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LONG DUCKER

Well done to all the boys, beaks, staff and parents for their running and swimming, and to all those who marshalled, provided medical support and co-ordinated the event – Long Ducker this year was an outstanding occasion.



Particular congratulations go to Kiefer Yeo, *The Head Master's*, as the fastest swimmer over 10km, and to Henry Gilbertson, *Newlands*, the fastest swimmer over 5km. In the 10km run, Michael Cattini, *Moretons*, won with a blistering time that must be checked against the records. Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, was placed second and was the first Remove; Henry Barker, *The Park*, came third and was the first Fifth Former. Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, in an incredible display of determination, completed the 10km swim before *winning* the 20km half marathon: an impressive Double Ducker. For full results and report, look inside.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

His Excellency Professor Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the UK, 10 October

On 10 October, the Slavonic Society was honoured with the presence of His Excellency Professor Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United Kingdom. The event, which took place in the historic venue of the Fourth Form Room, was also attended by pupils from 19 of our partner-schools. A warm welcome message delivered in Polish by Filip Wiszniewski, *Druries*, and a brief introduction in English from David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, informed the audience of the Ambassador's unique academic profile, including research and teaching at some of the premier academic institutions in Poland and abroad as well as his wide diplomatic experience. It was clear from the outset of the meeting that Professor Wilczek would bring acute observations and thoughtful answers to our questions.

His Excellency began by providing the audience with some background to his current position. As an academic in the

field of humanities, he expressed his affection for the Fourth Form Room and its walls steeped in history and tradition. His Excellency then moved to his diplomatic career, beginning with his time as Ambassador of Poland to the United States of America between 2016 and 2021, explaining that the core values of fostering collaboration and building cultural bridges between two nations had not altered in his current position as Ambassador of Poland to the United Kingdom. He elaborated that a key element of diplomacy was understanding the art of clear communication while respecting a host nation's beliefs and values, resulting in the need to sometimes juggle interests and navigate nuances.

Touching upon the Russia-Ukraine war, Professor Wilczek explained how security collaboration between Poland and the United Kingdom has never been stronger. He admired Britain's unilateral and determined decision to support Ukraine fully from the start, hailing a common goal of the two nations to secure Europe's Eastern borders as defined by international law. Poland's intrinsic role in providing humanitarian and practical aid was stated by His Excellency before the floor opened for questions.



KAF began with a series of general questions submitted by the boys. The first was on Poland's relationship with the United Kingdom post-Brexit. His Excellency first elucidated the key issue which was specific to Poland: immigration. With over 800,000 Polish citizens and nearly 1.1 million Poles with settled and pre-settled status, the United Kingdom is home for many Polish immigrants. Therefore, the arrival of Brexit was certainly a challenge for the Polish community. Yet he stressed that challenges had been faced by Britain-based Poles before (especially during the first few years of post-WW II immigration), and that such difficulties would certainly be overcome. His Excellency astutely pointed out that challenges related to trade and co-operation were not specific challenges for Poland, but rather the European Union as a whole. Nevertheless, His Excellency clearly stated that he believed the United Kingdom was still a European nation, and that collaboration would certainly continue.

A second question came in the form of how the war in Ukraine had changed Poland's position on the international stage. His Excellency began with an anecdote from a meeting with a Middle Eastern ambassador, who said that Poland would be filled with refugee camps soon after it implemented its open-door policy to Ukrainian refugees. Such a situation has still not yet occurred, with 1.3 million refugees in Poland; the generosity of Polish people to host strangers in their homes pushed a positive image of Poland onto the international front. His Excellency further demonstrated the positive effects of such immigration on the Polish economy. Simultaneously, Poland's geographic position (sharing a border with Ukraine) as well as its current state as a hub for Ukrainian aid ensures that almost all humanitarian aid for Ukraine is routed through Poland, boosting international co-operation with the nation.

KAF's final question on behalf of the boys was on whether the upcoming elections in Poland would affect the nation's stance on Ukraine. Hearteningly, His Excellency responded with a resounding: "Nothing will change". The Polish Eastern Policy has been the common policy of every Polish government since 1990, supporting a free Belarus and defending freedom amongst post-Soviet states. His Excellency made it clear that recent controversies to do with reduced military support and an embargo on the selling of Ukrainian grain on Polish soil were taken somewhat out of context by popular media and would not interrupt Poland's continued support for Ukraine. It was abundantly clear that no Polish government would be pro-Russian or anti-Ukrainian.

The first question from the floor was on how Poland managed to develop its economy so swiftly after regaining independence in 1990. His Excellency explained that this was due to fast action to "transform" totally from a socialist, state-owned system to a capitalist, free-market system of privatised corporations. This was crucial for the next step of Poland's economic growth: the joining of the European Union and its significant trade benefits. Within the span of just over 30 years, Poland's GDP has tripled, and its average income per capita has risen by 500%.



This was followed by a question about why Poland was so concerned about Ukraine's tight partnership with Germany. His Excellency explained that this was not necessarily a reflection of concern, rather the human condition relating to individual benefit and interests. He demonstrated how Poland would certainly prefer to be involved in many aspects of Ukraine's post-war plans, but also pragmatically understood clearly why Ukraine had to rely on Germany at this stage of the war. His Excellency made it clear that close collaboration was continuing and that this was not a big issue.

After this, he was asked about Poland's and the European Union's stance on Serbia and Kosovo, to which His Excellency adeptly provided the appropriate information which he had on the matter, before humbly acknowledging that he was not an expert on this topic. Nevertheless, he still provided encouraging and thoughtful words, explaining that from a Polish perspective, he wished for the situation to be resolved through the diplomatic process as defined by the Berlin Process.

SPS then ask the Ambassador a question on whether Poland's cultural direction would lean towards a more secular, Western Europe or stick to Catholic principles. In response, His Excellency provided a brief outline of Poland's religious demographic as they stood, explaining that 70% of Poles were church-goers, highlighting the importance of Catholicism in the everyday lives of many. At the same time, he emphasised that Poles are influenced by international media, through the internet and other means, resulting in a stronger foothold for liberalism than in previous times. Yet, His Excellency stated that Poland would for the time being remain a Catholic-dominated nation.

MJM then asked about whether the Western members of NATO could be trusted to take up arms in the case of an invasion of an Eastern member state. His Excellency provided a detailed and clear answer, acknowledging the conundrum of NATO as a reactive security pact versus NATO as a collective security organisation with the goal of deterrent. He stated that he and his government believed that if any NATO member state were to be attacked, the magnitude of NATO's reaction would have to be based on the type of attack: for instance, if there were to be a minor instance such as a rogue missile or a lone helicopter intercepting airspace, the response would be more ambiguous. Nevertheless, His Excellency made it clear that he believed that if a NATO member state were to be invaded in the way Ukraine had, there would be an unambiguous and unanimous retaliation from NATO, including its Western members. There is merely no precedent bar 9/11 to set this against.

The final question asked was on whether Ukrainian war fatigue was being felt by Poland. His Excellency stressed that while the process of supporting Ukraine was a long one, it was one which Poland would continue unwaveringly as a symbol of camaraderie, an extension of shared, albeit often difficult, history and to defend her own interests, as the next logical step for Russia might be Poland if Ukraine were to fall.

