

THE HARROVIAN

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SPEECH DAY

The Head Master's Address, Chapel Terrace, 27 May

Welcome to Speech Day 2023 in this unique and spectacular setting. It is a joy to be able to celebrate the success of the current generation of Harrovians and by dint the hard-work and professional inspiration of their beaks on a glorious summer's morning. While we have so much obvious endeavour and achievement on display in today's programme and have seen it in the boys crossing the stage just now, it seems almost a travesty to quote the anthem to deliberate anti-work that is the summer-time Harrow Song – *Ducker*, with its line 'Oh the joy of being idle and heroically slack'. But I delight that only at Harrow School could you take slack up a notch of greatness to heroic.



It is to the beaks who have done so much to promote, encourage and guide our Harrovians, none more so than at this time of year, to whom I should turn my attention and specifically those who are departing.

Dr Philippa Davies joined Harrow School into the Mathematics department in 1993, the first female beak, and became Head of Subject in 1998. Her impact in Maths education alone has been incredible. When added in to this her work in leading tennis, biathlon, Long Ducker, archery and steadfast support of boys in her Tutor group over these 30 years then that impact is still greater. However, for me, it is Dr Davies' development of a role that started as Master-in-Charge of Scholarships and became Awards Registrar that I hope she holds with warmth and positivity close to her heart. She is simply brilliant in this role, discerning, encouraging and building talented boys and their families who otherwise would never have been at Harrow and finding the bursary funds to match their promise to secure their place – this is a genuine legacy of great significance.

Nick Shryane has been our Bursar since 1997, his background as a cavalry officer, first degree from Oxford and second from Cambridge, serve to underscore that we have been blessed in our Bursar with a man of integrity, resolve, intelligence and the highest standards of gentility and courtesy. Nick is the last word in both facilitating and innovative horizon-scanning. In his tenure, the strategic vision of five Head Masters and the Governors alongside them has been thoughtfully nudged, refined and then implemented. He has enabled the built environment of the School to flourish, he has seen to the growth of bursaries

and ensured all the while that the regulatory and financial underpinnings of everything Harrow School does stand up in good times and under duress. And, for me, these last four years have been perhaps your best, a sprint finish to close a classy marathon: a planning appeal, two bonds, three buildings; four boarding-House refurbishments – and those are just the headlines. I am personally grateful and we are all institutionally collectively thankful.

Nick Page has done nearly all the jobs at Harrow School, since joining in 2000, and I am one of dozens of beaks and hundreds of boys who have been simply privileged to be here on the Hill whilst he has been beak, Head of Modern Languages, rugby coach, polo, expedition leader, Senior Head of Subject, Academic and Universities Director, Commander of the Harrow Rifle Corps and Deputy Head Master. Wise, kind, principled, resilient, cheerful, loyal and indefatigable, we have been warmed by his professional grace and, whilst it's a bit annoying that I don't seem able to hold onto a deputy for more than two years, I couldn't be happier that, as he and Tim move across the Atlantic, he will take post as Founding Principal of Harrow International School New York.

Dr Nick Kemp joined as a History beak in 2002 with three degrees and a doctorate, and shared his consummate academia with proficiency and charisma, as cricket and soccer coach, AHM in Moretons and for a period House Master of The Park before returning to the form room full time. We wish him happiness in retirement.



Lucy Ashe leaves us and will also be going to the USA and, following the success of her debut novel, we wish her well in her writing career. She has been Head of English, Senior Head of Subject and dauntingly fleet of Foot in cross-country. Dr Spencer Bentley is leaving teaching and returning to the Dales with his young family. Rachel Maerz, Physics beak, returns to academia and research; Dr Rupert Allison becomes Head of Physics at Giggleswick School; Lukas Vanhaesebroeck is moving to work in industry in Belgium; Ryan Callahan is carrying on his career in teaching in the US; Susi Pinkus, former Head of Learning Skills and SENDCo, is leaving Harrow to focus on her own practice; Nick Burns returns to teach in the West Country; Elle Lycett takes a post at Tonbridge; and Verity Ali is leaving teaching to pursue a career in law. With Nick Page taking it States-side, it has been a pleasure to appoint

Dr Stephen Harrison as Deputy Head Master to succeed him. Eugene Higgins and Simon Taylor come out of Newlands and Rendalls respectively, following years of remarkable devotion to the progress and the happiness of their boys. It takes, sense, intelligence, unassuming steadfastness and steely consistency alongside inexhaustible reserves of flair and imagination, to sustain their highly distinguished tenures in their Houses. There will be more lavish valedictories elsewhere I am sure but I commend them here for their work and look forward to welcoming them onto the Management Team, Eugene Higgins as Director of Co-Curriculum and Simon Taylor as Director of Pastoral Care.



A near-numinous level of attainment is on show today and I am bound to observe that, with each passing year of the decade that I have known The Hill, the qualities of mind and of character that the boys need to show to gain these Prizes and, beyond them appointments and positions of responsibility that they rightly take so seriously; get higher, more stringent and more demanding. The boys do, in fact, as it says in the last chorus: ‘Come up to the Giants of Old you see’. And further in amongst the prizes that you might anticipate, isn’t it good to be part of a school where you can revel in the existence of the Ralph Moore Junior Prize for Handwriting, the Sir Winston Churchill English Composition, the Lord Claud Hamilton Prize for Outstanding Graphics, and the Society of American Military Engineers Prize?

