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JUNIOR CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*'The Greek Philosophers',
Arthur Yang, West Acre, 7 June*

On Wednesday 7 June, Arthur Yang, *West Acre*, presented a lecture to the Junior Classical Society on Classical philosophy. The lecture covered many Greek philosophers who set the course for Western thinking. Yang also mentioned that their ideas would influence cultural tradition for the next 2000 years.



Yang started with the Pre-Socratics era, which began with Thales and the Milesians. Thales was born around 620BC in Miletus in Ionia and was one of the seven sages of Greek antiquity. Thales thought that 'All things were made of water'. Living in a coastal city allowed him to observe that the water evaporated into clouds, which dissolved into the rain. From this observation, Thales thought it was plausible to claim that water condensed into earth as well. Although this claim was incorrect, his method was an extremely important step in philosophical thinking. Thales was one of the first to reach a general conclusion by summing up the particulars or cases. Thales' pupil, Anaximander, also came from Miletus. Anaximander, born around 610BC, doubted Thales. He did not understand why Thales chose water over other elements and instead proposed a fundamental and infinite substance called the Boundless. This is an example of metaphysical monism, the view that the world arises from one material only. Anaximander also suggested a theory that humans evolved from another species. He was one of the first people to use the logic of *reductio ad absurdum* (establishing a claim by stating how absurd the opposite scenario is). Anaximander thought that human babies could not have survived in the wild, so we must have come from something else. However, Anaximander concluded that we evolved from fish, having conducted studies on shark fossils. Next, Yang talked about the Pythagoreans. Pythagoras was a native of the island Samos near the Ionian coast. He created a more scientific and especially mathematical philosophical tradition. Taking inspiration from the mathematical precision of the harmony of strings on a harp, Pythagoras suggested that everything was made from numbers. He also held the belief that philosophers are the pinnacle of civilisation as they merely contemplate and spectate the world without any involvement.

Yang went on to talk in-depth about Parmenides and the Eleatics. Parmenides was a native of Elea, a city in southern Italy and developed the monist theory of the Milesians in his two-volume poem *On Nature*. The first part of his poem is called 'On Truth', and it contains his rational teachings. Parmenides thought that you could not think about things that did not exist as then you would be thinking about nothing while thinking. He also suggested that the world must be uniform as parts of the world must not have more not-being (which does not exist) than others. Parmenides concluded that the world is a uniform sphere of matter made of one substance in a motionless and timeless state. In the second part of his poem, which is called 'On Seeming', Parmenides outlines the science of mortal. The 'Way of Seeming' directly opposes the 'Way of Truth', which is confusing as Parmenides contradicts himself. Yang proceeded to explain some different interpretations of Parmenides' actions. One of these interpretations is that the Way of Truth is somehow compatible with the Way of Seeming, explaining that the rational concept of the world appears to us as the sensory world in a different way. Yang told us that if this was Parmenides' intention, then his views foreshadow that of Plato's forms, the dualism of Descartes, and even the idealism of Kant and Schopenhauer. Parmenides might also be suggesting that perhaps human reason is inaccurate. Starting purely from reason and ending with a disconcerting conclusion would show the inaccuracy and unreliability of human reasoning. This would show that Parmenides shares the views of extreme sceptics like Pyrrho and Hume.

Yang then moved on to Heraclitus, who was active around 500BC and claimed that the world was made of fire. This statement was more of a metaphor to describe his view that the world was constantly in flux and everchanging, agreeing with his saying that you cannot step into the same river twice. In Heraclitus' teachings about flux, he stated that the world is a mixture of strife between opposites and, through their unity, the world arises. Heraclitus also believed that everything that existed contained its opposite, much like the view of Hegel. This concept of balance became important in Stoic ethics later.

After Heraclitus, Yang talked about Socrates. Socrates was born around 470BC and was well known for his debates and Stoic lifestyle. The question central to Socrates is that of Good. After talking with supposed professionals, Socrates concludes that all mistakes are a result of ignorance, as if a man knew what was wrong then he would not sin. Socrates, therefore, realises that to live a good life a man has to obtain knowledge. This went on to influence the Cynics in their lack of interest in worldly possessions and the Stoics in their pursuit of virtue. However, Socrates' most important legacy is in his pupil, a similarly great philosopher, Plato. Plato, who was born into a noble family in 428BC, grew up during the decline of Athens. After the death of his friend and teacher Socrates, he abandoned his dreams of becoming a politician and started serious philosophical work instead. He set up an institution outside Athens named the Academy, where he taught mathematics, science, music and other useful skills. Plato also combined the doctrines of Parmenides and Heraclitus, showing differences between the world of ideas and the world we see. Finally, Yang talked about Aristotle, who studied under Plato at the Academy for 20 years. Aristotle was the first person to come up with the idea

of categorical syllogism, where a conclusion is drawn from the combination of two premises. He was also the first person to give a serious philosophical treatment to the arts, writing many books that generalised and systemised the purposes and methods of various art forms.

These classical philosophers were great thinkers who were the foundation of the way many Western philosophers thought as well. From Thales to Aristotle, each of them taught many impressive ideas that are still respected 2000 years later. Yang's lecture gave us a deeper understanding of all of their ideas and reminded us of their influences.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

'Lord Rayleigh: The Last Great Polymath of Physical Science', JAPB, 23 May

On Tuesday 23 May, JAPB gave an in-depth lecture with many quotes on the life and achievements of famous OH Lord Rayleigh, one of the three Nobel Laureates from Harrow, and the School's only science Nobel Laureate. His was born John William Strutt, and JAPB first covered his life's key dates, then his various achievements.

In 1842, Lord Rayleigh was born in Essex and was in ill health for most of his childhood. He went to Eton aged 10, under The Reverend J.W. Hawtrey. However, he got smallpox and whooping cough in the holidays thereafter, so attended a private school in Wimbledon.

Rayleigh's father had thought of sending Rayleigh to Harrow from the beginning, and, in 1857, Rayleigh was sent to the School for two terms, starting in the Spring term in *West Acre*. The House Master of *West Acre* at the time was the younger brother of the Head Master Charles Vaughan – surely there was no nepotism going on there! Again, he was suffering from ill health, and he didn't even know if he would live on to the next year. At 15, there was a party celebrating the fact that he survived, and he gave a speech, saying, 'I had not expected to be with you...'. At Harrow, in January 1857, he was placed in the second set (called Shell Second Remove back then) and was awarded two Head Master's Send Ups for Maths. He ended the term as second of 36 boys with aptitude in Maths and modern languages. In May, he moved up to the top set (called Shell Head Remove), and ended the term as 20th of 41 boys, due to his ill health. He was compelled to do the algebraic equations for half of West Acre, which he believed to be bullying, but the fact was that the other boys couldn't do it themselves. He wasn't bullied more than anyone else, according to his son, but Lord Rayleigh felt inclined to nurture a grudge against those who bullied him at school.

In terms of sports, his ill health prevented him from doing much and he was excused from Harrow football. However, he did take part in cricket, football, croquet and horse riding. At Cambridge, he also played real tennis and lawn tennis. Later, perhaps due to the pressurised environment of Harrow not being suitable for him, he left and completed his pre-university education at Highstead School in Torquay, under Rev G.T. Warner, who graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and did many sports.

The first evidence of his scientific interest was a letter to his father, in which he talks for a paragraph about a beautiful comet, the Comet Donati, which has a cycle of 1600 years. He says that perhaps they would not see the comet in their lifetimes, which is completely true. This is also, interestingly, the first comet to be photographed. During his schooldays, he was interested in photography. He also took part in betting, taught to him by Francis Grenfell, who went on to become a Field Marshal and after whom both Grenfell Road and Grenfell Tower were

named. He also tended to prank the local newspaper, sending in Milton's sonnets as his own.

At Cambridge, he was the best in Astronomy, graduating as Senior Wrangler, and the best in Maths, and with a similar level of achievement in other sciences. He was humble about his achievements, but one of the examiners commented that his answers were better than those of the books.

He went on to become the Cavendish Professor, the second ever after Maxwell, and was something of a leader in physics in the UK at the time. After becoming Cavendish Professor, he changed his teaching practice from practical science experiments to the form in which science is taught now, using handouts with instructions, and the teacher wandering around, solving any problems. He also tried to bring about more gender equality in science. Previously, female students were only allowed into the laboratory while the previous Cavendish Professor was on a long vacation in Scotland; Rayleigh ended this practice in 1882.

