left and right to cripple their mobility proved effective as the game continued. Overall, it was the perfect game to warm up for the following game. After witnessing the smashes of Pair 1, the pair decided to deploy the same strategy they used against Pair 2, but with a dash of aggression. Rather than going back and forth between a battle of speed, they excelled in controlling the pace of every point, for example suddenly playing close to the net after a quick exchange of pressure, as well as aiming for empty spots on the court that weren't covered by the opposing pair's mistakes. All these assets helped us cruise through Pair 1. Pair 3's David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, and vice-captain Vlad Plyushchenko, *The Grove*, provided a match to remember. Filled to the brim with excitement, laughter and victory as they breezed through the opposition, representing Harrow and (in David's words) showing honour, fellowship, humility and courage. Although the opposition was at a severe disadvantage and simply could not handle the famous Russian duo, they made sure to give them a fighting chance and a faint sense of hope as all four of our games started out with us being five points down. However, their extreme resilience and co-ordinated teamwork allowed them to make quick work of the Eton opposition as they outplayed them time after time. Pair 4's Dawei Sun, *Newlands*, and Sunny Ye, *Rendalls*, demonstrated skill and confidence, covering a wide range of technical ability to dominate in all games.

### *1st v Wellington College, away, Won, 12 November*

Harrow came into their last away fixture before Trials with a quiet determination to continue their impressive run. Messrs Plyushchenko and Nakhmanovich in Pair 3 attacked their game without delay, attaining victory by shock and awe within a matter of minutes. Throughout the rest of the order, wins fell to the Harrow team rapidly, with only the Wellington Pair 1 chalking up a success for the home side. As the pairings reconfigured, it immediately became apparent that this pattern would continue, with Captain Chris Liu and William Wang, both *The Head Master's*, showing excellent sportsmanship but nevertheless winning comfortably. Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and JB Yeung, *The Grove*, avenged their defeat in the first round with a close but convincing win against their opposite numbers. However, it was in the Pair 1 match that the greatest drama was to be found. John Kwong, *Lyon's*, and Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, found themselves at one set all, but then found the will to win the decider convincingly. This was a confident and professional performance from the team, and shows their psychological and technical strength.

## SPORT

## SQUASH

### BADMINTON

#### *1st v Eton College, away, 10 November, Won*

In Thursday's vigorous and gruelling match against our long-term nemesis Eton, Pair 2's Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and JB Yeung, *The Grove*, were tasked with the task of facing off against pair 1 and 2 of the respective Eton side. They approached the match with a more reserved approach; this suppression of their usual liveliness a result of the opposition's new rules. The first match saw a devastating defeat. However, they quickly adapted, beating Pair 1 21-17 and 21-15. Eton's Pair 2 proved little competition and were easily conquered in both matches. Pair 1's John Kwong, *Lyon's*, and Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, wasted no time in penetrating their defence with finesse against Eton's second pair. Manipulating the shuttle

#### *The School v Jesters, Classic Clash*

We were thrilled by the return of this fixture, which has been played, other than during the pandemic, for over 50 years. Simon Phillips (OH *Moretons*) gathers a team of Jesters, and his father, Peter Phillips OH (*Moretons* 1934) organised it before Simon was a boy. Although Simon couldn't make it this year, the Jesters were ably led by Kevin Whitfield, who brought a team down from Northumberland and Yorkshire. It was an afternoon played with terrific spirit, and the visiting team were impressed by the Harrovians' ability and excellent hosting.

The Harrovians won 4-3, with Jat Tse, *Rendalls*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, making it look relatively easy in the top two spots, whereas James's and Tim's matches reached 7-7 in the fifth game. The Jesters embody the spirit of good squash, and the boys were thrilled to be part of this historic game. Darren played brilliantly against the Jesters' captain, Awni Dajani,

*Moretons*, won his match, with no drop in his unflagging stamina despite spending the night in the Medical Centre, and Duncan Wauchope, *The Knoll*, brought his customary zeal, verve, swagger and braggadocio to lose in his return to the team.

## FOOTBALL

### *The School v Wellington, 10 November*

Development A XI v Wellington College Boys Under-18A, Won 2-1

After a solid week of training the Development As started brightly against a Wellington side full of nifty barnets. Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, put the host in front when he reacted fastest to a ball bobbling around in the area, that followed a typically high-quality Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*, corner. But from that point on, Harrow really struggled to get going in this one and were fortunate to come away with the victory in the end. After a subdued end to the first half and start to the second, Wellington got a deserved equaliser with a wonderful strike – Harrow not picking up players – and a long ball was volleyed home Van Basten style.