We have awarded, for the first time this year, the Harrow Diploma, a significant and important statement that recognises that so much of the excellence in the boys’ work happens outside the form room in: Electives, giving talks and external academic competitions, and further that these voluntary aspects of academic work are crucial in clearing the hurdles to higher university and post-school aspirations. I congratulate the pioneer recipients of the Harrow Diploma and I salute the consistent application of intelligence that lies behind the accreted achievements.

In contrast to the resilient, thoughtful and imaginative engagement with the Super-curriculum are the various outpourings on every platform and through every medium suggesting the end of pretty much everything as we know it as ChatGPT and other AIs begin to make mainstream impact. I was especially struck by this LinkedIn job advertisement:

Reference: OpenAI/ Jobs. Job Title: Killswitch Engineer. Location: San Francisco, California, USA. Salary Range: depending on experience and aptitude \$300-500,000. Role Descriptor: Listen, we need someone to stand by the server



stack all day and be prepared to unplug them if this thing turns on us. You’ll receive extensive training on “The Code Word” if GPT goes off the deep end and starts overthrowing governments Personal Specification: Be Patient and know how to unplug things in a hurry. Also heavy lifting to throw buckets of salt water over the servers— just in case.

In 2023, we seem to be at once intoxicated by the power of the technology and all that it seems able to do and in the same moment terrified about the end of our species and its purpose. We have forgotten, perhaps, that we no longer spin, weave and make cars; but we used to. We have forgotten that books were once copied by hand, then they were printed and then they were downloaded. We have had technological revolutions in the past and we have adapted. AI is certainly not the end of human knowledge, understanding, learning, enquiry and the power of education. If in the near future an AI doctor is going to treat me on the basis of diagnostics compared with big data, isn’t it even more important that I understand about my physiology and genetics, how to be healthy, what diseases might be and how coding and algorithms are built. The more that is done for me the more I have to know about what is being done. Empowering the human through education becomes more significant not less as AI becomes more autonomous and *deus ex machina* becomes a daily norm.



I agree it is challenging today to know what we might be doing in the years to come. If, as has happened with every revolution, agricultural, industrial and informational, human activity has changed, our apprehension reflects a profound lack of understanding not about new tech, but about ourselves. We have too long defined ourselves by our occupation. Our introductions and social transactions rally around our work. But this is wrong, we are human beings not human doings; and the AI age causes us to come closer to our humanity and move further from our industry.

We have the chance for Be to triumph over Do. And in this assertion, which is a recurrence to the first principles and values we find in all the world faiths, Harrow School, our beloved Hill, has a central role to play. We have long held that the education here is about becoming, day by week by term, the better version of the self and knowing that journey was begun before being a Shell and will likewise carry on after Leavers. The particular *all-boys full-boarding* that we continue offer with both courage to be not mainstream and humility to be open to change, allows that fledging of personhood: who am I? with whom am I in fellowship? how may I honour my heritage and my school as I take up leadership in an undefined future? In our 451 years this has been our institutional vocation and we cleave to it afresh with each and every societal challenge. The Values Medals that we have awarded today are a signifier of this: they valorise every instance of being a good person because it was right in the moment, and promote the culture of the community as a whole. I carry a spare Values Medal in my pocket; it isn’t engraved, but it is there as a reminder every moment that all of us collectively uphold this calling and it acts a constant touchstone – how are the Values upheld in this moment?



The reflections on the year just gone for Harrow School since we were last gathered for Speech Day are a delight. We concluded our 450 celebrations with Leadership and Service Day seeing the whole Corps march down the High Street; unforgettable Churchill Songs in the Royal Albert Hall and Carols in Westminster Cathedral. We have welcomed David Eyton as our new Chairman of Governors and we look forward to ever closer working between John Lyon's Charity, the International Schools, John Lyon School and us, as John Lyon Foundation takes shape and becomes a global force in championing young people and education.



It would be remiss though, in this summative forum, primarily though it may be academic, to omit sport this year. In our best-ever year for admissions into the global top 10 universities we are also at the same time National Champions in rugby, swimming and rackets, have retained the Guy Butler Shield in athletics and won at Lord's, and that is a selective list; good times. I spoke to each of the Masters-in-Charge of sports about winning at the national level: leaving aside their total dedication and unswerving humility, the core essence they all cited, unsolicited and unbeknownst to each other, was that strength, power, skill, prowess, gamesmanship were all well and good, perhaps a base that is taken for granted, but that it was character, values, qualities of being human, that transferred a team from merely outstanding to champions. In the modern era, the highest-level athletes revert to sponsorship deals and winnings as their outcomes of success. The Olympians of Classical times commissioned odes, the finest being by Pindar, to encapsulate in words and a mindscape what had been feats of the body: a succinct crystallisation of an holistic life – *making the doing into being*. So in concluding and wishing you a wonderful Speech Day and I give you Pindar's Olympian 9

πολλοὶ δὲ διδασκὰς
ἀνθρώπων ἀρεταῖς κλέος
ᾧρουσαν ἀρέσθαι.
τοῦτο δὲ προσφέρων ἄθλον,
ὄρθιον ὠρυσαὶ θαρσέων,
τόνδ' ἀνέρα δαιμονία γεγάμεν
εὐχειρα, δεξιόγυιον, ὀρώντ' ἁλκάν

Many young men strive to win glory with excellence that comes from training. In presenting these prizes, I boldly proclaim that these young men by god's will were born with deftness of hand, lighthness of limb, and valour in their eyes.



