

# THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXVI NO.1

September 9, 2023

## SICILY

*Classics trip to the jewel of the Mediterranean, July 1-8*

It was with a rush of anticipation that I began to run through the catalogue of events in my head of all that was soon to unfold in Sicily. Late that evening, I just couldn't get to sleep. The Leavers party had just wound down and I could still hear the lingering sounds of merriment and cheer in the air, but more importantly, the next morning we were set to leave for Palermo, Sicily – a trip that would take fifty of us on a Classics tour with Dr. Kennedy (SMK) who organised and led the trip, alongside our fearless group leaders: JLM, RHTN, JDBM, HJ, AGJ, EMK and RRM who would guide us throughout the journey. We were to stay in Sicily for eight days and immerse ourselves in the rich history, where some of the most consequential events of Ancient Greece, Rome and Carthage took place.



*(Above: Cathedral on Monreale, Palermo)*

Around 3:30 am on the 1st of July, the morning of our departure, the sky was pitch as tar; the air a palpable frigidness. Boys from all over the hill, whispering in the darkness, were arriving at the coach that was to take us to Heathrow for our 8:20 am flight to Palermo. As we neared Heathrow Airport, the sun rose against the dark purple of the sky, painting light hues of yellows and reds. After much hustle and excitement at the airport, our plane finally took off a few hours later.

An indelible moment that punctuated the start of our adventure was when our plane approached Palermo, the capital of Sicily, situated in the northwest of the island. We careered over the turquoise blue coastlines of the Tyrrhenian Sea and landed just at the edge where the land met the water – it was one of the most dazzling sights I have ever seen. Sicily is a rather mountainous island with scenic hills surrounding the airport, and upon peering out of our windows it was picture-perfect, as though from a magazine. We knew we had arrived.

Palermo has an old-world charm with its cobblestone, narrow streets flanked by classic Italian yellow-tiled buildings and red-brick rooftops, with many vendors selling memorabilia in their stalls on the open street. We proceeded to split up into two groups of about 25 each, where we didn't waste a moment, and after having lunch, headed to a Norman Cathedral (Gualteiro Offamiglio) built in 1185 by the then Archbishop of Palermo.

It was once a mosque prior to being converted to a cathedral during the time of the Crusaders. Thus, the cathedral's interior and overall design were fascinating, incorporating Christian, Muslim and Greek styles all within a singular building's architecture. In summary, it was a Christian place of worship, with a frescoed ceiling, that at the same time incorporated Arabic arches and had a heavy Byzantine influence. Most of the writing on the walls was also in either Greek or Latin. After this, the whole group then went to try Sicily's famed gelato at a gelateria named Ciccio Adelfio, which was an immediate favourite amongst us all! The whole group then transferred to Hotel Athenaeum and relaxed for a couple of hours before dinner after our long and exhausting day.

With the appetite of young historians, we set off on our second day to Antonino Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum in Monreale. Interestingly, it was also very close to where scenes from The Godfather trilogy were shot (Teatro Massimo). We found our way through a labyrinth of hallways and rooms of the museum to learn all things Ancient Greece. A fun fact that stood out for us was how many of the temples had Medusa's head adorned on the front of the entrance to ward off danger – I imagined how all her writhing snakes licked the air as worshipers would enter. Doctor Kennedy and some of the boys, while inspecting one of the alcoves in the museum, noticed a sign next to two vases made by the "Harrow Painter". This immediately drew all of us together to learn about who the Harrow Painter was. An Old Harrovian (John Beazley) funded many digs for ancient Greek vases in the 1800's, and while excavating, the group found a series of vases depicting a red figure in a similar style that were quite different from other vases around the island (39 vases in total). Not knowing the name of the painter, the mysterious figure was named the Harrow Painter.



