

HARROW NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023



HARROW
SCHOOL



IN THIS ISSUE

- THE NEW HARROW ADMISSIONS PROCESS
- A SUMMER OF SPORTING SUCCESS
- TRIPS AND TOURS AROUND THE WORLD

OPEN MORNINGS

Harrow's open mornings are an excellent way for prospective parents and their sons to learn about the School and life on the Hill.

Visit www.harrowschool.org.uk for forthcoming dates and to book.

The Admissions Office
Harrow School
5 High Street
Harrow on the Hill
Middlesex
HA1 3HP

+44 (0)20 8872 8007

admissions@harrowschool.org.uk



FROM THE HEAD MASTER



You will read below of important changes to our Admissions process, and we hope that these improvements will make the transition to senior school smoother for you and your son. Chiefly, testing will now take place and offers will be made in Year 6, which brings us into line with other independent schools. The new procedures will come into effect from January. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do please contact our Admissions team.

Here on the Hill, we are beginning the countdown towards the end of a very busy term; it is one in which boys have heard from a variety of inspirational speakers, scooped up a collection of national awards and trodden the stage in Speech Room and the Ryan Theatre. New boys enjoyed the Shell Drama Festival under the direction of Sixth Formers in their Houses, and we've joined with the local community

to commemorate the death of Harrow School's founder John Lyon.

I hope you enjoy our celebratory feature on Old Harrovian sportsmen and reading about current Harrovians' successes on the pitches. This year's cricket match against Eton at Lord's must go down as one of the most exciting in the history of the fixture.

We all continue to enjoy a diverse and purposeful life of unparalleled education including academic stimulation, joy in the creative arts, competition on the sports field and partnerships in the community. We remain grateful to be such a close-knit community.

We wish you all the best for a happy festive season.

Alastair Law

NEW ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR YEAR 9 ENTRY TO HARROW

We recognise that more families would welcome the chance for their sons to be tested for Harrow earlier and so, from January 2024, the admissions process for entry to Harrow will change. We will start to test boys and offer them places in Year 6. This will directly affect those boys who are looking for 2026 Year 9 entry to Harrow. Offers of places will still be conditional on success in the Common Entrance exam in June of Year 8, and the timing of our scholarship assessments will remain unchanged in January or February of Year 8.

The new standard admissions timeline will therefore be:

- By 1 July in Year 5: registration deadline.
- By the end of the autumn term in Year 6: ISEB Common Pre-Test to have been completed.
- Late January to early March in Year 6: Harrow Test sessions.
- Late April to early May in Year 6: offers issued.
- January or February in Year 8: scholarship assessments.
- June in Year 8: Common Entrance.

We will be inviting all those 2026 applicants who have been successful in reaching the required standard in the ISEB Common Pre-Test to the Harrow Test sessions, which will begin in mid-January 2024.



Coronation Sunset Service

COMMEMORATING ROYAL EVENTS

On 5 May 2023, the School celebrated the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with a Sunset service in Bill Yard. The Harrow Rifle Corps were inspected by Colonel Guy Stone LVO, Chief of Staff London District. The Corps was led by SUO Caspar Stone, alongside the Head of the Royal Navy SUO Matthew Gaffaney, the Head of the Royal Air Force SUO Sean Jarrett and, for the Army, SUO Archie Tait. As parents, beaks and friends of Harrow School looked on from Old School steps, Father James Power, School Chaplain and Vicar of St Mary's Church, offered a prayer for the King's Majesty, which was followed by a hymn and Sunset, performed by Harrow School Symphonic Winds, while the Union flag was lowered by Custos. On 8 September, to mark the first anniversary of his mother's death, King Charles released a rarely seen portrait of Elizabeth II by Old Harrovian photographer Cecil Beaton (*High Street 1918*).



Royal Collection Trust/© His Majesty King Charles III 2023

Queen Elizabeth II
by Cecil Beaton



Upper Sixth leavers in 2023

EXAM RESULTS AND UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Harrow's outgoing Fifth Form achieved outstanding (I)GCSE results, following a return to pre-pandemic grading standards this year.

Over 40% of grades achieved were at grade 9 level, with over 70% of grades at either grade 9 or grade 8 level. Bar the pandemic years, the grade 9/A* percentage is the highest on record, and the 9/A rate is the highest since 2013.

At A-level, almost a third of boys achieved A*s. Except for the pandemic years, the A*-A and A*-B rate is the highest since 2013. Over two-thirds of grades were either A*s or As. At A-level, the results represent the strongest value-added results for the boys in a decade. Two boys achieved five or more A* grades, with 11 boys gaining four or more A*s. Twenty-one boys (13.0%) gained three or more A*s and 85 boys (52.8%) gained three or more A*-A grades. These strong A-level results have translated into a

positive set of university outcomes with Harrovians taking up places at six of the eight Ivy League schools in the USA and nearly a quarter of boys securing places at institutions ranked in the world's top 20, including Princeton, Columbia and Edinburgh.

SPEECH ROOM RESTORED TO GLORY

A comprehensive restoration of Harrow School's historic Speech Room took place over the summer of 2023. Built in 1877, this Grade II-listed building has hosted the grandest of occasions, with kings, queens and prime ministers among some of the prestigious speakers who have graced its platform.

The restoration project included the removal and replacement of the lighting, complete rewiring, sympathetic decoration, specialist cleaning of the stained glass, redecoration of the cast-iron columns and bases, and cleaning and decorating of the vaults and arches over the proscenium, along with all the walls and stones. Many of the existing chairs will also be restored and re-upholstered as part of the project.



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The School was honoured by visits from two Ambassadors. His Excellency Professor Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United Kingdom, gave a lecture on the subject 'Shared Histories, United Futures: Poland's Partnership with the United States and the United Kingdom'. The Irish Ambassador, Martin Fraser, gave an illuminating talk on British and Irish relations in the modern era.

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Nathan Law also visited Harrow to talk about democracy and human rights. Mr Law gained international prominence as one of the central figures and co-founders of the 2014 Umbrella Movement – a series of protests in Hong Kong. He addressed members of Harrow's Oriental and Palmerston Societies in Speech Room.



His Excellency Martin Fraser with members of the Hibernian Society



Stephen Harrison

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Deputy Head Master – Stephen Harrison

Stephen Harrison took up the role of Deputy Head Master in September 2023 after the appointment of Nick Page as Founding Principal of Harrow International School New York. Previously Harrow's Director of Pastoral Care, Stephen graduated from The Queen's University of Belfast with a first in Pure and Applied Mathematics and a PhD in Theoretical Physics. After completing his doctorate, he continued to work in academic research before taking up a post in the defence industry. He then joined the Mathematics Department at Harrow. Stephen was House Master of The Head Master's from 2012 to 2019 and, before that, was Assistant House Master of The Park. Stephen is one of the Head Master's principal advisors on School strategy and is responsible under the Head Master for the day-to-day running of the School, including boys' discipline.