SPEECH DAY CRICKET

The XI v Harrow Wanderers, Won by 97 runs

The XI put in another superb performance against the Harrow Wanderers on a sunny Speech Day. The XI batted first and posted a commanding 318/4 from their 45 overs, with Jay Madan's, *The Park*, 108 the highlight of a brilliant first innings from Harrow. The XI backed up their batting performance with the ball on another flat VI Form track and Kalan Niyarepol's, *The Head Master's*, 5-56 saw the end of the Harrow Wanderers' hopes, eventually being bowled out for 221 in the 35th over. It was a superb day of cricket in perfect conditions and a splendid way to finish another brilliant half-term of cricket for the School.

Madan, 109, Nelson, 67, Sheopuri, 61, Kit Keey, *Druries*, 47, Kalan Niyarepol's, *The Head Master's*, 5-56.

LONG DUCKER

Supporting the FirmFoundation in 2023

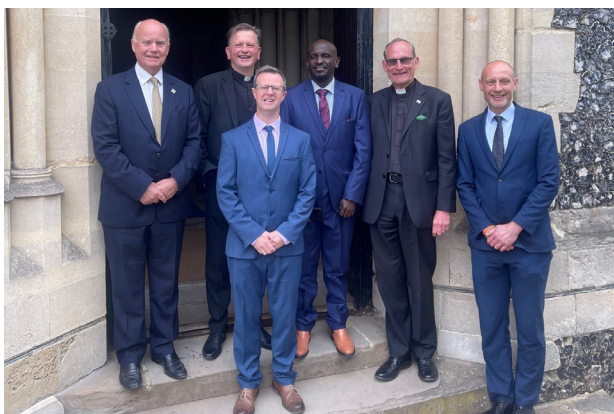
For Long Ducker 2023, the Charity Committee have elected to support FirmFoundation, to whom half of the money raised will be given. Many within the School will know that FirmFoundation are the main homeless charity based in Harrow. They work tirelessly to support Harrow's homeless, including people living rough, by finding secure accommodation, while enabling their service users to find long-term housing and work. FirmFoundation undertakes transformational work, and our support will allow them to significantly increase their operations in the borough, as it did seven years ago when they were last our main Long Ducker charity in 2016.

It is hoped that our Long Ducker fundraising will be the driving force behind the making the charity's Day Centre a permanent feature. So Long Ducker this year is a significant opportunity for Harrow School to make a deep and long-lasting impact on our borough.

The aim of FirmFoundation is to end homelessness in Harrow. To this end they focus on those for whom there is currently no other provision in the borough – single homeless people aged 18 and over.

FirmFoundation runs many programmes to support Harrow's homeless. The first contact points are Drop-Ins, which run three times a week, where people are offered advice and support, alongside hot food, showers, practical help and friendship. Thanks to a mix of expert staff and supportive volunteers, these sessions are open to anyone experiencing or at risk of homelessness; during 2022 more than 200 individuals came through their door to take the first steps towards a resolution of their situation. Harrovians have volunteered at these sessions for a number of years.

During the winter months, FirmFoundation runs a Night Shelter where rough sleepers get somewhere safe to stay, hot



food, showers, clean clothes and companionship. This also gives them the opportunity to build greater trust with guests so that their experienced staff can start the more detailed casework that can move a person from the streets into sustainable accommodation. Again, many Harrovians have volunteered at these sessions over the years.

For those needing more active intervention to keep them on track, FirmFoundation has six units of supported accommodation where guests can stay for a maximum of two years. Their tenancy is dependent on them engaging with the support they need to live independently, which comes not just from staff but also specialist services such as the Community Mental Health team, local addiction services or education and training.

While they were founded by local churches and their primary ethos and motivation is the Christian faith, their services are open to everyone who needs them regardless of colour, creed, nationality, gender or ability. None of this would be possible without the active support of the local community, especially the churches, schools and businesses who provide volunteers as well as food, clothes, wash kits, housing starter packs and financial donations. They also work closely with local providers of health and mental health services, the Borough of Harrow and non-statutory groups such as Street Pastors, Street Link and Housing Justice.

Their goals for the next five years include:

- Expanding the Drop-Ins to five days per week.
- Creating a Day Centre, offering constructive activities

for guests as well as easy access to health care, training and life skills

The previous fundraising from Long Ducker for FirmFoundation in 2016 allowed them to take on two permanent members of staff and increase their operations significantly. This funding completely changed the scale of their provision in Harrow: it was a vital turning point in their development. FirmFoundation are now looking to make another significant increase in their operations in the borough and it is hoped that fundraising from Long Ducker in 2023 will enable them to do so.