The team played much better after conceding and showed great determination to get a result when playing very much below par. Henry Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, managed to get some part of his body on another fine Taylor cross to get the winner. There's a lot to work on and much better performances are now demanded from the boys.

Development B XI v Wellington College Boys Under-18B, Won 5-0

Harrow started the game positively and looked to build on their performance against Gordon's. Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, and Oliver Mitchell, *Rendalls*, ran the show after dominating Wellington in the middle of the park. Mubarak Tinubu and Zain Ayoub, both *The Knoll*, were able to make use of the channels in skilful overlaps to create chances for Harrow. Ayobami Awolesi, *The Head Master's*, and Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, had been knocking on the door with two close chances. Despite the pressure and some good chances on the edge of the box, Harrow were unable to break through until Mitchell took control of the game. With a considered shot from the edge of the box Mitchell picked his corner and rocketed the ball into the top left corner sending Harrow one up before the break.

It was a dominant first half and there was little to be said by way of improvement other than focusing on improving quality in the final third. The boys did just that. Max Bloomfield, *Elmfield*, was causing chaos with his darting runs down the left-hand side, constantly exposing Wellington and putting them under pressure. Again Harrow couldn't seem to break through, with chances left a begging. Would they live to forget it? Certainly not. Hugh Maclean, *West Acre*, sent Harrow two up after a powerful shot from 12 yards out couldn't be stopped by the keeper. Harrow did not relent and Bloomfield was rewarded with a well-worked goal after carrying the ball down the left-hand side and slotting his finish past the keeper. Amusan converted a penalty won by Tinubu to seal the victory before Maclean scored his second to put the cherry on top of the sundae.

It was an excellent performance with lots of the elements in training coming together. Let's hope that we are able to maintain this momentum for the remainder of the season!

Development 16 XI v Wellington College Boys Under-16A, Won 11-0

Harrow made hard work of the first half before cruising to a comfortable win. Teddy Tarbotton, *West Acre*, scored five ; Jonah Esposito, *Newlands*, and Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*, got two goals each and Elliot Macleod, *Newlands*, and Jack Young, *Newlands*, rounded off the scoring.

### *The School v Kimbolton School, 12 November*

Development A XI v Kimbolton School Boys Under-18A, Won 5-0

Harrow started the match off very well, creating a series of chances from the very first whistle. Kimbolton were quickly forced back into their own half while Harrow kept almost all the possession right from the off. After a couple of minutes Luke Walton, *West Acre*, who was played into the box by Elliot Taylor, *West Acre*, cut it back to Charlie Young, *Newlands*, who managed to roll the defender and place it into the side of the net to give Harrow the lead. The goals then started flooding in with Kitan Akindele, *Newlands*, clinically putting away his chance and Charlie Young then scoring his second of the day from close range to give Harrow a 3-0 lead going into halftime. The second half was no different with Harrow once again dominating. Elliot Taylor, *West Acre*, whipped in a corner early on and Eli Dewotor, *The Head Master's*, connected with it after a cleverly timed run to make it 4-0. Late on Young managed to get his third of the day, completing a well deserved hat-trick with another clever finish from close range after the opposition goalkeeper parried a shot from Kyan Simpson, *The Knoll*, into Young's path. The opponents could not match Harrow's intensity to the game and solid performances all round saw Harrow come out with a clean sheet and five goals.

Development B XI v Kimbolton School Boys Under-18B, Won 4-0

Excellent weather greeted the team as we looked to build upon an impressive performance against Wellington. Ollie Mitchell, *Rendalls*, bossed the middle of the park as Harrow took control of the game from the opening whistle. Ayobami Awolesi and Ayomide Awolesi, both *The Head Master's*, came close, hitting the bar and narrowly firing a shot past the post as we put Kimbolton under sustained pressure. Chances went abegging until Mitchell made a jinking run into the box, which he slotted past the keeper to send us one up. He was also instrumental in the second goal, dribbling in the channel before cutting the ball back to Tinubu, *Moretons*, who picked out the corner to score the second leaving Harrow 2-0 up at the break.