Director of Pastoral Care – Simon Taylor

Harrow's new Director of Pastoral Care, Simon Taylor, studied Fine Art at Kingston University, after which he pursued his interest in combining art practice with teaching at Christ's Hospital, Sussex, where he also coached a number of sports, gaining a UEFA B licence in soccer and a Level 3 cricket certification. Simon joined Harrow as Director of Art in 2009, also coaching the 1st XI soccer team. He became House Master of Rendalls in 2012 and led the House for 11 years. Simon is responsible for all aspects of boarding life in the School including the work of the House Masters, Assistant House Masters and Matrons, as well as the Medical Centre. He chairs the Pastoral Advisory Committee, which sets the strategy for pastoral care.



Simon Taylor



Photograph by Fatih Yilmaz

'Butterfly' was the title of John Chow's winning poem in the Augustus Fleet Poetry Competition

*Deep down, deep, deep down
The cage, with its bars of gold
As the wings struggle in the cold.
Shivering in the dark, timorous

Are the wings in my heart.
A swerve, a realisation, a change.
The butterfly seeks
Desperately for help.
Looking out there, wearily but warily,
Are the wings in my heart.
Hope, radiance, happiness,
The true meaning of home,
of being in glee
Discovered.
Gliding in the air
Are the inspiring wings out there.*

*Out stretches the exquisite wings.
Mind and heart awakens
As the cage weakens.
Inspired and uplifted
Are the wings in my heart.*

*Hopeful, radiant, happy,
Longing for the past,
But thrilled for the future,
Always at home
Is the fledging butterfly in the sky.*

On National Poetry Day, the Harrow School community was invited to enter a competition for the best poem composed of just 12 words around the topic of 'Refuge'. The winning submission came from Fifth Former William Martin-Jenkins:

*Foreign tongue, they learned to speak;
life anew, resilience at its peak.*

BIOLOGY

Seventeen Remove biologists secured a Gold award in the Biology Challenge competition, with Andy Li scoring a remarkable 96%.

CHEMISTRY

In the C3L6 exam aimed at the Lower Sixth year, Harrovians achieved 16 Copper, 14 Silver, 11 Gold and one Roentgenium award. For a second consecutive year, Henry Webster achieved the top Roentgenium award. Michael Quist, Vincent Song and Hayden Leung follow very closely behind with strong Gold awards. Special commendation goes to Darren Chiu and Tony Shi, who were in the Fifth Form and Remove respectively at the time of the competition and who both achieved Gold awards.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Cayden Debrah, who is in the Shell, attended the finals of the 2023 Young Furniture Makers Exhibition. His wooden daybed, which Cayden designed when he was still at prep school, was one of the top four pieces chosen to exhibit in the School Design Prize and was placed second overall in this category.

ENGLISH

Harrovians showed themselves to be talented poets in two School-wide poetry competitions. For the Augustus Fleet Poetry Competition, boys were challenged to submit poems of at least 14 lines on the subject of 'Home', with a winner in each year group. John Chow's winning poem in the Shells was titled 'Butterfly':

*Fluttering wings in my heart,
Like the pluck of a string,
Its resonance soaring.
Hesitant, restless
Are the wings in my heart.*



Daybed designed by Cayden Debra

MATHEMATICS

Eleven Harrovians earned certificates of merit and a further six earned distinctions in the Intermediate Maths Olympiad papers. Three boys performed particularly well to earn medals for standout performances on a national scale: Jerry Zhang earned a Bronze (placing him in the top 100), Kevin Zhu a Silver (top 50) and Andy Li a Gold (top 20). Andy was invited to the very prestigious maths summer camp at The Queen's College, Oxford, putting him in contention for the British team for the International Maths Olympiad.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Many boys took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad, with prizes at all levels in what must be the most challenging of all subject Olympiads. Aidan Wong became the first Harrovian in recent memory to take up a university place to read Linguistics.

PHYSICS

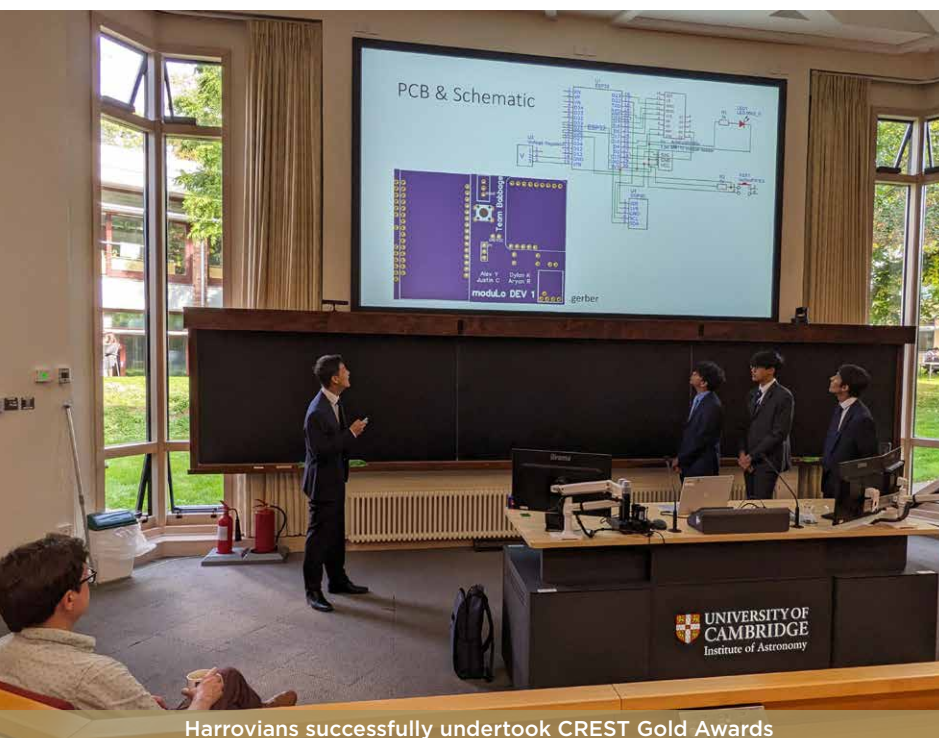
Lower Sixth Formers Raulph Lubbe and Naryan Seehra were awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. This is a highly competitive national scholarship in the field of engineering.

Twenty Upper Sixth boys were recognised with CREST Gold awards for their Engineering projects, with one dissertation assessed as being of graduate standard and another being so advanced that the assessor struggled to understand all the details. Vincent Song and Hayden Leung distilled their Engineering project report into an academic paper, which was accepted for an academic conference for expert data scientists in Washington.

Harrow's robotics team, Team Euclid, made it to the semi-finals of the national robotics competition at Cambridge University, placing it among the top eight teams nationwide. This was the highest result of any novice team at the competition.



Plastic fishing in Amsterdam



Harrovians successfully undertook CREST Gold Awards

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Twelve boys travelled to Amsterdam by Eurostar on a sustainability trip, the first of its kind in the UK. The boys took part in activities such as plastic fishing, and a sustainable bike tour took them to the site of a zero-impact festival and completely sustainable floating community. Boys won places on this trip through their endeavours on the Sustainability Committee.