STUDY TRIP TO SALAMANCA

29 March – 6 April

At the beginning of the Easter break, a group of Fifth and Sixth Form Hispanists travelled to Salamanca, the beautiful and historic university city in northwest Spain, to take part in a study trip. Accompanied by NP and LAM, students were immersed fully in all aspects of Spanish life, not least as we were staying with families who spoke little or no English. We were there for the beginning of Semana Santa (Holy Week), the most important festival in the calendar of the Roman Catholic church, and each day there were spectacular processions from churches around the city with parishioners, dressed in characteristic medieval robes, parading through the

streets carrying religious statues to the sound of drums and music – an experience never to be forgotten.

Each weekday morning there were lessons at Salminter, a language school with which Harrow has had an association for more than 20 years, and which is located a mere 30-second walk from the majestic Plaza Mayor, arguably the most beautiful square in Spain. Lessons were taught entirely in Spanish, forcing us to formulate our own thoughts in the language, as opposed to searching for translations into English. This skill proved vital during the trip, as for every interaction and exchange, from ordering breakfast and ice-creams to asking strangers for directions, we spoke solely in Spanish. In addition, listening to native speakers attuned our ears to absorb the language, picking up words and phrases as infants do.

On the first day, we had a walking tour of Salamanca, its 13th-century university and two cathedrals, climbing up the bell tower to the roofs of the old cathedral, which afforded some spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. During the week we also visited a restaurant to eat a paella that we had watched being prepared, had an al fresco dinner in the elegant park of a former monastery, and went on a tapas crawl, visiting several different locations in one evening, sampling a wide variety of dishes as we went along. For some, the highlight of the trip was when we took a salsa class, during which we were put through our paces to learn the emotive Latino dance craze, picking up some impressive new moves.

The trip also included several excursions and activities outside the city. We visited La Peña de Francia, a religious shrine at the top of a mountain with breathtaking scenery, La Alberca, a medieval village and a national heritage site, where we learnt about the history of the area, and even got to visit a traditional Spanish house, understanding how rural Spaniards lived until relatively recently. Perhaps the most exciting excursion was to Segovia on Palm Sunday. In the heart of the city are the iconic Roman aqueduct, a Gothic cathedral and the magnificent 12-century Alcázar (castle) which was apparently the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella castle. We had lunch at El Duque, a world-renowned restaurant where we ate 'cochinillo', suckling pig with meat so tender that it is sliced using the side of a plate! It was truly delicious. We also visited Zamora, a fine city on the banks of the River Duero. On the motorway to Zamora there was great excitement and some trepidation as all vehicles were being stopped at a Guardia Civil roadblock. Two guards appeared at the door of our minibus and asked who we were and where we were going. Fortunately, they did not feel it necessary to board the bus with their sniffer dogs!

The trip was enjoyed by all and was incredibly useful for those with upcoming public exams. With many thanks to NP and LAM for giving up the beginning of their holiday to supervise us.



CONCERTO EVENING

Ryan Theatre, 13 May

On Saturday evening, the annual Concerto Evening concert took place in the slightly different venue of the Ryan Theatre. Eleven boys displayed their impressive musical talent, performing movements from eight concertos. The Ryan Theatre had limited space for the performers on stage and somewhat different acoustics to Speech Room, making this year's Concerto Evening particularly challenging.

The first performer was John Kwong, *Lyon's*, who performed the first movement, *Allegro molto appassionato* from Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor*. He displayed the work of the talented young composer from the stormy early Romantic era with expression and technical mastery. Kwong played the many highly technical and virtuosic passages in the movement with poise and managed piece overall with plenty of expression and musical coherence.

Then Yuk-Chiu Lai, *Newlands*, brought us back to the elegant Classical era with his performance of the first movement from Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 19*. This performance was well managed and showcased the sense of balance and elegance. Lai worked closely with the orchestra to form a well-woven and overall balanced texture and displayed excellent virtuosity in the cadenza section towards the end of the movement.

The third performer of the night was Gabriel Chen, *The Head Master's*, who played the first movement from *Violin Concerto No 3*, also by Mozart. He managed the shape and flow of the music with expression and grace, whilst also displaying his own virtuosity in this technically demanding piece.

Then, three flautists, Andre Ma, *Moretons*, Ray Moon, *West Acre*, and Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, treated us to an entire flute concerto by Ibert, much like their performance of the Reinecke *Flute Concerto* last year. Ma played the first movement virtuosically and musically. He showed expression and purpose in the many technically difficult sections of this famously difficult piece while maintaining overall control and coherence.

Moon then played *Andante*, the second movement, which though appears to be slower, requires equal attention to detail and perhaps more to the quality of the sounds and expression. Moon played this movement beautifully and showed understanding to many of passages, and performed them with coherence and musicality accordingly.

Lastly, Wickham brought to us the rapid finale, *Allegro scherzando*. This movement is very technically challenging, being very fast and having many awkward passages. However, Wickham undertook the technical challenges confidently and successfully, and delivered an excellent performance of this very lively end to Ibert's *Flute Concerto*.