*(Above: One of the many Doric temples throughout the island.)*

After taking in all that was to learn about the Ancients, we walked through the ancient sites of Monreale and Palermo, before arriving at the scenic road called the Prima Circoscrizione. We admired the majestic, emerald-green and tree-covered hills surrounding the city and experienced its shops, pizzerias and street music that lingered through the air as we zig-zagged

down cobblestone pathways. Then, after returning to the hotel, we had lunch and rested for a few hours, before setting off for excursions in smaller numbers, led by our Beak leaders. We then found ourselves at the Cathedral of Palermo, which is one of the greatest monuments of the Byzantine style. After that, we were allowed some free time to explore the various shops and restaurants along the Prima Circonscrizione. A couple of my friends and I had a delicious margarita pizza in one of the many pizzerias. By chance, we even stumbled upon a GameStop!



(Above: At the Valley of the Temples, a Bronze God stands in front of a modern Icarus.)

After about an hour and a half, we regrouped and returned to the hotel for the night.

On the third day of our trip, we left Palermo and ventured out to the centre of the island, heading to the ancient cities of Segesta and Selinunte, learning how Segesta and Selinunte had a war due to long-held tensions. The Carthaginians supported Segesta and completely wiped out Selinunte with an invasion force of 100,000 in 409 BC. As part of the archaeological ruins of the site, the group was taken on a tour of a Greek Theatre that was built around the 12th century BC, which was in mint condition. I found myself chosen to recite the 2023 Oxenham Passage in Latin. Here I was, surrounded by scenic valleys and taking centre stage, describing the Ancient Greek Hero Aeneas as he was descending into the hellish and fiery Underworld in this most ancient and awe-inspiring site. It was truly a most remarkable experience! We then walked down the picturesque and winding hills that surrounded the historic site, until we arrived at our first Ancient Greek Temple of the trip. An interesting fact about this nameless temple was that it had never been finished or destroyed, even though many different ancient powers controlled the Segesta area. The Romans, Carthaginians and the Greeks all chose to let the temple stay standing. Also, a noteworthy fact: a scene from Indiana Jones 5 was filmed here! After brimming with the stories of an ancient past, the group then headed off to the town of Agrigento, where we stayed at the Hotel Tre Torri – a hotel with a pool outside that everyone enjoyed thoroughly.

On July 4th, our fourth day, we visited the world-famous UNESCO Valley of the Temples site, where about seven great temples stand (all in the Doric style) and the Archaeological Museum of Agrigento. One of the most important heritage sites in Sicily! The temples in the valley were dedicated to Hercules, Hera, Zeus, Hephaestus, Asclepius, Concordia and one for the brothers, Castor and Pollux. An image that stuck in my mind long after the trip were the lush-green, rolling hills that surrounded the Valley of the Temples. The views were breath-taking, and the story of the temples mesmerising, all made from the materials of limestone with serrated columns and imbued with stories of how they passed from different civilizations and empires, yet still retained roughly their same structure and regality. The group was also taught about a rule for making temples in the

Doric style. The number of pillars along the length of the temple are twice the number along the width, minus one ( $\text{Width}=x$ ,  $\text{Length}=2x-1$ ). We also learned how the Greeks first came, and the history of the archaeological dig site. The excavation was funded in the 20th Century by Captain Alexander Hardcastle (an OH), whose support allowed for the restoration of some of the columns. He was later made an honorary citizen of the city of Agrigento. In 255 BC the Carthaginians overtook the town, only to then be taken again by the Greeks and then the Romans. During the city's constantly changing ruling power, its name also adapted accordingly. Thus, throughout history, the city has been named Akragas by the Greeks; Girgenti in Sicilian; Kirkant by the Arabs and Carthaginians; Agrigentum by the Romans; and finally the Italian Dictator Mussolini renamed the city to Agrigento in 1929, when he was running his campaign to "rebuild the Roman Empire".

On the fifth day of our trip, we left Agrigento for the picturesque seaside city of Messina. On the way to Messina, from Agrigento, we stopped at a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was a Roman Villa called the Piazza Armerina, built in the 3rd Century AD. The villa is world-famous for its brilliant and excellently preserved mosaics, which are among the best and most detailed in the world. Through analysing the mosaics, it has been identified that the owner of the villa used to capture animals from Africa and India and bring them to arenas across Italy and the Colosseum where animal and gladiator fighting occurred. There were exquisite Roman baths; lengthy corridors adorned with elaborate mosaics that depicted hunting stories, scenes from mythology and events of animal capture.