The Young Geographer of the Year competition gave boys the opportunity to develop a blueprint for the future, and the School's first-ever green careers week allowed them to consider their role in that future.

West Acre were the winners of the inaugural inter-House electricity-reduction competition. They reduced their consumption by 52208kwh, equivalent to around 231 trees or flying three times around the Earth.



'Ecce homo' by Antonio Ciseri c.1860


GORE SOCIETY

Philosophy and ethics

Members of the Gore Society heard talks from two distinguished speakers. The first was Mr John Davie of Trinity College, Oxford, who spoke on 'The New Testament from a Roman perspective'. He rooted the New Testament in its social and political context and showed how a historical approach can help us understand the problems faced by Jewish subjects and Roman authorities alike in Roman Palestine during the time of Jesus' birth. Dr Will Morgan, Research Associate in the Metaphysics of Science at the University of Bristol, explored the question 'What is an organism?'. He discussed the significance of being able to classify things as organisms, as well as the possible approaches to achieving this.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

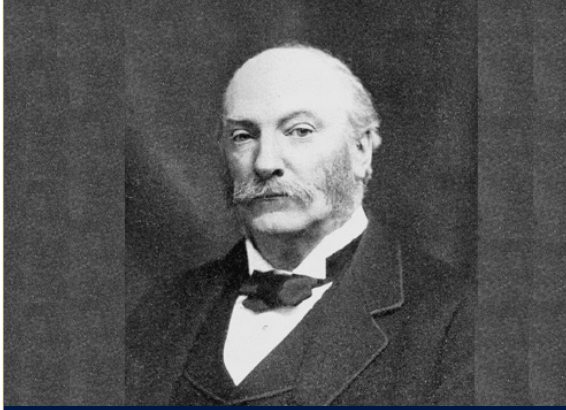
'Lord Rayleigh: the last great polymath of physical science' was the title of a talk given by Dr James Bedford, Harrow's Head of Physics. Old Harrovian John William Strutt, 3rd Baron Rayleigh, was one of the three Nobel Laureates who attended Harrow and the School's only science Laureate - he was awarded the prize for his discovery of the gas Argon. He went on to become Cavendish Professor of Science at Cambridge and made fundamental discoveries in the fields of acoustics and optics that are basic to the theory of wave propagation in fluids, many of which bear his name, such as the Rayleigh Scattering, which explains why the sky is blue, and the Rayleigh Criterion of Roughness, a way to estimate how rough a surface is.




SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Dr Bedford

LORD RAYLEIGH: THE LAST GREAT POLYMATH OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE



**Tuesday 23 May, 9.10pm
PS 8**



COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Computer Science Society welcomed Old Harrovian Jamie Herholdt (*Newlands 2012*) to give a talk on 'An introduction to algorithmic trading'. He explained that 60-75% of all global trading volume is now done by algorithms and outlined the importance of AI in the market .



The boys' debating team with adjudicator Mr George Hakon-Benson

DEBATING SOCIETY

The School debating team took on two fearsome opponents: the beaks and the Old Harrovians. A team of four OHs proposed the motion 'This house believes there should be no difference between high culture and low culture', suggesting, for example, that Taylor Swift's *Cruel Summer* carries the same cultural weight as Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No 2*, and that 'high' and 'low' culture are inseparable and neither of them inferior. The boys' team of Robert Young, Arturo Saville Mascioni, Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry and Ben Shailer took the firm view that 'high culture' comprises both classical masterpieces (Beethoven, Renaissance works, Shakespeare) as well as sometimes unpopular innovations (for example the more radical end of modern art), while 'low culture' is forms of culture that have mass appeal. At the end, however, the adjudicator decided the OHs had made the better case.

Against the beaks, the motion was the controversial one of 'This house believes that Harrow School should become co-educational'. Proposing the motion, the beaks' team argued that allowing girls to attend Harrow would improve it academically and socially, as well as pointing out that excluding them was discriminatory. The boys' principal argument was for maintaining tradition. Although the boys won the popular vote, the adjudicator, Mr George Hakon-Benson, found in favour of the beaks.

PERCEVAL SOCIETY

African and Caribbean culture

Members of Harrow School's Perceval Society welcomed the British broadcaster and writer Afua Hirsch who has worked as a journalist for The Guardian and was an editor at Sky News. She discussed her life and career, and how she came to write the book *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging*, for which she received a Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Award for Non-Fiction.



Professor Jonathan Phillips

TREVELYAN SOCIETY

History

Professor Jonathan Phillips of Royal Holloway, University of London, delivered an excellent talk on the prestigious but somewhat neglected history of Sultan Saladin. He covered the effect of Saladin's legacy on both European and Eastern states from the medieval period through to the present day. While Saladin was not an Ottoman sultan (and so not a figure studied by A-level students at Harrow) it was interesting and insightful for boys to see how other rulers in the Eastern Mediterranean governed their empires. The society also heard Dr Phani Discalopoulou-Livada – legal adviser to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and delegate for the statute of the International Criminal Court – discuss the Russia-Ukraine war and its implications in international law.

