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THE PARK HOUSE PLAY

My Boy Jack

My Boy Jack, a compelling play centring on the life of author Rudyard Kipling and the loss of his son – coincidentally called Jack – to no-man's-land in the Great War, was performed by The Park on 5 and 6 December last term.

The play opened to a world teetering on the edge of war. The darkness of a new violent era was palpable. On stage, a boy crouched over an armchair. Another man fretted around him like an anxious bee: "I really don't know about the hair, you have a high forehead, it's a sign of intelligence." The man continues: "Why do you want to join the army – come on, boy?"

This man, it was revealed, is Rudyard Kipling, and the boy in the chair was his 15-year-old son.

My Boy Jack chronicles the implications of Rudyard Kipling's decision to secure an Army commission for his 18-year-old son Jack, despite the boy being severely visually impaired. Kipling, a man revered by the British military, calls in a favour to get Jack a position in the Irish Guards. Jack, now Second Lieutenant Kipling, who should have stayed at home, is dispatched to the Battle of Loos on his 18th birthday; shortly afterwards he is listed as 'missing in action'.



Jack's family (his sister, mother and Mr. Kipling himself), spend the next three years scrambling to find the truth about their boy's circumstance.

The nature of *My Boy Jack* requires a great deal of acting talent. The cast did not disappoint in stepping up to the task before them. The sense of lost hope was present throughout the production, creating a show that we were all trapped to watch, without any control over an imminent tragedy, trapped from preventing the obvious outcome.

Director Ms Jervis chose to set the entire play in the Kipling family home, bringing the concept of reliving the story to life. The space transformed from a living room to an army assessment office, and with the use of a transforming rug, into the battlefield at the Western Front. The lighting, equally, helped bring the Great War to 5 Yew Walk, a sepia wash was perfectly sunless, to fit both period and play.

The play finished with a spectacularly well-poised reading from Kipling's poem 'My Boy Jack'. Kipling looks out into the audience and remembers the son he lost.

"Have you news of my boy Jack? "

Not this tide.

"When d'you think that he'll come back?"

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Has any one else had word of him?"

Not this tide.

For what is sunk will hardly swim,

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?"

None this tide,

Nor any tide,

Except he did not shame his kind—

Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,

This tide,

And every tide;

Because he was the son you bore,

And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!



Everyone involved should be immensely proud of the performance that they produced – bravo.

PIGOU SOCIETY

Joshua Soyemi, The Head Master's, 'Evergrande: The Fall of a Giant', 11 January

On Wednesday 11 January, Joshua Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, Head of the Pigou Society, gave the first talk of the new term. His talk was titled 'Evergrande: The Fall of a Giant' and focused on the rise and eventual fall of one of China's biggest real-estate developers, Evergrande.

The talk started with Soyemi giving us some insight into the Chinese real-estate market and why it is so significant. An interactive game of two truths and a lie helped reflect how large the market truly was, as he surprised the audience with the fact that about a third of China's GDP is accounted for by real estate and that house prices are so high it would take an average-income citizen 50 years to be able to afford a house in Beijing. He then showed us a brief history of the real-estate market in China and how it boomed in the late 1900s and the early 2000s, giving us reasons for this boom. A house is

effectively a status symbol in China, and it holds many benefits from a social perspective and as an investment. Thus, as the demand for houses is so high, leading to presales and other shady dealings in the country whose market is so large that proper regulation was near impossible, especially since it developed into the economic powerhouse it is now. In fact, China has the most valuable real-estate market in the world by a long way.

Having given us context about the state of the Chinese real-estate market, Soyemi began talking about Hui Ka Yan, the founder and former CEO of Evergrande. Yan was born to a poor family and started Evergrande from very little, struggling for many years. He managed to amass a fortune of \$42.5 billion in 2017 as Evergrande became one of the wealthiest companies in the world, in turn making him the wealthiest businessman in China. Evergrande's rise was something of a perfect storm, in Soyemi's words, and played a huge part in China's urbanisation in the 21st century. Evergrande became so big that it was able to offer risky bonds to investors as it was deemed too big to fail, and many thought the government would bail it out if the worst came true. Evergrande relied on bank loans and investment from some of the biggest banks around the world, as well as pre-selling houses.

Soyemi then focused on the downfall of this giant, as China implemented the 'Three Red Lines' policy that moderated the cycle of debt companies like Evergrande entered. This led to the demise of Evergrande, as many people were left without homes, with the company's future is shrouded in doubt. As the company was so big, this also had a huge effect on China's real-estate market and economy. Soyemi concluded this interesting and insightful talk by taking questions from the floor.

ARTICULATION

This year's ARTiculation competition had a distinctly scientific flavour as the Heads of the three sciences, JAPB, CEP and NSK were invited to adjudicate the three heats in October. Seen as controversial by some boys ("What do they know about art?"), they nonetheless had the tough job of selecting the eight finalists for the School competition. Inevitably, they proved hugely knowledgeable and, despite the extraordinarily high calibre of presentations this year, they were absolutely spot-on in their selection of the eight most engaging speakers.



The final itself continued the science theme with the Head Master, WMAL, enjoying the final presentations in the OSRG on Thursday 24 November. Luca Cox, *West Acre*, kicked off the evening with a discussion on the relationship between Basquiat and Warhol in the painting 'Dos Cabezas' by the former. He addressed some interesting questions about the potentially exploitative nature of their relationship and his delivery – including some questions directed at the audience – was superb. Omar Ait El Caid, *Bradlys*, then gave an enlightening and suitably

dramatic talk on Velazquez's portrait of his black assistant, Juan de Pareja. Despite having run in between Rattigan production rehearsals, his powerful discussion of Pareja initially left the audience wondering why Ait El Caid had not chosen one of his paintings for discussion, but his decision to give context and analyse him purely as the subject and his relationship with the painter, Velazquez, made perfect sense. Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, then stood up to discuss a very direct painting, 'The Visitor' by Marlene Dumas, in which a group of Amsterdam prostitutes await their clients. Despite opening his presentation by, very amusingly, offering a scathing review of the October trip to Venice, Hope was a very confident speaker who was happy to go off script. A second painting that referenced prostitution was Henry Romantsov's, *Druries*, choice, Manet's 'Dejeuner sur l'Herbe'. Romanstov argued passionately for the importance of this painting – one that broke away from the canon of Western art – but which today can appear quite prosaic. Yizi Wei, *Elmfild*, then surprised the audience with his surreal presentation on a literally prosaic image: the autorefractor eye test. His delivery was amusing, philosophical and captivating and, in the end, WMAL asked whether the art was not in the image but in Wei's own performance. Next, Seb Murray, *West Acre*, spoke on Pieter Bruegel the Elder's painting, 'Landscape with the Fall of Icarus', a well-known and well-documented painting. Murray was fearless in his analysis, offering a good art historical account while also delving into a number of the literary references. James Amihyia-Marsden, *West Acre*, then took to the stage to discuss a photograph from the 2018 Landscape Photographer Prize: Vegard Lodoen's 'The Midnight Passage'. Amihyia-Marsden's delivery – dissecting the image without notes – was excellent, even as he casually mentioned that he had met the photographer! Last, but by no means least, was Krish Rana's, *The Knoll*, dark and foreboding discussion of Disney's cartoon 'Der Fuehrer's Face'. Despite Rana's very entertaining delivery, he nonetheless left us with a frightening message: 'question everything'.