Throughout the event, His Excellency referred to the shared histories between Poland and the United Kingdom for centuries, starting with the first visit of a Polish dignitary to England in 1522 and his meeting with King Henry VIII. The Polish role in securing the Allied win in the Battle of Britain was strongly delivered to the audience, whereas Britain's early role as a defender of Eastern European nations and their interests was profoundly acknowledged by His Excellency.

As such, Harrow School and the Slavonic Society were appreciative and deeply grateful to be able to host His Excellency, and to play a part in the weaving of a shared cultural, political and historical tapestry between the United Kingdom and Poland, as stated by Nikita Usatiuk, *Moretons*, in his thank-you message to the Ambassador. Sincere thanks go also to Dr Clarinda Calma, Expert for Science and Education at the Embassy of Poland, who was instrumental in organising the visit and accompanied the Ambassador to Harrow School. Last but not least, our gratitude goes to KAF for her effort and time to make the visit run so smoothly and for extending Harrow School hospitality to pupils from other schools, many of whom were of Polish heritage.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

A Speech Room Celebration of Shakespeare's First Folio, Speech Room, 4 November

On the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, Speech Room was filled with a love for language and the performance arts. A Monteverdian round of rumbling drums silenced the audience, as Harrow School's *All the world's a stage!* began in murky glory.

The show began in a gothic manner, as flanks of Harrovian actors descended the Speech Room stairs, ingeniously making use of every nook and cranny of the impressive space. Restrained yet precise choreography followed, as the actors flowed between each other as if symbolic of the tight weaving of the Bard's influence within the English language. As the extravagant display died down, the first of the night's magical moments occurred: OH Richard Curtis (namesake of the Curtis Film Society and director of *Love Actually* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) delivered his address to the audience. Anecdotal and humorous, he shared experiences of his wig falling off on the Speech Room stage while playing the tragic queen Hermione, and of how his wife intensely dislikes a play which he has recently written. At the core of his speech was a powerful statement of Shakespeare at Harrow, and of Jeremy Lemmon's legacy on the School from schoolboy to beak. We were to be treated to a tapestry woven from all 18 plays that would have probably have been lost if not for the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, ranging from the legendary to the obscure. In Curtis' words, "Shakespeare was the second coming of Christ".

Beginning with *The Infant*, we were greeted with a roaring "Elizabeth!", as the young Queen Bess (who was famously a great patron of Shakespeare) lay as a baby doll on a chest (lest we ever forget that Queen Elizabeth sat one day...). There was a forgotten line, but this was swiftly rectified with self-referential humour. This segment truly set the scene for the rest of the night, with actors crossing the great divide of the stage, merging, bleeding new life into the centuries-old tales. Actor-in-Residence OTW was particularly strong, with powerful vocal dynamics and a visceral, physical style.



The second age of *The Whining Schoolboy* began with a history story of how Speech Room was bombed in WW2, and how one enterprising beak decided: "Shakespeare it is!". Swiftly following was a sketch delivered with jest and comedic brilliance: written by Tobias Deacon (the director of the show), it revealed the hilarity, comedy and struggle behind the scenes when rehearsing for a play. For those who have always wanted to scream and shout outside the doors of Speech Room, Rory Grant, *Moretons*, offered true catharsis. It is sad, therefore, that I must report that the customary phone ringing occurred amongst the audience (clearly some adults are addicted to their devices).

Then came the longest segment of the show: *The Lover*. Exploring Shakespeare's depictions of the states of longing and desire, the individual extracts were supremely woven to form a cohesive and powerful whole, alongside iconic lines such as "If Sylvia be not seen!" Movement between the stage and the passages among the audience built a sense of immediacy and closeness between the viewers and the actor, developing a specific intimacy which is perhaps not usually associated with Shakespeare.

The Bard's mastery of contrast was shown next, in depictions of *The Soldier*. Beginning with Anthony's prophecy, a grander

and more solemn tone was established within Speech Room, as booming, soaring voices enunciated words of death, revenge and betrayal. This is not to say, however, that there was not fun as well: the interestingly choreographed fight scenes may not have been hyper-realistic, but were satisfyingly comedic, alongside distinctive blue and red berets (Parisian fashion in Shakespeare?!) and sound-tracked by guttural groans and screams.



Following this was *The Justice*, which once more utilised comedy to full effect. Fans of Shakespeare in odd, modern settings unite! For we have seen actors in high-vis jackets! (APC...) Nevertheless, this segment remained informative and was supremely played, with strict choreography and comedic timing.

Entering the final stages of life, the audience was faced with *Childish Treble*, a culmination of motion and experience to one final regression back to the original. With impassioned, detailed acting, what could have been rather over-sentimental was instead profound, heartening, and heart-breaking. This was swiftly coupled with *Oblivion*, filled to the brim with intense quotes of death: "it will come when it will come" and "I will make death love me." Finally, a chorusline of excerpts was recited from the 18 fateful works saved by the First Folio; one after the other, they came back-to-back, infused with passion, and delivered with prowess, they marked a grand finale to an incredible night.

In a final call back to the realities of this world, APC stood on the stage and spoke of the charities that the performance was aiding, namely the Jeremy Lemmon Project and Long Ducker, imbuing Shakespeare with actions for a better future...

What truly ran as a recurring theme throughout the performance was Shakespeare's relevance in the modern day, despite what deriders would say. Certainly, the performance's aesthetic and unconventional method of expression heightened this, emphasising just how intertwined our worlds are. One specific example would be Joe Masteroff's *Cabaret*, which takes one of its lines (The continent of Europe is so wide, Mein Herr / Not only up and down but side to side, Mein Herr) largely from Shakespeare. Furthermore, the setting of scenes to music (rather like interludes performed by the incredibly talented DNW with a fleet of incredibly talented singers) added to an appeal which transcends art form, evoking the specific musical references that dominate Wong Kar-Wai films. The rehearsal sketch added a sense of self-referentiality (much like Omar Elerian's *As You Like It* by the RSC), while remaining eternally poignant to generations of Harrovians and Old Harrovians, united with a quality and devotion to acting that could only be found on our Hill.

WHIPLASH

Curtis Film society, 7 October

On 7 October the Curtis Film Society welcomed Damon Chiu, *Newlands*, to present the first lecture for the revitalisation of the society. The scene was set, pitch black lights, popcorn handed out and a PowerPoint showing ‘*Whiplash*, Damien Chazelle’s perfected cinematic adrenaline’. He started by giving some background information – the film was released in 2014 and stars Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons (J.J. Jameson for all the Spiderman fans out there), with J.K. Simmons receiving an Oscar for his electric performance as the antagonist Terrence Fletcher. He chose *Whiplash* because it is a universally loved film by both commercial and critical film watchers. The film also won the Oscar for best film editing, which if you have seen the film you would know is thoroughly deserved. Each frame in sync with the beat of the heated jazz being played throughout the movie really added to the thrilling pace of the film. Damien Chazelle when making movies always likes to deviate from traditional story paths like the classic ‘hero’s journey’. Instead, he prefers to play around with the plot and time framing, often using time skips to keep the pace of the film going. He also makes much use of this in his other masterpiece *La La Land*. (Spoiler warning – from here on there will be full movie spoilers.) Chiu then used clips from the film to point out small details that add to the whole experience, such as how, at the beginning, the Miles Teller’s character wears white but by the end of the film, when he has reached the same level as Fletcher, he wears black for the final performance. Chiu also took us beat by beat through Neiman’s obsession with becoming the best drummer in world, providing some great analysis about camera work and performances.