(Above: The group at the theatre at Taormina.)

Finally, at last, it was time for both groups to split. We packed our bags in the coach and the two groups split off. Everyone went to Messina and my group stayed at Hotel Kennedy where you could see the Italian mainland from our windows! Late afternoon, we spent time on the beach with its crystal blue and pristine waters where we rested and dove into the Mediterranean Sea. Then, our final stop was one of the best Gelaterias on the trip—La Bella Sicilia (which sold a special flavour: Ferrero Rocher Gelato).

The next morning the air was thick with excitement as we were about to venture to the largest stratovolcano in the world: Mount Etna. We had a very early morning departure to see this still active volcano. The story goes that Etna, around 500,000 years ago (which is relatively recent in geological terms) was underwater where it then erupted and land started to accumulate. Around 200,000 years ago, the eruptions from Etna formed the northeast side of the island, and as the lava rose out of the sea, it solidified, and then formed land. Etna has been active ever since then! Another incredible story was during the year 1669. In this year, the largest recorded historical eruption of the Etna volcano occurred. The resulting lava flows, aftershocks, and earthquakes completely destroyed about fourteen towns in the



valleys. The inhabitants of these towns fled to the city of Catania and sought refuge there; religious ceremonies were held in the city to implore the end of the eruption. Soon, one lava flow in particular travelled over 30 km, until it reached the town of Catania. Whilst this lava flow did cause some damage to the city, the city walls held up the lava, which began to flow into the Ionian Sea. This increased the amount of land on which the island was built.



*(Above: Up at the top of Mount Etna)*

There is also a Greek myth around how Etna was formed. According to legend, Athena and Zeus threw the giant, Typhon, under the water and placed the island on top of the giant in order to entrap him. Etna, it is said, is his head poking out, which spews forth lava, for when the giant is angry we see his fire. It's a fact that the island is prone to earthquakes, and so, when the earth shakes, the legend states that it is Typhon moving underneath the island itself.

So there we were, about to visit the crater formed by Etna's eruption in 2002. Astonishingly, to get to the top of the volcano, we had to travel 1900 metres above sea level on our team bus, and then hop onto cable cars, which were swinging above the coastline. I peered down aghast as I looked at the tiny specks which were the houses so many metres below. We all held our breath in awe as the emerald green vales stretched out to human settlement, which gave way to the turquoise sea. Then, we boarded the moon rovers (huge vehicles, which had tyres that were about 6 ft in diameter). After lumbering along we reached 2500 metres, and then the group started trekking to the crater whilst following our alpine guide. The trek was absolutely stunning: we were walking on hardened lava, rock that was reddened as if we were on Mars itself! Finally, we then reached the crater, measuring 150-200 metres in diameter. I couldn't believe we were standing at the top of an active volcano!

After the incredible adventure of going up Mount Etna, the group then headed to the City of Taormina, and to the Teatro Greco in particular – one of the most celebrated ruins in Sicily, located on a hill that offers some of the most idyllic views of the aquamarine blue of the Mediterranean Sea. The preservation of this site was remarkable, and dates back to Roman times, as it was built with bricks, yet had a very strong Greek theatrical style. We admired the cliffs, the boats in the harbour, and the placid landscape of the place before heading back to Messina and the Hotel Kennedy, where we found ourselves back at the beach, the salty sea, and the La Bella Sicilia Gelateria once again that evening again.

The next morning, the boys were (mostly!) up bright and early as we needed to go on yet another arduous long bus journey from our location at the most north-eastern tip of the island at Medina to the ancient city of Syracuse, which has been inhabited since 734 BC by Corinthian settlers. Although the coach ride was rather long and challenging, the green valleys, meadows, and sea surrounding us were breath-taking sites, with the occasional olive field as well. When we arrived at Syracuse and Ortygia Island, one thing became clear. Almost all the statues and souvenirs celebrated one resident of the city: Archimedes.