With that, WMAL was duly left with a few minutes to do just that: question his responses to everything he had seen that evening. Having offered all the boys insightful feedback, he named Amihyia-Marsden the School winner for his exceptional content and delivery, noting that he managed to make everyone in the audience feel that he was speaking personally to them. Murray was also highly commended. Well done to West Acre!

Amihyia-Marsden will now go on to represent the School at the regional heat of the competition at the Courtauld on Monday 23 January. We wish him the very best of luck!

TRIP TO NEPAL

In Two Teams, Christmas break

Team 1

The 2022 Harrow School Nepal trip began on a relatively bleak December morning at around 5am. As the boys bustled onto the coach, a mixture of weariness and excitement traversed its way across their faces, highlighting the unique nature of the trip that all of us were keen to commence. The experience truly began to feel real after we said our goodbyes to those not in the group at the airport. Once the continuous day of travelling finally concluded, we settled into a congenial hotel in the heart of Kathmandu, where boys soon melted into their beds after a seemingly unending journey across Asia. The next few days spent in the capital were fascinating and enjoyable thanks to our guides Bidur and Ben Walker, who showed us a few of the important places of worship in Nepal, such as Swayambu-Nath, the Monkey Temple and the Boudhanath stupa. Time at the capital flew by as we adjusted to the timezone and stepped

out of our culture shock. When the time finally came to depart Kathmandu, another early morning welcomed the annoyed faces of the boys as they prepared for the eight-hour bus ride to Pokhara. I believe that I speak for both students and teachers when I argue that this was probably one of the less enticing elements of the two weeks.



After arriving at Pokhara, we were quickly introduced to the wonderful members of the Tashiling refugee camp and the community hall, where we stayed for the next few days. Excitement and tension hung in the air in the morning after a night of recuperation; it was our first day on the project, where we would teach children at a local school and construct a system to provide clean water for them. Before attending the school, we were lucky enough to be introduced to some of the honourable Gurkhas at their set-up in Pokhara. Meeting the Gurkhas was an enlightening experience that opened the boys' eyes to the challenges many people face daily in Nepal. The school received us with flowers and festivities; all of us enjoyed meeting our new friends. The group then split up into workers and teachers, getting to manual labour and teaching. The process continued for three more days, and when it eventually came to a close, a melancholy tone echoed throughout the grounds as the boys said farewell to their new companions. The boys departed from the school with a new pen pal, and their heads held high after four days of determined and ardent contribution. One evening after working in the school, there was a much more serious atmosphere in the camp as the boys prepared for their football match against a Monks all-star XI, on arguably one of the most beautiful football pitches out there. The magnificent Himalayan mountains towered above the field, taking up the role as if they were thousands of fans there to watch the battle. Harrow fought hard, and after equalising twice to make it 2-2, the game agonisingly slipped away from us as we lost 4-2. However, moods soon lifted once the boys made their seemingly daily trip to indulge in a nearby cafe's speciality milkshakes.

With all work in Pokhara finished, we set off on our journey to reach the peak of Poonhill. After an early two-hour coach journey, the boys began the trek through the mountains. In what seemed like a movie scene, we slowly progressed through our final proper civilisation, a small town, before tackling the giant mountains. The first day of trekking proved more difficult than expected; many boys found themselves hot and fatigued before resting at lunchtime, but failure was not an option. Concentration and teamwork helped us all progress through the most challenging seven-hour trek. We ended the day in a comfortable tea house on the mountain's edge. The boys made full use of the warm showers and ate as much food as possible in front of the spectacular mountainous view. The second day yielded easier tracks and an increasingly special view. The tea house we resided in on our second night prepared us for the 5am hike up to the top of Poonhill. The walk was certainly not easy, and with darkness closing in on the mountain terrain, we had to take each step with caution and security. To describe the view at the top of Poonhill as "perfection" would be an understatement.

The innumerable fluffy clouds slowly filled with golden sunlight, and once the Sun appeared, there was jubilation on the mountain, accentuated by the delicious hot chocolate available at the peak. Once we soaked in the sunrise, the descent and journey home began. We spent our final two days casually making our way down the mountain before finally reaching the coach that was waiting for us just where we started. After a short stint back in Pokhara, we were again faced with the gruelling eight-hour bus ride back to the capital city. In our final days in Nepal, we made a final visit to a charity, which taught us about the severe issues caused by natural disasters and the climate. It would not have been a fitting end to the trip without one final early wake-up as we left for the airport. The journey back flew by, and we returned to Heathrow as heroes, exhausted but immensely satisfied with the last 15 days in one of the most beautiful and special countries.



Team 2

On a numbingly cold Thursday morning 8 December at 5am, 40 boys from the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth rolled out of bed and dragged heavy trekking gear to a bus waiting on Grove Hill. Along with four beaks (KOJA, MJG, AGJ and GJBC), they travelled to Heathrow, where they caught a flight to Nepal. COVID-19 had pushed the Nepal trip out of memory for two years; thus, I am very grateful to those who made this trip possible, such as Global Action and their guides. On this note, I would like to say that the feedback from the boys has been incredibly positive from this trip, so if this occasion were to arise again, I would highly recommend all boys who are interested in hiking/trekking, conservation and exploring culture to express interest as soon as there are placements available. The boys split into two groups upon arrival; being in the (obviously) better group in the wonderful company of Mr Cullen and Mr Griffith-Jones, we faced happy days and smooth sailing. We were exposed to the urban sprawl of Kathmandu, as cars, buses, tuk-tuks and mopeds crowded roads, with packed skylines of questionable safety, as well as networks of electrical cables overhead. Gotum, our local guide, explained Kathmandu's rich culture, history, and industry. Over the course of three days, we visited highly significant historical sites including the (now retired) royal palace, the temple of a living Goddess' incarnation, and the Monkey Temple. Hibu, a befittingly named guide, explained that Nepal's main religions share aspects of Hinduism and Buddhism, as both religions share some key teachings and are generally accepting of other religious beliefs.

After our tour of Kathmandu, the plan was to take an eight-hour coach to the next largest city in Nepal, Pokhara, for a five-day hike through the Annapurna conservation area, a 7,629kmsq nature reserve in the Himalayan mountain range. During the journey, guides educated us about Nepal's recent history and economy. Currently, Nepal has a hydroelectricity programme that produced 11,064 GWh last year. The dams sustain all major cities, and the government is working to increase hydropower access to 100% of Nepalese regions by the end of 2023. After the lengthy ride, we settled in for one last night in the city before

the trek, where a jungle bar night out (with alcohol-free drinks, I might add) washed the weariness and jetlag away.

