

THE HARROVIAN

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SHAKESPEARE AT HARROW

Past, Present and Future

The School's Shakespearean performance tradition dates back to the Blitz, when – so the story goes – an incendiary bomb caused damage to Speech Room's roof, creating more than a passing resemblance to the original Globe Playhouse. So, in 1941, the School presented *Twelfth Night* in 'shared-light' and with only box trees and beer barrels for staging. Regular School productions followed and, ten years later, and with a cohort of actors now versed in this performance style, the OH Players, our alumni acting company, was born. In the decades since, generations of Harrovians have thus been inspired and brought together via the 'Harrow Shakespeare' project. The odd one or two have even become household names...

In November 2023, to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, an inter-generational acting company – comprising boys, OHs, beaks, parents and members of the local Hill community – gathered in Speech Room to perform a specially commissioned gala: *All the World's a Stage*. Introducing the evening, Richard Curtis, *Druries 1970*², (and former editor!) shared a speech delivered by a character in an unperformed work of his, reproduced here exclusively for *The Harrovian*, with his kind permission:



NEVER TO BE DELIVERED

by Richard Curtis, OH

"It's my private theory that God has come to earth twice in human form, not once. The first time in the Middle East when he died for our sins in a most dramatic way. But no-one wants to be crucified twice, so the second time – God came down not to give orders and tell us what to do – he came as a playwright from Warwickshire to show us who we are – to celebrate all our joys in his Comedies, to observe all our social complexity in his Histories and in the Tragedies to reconcile us to all our sins and sorrows. Instead of a grand life, he led this totally plain, strangely mysterious life, almost no facts known, and left us these 38 plays – so every time anyone sees one of them, they know what it means to be a human. I think in his plays we are talking God's words – and everyone who hears them and, even more, we lucky few who have been allowed to say them, share a little touch of divinity...."

Harrow Shakespeare remains a dynamic strand of the School's cultural tradition. In 2019, a new School production of *Twelfth Night*, performed at the reconstructed Globe on Bankside, marked 25 years since a company of Harrovians became the first to perform a full-length play on the Globe's stage in 1994. The Jeremy Lemmon Project, launched with proceeds from the 2019 gala, and now in its fifth year, sees Harrovians forming an acting company with peers from our partner schools. The Old Harrovian Players celebrated the company's 70th birthday in 2022 by performing *The Tempest* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, and have continued to present innovative, accessible productions in Speech Room and beyond. School Shakespeare productions in recent years have played not only in Speech Room, but in the Ryan Theatre, on tour, in the open air, and even at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Now we invite you to the latest Harrow Shakespeare instalment, *Henry V*, presented next week by The Grove.

A treatise on inspirational leadership and the cost of war, Shakespeare explores the full spectrum of Harrow's Values in *Henry V*. Henry exemplifies honour by transforming from a wayward prince to a wise king. The camaraderie among soldiers and Henry's unifying speeches underline the priceless quality of fellowship. The English army shows courage in the face of overwhelming odds, and Henry demonstrates humility in his reflective prayers.



The Grove Presents
Shakespeare's
Henry V

28 February at 7:30pm and 29 February at 8pm

Ryan Theatre

LARGE ENSEMBLES

5 February

Following the successful Solo and Small Ensemble Competitions on the Sunday before half-term, the House Large Ensemble competition took place in Speech Room a day later. For the first time in a number of years, all 12 Houses competed on the night, showcasing the depth of Harrow's musical talent across all the Houses and year groups.

Newlands kicked off the evening's performances, playing *Fly me to the Moon* by Bart Howard and arranged by Yuk-Chiu Lai. The piece had an excellent start, with the swinging jazz-like rhythms well conveyed by the clarinettist, pianist, and double bassist. A strong metrical backing was provided by the drumkit, and the ensemble demonstrated their joy in making music, allowing the melodies to be played with great style.

West Acre then played *Wave* by Antonio Carlos Jobim. In a similar fashion to last year, the group impressively played from memory, immediately creating an effective energy with the audience as they played another one of Jobim's classic Bossa Nova compositions. The rhythms were played astutely with expressive dynamic balance between the parts being a distinct feature of their strong performance. A cool, laid-back atmosphere was undoubtedly created by the swanky arrangement and West Acre ought to be proud of their delightful performance.

The Knoll then played *High hopes* by Panic! At the Disco, bringing a recent pop hit to the Speech Room stage. The adjudicator commented on the fact that they were led commendably by a conductor who enabled the group to feel comfortably in time while they were playing. Great musical colours were on display in this performance which was bursting with energy and enthusiasm. The group deserve praise for creating a vibrant and inviting sound.

The Grove's rendition of *My Neighbour Totoro* by Joe Hisaishi, arranged by Anson and Brian Ching Bergensen, was a gripping performance. The ensemble melded well together, producing a well-projected, haunting sound. Under the masterful direction of Fergus McKie, the group were a perfect exhibition for gentle, controlled playing, particularly during the moments when delicate and legato string playing was required. Following this outstanding performance, *The Grove's* first place was well deserved.