Rayleigh had a near-obsessive need for accuracy in his experiments, reducing the effects of variables and making sure of the reliability of his experiments. An example of this is the determination of the Ohm, a measure of resistance, which they measured by lengths of mercury wire. Rayleigh determined this value very accurately.

JAPB then moved on to Rayleigh's Nobel Prize-winning work. He spent nine years on this project, and it almost drove him mad. He was trying to find the exact masses of different elements in air and found a discrepancy between two different methods to find nitrogen, by a thousandth part, which was beyond experimental errors. One was chemical, giving the exact amount of the element, while the other was not chemical and included an unreactive substance. His colleague, Ramsay, suggested that it may be due to a previously unknown heavy gas, of which they analysed the spectra. They found it to be a new element: he had discovered Argon. He encountered many difficulties based on the technological limits, such as how the volume of the circular flask, when emptied and filled with another gas, changed very slightly due to the change of the pressures, causing slight, but significant, discrepancies. After this discovery, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics, while Ramsay got one for Chemistry. Ramsay went on to discover the other inert gases, and this great man commented that Lord Rayleigh was the greatest man alive.

Rayleigh published 50 papers, a huge amount, during his time as Cavendish Professor, some of which JAPB explained, along with many effects that contain Rayleigh's name.

Firstly, he published the Theory of Sound, one of the few physics works of the 19th century still printed today, which laid the foundations of dimensional analysis, a method still taught in university physics courses, making observations and equations based on just units. It also laid the foundations of finite element analysis, which is used for computer programmes, which discretises continuous things, approximating them to make them easier to calculate.

He also discovered Rayleigh Scattering, which explains why the sky is blue. He discovered that light of different wavelengths interact differently with the atmosphere. As such, in the day, blue light scattered into the line of sight six times more than red, thus making the sky look blue, and vice versa during sunset and sunrise.

He also discovered the Rayleigh Criterion of Resolution. This criterion is a way of mathematically defining that moment where two distinct sources of light look like they are emitted from one source from a telescope, as they are too close together.

A very significant achievement of his is the Rayleigh-Jeans Law. This law is a prediction, based on observations, of how, at a certain temperature, an object would emit certain frequencies of light and high intensities. However, near the ultraviolet range, there was an issue. It predicted huge amounts of UV radiation, nearing infinite, which was ridiculous! This was dubbed the ultraviolet catastrophe, and Planck, later in the 1900s, solved

this by ‘quantizing’ light. This means he tried to redefine the situation by saying that only certain frequencies of light were allowed to exist, and this solved the issue. Rayleigh himself almost caught on to this idea, but remarked, when hearing of Bohr’s idea of distinct energy levels in the atom, “It does not suit me.”

He also discovered Rayleigh Surface Waves, a certain combination of longitudinal waves and transverse waves, resulting in elliptical paths, a way of describing certain waves near the surface of liquids.

He defined the Rayleigh Number, a number whose low values indicate laminar flow (smooth flow of water), and whose high values indicated very turbulent flow. A critical value in this number indicates whether or not heat transfer occurs by conduction or convection.

He discovered the Rayleigh-Benard Convection, a type of convection that occurs when a thin plane of fluid is heated from below and cooled from above, such as in a frying pan. This type of convection leads to several distinctive convection cells.

He discovered the Rayleigh-Taylor Instability, an instability between two fluids when a lighter fluid pushes on heavier fluid and has complex intricacies, as it is fluid dynamics. This powerful idea can be used to model many different situations, such as the carb nebula, mushroom clouds and solar prominences, to name a few.

He also discovered the Rayleigh Criterion of Roughness, a way to estimate how rough a surface is. Imagine sending light waves of the same frequency, and depending on the minute differences on the surface, the waves come back slightly differently, no longer in sync. Depending on this measure of how ‘in sync’ the waves are, called phase difference, the Rayleigh Criterion defines roughness. Of course, this is a rough way of putting it, pun not intended.

Rayleigh also discovered the Rayleigh Distribution, a distribution much like the normal distribution, a way to generally model certain situations, especially when the probabilities are skewed to one side. This is often used in MRI, nutrition, ballistics and oceanography.

The lecture closed with some ideas and insights into Rayleigh’s own methodologies. He believed that working out the uncertainties in every experiment, a practice now commonly taught in universities, was an instructive practice, despite ‘sometimes be[ing] humiliating’. He believed that experimenters should not be biased, and magnify discrepancies, and be modest in the trustworthiness of their own experiments, really showing how experiments should be to discover nature without any biases. This type of mindset was probably a key factor in his discovery of argon.

He also suggested theoretical physicists and experimental physicists consider each other’s perspectives. Experimentalists should regard theoretical arguments more highly, not relying on imperfect direct evidence, and theoreticians shouldn’t “overrate the solidity of his theoretical structures, and to forget the narrowness of the experimental foundation upon which many of them rest.”

He had a huge legacy, with 445 papers, two volumes of books still in print, 10–20+ laws and quantities named after him, contributions to every major area of classical physics, paving the way to quantum physics, helping to found the National Physical Laboratory, setting down ideas and techniques relevant today, and discovering argon.

J.J. Thompson, a discoverer of the electron, whose son received a Nobel Prize for proving his father wrong and showing it to be an electron, wrote that Rayleigh’s papers are ‘perfect in form and unassailable in accuracy’, writing in a very clear style so that, unlike other papers, he referred to them very often.

JAPB finished with a poignant quote about this quest for science from Rayleigh, an Old Harrovian (although barely, as he only spent two terms here, so it is unlikely Harrow had a huge influence on his success). “This work may be hard, and

the discipline severe, but the interest never fails, and great is the privilege of achievement.”

CAREERS LECTURE

‘Becoming a barrister: an overview’, John McLinden, Compuserve, 16 May

On Tuesday 16 May, John McLinden KC, a highly accomplished barrister, delivered a careers lecture on the topic of, ‘Becoming a barrister: an overview’. Mr McLinden spent much of his informative lecture talking about the benefits of becoming a barrister and why it is the best avenue of legal work to pursue, and finished with an extensive period of Q&A that shone a light on many aspects of becoming a barrister.

Mr McLinden began by addressing the widespread presence of the law in all aspects of everyday life. Indeed, the law is responsible for the standards that buildings must adhere to, the rules of the road, everyday transactions in shops and even much of our School’s Existing Customs. Mr McLinden talked of the awareness of the all-encompassing nature of the law that you gain by pursuing a career as a barrister or as a legal practitioner more generally. Simply put, our lives are dictated by the rule of law, and in order to best understand and appreciate this, one should become a barrister.

His second point addressed the stimulation of being a barrister. Mr McLinden suggested that the combination of having a publicly visible role in the law and having the opportunity to meet a huge array of different people with different upbringings and experiences makes for a thoroughly stimulating career. He also commented on the sheer superiority of practising the law in the UK, as it is viewed as world class and attracts clients from a number of foreign countries.

Mr McLinden went on to discuss justice, the most fundamental and vital component of our legal system. The satisfaction one gains from helping others and bringing about justice, helping society at large, adds to the appeal of a career as a barrister.

Perhaps equally as powerful was Mr McLinden’s view of the significance of freedom in a career as a barrister. As a barrister you are self-employed and have no fixed working hours or routine. This means that you have a huge degree of freedom and flexibility in choosing which clients you wish to represent and when you want to work, surely an appealing prospect to many a Harrow boy. Mr McLinden’s final point was that of reward. Of course, not all barristers earn huge amounts of money, particularly in the case of criminal barristers, but in general, barristers are well compensated for their time.

Following the conclusion of Mr McLinden’s talk, there was time for plenty of Q&A, and the first question was one of questionable intent: how can someone bypass inheritance tax? Mr McLinden’s response can be summarised in one word: trusts. Over the course of the Q&A, Mr McLinden would tackle the issue of defending a client who appeared to be guilty, what he found to be the most regarding area of law to work in (criminal law) and whether or not the law is AI proof. Mr McLinden also responded to a question on how one can establish themselves as a barrister. He noted that there was an entrepreneurial skill to being a barrister and was adamant that the successful barristers create their own luck, a phrase I recount being uttered by a certain Mr Harvey Spectre. He also suggested that getting articles you have written published can go a long way to increasing your public exposure and establishing yourself.

Overall, John McLinden KC delivered an enthralling and informative talk despite the lack of attendees. Any further queries about a career in the law should be directed to Dr Finnegan and the Careers Department. Furthermore, if you are interested in the law more generally and would like to deliver a lecture about the law, consider giving a talk to the Somervell Society by emailing Julian Herschel or Miss Fox.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY AND PIGOU SOCIETY

'An introduction to algorithmic trading', Jamie Herholdt OH, 25 May

For one of the last talks of the academic year, the Computer Science Society welcomed Old Harrovian, Jamie Herholdt (*Newlands*, 2012³) on Thursday 25 May.