To finish off the first half of the concert, Julian Chan, *The Head Master's*, performed the first movement of the *Violin Concerto No 1* by the great virtuoso himself, Paganini. The entire movement is highly virtuosic and demands a great variety of techniques from the violinist. Chan delivered a highly successful performance and stunned us with the level of virtuosity he displayed.

The second half of the concert opened with Hadrian Ho, *The Head Master's*, who performed the first movement, *Andante sostenuto*, from the *Piano Concerto No 2* by Saint-Saëns. Ho captured the turbulent music of the great Romantic composer with his own emotional and expressive playing. Ho demonstrated excellent variety of skills and worked well with the orchestra throughout his impressive performance.

Then, Dante Doros, *Elmfield*, extended the evening's repertoire with the somewhat exotic *Pequeña Czarda for Alto Saxophone* by the Spanish saxophonist and composer Iturralde. Doros' excellent command of colour and tone painted a vivid and lively image through the whole through the piece, using a great variety of different techniques to vary the character of the music dramatically. He maintained a cohesive understanding of the

music without being distracted by the fast-changing tone and character throughout his performance.

For the penultimate performance of the evening, Kieran Leung, *The Park*, played *Allegretto* from the Shostakovich's famously (or, rather, infamously) difficult *Cello Concerto No 1*. He presented the haunting motifs and distorted images of this movement with great control from the very first note despite the technical challenges. The sense of despair and madness was well managed to reach a climax at the end of the movement, with good control of atmosphere in the middle.

The final performance of the evening, Mark Liu, *Druries*, performed the first movement, *Moderato*, of Rachmaninov's famous *Piano Concerto No 2*. This was overall a highly commendable performance with Liu demonstrating excellent command of skill and control over the music throughout, working closely with the orchestra and creating a variety of tones. This performance was very impressive due to the technical difficulty which Liu mastered beautifully. Liu brought a fantastic finale to finish this year's concerto evening, and we hope to see many Harrovians continue to perform with equal standard in the following years.

Overall this was a very enjoyable concert that displayed the very impressive plethora of skills mastered by Harrovians, demonstrating musicality and virtuosity with continuous high standards. Many thanks should be given to the boys who performed so beautifully, to members of the orchestra and to DNW and SM for conducting, and also to all those that helped to organise the concert in the Ryan Theatre.

GORE SOCIETY AND CLASSICAL SOCIETY

'The New Testament from a Roman perspective',

Mr John Davie, 9 May

On Tuesday 9 May, Mr John Davie from Trinity College, Oxford, delivered a thrilling talk rooting the New Testament in its social and political context and showing how a historical approach can help us understand the problems faced by Jewish subjects and Roman authorities alike in Roman Palestine during the time of Jesus' birth, or even slightly earlier, when the Roman empire was governed by the emperor Augustus (27 BC – AD 14). The province of Judaea came under direct Roman rule in AD 6, and increasingly strained relations between the Romans and Jewish population had an inevitable influence on the portrayal of events in the Gospels.

He initiated the talk by stating that the Gospels, referring to those of Matthew, Mark, John and Luke, may not be as reliable as we might think. There is no doubt that these men existed, but for them to have written the Gospels is an argument to be contested, according to the newest thinking by modern-day scholars. He then took us into the province of Judea in the first century AD. Jesus was born at a time when Rome was supreme in the Eastern Mediterranean, thanks to efforts of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Galilee, the land most associated with Jesus, was surrounded with by multiple Hellenistic city republics, and thus acted as a Roman enclave. Greek culture pervaded Galilee with the help and encouragement of one man: Herod Antipas, the Herod of the gospels, one of the sons of Herod the Great. So highly was Herod rated, that Augustus allowed him to expand territory, including large areas of modern-day Israel, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. After Herod died, his son, Herod Antipas, tried desperately to claim his father's kingdom by trying to win favour from the new emperor Tiberius. There was a threefold of power in the late 20s and 30s AD, at the time of Jesus's teachings. Antipas was the tetrarch of pariah and Galilee, Joseph Caiaphas was the high priest in Jerusalem,



and the third in this triumvirate was the prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate.

Contrary to popular belief, most affected by the film industry, Rome did not have soldiers on every Palestinian street corner. Rome generally governed this area remotely, with its main priorities being collecting tributes and maintaining stable borders. They left authority largely to loyal local leaders. After Herod died, his three sons took over the respective kingdoms, but one, Archelaus, failed to keep public control, and was therefore disposed of by Augustus in AD 6. In his place, Pontius Pilate took control. According to the Roman historian Tiberius, the Roman empire under Tiberius was peaceful, but there was not necessarily content among the local population. The Romans and Jews had culturally opposite opinions, both thinking that their race, god (and gods) were superior to the other. Therefore, it was insulting for a Roman to be associated with Jews, as Pontius Pilate famously said, “Am I a Jew?”, and this made Jewish subjects rather difficult to control. Descended from a military background, Pontius Pilate enjoyed a distinguished battlefield career. Judea was considered a second-rate posting, and Pilate would not have had many staff, with Roman officers, but probably foreign mercenaries as soldiers, who would not hold back their grudge against the Jews. He allowed local culture to exist like all other Roman governors. Around this time, Jesus was 22, and had a decent following for his teachings. Pilate had to decide whether Judaism was dangerous. According to the testimony of a Jewish philosopher named Philo, Pilate was painted as a bad man and ruler, no different from any other corrupt Roman governors, that he was stubborn and cruel. He had a natural sense of impetuosity, a feeling of superiority over his Jewish subjects.