Moretons played *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* by John Williams, arranged by Paul Murtha. Despite the tricky arrangement, the group positively conveyed the mood of the piece as they navigated through the story that all Star Wars fans have come to love. Sam Phillips's trumpet solo was praiseworthy as was the way in which the ensemble successfully kept the texture of the piece light, as the tempo built.

Lyon's treated us to a *La La Land Melody* by Justin Hurwitz, arranged by Robert Longfield. Careful playing was on display as they built up the layers of texture within the string section. There was also evidence of strong communication between the musicians especially when the percussion section joined. The ending of the piece was admirable and symbolic of the group's ability to maintain synchronicity throughout their performance.

Elmfield played *Love Theme* from *Cinema Paradiso* by Ennio Morricone. During this display, like in many of the other performances across the evening there was a well-controlled texture that enhance the balance and blend within the ensemble. The dream-like phrasing of the melody that was beautifully played in unison. Elmfield's third place was duly merited.

Druries played *A Town with an Ocean View* by Joe Hisaishi. This performance was well-presented as all the resonant tone that they produced created the impression that the instruments managed to speak to each other.

Bradby's played *Remember Me* from *Coco* by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, arranged James Kazip. The delicate, well-tuned melodies expressed the emotional

nature of the piece. A well-manged tempo under the direction of Keith-Au-Yeung led to the audience's appreciation of the melody and Mexican feel of the piece.

The Park's performance of *Another Day of Sun* by Justin Hurwitz was well co-ordinated. Each member of the ensemble demonstrated commitment to the performance as they played the well-known melody in a manner that was loud and proud.

Rendalls presented the Speech Room audience with Allegro Animato from *Sonatine-Quatuor*, Op 10 by Edouard Millault. The animated tempo of the piece was dealt with magnificently by the group as was the interplay between the instruments. The performance displayed rhythmic energy and a sense of joy.

To round of the evening, The Head Master's played Waltz No 2 from *Jazz Suite* by Shostakovich. This terrific performance with well-controlled playing, controlled dynamics, and well-managed *rubato*. The Head Master's ensemble captured the chromatic twists and the mood of tension and uncertainty in spite of the traditional waltz composition of the piece. It is for this reason that their second place did not come as a surprise.

Following an articulate and matter-of-fact adjudication from Mr Randle, DNW thanked the boys, staff and House Masters for their hard work in making such an event possible. Thanks must be given to Mr James Randle and DNW for organising all three classes in the House Instrumental Competition.

ARCHITECTURE SOCIETY AND ORIENTAL SOCIETY

Joseph Li, *The Grove, 'Fengshui: The Principle of Chinese Architecture'*, 23 January

The Oriental and Architecture Societies were addressed by Joseph Li, *The Grove*, in a lecture exploring *fengshui*, a concept that may be unfamiliar to most but crucial in defining modern Chinese and Cantonese architecture.

Fengshui, which literally translates to 'wind and water' and represents harmony between objects and forces in the world, has been a deeply rooted traditional and cultural belief in China for over 6,000 years. Today, it is still applied in a whole range of fields, including modern architecture.

Li first introduced us to the two unique schools of fengshui: the compass school and the form school.

The compass school uses a specially designed fengshui compass named a *luo pan*, which can determine the positioning of certain rooms and furniture by looking at the direction the needle is pointing. Unfortunately, the speaker deemed the mechanics behind the *luopan* to be too "astronomically complicated" for him and the audience to understand (perhaps its secrets are set in the stars?). In essence, it relies on the Earth's magnetic field, which was believed to hold all matter together.

The form school, on the other hand, focuses on the placement of the actual building and considers the five elements: fire, earth, wood, water and metal. These elements can be found in various objects and things: fire is in light and electricity while wood is in plants. They are also associated with specific qualities: fire is triangular and sharp and radiates heat while water is freer and more unpredictable (it does seem quite intuitive!). Therefore, when *fengshui* masters decide where to place a particular building, they want to create a constructive cycle of these elements. For example, a place where there is water that provides life to wood, which is then used as fuel for fire etc. In addition, a chart called the *bagua* is yet another map you can use to map out grids in your homes, designating them into eight different sectors to represent their positive (or negative) energy towards power, fame, knowledge, family etc. This is used to plan functional units of buildings (also known

as rooms, as Li astutely realised) to ensure a balance between the functionality of the room and the energy the sector provides.

But above all, the fundamental principle that everyone abides



by is the idea of 'Qi'. It is like an energy that flows through all matter, originating from nature and constantly flowing. However, when it is obstructed artificially, negative energy (not the one in quantum mechanics...) builds up and harms the future prosperity of the building.