Herholdt began by talking about his career and how he got into machine learning. He mentioned that he started off as a chemical engineer but later, during Covid, developed a liking for the stock market and switched from chemical engineering to machine learning in finance. With many boys from all years turning up, Herholdt didn't want any confusion about the online stereotypes of trading, and explained that it is not how the internet sees it and stating that 60–75% of all global trading volume is now done by algorithms. He outlined the importance of AI in the market if put to best use where it accurately gets from input to output, but the individual must also train that skill to be the most accurate it can be to minimise loss. Herholdt said that to test this you must experiment with new inputs to see new outputs and evaluate the performance. Next, Herholdt talked about the term "making the spread" and explained the stock market and how to maximise profit and reduce loss. He stated that the stock market consists of two groups, market makers, who provide liquidity to the market, like banks, and market takers, who take liquidity out of the market, like traders. The goal is simple: to buy at low price and sell at a high price simultaneously so you never hold on to whatever you are trading, which eliminates high-risk factors. Herholdt explained some terms like the bid – which is the highest someone buys for and, offer – the lowest someone is willing to sell for; to reduce risks is to calculate mid price by adding the top bid and offer dividing it by two and also calculating the spread, subtracting top bid from top offer divided by top bid*100 which is a static approach for estimating.

Next, Herholdt explained the maths with some graph representations with the formula $y = mx + c$ to simplify his research. He showed two types of gradient: absolute error and squared error in his study to define success through the loss function for absolute error being $y^{i+1} - \hat{y}$ and $(y^{i+1} - \hat{y})^2$ for the squared error. He said that he uses the squared error gradient. Herholdt concluded by displaying "training data" to simulate predicting the future and finding the optimal gradient for the equation $y = mx + c$ that will minimise loss.

However, as he had promised all boys there, he commenced his live demonstration of what he had explained. He first entered the equation $M = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y^{i+1}$ and the order book into Python to create an intercept as 1, which compressed the whole data set to create the range as a whole with the max being 1 and minimum being 0, and the goal was to reach the closest solution to the equation. Then he calculated the mid price by taking top of bid variable and offers to create an accurate algorithm. Next he set ranges for the desired outcome, which he stressed had to be realistic and competitive, and also used a static approach expecting it to stay the same as it is the safest approach. Lastly, he added that you want to hit the market when you are more sure which direction it is headed, and wrapped up his talk by displaying the coding side of machine learning.

JUNIOR LABORDE SOCIETY

'Eight billion people: how has our Earth's population grown and is this for the better?', Arjun Kular, Elmfield, and Ben Stevens, Newlands, 23 May

On 15 November 2022, the global population reached 8 billion. The population has drastically increased over the last 100

years. The speakers focused on the past and how the population reached this point, the challenges we will face due to increase in population, and the solutions to tackle the problem.

Before the year 1700, there were only a few million people; by 1800, the population had reached a billion. By 1950 there were 2.5 billion people. and now there are 8 billion. It is predicted that the world's population will have reached 10.43 billion by 2086. The main driver of increasing population is the declining death rate. There is also an increase in the birth rate, as well as an increase in urbanisation that provides more jobs and money and so better education.

The challenges of population growth are causing more strain on the planet, particularly in four areas: environmentally, food security, urbanisation and the economy. The demand for natural resources means that they are beginning to run out. More deforestation contributes to biodiversity loss and climate heating. Food insecurity is increasing as the demand is growing, especially in non-developed countries. This causes poverty and makes finding a job vital. With urbanisation, there is an increase in demand for jobs and in unemployment.

The solutions proposed were better family planning options which would reduce unplanned pregnancies. In some countries there should be a one-child policy, which to be the case in China. Although some countries have this law, others ban it.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

'The Lymphatic System: The Unsung Hero of Our Immune System', Misha Newington, Moretons, 22 May

The Medical Society welcomed Misha Newington, *Moretons*, to give an informative talk about the nature and niches of the lymphatic system. The lymphatic system is a network of vessels and nodes designed to fight pathogens and drain excess fluid from the body. The nodes are like pitstops along the highway of vessels that eventually reconnect with the bloodstream at the thoracic duct. He explained that the fluid in the vessels drains predominantly from around the muscles and takes its name from the Latin for 'clear water'. He then spoke about how lymph nodes are the main sites of immune activity, containing T and B lymphocytes to keep you safe from infection.

Moving on, he explained that this intricate system is not perfect and, like all parts of the body, has faults and is susceptible to disease: lymphedema is the swelling of these nodes due to either blockage or damage (e.g. surgery). Another common condition mentioned in this talk is lymphadenopathy, which is the swelling of lymph nodes due to infection, most commonly felt as tonsillitis but can also be an indicator of a systemic issue such as cancer. The discussion then segued into the most common cancers of the lymphatic system (lymphomas). Newington explained that there are two main branches of lymphomas: Hodgkin's lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Hodgkin's is an acquired genetic disorder. The main difference between the two is that Hodgkin's lymphoma creates Reed-Sternberg cells that trick the immune system into sending more cells towards cancer that only end up being consumed by the disease. Non-Hodgkin's is most common in those over 60 and is caused when B or T lymphocytes mutate and start to replicate uncontrollably. Non-Hodgkin's is the sixth most common cancer worldwide, thus lots of money and research has gone into finding treatments, so it has a very high survival rate.

This was a very thoroughly researched and well-presented talk, and the Medical Society thanks Newington for taking the time to prepare it and invites anyone else who wishes to give a talk to contact the society secretaries, June Hyun, *West Acre*, and Tobi Olorode, *Elmfield*.

JUNIOR BIOLOGY SOCIETY

'Mosquito Extinction Project – should we get rid of them?', Min Choi, Bradbys, 22 May

Choi began his lecture by asking the audience: 'Should we get rid of mosquitoes?'. The room was rather evenly divided into the two answers. Therefore, Choi expanded on the scientific reasons behind why people agree and disagree.

Firstly, Choi explained the methods that we can use to exterminate all mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have existed for 170 million years, since the Jurassic period. They can be eradicated by using two methods suggested by biologists. The first one is Wolbachia bacteria, which make the mosquitoes infertile. The second method is by genetic modification where genetically modified male mosquitoes mate with female mosquitoes and only male offspring survive, with female offspring dying at the larvae stage. Wolbachia bacteria are not genetically modified. According to the leading world mosquito programme, they have released Wolbachia mosquitoes in 12 countries including Australia, the USA and Cuba, and they saw an average of 90% decrease in mosquito population. A few years ago, another biotech company, Oxitec, released 5 million genetically modified mosquitoes in Florida. It was also seen that mosquito larvae have decreased by 90%.

Choi then argued that we should exterminate mosquitoes as they are the deadliest animals in the world, killing about 725,000 humans each year by spreading diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever. Mosquitoes also disturb our sleep by producing 500 Hz of sound and cause us to feel itchy when they bite.

Mosquitoes, however, are pollinators of tropical crops such as cacao. Without mosquitoes, thousands of plant species would lose a group of pollinators. This would possibly result in a world without chocolate.

Choi concluded that mosquitoes should be eradicated: Although the disappearance of mosquitoes might disrupt the food chain, biologists suggest that alternative species will replace them. Mosquitoes are not the only prey that is consumed by predators. Some people suggested that the extinction of mosquitoes might cause a change in the ecosystem in the North Pole, but most ecologists believe there will be no such significant changes. Choi argued that mosquito extinction will lead to a decrease in cases of mosquito-borne diseases and an increase in the human population.

He also suggested that life without mosquitoes could still be humanity's selfish dream. Perhaps it is not ethical for humans to have such power to annihilate a whole species for our own comfort. We should consider all possibilities, such as developing medicine for mosquito-borne diseases, and prepare for any possible outcomes of such an irreversible decision before we choose whether to eradicate a whole species of insect and possibly permanently shift the delicate balance of the Earth's ecosystem.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

'How will AI be involved in the workplace and how many jobs will it replace?', Ben Stevens and Alp Erkazanci, Newlands, 11 May

On Thursday 11 May, the Computer Science Society was addressed by Ben Stevens, Newlands, and Alp Erkazanci, Newlands, away from their natural abode in PS2, in the cosy and intellectual Harkness Room. Their lecture, about the role of AI in the workplace in the future, touched on a very important topic that is under much discussion right now and greatly affects our futures.