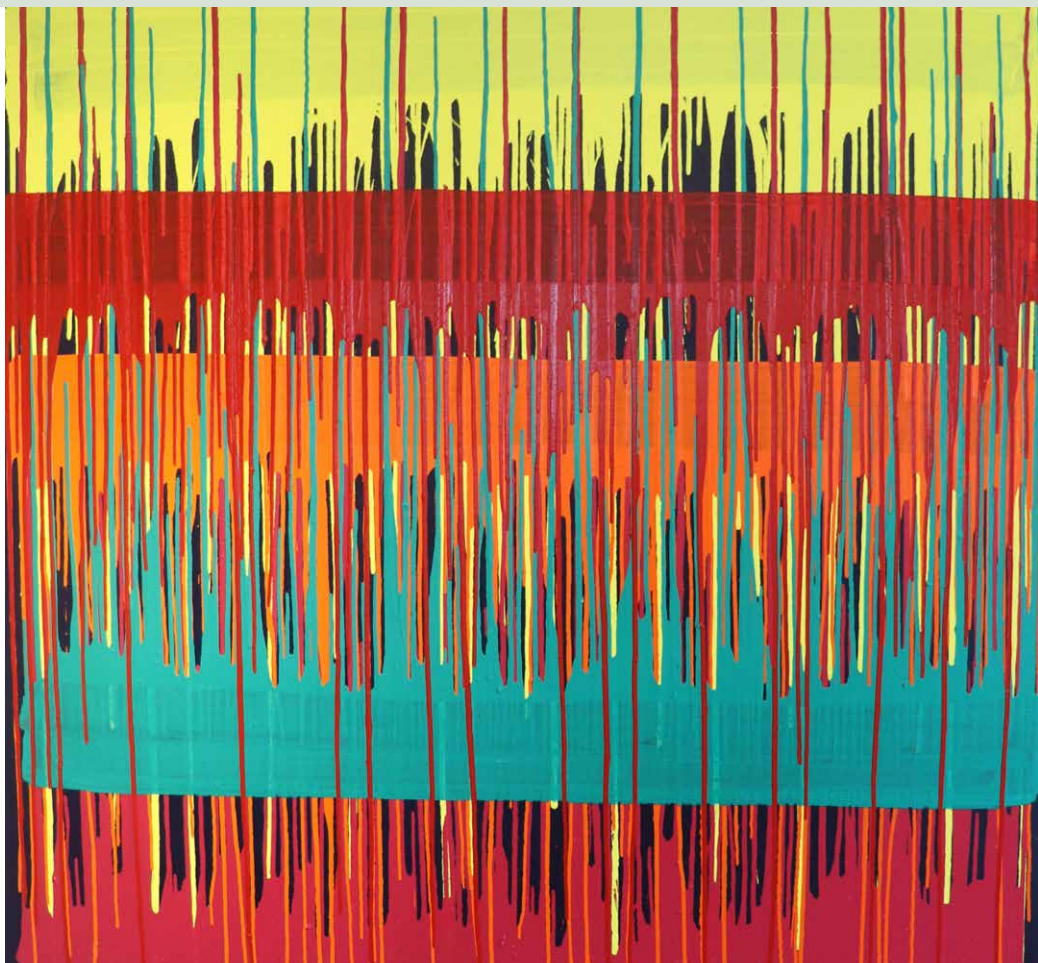


Afua Hirsch

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

The Summer term saw two of the most important competitions in Art and Photography. The Neville Burston Prize for Art is awarded to the Upper Sixth artist who has produced the most outstanding work in his final year at Harrow. The adjudicator, Professor Jeremy Diggle, an independent artist and visiting Professor of Art and Design and Performance Painting at the University of Plymouth, awarded Gus Corsellis the 2023 Neville Burston Prize for his series of large-scale paintings exploring abstraction and colour.

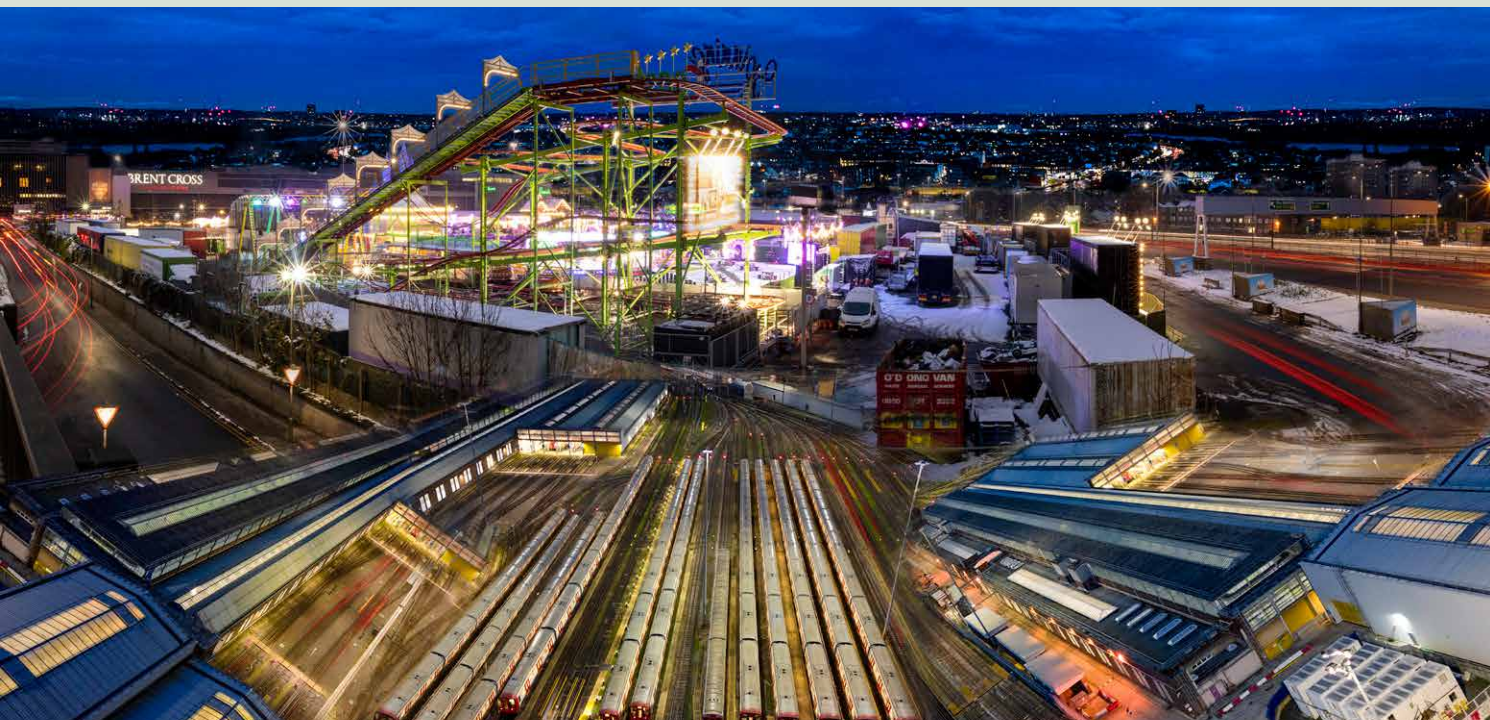
The Fox Talbot Photography Competition is a digital photography competition open to all Harrovians and divided into junior and senior categories. Of the 300 entries, 100 were selected for display. In the junior category, Viren Bhaika came out on top with *Langur Phone Tree*.



Work by Gus Corsellis, winner of the Neville Burston Prize for Art



Winning photograph in junior category of the Fox Talbot Photography Competition



Midnight Expressions by Elliot Taylor, runner up in the senior category of the Fox Talbot Photography Competition



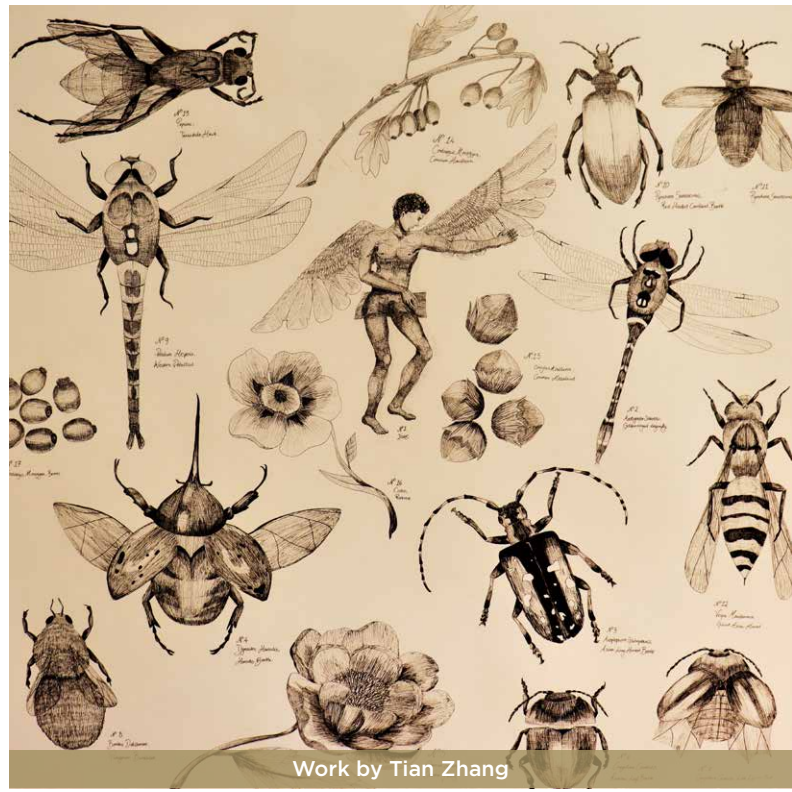
Work by Jonathan Dolby

This photograph portrays two langurs sitting on different trees in a national park in India, all illuminated from behind by a perfect, golden sun. Runner-up was Joseph Li with his photo *Covid Testing*. The winner of the senior category was Omar Ait El Caid for his photograph of an elderly man on the streets of Edinburgh, *Prime*. Elliot Taylor was runner-up with *Midnight Expressions*.