Early the next morning, the boys packed bags and donned walking poles and boots, as the bus sped to where we were to start our trek. The driving, I might add, is also spectacularly peculiar in Nepal. Roads were generally unmarked, so buses, freight trucks, cars and motorbikes all shared lanes. How much traffic you encountered was entirely up to how intimidating your vehicle was and how loud your horn was, as overtaking and dominance were key. Our driver, along with his assistant who was known to us as 'co-pilot', was not new to this game, having insane manoeuvring skills on all terrain and absolute authority over the roads. As we bid the tour crew farewell, we joined a new group of specialists: our porters and trekking assistants, an ensemble which numbered 14, including a medic who looked after us during our trek, a runner who ran up the mountains and hills to check if our teahouses were available to rest in, and the porters, who scaled up our trekking routes in record times with the clothing and amenities that we had brought.



The third day of trekking was the clear highlight. We saw a marvellous sunrise at the peak of Poonhill after setting off at 3am. A small stall at the very top provided hot tea, and we were thoroughly rewarded for the toil and exertion of the past two days, which included over 1,800m of elevation across roughly 50km of trail. The rest of the hike also was peaceful and scenic. We stayed in five different teahouses and enjoyed the wonderful mix of Tibetan and Nepalese cuisine offered in generous portions. Night-time up on the mountains also meant poker by the fireside with delicious hot tea before plunging into an ice-cold shower and wrapping up into our sleeping bags. There were also tastes of Nepalese song and dance with a friendly restaurant owner, as well as dressing up in traditional male (and female) mountain garb, which four brave members of our group (who shall remain unnamed) endured. All in all, the hike was, to many, the most memorable part of the trip, and seeing how quickly it went by in recollection, I agree that the picturesque mountains, rivers and valleys that enclosed us were once-in-a-lifetime experiences. All in all, we had trekked around 100km of trail, climbed up and down 1,800m of mountains, and managed to remain in good health, taking some seriously spectacular photos along the way.

However, the task that awaited us in Pokhara was not rest and relaxation but a packed schedule of conservation, community service and communal living. We were due to stay at the Tibetan refugee camp, the settlement that began modern Pokhara city. Tibetans fleeing from discrimination following China's annexation of Tibet would take harsh, cruel journeys across the Himalayas to seek livelihoods where they could express their culture, language and religion. During the stay, we completed one of the trip's main projects: helping local communities with water distribution. We went to a local Monk school, where children from as young as eight to around 18 studied how to become Tibetan monks, learning mantras, chants and traditions. The project was to dig a hole of 29 cubic metres (8 feet by 16 feet by 8 feet), to fit two gargantuan 10,000-litre water tanks

for freshwater for this school. Armed with small bowls to carry out dirt, shovels, and pickaxes, we were shown how to loosen the earth and then where to transport it so that the rubble did not get in the way. Digging was genuine and hardy physical labour. Innovations within the group structure allowed for faster progress and breakneck pace on the hole, including a line of boys that passed bowls of dirt along and working shifts. The labour tested many excellent minds and enduring bodies, as fatigue and sickness set in. However, the group prevailed, and a longer-than-usual three days had passed.

The remaining days went by in a flash as our weary group mounted the bus again back to Kathmandu, where we would spend our remaining three nights. Warm showers and breakfast buffets were enjoyed by all, and shopping squads were sent around to procure Christmas gifts and souvenirs alike.

To all the boys who chose to participate in this winter expedition, I would like to congratulate all of you, as this truly was the experience of a lifetime; it was a wonderful experience getting to know you all. I would also like to extend my gratitude towards the patient and exceptional beaks who joined us in this adventure.

METROPOLITAN

CHURCHILL ESSAY

Paul Olusegun, Druries

'Should boys and girls be raised differently?'

The abiding discussion on whether boys and girls should be treated differently escalates in

prominence as parents begin to deliberate over which toys to purchase for their children whilst the festive season draws near.

I have recently explored the Fawcett Society and discovered convincing arguments which strongly support the campaign for gender neutrality; a campaign which explains the severe effects of blue for a boy and pink for a girl. Gendered toys significantly influence and restrict the interests, subjects and career paths of people due to limitations in their early childhood. This is incredibly accurate since 51% of people affected by gender stereotypes say it constrained their career choices and 44% say it harmed their personal relationships. Toy manufacturers and retailers inadvertently reinforce gender stereotypes which alone limits careers choices for girls, discourages them from interests such as engineering and computer science but also restricts boys from expressing their emotions. Sam Smethers persuasively argues in an article that the pressure of being expected to act in a certain way or acquire a certain job from early years makes people more at risk to serious mental health issues. If we want to eradicate the number of suicidal deaths in the world because of mental health problems, we can undoubtedly begin by opposing the detrimental gender stereotypes through toys, language and our environment in modern society.

In a recent psychologist's report advocating for girls and boys to be educated differently, a supporter, Ms de Beyer believes inducing ethics usually correlated to the opposing gender is important for developing a more compassionate society which upholds both sexes in achieving their goals. This argument increases in popularity as parents, carers and guardians decide on which school to send their kids next year to as the summer season draws to a close. In 2017, 75% of all suicidal deaths in Australia were male. An established piece of evidence from a reliable source, the black dog institute, weakens the argument for girls and boys to be taught differently. If boys are unconsciously raised to be tough, self-supporting men and

girls to be tolerant, compassionate and submissive then surely these sexes should be taught the same to reduce the outstanding number of suicidal deaths, especially of just one gender due to the way they have been taught in early childhood. Ms de Beyer believes in one side of the argument at a time but then before emotional maturity around age 11 we need to become aware of the socially composed characters and recognise insidious but complicated differences between each sex. It appears she is unable to persist with one side of this argument, gradually making her thoughts less valid and trustworthy. Language can also greatly affect a child's emotional side or support them in embracing their values which are frequently connected the other sex. Telling girls that they are brave and strong people helps bring out wrongfully labelled "masculine" attributes. However, this idea of watching your intentional use of language when speaking to boys or girls still advocates for why children should be taught together rather than differently.

To conclude, due to the substantial number of disadvantages inflicted in multiple areas of life when children are educated through separation of gender, I whole-heartedly believe that girls and boys should be taught the same. This is undoubtedly the happier, healthier and best option if we truly do care about our children, their future and eradicating misleading gender stereotypes for good.

HISTORY AND INTRICACIES OF THE GOLD TRADE INDUSTRY:

By St John Smith and Melvin Ackah, Newlands

The gold trading industry is an integral part of the global economy and has an enormous impact on the financial markets. For centuries, gold has been a comparatively safe investment and a leading form of wealth accumulation. Gold serves as an important store of value and an essential asset in the development of economies around the world. This article will explore the various aspects of the gold trading market and the different roles it plays in the modern world.