Examples of the serious application and consequences of Fengshui are shown beautifully by the Bank of China building in Hong Kong which Li kindly introduced to us. It is built to ignore Fengshui principles and favour a post-expressionist design, with sharp edges on each side which slice through good Qi energy and project bad Qi to nearby buildings. One of the edges pointed towards the Governor's house; it is said that shortly after construction finished, the Governor died of a heart attack. Similarly, a nearby Lippo Centre building was also deemed to be obstructing good Qi due to its extruding glass walls; sure as the gospel, the owner soon went bankrupt too.

At this point, the audience had already been shocked by this seemingly miraculous (or possibly coincidental) course of events. But our speaker continued with another intriguing case study of the HSBC Building of Hong Kong, which was built with great Fengshui despite being pointed at by one of the edges of the Bank of China structure. It is positioned with a magnificent view of the harbour (where the Water promotes prosperity). The ground floor is completely hollowed out so that Wind and good Qi can flow unobstructed. Due to threats of the bad Qi, they built two cannon-like structures on top, akin to stone lions at the front door, to fend off the assaults of bad Qi.

The Jardine House, which was similarly pointed at by the Bank of China building, again follows wonderful Fengshui principles, being a regular rectangular shape (which provides balance and symmetry). The windows are all regularly circular (like coins) symbolizing wealth. The edges of the cuboid were flattened to avoid sharp edges. This shows us that Cantonese buildings favour Fengshui over glamorous designs (it looks rather like a giant cheese grater)

Curved shapes are also sometimes favoured as it is believed to help the circulation of Qi and give it high energy. This kind of design is seen in bridges in China with high, curved shapes. A mixture of geometrical and curved shapes is therefore encouraged. On the topic of high and low energy Qi, rooms such as the bedroom should be placed where Qi energy is low while offices and kitchens should be placed in a higher Qi environment.

At the end of the day, I cannot deny the fact that Fengshui

remains quite superficial with little to no supporting scientific evidence. However, the belief in Fengshui can provide you with confidence towards a building or apartment you live in, bringing you happiness and positivity; a basis to live off of. Nonetheless, it has great cultural influence in the Orient and is an unavoidable architectural consideration. I do hope that the construction team can take these tips into account when designing the interiors of the new science building and Shepherd Churchill.

TREVELYAN SOCIETY

Professor Patrick Geoghegan, 'King Dan: The rise of Daniel O'Connell', 1 February

The Trevelyan Society was delighted to welcome Professor Patrick Geoghegan of Trinity College Dublin. Professor Geoghegan is an expert on Anglo-Irish relations in the late 18th and 19th centuries. He has also written several books, one of which shares its name with the title and subject matter of the talk: 'King Dan: The rise of Daniel O'Connell'.

Professor Geoghegan began his talk with a general overview of Anglo-Irish relations up to the introduction of O'Connell, to set the scene for his arrival. He spoke first about the 1803 rebellion. He explained that Robert Emmet was the leader of this rebellion. Emmet's chief legacy was his speech from the dock. This provided the basis for almost all future Irish nationalists. Professor Geoghegan went on to speak about the primary error of the British Government that led to the troubles in Ireland in the 20th century, the execution of rebels. He made reference to the fact that, in response to both the 1848 and 1867 rebellions, the rebels were not executed because the British Government did not want to create more martyrs like they had done in 1798 and 1803. However, in response to the Easter Rising at the height of the First World War in 1916, the British mistakenly treated the Irish like another frontier and made the decision to execute most of the rebels (90 rebels were sentenced to death).

With the background of Anglo-Irish relations established, Professor Geoghegan went on to speak about King Dan himself. First, he made it clear that King Dan was a significantly unique Irish nationalist: he was a pacifist and believed in achieving repeal through peaceful means. He was also a Catholic (unlike the leaders of the 1798 and 1803 rebellions). He went on to tell us about Catholic emancipation and how it is better understood as a civil rights movement for the Catholics of Ireland (who made up a significant majority of the population). These Catholics felt inferior and downtrodden. He explained that O'Connell was an important figure in attempting to achieve emancipation and recounted a story about what O'Connell did following the assassination of Old Harrovian and British prime minister, Spencer Perceval. He described how there was a large gathering of people in Dublin mourning Perceval's death; O'Connell hated this. He questioned why they were mourning the death of the British prime minister and not more concerned about the struggles people were facing in Ireland. He then told us about O'Connell's oratory skills and how they were so captivating that Charles Dickens had to put down his pen to listen. O'Connell held mass meetings where he would address thousands, hundreds of thousands, and supposedly at one point even a million people. The Times magazine gave these meetings the name 'monster meetings'. Professor Geoghegan described the British Government's dislike of these meetings and how they had threatened to cannon the meeting in Clontarf (where Brian Boru won the famous battle in 1014) if it were to go ahead. Somewhat controversially, O'Connell cancelled the meeting as he was a very religious man and did not want to see such

a great loss of life. Professor Geoghegan concluded his talk by mentioning that O'Connell spent the last few years of his life concentrating his efforts on providing relief for the great famine.