Archimedes was a brilliant Greek mathematician who lived in Syracuse (then Syracusa), before he was killed when the Romans took control of the city in 212 BC. The conquest of Syracuse marked the complete Roman takeover of the island of Sicily. When exploring Syracuse and Ortygia Island (which has never been connected to the mainland through a bridge), we explored many parts of the city and saw how ancient buildings like the many crumbled amphitheatres, were included alongside more modern housing and a harbour full of yachts. During our tour at the Syracuse Archaeological Museum (one of the foremost archaeological museums in Europe), we discovered an interesting fact. The myth of the mythical Cyclops actually originated from Syracuse itself. Thousands of years ago, Sicily was part of Africa, and it had a population of elephants living on it. When Sicily broke off and became an island, the size of elephants soon became smaller, and when they died off, they often did so in caves. Thus, when the first Greek and Corinthian settlers came, they found huge skulls with a massive hole in the centre (where the trunk would normally go), and mistook this for where an eye would be. Thus originated the Cyclops, the 'one-eyed' beast.



*(Above: One of the many treasures we saw at the Syracusan Archeological Museum.)*

It was on the last day of the trip that the realisation struck us all that this adventure would soon all be over. We were once again watching a movie late into the night (something which the Beaks were obviously not pleased about) – but this time – I was packing my bags while reminiscing about every moment of our trip that brought me to the archaic times of Sicily, moments that will stay with me forever.

With mixed feelings, our group finally left Medina and Hotel Kennedy behind, and toured the ancient city of Catania for our final day. In Catania, we observed the Piazza Duomo (a UNESCO Site), the Catania Parco Archeologico Greco Romano di Catania, a Roman amphitheatre in Catania (roughly the same age as the Piazza Armerina), the fish market, and an ancient castle built by a Norman King that survived the lava flow of 1669.

It was now 5:00 pm and time to say goodbye to the island. We arrived at the airport only to find out there was a two hour delay for our flight back to London. Taking in Etna in the distance and the green hills that surrounded the airport. I closed my eyes and dived into the events of the past week, and singled out some indelible moments: the mosaics of the Piazza Armerina, the many scrumptious gelatos, and who could forget the views from the top of Mount Etna; its Martian landscape contrasting with the pristine sea, idyllic towns, and green valleys.

So, when we landed in London at 1:00 am – bleary eyed – and having said goodnight to each other, we went off in our separate directions full with the knowledge and history we gained on this memorable trip. And what history it was! Where the Ancient Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, and so many other civilizations gained and lost control over this sought-after island – an island set like a jewel at the centre of the Mediterranean.

## BARCELONA

### *Expeditions Week, Summer Term*

I was one of the lucky 24 Removes who got the chance to spend their Expeditions Week in Barcelona. The trip (led by Ms Murray) was an art-oriented one, aimed at exposing Harrovians to the famous museums and landmarks across the city, with equal parts cultural experiences and a trip to legendary FC Barcelona's Stadium. We landed in Barcelona after a flight from Gatwick spanning from 1pm to 4:15pm. Despite a slight delay at baggage claim, we were off on the city's elaborate metro system headed for the youth hostel we'd be staying in for the next four days. Most dinners consisted mainly of seafood Tapas, with one night even having fried pig's ears on the menu. The next morning was a 9am wake up for a trip to the UNESCO World Heritage site, Parc Guell, a garden/park complex completed in 1914 and designed by the city's own Antoni Gaudi. After taking pictures and exploring the park for a few hours, we headed to another one of Antoni Gaudi's creations, La Sagrada Familia, for a walking tour. The famously incomplete cathedral is on track to be the largest church in the world, and its construction began in 1882. After a guided tour we were released into the city for an hour or so of exploring during which we visited the FiveGuys and stopped at a shopping center. As if we hadn't already seen enough Gaudi we were off for a tour of La Pedrera Casa Mila tour, which in the end proved to be a fascinating bit of architecture that served as an apartment complex for the city's bourgeoisie. Much to my chagrin I caught some sort of fever on day two and as a result did not get to visit the much anticipated Las Ramblas, but from what I've heard it didn't disappoint. Las Ramblas are a set of street markets in Barcelona with fish caught that same morning on sale and a variety of clothes. I was able to rejoin the group later that evening on the beach for a two hour swim and more free time to explore. There was plenty to see and explore on the beach and led by Mr Tominey-Nevado, afterwards we had dinner only a block away, getting the chance to experience the best Tapas I'd ever had. Despite all the fun and learning, the restless nights and onerous days (not to mention the heat) left the whole group exhausted and ready to fly back to the Hill. Overall I'm tremendously grateful for such a great group of Removes and Beaks that made an already exciting trip all the better with a truly fantastic energy and a sense of school spirit. Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Mrs Murray, Mr Tominey-Nevado and especially Mrs Tremlett for putting up with what was an unlucky bout of sickness. Whether I'd want to revisit the city I'm not sure, but I will say that having heard about the other Remove expeditions, Ms Murray's art trip was the clear victor.