The history of gold is fascinating. It is believed that the first documented use of gold as a form of currency dates back to 600BC. Gold prices have fluctuated over the years for a variety of reasons, such as political and economic shifts, or fluctuations in the value of different currencies (when compared to gold). For example, during the 1970s, the price of gold was increased by demand for the mineral from the volatile countries of the Middle East. Furthermore, with an increasing amount of gold being mined, the quantity of available gold increased, which also caused the price of gold to increase. By taking a look at historical prices of gold, investors can get a understanding of how the gold market works, and gain insights into their current, and potential future, investments.

The gold trading industry seems to be a lucrative one, with the promise of quick profits, but there are a number of associated risks. Firstly, the price of gold is volatile and can change quickly, meaning the profits an individual earns can disappear just as quickly as they gain them. Secondly, gold trading is largely unregulated, which has the potential to increase the risk of fraud. Thirdly, insider trading can often be an issue, due to the lack of transparency in the gold market. All these risks can lead to financial losses for those looking to get into the gold trading industry, making it less than ideal to get involved in.

Gold shorting is the sale of gold futures or other gold-based investments in a bear market, with the expectation that the price of gold will decrease in the future. As gold prices have increased drastically since the 2000s, shorting the yellow metal has become a popular strategy for investors looking to capitalise on a falling gold price. Gold price history shows that the value of gold is cyclical, swinging between bearish

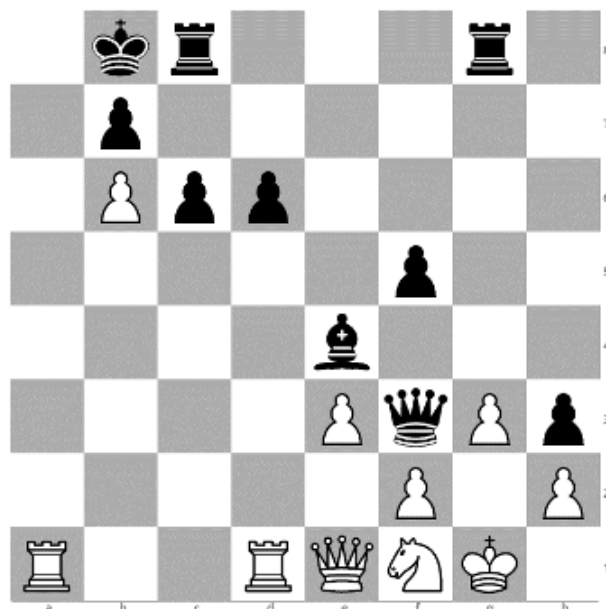
and bullish markets. While predicting the exact timing and value of gold can be difficult, history has shown that gold prices trend downward in bear markets and upwards in bull markets. Shorting gold can be a high-risk investment and is not without consequences. Therefore, investors must be aware of the potential risks before making a decision to short gold.

The gold trading industry is a dynamic and fast-moving sector that presents opportunities for those interested in trading or investing in gold, especially as it continues to be important for many countries that rely on gold to back their financial systems. As with any investment, it is important for those interested in investing in gold to understand the risks associated with the gold trading industry, such as market trends, government regulations, and geopolitical concerns. By ascertaining the right information and due diligence, investors should be able to make informed decisions and benefit from this lucrative market.

CHESS

The weekly puzzle set by JPBH. Submit your solution by email (jpbh@) to enter the termly competition.

White to play and mate in 3 moves.



Last week's answer: 1. Qf8+. If 1. ... Kxf8 then 2. Rd8#. If instead 1. ... Kh7 then 2. Qg7#.

Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30–6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS5. All abilities welcome!

NICOTINE AND THE BODY AND THE BRAIN

Nicotine use among teens and young adults has increased in modern society. That leads to the question, how does nicotine affect the body and the brain? As soon as nicotine enters our bloodstream, it stimulates adrenal glands, causing a release of adrenaline, stimulating our central nervous system, increasing blood pressure, and much more. As teens and adults have a greater nicotine intake, nicotine poisoning does occur, leading to more serious matters such as seizures, heart failure and even death.

On the brain, however, nicotine has other effects. Nicotine acts as a neurotransmitter, increasing our brain's dopamine levels and stimulating the reward centres. Essentially, it makes

the person ingesting nicotine feel 'good'. However, this short-term feeling of 'pleasure' does have some adverse effects on the brain. In teens and young adults, significant nicotine exposure interferes with the development of the brain as the brain only reaches full maturity at 25. Nicotine is also highly addictive, making this age more susceptible to addiction. Once addicted, if you stop ingesting nicotine, this leads to withdrawals, which have significant effects on your lifestyle such as increased appetite and difficulty sleeping, to name a few. Nicotine can cause severe problems to the body and the brain, and with our growing society it is more common than ever.

In conclusion, using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood and impulse control. However, isolating the effects of nicotine on health risks in human studies is complex, partly because only a small proportion of people vape non-nicotine products. If you want to ask any questions or need support, please feel free to come to the Medical Centre or download the 'NHS smoke-free' app.

WHAT'S MEANT TO STAY WILL STAY

There is a saying that loneliness is the cost of success. but that isn't how it should be. it's not like if you want to be successful you must be lonely.

but then how do you achieve and maintain success without pushing those closest to you away?

some days i spend hours working away at projects, essay, homework or these articles, only to realise that weeks have passed and i wasn't aware of time passing around me. i wasn't with my friends.

at the end of the day, relationships should be two sided. both parts of the relationship should be building upon each other. the fear is that by lacking presence in your friends' lives, you could end up losing them.

but what's meant to stay will stay

it's better to let go of things that could be harming you or dragging you down. better to let go than hang on to something that wouldn't benefit everyone involved. i think that sometimes the most beautiful and selfless thing can be found in letting go, to understand that paths diverge and that the pain of letting things go is the price you have to pay for both people to grow as human beings and to learn to love fully and openly from a distance

this works both ways. don't hate someone for letting you go as their friend when you weren't serving their highest self. at the end of the day this will be the path you have chosen and this could be how the cards fall

it hurts to write and i'm sure it is hard to hear but there is power in accepting things for how they are, not wallow in the what could have been. learn to love where you are for everything that it is, there won't ever be a perfect time, something will always be there to cause issues in our lives.

so i suppose we should do our best to look down at the cards we are currently holding and admire them for what they are.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

'Urban'

1st place: James Flach, *Moretons*

The lighting and use of aperture in Flach's photo are brilliant; the green light in the background highlighting the bricks in the foreground makes for a great composition, emphasising the urban nature of construction bricks. The lighting also creates a natural vignette around the subject, which further brings out

the outline of the bricks. The placement of the light allows the light to stay relevant in the photo, remaining one of the more essential elements while not sacrificing the importance of the brick wall.



2nd place: Ethan Soong, *The Grove*

The slight slant of the phone compensating for the sloping path greatly affects the photo. The single lonely person walking in the bottom left corner of the photo, positioned using the rule of thirds, is a great place to place the figure. The path in front of him is empty, allowing viewers to understand the story of the photo better. The interpretation of urban in this photo is different from Flach's image. This photo shows a not-quite-developed area of a city, which contrasts with all the other entries into this competition.