Stevens began with a fitting reminder that although with the recent release and popularity of Large Language AI models, whose apparent power may be a daunting prospect for the future and our jobs, in the future AI will definitely be able to be used as a tool to improve efficiency and productivity in the workplace. With the vast data sets that AI models are trained on (and they will certainly expand in the future), AI can have a wide-reaching impact on many industries, having the potential to replace jobs in the tech industry, media, finance, healthcare and many more. A graph presented by Stevens and Erkazanci, from the BBC seemed to show that AI could cause a net decrease of about 25% in jobs in the manufacturing and transport sectors, yet, on the other hand, could greatly benefit and create 20% more jobs in the medical and scientific sectors. However, the use of AI in the workplace is not limited to these examples. AI can be used in virtually any industry or job role where there is a need for data analysis, pattern recognition, or automation.

Of course, the big question that needed answering was how many jobs AI could really replace in the future. Stevens and Erkazanci estimated the number to be about 85 million, yet this is uncertain, with other sources stating 300 million. It is worth noting that the types of jobs on which AI is most likely to have an impact are those that involve routine, repetitive tasks that can be easily automated. However, even in these industries, there will still be a need for human workers to oversee and maintain the AI systems, as well as to perform more complex tasks that cannot be easily automated. But with the integration of AI into our lives and jobs, there will be opportunities for the creation of new jobs, with an increasing demand for data scientists, AI engineers, marketing analysts and healthcare professionals. AI may not necessarily replace human workers but rather work alongside them to improve productivity and efficiency.

Erkazanci concluded by saying that the impact of AI on the jobs market is likely to vary depending on the level of education and skill of the workforce. Workers with specialised skills are likely to be in high demand as AI technology continues to advance. Workers with lower levels of education and skill may be more vulnerable to displacement by AI and may need to acquire new skills to remain competitive in the job market. In order to do this, Stevens and Erkazanci advise pursuing your passion and developing your human characteristics, while also gaining experience in STEM-related fields and staying up to date with recent developments to become more future-proof.

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

'Scotland: a Timeless Landscape', Freddie Sloss, Rendalls, and Gus Stanhope, Moretons, 8 June

On 8 June, Freddie Sloss, Rendalls, and Gus Stanhope, Moretons, delivered a talk to the Senior Geography Society titled 'Scotland: a Timeless Landscape'. This talk was much anticipated and after months of waiting it was finally delivered. It started with a brief history on current state of Scotland from a more cultural standpoint, and then the real talk began. We were first told how Scotland was connected to Europe through a strip of land called Doggerland, but, during a glacial maximum, Scotland separated from Europe, thus creating Scotland's beautiful landscapes, which were shaped by ice. This glacial ice helped shape many iconic parts of Scotland such as the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. We then heard about the three main areas of Scotland: the Highlands, Cairngorms and the Lowlands. Sloss and Stanhope explained that the Highlands are where most of the glacial landforms are found, the Cairngorms are where most of the mountains are, and the Lowlands were where tropical rainforests used to exist. The talk ended with a magnificent performance of a Scottish poem by Stanhope.

OPINION

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

Arthur Yang, *West Acre*

The Bible is the foundation for all Christian faith: it contains the one singular event that is most central in demonstrating God's omnibenevolence and omnipotence: the crucifixion of Jesus for our sins and his Resurrection, as well as other teachings such as the Creation, the miracles and the beliefs justified from them. However, as evidence for these crucial events in Christianity, the Bible is untrustworthy as historic information, contrary to many Christian claims over the centuries: it is one-sided, unsupported, and highly likely to be biased. I will try to explain why the Bible is simply an unreliable piece of historic evidence and offers no factual support for Christian teachings and, most importantly, Christ's Resurrection.

The most obvious problem with the Bible is that it is almost certainly biased. Taking it almost unconditionally as evidence for Christ's Resurrection is like taking Soviet records as evidence that Stalin was a very kind and selfless man. The Evangelists were Christians and, from a historic point of view, they were the people who were the most likely to be biased towards Jesus and therefore fabricate stories in order to spread the religion. The group represented by them, the early Christians, are the ones who will benefit the most from this consequence and hence there is an obvious conflict of interest between them as early Christian leaders and them as reliable sources about the life of Christ.

The other problem with the Bible as evidence is that it is unsupported and one sided. Although there are records of Jesus and his execution in the writings of historians Josephus and Tacitus, only the Bible gives the account of his Resurrection and many of his miracles. From a historic point of view, relying on one singular source of information as evidence is unreliable and untrustworthy. The only way to avoid this is to treat the four Gospels as four pieces of individual evidence, each independently divinely inspired (if they were to have religious validity), and that does not follow and leads to several issues. Firstly, the Gospels cannot be independent of each other because we know that at the very least John and Matthew knew each other and probably knew Mark and Luke as well; furthermore, they were all Christian. This is like believing that Brexit was beneficial simply because both Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak said that it was beneficial. Secondly, to treat all four Gospels as divinely inspired means to accept all the facts in all the Gospels as true, even when they are contradictory, and that is ridiculous. One cannot take both the genealogy of Jesus according to Matthew and according to Luke to be true, because Joseph cannot both be both son of Jacob and of Heli, or believe in both accounts of the birth of Christ, for the reign of King Herod (as Matthew claims when Jesus was born) was almost a decade before the time when Quirinius became governor of Syria (as according to Luke's account of the time of the birth of Jesus), or amend many other contradictions in the information given to us by the Bible. Therefore, historically speaking, the Bible is a terrible piece of evidence for Christ's life and especially his Resurrection because it is unsupported and unrecorded by any other primary sources, and that it in itself is inconsistent and contradictory, and hence lacks basic reliability as a historic source.

It must be noted that I do not seek to claim to refute the truthfulness of the Bible through alternative evidence, as there is no other evidence about the life of Christ. Neither am I saying that the Bible is definitely and certainly inaccurate, as, again, there is no evidence to support this claim. However, what I am suggesting is that the Bible does not give proof for the Resurrection, because it is historically unreliable for

all the reasons listed above: bias and conflict of interest, inconsistencies, and unsupported by other sources. In the circumstance where we do not know whether the Bible is true of false (due to the lack of other sources), we cannot assume its truthfulness or falseness and therefore we cannot use it as factual proof for the Resurrection or as factual proof to deny it. It is invalid as proof for anything. There are, of course, theological arguments and philosophical proofs that supports the existence of God, but none gives a logically necessary conclusion that the Resurrection really happened. The conclusion is, therefore, that whether the Resurrection occurred or not, we do not know, hence the teaching that God has the power to raise the dead has no factual basis. Whether the theological arguments for his omnipotence are valid is a question for another discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the editors

DEAR SIRs,

In response to Arthur Yang's letter in No 26 of The Harrovian from the 17 of June, I would like to say many words. However, before we begin, I would like to congratulate Mr Yang on his ability to comprehend that communism is not a failure, but rather communism has itself been failed. It is a point that many people seem to find difficult to understand, people who merely hear the word communism and think evil. Perhaps if they had read Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto*, they would better understand the movement of communism and its many benefits. But I digress.

Mr Yang appears to have misinterpreted my argument. I was simply stating that the art of book-based research is dying, and that such a beautiful art does not deserve to die. When Mr Yang quotes my writing of the internet as "sacrilegious" and "godforsaken", he takes it out of context. I was merely arguing that the godforsaken internet was being used in a place specifically filled to the brim with books. As to my reference to the "sacrilegious" Wikipedia, this was more of a light jest at the unreliability of Wikipedia, which can be hilariously confident and yet entirely incorrect on a number of occasions.

Internet research is flawed. Fundamentally, whilst it may seem easier and simpler, it actually leads to far worse consequences than book-based research. Websites can be updated very frequently, and the information one may have found one day may have disappeared the next. Furthermore, many websites, excluding those of the academic sort, do not cite many of their sources, if any.

Indeed, the hell-site (I say that lovingly) that is Tumblr often has its users provide more accurate sources than many other websites. Often, sites use their easy and simple access to answers as a way to entice lazy students to click on their site, thus generating ad revenue. Books, on the other hand, have no such need for ad revenue, rather relying upon the reader to want to read their books. What better way to entice a reader, who is already looking for cold, hard facts, than by giving it to them, surrounded by contextual information and relevant topics?

Mr Yang suggests the solution of educating students on how to carry out internet research. I ask Mr Yang how he intends to do this? The PSHE curriculum has no extra space for this (trust me, I'd know, see No.22, Vol CXXXV), and I don't really see boys taking too kindly to having more of their busy days (as Mr Yang is aware of) filled with what they may deem to be a pointless exercise.