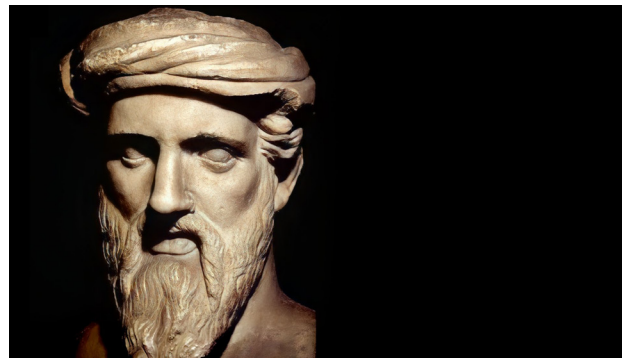
## JUNIOR CLASSICAL SOCIETY

### *The Pre-Socratics, Deno Leventis Library, Arthur Yang, West Acre, Summer Term*

Towards the end of Summer Term, 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 due to the massive impact of these thinkers, their ideas would influence cultural tradition for the next 2000 years.

Yang started with the Pre-Socratics era which started with Thales and the Milesians. Thales was born around 625 BC 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 610 BC, 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 then 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 500 BC 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 470 BC 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, man has to obtain knowledge. This went on to influence the cynics in their lack of interest in worldly possessions and the Stoics in the 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 428 BC, 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 of 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 as well. From Thales to Aristotle, each of them taught many impressive ideas that are still respected 2000 years later. Yang's lecture has given us a deeper understanding of all of their ideas and reminds us of their influences.

## PIGOU SOCIETY

*"Becoming Andrew Bailey: An Introduction to Econometric Models", Krish Rana, The Knoll, 21 June*

On Wednesday 21 June, Krish Rana, *The Knoll*, gave a riveting talk on different growth econometric models that have evolved throughout the 20th century to the current models used by central bankers around the world. Their principal function was to suggest the best methods to bring about long run economic growth and was specifically developed in the 1930s and 1940s by Harrod and Domar to unlock growth in developing countries.

To start off, Rana first differentiated exogenous growth models and endogenous growth models, where exogenous growth models encompass classical theory that argues that long run growth emerges entirely from technological progress, meaning that growth is outside the economy's control due to the random nature of innovation. Endogenous growth models, on the other hand, consists of neo-classical and Keynesian theories that agree that growth arises from technical progress, but argue that innovation can be controlled and altered through changes in the economy.

The first econometric model discussed was the Harrod-Domar Model, where the two factors needed for growth were a high

savings rate and a low capital-output ratio. This is because a high savings rate leads to more credit in an economy, therefore lowering interest rates and increasing investment. A low capital-output ratio indicates that the amount of capital needed to produce a high amount of output is low. This therefore indicates a feedback loop where increased investment leads to higher capital stock, higher economic growth, and subsequently increased savings, therefore returning to higher investment.

This implies that to boost investment, governments should engage in large scale capital projects, which boosts employment, and national incomes resulting in higher savings, and improving the productivity of general investment (Thereby lowering the capital-output ratio). To boost savings, governments should take on foreign aid. For example, the Marshall Act in 1948 enacted on this approach, where the USA gave Europe \$13.3 billion as foreign aid to improve infrastructure.

However, this does not come without limits, as this may create the wrong incentive as governments are no longer required to deliver upon real macroeconomic objectives as they are propped up by the foreign aid received. Also, this model can only apply to developing economies, not developed economies.