Chiu’s final thoughts on the film were that it is a real depiction of ‘life’. There are no superficial scenes, which is what makes this such a brilliant film. The questions were all very inquisitive, but I would like to highlight what was said with regard to becoming the best at one’s craft. We agreed that you would need to be pushed to an extremely high standard and so, instead of seeing Fletcher as a straight-out villain, he could be seen as a deeply flawed teacher who is trying to get the best out of his students. Overall, it was a highly enjoyable lecture and a great way to start off the society’s revival!

SHERIDAN SOCIETY

Dr E M Keshavarz, ‘Hierarchical Trauma and Amputated Masculinity in ‘Treasure Island’, 2 November

On Thursday 2 November in the Vaughan Library, EMK gave a magnetic lecture on masculinity and hierarchy in the book *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. To start, EMK highlighted the many different injuries present in *Treasure Island*: from a facial scar to two missing fingers to blindness, and finally to an amputation from foot to hip, or as EMK put it, a hip disarticulation. However, these injuries and missing body parts were not just literal, but also a representation of their masculinity. So how do masculinity and injuries connect? EMK detailed that this period of history was one of exploration, where the ‘manliness’ (so to speak) of a person had to do with how much they ventured into the unknown. This connected to Europe’s scramble for Africa, with countries wanting to claim every last free bit of Africa for themselves. But when that’s all done, there’s nothing more to claim. EMK then stated that these injuries could represent the pirates’ idea of being less of a man in quite a literal sense, less of themselves. The focus on *Treasure Island* was because it was unexplored, and that made it masculine! Thus, it was the center of attention for the pirates: to get there so they could prove their masculinity.

EMK followed up this point with the idea that these injuries could then be seen as war trophies, souvenirs, if you like, demonstrating their masculinity through their pain and loss. And there are some horrible afflictions! I would observation that, by modern standards, this would be textbook toxic masculinity, the idea that men have to go through extreme pain and hardship to prove themselves as men. With this in mind, EMK delved into the character descriptions of each pirate, and where their afflictions would put them on the masculinity hierarchy or ‘ladder’. First was Billy Bones. Stevenson’s description of him is gruesome, with scars on his face, but he is still able-bodied. He dominated the room and was terrifying. We then meet Black Dog, who is perceived as more masculine due to his greater loss, his two missing fingers. On the hierarchy ladder, this would put him above Billy Bones. We then meet Pew, who is even more masculine than Black Dog, due to the loss of his sight. Later on, we meet Long John Silver, who has an entire leg missing and is thus the most masculine of them all. This can be likened to posturing in front of each other, trying to assert their dominance over everyone else. It is interesting how debilitating injuries give these pirates power. Stevenson seems almost to be making a sarcastic statement on how being masculine during those times has to do with superficial characteristics rather than anything useful.

In the novel, Pew claims that his hearing abilities are much more powerful due to the loss of his sight, but this is ironically proved false when he gets run over by horses, unable to hear them after his men abandoned him. Why? According to EMK it is because reality hits his men. They realize that Pew is not powerful and that his masculinity means nothing. The rose-tinted glasses are removed.

EMK also identified how the pirates are generally identified by their affliction, not their names. They are known as the ‘man with one leg’, or the ‘man missing two talons’, it seems as if this hints at them being defined by their masculinity. This masculinity was also very much based on traditional values. EMK mentioned how Long John Silver had a black wife, whom he left at home, striking two Victorian values: women do not go out and no interracial marriage should occur.

EMK also pointed out the sexual connotations present in the book are very much to do with masculinity and the hierarchy present. While nothing explicit occurs in the book, there are uncomfortable allusions to sex, such as the scene of Tom’s death. Tom was killed by Long John Silver, who asserted his masculinity, his position of greater power, by killing Tom. The imagery present here is a knife penetrating Tom’s body repeatedly, an act of horrible violence.

All in all, this was an absolutely riveting lecture by EMK, who has done a terrific job analysing and understanding this topic. It drew laughs, deep thought and many questions, as well as attracting a large chunk of the English Department to the library. The next time something like this comes along? My advice is: absolutely attend it.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Dr Mo Akhvani, ‘Plastic Surgery’, 16 October

As half-term approached, the Medical Society was grateful to welcome Dr Mo Akhvani, who spoke on the topic ‘Plastic Surgery Uncovered: The Most Versatile of Surgical Specialties’. Dr Akhvani is a renowned plastic surgeon based in London whose practice extends all over the world, from Brazil to New York. With over 7,000 completed surgeries under his belt, he has also written numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been the recipient of many academic awards.

The talk began with a brief introduction, dispelling misconceptions that plastic surgery was only limited to its more well-known cosmetic side of enhancing looks. In fact, it has only been in recent times that it has been used for vanity; in its earliest records in India, adulterers would have their noses amputated as punishment – an example of plastic surgery. There are two main types of plastic surgery to note: reconstructive, which deals with restoring function or appearance to the human body following an illness or injury, and aesthetic, which is for the enhancement of looks.



It is therefore important to know the etymology of the term, which derives from the Greek word “plastikos,” meaning to shape or to mould. Therefore, we can define plastic surgery as any procedure that relates to the alteration of the human body via the transfer and removal of tissue. These procedures can range from fixing damaged fingers to third-degree burns, facial reconstruction, and breast reconstruction. Injuries in the First World War were responsible for propelling the research in this field of medicine, where scientists such as Archibald McIndoe were key in developments pertaining to the reconstruction aspect (e.g. repair of nose trauma).

Now, in modern times, reconstruction is done with a lot more care, with an important “reconstructive ladder”, which is considered by all plastic surgeons. This essentially determines how invasive a procedure needs to be across the spectrum. At the lower end, there is secondary intention e.g. an insect wound being allowed to heal itself with a minimal time scale; at the higher end, there are grafts and flaps, which consist of moving large pieces of tissue from one part of the body to another to either replace lost tissue or facilitate a healing process. (Flaps and grafts are both examples of tissue, but grafts have no blood supply while flaps take their own blood.)

The essence of reconstructive surgery can be boiled down to a few key questions: what is missing from a body part? What do I need to replace the missing item? Where can I find the replacement on the patient’s body? This became clearer as Dr Akhavani went through many examples.

As many of the procedures cited as examples may be too graphic for a school newspaper, I will only outline a couple. If there is a tumour on the nose, for example, due to skin cancer, the skin would have to be cut down all the way to the bone and removed, and therefore we lose skin around the nose. To replace this, we would need to find a suitable piece of skin that does not have body hair (as nasal skin does not). The common solution to this is to take a flap from the forehead and use it to reconstruct the nose.

There are other examples, including the use of screws to facilitate the recovery of fractures and broken bones; if the tissue and bone are crushed badly, then it may require reconstruction of not only the bone but blood vessels and nerves as well, working on a tiny scale. Craniofacial surgery, which is used for children with facial deformities, consists of breaking down bones in the jaw and putting plates in to correct its structure as the bones grow.