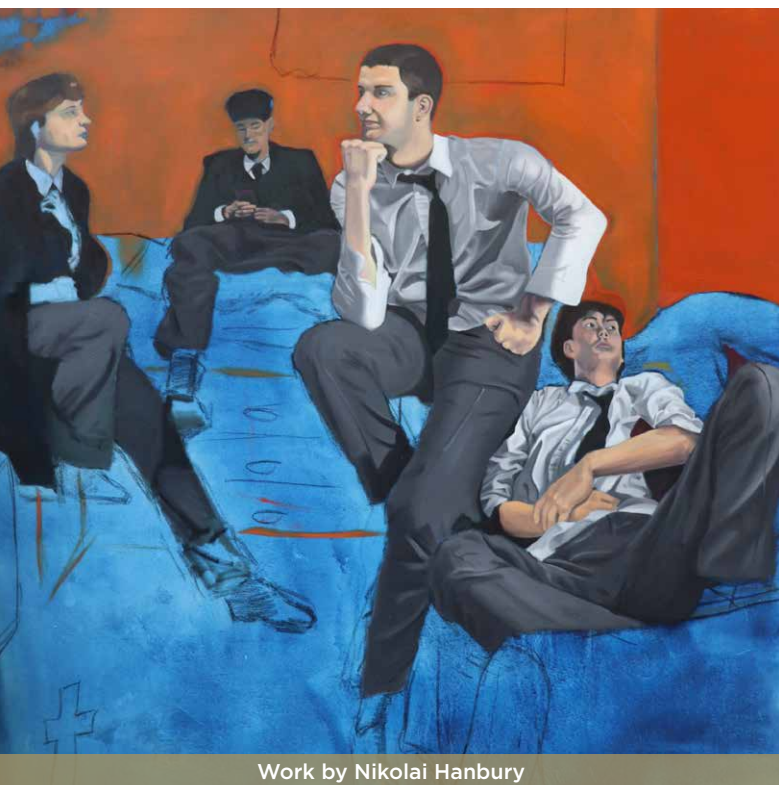
Jeanette Barnes is an artist renowned for her remarkable, large-scale cityscapes, most often in the medium of charcoal. She visited Harrow to deliver a masterclass to artists in the Fifth and Sixth Forms and gave a talk on the process behind the creation of her artworks.



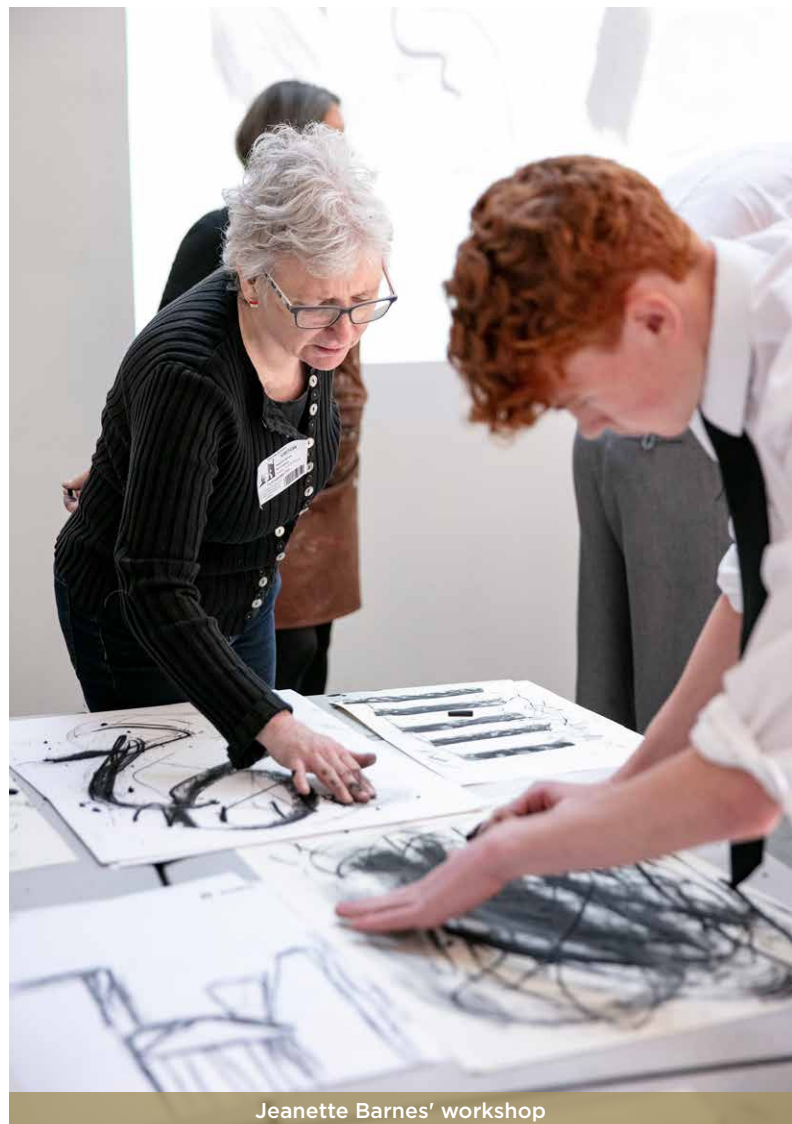
Work by Rei Ishikawa



Work by Tian Zhang



Work by Nikolai Hanbury



Jeanette Barnes' workshop



Prime by Omar Ait El Caid, winner of the senior category of the Fox Talbot Photography Competition



Shell Drama Festival

DRAMA

The final School production of the Summer term was *Hamlet's House of Horrors*, performed by the Junior Rattigan Society. A large company of Shell and Remove boys from across the Houses, directed by Adam Cross, presented a rollercoaster version of Shakespeare's most famous tragedy, reimagined in a fairground hall of mirrors.

For the Shell Drama Festival, new boys from each House presented tales on the theme of 'departures', all directed by Sixth Formers and set in a Ryan Theatre transformed into an airport terminal.