To tackle this, the Solow Growth Model was formed as a criticism and extension to the Harrod-Domar Model. This still holds similar characteristics to the Harrod-Domar Model where growth still arises from a rise in investment and capital. However, the main difference is the concept of marginal rate of returns. As Developed countries have less net positive investment as firms already spent a significant amount of money replacing obsolete capital (MPC is low), and developed countries have already reached a steady state of growth, whereas developing countries play 'catchup' before reaching the 'steady state' whereby GDPs begin to converge and equalise.

The production function of the model shows how factors of production turn into outputs, where  $Y = f(K, HK, A)$ , where  $K$  is the capital,  $HK$  is the human capital, and  $A$  is the rate of technological advancement. By assuming  $HK$  and  $A$  are constants, we can model the effects of an increase in  $K$  (Capital) on output. Therefore, the Solow Growth Model emphasises the role of technological advancement (through directed subsidies for R&D) where it is what makes the marginal product of capital higher and thus makes more investment viable. Many recent studies have supported this, such as a 2007 study by Chinese economists which showed that growth in China from 1998-2004 was driven by technological progress, rather than the growth of capital and labour.

Finally, Rana addressed a highly complex macroeconomic model which examines how fiscal and monetary policies filter down: DSGE Model. However, these DSGE Models are not growth models, which was a distinction Krish made very clear. DSGE stands for three key characteristics: dynamic, stochastic (considers demand and supply shocks) and general equilibrium (Even with shocks and policy changes). To understand this, Krish split the DSGE model into 3 parts: demand, supply, and monetary policy, of which demand is affected by demand shocks, supply is affected by mark-up shocks and monetary policy is affected by policy shocks. Expectations affect all three parts.

Despite DSGE's complexity and ability to account for the impacts of many economic variables on the economy, it came with some criticism, particularly post 2008 GFC as they were ineffective tools in predicting and monitoring the depression due to a lack of reliable financial sector modelling, so they are unable to take systemic risk into account, the assumption of perfect rationality, and the time lag of the policy.

With this, Rana concluded his illuminating talk. The Pigou Society thanks Krish profusely for his well-planned lecture, starting from the basics and slowly building up the level of complexity of models that enabled all attending economists to understand and take important lessons and ideas from this.



## HERE AND THERE

*News from around the Hill*

Last year's Leavers have cause for pride and celebration, the School's results in public exams are the best in a decade – a very impressive outcome. Exam results have seen our Leavers on to very laudable destinations for university, 33 boys going to Global top 10 universities and 96 to top 100.

At the end of last term some boys left the Hill to join the Army Scholarship Selection Board. A gruelling three day process of tests, tasks, observation, practical challenges and assessment. I am pleased that Archie Young, *Rendalls*, and Nicko de Labilliere, *The Grove*, have passed through this stringent process and have been awarded Army Scholarships.

# OPINION

## CORRESPONDENCE

*Letters to the Editors*

DEAR SIRs,

Ban phones and emails. Ban all of AI and apps. Ban plebs on bennies.

Bring back cornflakes in cloth sacks and a shovel to weigh them out with. Bring back fish and chips wrapped in newspapers. Bring back bingo callers singing the National Anthem.

Bring back grammar schools and heterosexuals. Bring back swearing and smoking and coalmen and candlestick telephones and in/out trays. Bring back the typing pool and proper digestive biscuits.

Bring back hanging and Z Cars and £3,500 for a 4-bed house, and bring back colonialism and Smarties with extra food colouring.

Bring it all back, especially the BBC when it was a monopoly, and The Harrovian when it used to be an enchantment of the written word, with only lively debate in its modest pages, and no turgid regurgitation of spotty teenagers senile classroom essays, pasted by a folorn cabal of desperate editors, spreading their endless retreads like some vast sargasso.