I agree that, in many circumstances, internet research can be a lot more targeted. It is also much faster than making the long trek to get to the library before having to painstakingly look through all the pages of the book or scour the index.

However, my point on the importance of book-based research is not that all research should be book-based, but rather that the practice of book-based research should be kept alive. Mr Yang makes the rather vivid and brutal statement that “we should not amputate our own hand to preserve this tradition”. I don’t think we should go to such desperate measures in order to keep the art of book-based learning. I am not one to stand in the way of progress and freedom, quite the opposite really. I simply think that boys should consider whether using the internet as their sole source for research is the best idea.

As for your final statement, “the end justifies the means”, I feel that if you subscribe to this philosophy you may be finding yourself going down some dark moral holes. The ends do not always justify the means; there are times when they do, but times when they don’t. I fear that if this is your guiding moral principle, the readers of *The Harrovian* may suffer through a weekly moral debate over this concept.

To conclude, I would like to refute the claim that I am cyberphobic. I embrace the internet and technology with open arms and look forward to the advancements in medicine, living quality and general existence that come with advancements in tech. I merely wish to exist as a “guardian of the books”, if you will, a person who wants to ensure that humanity does not lose a vital skill.

Yours bookishly,
ARJUN KULAR, *ELMFIELD*

DEAR SIRs,

Regarding the Editorial comment on the fact that the review of Dr John Davie’s lecture on the historical Jesus appeared on page 666, I was appalled to see the Editors write that this may “serendipitously reflect the opinion of God.”

Firstly, God, being omniscient and the highest and perfect truth, does not hold opinions. He simply knows. Secondly, as St Thomas Aquinas puts it “as God is the first universal cause, not of one genus only, but of all being in general, it is impossible for anything to occur outside the order of the Divine government.” “Foolish therefore was the opinion of those who said that... individual things, or that even human affairs, were not subject to Divine government.” Or as St Augustine puts it, regarding divine providence “nothing in the world happens by chance.”

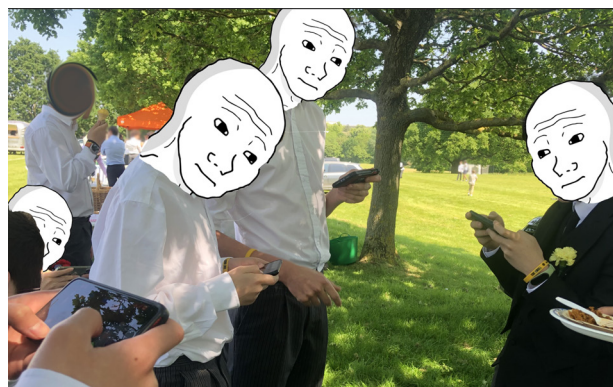
Therefore, the article did not appear on page 666 serendipitously, but rather, as scripture says “O God, my God...you have designed the things that are now, and those that are to come. What you had in mind has happened” (Judith 9.4-5).

Yours faithfully,
SPS

DEAR SIRs,

As I stumbled down to the array of tentage on sunny Speech Day, I saw hungry zombies hiding from the sun, heads down to the ground, mindlessly drifting towards their next nutrition. ‘Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger’. The cause of these symptoms would be the dependence that every Harrovian has on his phone(s). I fear this dependence is growing, that it shall affect individuals and the collective, and it must be stopped.

Those of weak conviction say that addiction is a disease; although, it certainly spreads like a virus in a meat market. Patient Zero at the School will be long gone; however, one could easily predict the cult-like conversation that spread it: ‘hey, do you play [insert time-wasting mobile game]?’ It is the culture of mindless mobile games that numbs even the academics of our institution. The other option of addiction would be supposedly ‘social’ media, the name ‘Tik Tok’ appropriately telling of the wasted time and spelling-related stupidity. To display the rampant addiction, I hope this image of Speech Day is displayed in the yellow pages (note that the eyes of the un-hidden faces solely stared at screens):



It is not only the boomer grandparent who feels phones are detrimental to their wasteful worshippers. Indeed, scientists have studied these screens, determining that, much like many illegal drugs, there is a high correlation between phone time and suicide rates. Furthermore, the phone addict is also more likely to end up a poor, lonely shut in, rather than a giant of old. ‘The sloth’ MJMR lectured upon seems eerily familiar to the hunched animal that is the modern man. Note the sadness of the picture above, not one boy talking to his fellow men.

The true symptom of the disease is the collapse of a social society. Hath you ever pondered the pitiful population of each lecture, how they seem to decrease in popularity. Some lectures fail to even get five attendees – I of course do not refer to upstanding institutions such as the Tea Society though. Indeed, when one asks ‘why didn’t you go to a lecture?’ the patient responds with either a moan of frustration at the need for communication or a mere silent stare unbreaking from the screen. The Vaughan is now a post-apocalyptic wasteland, kept cautiously pristine despite the emptiness. An explanation of just why this is so detrimental is barely even needed; thus, I shall now explain the solutions.

When one is a mere Shell, one does not have the capability to gawk at glass as the phones are taken away; however, this authoritarian restriction only causes a love for the time with phones, strengthening the bond. Thus, one must be allowed a phone, but be disincentivised to use it. Perhaps if Society meetings were more entertaining, or if Harrovians were pushed towards academia, we could eradicate this virus before a more deadly variant arises. I realise that I am writing to the few uninfected Harrovians, perhaps immune, wishing you good luck.

Yours controversially,
ROBERT YOUNG, *THE GROVE*

METROPOLITAN

BEAUTIFUL INCONVENIENCE

by Dr Spencer Bentley

Beautiful inconvenience. Expediency, efficiency, utility, these things rarely find themselves spoken of in the same breath as beauty. Beauty exists as an end itself. It simply is. Utility and efficiency exist as mediums on the road to some other aim, they are not goals.

I had the pleasure of driving across much of England at the start of Easter with MJG. We left at dawn, with the hood down, as the sun rose. We avoided motorways, and stuck to small English roads, and we drove what is a 4-hour journey on the M1 in 10 hours on the A and B roads that wind their ways through Britain. It was inefficient. It was inconvenient. It

was glorious. We saw towns and villages, isolated pubs, open fields, dappled woods, people: people walking, running, riding, talking, gardening, just being.

The motorways of Britain were not made for our wellbeing, but that we might be more efficient cogs in the machinery of business and busy-ness. Motorways cut through beauty, they rip past villages, they tear through fields, they whip around towns, they isolate and bifurcate in pursuit of efficiency. They are convenient. They are ugly.

Sometimes beauty and efficiency do coalesce, but notably it is because of beauty this is possible, not because of utility.

The Forth Rail Bridge was completed in 1890. Spanning the Firth of Forth and connecting Edinburgh with Fife, the iconic red bridge was, and remains, a marvel of engineering and design. It has remained in use daily since completion and is the rail artery for Eastern Scotland. It is beautiful. It is lasting. Indeed, it is because it is beautiful that it is lasting. It is because it is beautiful it has been maintained. It is because it was made to be beautiful that it has been cared for and updated and repainted and refinished again and again for over 130 years. Because it is beautiful it is useful.

Immediately beside the Forth Rail Bridge sits the Forth Road Bridge. Finished in 1964 the bridge was also a marvel of engineering. But it was made to be useful. To suit the needs of the day and the traffic of the day and the vehicular tonnage of the day. But needs changed and the bridge, while remarkable in its time, faltered in its usefulness. Traffic increased. The weight of traffic increased. And the design brief for utility in the 1960s did not meet the needs of the 2000's. The bridge was closed in 2018 for the public as it was no longer safe. It had not adapted to the changes of the times. It had not been maintained with the affection of its beautiful, vibrant, red counterpart several hundred meters away. It had become useless by virtue of having been made useful.

We do not know what the future will deem useful. So, when we build for utility we build for redundancy. Conversely when we build for beauty usefulness follows. Useful buildings last as long as they are useful. Beautiful buildings are adapted to the needs of the time, and then readapted for new uses as needs arise. They are adapted and thus adaptable because they are beautiful.

History has proved our vision and scope for predicting utility is limited. Technology changes, society shifts, politics and social dynamics alter, the philosophy and psychology of work and business sit on active tectonic fault lines. And with each new eruption, what is deemed useful changes. From open plan accountancy floors in the 1930s to closed offices in the 50s to cubicles in the 80s and back to open plan in the 2000s. The office buildings that have survived the change in brief have done so because they were not primarily made to be useful in their time, but to be beautiful throughout time.