Sixth Form students from Harrow, Bentley Wood High School, Nower Hill High School and Whitmore High School joined together to present a sharing of monologues and extracts from Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe, as part of the annual Jeremy Lemmon Project. Now in its fourth year, the project is named after former Harrow beak and director Jeremy Lemmon and supports creative partnerships and access to higher education in schools across the Harrow borough.



Hamlet's House of Horrors



Jeremy Lemmon Project at Shakespeare's Globe

MUSIC

Many boys entered a competition to compose music suitable for the Coronation, and some subsequently enjoyed hearing their work played and rehearsed by School ensembles. For the School's Coronation events, Symphonic Winds performed *Evening Hymn* and *Sunset* in Bill Yard, and two choirs performed *Zadok the Priest* in the Chapel and St Mary's.

Along with all the music that featured in Speech Day, music events in the Summer term ranged from the Choral Society joining girls from Francis Holland School at St Marylebone Parish Church in Central London to perform an eclectic programme including John Rutter's *Gloria*, to an exciting Concerto Evening that showcased Harrow's most accomplished musicians, with 11 boys performing difficult pieces by composers ranging from Mozart and Mendelssohn to Saint Saëns and Shostakovich.

Each autumn, the annual Commemoration Concert marks the death in 1592 of the founder of Harrow School. This year, the concert was attended by children from many schools in the borough, and the Chapel Choir, together with the choir of St Anselm's Catholic Primary School, performed Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. The orchestras and the Big Band entertained the audience with repertoire that included Britten's *Simple Symphony* and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*.



Commemoration Concert



Commemoration Concert



School musicians played at the Sunset Coronation Service

Several Harrovians passed higher grade ABRSM music exams with distinction:

■ Harry Burt	Grade 6 singing
■ Oliver Cheuk	Grade 7 piano
■ Henry MacDonald	Grade 8 singing
■ Rupert MacDonald	Grade 6 singing
■ Sebastian Murray	Grade 8 singing

Ben Wu passed the ABRSM Diploma in Saxophone with merit, and John Chow passed the ABRSM Diploma in Cello with an excellent distinction, scoring 48/50.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Boys working towards the Silver Award headed off in wet and windy weather for their practice expedition in Wales, while boys doing the Gold Award completed their practice expedition in the Lake District. The Bronze practice expedition took place in the Chiltern Hills on a Sunday in June, which had contrastingly lovely weather suitable for novices practising map reading and taking compass bearings.

Expedition Week at the end of June, saw the Bronze and Silver boys embarking on their qualifying expeditions. The Bronze group returned to a different part of the Chiltern Hills and enjoyed the rural landscape while meeting their checkpoint targets. Boys on the Silver expedition were challenged with mist and fog during a wet first two days in the Black Mountains. An unfortunate minor injury meant one boy was unable to continue the expedition, leaving his group as a team of three. Expedition rules state groups must have at least four participants, so two boys switched groups for the last day to enable everyone to complete the expedition. This meant that the two boys had to undertake the longest and most navigationally challenging day twice. Thankfully, the sun dried everyone out on the final day, just in time for a celebratory barbecue.

The Gold qualifying expedition went off without a hitch at the start of July in the Cairngorms, as in previous years. Challenging weather made some route alterations necessary, but the boys overcame the difficulties and maintained focus on their expedition.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award expedition took place in the Black Mountains



Delegates at the Harrow Family of Schools Fifth Form Conference

HARROW FAMILY OF SCHOOLS FIFTH FORM CONFERENCE

After a three-year hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic, June 2023 saw a gathering of 50 Year 11 pupils from Harrow, John Lyon School and the Harrow International Schools in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Shanghai for the Harrow Family of Schools Fifth Form Conference. The overarching theme of the conference was 'Planning for the Future', and the six-day programme involved workshops focusing on developing leadership and teamwork skills, presentations by highly qualified and inspirational community leaders, and exciting trips to London and Oxford focusing on university application, careers and leadership. Central to the conference was organising and running a community project where delegates provided hands-on social support to disadvantaged members of the local community. Equally central were the friendships the young people forged with each other, and those who took part found the experience profound and immensely rewarding.

HARROW RIFLE CORPS

Sixth Formers Archie Young and Nicko de Labillière were awarded Army Scholarships following three days of tests, tasks, observations, practical challenges and assessment. The awards are offered to a selection of students nationally who have the potential to make excellent Army officers, and they will support the boys through university.

Three Harrow Rifle Corps staff members were recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London for outstanding service to London's Reserve and Cadet units. They were among 39 London Cadets, Reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers at the ceremony in Bloomsbury. CI Laurence Cohen was awarded the RFCA Certificate of Commendation for Civilian Instructors, and both Lt Edward Stowell (Economics beak) and Sub Lt Joss Pinsent (Mathematics beak) received the RFCA Certificate of Commendation for Adult Instructors in recognition of their delivery of training in the contingent and success in courses.



Winners of Army Scholarships



Launch of the Inspire programme

INSPIRE PROGRAMME

September saw the launch of Harrow School's Inspire programme, which focuses on providing opportunities for young people whose family circumstances might prevent them from accessing similar opportunities outside school. The free one-year programme comprises 16 targeted sessions intended to extend the children's learning beyond the curriculum. The Royal Institution will run tailored mathematics masterclasses with activities such as making perpetual time machines and mathematical fun with Sierpinski's triangles. The participants will also be able to hone valuable skills such as public speaking through partnerships with Harrow School's Debating Society.

Two pupils from each of Harrow's partner primary schools were selected to take part in the programme. These young people were chosen because they have demonstrated innate intellectual curiosity as well as commitment to their academic work. The aim is to ensure that every child graduates from the Inspire programme more confident in the core subjects of English and maths and, more importantly, equipped with skills and knowledge that will enable them to achieve their ambitions for the future.



Guy Butler Shield



Steve Backley gave a javelin masterclass

ATHLETICS

It was an incredibly successful season for Harrow athletics. The boys remained unbeaten in every meet, winning most age-group competitions. The highlight of the season was winning the Guy Butler Shield - in the last race of the event. From this strong and determined squad, many boys were selected for the County Championships, and a further seven went on to represent Middlesex at the national competition in Birmingham, a singular result as it is quite unusual for so many athletes to be selected from the same school.

Steve Backley OBE visited Harrow to give boys a masterclass in the javelin throw. A retired track and field athlete, Steve formerly held the world record for javelin throwing. During his career, he won four gold medals at the European Championships, three Commonwealth Games gold medals, two silvers and a bronze at the Olympic Games, and two silvers at the World Championships.