Kimbolton started the second half well and came close on a few occasions. This acted as a wake-up call for the boys who recommitted to their passing football, which led to a excellent goal from Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, holding off two players before rifling the ball past the keeper. With the game sealed, Harrow played some excellent creative and expressive football, having particular success on the right wing. In an excellent move Zain Ayoub, *The Knoll*, picked Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, out and with his first touch crossed to the edge of the six-yard box. At a full sprint, Maclean thundered the ball into the net with a bullet header securing the final score of 4-0.

Another excellent performance where we seem to have found our mojo. Let's hope that we can carry this momentum into the remainder of the season.

Development C XI v Kimbolton School Boys Under-18C, Won 3-1

The Dev Cs took a while to find their rhythm but ultimately secured the win that their dominance deserved. Goals from Sam Pound, Inigo Doyle and Sama Othman made the difference.

## RUGBY UNION

### *The XV v Hampton School, Won 45-5 National Cup–Round 3, 9 November*

The XV continued their National Cup run into the quarter finals with a thumping win over Hampton on Wednesday.

Harrow ran the ball from all over the park and showed excellent accuracy and handling skill to dominate their SW London opposition. Harrow scored seven tries in total with

Cameron Ellis, *Rendalls*, adding five excellent conversions. The entire match-day squad can very proud of the performance that they put in to dispatch a high quality Hampton outfit.

The XV will be delighted to secure such a pleasing win and will hope to replicate this performance in the National Cup quarter-final later in the term.

Junior Colts A v King's College School (KCS) Wimbledon, Lost 5-26, National Cup Round 3

A strong, dynamic and abrasive KCS side worked hard from the outset and constructed an early lead against the JCAs. Although the team fought hard until the final whistle, the late come back was not enough to claim the win.

Yearlings C v University College School (UCS), Won 66-7, 10 November

The prospect of playing RugbyX against another school caused much excitement and speculation in the Yearlings C entourage, and it was something of a disappointment when UCS arrived with a 15-strong side and suggested a more orthodox format of the game. It quickly transpired that Harrow were by far the better of the two sides on the pitch, and no fewer than nine boys scored tries in the course of the match. It was good to see determined running from so many individuals, and Stas Shatokhin, *The Knoll*, was a standout performer in this respect in the first half. Jake Jung, *The Knoll*, was as destructive as ever with ball in hand, and Bomi Shodipo, *The Grove*, also ran hard and low at the opposition, while Auberon Dragen, *Rendalls*, and Tito Odunaike, *Elmfield*, scored tries by running about half a pitch. Timmy Aiyeola, *The Grove*, and Paul Olusegun, *Druries*, showcased some fancy footwork, and Rupert Macdonald, *The Park*, acquitted himself well as scrum half for the first time and converted two tries. This game proved a useful warm-up for Tonbridge on Saturday, which is always one of the season's highlights. However, Harrow's tackling will need to be even better at the weekend because it was disappointing that UCS were able to score any points at all.

Yearlings D v University College School (UCS), Won 90-10

A showcase in attacking rugby, with scintillating brilliance from York Feng, *The Knoll*, on his debut.

### *The School v Tonbridge, 12 November*

The XV v Tonbridge School, Won 24-8

The XV continued their undefeated run of performances with a 24-8 victory at home to Tonbridge. The XV were not at their best but showed enough skill and power to overcome a Tonbridge side that refused to roll over.

Short range tries from Tuipulotu, *Druries*, and Hammick, *The Knoll*, allowed Harrow to open up a healthy lead in the opening exchanges. The gap widened further when the Harrow forward pack rumbled a driving maul over the line to extend the gap between the two sides going into half-time. Sadly the second half was a scrappy and disjointed affair, with Harrow simultaneously never threatening or looking threatened.

The XV will be pleased to secure the win against their ever-competitive Tonbridge opposition but will want to tighten up before their next away game against Eton on Thursday.

2nd XV v Tonbridge School, Lost 22-43

3rd XV v Tonbridge School, Draw 22-22

The 3rd XV drew 22-22 coming back from 22-10 in a bruising encounter. The team showed bags of courage throughout. Guy Clark, *West Acre*, was player of the match scoring a hat-trick.

4th XV v Tonbridge School, Lost 7-26

An outstanding performance for a group of boys that, because of injuries, drew players in from the 3rds, 4ths and 5ths to a difficult physical game. This was against a well-drilled side that had clearly played together all season. That said, we

performed well but sadly lost 26-7. Our player of the match, who was outstanding throughout, was Ben Taylor, *The Knoll*. There was a great individual performance by Zak Banton, *Newlands*, who scored our only try, which was converted by Maxi Farah, *The Park*.