3rd place: CMC

This photo is stunning to the eye. The slight purple tint of the clouds stretching over New York and the sunlight peering through them, creating such beautiful stretched shadows over the water, is magnificent. I have seen many photos of sunsets, and it isn't easy to replicate the colour to match what the human eye would see, and this has done it perfectly. The use of a

wide focal range is wise in this situation, as it allows all the content of what you would see from this angle to be captured, lengthening the shadows and stretching the clouds.



Highly Commended: MJM (our new Mr McGinty)

The choice of black and white works particularly well here; removing colour removes distractions and allows the viewer to focus on the lighting and the details of the image. In addition, the long exposure, with the people walking past, creates a great effect that creatively captures the dynamic movement in the image.



SPORT

JUDO AND CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING IN LANZAROTE

Christmas Break

On Saturday 10 December, Harrow's Judo Club, accompanied by the cross-country team, left the Hill and headed for Luton Airport. After a relatively smooth four-hour flight, we arrived at the picturesque island of Lanzarote (which was around 23°C!) and soon settled into Club La Santa, one of the most popular sports resorts in Europe and the training ground for numerous world-class athletes. In the evening, we were met with the usual all-you-can-eat buffet, a wonderful and much appreciated constant throughout the week. With this trip having to be cancelled the past two years because of Covid-19, it was certainly good to be back!

Sunday morning brought the return of the much beloved 7.30am speed and agility ladder drill sessions. This was followed by participation in Club La Santa's morning gymnastics, which has become something of Harrow judo tradition. Paul Ajala and MJG then led our first judo session of the week, introducing some key *nage waza* (throwing techniques) combinations and *shime waza* (choking techniques) that would be refined and expanded on throughout the week. In the afternoon, the group participated in a team Pilates session, which was a novel experience for many. It was emphasized that Pilates involves a constant flow of movement, as opposed to its more static counterpart, yoga, and that the two should not be confused.



On Monday we underwent a judo fitness test, comprising of the Illinois agility test, maximum press-ups, maximum pull-ups, and 800m. But the purpose of this was just to get a rough baseline score that could be compared to later in the week when we retook the test. After lunch, we were excited to do a judo-handball exchange with a Danish School also staying at the resort. We showed them the basics of judo and let them put it to practice in *randori* (sparring). Handball was a first for many and after a quick introduction to the sport and few warm-up exercises, we went into a match. There was an optional beach volleyball session afterwards and judo again in the evening. Pictured: H.Jang M.McDowell G.Urselli E.Olowe N.Inpan M.Quist H.Romanstov J.Soyemi T.Stockmeier Dr Glossop Paul Ajala B.Allard A.Basran T.Iyacke

Tuesday was our rest day with go-karting and shopping planned. In the go-karting we were split into two heats, with the fastest three from each qualifying for the final. So you can imagine the commotion that ensued when the boys found out that Paul had somehow managed to wiggle into the final without actually having the qualifying heat time. The race was nonetheless unaffected as he finished in a well-received

seventh place. Ben Allard, *The Grove*, emerged as victor, with Giancarlo Urselli, *The Grove*, coming in second, and MJG in third place. The team then enjoyed an afternoon of shopping and dining in the town centre.

On Wednesday, the team went out on a bike ride along the rocky Lanzarote coast. Despite suffering a few punctured tyres and crashes, we managed to stop for ice cream at the halfway point and return to the resort in one piece. The rest of the day was filled with judo and swimming in the 50m outdoor pool. On Thursday, the team enjoyed some basketball, paddle tennis, the usual judo session, and the optional 2.5km run with the cross-country team, which I'm proud to say the Harrow judoka turned up to in large numbers.



The penultimate day in Lanzarote involved a retest of the fitness assessments, which revealed a series of impressive improvements across the different exercises for most of the team. Swimming and beach volleyball were also available earlier in the day. In the evening, the Upper Sixth were fortunate enough to enjoy an hour in the spa before supper, making the most of the pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room and ice bath for those who were daring enough. We left the resort the following morning and arrived at a chilly Gatwick Airport around 7pm.

Many thanks to MJG and Paul Ajala for arranging and co-ordinating such an exceptional trip; it is one we won't forget!

Cross-country



On the morning of 10 December, a select few members from the cross-country and judo teams slowly filled the bus. The day of travel was mainly in silence since the two teams did not know each other very well. We landed at Arrecife airport, in Lanzarote in the dying moments of the England v France World Cup match. The two unfamiliar teams, now one, clutched their phones as we watched the game with bated breath. The bus sighed a pneumatic sigh as we arrived at Club La Santa. England had lost. A dejected team sat down for dinner. But slowly, the glorious food lifted our spirits (as it would for the entirety of the trip). Feeling slightly better, we soon settled into

our lavish hotel rooms overlooking the beach. We arose to the Sun casting its rays over the volcanic landscape of Lanzarote.

The training days mainly consisted of two runs to cope with the heat, one easy run first thing in the morning and the next run being a little harder sometime after lunch. Each day, boys would be running anywhere between 10km and 18km depending on a few factors such as age and fitness. For example, team captain Tom Emery, *Moretons*, ran 100km in total that week, an average of 14.3km per day. On the other hand, the youngest member of the squad, Zach Elliot, *West Acre*, ran 60 km that week which is an average of 8.5km per day. Even though all boys were running different distances, we mostly ran together. The pace on the majority of runs was easy, roughly five minutes per kilometer. This is widely regarded as the universal easy-running pace. Eliud Kipchoge, the greatest runner of all time, starts his easy runs at around this pace as well. Every run had a slightly different goal in mind: the Sunday staple long run to maximise our aerobic running endurance, the tempo run being slightly shorter and faster, focusing on increasing our anaerobic threshold, and the track session for speed. Other than running, the cross-country boys took part in other fun activities with the judo boys, such as mountain biking, go-karting, swimming, tennis, paddle tennis, beach volleyball and Pilates. The week came to an end with the team exhausted by doing what they loved. The trip was a great success.

HARROW FOOTBALL

The School XI v Wooding XI, School Lost 3-4



The XI sadly dropped their first match of the season to an experienced George Wooding's XI, losing 4-3 with bases from Jimmy Turner, Rob McCorquodale and Guy Paton-Smith (all *Elmfield*). The Old Boys went downhill in the first half (and the second) on Hempstall 6 and jumped out to a 2-0 lead, with the inexperience of the first XI showing at the start of the match and Old Newlander Charlie Christie scored an outstanding base from about the halfway line to add to the opener scored by Captain George Wooding, an old Bradbeian. A breakaway base from McCorquodale finished from a tight angle restored hope for the School, who went into the break down 2-1. With the Old Boys claiming a lack of fitness, the School was forced to play the second half uphill as well and another well-taken base from Paton-Smith levelled the score at 2-2. Unfortunately, however, the downhill advantage put the OHs in the driver's seat, scoring two more, from another Old Newlander, Archie Hogben, and a second from Wooding, to make the score 4-2 with about ten minutes to play. Although there was a valiant effort to fight back and a consolation base scored by Turner, the efforts of the XI were not enough as they fell just short of beating a very strong OH team. The team, however, has plenty to be proud of for matching up physically with such strong opposition and the boys looks forward to a good season to come.