Do any of us doubt the Empire State Building will remain useful for a century to come? Of course not. But how can we possibly have that confidence? Well, we are confident in its utility because it is beautiful, and we know we will adapt it to new needs and uses as they arise. But what of the office buildings of the 1980s. Built with utility as the supreme aim, these depressing and dull and sizable structures are now being torn down at great expense because we cannot find uses for them. When you build for utility, you build for redundancy. When you build for beauty you have built for future uses yet unseen.

Take any of your favourite buildings and ask yourself if they will be adapted to changing needs and for new uses. Take any of the eyesores and horrors of construction and design and ask what their design brief might have been. I will wager that the former was built to be beautiful and the latter to be useful.

But there is also another kind of beauty, not unrelated to the above, but often overlooked as it involves less doing and more leaving. A quiet and overlooked beauty, that shows itself primarily in absence. Sometimes we do not see the quiet, unspoken uses

of beauty until they are taken away and replaced by something useful. We may not notice the garden we walk by on the way to work until it is removed and replaced by concrete. We may not notice a view until it is gone. These quiet beauties, that do not demand our attention or shout of their glory, are little graces that line the contours of our lives.

It's okay to build for beauty, to forego utility, to go slow, to take the scenic route, to avoid the motorway, to walk past gardens, to see people, even or perhaps especially at the price of efficiency.

Harrow has at intervals in its history built beautifully, and where it has we have found new and dynamic uses for these buildings. And where it hasn't built for beauty, we have torn down and tried again. We do a reasonable job at the construction of beauty, but perhaps we still have lessons to learn about leaving beauty alone.

For beauty's sake we might even take one thousand and sixty-five words to say what can be said in thirty-five:

We should not overlook the humble beauties around us, we should not be ignorant of their blessings, we should not tear them up and pave them over for VIP parking in front of Maths Schools.

SOUND

Floating around my brain, the beautiful sound. So perfect and whole, yet fractured and distorted. It washes over my face, filling me with warmth and sadness.

Awoken and put to sleep. Atoms vibrating, waves sent into my eardrum, comprehended by my brain. Becoming the sound that has such power over me.

In the darkness of time, the latest night, the sound becomes alive. The music courses through my veins and becomes a part of me, fused to my very cells. My soul leaves my body and takes a wider view. From up on high it sees all creation. Every simple thing humanity has done. All the streetlamps and tarmac.

It wanders, surveying the surroundings, wondering. Pondering ethics and morality; history and the future. Further and the further out it flies, absorbing the universe and all it brings. All that it contains and an infinity more.

Traversing whole galaxies, it sees the birth of stars in the nurseries of space, wholes systems and planets yet to become. Death is littered throughout the infinitude, stars that gather the attention of it all, stars that fizzle out, unnoticeably.

Finding its way to our pale blue dot, it once more marvels at human creation. The first colony, earth. With all its society and laws and morality and economics. To rise above it all and gaze upon it in unending seconds.

All good things must come to an end, and my soul is returned to my body. Descending through the cloud and the smog. Past the skyscrapers and down the dirty grass on which I lie.

The song ends and so too does the feeling and emptiness that it brings. The sounds of the outside world fall into my ears and clutter them so as to not hear the beauty. Cars honk. Bells ring. People talk.

And the beauty turns to terror as I see the world I really live in.

SUMMER READIN'

As the glorious summer approaches, filled with its bright sunshine and sandy beaches, there is no better time to pick up a book. In case you are struggling to find something to read, allow me to direct you to the Summer Reading list compiled by the School Librarians, or to the list I have provided below of my personal favourites from this year and years before.

Fractal Noise – Christopher Paolini: the heavily anticipated new book set in the *To Sleep In A Sea Of Stars* universe, it looks to be filled with the same mystery, intrigue and exceedingly good writing that made TSIASOS so great.

Look Who's Back – Timur Vernes: a hilarious book which looks at a what might happen if Hitler woke up in modern times. It follows him as he navigates this “new Reich” that he finds himself in and inevitably gets swept up in a media frenzy.

Heartstopper Vols 1-4 – Alice Oseman: with the second season of the *Heartstopper* series on Netflix coming out this August, there is no better time to see where Season 2 will take Charlie and Nick in the *Heartstopper* comic series.

Red, White and Royal Blue – Casey McQuiston: another book being adapted into a movie coming out on Amazon Prime, it follows the lives of Prince Henry and the First Son, Alex Claremont-Diaz. An emotional rollercoaster that will take you all summer to recover from.

Yellowface – Rebecca Kuang: a book that is rocking the literary world at the moment, it is a compulsive thriller that leaves you wondering what the hell is going to happen next.

The Sun and the Star – Rick Riordan: Mr Riordan has returned with yet another book in the Percy Jackson universe. Following the story of lovers Nico and Will, sons of Hades and Apollo respectively, the book is a fan favourite and guaranteed to be a good read.

The summer is also a great time to sit in the glorious sunshine with a cup of tea or a milkshake and enjoy some of the classics, such as the *Aeneid* by Virgil, or the *Odyssey* by Homer. Reading the Sherlock Holmes series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is always a great way to spend warm summer evenings sitting in the garden.

Whatever you choose to read and however you choose to read it, give it a go, dive into a whole new world filled with robots or dragons, or both.

Have a great summer.

DEAR SIRs

this is an open letter to nobody in particular. although there are some people who i hope read this, but i don't know if they will either way, hello

my name is Artemis. some of you may know me as the person who writes in all lowercase. some of you may know me as your friend. some of you may not know me at all.

in any case, here i am

normally i just write small articles about the things no one really talks about. like love and loneliness and moving on. the stuff about feelings. i do it mostly because these are topics that need to be talked about more. they really should, and it warms my heart when i hear people speaking openly about those topics.

mental health is massively important to me. it is something i have struggled with and continue to struggle with. but that struggle is made easier when i am able to talk about it.

i know this may sound strange coming from a person who writes articles, but i find it so hard to articulate how i feel. i beat myself up about it constantly, but over time, as i spoke and wrote and thought about these things more, it has become slightly easier to articulate how i feel. that is what i hope will happen when people read these, that they will be encouraged to start conversations.

at the time of writing i have completed and published four articles in this very paper under this penname;

things do get better. this was my first article. i had just gotten out of a particularly depressive episode and was beginning to find the joy in life again. it was a wonderful feeling. and i knew that other people must have been feeling the same way as me, so i wrote the article, created the email address and sent it off into Dr Kennedy's inbox. i did not expect this to happen.

what's meant to stay will stay. i was going through a difficult

time when i wrote this. i hated myself for staying close to people who hurt me and i hated myself for trying to leave them. writing articles is a way for me to process things the way playing music or playing sport is for others. this article was written mostly to just convince myself. and i did. i left the people that were hurting me and in doing so found even better friends.

loneliness. this was my first existential crisis of this year. i am an a person who spends hours, days in my room building lego sets or reading or playing video games. i enjoy being alone sometimes. and i wanted to convey that being alone can be good. i get overwhelmed, so does everybody, and the nature of a boarding school doesn't lend itself to that, so i just wanted to let people know that it is ok to be alone.

loveless. as you can tell from this article, i listen to music when i write (i am listening to *sentient* by Gavin Luke right now). i'd been feeling a lot of heartache at the time for some reason (possibly due to my binging of *Heartstopper* and *Young Royals* and then the *Heartstopper* comics) and i just felt that the way love was portrayed as this massive unattainable thing was sad. the lyrics at the end of the article are from *La vie en rose* by Edith Piaf.

writing is a fundamental part of me. it brings me joy and a chance to reflect on existence. i have many more things to say, and i hope you do as well.

our world is on fire right now. we need to talk about the uncomfortable things that nobody wants to talk about. especially as we are in our sheltered little bubble at a boarding school. if you see something that needs to change, speak up. write into the harrovian. talk to your friends about it over dinner. tell somebody. i was sick and tired of people putting on a brave face and walking through life as if they were perfect. we are all flawed, and those flaws are beautiful.

yours truthfully, etc.

JONATHAN HEAD BARROW

Short Story Winners

Shells

Winner – Sebastian Aucott, *Lyon's*

Runner-up – Sean Tiernan, *Newlands*, and Rio Odofoin, *The Knoll*

Removes

Winner – Tony Shi, *The Grove*

Runner-up – Nick Arnison, *Moretons*, and Wisdom Edjejovwo, *West Acre*

Fifth Form

Winner – Otto Marre, *The Grove*

Runner-up – Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Rohan Ragoowansi, *Elmfield*

Lower Sixth

Winner – Charlie Ni, *Elmfield*

Runner-up – Fikunmi Olutunbi, *Lyon's*, and Man Herman Hong, *Rendalls*

Upper Sixth

Winner – Joseph McLean, *Druries*

Runner-up – Hadrian Ho, *The Head Master's*,

THE FINAL APPOINTMENT

by Tony Shi, *The Grove*,
for Jonathan Head Barrow Prize

A short tale based on a true and moving story which I happened to read. It can be found using the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-64116668>

"I am so sorry to inform you... You have two months to live." Slowly shaking her head, the doctor sighed dejectedly. Though her voice was as soft as a falling leaf, it struck the patient's heart like a hammer.