We think of crucifixion in horror, yet the Roman perspective may have been different. A Roman would have thought that crucifixion was a punishment for the most wicked deeds. Pilate should not have spent another thought on the execution of another troublesome Jew like Jesus, especially one defying the Romans with ideas of kingship and divine reality. According to the gospels, the murderer Barabbas was set free instead of Jesus. It is highly unlikely that Pilate would have allowed this example to be set. Any contemporary sources would have been in favour of the Romans, as any hostility would be condemned, so most sources regarding Jesus’s life were written by Christians well after his death and, if it happened, his resurrection.

Mr Davie ended with a provocative talk suggesting a parallel with Socrates, as there is a historical Socrates, and the Platonic Socrates, who described Socrates through his own eyes, rather than him as a man. Jesus, perhaps, is also portrayed more in an image in the opinions of men like John and Paul rather than who he actually was as an inspired teacher.

METROPOLITAN

TEST TUESDAYS

As the night draws near,
My heart fills with fear,
For tomorrow’s test I’m not ready,
My mind is in a state unsteady.

The words I should have learned,
Now leave my mind unconcerned,
Their meanings lost in the abyss,
My ignorance is hard to dismiss.

Oh, how I wish I had studied,
My lack of preparation now has me flustered,
As I toss and turn in my bed,
I wonder what lies ahead.

But alas, it is too late,
I can only accept my fate,
And hope that somehow, someday,
I’ll survive this Test Tuesday.

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs

Our most beloved and sacred School hosts an extensive collection of both fiction and non-fiction books. Indeed, if the book that one is searching for is not contained within the Vaughan’s walls, then one can order a book for free. I did this recently, ordering the complete, unabridged version of *The Summa Theologicae* by St Thomas Aquinas, which the library, shockingly, did not have.

So I ask these Dear Sirs, and perhaps Dear Madams as well, with the onslaught of the internet, have Harrovians lost the art of books? I rarely see boys in the library with a pile of books by their side and an ink pen in hand. Instead, they have a screen (or sometimes two!) in front of them, using the godforsaken internet, and probably the sacrilegious Wikipedia.

What on earth can be done to remedy this frightening issue, the most pressing of our time? How can we get boys to return to the basics, to the books?

Join me in the fight to keep the art of books alive. Let us show the world that there is still value in reading books and that we are not afraid to stand up to the oncoming assimilation of analysis which is the internet.

Fundamental research skills are being lost every minute we waste, and I implore all and any who read this to head to the library and pick a topic to research, so as to keep the art of learning alive (although avoid picking the Crusades, that is my topic).

Yours concernedly,
ARJUN KULAR, ELMFIELD

DEAR SIRs,

Ah, *Harrow Notes*. That fledgling little paper dove, taking her first steps from “mummabird” Sugarman-Warner. Robert “Tommy Robinson” Young and Arturo Saville-Mascioni, have published yet again I wish to offer a brief and “hard” hitting critique.

Let me start with Young's letter "Hellish Holy Men". As a prat myself, I do very much sympathise with Robert's passion. He writes like a baby thrown off a cliff, flailing and crying and whining and, just by sheer coincidence (in the 30 seconds between "woosh" and "splat") writing an article on the rockface. The Honourable PDR has already written a categoric takedown of his hedonistic Essay, but I'd like to add, on behalf of the SRA (Seaton Republican Army), a post-scriptum to the end of his brilliant Theological piece. That being: "take that, jerk".

Secondly, Saville's piece "We should cancel cancel culture."

It was a really ground-breaking piece that moved me to tears at the injustice of our time: I fear we have found the new Marat. I dare say, Viva la Révolution! I'm being allusive, of course. For, Marat was a great man who wrote incredible essays for the good of man and liberty and was, for his grace, murdered in cold blood. Whereas Saville, very unfortunately, has failed to do any of these things – so far.

The fiction was enjoyable, and I'm afraid to admit that both Ait-Ai-Caid and Saville are fine artists and illustrators. Fr Nic offered an interesting insight into his mind (where else resides, I am sure, images of bearded Mongolian steppe riders slaughtering villagers in front of pillars of fire and smoke). Happy (if a bit disturbed) to hear about your efficient drainage, Sir. Interested to know about the state of your Human Pet collection? Enjoyable reading, though, all the more.

Overall, as much as I fear for the souls of the writers of *Harrow Notes* (and, more broadly, the world into which I will bring my children), I pass on my congratulations to the team behind it, much in the same way that a child may pass on a present during "pass the parcel" after unwrapping the final layer and discovering a pipe-bomb.

Yours truly, etc.

NICK ARNISON, MORETONS

SPORT

CRICKET

*Junior Colts A v St James Senior Boys' School, 23 May
Won by 131 runs County Cup Rd 3*

The JCA took on St James in the second round of the Middlesex Cup. Harrow won the toss and elected to bat first. A fine 103 not out from Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*, and other useful contributions from William Codrington, *Rendalls*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, allowed Harrow to end 194-6 after 20 overs. Harrow restricted them to 63-9 after their 20 overs, with Ethan Harrington-Myers, *Bradlys*, and Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, picking up two wickets each.