5th XV v Tonbridge School, Won 34-19

Colts A away v Tonbridge School, Won 19-7

Colts B away v Tonbridge School, Lost 5-27

Colts C away v Tonbridge School, Lost 0-47

Junior Colts A v Tonbridge School, Won 43-22

A beautiful Saturday afternoon saw the JCAs face Tonbridge, enthusiastic to pick up momentum following a disappointing performance only two days before. The boys started the game with great intensity, aggression and intent. Quick hands and use of space on the width led to an early try from Matthew Finnegan, *Druries*. A couple of strong carries from the forwards put the JCAs on the Tonbridge try line and Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, scored with powerful pick from the ruck, shortly followed by a display of fancy footwork from Rocco Addati, *The Knoll*, to score under the posts. The boys displayed good attacking rugby and Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, found a gap in the Tonbridge defence and scored with only green grass ahead of him. The JCAs had dominated in defence and attack, ending the half 26-5 up. Gus Chukwuemeka, *Druries*, started off the second half with a try, quickly followed by Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, scoring after diving into the post. At this point, the boys started to switch off, thinking the win was already in hand. Some sloppy tackling and line speed led to Tonbridge scoring three tries. The boys then picked back up and Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*, ended the game with a try. The result was a comfortable 43-22.

Junior Colts B v Tonbridge School, Won 29-14

The JCBs played an impressive Tonbridge side this Saturday. Tonbridge were a physical side that ran hard, had good moves and maintained possession effectively. They were very good in the ruck, and our previously dominant scrum was under real contention.

Tonbridge had the ball for the majority of the first half, with the Harrow boys rising to the occasion to make some excellent tackles, stay disciplined in defence and hold a good defensive line. Our efforts were rewarded when we turned the ball over on the halfway line and broke the line, taking us up to their 5m line. A few good phases of ball carrying from the forwards meant Tonbridge were drawn narrow, and we exploited the width with quick hands from the backs and running from deep to allow Jesse Eledan, *Newlands*, to score wide in the corner. It was converted by Dario Holland, *The Park* : 7-0 Harrow.

This allowed us to gain some confidence and we continued to gain possession with a much more even balance to the rugby. Following some back and forth rugby between the two sides, Harrow ran a move which saw Jimi Aiyeola, *The Grove*, break the line and take us 30 yards up the field. The forwards carried hard and MJ Stafford-Davies, *Lyon's*, went under the posts for his first try this season: Harrow 14-0.

On the second half, our boys were confident, and the continued determined defence saw us maintain our lead. Aiyeola scored a break away wide in the corner from a spilled Tonbridge ball: 19-0. This dogged defence meant Tonbridge heads were dropping and Harry Schneider scored a well-worked team try to take the score to 24-0. Tonbridge replied with a quick try: 24-7, but this seemed to inspire more intensity from Harrow as our boys went out chasing, visibly upset to have conceded and this meant that 10-15 phases later we were on their try line again and Dominic Hopkins, *Elmfield*, scored his first try

of the season: 29-7. Tonbridge did score right at the end to settle the score at 29-14 but this was an awesome display by our team against arguably the best side we have played this season. Final score: Harrow School 29-14 Tonbridge School.

#### Junior Colts C v Tonbridge School, Lost 7-48

The JCCs played with great courage and fellowship against a strong opposition, demonstrating excellent passages of play that were let down by Tonbridge's ability to exploit opportunities to better effect.

#### Yearlings A away v Tonbridge School, Won 24-0

Harrow showed improved intent and physicality with try's from Oscar Bray, *Druries*, Rufus Young, *Newlands*, Alfie Lawson-Brown, *The Park*, and Eli de Venecia, *The Head Master's*. A particularly impressive debut from Louis Nicholson, *The Park*.

#### Yearlings B away v Tonbridge School, Won 19-12

#### Yearlings C away v Tonbridge School, Won 45-12

In September 1922, Winston Churchill bought a country house called Chartwell in Kent, and he lived there until shortly before his death in January 1965. The house lies a mere ten miles from Tonbridge School, where on Saturday the Yearlings C team proved 'indomitable in retreat and invincible in advance', in a performance that would surely have impressed our most famous 'Giant of Old'.