CLIMBING

The annual Big Comp at HarroWall is a major competition on the climbing calendar, attracting many of the country's best climbers, including both senior and junior Team GB athletes. Jaden Lim and Vincent Song represented Harrow in the senior category, competing against climbers many times their age and experience. They put on a good performance despite the tough boulder problems, finishing in top 70. Adam Yeung, Meer Veluvali and Hiro McLinden were all placed in the top 100 in the junior

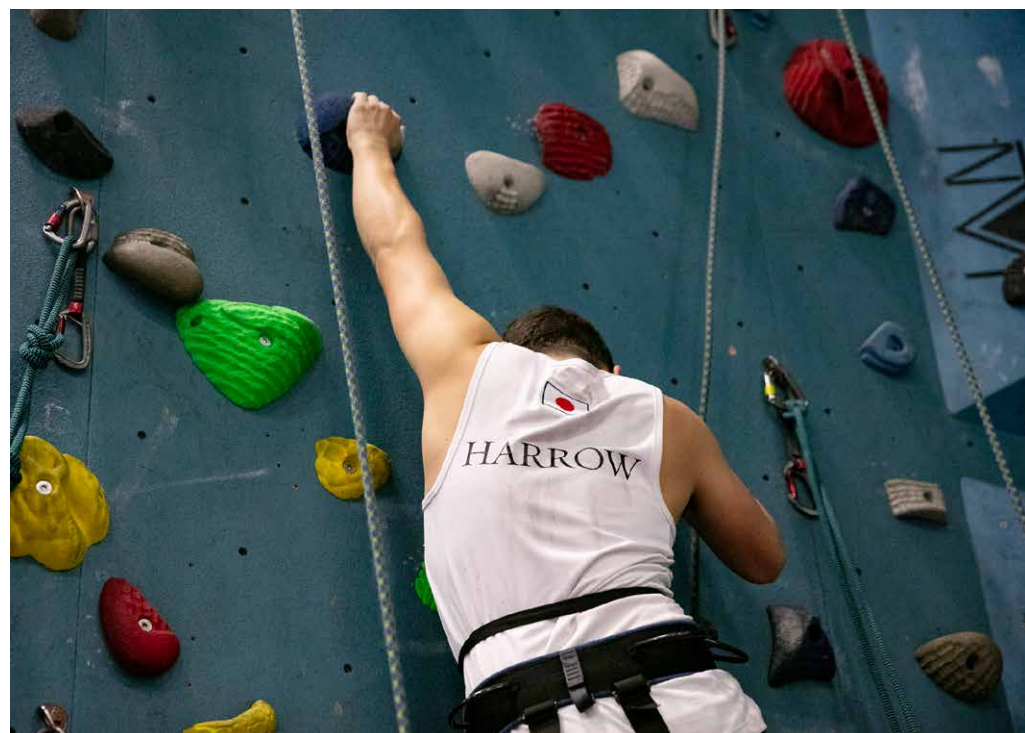
category. Rupert Lawless achieved third place but, due to the level of competition, missed out on a place in the final by only three points. Rupert's result was, however, best ever in the School's history of participating in the competition.

CRICKET

Over 300 Harrovians enjoyed a variety of formats of cricket on the Philathletic pitches. The 1st XI were strong once again and played with tremendous spirit and heart all season. The 2nd XI lost only twice across their 11 matches, and the 3rd XI won all their matches and played wonderful cricket all season. The 4th and 5th XI played numerous games throughout the summer despite the pressure of A-level

exams. The Colts A and B sides played much good cricket, with the Colts A losing only once in the regular season. The Junior Colts A side won 13 of their 15 matches, and the Junior Colts B side only lost twice. The Yearlings A side also only lost twice during the regular season and the Yearlings B, C and D sides all played great cricket throughout the summer. Yearlings E and Junior Colts D sides showed tremendous attitude as they continued to learn the game for the first time.

The 2023 Lord's match will go down as one of the most exciting duels between Eton and Harrow in the 218-year history of the fixture. Eton won the toss and



elected to field first, and despite constant rain interruptions and the deployment of the Duckworth-Lewis calculations, Harrow won a remarkable match by four runs.

There were many highlights away from the external fixture circuit. Harrow hosted 100 local primary school children at Lord's during the Eton fixture, providing coaching and a tour of the MCC cricket museum in between the children watching the match. Harrow once again hosted the MCC Foundation Hubs Finals Day, with boys and girls from all over the country enjoying the Harrow cricket pitches as they competed for victory. House cricket proved to be competitive as ever. Rendalls won a thrilling House final against Bradbys before also defeating Elmfield in the Torpids to claim a famous double. The Park defeated West Acre in the Yearlings final.

POLO

On the hottest day of the year, the Harrow polo 1st team emerged triumphant after a heart-stopping match against rivals Eton at Guards Polo Club on Varsity Day. From the opening chukka, it was evident that both teams were



Harrow beat Eton at Lord's



fiercely determined to claim victory, and Harrow soon scored the first goal. Eton quickly responded with an expert neck shot to even the score and the chukka ended with the score at 2-2. Despite valiant efforts from both teams in the second chukka, the score remained 2-2. Eton scored an early goal in the third chukka to take the lead, but two goals from Harrow evened the score again. The final chukka saw the teams locked in a fierce battle for supremacy. Harrow's determination shone through as they unleashed a series of powerful strikes to score a fifth goal. Eton fought back quickly with another goal to even the score again. In the last 30 seconds of the game, Harrow scored again through another penalty and, as the final whistle blew, the scoreboard displayed 6-5: a hard-fought victory for the Harrow team.



RUGBY

Upper Sixth Formers Kepu Tuipulotu and Charlie Griffin both represented England Under-18s on tour to South Africa, beating France and Western Province before losing to South Africa. Kepu was the England captain and man of the match in the France game; Charlie scored several tries and was man of the match in the game against Western Province.

SKIING

Three of the four Harrow skiing teams qualified for the finals of the English Schools Skiing Association dry-slope national championships. Eight boys achieved top-20 places, with team captain Ulrico Zampa coming in fourth of 172 competitors in the Under-18 category.

SWIMMING

Having won the Bath Cup and John Nelson Cup at the British Independent Schools Relay Championships, Harrow swimmers had a very successful summer. Swimming for the first time on an international stage, Joe Storey competed for Jersey in the Island Games, where he won a gold and a silver medal and set new personal best times in both 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle. His times placed Joe third nationally in the Under-18 group.

Adam Wong swam in the Junior National Championships in the USA and at the Hong Kong National Championships, where he posted some very good times, placing him in the top five nationally.



Mark Zeng swam an outstanding 50m breaststroke in Hong Kong, swimming the third-fastest time ever by a Hong Kong national. This swim, along with his 23.90 seconds in the 50m freestyle, put Mark on the team for selection for the Asian Olympics.

Competing for the first time at British National Championships, Thomas Williams made the final of the 50m breaststroke. Also making the step up to the British National Championships, Max Stafford Davies swam best times in his three events, making the final in 50m butterfly where he narrowly missed a medal in the tightest of races. Alex Moore also took part at the competition, swimming well in the 100m freestyle.

Nick Finch had a superb British Nationals meet, winning three gold medals and one bronze and posting some of the year's fastest times in Europe in the junior age group. Earlier in the year, he had earned selection for the English team for the Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. Nick's first event was the 50m butterfly where he set a new games record in the heats, following it up with a silver medal. He moved on to the 100m freestyle where he set a personal best time and was placed a very creditable seventh. Nick's third event was the 100m butterfly, in which he again swam a best time and won a fantastic silver medal. He finished off the day with a gold in the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay and another gold in the mixed 4x50m medley team.