Yours sincerely

MIKE STONE, MORETONS 1957<sup>2</sup>

*PS. I overdid it in the Italian heatwave and had a stroke, but that is nothing to do with this.*

DEAR SIRs,

Harrow, much like the UNSC, is filled with societies scrambling to gain power while looking diplomatic and helpful to the world at large. However, Societies ought not be represented by the uncomprehending and inefficient youth – for more information on that, look to the MUN Soc: [20YoungR@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:20YoungR@harrowschool.org.uk). Indeed, it is ridiculous to think that an organisation would be better run if selecting not on ability, but only on age. It is even more bizarre to select ages specifically bad at the job, such as children running a sex clinic or an 80 year old dementia patient as a president. If it isn't yet clear, I mean to attack the concept of Junior Societies – something I have planned to do since Remove, but refrained due to being in charge of a couple.

The supposed purpose of a Junior Society is to save younger boys from the intimidation of Greater Societies. While I can see the immense intimidation that comes with even attending a daunting society such as that of Tea, I think it a reasonable and useful experience for a developing

young Harrovian. Another purpose is to give the 'youth' of the School a chance to lead something; however, the truly driven can claim a society with merit rather than pity, and the others should just wait their turn. This essentially proves that there is no true purpose of a junior society other than wanting to be in charge of something.

Given that there are no benefits, I hear you wondering if there are any downsides with these youthful unions. It is obvious that the selection is greatly discriminatory and that boys should be selected based of their ability to lead and passion for the topic. However, another downside is splitting what could be one good society into two pitiful parties. Not only is valuable ink wasted with the number of societies printed in the bill book, but it dilutes the extra-curriculum to have so many. Now the number of lectures from each society is halved due to duplication, weakening its fabric and causing greater inefficiency. Said inefficiency culminates with twice the number of beaks needed, and twice the amount of though, for the same number of lectures. We ought only have one Society per major topic, like: History, Science, and Tea. It also seems to have escaped the understanding of Harrow that the older one is, generally the more competent and equipped for leadership one finds oneself.

Essentially, Junior Societies are an excuse to feel important with little competition. Surely, it must stop.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT YOUNG, THE GROVE

DEAR SIRs,

I have always thought that the personal and pastoral connections that boys make with their matrons, are vital for the mental health of everyone living in the sardine tins we call houses. I would actually go so far to say that they are – as a rule of thumb – the most important connections that boys make with staff in their time on The Hill. Particularly for younger boys, it is impossible to understate the impact and insight into the lives and minds of each harrovian that matrons possess.

I also think that the wonderful work and impact of our matrons is overlooked – particularly compared with that of housemasters, another vital element of the house teams. I cannot think of a better example of this than in our reports – often the agitators of much grief to my parents – each term. Matrons do not comment on end of term reports, but I believe they should, because it would positively impact the school-home relationship, offer parents a more accurate picture of their boy's life and pastoral environment, and be a non-critical record of the smaller, quieter things that make up most of our lives.

I think that it is important to keep parents up to date with the less trumpeted advancements in their boy's schooling. At boarding school, we are all cooped up in our own little worlds, rarely sharing our actual thoughts and feelings with masters and peers, but rather our achievements and boasts (which inevitably make up the majority of reports).

There are few who actually get to see how we live, who can genuinely understand the driving forces behind each boy, and identify potential problems and trends. Matrons may well be the only members of Harrow Staff who have access to that other side of a boy's time at school; because they are non-academic, not judgemental, and present constantly in our lives.

I know that if my parents had heard from Rendall's matron–Ms. Price – in my reports, my first two years on this mound would have been much easier for all parties. The advanced communication would have been greatly beneficial. Though, in more obvious instances, matrons write emails to communicate with parents on various aspects of our lives, these provide only a sliver of insight into the house-based lives of boys, as they cover specific circumstances. A broad, termly profile which could be compared term-on-term, would offer greater perspicacity for and would be appreciated by many boy's families; families who rarely – if ever – hear about the daily lives of their adolescents.

Harrow provides an excellent education, one which I am immensely grateful for every day. However, to achieve a more seamless blend between our homelife and our time at school, and to provide a greater account of the progress of boys at the end of each term; Matrons should be more involved in the comments at the end of term.

I would be grateful to see the school look towards adding a 'Matron Comment' to the end of reports, because of the benefits at home and at school that such a decision would provide.

Yours hopefully,

ARTURO SAVILLE, RENDALLS

## SUDOKU

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				7	8			
	6				9	1		
	2	8	5				7	4

## SPORT

### SWIMMING

#### *Henley Open Water Swim Sunday 25 June*

Since 2004 Henley Swim has had exclusive once-a-year access to the Henley Royal Regatta course, allowing swimmers the opportunity to swim the stunning, world-renowned 2.1km course at dawn (4am). The event starts with a short walk to the official regatta start, where the first swimmers will enter the water, just as the sun is rising. This River Thames swimming experience takes you past all the famous Henley Regatta landmarks including the Barn Bar, Phyllis Court, and the Members' Grandstand. As the church and bridge come into sight in the early morning sun, you reach the end of your swim at the official Regatta finish. Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, completed the event in 35 minutes 50s, finishing 7th in the U18s category – a tremendous achievement.

### *Summer National and International News*

Harrow swimmers had a very successful summer, the best one on record. After winning double national titles last academic year, the swim team continued their march forward.

Swimming for the first time on an international stage Joe Storey, *Newlands*, competed for Jersey in the Island games where he won a gold and a silver and setting new personal best times in both 50m breast stroke 28.72 seconds and 50m freestyle 22.77. These times place Joe third Nationally in the 18-age group.

Adam Wong, *The Park*, swam in the Junior Nationals in the United States and at the Hong Kong Nationals where he posted some very good times placing him in the top 5 nationally.

Competing for the first time at British Nationals Thomas Williams, *The Head Master's*, swam incredibly well making the final of the 50m breaststroke swimming 30.64.

Also making the step up to British Nationals Max Stafford Davies, *Lyon's*, swam best times in the three events he competed in making the final in 50m butterfly where he narrowly missed a medal in the tightest of races. Alex Moore, *Lyon's*, also competed at British Nationals swimming well in the 100m freestyle.

Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, in the Hong Kong Nationals had an outstanding 50m breaststroke, swimming the third fastest time ever by a Hong Kong National, the time was 28.82 long course, this swim along with his 23.90 on the 50m freestyle has put Mark on the team for selection for the Asian Olympics.

Nick Finch, *Newlands*, had a superb British Nationals meet winning three golds and one bronze, posting some of the fastest times in Europe this year in the junior age group. Earlier in the year he had earned selection for the English team for the youth Commonwealth Games held in Trinidad and Tobago. Nick's First event was the 50m Butterfly where in the Heats he set a new games record and then followed it up with a silver medal. He then moved on to the 100m freestyle where Nick set a personal best time of 51:14 placing a very credible 7th. Nick's third event was the 100m butterfly again swimming a best time and winning a fantastic silver medal and finishing off the evening with a gold in the mixed 4 x 100m freestyle relay. Nick swam the race of his life to put team England in to first position to win gold in the mixed 4 x 50m medley team.

To complete the picture swimming at the world championships in Japan, OH Benedict Parfit, former swim captain and double bath cup winner, competing for his home country Bermuda set a lifetime best at aged 28.

### ATHLETICS

#### *English Schools' Athletics Championships, Summer Term*

7 boys went to Birmingham straight from expeditions week to compete at the English Schools' Championships in July. The track athletes, Tom Emery, Hugh Middle and Auberon Dragen found the standards very high competitive and worked hard. The field athletes had greater success, finishing as follows:

Gus Chukwuemeka: 9th in the Intermediate shot put: 30.08m National ranking: 27

Emile Majed: 6th in the Junior discus: 37.05m National ranking: 15

Tommy Mackay: 5th in the Senior discus: 43.69m National ranking: 15

Tito Odunaike: 7th in the Junior triple jump: 12.61m (Since then Tito added another 86cm to his best, breaking the school record and finishing the season with a final Summer ranking of 4). Emile, Tommy, Tito and Auberon all broke the school record in their respective events over the summer.

## EDITORS OF THE HARROVIAN

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All Harrow boys, from the Shells through to the Sixth Form are encouraged submit humorous writing, satire, pen portraits and creative writing, poetry, essays, cartoons or serious articles of any length which touch upon the life here at Harrow. If you are interested in writing for *The Harrovian*, or have something that you would like to submit, please speak with or email any of the editors.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

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