The first question Professor Geoghegan answered was regarding whether O'Connell genuinely wanted repeal or if he was just using it as means to gain further reform. His opinion was that O'Connell genuinely did want repeal and, while the reforms that he gained along the way were beneficial, they were not his overall goal. He was then quizzed on whether O'Connell should have cancelled the monster meeting at Clontarf, to which he responded that many nationalists feel he should not have done as it would have almost definitely sparked up a monumental rebellion, but O'Connell felt the loss of life would have been too great, and O'Connell himself would have been killed as well. The final question of the night was regarding the influence that the failure of the 1798 rebellion had on O'Connell's pacifism. Professor Geoghegan informed us that he almost certainly looked at the failures of 1798 and 1803 and decided that revolutionary nationalism would probably not achieve what he was after.

FIRMFUNDATION

In Speech Room this week, we welcomed Julian Saunders, CEO of FirmFoundation, the main charity we supported in Long Ducker last autumn.

Julian expressed his deep thanks to the School for choosing FirmFoundation as our main charity, as it comes at the very moment that FirmFoundation are having to expand to meet increasing homelessness in the Harrow community. Later in 2024, he will be opening Harrow's first single homelessness day centre. This will significantly change the service offer within the community and help many more people move away from sleeping rough and into accommodation. Julian especially thanked all the boys and staff for raising life-changing amounts of money for their cause.

Afterwards, he told NT, TMD and Mr Collins (photo) that, over the period from September to middle of February, there had been 720 visits to their daytime drop-in centre, made by 128 individuals. During that time, ten people had been successfully taken out of rough sleeping, and his organisation had prevented a further three people from becoming homeless. On average, he said, FirmFoundation houses someone in new accommodation every 14 days.



BEAKS' BITES

Harrow beaks are unique and impressive people, contrasting with their lessons some may think. Indeed, one beak, in his first term here, marvelled that the most amazing thing about the School is that some beaks lead the most bizarrely brilliant lives beyond their (contrastingly) bland lessons. This recently came to the attention of the Editors, who seek to compile the fascinating tales from all beaks' lives. Much like a (more intellectual) chess puzzle, boys and beaks are encouraged to guess which beak it is who has such a fascinating story. The answer will be released the next week, along with another beak's tale. Beaks are also encouraged to submit any experiences of their lives, from military success to painful happenstance. What you are about to read is a real-life tale:

Which beak is this?

On my last visit to Seattle I sat in the cockpit for landing – a spectacular descent over Mount Baker. Jeff Bezos picked me up from the airport and took me to a party. Bill Gates asked me where he needed to go to get a burger. Later in the week, Jeff and I tested each other with trivia questions based on facts and figures from the back of a world atlas. Jeff won, and I bought him a curry.

GOD OF THE CLOUDS

The original second poem of the Nine Songs, The God of the Cloud and the God of the Sun were obviously very important deities in an agricultural society whose livelihoods and production depends on weather

The God of the Clouds

Bathed in orchids, oh! of sweet-scent,
The god's mellow curvature, oh! in reluctant ascent.
Dressed in a robe oh! of flowering hues,
Your light scatters oh! and greet unended dews.

The Deathless Palace oh! witnesses your arrival,
The Sun's and Moon's radiance oh! yours shall rival.
The dragon-charioteer oh! shall with you fly,
Waft and wander oh! far and nigh.

Thou regal god oh! about to descend,
And suddenly to afar clouds oh! your path shall bend.
Behold the entire earth oh! in your endless height,
The great seas oh! you shall exhaust in sight.

I think of you oh! I sigh for my piety,
My heart labours oh! into deep anxiety.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Photography Competition

Firstly, for those celebrating, Happy Chinese New Year! Yes, this is certainly a narrow topic, as seen by the sharp decrease in submissions. I promise the next one will be more accessible. However, Aidan here has captured a great photo. Today, for the first time, he will have the whole podium to himself. It shows two lion dancers next to each other, standing. The dancers one in front of the others creates a great composition, emphasising the pink dragon, and pushing forward a sole subject. As well as this, the positioning of the lion dancers is in harmony with the wall behind, and the treeline as well. For improvement, I



Aidan So, *Newlands*

would suggest that the tone in post should be slightly warmer, as it would be more fitting with the subject. A fade in on the bottom could be added, to bring out the dancers more. A quick auto detect subject could also help to add some exposure on the dancers, who. In my opinion, are slightly underexposed. This is a phone photograph, meaning it is difficult for me to make any suggestions on aperture. But if it were on a camera, increasing the aperture would be really effective in removing unwanted elements from the background such as the people, and highlighting the dancers more. But in general, the photo has great potential, and only needs a bit more editing to be really successful. Well done.