Harrowians qualified for the finals of the English Schools Skiing Association dry-slope national championships



TENNIS

The 1st and 2nd teams both performed with determination and skill during the tennis season, which resulted in a very strong set of results. Over the term, Harrow beat Radley three times at 1st-team level in some dramatic and well-fought matches. The biggest highlight was a win in the RHWM tournament, against Radley, Wellington and Marlborough.

At younger age groups, there were good results for the Colts A, in particular a win over Bradfield. The Junior Colts had a fine season that was best exemplified with wins at Junior Colts A and Junior Colts B level in the RHWM tournament.

WATER POLO

The Harrow water polo team emerged as victors in the Five-Schools Challenge for the first time, overcoming formidable opposition from Marlborough, Eton, Abingdon and Charterhouse. Each game was fiercely contested, with the lead changing hands in every match. It was their 1-0 win over Marlborough in the final match that sealed their victory.





Judo tour to Japan

ELEPHANTS IN NAMIBIA

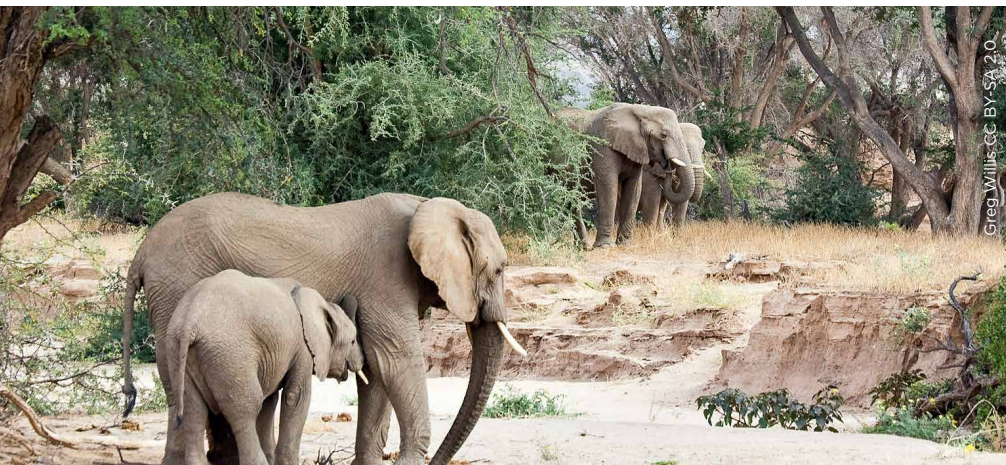
Eleven boys travelled to Namibia for a two-week conservation project on the protection of elephants. Working with the charity EHRA (Elephant Human Relations Aid), the boys learnt about desert elephants and how humans can cohabit safely with them. During the first week, the boys assisted in building a wall to protect a village well from elephants and helped teach the children at the village school. Elephant tracking was the main activity for the second week, during which the boys trekked through the desert, where they spotted not only elephants but also jackals, springboks, ostriches and giraffes, and slept out under the stars.

JUDO TOUR TO JAPAN

A team of 14 boys visited Japan for a judo and cultural tour. They visited several schools and universities well known for their judo and enjoyed training sessions with some of judo's most revered teachers. They also had plenty of opportunities to visit the sites in cities such as Tokyo and Kyoto, as well as travelling to Nagoya to watch one of sumo's grand tournaments. After watching the competition, the boys had dinner with the sport's 61st Yokozuna and Chairman of the Japan Sumo Association, Mr Nobuyoshi Hoshi, at which they were able to meet and eat with sumo wrestlers at their training stable, sampling the famous *chanko nabe* (sumo stew) and getting to grips with the wrestlers in some friendly bouts.

RUGBY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town was the destination for 28 Harrovian rugby players on their tour to South Africa, where they played matches against four of the country's best school and college teams. Between matches, they visited some of the city's iconic sites including Table Mountain, went on a safari and enjoyed ziplining through the Hotentot mountain range, as well as making more reflective visits to Langa Township and Robben Island. The highlight of the trip was a morning spent with the Be The Difference Foundation, a charity that uses rugby to help township communities and children thrive. The boys coached the Under-11 players before distributing a shipment of donated school shoes to the children and joining the community kitchen to help prepare food boxes for delivery to 500 people in the community.



Desert elephants in Namibia

CLASSICAL SICILY

A large group of 50 boys took part in a Classics-based trip to Sicily. The tour started in the island's capital Palermo, a city whose architecture has been influenced by the many cultures that have controlled the country, before moving on to the ancient cities of Segesta and Selinunte with their magnificent Greek temples. They also visited the historic sites in the cities of Syracuse, Taormina and Catania, and enjoyed an exciting trip up Mount Etna.



Rugby tour to South Africa



Classics trip to Sicily

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN SALAMANCA

Several Fifth and Sixth Form boys studying Spanish had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language on a trip to the Spanish city of Salamanca. The boys stayed with Spanish host families, where they practised their Spanish-speaking skills in an authentic situation, while attending lessons at a language school in the morning. During the rest of the day, they enjoyed cultural trips in the city and to other sites in the area, such as the towns of Segovia and Zamorra, and the El Valle de los Caídos mausoleum outside Madrid.



Boys travelled to Salamanca to improve their Spanish speaking skills



Maro Itoje at Harrow (bottom row, fifth from left)



Billy Vunipola at a training day at Harrow

Simon Howes (*West Acre 1968*) completed a unassisted solo row across the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to St Lucia, making him the fastest rower in history to make this journey solo and unsupported, beating by 43 days the previous record set in 1997. Simon became the third-oldest person in history to row any ocean on the planet and completed the challenge in support of the Isle of Wight Red Squirrel Trust, raising £92k for the charity. He is currently writing a book about his adventure.

Samuel Shashoua (*Rendalls 2012*) signed to Spanish football club Albacete Balompié on a two-year deal.

Tom Santini (*The Park 2014*) and **Joshua Gibbs** (*The Park 2014*) began an unsupported cycle journey from London to Oslo, covering over 1,200 miles through eight countries. They are completing the challenge in support of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Alzheimer's Research UK. Tom and Joshua are carrying all necessary supplies on the back of their bikes, including their tents and cookers.

Manu Vunipola (*The Knoll 2014*) joined Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club as attack coach. He continues to play for Saracens.

Harrison Obatoyinbo (*The Knoll 2014*) signed for Stade Montois Rugby Club.

Benedict Parfit (*Druries 2008*), former swimming captain and double Bath Cup winner, set a lifetime best while competing for his home country Bermuda at the Swimming World Championships in Japan.

Maro Itoje (*The Grove 2011*), **Billy Vunipola** (*Bradbys 2009*) and **Henry Arundell** (*The Knoll 2016*) were all members of the England Rugby World Cup 2023 squad. Henry scored a record five tries in his World Cup debut against Chile.



View from Simon Howes' boat



Sam Shashoua at Harrow (bottom row, fourth from left)



Henry Arundell playing for the Harrow 1st XV

Harrow School

5 High Street, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3HP

+44 (0)20 8872 8007

www.harrowschool.org.uk