Even procedures involving transplantation of foreign skin, for example hand transplantation (using the skin of another person’s

hand), have been explored under reconstructive plastic surgery; however, this is not viable at the moment due to complications with the body rejecting the foreign skin, immunosuppressants, and limited body-part functionality.

Dr Akhavani then shifted to the somewhat more pleasant aesthetic side of plastic surgery, which revolves around the key idea of the confidence in patients that is elicited by various procedures on any part of the body, including breast augmentation and facial rejuvenation. While the aesthetic side monopolises the identity of “plastic surgery”, which comes to mind when most people hear the topic, it is a much smaller aspect than the reconstructive side. Dr Akhavani wrapped up his lecture by showing images of successful cosmetic procedures, which was duly followed by an onslaught of questions that were all shrewdly answered.

The Medical Society was truly fortunate to be able to host such an erudite and engaging speaker who managed to condense a colossal and complex topic into a brief, accessible talk.

A CAREER IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mr Ali Hammad, 13 October

Mr Ali Hammad, a seasoned private banker with a wealth of experience in the financial sector, visited the Hill to give a brief overview of pursuing a career in financial services. Mr Hammad is the Marketing Head at MENA; however, he has previously worked for reputable organisations such as UBS and Coutts.

Mr Hammad began the evening by emphasising the significance of being a “people person” and attributed his success to his excellent people skills, allowing him to form deep, long-lasting bonds with his clientele. Furthermore, he clarified that a strong work ethic and ability to develop healthy relationships with clients rather than a passion for mathematics is necessary for success in finance.

Mr Hammad then shared valuable insights into the skills and characteristics that make an individual successful in the financial sector. He cited his curiosity as an essential factor in driving his fruitful career; following up on the news and knowledge from various walks of life ensured that he could provide credible and relevant advice to his clients.

Secondly, Mr Hammad enlightened us on the occasional complexities of working with clients, highlighting potential impediments such as children, who demand attention and resources, and home disputes. Mr Hammad noted that psychologists may sometimes provide professional help to examine clients’ situations further in these complex cases. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of networking when establishing a reputable and well-functioning career in finance, stating that “you are as good as your network in this life”. Mr Hammad also acknowledged the great privilege we Harrovians have with our extensive networks of OHs.

Finally, Mr Hammad discussed the benefits of developing a disciplined routine; he, for example, swims every day to take his mind off work and to balance his day. Furthermore, he stated that breaking down a project into tiny chunks enhances productivity and “allows you to do a lot more than you think”, making it a critical skill in a fast-paced and time-pressured setting like the financial sector. Similarly, Mr Hammad emphasised the importance of preparing for any situation, citing the example of being prepared for unique questions in an interview, as these questions may determine whether you get the job or not.

The lecture opened to questions at the end of the evening. When asked what advice Mr Hammad would give his younger self, he replied, “Attitude is everything”. Following that, Mr

Hammad revealed the power of perseverance and trying your best in a very competitive financial world – by employing this strategy and trusting your first instinct, you can achieve positive results within and beyond finance.

Mr Hammad was also asked if he had ever favoured a client with whom he got along well or who had more wealth. He responded with an anecdote about when he requested his clients to review his performance that year. One of his clients, whom he had assumed to value his services, gave him an unexpectedly bad review. Mr Hammad asked the client why he received such a negative rating. The client answered by alerting Mr Hammad to his enthusiasm for foreign exchange, which Mr Hammad had never inquired about. Mr Hammad had learned two critical lessons: become familiar with your client's objectives and never become friends with your clients in a highly competitive and treacherous environment like banking.

JUNIOR BIOLOGY SOCIETY

'Cryogenic freezing: Is it possible for humans to live forever?', Prejeev Suhitharan, Druries, 18 October

In the first Junior Biology Society meeting of the year, Prejeev Suhitharan, *Druries*, gave an enthralling talk on the important topic of cryonics. Cryonics is a fascinating idea that explores freezing the human body after death to bring it back to life in the future. By preserving the body at ultra-low temperatures, scientists hope that advancements in technology and medicine will one day allow for revival. While cryonics is still considered experimental, it sparks great curiosity and constructive dialogue about its ethics and feasibility. Some see it as a chance for extended life or future medical breakthroughs. Others see it as an inhumane way to treat those involved. Regardless of your stance, cryonics pushes the boundaries of what we know about life and death.

During the lecture, Suhitharan discussed the scientific principles behind cryonics and the potential implications it holds for extending human life. He also touched on the ethical considerations surrounding cryonics and the ongoing debates within the scientific community. He mentioned how the various institutes that have been in the cryonics game for many years have had little success, but medicine is developing at such a rate that we are sure that this will become an achievable target. He then went on to say that, "Life is short, that is the best and worst part of it, should we be immortal, or would we just be leading meaningless lives?" Overall, the lecture provided a thought-provoking exploration of this cutting-edge field.

LONG DUCKER

5 November

As ever, Long Ducker was an outstandingly positive Harrow occasion. The athleticism and endeavour of the elite runners and participation of all were impressive and heart-warming. While the honour of personal achievement may appeal to many, the values at the heart of Long Ducker are courage and fellowship. Long Ducker is a real test of Harrovians' mental and physical endurance, as well as an excellent opportunity to forge friendship through fellowship and support (and the half-marathon is all the more challenging). Therefore, special congratulations must go to The Grove Sixth Form, 19 of whom ran the half-marathon, thanks to CST's fervent encouragement. One of our very own Editors,

who had miserably failed Long Ducker in Shell, ran the half-marathon in just over two hours, before savouring a cup of Twinings tea. Another Editor was just shy of a top-5 finish, with his "immense pace" gaining a remarkable result. Such determination is becoming a trademark of Harrovians running in Long Ducker (even those preferring a 10km stroll only kept the marshals waiting for two hours).



Individual congratulations must go to Henry Gilbertson, Newlands, as the fastest swimmer over 5km, and Kiefer Yeo, The Head Master's, as the fastest swimmer over 10km; in the 10km run, Otis Farrer-Brown, Newlands, was 2nd overall and first Remove, Henry Barker, The Park, 3rd overall and first Fifth Former, Harry Jodrell, Elmfield, the first Shell. Michael Cattini, Moretons, won the 10km run in a blistering time that will have to be checked against the records and Cameron Elliott, West Acre, in a display capping all this incredible determination and resolve, completed the 10km swim and then went on to win the half-marathon overall: a sublime Double Ducker. He was followed by Jonah Esposito, Newlands, and Rei Ishikawa, Elmfield.

None of the Long Ducker athleticism means much without the fundraising that goes alongside. After our running and swimming, we had warm food and slept in our own beds. But for those we are supporting for FirmFoundation, they slept rough last night without any prospect of security and comfort: a world away from our privileges, but only a mile away from where we sit now – so please, let us make sure that we redouble our efforts in fundraising so that we can make a positive difference.