*The Outcasts v The James Melville XI,
School Lost 4-7*

Since 2020, the JLM XI has been gracing the clay footer fields of Harrow for its annual fixture to help fill a gap in the School's fixture card. In 2020, JLM's XI drew 2-2 with The Outcasts. 2022's outing saw an upgrade in opposition to The XI, subsequently resulting in a 4-1 defeat. So, it was with clear eyes and full hearts that JLM assembled his motley crew for 2023. Known as one of the most prestigious invitational footer sides in the world, the side is made of a ragtag collection of boys (coached, taught or generally influenced by JLM), beaks (similarly led astray) and anyone from outside School crazy enough to be persuaded to show up.

JLM, as ever, skippered the side, a footer stalwart in his 11th year of playing the game, known for his big arm and even bigger boot, but critics were concerned pre-game that his head and heart may no longer be in it as he still hadn't quite got over that Trinity defeat. JRP brought his usual relentless positivity and vizsla-like energy, Dr Barke, AGJ, MJG and ATRP provided a solid engine room, RRM's experience and gliding running style would be key to the side's success. FSW was a surprise entry to the fray, accepting his invitation (after initially turning it down) on the morning of the game, to make his debut on the mud. Two guests, Duncan Traynor and Robin Hardman, added further adult experience to the side. Joining the adults was an even more motley crew of boys; Toby Ferneyhough, Ivan Thayil, Bobby Dunne, Matthew Gaffaney and Conor O'Flaherty provided fresh 1st XV rugby experience and heft, whilst Paddy Elliot brought some occasional Latin ability and plenty of enthusiasm.



The game, was played out on Hempstalls 6, the rain temporarily subsiding and SMK in the middle, with shepherd crook in hand. The Outcasts won the toss, opting to go uphill in the first half, already spelling trouble for the beaks' fitness levels. Yet it was a confident and assured start from JLM's side, working the ball into the danger zone near their base before AGJ took yards and punted it calmly home for a 1-0 lead. The Outcasts soon struck back with a well-taken base, Tommy Mackay's long arm and Henry Emerson's running caused the slow-to-retire beaks a few issues. FSW panicked, chipped it up to Ollie Chambers, who punted it home. It then became clear that the Outcasts had been fiddling the numbers and playing with 13. No honour or courage shown by the School there as SMK attempted to sort out the mess.

At the other end, Ferneyhough was causing issues with his arm and a delightful throw into the mixer found a stray Outcast shoulder and went in for a JLM 2-1 lead. However, just like The XV this season, JLM's XI were slow off the restart and soon St John Smith had got The Outcasts into a good position for the tying base at 2-2. Resolute in their attack, JLM's XI continued to charge forward, JRP appearing everywhere, Dr Barke mainly on the floor or tackling his own side and the

pace and power of Thayil, Gaffaney and Ferneyhough proving hard to repel. Soon, yards was taken by Dunne and, with the unswerving (occasional) accuracy of one of his lineout throws, he sent a long range effort through the poles for a 3-2 lead at the half-time oranges.

The second half commenced and things were not looking good for JLM's side. The sky was growing dark, the hill seemed steep and the legs were weary. Soon, The Outcasts had tied things up at 3-3 and JLM was already trying to waste time. But, desperate for a first victory, the side pushed up the Hill. JRP took a stunning yards catch, diving like an Atlantic salmon to his left to pluck the ball from the air. Unfortunately, the ensuing kick was pretty pathetic, but the impetus was there and Melville's side broke away. RRM, as ever, led the charge, MJG followed up behind before JRP came tearing past his Newland housemates to knock it home. Glorious stuff.

Soon, however, once again it was 4-4, Emerson scoring again to tie things up for The Outcasts as the rain pelted down. JLM's side then had a chance to snatch the lead back but Elliot's base kick sailed wide, with even less accuracy than his tackle technique in Treviso. Unperturbed, however, JLM's side kept on going, battling physically and bending the laws of the game as much as SMK would allow. The Outcasts were clearly tiring, a stray kick was snatched by RRM who quickly took his three and punted home to give JLM's side the lead. The wiliness and experience of JLM's XI then began to frustrate the heavily Lower Sixth Outcasts side; time-wasting tactics straight from the Premier League were implemented and deployed. Ferneyhough's arm kept The Outcasts away from the base and soon it was 6-4 as Gaffaney's powerful boot drove another yards kick home. The crowd had now grown on Hempstalls 6 and they were treated to a final fiesta of footer – even WMAL couldn't quite believe his eyes for some of the play JLM's XI were stringing together. JLM was like vintage Fat Ronaldo gliding through the middle of the park and MJG, like his beloved Chris Wood, was prominent target man. The two outsiders, Hardman and Traynor, were quick to pick up the game, Hardman even taking a Ferneyhough elbow to the face but continuing on despite this friendly fire. With time running out, JLM edged forward, snagged yards and punted through, the ball rolled slowly up the hill, edging closer but clearly falling short. MJG, your classic off-side goal hanger, lingered and thought about it, before moving away as Hardman sped through from an onside position to add the finishing tap-in. 7-4 and the game was over. A splendid afternoon of footer, played in a marvellous spirit and credit to a fine performance from The Outcasts; this will be their toughest test of the season and Mackay, Smith and Emerson were the pick of the crop. Meanwhile, a first victory for the JLM XI will live long in the memory and they will hope such a victory will not mean they have to face The XI next year!

The Princes v The Stafford Proctor XI Lost 4-6

It's probably fair to say the Princes' XI allowed their somewhat older opposition too many gentlemanly concessions in their match: scoring only "yards" bases and going uphill all match allowed Stafford Proctor's XI to win (just). It was, of course, played in a very good spirit and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

FIVES

The School v Shrewsbury School, 14 January

Caspar Stone, *The Park*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, earned their first win of the 2023 year, winning 3-0 against a strong Shrewsbury first pair.

HOCKEY

*The school v Haberdashers' Elstree Schools, Won 2-1,
National Cup-Round 1*

With only one training session behind them, and some rusty players after the Christmas break, the 1st XI took on Haberdasher in round 1 of the Middlesex Cup. Focusing on their press and new playing formations as a new team, the game began well. Seven minutes in, Harrow secured a short corner, at first, we were worried that we would not utilise it, as the ball went beyond the boy stopping at the top of the D, however, James Basslian, *Rendalls*, made a swift recovery, taking the ball into the top of the D and making a clean strike and clean connection to goal. Harrow were up 1-0. Just 10 minutes later, Haberdashers scored off a short corner also, levelling the match into half time.