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs,

There are various ways to respond to the question "How are you?". The commonest response is "Not-too-bad,-you?" In his heyday, Boris Johnson used to reply, "Cracking form, never better, little short of superb", or if he had to make tricky decisions about detail, he would say "Alas, full of angst and acrimony." But since his fall from grace, Boris is no longer witty, only a composer of stale titbits for the Daily Mail.

When my late brother-in-law, Commander Glennie, was asked how he was, he would stiffen into action stations, and bark back, "Don't ask me how I am!" Winston Churchill was wonderfully articulate and witty in his prime as prime minister, responding that he was "ever looking for the next challenge". But towards the end of his life, he was barely able to construct sentences.

But I am glad to report that original recordings of Churchill's war-time speeches are broadcast non-stop in the male loos at the Durrants Hotel. Yes, you can fight them in the latrines! Durrants Hotel is just off Marylebone High Street, very near to the Wallace Collection, which is an amazing and extensive museum with free entry and a truly spiffing cafe/restaurant. And if you happen to be Catholic, there is right nearby St James's, Spanish Place. It is also not far from Regent's Park. So all in all, I can recommend it all.

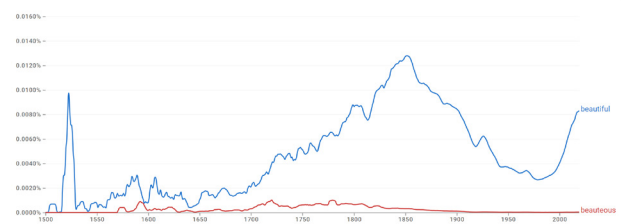
Then when someone asks "How are you?" you might reply, "Having a great day out in London town!"

YOURS SINCERELY,
MIKE STONE (*MORETONS 1957²*)

DEAR SIRs,

I write to clear my name. Recently, a communique associating me with a grammatical infelicity spread through the School, and I had to field a number of enquiries about my thoughts and beliefs, the cumulation of which questions threw me into discomposure and my lessons into disarray. This letter therefore must stand as corrective, and I ask that the editorial board of this periodical issue an apology herewith.

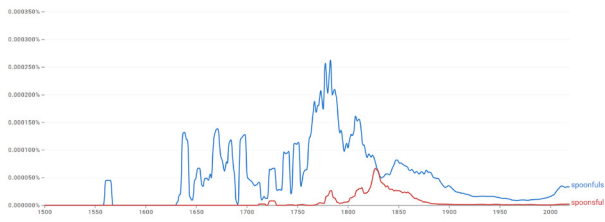
For those who were not included in the mailing list of this missive (I am one of them), a poll was sent around School, asking boys which of *spoonfuls* and *spoonsful* was correct. The poll suggested that I believe the correct plural of *spoonfuls* to be *spoonsful*. For a week, I fielded astonished requests in the form room, received emails in which were commingled both pity and contempt (*r u ok sir*). Those most dismayed, or even embarrassed by their tangential association with me, were often boys whose goodwill and trust in my grammatical rectitude and common sense had been built up over years. Ben Hufford-Hall was positively distraught. Netanel Lawrence-Ojo looked at me with something approaching disgust. Sebastian Murray put in a late transfer request to another school. The reputational damage was immense. But before I seek to clear my name, I thought I could turn this whole debacle to some account. *Spoonful or spoonsful?* The answer is pleasingly complicated.



The history of the -ful suffix is of some interest. A Germanic particle, it's much the same as its Latinate equivalent, -ous. *-Ful* has, at points in history, fled its Germanic roots (departed from its origins, if we're being Latinate), and attached itself to words of Romance origin, such as *beauty*, with *beautiful* and *beauteous* both extant (though of course the former is in more common use (see n-gram)). *-Ful* has proven itself pretty nimble: it has been combined with nouns (*graceful*, *prideful*, *tearful*), verbs (*forgetful*, *mournful* – the sense here being more 'apt to' than 'full of' or 'characterised by') and, somewhere in the dark backward and abysm of time, even with adjectives (Old English's *darkful* and *grimful*). The sense we are particularly dealing with here, where -ful is indicative of physical measurement, is relatively new, beginning in earnest some time after the other forms.

The OED will also attest to some early usages. The first appearance of the currently popular *spoonfuls* is in 1625, and it appears several times thereafter. But in fact *spoonsful* has the edge of antiquity here, first attested in 1527 (though in the form 'spones full'; we have to wait until 1599 for 'spoonesfulle'). The n-gram below will confirm this: it tells a comparative story in which the plucky underdog *spoonsful* existed for a long time before *spoonfuls*, only to be rocked by a plucky, young and tempestuous upstart. But, like Addison Lee, the Cricket Association of Canada, or the lately rediscovered amphibian known as Jackson's climbing salamander, *spoonsful* has gone on in quiet but determined fashion for a long time without anyone noticing. (There is a mysterious convergence of the two in around 1832 that I cannot account for, but find intriguing.)