Boys' Results 20km

Cameron Elliott	01:25:45.890	W	1
Jonah Esposito	01:30:57.060	N	2
Rei Ishikawa	01:34:11.820	E	3
Eddie Cooke	01:36:45.140	P	4
Puna Anantaprakorn	01:37:24.950	L	5
Yiding Song	01:37:33.840	H	6
Jonathan Everall	01:40:05.940	G	7
William Riddick	01:40:54.670	D	8
Algy Royle	01:40:58.410	R	9
Edward Latham	01:41:32.750	B	10

Boys' Results 10km

Michael Cattini	00:33:19.360	M	1
Otis Farrer-Brown	00:34:02.940	N	2
Henry Barker	00:35:54.060	P	3
Clive Roberston Brown	00:36:52.590	W	4
Victor Sevaux	00:38:12.730	P	5
Harrison Gray	00:38:53.250	P	6
Zheming Zhu	00:39:46.640	W	7
Harry Jodrell	00:40:06.190	E	8
Diedrik Brouwers	00:40:12.630	H	9
Jonathan Ford	00:42:11.800	W	10

Long Ducker 10km

Once again, our favourite event of the year, Long Ducker, has come and gone (though this year was much less of a spectacle with the heavens beaming kindly upon the Hill). This was greatly appreciated by all (especially those who didn't fancy a swim through Northwick Park). However, the course was not without its traditional hiccups: the Farm fields seemed to have been prematurely prepared for the Harrow football season; Sudbury Hill was still the serial killer for many promising runs; and Football Lane made Garlands Lane look like flat ground. The controversial idea to have the Houses starting in a stagger was a complete and utter hype killer for those not involved in the so-called 'Elite Runners Group'. It also resulted in some exceedingly fast times from those who smuggled themselves into the 'Elite Group' and wished to get the race done as quickly as possible. EWH took up ceremonial duties at the event, being RAJF's official countdown man (EWH also seems to be attracting large cult gatherings in SCH during supertime). In the 'Elite Runners' group, there was an initial lead taken by Netanel Lawrence-Ojo, *The Knoll*, who held it for several hundred metres (his traditional sprint, which I have been told has happened for the last five years he has been at the School). Then the new cross-country "import" Michael Cattini, *Moretons*, took the lead for the rest of the race. Considering that this is his inaugural Long Ducker, it seems as though the marshals were useful for the first time in recent memory as he reportedly didn't get lost at all. He finished his run with a lightning time of 33:19.360. He later named the race on his Strava account: 'Tempo Run with a bit of a hill' (which is the understatement of the century, but huge congratulations to him and his dedication to the sport). Next in was Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, jumping up one spot from last year to 2nd with a very impressive run of 00:34:02.940. I personally know that a lot of time and dedication went into his training and that his improvement from last year was thoroughly deserved. With plans to do the Short Double Ducker next year, he will be the athlete to watch for the next Long Ducker. Coming in at 3rd was Henry Barker, *The Park*, whose facial expression showed his inability to find a toilet for the majority of the race. By the end of the run, he was so tired that as he went to shake hands with WMAL, he fell over and was only saved by WMAL's grip (honed of course at Military Fitness). Harrison Gray, *The Park*, and Rocco Desai, *Elmfield*, then came 4th and 5th respectively, with the promise of a great rivalry in the making – maybe continued next year in the half-marathon? Overall, Long Ducker 10km was as it always was; the marshals were sipping on their beverage of choice, the majority of boys wishing that they were in bed, but of course, committed to the charitable cause we were all running for.



LONG DUCKER

A poem by Arthur Yang, West Acre

The time is come for the dreaded Long Ducker,
We stampede the bosoms of our beloved Alma Mater,
Our motherly hill tries to fend off our assault,
But the tramp of the twenty-two men shall never halt.

We run, we swim — all modes of human travel,
On mud, on clay — across grass and gravel,
Boy and beak join hands and praise
To charity and love, the money we raise.

How often are we beguiled by arduous and torturous weather,
How often are we charmed by wet mud and heather?
How often do we truly devote to our fellow neighbours?
Concern their health, finances and toiling capitalist labours?
How often are we truly kind?
Once a year, then they are off our minds...
How often do we truly care?
Once a year, then we leave them in despair...

In Chapel we only sit and sleep,
Thinking nothing of the ascends steep,
Only of take-away and our food,
Not of the public's interest and good.

We block the cars and make a mess,
We bring chaos in great excess,
Sluggish steps move across the roads,
Abandoned footprints, mud abodes.
But why should our neighbours ever complain,
For the disorder in their own domain,
Which murders their weekends, their peace and fun?
Ah, because it is for their good we run!

METROPOLITAN

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

*'Travel' (Adjudicated by Joseph Li, The Grove)**1st place: DMM*

This photo is truly astonishing. When I dug this photo out of DMM's three submissions, I did indeed say out loud, "That's a good photo!" The perfect placement of the setting sun above the head of the imbalanced fisherman is beautiful. The slightly visible shaft of light peering through the silhouette of the man also complements this beauty very well. DMM also captures the element of movement and action effectively. Although the fisherman is still, there is a great sense of dynamic movement, which brings more flare to the photo. I usually dislike traditional sunset/sunrise photos due to the boring tone (a monotonous orange), but this photo manages to avoid that by not oversaturating the orange light, but also from the slight blur of the sunlight through the fog and mist. There is not much to say for improvement at all. Brilliant photo and definitely the best submission I have seen during the time I have adjudicated.



2nd Place: Jerry Zhang, The Knoll

I love this photo as it gives the space for many ideas from the audience. The leading lines made by the path lead to nothing. Although they are supposed to lead to the subject, in this case, I think it works very well, leading to the blank, grey sky, as it gives the audience a sense of emptiness and leaves space for plenty of imagination. This is Zhang's third submission, and I have to say that he has talent and a great eye for photography. But one thing I always wanted to see from his photos is some editing. In this photo, for example, the shadows and tone are a bit flat and do not bring attention to a specific area of the photo, but rather leave the photo with many points of attention, making it more tiring to appreciate. Perhaps the colour can be slightly changed, or maybe even the composition through cropping. But other than that, great photo!



3rd Place: CEP

CEP's photo is very simplistic and gives me a feeling of connection with Alex Webb's photos, where he often uses low aperture to show more content in his photos, showing people in the foreground clearly as well as the people in the background.

The use of light is also very effective in this photo, showing the face of the man in the background clearly, as well as small pockets of surface in the area where it is shadowed, on the left. What I love the most is the simplistic use of colour. The only main colours I see in this photo are white and blue. The rest is the shadow, and the red sign, which I will mention later. This use of colour makes it very easy for the photo to come across and is very comfortable to look at. The No Smoking sign and the man holding the cigarette are very ironic and bring some more interesting facets, but I think it is a bit unrepresented, as the cigarette is quite invisible as it is in the shadow, and the man is also only half shown. If the composition were more towards the left, it would be more effective. Overall, a brilliant photo, and I encourage you to explore Webb's style more.



Honorary Mention: Agastya Asnani, West Acre

Agastani's photo portrays a road in Nigeria, and I like it for the vibe it gives. The tone from the editing suits it very well, and the street it portrays is a very ordinary scene and is very effective for street photography. I would love to see more of an emphasis on a subject, perhaps the man in blue on the left, the vans, or maybe even the electric wires.