A deathly silence descended upon the small room. Mr Phoenix turned around. The four blank, white walls were staring straight at him. The glinting collection of scalpels, forceps and scissors pierced his heart like a murder of crows. Struggling to contain the tsunami of thoughts, emotions, and worries rushing through his head, he drew a deep breath. But the thick, still air was choking him, strangling his spirit. Soon, glistening drops were rolling down his cheeks. Perhaps they were beads of cold sweat. Perhaps, they were pearls of warm tears.

"Would you like me to open the window?" asked the kind-hearted doctor. Mr Phoenix quickly replied, "Sure, thank you." His mind was drifting away from his body. Down it went. Down and down and down into the bottomless pit of perdition. The thin glass panel slid across its slick aluminium chassis. A stream of frosty air shot into the room, carrying a few petals of snow with it. The patient shivered, abruptly awakened from his pensive trance. A perfect hexagonal snowflake settled his hand. It melted within a few seconds, leaving behind a trail of water. Watching the water droplet trickling onto the floor, Mr Phoenix recollected his shattered memories of the fateful day. His life, once happy and carefree, had suddenly melted into nothingness on that very day...

The 23rd of December was a melancholy Monday morning. When Mr Phoenix rose (at the usual time of 7 o'clock) and opened his curtains, he saw the thick hoarfrost smothering the rolling hills and dales. A gust of west wind darted through his open window. "What a riling rat!" he murmured under his breath. He had lived in Yorkshire dales for twenty years, and never had it been this cold. There had not been a single robin in his garden for two weeks! Walking into the kitchen, he glanced at the brand-new energy meter. When the display glared the figures of £10.24 at him, his heart almost skipped a beat (and more importantly, he nearly dropped his coffee onto the floor.) Never had he paid so much for a few rickety radiators. Never. In the sixty years of his life.

In the vigour of his youth, Mr Phoenix had once worked in the City. He had once known the contemporary affairs inside out, reading the papers every day without fail. However, he had long since given up. "Now everything is too complicated," he complained under his breath, "All they talk about is climate change and inflation and pandemics... But what good is that? Back in my days, there was none of this talk. For all I know, back then the winters were warmer, gas cheaper, and vaccinations fewer. But that is all I know."

After frying the bacon and eggs, Mr Phoenix sat down to relish his breakfast. As he scanned the calendar (neatly stuck onto the fridge door), a wide smile suddenly surfaced from the undulating folds of his face. It was only two days until Christmas Day! His two daughters would be coming for a family reunion, along with their husbands and toddlers. After the celebrations, he would have to wait another year to see them again. Many months had he waited for this meal. The turkey, already basted, was resting in the fridge; a grand Christmas pudding, handmade with love and longing, was waiting in the steamer. Everything had been prepared.

Just then, the mobile phone, resting on the oak breakfast table, lit up. There was a notification. With a grin still on his

face, Mr Phoenix opened his Messages App. It was a message from NHS-NoReply. He quickly scanned through the message. Something was wrong. It was the text that he had been dreading. His smile morphed into a silent, petrified gasp. He read the message again in disbelief. However, every letter remained in its original place, reading:

'Following your recent medical examination, you have been diagnosed with aggressive lung cancer with metastases. Please arrive at your registered GP at 12:25 hours today for further advice. no-reply.text@nhs.net'

"Are you all right, Mr Phoenix?" the doctor asked, "I know that this is a difficult time for you, but I am here to help you. Although your lung cancer has developed metastatic growth, we may still be able to treat it. However, the success rate for chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy will, unfortunately, be low in your case. Nevertheless, I can refer you to a specialist advisor, who will explain our different treatment plans. Otherwise, I can recommend a palliative care package for you, covered by the NHS. But either way, this will be your final appointment at our GP. I am so sorry to see you go."

As Mr Phoenix slowly trudged back towards his bungalow, an eternal note of sadness reverberated through his dull brain. "How could this be happening?" he asked himself, "What have I done? I have never smoked, and I have been a teetotaler for most of my life. Why me? Why? Why? Why!" A few seconds later, he reached his front door. Sitting alone on the sofa, Mr Phoenix braced himself for that excruciating phone call. However, he knew that he had to make it. His daughters ought to know. Anxiously and reluctantly, he picked up the thin panel of glass and metal. Just then, another message flashed across the screen:

'Please accept our sincere apologies for the previous text message sent. This has been sent in error. Our message to you should have read: Today is your final GP appointment for this year. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. no-reply.text@nhs.net'

SUDOKU

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SPORT

CRICKET

*The XI v Middlesex CCC Academy home,
Lost by 33 runs, 20/20, 15 June*

Harrow (149/7) fell short in their chase against Middlesex CCC Academy (180/10) on a gorgeous sunny day down on the VI Form Ground.

Junior Colts A v St Paul's School, home, Won by 62 runs, County Cup Semi-Final

The scene was set for the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup against St Paul's. The JCAs started well with the bat on what was a tough Grimston wicket. Both openers fell for 20 but Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, 52*, pushed on and steered the team to a respectable 138 from our 20 overs. There was some fantastic running between the wickets from the middle order which helped add an extra 20 runs to the total.

The opening bowlers started well, and Harrow claimed some important wickets early on, denying any chance of victory for the opposition. Ethan Harrington-Myers, *Newlands*, bowled beautifully again and took 3-9 from his four and Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*, and Jack Nelson, *Newlands*, also picked up two wickets. Harrow bowled St Paul's out for 76 and move onto the cup final on the Sixth Form Ground on Thursday.

The XI v Radley College, home, Lost by 38 runs, Cowdrey Cup
Harrow (209/10) fell short in their chase against Radley (247/5) on a gorgeous sunny day down on the VI Form Ground.

2nd XI v Radley College, away, Lost by 7 wickets

The 2nd XI lost for the first time this season against a disciplined Radley side, who were also unbeaten coming into this game. Having won the toss and elected to bat, on a flat, placid surface, Harrow inexplicably slipped to 0-3. Arhan Maker, *Druries*, and James Felton, *The Park*, led a spirited recovery, but another collapse led Harrow to post an underwhelming total, failing to bat out their allotted overs. Radley started the chase positively and were never put under any real pressure. They won comfortably within 20 overs. A very disappointing performance from the 2nd XI, who must now look to get back to winning ways in the final two fixtures of the season.

3rd XI v Radley College, away, Won by 62 runs

Harrow was asked to bat on a warm day after losing the toss and made Radley regret the decision from the start. Scoring 199 in our allocated 35 overs. Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, 66 and Sam Phillips, *Moretons*, 60.

Harrow then carried over their fine batting form to the field and manage to bowl Radley out for 137. Valentine Ballingal, *Moretons*, 5 overs 27 runs for three wickets.

4th XI v Radley College, away, Lost by 5 wickets

Harrow won the toss and opted to bat on the road provided. Unfortunately, runs came far more slowly than expected and ultimately the run chase was fairly short.

Colts A v Radley College, home, Won by 46 runs

Another barnstormer for the Colts. Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, was the pick of the batsmen with 57 as Harrow set an imposing 187 off their 40 overs on a big pitch. Henry Porter, *Moretons*, Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*, and Harry Beresford-Pierce, *Elmfield*, pinned Radley down to restrict them to 141 all out and another great win.

Colts B v Radley College, home, Lost by 139 runs

The coaching team of the Colts B has this season been working

diligently at inducing a new era of front-foot, positive-minded, attacking cricket. We call it Bs-ball. It's very complicated, and I haven't the room to explain it here. To steal the old saw of Lord Palmerston's, only three people have ever understood the intricacies of Bs-ball. Of those, one is dead, the second has gone mad, and the third is me, and I have forgotten.

It is certainly the case that the Colts B themselves have not quite managed to grasp it, at least not if Saturday's home match against Radley is anything to go by. Firstly, the Colts neglected to remember that a team requires 11 players, and thus it was that we lined up on Maclaren's sun-baked square with ten. This was nearly the right number, and in many ways represents the closest we came to a victory this week. The mood was good regardless, in large part down to Captain Cambatta-Mistry's, *Lyon's*, focused warm-up and admirable fellowship.