I re-state the claim of your editors here. It is alleged that I believe that the correct plural of spoonful is spoonsful. That is not what I believe. What I believe is this: both are correct, or neither is, or it doesn't matter (and, by the way, why does 'both' take the plural 'are', but 'neither' the singular 'is'?). Overall, however, *spoonfuls* wins, and it is for this reason. Spoonsful will get you noticed, will make you stand out; spoonfuls therefore is to be preferred (if not always, and not everywhere). Why? Because a cardinal rule of one's behaviour is that one ought, in one's language as in life, to put people at ease. Spoonsful will put people at their ease by being less apparently egregious. Of course, if egregiousness (see?) are the aim, then do as you like – you are a hopeless case. I earlier suggested that *spoonsful* had the smack of antiquity to it, but that resounding ring comes tainted with the stink of the grave.



This magazine's campaign derailed lessons and reputations. It will take me some time to gather the pieces together again. I look forward to the apology following this *instantier*.

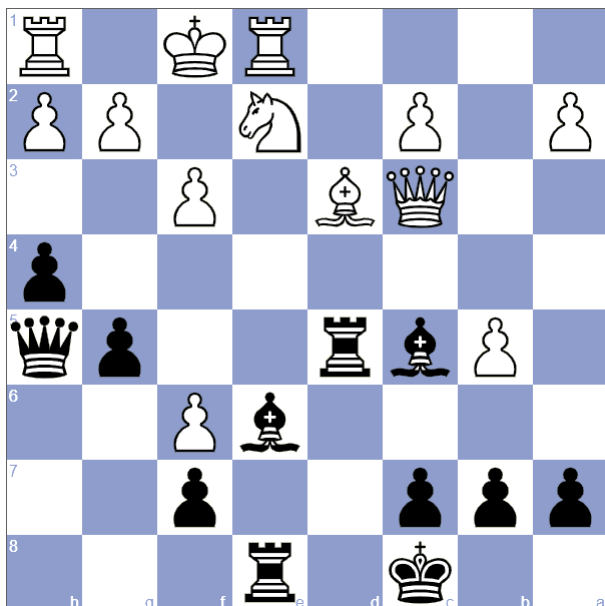
YOURS FAITHFULLY,
FSW

CHESS

This week's chess puzzle comes from an online game from 2017 between American prodigy Jeffery Xiong and French super-GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

Black to play and mate in two moves.

Submit your answers to JPBH by email to enter the termly competition.



Last week's answer: 1. Qxg7+ Rxc7 2. Rc8+ Rg8 3. Rxc7# Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30–6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from around the Hill

"Well boys, the inspection is over, which means I can hit you all again."

SPORT

CROSS-COUNTRY

Harrow School XC Away v King Henry VIII Relays, 31 January

The race started off frantically with Henry Barker, *The Park*, leading off the A string in the mass start. Through the opening portion of the race, he worked up through the field, establishing Harrow towards the front and coming in 8th place at the first change. This put Zach Elliott, *West Acre*, and Benjamin Cutts, *Elmfield*, in prime position as they looked to hold off schools who had front-loaded their running talent. With a tight field, Cutts handed off to Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, in 16th place. Elliott showed incredible leadership as captain to pick off runners one by one, handing off to Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, in 10th place. With the momentum and belief building Farrer-Brown put in a wonderful display, completing the course in 11:52 with Harrow sitting in 5th. Michael Cattini, *Moretons*, was anchoring the team and, after quickly picking off 4th place, dispatched 3rd and was quickly gaining ground on Abingdon, finishing the course strongly. Harrow finished in 3rd place, taking home the L.J.Wrench Trophy – an incredible result that all of the boys should be proud of. With five of this team returning next year it will be fascinating to see what they can achieve as a group.

The B-String also put in a brilliant display coming in 35th of 51 teams. Jaden Odofin, *The Grove*, and Julian Abass, *Elmfield*, led the team well, putting Harrow in a strong position. Hamish Newton, *Moretons*, and Freddie Cleeve, *Lyons*, kept Harrow close with Murray Runacres, *Lyon's*, and Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*, finishing strong as they finished 7th amongst the 17 B teams and beating many schools' A strings. This shows the depth of talent in Harrow's cross country set up at this time.

Cross Country Middlesex County Championships, 6 February

Fourteen Harrovians competed in the Middlesex Championships hoping to qualify for the national finals. Conditions were tough with a strong wind and muddy conditions underfoot. There were some outstanding individual performances across all age categories.

In the Junior Boys (Under-15) Luke Attfield, *Druries*, came 14th and Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*, 20th, completing the 4.5km course in 17:32 and 17:39 respectively. Murray Runacres, *Lyon's*, also finished a respectable 27th.