What would not have impressed him would have been the Harrovians' pre-match routine. As the boys prepare for Churchill Songs at the Royal Albert Hall in two weeks' time, they have been singing about St Joles, who in 'sport or study, in grief or joy, is the friend of the lazy boy' by making amends for their forgetfulness and mistakes, but unfortunately he seemed unable to assist the Yearlings C team on Saturday. Boots, glasses and mouthguards were left behind, and after leaving the changing room some boys even struggled to find the pitch. This left very little time for the 18 boys equipped with 17 pairs of boots to conduct a meaningful warm-up before kick-off, and Harrow's handling in the first two or three minutes was desultory. However, Alexander Long, *The Park*, is proving to be an increasingly commanding presence as captain, encouraging and energising his entourage, and always setting the standard with his line-speed in defence and tackling. His partnership with Rupert Macdonald, *The Park*, who was on debut as scrum half, and inside centre Seb Aucott, *Lyon's*, was dynamic, fast and fluid, and it was good to see quick ball distributed to the centres and wings when the boys woke up, and Harrow started to use the full width of the pitch for perhaps the first time this season. It was in the fifth minute when winger Paul Olusegun, *Druries*, scored the first Harrow try, demonstrating his characteristic speed that has netted him the nickname 'Pacey Paul'. He is becoming quite the showman with his step, and he scored under the posts, which allowed Tito Odunaike, *Elmfild*, to achieve the first of what would be five successful conversions. Further handling errors prevented Harrow from accumulating points at a faster pace, but Number 8 Jake Jung's, *The Knoll*, swift interception on the Tonbridge 22 and exploitation of a gap in Tonbridge's line took his tally of tries for the team this season to four. He must be the most regularly named player in these match reports because of his situational awareness and strong running. His try was followed

by Edward Lloyd-Day, *Newlands*, at outside centre scoring his first ever points for the side, assisted by Mingyu Zhang, *West Acre*, in a nicely worked passage of attacking play. Playing without his glasses, Zhang did well to see both the ball coming to him and Lloyd-Day outside him. By half-time, the score was 19-5, Tonbridge's only points resulting from a slow Harrow response to the opposition gaining possession, which was then compounded by a succession of missed tackles.

What was impressive about the second half was the team's determination to improve on their handling and tackling, even though Tonbridge were able to score and convert one further try. Playing his first match for the School, Nini Olagundoye, *Bradlys*, started to pack a punch after half-time, adding to the firepower of Yearlings C stalwart Prejeev Suhitharan, *Druries*. Olagundoye is a valuable addition to what was already a strong forward setup, and his presence alongside Suhitharan mitigated Alexander Anderson's, *Rendalls*, absence after he suffered a knock to the head on Thursday. It was great that Olagundoye was rewarded for his efforts with a try on debut, although much credit must go to Macdonald, who intercepted a Tonbridge pass, much to the surprise of the Tonbridge centres. Prop Monty Harrison, *Moretons*, both tackles as well as his brother Charlie did in this side last year and understands the importance of getting to the breakdown first. He never falters in this responsibility, and Harry Benbow, *The Park*, and Stas Shatokhin, *The Knoll*, are always close behind. Benbow, who only became a forward this term having started as the team's inside centre, is impressive in that he is always hunting for the ball at the breakdown, and regularly manages to regain the ball for Harrow when they are defending. Bomi Shodipo, *The Grove*, took on board some feedback about maintaining momentum in contact and looked threatening whenever he got the ball. All of this hard work up front in the second half allowed the backs to demonstrate some imagination and ingenuity. Aucott continues to impress with his lines of running and timing of delivery to the player outside him, as well as his tackling in defence. Alongside Odunaike for his conversions, Aucott was the Harrow boys' choice for Most Valuable Player on the pitch on Saturday afternoon, and the coaching staff concurred. Mention must also go to Timmy Aiyeola's, *The Grove*, effort on the wing. He was fed more ball than usual and proved to be as slippery as ever when tackles were attempted, which led to some significant gains in ground. Alongside Aiyeola, Odunaike displayed his pace on the opposite wing, and his commitment and resolve prevented a Tonbridge try when he chased down a breakaway opponent from the halfway line and tackled him on Harrow's 5m line. The second half concluded with Suhitharan making a break and offloading the ball to Benbow on the halfway line, who proceeded to run the whole length of Tonbridge's half to score a final try, which was converted by Odunaike, bringing the score at full time to 45-12.

#### Yearlings D away v Tonbridge School, Lost 12-27

#### Yearlings E away v Tonbridge School, Lost 22-35

#### Yearlings F away v Tonbridge School, Lost 10-19

#### The Academy away v Tonbridge School, Lost 0-15

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

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