Harrow entered the second half, determined, playing well together, and focused. A textbook goal was created, passes from the back of the pitch to the midfield, crossing to the forwards and across the goal where Marcos Kantaris, *Lyon's*, swept it in, for a 2-1 lead, 17 minutes into the second half. Both teams' fitness was flagging towards the end, the clock was running down, and the ball continuously changing ends, Harrow managed to cling on to the lead, winning their first cup game of the season. The entire game was well contested, with lots of opportunities created by both oppositions. Oliver Jones, *West Acre*, was most valued player, providing excellent defence on the left. A great first performance for the 1st XI.

1st away v St Albans School, Lost 0-5

Starting the game after a brief downpour, added to the chill of the afternoon, and our first Saturday away game for 2023. A challenging second game of the season for the 1st XI with only one training session this week, against a tough competition. Impressive saves from Charlie Arnison, *Moretons*, who had to work particularly hard, supported by good defensive work from Sam Phillips, *Moreton's*, and James Basslian, *Rendalls*.

2nd away v St Albans School, Lost 0-3

This was the first time this team had played together, and it showed. They struggled to hold their shape and build any kind of attack. Much of the game was spent in their defensive 25, The defence did an excellent job to counter wave after wave of attack but then struggled to link with the midfield and supply the attack. The situation improved once Henry Proctor, *Newlands*, moved to centre midfield but by then it was too late. Despite setbacks, including the first goal given against them that everybody thought had been struck outside of the circle and so was left to dribble into the goal, the team kept their heads up and battled to the end.

Junior Colts A v St Albans School, Lost 1-2

Yearlings A v St Albans School, Lost 2-5

RACKETS

The school v Tonbridge, 14 January

1st Away v Tonbridge School, Lost

Harrow came out on the wrong side of a 1-3 score line. Both Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, fought hard but were unable on this occasion to cope with the relentless ferocity and pace of the Tonbridge pair.

2nd away v Tonbridge School, Lost

After a fast start Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Stephan Baranov, *Moretons*, were unable to sustain momentum and lost 1-3 against an extraordinarily strong pair.

3rd away v Tonbridge School, Lost

An overly exciting match where Gus Stanhope (SMS/Moreton's) and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, were just unable to level at 2-2 in a tight 4th game and lost 1-3. Both boys played some strong, attacking rackets.

Colts A away v Tonbridge School, Lost

A very spirited effort from Henry Porter, Moreton's, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, despite a 2-3 loss. Henry and Tom have made considerable progress in the last few months.

Junior Colts A away v Tonbridge School, Won

A high-level performance from Ben Hufford-Hall (SMS/Moretons) and Jack Nelson, Bradby's, who won 3-0 against a talented pair. There was plenty of potential shown by both boys in this match.

Junior Colts A away v Tonbridge School, Won

A high-level performance from Ben Hufford-Hall (SMS/Moretons) and Jack Nelson, Bradby's, who won 3-0 against a talented pair. There was plenty of potential shown by both boys in this match.

Junior Colts B away v Tonbridge School, Lost

Some fine rackets despite a 0-3 loss from both Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, and Filip Wiszniewski, *Druries*.

FOOTBALL

*The school 1st XI v Epsom College,
Won 4-0, 14 January*

To kick off the season, the XI travelled down to a miserable Reddings 3 for a fierce encounter against Epsom. There was a bitter taste in the mouth of the squad following a devastating loss in the ISFA cup second round, which provided the necessary fuel to come out of the blocks with real intensity.

The match began in feisty fashion with challenges flying in from both sides. After the pre-game nerves had worn off, Harrow stepped up the pressure and began to really threaten the Epsom back line. Within the opening five minutes, Elliot Taylor, *West Acre*, was already troubling the opposition goalkeeper, who had an incredibly busy game in store. Chances came and went for Harrow in the opening 15 minutes, and it was not until a rocket of a strike from the edge of the area by Walid Nsouli, *The Knoll*, broke the deadlock. Harrow spirits were high while Epsom seemed lackadaisical, having overindulged in the Christmas period! The relentless pressure and passion continued from Harrow, culminating in a lovely goal from the Newlands link-up of Kitan Akindel and Charlie Young, both *Newlands*, on the half-hour mark. Young showed great composure to round the Epsom goalkeeper and slot home. Given the two-goal lead, it would have been easy to step off the accelerator, but this was not the case. Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, and Chinedu Orji, *The Park*, are still sifting the Epsom 9 and 10 out of their back pockets, having dropped a full-back masterclass Roberto Carlos would be proud of. Harrow were able to see out the first half free of trouble, testament to the brick-wall partnership of Eli Dewotor, and Henry Woodcock, both *The Head Master's*, and we headed into the break with a satisfactory 2-0 lead.

Having made a few tactical changes, Kit Keey, *Druries*, entered the field of play to deny Epsom a sniff of a way back into the game. As the pitch slowly descended into Hemstall 1, Harrow's flowing football did not suffer. The midfield trio of Nsouli, Taylor and Luke Walton, *West Acre*, were not fazed by the mud bath and continued to pull the strings and dominate the

centre of the park. Once more, Harrow piled on the pressure and reaped the reward through a wonderfully composed finish by Filip Edstrom, *Newlands*, who opened his 1st XI account. Following this, Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, who had made a fantastic run along the right, forced a crucial save from the Epsom keeper to maintain their chances of getting back into the game. However, their hopes of a comeback were soon extinguished when Edstrom was played a sublime through ball that he slotted home to put the game to bed. It took until the dying minutes for Harrow's goalkeeper Tom Haworth, *The Knoll*, to be troubled, which was evidence of Harrow's defensive dominance and flowing football.

The game ended 4-0 accompanied by an emphatic Harrow performance. The dedication shone through, and the score could easily have been 5-0 or 6-0. This was one of the greatest 1st team performances I have been a part of in my time at Harrow and hopefully this rich form will continue for the rest of the season.

2nd XI v Epsom College, Won 3-2

After falling 1-0 down, Max Baygual Nespatti, *Elmfield*, was able to draw level with an excellent finish from the edge of the box. Kurran Calvert-Davies, *Druries*, then secured the win with a brace of goals, with some tight defending holding off a physical Epsom side.

3rd XI v Epsom College, Won 1-0

Solid defending and some neat movement of the ball helped the 3rd XI win a close game against Epsom, and the team can be pleased with early promising signs and a clean sheet to start the season.

4th XI v Epsom College, Won 5-2

Colts A away v Epsom College Drew 1-1

Colts A football team faced off against Epsom in a hard-fought match that ended in a 1-1 draw. The game was physically demanding for both teams, with both sides battling for possession and territory on the field.

The Colts got off to a strong start, with Jonah Esposito, *Newlands*, scoring the first goal of the match in the tenth minute. The goal was the result of a well-executed offensive free kick by the Colts, with Esposito capitalising on a pass from Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, to beat the Epsom goalkeeper.