*Junior Colts C home v St Benedict's School Junior Colts B,
Won by 32 runs*

The JCC earned a confidence-boosting win against St Benedict's Bs. After winning the toss and batting, they lost their captain to the first ball of the innings, and the rest of the top order fared little better. After 5.3 overs the score was 25/4. Ghani, *The Knoll*, came in at four rather than opening the batting, and found willing partners in Jake Turner, *Druries*, and Luke Tang, *Lyon's*. Ghani's composed 42 not out helped Harrow achieve a viable score. Nobody else reached double figures.

Harrow's fielding was very strong and the energy in the field was good. The opening bowlers rarely threatened the stumps and, although they were economical, allowed St Benedict's to reach 34/1 after eight overs and settle their side's nerves. It was the spinners who showed Harrow the way to win, with Seb Lawson, *Newlands*, impressing most of all with figures

of 2-11 from his four overs. Special mentions must also go to Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, for a hugely impressive wicket maiden that showed his considerable potential as a medium-pace bowler, Turner, for two overs that were very consistent for line and length and earned two wickets, and Tang, for brilliant fielding throughout, including effecting three run outs from fine leg.

Players of the match: Ghani for 42* and a catch, and Tang for three brilliant run outs and earlier sticking around for 25 balls, which allowed a crucial eighth wicket partnership of 29 runs.

Yearlings C home v St Benedict's School Yearlings B, Won by 4

Chasing a decent score from the first innings, Harrow settled into a good rhythm in the middle order with Jake Jung, *The Knoll*, 20 (39), Oscar Bearman, *Moretons*, 10 (11) and Arun Mattu, *The Head Master's*, 18 (37).

*The XI v Oxford University Blues, Home, Won by 7
wickets, 25 May*

Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, 109*, Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, 64, Karan Zaveri, *Elmfield*, 56*

On a flat pitch, the XI were looking to have a bat first but Oxford won the toss and unsurprisingly asked Harrow to bowl. The Oxford batsman came hard at Shrey Rawal, *Rendalls*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, and with the aid of a quick outfield got off to a good start. Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, then came on with his usual control and managed to get the big breakthrough after a few tight overs. We hoped this would open the floodgates. It didn't. Brij Sheopuri, *Lyon's*, was standout with the ball with 10 tight overs but they rebuilt superbly getting to 165-2. Hope then broke this partnership, which was followed by a flurry of wickets: one from Toby Ferneyhough, *Elmfield*, and one from Sheopuri, but good striking got them up to 266-5: a daunting total...

Some quick bowling from Oxford's openers brought them two early wickets, and 266 seemed a long way off. With mutters from the lads of "gee, that's sharp" and "thank God I'm not out there", the Iceman Patel walked out, oozing his usual confidence. Patel and Nelson continued to be aggressive despite being 5-2 and put the pressure back on the Oxford bowlers, throwing them off their lines. They rebuilt beautifully to 146-3 before Nelson on 64 got one that "did a bit" (what a great knock!). Out walked Karan Zaveri, *Elmfield*, who was coming off the back into the XI off some great form, and he made it look easy, scoring fluently and nonchalantly getting Harrow over the line at 268-3 off only 38 overs. Patel 109* off 111 and Zaveri 56* off 41 made a big total look like child's play. Overall a great win for Harrow against a good side. They will look to carry this form into Speech Day against the Harrow Wanderers and the second half of term.

*2nd XI Home v Gentlemen of England XI, Home, Won
by 6 wickets, 25 May*

When the Gentlemen of England played their first-ever match against the Gentlemen of Eton in 1751, £20,000 was said to be riding on the match, and there was cockfighting, cudgelling, smock-racing and wrestling around the boundary. It was a pity that there was no comparable entertainment on the Jackson on Thursday because these activities would have provided a better spectacle than the Gentlemen of England's abysmal batting performance.

Wandering jazzers are always something of an unknown quantity, but after a good encounter last year, beaks and boys were expectant of a decent game of cricket. The arrival of Old Harrovian Callum Berrill (*The Knoll* 2004³) who opened the batting and scored 100 not out off 104 balls in this fixture in 2022, suggested that, when the Gentlemen of England won the toss and elected to bat, Harrow would have to work hard in the field. Ben Taylor, *The Knoll*, struck in the second over of the match when Dylan Rawal, *Bradlys*, took a good catch down

the leg side, and Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, bowled Ramesh in the fifth over, which brought Berrill to the crease earlier than he might have expected. He was bowled by Taylor on the third ball of his innings and the visitors never recovered from 32-3. Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*, and St John Smith, *Newlands*, ripped through the tail end, taking 4-14 and 3-10 respectively. By lunch, the Gentlemen of England's innings was over, and they had set Harrow just 59 runs to chase. Although Harrow lost four wickets in the process, Baker and Arhan Maker, *Druries*, steered Harrow to victory within 14 overs, Baker looking comfortable on 19 not out.