The Intermediate Boys (Under-17) saw much success with Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, who glided to victory across the 5.5km course looking more than comfortable as he came in at 18:37. Henry Barker, *The Park*, also clinched a qualifier spot finishing 4th in 18:59. Zach Elliott, *West Acre*, came in 16th, with Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, capitalising on his recent form to finish 21st.

The Senior Boys (Under-19) also saw success for Harrow with Michael Cattini, *Moretons*, coming in a close 2nd across

the 7km course in 25:06, with Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*, rounding out the top ten in 26:41.

Overall this is an excellent set of results that will see a number of Harrovians compete at the ESAA Championships in March.

Wellington College Relays, 8 February

Harrow travelled to Wellington for their annual relay race and to see Princess Diana's old home. It was a cold and wet day, but this did not trouble Harrow in the slightest. A philosophy of *carpe diem* permeated the squad as Harrow took a clean sweep of silverware, winning the Senior and Intermediate races, with the second string Intermediate boys coming second. To adapt Caesar's iconic phrase: *venimus, vidimus, vicimus*.

The Senior team was composed of Jaden Odofin, *The Grove*, Hamish Newton, *Moretons*, Julian Abass, *Elmfield*, Rei Ishikawa, *Elmfield*, and Cameron Elliott, *West Acre*.

The Intermediate A squad was composed of Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*, Ben Cutts, *Elmfield*, Zach Elliott, *West Acre*, and Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*. Farrer-Brown also set the course record in a time of 6:14, which is particularly impressive given the difficult conditions.

The Intermediate B team of Murray Runacres, *Lyon's*, Freddie Cleeve, *Lyon's*, Steven Shen, *The Grove*, Jonathan Deming and Murray Collin finished in second place an excellent result.

RUGBY UNION

Development XV Away v Brighton College, Won 33-31, 3 February

The Development XV, despite leading 26-5 at half-time, survived a Brighton second-half comeback to score at the death to win 33-31 in a thrilling game. Tries from Patrick Keaveney, *Druries*, James Talamai, *Druries*, Fraser White, *The Head Master's*, and Charlie Griffin, *The Head Master's*, built the lead before a last-gasp try from Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, and a Keaveney conversion saved the day.

RACKETS

The School v Haileybury, 6 February

1st Pair v Haileybury, Won

A tremendous effort in a match full of twists and turns from Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, and Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*. They rallied from 0-1 and 1-2 down to win 3-2. By some margin their best performance of the season, full of skill, resilience and excellent teamwork.

Junior Colts 1st Pair v Haileybury, Lost

A great effort from Diego Castellano, *Rendalls*, and Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, in a 2-3 loss against a strong pair.

Junior Colts 2nd Pair v Haileybury, Won

Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*, played with purpose and determination to win 3-0.

The School v Charterhouse, 8 February

1st Pair v Charterhouse, Won

A convincing 3-0 win for Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, on their debut. Both boys rallied with conviction and maintained their focus well.

2nd Pair v Charterhouse, Won

Some accurate serving and hard hitting in the rallies were a cornerstone of a 3-0 win for Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*.

Junior Colts 1st Pair v Charterhouse, Won

An excellent effort from Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*, who continue to improve and closed out the match 3-0.

BADMINTON

1st v St Dominic's Sixth Form College, Won 7-1, 11 January

Our badminton team started the term with flying colours, securing a decisive 7-1 triumph over St Dominic's, who were previously the sole victor against us in the preceding term. Recognition is duly extended to our esteemed captain, Vlad Plyushchenko, *The Grove*, and vice-captain, David Nakhmanovich, *The Knoll*, whose exemplary performances in both games contributed significantly to our success. Their strategic prowess was evident not only in securing victories, but also in minimising points conceded, reflecting a commendable display of sportsmanship and skill.

1st away v Abingdon School, Lost 4-12, 20 January

In the second fixture of the new year, Harrow faced Abingdon School. Despite the team's hard efforts and the energy they invested, the boys conceded overall victory. A special shout-out goes to Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, and John Kwong, *Lyon's*, for taking charge as our First Pair in this fixture, serving as the captain and vice-captain of the team respectively. Both players demonstrated exemplary physical and mental fitness throughout their matches, staging comebacks and securing victories in three of their four games.

1st v Winchester College, Won 6-2, 25 January

Harrow competed in its third fixture of the term against Winchester. All eight boys delivered a strong performance, showcasing a genuine fighting spirit that ultimately led to a 6-2 victory. A special shout-out goes to Felix Doan, *Bradlys*, for making a triumphant return to the team after a three-month injury hiatus, winning both his matches alongside his teammate, William Wang, *The Head Master's*.