YET ANOTHER ARTICLE ABOUT SENSO

Two weeks ago, when I picked up *The Harrovian*, I was flabbergasted to see some of the brightest minds in this School rave on about their inalienable rights to scroll Instagram. These poor attempts at comedy were ill-fitted to the most esteemed and beloved *The Harrovian*.

I found it interesting how boys will draw allusions to *Nineteen Eighty-Four* as soon as something even slightly related to surveillance is implemented “against” them. Senso is not working “against” you. Big Brother was. Or as my House Master readily answered, “The beaks have a prerogative to keep you safe online.” Big Brother did not want the safety of the people, they wanted the subservience of the people. And our School does not encourage subservience. In fact, on the ‘Our Purpose’ page of the official Harrow website, it very much encourages “independent thought”, and “leadership”, the latter in 21.5 size font at the top of the page!

As Mr Kular stated, I don’t think scrolling Instagram counts as independent thought. I’d say quite the opposite. Senso also has no relation to thought-crime, a verifiable violation of human rights. You don’t see beaks going around awarding double because boys “thought” of scrolling Instagram. The punishments dealt out are nothing close to the dreaded Room 101, the closest comparison that exists is the House library where you will be serving your hundred double.

I find it interesting what they are willing to bear, and what not. Current affairs more similar to the warnings of Orwell are present in our everyday lives, but I don’t see anyone whining about that. There are 5.2 million CCTV cameras in the UK, or 626 million in China. Wiretapping on phones. Of course, when a much more annoying and obvious example is present, we would focus on that, but for Orwell’s sake, maybe focus on the bigger picture here.

But Senso is threatening a delicate relationship which would be much better for our sakes if it were to remain unobserved. Opening Outlook during lessons for example. Keeping on top of your emails is an essential, especially if you’re a bit short on time. And Mr Hyun also raised an excellent point on the ‘miniscule fraction’ of the class taken up by this. But this is where the relationship comes in. If you are able to open up your emails and check them before the beaks notice anything, that’s fine, but if they do, you’re spending too much time on Outlook and deserve the double hurtling in your direction. But with Senso, one glance and it’s over. But you definitely deserve the double for scrolling Instagram (sorry Arjun) and scouting in Fantasy Football (sorry Robert). Thus, the chances of getting caught using these frivolities rather than emails is much more likely. It’s overwhelming good mixed with a little bit of bad. However, I have a sneaking suspicion that some of the editors would not consider this “overwhelming good” as THEY are guilty of Surface Misuse during lessons. [- *We deny all charges.* EDS

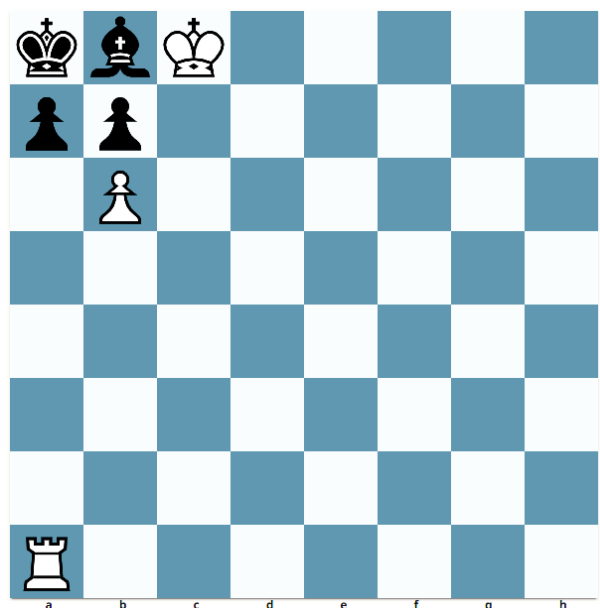
Senso is not similar to *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in any way, but is merely alleviating beaks’ stress of prowling around the Form Room to fruitlessly try and hamper boys’ attempts to scroll a certain social media platform and scout in a certain sports-related video-game.

CHESS

The puzzle this week is a famous problem attributed to American Paul Morphy (widely acknowledged to be one of the finest players of the 19th century). It was first published in 1856 but was supposedly composed some ten years earlier – when he was nine years old!

Submit your solution by email (jpbh@) to enter the termly competition.

White to play and mate in two moves.



Last edition’s answer: 1. **Qh6+** wins: if 1. ...Kxh6 then 2. Rh8# and if 1. ...gxh6 then 2. Rxf7#.

Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRS,

Upon recently reading the publication of my *alma mater* for the first time in a while, I’ve come across debates surrounding Senso. I feel that this is another instance of the School identifying a problem incorrectly.

As a staunch believer in pedagogical Darwinism, I am concerned that Senso serves as yet another indicator the approach to teaching appears to be more based on conforming students than inspiring them.

While I was at Harrow, I had a Physics beak for winter timetable double lessons on a Wednesday afternoon. Frequently in those lessons, a classmate of mine (George Sage (*The Park 2017*’)) would fall asleep. The beaks solution: make the class stand up so they can’t possibly fall asleep. I think this little story shows as the epitome of everything that is wrong with current educational thought – it is a lazy solution and suggests that the teacher doesn’t care that their students find them boring. If your students are falling asleep in lessons, you need to think of better ways of inspiring them. If your students want to game instead of learning, that is a failure either of the material or the way it has been motivated. Harrow beaks should be charged with innovating the curriculum, investing ways to gamify learning and to think differently.

None of the best beaks I had at Harrow had any problems holding my attention. When I was learning *Hamlet* with ACO, the only things I would be doing on my Surface Book would be the work I was set and researching ahead to learn even more. When I was learning about Oliver Cromwell with DF,

the Surface Book enhanced, rather than detracting from my educational experience. Even though allowing students to go on their own educational journeys forces one to admit that they might not always know best and requires a leap of faith, I think Harrovians are deserving of that faith.

Using a programme like Senso to superimpose a rigid singular approach to instruction would have hamstrung my acquisition of many of the skills of independent research and reading, which I feel have put me and some of my peers in pole positions at university.

I understand that it is difficult to compete in this day and age with TikTok and Chess.com. As someone who teaches, I understand that there is competition for attention. Being a teacher is hard. But, if Harrow is not inspiring a love of learning in its students, that is a failure of approach. If you have to force Harrovians to learn through forced engagement, policing and punishment, they will go to university and they will skip lectures and they will skim their readings and they will not succeed. They will go into the workplace and struggle to pay attention to their work. They will fail to understand how to manage temptations well.

So, I would encourage beaks to be 'bold, bloody and resolute'. Let students evaluate their instructions with their keyboards and their mice. The bravery of not using Senso will avoid academic complacency. Although boycotting monitoring programmes will make teaching harder in the short term, adapting teaching styles to allow for independence will enhance the quality of classroom conversations immeasurably.

Forcing students to do tasks is the bare minimum. Inspire them instead.

Kind regards

DYLAN WINWARD, *LYON'S* 2017³

DEAR SIRs,

The Harrovian complains that I am missing "the mark on [my] cheating-prevention duties" because I sit on a "lawn chair" instead of watching for cheats. Can *The Harrovian* not see the futility of a man of my age chasing after cheats in my own strength? Far from being a "god amongst men" as the article kindly claims, I know that *Unless the LORD watches over the city [or presumably cross-country course], the watchman watches in vain* (Ps.127.1).