Epsom, however, refused to back down and continued to press forward. Their efforts paid off in the 30th minute when they were able to level the score with a goal of their own. The remainder of the match saw both teams fighting for the win, but neither was able to break the deadlock.

The match was also notable for some poor sportsmanship displayed by a few of the Epsom team and one of their overly vocal coaches. Some of the Harrow boys could also learn to not rise to the bait. Despite this, the Colts remained focused on the game and managed to earn a hard-fought point.

Overall, it was a tough match for the Colts A team, but they were able to hold their own against a strong and determined Epsom side. With Esposito scoring, the team will look to build on this result in their next game.

Colts B away v Epsom College, Won 1-0

In a keenly contested match, Colts B emerged victorious over Epsom in a hard-fought match. The first half ended in a scoreless draw as both teams struggled to gain the upper hand.

However, in the second half, Colts B came out with renewed energy and determination. They were finally able to break the deadlock when Julian Gudgeon, *Druries*, scored an incredible goal with a thunderous left-foot strike. Despite Epsom's physical play, which resulted in several rogue tackles and a yellow card, Colts B continued to play good football and held on for the 1-0 victory. This was a talented team effort by Colts B, the goal by Gudgeon was a worthy match-winner, George Maia, *Druries*,

the goalkeeper, played a key role in this win with his excellent saves keeping a clean sheet, and Louis Deshpande, *Moretons*, was relentless throughout the game; his tireless work ethic resulted in him being named man of the match.

Colts C away v Epsom College, Lost 1-2

After a week of the most bare-bones training, equally less than an hour per boy on the Elmfield Astro pitch, the Colts C team were plunged into their first competitive venture. The Epsom opposition were physically impressive and looked more at home on a rugby pitch than the muddy football field. Harrow started well, dominating possession in the first half, and making several incisions along the left wing. However, the Epsom midfield held a very conservative line that prevented attacks in the box, and a tentative approach from Harrow meant little was attempted from further out. Despite this, it felt like Epsom were on the back foot. Half-time arrived with the game still 0-0. On resumption of play, Epsom began to leverage their size and mass advantage, forcing the Harrow boys from the ball and denying possession in the midfield. Despite many valiant defences from centre backs Koyin Majekodunmi, *West Acre*, and Seun Doherty, *The Head Master's*, and some desperate saves by Josh Mather, *The Knoll*, Epsom were sadly able to put two in the net in quick succession. They seemed set to dominate the last quarter of the game, until an impromptu change in formation allowed an inspired strike by Harry Beresford-Peirse, *Elmfield*, from well outside the box, to sail over the Epsom keeper and sweetly into the net. Harrow were revitalised in an instant. Smelling blood, the Colts C began a series of rapid attacks and counterattacks into the Epsom half, spooking even their biggest players and causing them to try and park the bus. Harrow did not relent and pressured their foes until the last seconds of the game, though were sadly unable to make the equaliser happen. Though not the dream comeback everyone wanted, it was still a valiant performance by all boys and a real demonstration of the flexibility, teamwork, and resilience of Harrow boys. Overall, a thrilling start to the season.

Junior Colts A v Epsom College, Won 6-0

The JCAs put in a dominant performance. Simon Michael, *The Grove*, scored the pick of the goals after a fine team move and there were further strikes from Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, (x2), Teddy Tarbotton, *West Acre*, Rocco Addati, *The Knoll*, and Jesse Eledan, *Newlands*.

Junior Colts B v Epsom College Drew 3-3

Harrow dominated much of possession in the first half, despite running uphill against a gusty wind, and yet came off 2-0 down. A swift brace from Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, quickly brought Harrow level but a dominant second half unfortunately ended in a draw.

Junior Colts C v Epsom College, Won 7-3

A spirited first match, overflowing with attacking flair and making light work of defensive duties.

The annual opening fixture of the season against Epsom always provides a focal point to trials, with the first opportunity to put team formations to the test. Four substitutes proved this group to be flexible, adapting admirably to the frequent changes in personnel and positions, which bodes very well for the weeks ahead.

Rain having limited play to five-a-side Astros for the whole week of the new term, the stormy, muddy conditions of sodden Ducker 4 provided a vastly unique experience! However, they appeared to switch admirably to long-range passes, crosses, and clearances after some initial rustiness. The early goals bred confidence – vital in the face of the squally wind and rain – but sadly ushered in a little complacency, which Epsom pounced on to score three against us despite playing up the significant slope.

A commendable attacking flair (particularly in such conditions) was particularly enjoyable to watch, for the neutral as well as the Harrow supporter. Well-crafted team goals that carved through the defence were impressive, with very pleasing assists presenting tap-ins for the scorers, who took their chances well with good positioning and pace. We look forward to better weather and hope for an injury-free season ...and that the pitches will hold-out for the term...

Yearlings A away v Epsom College, Lost 0-1

Harrow lost 1-0 against Epsom in a close game from which we can draw lots of positives for the season. MOTM was Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, who made a string of fine saves to keep us in the game.

Yearlings B away v Epsom College, Lost 1-3

Despite a dominant performance away from home the Yearlings B contrived to lose 3-1 through a combination of defensive naïveté and wastefulness in front of goal. Skipper Nic De Leo, *The Park*, scored Harrow's goal, a superb curler from outside the box in the opposite bottom corner of the goal.

Yearlings C away v Epsom College, Won 5-1

The Yearlings C opened the season with a magnificent victory away at Epsom. Clinical finishing in the first half ensured that Harrow led 2-0 at half-time. In the second half, the team really started to gel, with Rupert Macdonald, *The Park*, helping himself to a superbly taken brace. Elendu Ukeje, *Newlands*, had an outstanding game at centre back, saving his team via one-on-one last-ditch defending on a regular basis throughout the encounter.

Yearlings D away v Epsom College Drew 3-3

The Yearlings D had an end-to-end battled against a well-coached Epsom team.

Yearlings D away v Epsom College Drew 3-3

Yearlings E away v Epsom College, Lost 2-3

taking 36th place with a time of 38:27. When all the points were added up, Harrow came fourth and were awarded the MacGregor Trophy for the best school outside Kent. After this success there is great hope for next year as the junior runners on the team develop and have more experience.

CROSS-COUNTRY

14 January

On 14 January the cross-country squad made the trip down to Sevenoaks in Kent for the infamous (mud-ridden and extremely hilly) Knole Run. The course, boasting 9.3km of soaked terrain, was the cross-country team's first race of the term. All year groups ran together, with a total of 117 students from all the schools that attended. Harrow had a very strong performance with the following five having stand-out performances: in fifth place was Tom Emery, *Moretons*, with a time of 33:10; in ninth place was Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, with a time of 34:56, fin 13th place was Henry Barker, *The Park*, with a time of 36:03. Next in, were two Shells who had truly outstanding performances for their age with Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, taking 29th with a time of 38:07 and Zach Elliot, *West Acre*,

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CELEBRATING OUR PAST
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