A 20-over game ensued, which proved to be a closer encounter. Harrow batted first and scored 113, but the Gentlemen were bowled out for 103 in the last over. The highlight of the game for Harrow was a fantastic catch by Taylor at point to dismiss Berrill.

3rd XI Home Lords & Commons XI, Won by 141 runs

Harrow lost the toss and were asked to put a total on board and so they did, adding 245 in there respected 35 overs. Lords & Common was blown away from the start and got bowled out for 104, leaving Harrow with a well-deserved 141-run victory. Top batsman Aaron Sohal, *Moretons*, 50*; top bowler Kepueli Tuipulotu, *Druries*, 3 wickets; Man of the Match Aaron Sohal, *Moretons*.

4th XI, Home Guards XI, Won by 6 wickets

A dominant Harrow performance that limited the Guards to 106 and made light work of the case A notable performance from Casper Davis, *Elmfield*, who scored 47 with the bat.

Colts A away v Winchester College, Abandoned

Junior Colts A away v Winchester College, Won by 23 runs

Harrow won the toss and elected to bat first on a sunny and pleasant day. Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*, and William Codrington, *Rendalls*, opened the batting. Looking confident and playing some nice shots, they piled up the runs until Codrington was caught on the boundary for a well-played 23. A quick wicket fell and Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, came to the crease. He looked solid at the start, but two wickets fell quickly around him, which brought Ben Hufford Hall, *Moretons*, in. They put pressure back on Winchester and started a nice partnership. But Hufford Hall got done by a good ball and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, came in. Morgan looked strong with some flourishing boundaries but Ballingal was undone by a very good catch by the Winchester spinner. This brought Dario Holland, *The Park*, to the crease. He and Morgan built a nice partnership as they led Harrow into what was looking like a good score. Morgan played well for his 49 and Holland finished up on 30 not out with some late thriving shots from Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*.

Neharen Inpan, *Bradlys*, and Holland took the ball, looking to defend a respectable total of 185. Both took one a piece at the top and then Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*, and Ethan Harrington Myers, *Bradlys*, came on to bowl. They kept it nice and tight and picked up some key wickets to put Harrow in the driving seat. With Cutler ending up with three wickets after his six-over spell, Winchester put some pressure back on Harrow. The bus had to leave early so the team skipped through the overs quickly as Hufford Hall and Bourne-Arton, without the gloves but with the ball this time, kept up the bowling performance.

As Hufford Hall took a good wicket, Harrow managed to get Winchester out for 162 and win by 23 runs.

Junior Colts B away v Winchester College

Harrow 186-5 (Jed Hurley, *Bradlys*, 67*, Bertie Bradley, *Druries*, 52) beat Winchester by 94 runs.

Winchester 92 all out (Seb Lawson, *Newlands*, 3-14 off 4, Stevens 2-11 off 4)

Junior Colts D away v Winchester College Boys Under-15C, Lost by 9 wickets

Yearlings A home v Winchester College, Won by 30 runs

Yearlings B home v Winchester College, Won by 6 wickets

Yearlings D home v Winchester College, Lost by 5 wickets

Yearlings E team lost 77 for 9 against 139 for 3.

GOLF

The School v Charterhouse, Friendly,

Won 3-0, 25 May

Strong performances from captain elect Fred Hower, *The Park*, Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, Thomas Tian, *Newlands*, Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, Diego Castellano Burguera, *Rendalls*, and William Everall, *The Grove*, led to a fine victory at the sun-soaked Northwood Golf Club.

The golf team took on a well-matched Charterhouse side. First out (and fresh from the receipt of their snazzy golf ties) were Hower and Cheuk. They started off strong with a par on the first from Hower and a birdie on the second from Cheuk. After two pars on 3&4 from Hower they found themselves two up after 4. A good stream of up and down pars from Hower and solid putting from Cheuk meant they were two up at the turn. On the tenth Hower found himself in the rough off the tee but made a birdie putt from off the green to tie the hole after the opposition chipped in. A birdie on 11 from Cheuk after hitting his wedge to about 4 feet meant that Harrow were 3 up with three to play due to delays starting. A par on 12 from Hower sealed the win for the first pair. A better ball score of -1 through 12.

Second out were Campbell-Johnston and Tian. They opened up with solid with pars on the first and a tie on the second. However, on the par 3 3rd, Campbell-Johnston stiffed one to 5 foot and made the birdie to go one up. Following this the two played solid golf and were 3 up at the turn. After a shaky few holes, the two found themselves at 2 up through 11, but after finding his ball in the trees, Tian was able to make a great par save propelling the pair to 3 up with 3 to play. A bogey would be enough to secure the match 3&2.

Looking to seal a straight 3-0 win at Northwood were Everall and Castellano Burguera. They set out with two strong tee shots, resulting in two pars to go 1 up. The pair battled hard to go to 2 up after four, after a solid birdie from Everall. Some wayward drives meant that the opposition were let back into the game, but it was not long before Harrow bounced back with several strong pars, with Castellano hitting greens to set up good opportunities. The pair found themselves 5 up after ten holes, but unfortunately losing the 12th to go to 4 up. The time limit set on the match (after the delayed start) would see Harrow finish up 4 ahead of their opposition pair and secure a fine win for the School.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

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