Therefore, I "slumber" on a "lawn chair", for *in returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength* (Is.30.15). Then, with me well rested, if a boy cheats, I spring from my chair *like a strong man* (Ps.19.5) and the cheat finds I can run faster than he ever expected ("*like a gazelle*", "*swift as an eagle*" (2 Sam.2.18 & Deut.28.49)). All the other boys cheer as I catch the cheat and then he is *laughed at and held in derision* (Ez.23.32). So don't knock my "fiery foldable lawn chair". In my corner of the cross-country course, it is the seat of justice (Prov. 20.8).

Yours faithfully,
FR STUART

HERE AND THERE

Very well done to Mark Liu, *Druries*, who was awarded a High Distinction in the Economics category of the John Locke Institute's 2023 Global Essay Competition.

SPORT

FENCING

The School v Eton,

After a long half-term break, the Harrow fencing team returned straight into a match against Eton. Unfortunately, Eton was late, so we were left waiting for quite a while. First up was Epee A, consisting of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Henry Barker, *The Park*, and Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*. Harrow narrowly lost 45-42 against a very experienced side in a close-fought game. There were impressive performances from Goff and Barker, who duelled with fencers much older than them with great determination. Next was Foil A, which consisted of Goff, Alex Yong, *The Grove*, and Brian Chang, *Druries*, who unfortunately were against one of the best sides in the country and lost 45-16. Then Epee B of Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, Cyrus Chang, *Druries*, and Hing So, *Newlands*, took to the piste. Harrow won 45-40 in an exhilarating match with a stand-out performance by So, who won all of his matches. After that, Foil B of Edward Shek, *Druries*, Oliver Mak, *Newlands*, and Sinan Basak, *Elmfield*, battled but sadly lost 45-32. Lastly, Sabre A of William Lee, *The Head Master's*, Luke Pain, *The Head Master's*, and Aiden Lee, *The Head Master's*, dominated the game, winning 45-15. W. Lee and A. Lee only conceded four points each. Harrow lost narrowly 190-180 with man-of-the-match performances from So, Basak, W. Lee, and A. Lee.

FOOTBALL

The School v Gordon's School Boys, 4 November

Development A XI, Away, Gordon's School 1st, Lost 3-1
Scorer: Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*

The Development As paid the price for giving away three cheap goals from defensive mishaps and a poor first half. A big improvement is demanded of the boys ahead of an important end to the term.

Development B XI, Home, Gordon's School 2nd, Won 4-3
Harrow ran out 4-3 winners thanks to two goals apiece from Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, and Arthur Porter, *Druries*, against Gordon's. Man of the match was Aris Aldrich-Blake-Ouzounis, *West Acre*, with an outstanding performance at right back.

Development C XI, Home, Gordon's School 3rd, Won 6-0
Harrow did not allow a heavy pitch to affect their incisive passing and movement against Gordon's, with some excellent football seeing them take a 4-0 lead at half-time thanks to a hat-trick from Tochi Orji, *The Park*, and a goal from AJ Anenih, *Rendalls*. Babade Fasinro, *Lyon's*, and Orji, with his fourth goal, then saw the Dev Cs through to a 6-0 victory in the second half.

BADMINTON

1st v Charterhouse, Won 8-0, 2 November

The boys got off to a sensational beginning in their first post-half-term match against Charterhouse, sweeping every game and securing a resounding 8-0 victory for Harrow School. Special commendation is due to Letian and Warren for their outstanding performance, as they've shown remarkable growth since the start of the academic year, exhibiting immaculate teamwork on the field.

SQUASH

The School v Aylesbury Grammar, 12 October

1st, Home, Aylesbury Grammar School, Lost

The First V lost 5-0 to a strong Aylesbury Grammar School. Darren Chiu, *Newlands*, fought hard, and Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, stepped in to play two high-intensity matches due to three injuries in the squad.

Junior Colts A, Home, Aylesbury Grammar School, Lost

The Under-16 team played with great courage, but lost 4-1 to AGS, Diederick Brouwers, *The Head Master's*, taking a good victory. Most of the performances were pleasing to watch, with the Harrovians showing grit and desire against a strong side.

RACKETS

The School v Marlborough, 2 November

1st Pair, Away, Marlborough College, Won

A strong performance characterised by some strong serving from Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, and some excellent tally play from Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, in a 3-0 win.

2nd Pair, Away, Marlborough College, Won

An exciting match full of twists and turns where Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, came from 0-2 down to win 3-2. They showed great character to save two match points in a dramatic final game.

3rd Pair, Away, Marlborough College, Won

Some strong improvements from Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, in a dominant 3-0 win.

Junior Colts 1st Pair, Away, Marlborough College, Lost

Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, improved throughout the match but lost 0-3 to a strong pair.

Junior Colts 2nd Pair, Away, Marlborough College, Lost

A fine effort from Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*, despite a 0-3 loss.

RUGBY UNION

The School v Radley, 4 November

The 1st XV, Away, Radley College, Won 43-12

After a long bus journey, the 1st XV shook off some rust to score a wonder try with the final play of the game to take a 17-7 lead into half-time. A strong start to the second half saw Harrow take a 31-7 lead before Radley came back. An excellent finish from Harrow shut the game down for a 43-12 win.

2nd XV, Away, Radley College, Won 20-17

After the briefest warm-up, the 2nds thrust straight into action against a spirited and unbeaten Radley side. The home side started strongly and scored in the corner after a series of pick-and-goes. Harrow responded well: some excellent pragmatic kicking from Johnny Codrington, *Rendalls*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, gave the 2nd XV better field position, and the 2s were unlucky not to score when Fikunmi Olutunbi, *Lyon's*, rumbled over the line, only for the referee to judge the ball to have been held up. Undeterred, the 2nd XV responded with Codrington's penalty. The game was finely poised at halftime, with the 2nd XV 3-5 down.

By now, the 2nd XV had warmed into the game, and after some dominant midfield defensive hits, they gained a penalty. A good rumble from the forwards took the 2nds within inches of the line, and quick thinking from Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, allowed the 2nds to score in the corner. A sublime conversion from Codrington gave the 2nds a ten-point cushion. Harrow now had momentum and capitalised clinically. After a long and surprisingly gripping exchange of high bombs, the onrushing Nelson cantered the ball under the posts. Suddenly, Harrow looked in control. However, Radley hit back, camping themselves in the Harrow 22. The defence was resolute, with big hits from Seb Boreham, *Elmfield*, Ittetsu Hoshi, *Druries*, James Lester, *West Acre*, and Joshua Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, keeping the home side at bay.

Nonetheless, Radley clawed the game to within one converted score, 17-12. Another excellent penalty from Codrington took the match to 20-12, but Harrow could not kill the game off. They stymied Radley's attacks in tight and out wide, defending admirably as a team through waves of attack. Ultimately, Radley crossed the line again, but time was up – Harrow triumphed 20 points to 17.