1st, Away v Eton College, Won 6-2, 1 February

In a thrilling badminton fixture at Eton, Harrow emerged victorious with a commendable 6-2 win. The away game showcased the team's exceptional skills, strategy and teamwork. This triumph comes after a previous equalisation in the home game against Eton, highlighting Harrow's consistent dedication to excellence on the badminton court. A shout out goes to Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, and John Kwong, *Lyon's*, our Second Pair, who managed to defeat Eton's First Pair in a truly thrilling game.

SWIMMING

Harrow Home v Westminster School Mixed Under-18A, Won, 25 January

A very strong performance from Harrow led to a well-earned victory over Westminster on Thursday afternoon. There were outstanding swims by Kieran Leung, *Lyon's*, and Shogun Dejsunthornwat, *The Knoll*, who both swam personal best times in their events. In addition, both Tamim Downe, *The Grove*, and Tamir Zolboo, *The Head Master's*, recorded personal bests.

CHESS

3rd VI, Away, University College School, 1st, Lost,
Regional Cup, 25 January

It was always going to be a tricky fixture against a senior school A team, and Harrow's troubles were compounded when illness and a rearranged soccer fixture further dented the team.

However, thanks to some brave junior players signing up on the day, there was a full complement of six who made the journey over to Hampstead.

While a few players – most notably Tobias Idehen, *The Head Master's*, on the top board (playing a 2100-rated player!) – managed to put up a stern resistance, all six players eventually conceded defeat and the team fell to a painful 6-0 loss. Nonetheless, this was a young team and they were able to take much away from the experience. That doesn't even include the biscuits available for match tea.

BASKETBALL

1st v Royal Hospital School, 20 January

We started with the Under-16 match. The trio of Tosin Oyegade, *Moretons*, Wisdom Edjejovwo, *West Acre*, and Bob Zhu, *West Acre*, led the team superbly, as well as Endesha Dokolo, *Druries*, who had a spectacular match. The Under-16 team eventually won the match 28-8. Then the Under-18 match started. Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, gave a great performance, Tomiwa Oyegade, *Moretons*, gave another very good defensive display and a decisive 3-pointer. Arinze Ofurum, *The Head Master's* had a stellar game. The game was very closely contested and competitive, but Harrow held on and prevailed 29-27.

1st v St Dominic's Sixth Form College, 25 January

The Harrow Under-18 basketball team put on a stellar performance against St Dominic's. The team got off to an amazing start, with the first quarter ending 16-0. Harrow's dominance continued for the second quarter, but after the second half started, the St Dom's team fought back with endless resilience. However, the Harrow team fought on and ended the game winning 50-21.

1st, Home v University College School (UCS),
Won 36-30, 1 February

On Thursday, the Harrow and UCS Under-18 teams had a very exhilarating match, definitely a match to remember. Early in the game, Harrow went down, with UCS taking the initiative but Harrow fought back, with a great first-half performance by Tosin Oyegade, *Moretons*. The game was tied 27-27 at half-time. Harrow's continuous and intense defence kept the scores tied for a long period of the third quarter, but it was clear that the deadlock needed to be broken. Harrow ended up winning the game 36-30.

HOCKEY

1st v Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Lost 1-5
National Cup Round 3, 8 February

A tough battle against Dr Challoner's saw a very promising dominating first 20 minutes, but unfortunately the opposition scored a short corner and put us on the back foot. There was hope in the first half when Aaron Patel, *The Knoll*, scored a goal, assisted by Guy Manley, *West Acre*, bringing the score to 2-1, yet the game got away from the team in a frantic final ten minutes of the first half, going in to half-time 4-1 down. With last week's performance on our minds, we knew we could score goals, and in a short amount of time. Yet despite the intensity, there were green cards, an injury taking James Basslian, *Rendalls*, off the pitch needing a few stitches in his eyebrow, and only one more goal from Dr Challoner's, we were out of the cup run with a 5-1 loss. A lot to learn and take away from this match into the second half of the season.

2nd v The John Lyon School, Won 5-2, 8 February

Harrow displayed some excellent hockey against John Lyon School. Between Edward "Stabb in the Heart of the Opposition" Stabb, *The Head Master's*, and Richard "The Zinger" Zhou scoring five goals between them, the Harrow Under-18 A team were hard to stop as they finished the game with a 5-2 win.

SQUASH

Mixed Under-18A Home v Epsom College, Won 2-3,
25 January

Harrow's First V battled hard against national champions Epsom, losing 2-3. Sam Blumberg, *Newlands*, pushed a strong opponent, Filip Wiszniewski, *Druries*, won his match 3-0, and pick of the afternoon was Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, who came from 2-0 down to win his game 3-2. The team displayed pleasing fellowship throughout.

1st Away v Aylesbury Grammar School, Lost 1-4,
30 January

A much-altered First V played Aylesbury Grammar School on Tuesday, losing 4-1. Jimi Olunloyo, *Moretons*, battled to five games, showing great determination, while Sam Blumberg, *Newlands*, played a fantastic match out of position at first seed, showing a really impressive winning mentality.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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