Cricket, when you don't win it, is kindly full of minor comforts to make you feel, for brief and almost unnoticeable moments, that you might win, or that you could have won, or that in some way, despite all the evidence of the scoresheet and the Speech Room announcement, you actually did win. After our attempt to raise a full team had come so delightfully close to fruition, our second *petite victoire* arrived as Radley won the toss and elected to bat. We had, after all, been hoping to bowl.

Looking at that pitch, dry and lifeless, the casual observer would be forgiven for questioning this plan. Perhaps we had forgotten that the Team Bowler, Josh Mather, *The Knoll*, had ascended to the Colts A. Luckily, they were playing on the next pitch, and we were able to borrow him as first change for one handsome over (0-2). Our opener, James Talamai, *Druries*, bowled with characteristic exertion, and things looked good when his second (legal) delivery was plonked by their opener into the hands of Freddie Emery, *Moretons*, for a duck. Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, tall enough that he breathes pure ozone while the rest of us gag on metropolitan miasma, had been bowling superbly in the nets all week. He still managed to get a good bit of movement out of the ball today, but it was too often the kind that sees it travelling straight over a (putative – we only had ten men) longstop, rather than drifting invitingly away from the batsman.

Jack Young, *Newlands*, Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry, *Lyon's*, also bowled. But it was the Diabolical Duo, the Gruesome Twosome, the Pair with the Flair, Mister Wrist and the Finger Ninja (aka Jenkyn Keigwin, *The Knoll*, and Samuel Howes, *The Grove*) who once more brought complications to the flight of a cricket ball in geometries illusory and intersections unwitnessed since that great third-century tract of Archimedes The Quadrature of the Parabola. Howes brought an inflated run rate right down (1-16(5)), and Keigwin bowled their big threat (taller even than Firake) on his 50. They have been in despot-toppling form all season.

There is little more to report other than Radley's final total, 192-3. It was high but, perhaps, lower than it could have been: *petite victoire numéro trois*.

The best that can be said about our own innings is that it was mercifully brief. It was not a given that Radley's own off-spinner would be quite as humane as he was, but it was quick work in the abattoir as he made 5-14 (3), including a hat-trick. Having seen one of our own by the inimitable Stabb last year at Tonbridge, it was perhaps only right that it should be our turn to suffer the same in 2023. The Colts B knew that they had to get going with a required run rate of around eight an over, and this knowledge can do funny things to a team, even one raised on Bs-ball. Opener Rory Grant, *Moretons*, was bowled, and Patel went shortly after. Captain Saarvin stayed in a good while, steadying things, but you can't easily right a revolving iceberg, as the Team Batsman, Firake, discovered, after being stumped during his tempestuous hit. Howes and Young both fell to their spin-butcher in one over, while Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, resisted for a while before losing his bails. This began the hat-trick, with Bhushan, Emery, and Keigwin, bowled, caught and trapped respectively. 54 all out, in 12.3 overs.

Bs-ball, then, has not quite been a success. But nor has it been a failure this term, a term in which the Colts B have acquitted themselves well, with some great moments of skill, and with great jollity throughout. The tactic's great advantage is, of course, that no-one knows what it is, and so it is guaranteed to make a return in some shape or form next year. Meanwhile, its current exponents will move into the senior teams, where they will preach the confusing gospel of the tactic, or they'll hang up their boots, knowing, at least and at last, that they have been part of something brief and glorious that happened long ago, on a hard, dry wicket, one distant summer.

Junior Colts A v Radley College, away, Lost by 4 wickets

A lack of partnerships saw the JCAs stumble to a below-par total despite a courageous and spirited attempt to defend it.

Junior Colts B v Radley College, away, Lost by 93 runs

A dissapointing day after having the opposition at 10 for 4. A lack of focus in the field when the opposition was in a vulnerable position followed by a poor application with the bat . Ben Stevens, *Newlands*, 3 for 21.

Junior Colts C v Radley College, away, Lost by 9 wickets

Charterhouse defeated Harrow by nine wickets, with George Epton, *The Head Master's*, hitting 40 from 44 balls.

Yearlings A v Radley College, home, Won by 109 runs

Yearlings A (213-6) beat Radley (104-8) by 109 runs. Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, led the way with 58 in the Harrow innings, before Alf Beresford-Peirse, *Elmfield*, Lucian Spencer, *Elmfield*, and Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, took two wickets each to guide Harrow to a convincing win.

Yearlings B v Radley College, home, Lost by 6 runs

Harrow almost chased down a massive total of 180 but fell short against Radley. Alexander Long, *The Park*, scored a magnificent half-century.

Yearlings C v Radley College, home, Lost by 34 runs

Sadly the Yearlings Cs lost against Radley by 35 runs. Louis Criddle, *Newlands*, scored 26 runs and was man of the match.

Yearlings D v Radley College, home, Won by 14 runs

Harrow 115-8 (25 overs), Radley 101 ao (18 overs)

Almo Pang, *Bradlys*, 5-16 (including four wickets in one over)

Harrow put on a respectable 115 on a difficult wicket with a little help from Extras and showed great teamwork in defending it from some strong Radley batsmen.

Yearlings E v Radley College, home, Lost by 10 wickets

An all-round great team effort. Excellent running by Oliver Chen, *Newlands*, first wickets for Ryan Loo, *Moretons*, and Diya Abualsaud, *Elmfield*, and a number of other wickets, catches, and 4s.

TENNIS

1st Team v Charterhouse away v Lost 4-5, 17 June

A very tight match with 3 boys making their debut in a lower sixth side. Eliot Chua, *The Knoll*, and Oli Jones, *West Acre*, played

encouragingly well but just missed out on winning a set. Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, won 2 of their 3 sets without quite playing at their best. Jack Scott, *The Park*, and Arthur Porter, *Druries*, played some fine attacking tennis to win 2 of their 3 sets but we just fell short of an overall victory.

2nd Team v Charterhouse away v Lost 3-6

Some highly competitive tennis in a 3-6 defeat. The star players were Oli Chambers, *Rendalls*, and David Nackmanovich, *The Knoll*, who won all 3 of their sets with some attacking play.

Junior Colts A v Charterhouse home v Won 6-3

Another sunny warm afternoon on the hill. Waiting for Charterhouse to arrive late after their exams, meant reducing the sets to first to 5 games. Excellent tennis seen all afternoon, stand out performances from Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, and Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, who beat the opposition's first pair, who had been going almost undefeated all season.

Junior Colts B v Charterhouse home v Won 9-0

Superb straight wins for all three pairs, well done to all. Each pair developing their partnerships and playing some excellent tennis together.

Junior Colts C v Charterhouse home v Won 8-1

Particular mentions to Yago Morales, *Rendalls*, and Xavier Majumdar, *The Knoll*, winning all three convincingly and creating some lovely pair work on the court. The duo of Lucian Tyacke, *The Head Master's*, and Diederik Brouwers, *The Head Master's*, also winning all three games. Richard Zhao, *The Head Master's*, and Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, did well winning their first two games of the afternoon.

Junior Colts D v Charterhouse home v Lost 4-5

A tougher afternoon for the D team and a narrow loss. Well done to Christopher Squire, *Bradlys*, and Alex Gethin, *Rendalls*, winning two out of their three sets 5-2. Also congratulations to Luke Pain, *The Head Master's*, and Sebastien Pesel, *Moretons*, beating the first pair 5-4, and the third pair 5-0.

Yearlings A v Charterhouse home v Lost 3-6

The A's had a tricky fixture today. Charterhouse were a solid team. We had our chances and just needed to be slightly more aggressive at the net. The stand out performers were the A1 pairing of Alex Alekseev, *Bradlys*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*. They won 2 out of 3 matches, and showed strong doubles teamwork.

Yearlings B v Charterhouse home v Lost 3-6

The B's battled well today. Similar to the A team, a lot of matches could have gone the other way. The top pair were B1 consisting of Nicholas Katsambas, *The Head Master's*, and Danton Liu-Evans, *The Knoll*. They won 2/3 matches.

Yearlings C v Charterhouse home v Won 7-2

Our C team won a convincing victory over Charterhouse today 8 games to 2.

Yearlings D v Charterhouse home v Lost 4-5

Our D team were defeated today by Charterhouse 5 games to 4. Due to a blister on the thumb Raphael Waterhouse, *The Grove*, was substituted by Harris Yin, *West Acre*, after the second set.

This is the final edition of The Harrovian for the 2022-23 academic year

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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