As the teams tunnelled one another off, one Radley parent suggested that Radley had won a "moral victory", proving that Theology & Philosophy (not Maths) should be mandatory until 18. In reality, the 2nd XV were deserved victors in a hard-fought game between two excellent sides. The sartorial winner was JM for his stylish new pair of ankle-height wellies.

3rd XV, Away, Radley College, Lost 33-34

Harrow rolled out of the coach like a snail. Their defence resembled a bunch of sleepy sloths as they struggled to catch up to the lightning-fast Radley boys.

But wait, Captain Oscar Sutherland, *Lyon's*, came to the rescue, bulldozing through the opposition like a runaway freight train. And let's not forget about Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, who was casually dishing out offloads like candies on Halloween night. Suddenly, there was a glimmer of hope in the Harrow camp.

The first half was a seesaw battle of epic proportions, with Harrow and Radley exchanging tries like heavyweight boxers trading punches. Yet, Harrow's breakdown game resembled a bunch of crabs in a slapstick comedy, and executing the basics seemed about as easy as juggling flaming torches blindfolded.

But you've got to give it to the boys; they had the spirit of warriors refusing to back down. With determination that would make even a bulldog blush, they clawed their way into the lead. When things were looking promising, Radley pulled a sneaky rabbit out of their hat, launching a cheeky drop goal against the run of play. Harrow was on the brink of crossing the try line, but the universe decided to pause, holding them in suspense. The final whistle blew after a series of scrums that looked more like a comedy of errors than a rugby match.

Ultimately, the match was a rollercoaster ride of emotions with moments of brilliance.

4th XV, Away, Radley College, Lost 5-59

Harrow fought well but struggled to build momentum in attack. The team showed real grit and their heads never dropped. Hector Rogberg, *Druries*, was player of the match with consistent dominant tackles and leadership in the pack.

Colts A, Home, Radley College, Won 15-8

The team displayed extraordinary resilience and courage, fighting back from behind on two occasions to secure a well-deserved victory against a formidable opposition.

Colts B, Home, Radley College, Lost 5-38

Colts C, Home, Radley College, Lost 0-53

Harrow struggled to make much distance during each attack before getting turned over at the breakdown, even with some strong runs from Sultan Al-Thani, *Rendalls*.

Despite the score, the game was played in good spirit and the boys showed good camaraderie, trying to work together to turn the tide of battle.

Junior Colts A, Home, Radley College, Lost 10-20

The team played a brilliant match, losing narrowly. After a significantly disrupted warm-up where Radley was almost 1.5 hours late for kick-off, we showed some outstanding defensive press and narrow side attack, which the team have been working on over the last week. It's great to see the team coming together in challenging circumstances.

Junior Colts B, Home, Radley College, Lost 0-38

The Junior Colts showed enormous courage to keep battling against an excellent Radley side, losing 38-0. Player of the match was Abraham Babalola, *Druries*.

Junior Colts C, Home, Radley College, Lost 0-24

Junior Colts D, Home, Radley College, Lost 10-29

Harrow lost 10-29 against Radley, showing great sportsmanship and determination. Well done to all involved.

Yearlings A, Away, Radley College, Lost 0-48

A physical battle from the off with no let up from the better prepared opposition saw them take an early lead. Harrow grew into the game but missed tackles and unforced errors in attack ultimately gave us little opportunity to claw our way back.

Yearlings B, Away, Radley College, Lost 0-43

Harrow faced a tough defeat but should be proud of the second half of the match.

Yearlings C, Away, Radley College, Lost 12-35

Radley College's website says that they aim to nurture the 'Gentleman Warrior' on the rugby pitch, and Yearlings C reached the end of their unbeaten run when these chivalrous combatants confronted them on Saturday. Radley's 'Midgets', proudly sporting their distinctive cherry and white rugby shirts, went 14-0 up in the first ten minutes, and Harrow never really recovered from this, even though they showed fortitude in the second half. Radley had most of the possession and fought almost the entirety of the match at Harrow's end of the pitch. Even when Harrow was attacking, Radley was the better team at the breakdown, which meant the ball was too often lost. Nevertheless, Jayden Kwon, *Lyon's*, and Nate Wei, *Rendalls*, impressed with their ball carrying, and it was no surprise that they both managed to score. Larry Jang, *The Park*, dazzled the crowd with his fancy footwork and was instrumental to Kwon's try. Captain Loic Du Roy De Blicquy, *Elmfield*, set the standard speed in defence and tackled anything that came into his action radius. Debutants George Jacot De Boinard, *Rendalls*, and Matthew Hughes, *The Head Master's*, performed well. John Li, *The Grove*, was probably the best Harrovian at

tackling on Saturday afternoon; this is an aspect of the game that some of his teammates need to improve. The Yearlings C fixture card is undoubtedly more challenging in the second half of the season than the first; there will be much to do in training this week to prepare for our next matches. With some hard work this week, following Saturday's visit to the 'Garden of England' to take on Tonbridge will have a more positive outcome than this week's outing to the Cotswolds.

Yearlings D, Away, Radley College, Lost 5-26

This was a difficult first fixture after the half-term break. With boys returning from injury, the starting 15 had not played together for weeks, and it showed. The boys' heads were still on the coach for the first ten minutes of the match. The forwards let Radley take the ball. The only boy securing the ball was Harry Tait, *The Head Master's*, at full back, who put everything into this game for a player-of-the-match performance.

The middle 25 minutes of the game were tight. Once the forwards woke up, the likes of Sydney Liu, *Rendalls*, and Kitan Akinyemi, *Druries*, were imperious in the breakdown. One of the few times we could spread the ball down the back line, William Lee, *The Head Master's*, scored a decisive counterattacking try with blistering speed. The team also contested in a scrum for the first time this season. We put in great effort against a bigger pack, holding our own for most of the game. However, after half-time, Radley's bomb squad pushed us back four times in a row, disrupting anything Hugo Gianni, *The Park*, or Pierre Vibert, *The Park*, were trying to do with the backs.

Our heads dropped as the game drew to a close, and our defensive discipline wavered. Radley scored two easy tries by firing a big man at the edge of the ruck. Looking ahead to Tonbridge, our second most significant game of the season, I need to see the forwards hungry for the ball. When the ball is loose, we should be pouncing on it, not leaving it to the opposition to claim. I want to see quicker balls from the back of the ruck, with big runners like Lee and Akinyeme sprinting in at pace. If every boy on the pitch could play with the intensity of Tait, we would be invincible.

We showed great heart in this match, demonstrating for the first time the grit and resilience of a team whose rugby is being frustrated. With a big week of training ahead, we will work back to our best, ensuring we leave nothing on the coach for the full 50 minutes against Tonbridge.

Yearlings E, Away, Radley College, Lost 5-43

It was a disappointing day for Harrow's Yearlings E team, who, despite showing great passion towards the end of the match, failed to recover from their lack of mobilisation at the start, resulting in a 43-5 loss. There is much to learn from what played out on the pitches today. Special mention must go to Quinn Cleary, *Lyon's*, for scoring our sole try.

Yearlings F, Away, Radley College, Lost 22-29

The Fs played valiantly, stringing together some excellent attacking play with a brilliant solo try from Antares Au, *Moretons*, man of the match. Ultimately, lapses in defence cost the team the win.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian online* at harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan