

THE HARROVIAN

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RAYMOND ANTROBUS

Sheridan Society, OSRG, 7 September

We were honoured to have Raymond Antrobus address the Sheridan Society on 7 September for the inaugural talk of the academic year. Antrobus has won many awards for his poetry, such as the Ted Hughes Award and what was formerly the Rathbone Folio Prize. He has written a number of collections of poetry, some of which are currently studied in the A-level curriculum. These poems are quite personal, relating to his family life, as well as his heritage as a Jamaican-English man. Thus it was a great privilege for the Lower Sixth English Literature division to be able to talk to Antrobus earlier in the day, as well as during the lecture.



Antrobus first talked about how he is himself almost like a student, learning about the individuals at Harrow and their relationships with poetry, and how he felt immensely inspired by Harrovians' ability to express themselves and speak. He moved onto reading some of his some poetry. Each of these poems was thoroughly enjoyable, with one of them attached to this write-up for your appreciation and enjoyment.

Antrobus began with a poem titled 'The Perseverance', which is also the name the collection in which the poem appears. He explained that he liked the word perseverance – it was the name of a pub that his father went to – and the poem explores how someone can change and shift, as well as the literal idea of persevering through these events. The poem recounts Antrobus as a child, waiting outside the pub for his father to come out. It is a deeply personal and thoughtful poem, forcing the audience to contemplate the relation between time and loved ones.

He continued with another poem, titled 'Sound Machine'. It presents his relationship with his father, alluding to the sound system that his father had hooked up. Once again, like 'The Perseverance', it explores a complex parent-child relationship, as well as his own family history and heritage. It is sorrowful, yet still beautiful, demonstrating how connections last and linger.

He then stated that this poem says something about all his works, as well as how he got into poetry in the first place. His father, a DJ, had a favourite poet called Louise Bennett, who wrote a famous poem, 'Colonisation in Reverse', leading to Antrobus' father taking one of that poem's stanzas and asking him to recite it. His parents did not know this, but he was deaf

and was not actually able to speak at the time. 'Colonisation in Reverse' is a humorous poem addressing xenophobic attitudes in Britain towards Jamaicans. He believes that his father – facing some of the same racist backlash – found some comfort in this kind of poet's works. Antrobus used this as an example to stress the role that poetry serves: to make one feel understood and heard in difficult times.

He then continued with another poem, one about police brutality against deaf people. 'Two Guns in the Sky for Daniel Harris' speaks about the murder of Daniel Harris some years ago. It is a sombre poem, set in the USA, where Antrobus was at the time. He accompanied the poem's recitation with an eerie explanation of the ASL word for "alive", holding finger guns up towards the sky. It highlighted the problems deaf people face in this regard.

Moving onto something more positive, Antrobus noted a line by the poet Seamus Heaney, whom he deeply loved, that poetry 'is like the beat of your tribe'. However, he noted that it felt somewhat different for him. He remixed it into the idea that poetry "is music from the place you were born". Thinking about it, he thought about where he grew up, East London. Bumping into a friend outside a chicken shop and reflecting upon their use of language, he wrote the poem 'And That'. What followed was a vibrant celebration of East London culture that one could not resist being caught up in. This sort of display perfectly suited the phrase that he had coined about poetry.

He then answered questions from the audience. One asked whether Antrobus had any ideas that challenged the traditional notions of masculinity. Antrobus, empathetic and open, talked about how, just before the birth of his son, he read the King James version of Genesis for the first time, noting particularly the story of Noah. He was quite surprised to see how drunk Noah got. After getting drunk once, Noah stood stark naked in the rain and started screaming. His son saw this and brought Noah back into the house, where Noah then passed out and woke up with a terrible hangover. Realising his son saw him naked, Noah immediately disowned him. Thinking about this, Antrobus wrote a poem that explores this idea of what is appropriate to do as a man with limiting gender roles, so much so that he thought twice before bathing with his son. It is an uplifting poem, exploring and breaking these unneeded and restricting roles that are societally given to men.

He then started a dialogue with the audience about how to be a man and how to be masculine while not limiting himself to strict roles. What followed was a few minutes of mutual learning, where both he and the audience explored what masculinity meant to them, as well as the circumstances in which some forms of it perpetuate themselves – such as in schools. He recounted an interesting story about that focused on acceptance.

Closing the lecture, he recited one final poem, 'Happy Birthday Moon', about the more positive times he spent with his father, speaking about how they would read books together, watching his father trace his finger across the page. Extremely poignant and personal, it was the perfect closing poem for the lecture, with one last note made by him about the difficulty of writing a poem. He said that if he finds it hard to conjure up a title, he writes a question at the top of the page for the poem to answer, with the answer being the title. The question he posed for this poem was "Where does my language begin?"

He invited us all to answer this question, asking us, “Where does your language begin?”

Once again, we were extremely honoured, as well as fortunate, to have such an esteemed poet come in to talk to us. He presented beautiful personal poetry that all of us could relate to, as well as grounded poetry based in our common experience, while at the same time exploring his own personal ideas in his poetry.

If you have any queries about the Sheridan Society, please direct them to ERPB or one of the secretaries.

CLASSICS TRIP TO GREECE

Part 2: Aegina

*On old Aegina's rock and Hydra's Isle
The God of gladness sheds his parting smile;
– Lord Byron, The Curse of Minerva*

On the next day, we went down to the Piraeus. Though it was early in the morning, the oppressive heat was already beginning to wrap its tendrils around us. After wandering through the dry and dusty streets of Athens for two days, the clean, cerulean sea was a refreshing sight! A kaleidoscopic array of boats, cargo ships and ferries were neatly aligned along the docks, lulled by the crystalline waters.



However, these placid waters once concealed great grief and sorrow too. When Theseus was sailing back to Athens after defeating the notorious Cretan Minotaur, the scene was set for a joyous reunion. Tragically though, Theseus forgot to change the ship's sails from black to white, and King Aegeus, thinking that his son had perished in the labyrinth, threw himself into these pristine waters – now named the Aegean Sea.

When we boarded the ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ (Apollo) ferry to the Island of Aegina, we perhaps felt a divine touch of inspiration, though accompanied by a definite strong waft of diesel. As the Peiraeus disappeared into the horizon, I wondered what it would have been like during Athens' Golden Age. In 493BC, Themistocles (whose *ostraca* we had previously seen in the Athenian Agora) decided to fortify the port to make it Athens' primary naval base. Ten years later, the Athenian fleet settled in the Peiraeus, abandoning the older, less defensible harbour of Phaleron. This new port allowed the Athenian navy to dominate the Aegean sea. Through the Delian League, Athens could reap a “naval protection fee” from neighbouring city-states. If any city-state did not pay this tax, the Athenians would simply attack them.

Sharing our ferry with sunbathers and seagulls, we soon reached the Island of Aegina (named after the nymph Αἴγινα, who was abducted by Zeus and brought to the island). In Aegina, pistachios reign supreme. As you saunter along the seafront, the ambrosial scent of freshly roasted pistachios will lure you into one of the myriad shops and cafes. And lest we forget the pistachio gelato! However, we had sailed here to satiate our intellectual desire, not our appetite; a short coach ride through

verdant olive and pistachio plantations took us to the Temple of Aphaia Athena. Although we can only see its 2,524-year-old columns and stones, there were once two colourful and elaborate pediments, depicting scenes from the Trojan Wars. They now reside in the Glyptothek Museum in Munich.

But in this serene sanctuary and silent grove are traces of Athenian wrath. When it was constructed, the Doric temple was dedicated to the local goddess Aphaia (meaning ‘the invisible one’ in Ancient Greek). However, destiny and doom would soon descend upon Aegina.



In 480BC, Aegina sent ships to fight alongside the Athenian fleet at the Battle of Salamis. Though the invading Persians were defeated, Athens was worried about Aegina's rising naval power. Two decades later, Athens crushed the combined fleets of Aegina and Corinth, asserting its naval supremacy and cementing the position of the Delian League. The final blow came in 431BC. Athens, relentless in her ambitions, expelled the inhabitants of Aegina and replaced them with Athenian settlers, sealing the island's fate under Athenian dominion. Hence, the Temple of Aphaia was later dedicated to Athena.

Classical trivia: If you should draw lines to connect the Parthenon in Athens to the Temple of Aphaia at Aegina and the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion, you will make an isosceles triangle – the so-called “holy triangle” of antiquity.

Next week, we will travel to Mount Parnassus and seek the mystical Delphic Oracle!

HERE AND THERE

Last term, Tianyi Zhou, *West Acre*, and Jinyu Zhou, *West Acre*, completed a bike ride on their own initiative. They raised £7,500 for the Leeds United Foundation as well as the School. They rode 500km from Elland Road to West Acre, joined by Dr Sie and his son for the last leg. A superb display of Harrow values and athleticism! And an excellent example to set ahead of the Long Ducker!

Congratulations to Adam Wong, *The Park*, who has joined The Phil, and to Tito Odunaikie, *Elmfild*, who has been awarded his Games Flannels and has been invited to join the England Athletics Talent Pathway.

PEEL SOCIETY

'Scandalous and Perilous': Trade, Treachery and the Opium Wars', Aidan Au, Moretons, and Daniel Zhou, *Druries*, Tuesday 10 September

This term's Peel Society theme of historical and political scandals enticed a bumper crowd to hear the first talk in the series. Aidan Au, *Moretons*, and Daniel Zhou, *Druries*, spoke on the opium trade, which the Earl of Shaftesbury famously told the House of Lords was "in every point of view scandalous and perilous", and which led to wars between Great Britain and China in the middle of the 19th century. The speakers started by informing the assembled company that the tale of opium is centuries old, with humans using it since ancient times not only for the euphoric rush but also for relaxation and the relief of physical pain. However, they noted that there are many negative side effects of this highly addictive narcotic drug, ranging from confusion and constipation to nausea and diminished sexual performance.

During the 1800s, the British Empire exported large quantities of opium from India to China. Observing the harmful effects of opium on Chinese society, the Qing dynasty banned the drug, which led to war against Great Britain (1839–42). After this first war, the use of opium increased drastically throughout China; this led to a second Opium War (1856–60), which resulted in a second defeat for the Qing dynasty. The terms of its defeat were incredibly harsh on the Chinese: they had to cede the territory of Hong Kong to British control, open their treaty ports to trade with foreigners, and grant special rights to foreigners operating within the treaty ports. In addition, the Qing government had to stand by as the British increased their opium sales to people in China. The British did this in the name of free trade and without regard to the consequences for the Chinese government and Chinese people.

If that were not scandalous enough, Au and Zhou reported that, throughout the war, bribery and fraud occurred frequently on the British side. Scandalous activities included the issuing of fake licenses at Chinese ports (often masking opium as coffee or tea) and falsifying the quantity of opium to increase its price. Most of these British merchants went unpunished for their part in these exploitative and shabby practices, and the sale of the drug only increased. Au and Zhou finished their talk by saying that, even after the second Opium War had ended, aside from the widespread addiction in China, the lasting effects of the conflict were seen, including a Chinese distrust of government. This played a part in the fall of the Qing dynasty in the early 20th century and also began China's 'Century of Humiliation'.

METROPOLITAN

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Dir: Paul Thomas Anderson, Runtime: 2hr 38min

Review by Mac McDowell, Elmfield

As I enter my Lower Sixth year at Harrow and must endure hour-long talks of career paths, colleges and life-long trajectories; something that weighs on my wellbeing and injects a boy my age with an understandable fear of the future. Watching a truly great film is one of the best ways to unwind; to be sucked into a world so captivating that the troubles of the real world are shed and finally you can observe the tribulations and struggles of a stranger – cathartic. This week's film is Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will be Blood* (2007). The movie opens with a haunting

silence, broken only by the sound of a pickaxe striking rock. From this moment, Anderson establishes a tone that is both foreboding and introspective. The cinematography, by Robert Elswit, captures the vast, vivid landscapes that reflect Plainview's inner turmoil and relentless drive. *There Will Be Blood* offers an original take on a piece of American history documented in classics such as *Giant* (1956) or *Five Easy Pieces* (1971). It's this originality of both the movie's plot and its delivery that makes it such a standout film from the 2010s. I believe it is in *There Will be Blood* where Anderson finds his 'sweet-spot' for creating a psychological thriller, without stepping too far into the obscure, as I believe he does in his 2012 film *The Master*, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Not to say that *The Master* isn't wildly entertaining, it simply lacks a stable narrative and so alienates a large swathe of viewers.

There Will Be Blood is, at its core, a critique of capitalism. Plainview's journey from a humble silver miner to a ruthless oil tycoon reflects the darker side of the American Dream. The film does not shy away from showing the moral decay that often accompanies unbridled ambition. As Plainview's wealth grows, so does his alienation from both his family and his own humanity. A man who could have had it all – family, community, a legacy – but instead, he is consumed by the cold embrace of power. Anderson expertly weaves themes of isolation throughout the narrative, and the film's sparse dialogue enforces the loneliness that accompanies Plainview's rise. Moments of silence linger, forcing viewers to confront the weight of his choices; this weight and the ambiance of the film itself amplified further by Jonny Greenwood's musical score, blending dissonance and beauty to evoke a nervousness and sense of impending doom.

As mentioned, the film is lauded as one of the greatest movies made in the last 20 years. Because of that, due criticism should be focused on what I believe knocked the film from a 10/10, to a 9/10. The final couplet of scenes in *There Will be Blood* are, to many, the *coup de grace*; to me, they felt like a loose string in an otherwise sterling symphony. We are brought forward to the year 1927, somewhere on the East Coast where Plainview and his son H.W. are living under the same roof. H.W. had recently been married and is looking to dissolve his partnership with his father and move to Mexico to start his own oil drilling company with his wife Mary. Daniel Plainview, despite his obscene wealth, has fallen into alcoholism and sees his son's request to liquefy his half of the partnership as a formal bidding farewell.

The audience often finds themselves questioning if the love between Plainview and his son is purely utilitarian; for the purpose of, as Plainview later puts it, "Having a cute face to help me sell more oil." During the final stretch of the movie, the viewer is left hurt and betrayed when Plainview (quite sadistically) humiliates and ridicules his deaf son by revealing to him that he was an orphan. Whether this feud is sparked by H.W.'s declaration of his ambition to start a new oil company is inconsequential. To some, the final shot of the film encapsulates Plainview's complete loss of everything important. I myself found the scene to be an unduly swift (and rather clumsy) ending. It was the vulgarity and ruthlessness of the final moments that, although set decades after the main plot, felt 'out of the blue'.

Having said that, the film was undeniably incredible. *There Will Be Blood* features on most 'top ten films' lists, a fact that should arouse suspicion among film buffs. One might cynically assume that it's plot was so accessible as to render the entire thing dull. Luckily, the taste of the masses prevailed and any premonitions about the film being 'overrated' evaporate within the first five minutes.

The cinematography of D P Robert Elswit was truly fantastic, and the sweeping shots of the American West gave the film a distinctive grandeur. This 'grandeur' is difficult to achieve for most cinematographers, and usually involves either ingenious camera placement, or a big budget. Elswit was also the

cinematographer for Paul Thomas Anderson's *Boogie Nights* (1998). This film, despite being set in suburban Los Angeles, has a similar sense of scale. The film came alive, it felt like an entire world that was sucking us in during its two-and-a-half-hour-long runtime. Billy Wilder once said, "The difference between a 'dead' film, and one that 'breathes', is the visuals". If that doesn't speak for the power of cinematography, I don't know what does.

Daniel Day-Lewis was thoroughly good in his performance as oil tycoon Daniel Plainview, and his John Huston-esque accent made the film all the more entertaining. One must only watch the movie to understand Day-Lewis' incredible acting talent.

Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood* is a dark thriller that explores the sordid ambition of a psychopath, perhaps commenting on the *éléments vitaux* of a successful businessman in the time of American liberalism.

If you'd like to see a film reviewed in *The Harrovian* please contact 21mcdowellm@harrowschool.org.uk with your thoughts.

A SHOW TO DIE FOR

Dexter, a review by Henry Barker, The Park

The pitch is: "A serial killer murders criminals by taping their bodies to tables to make sure they know why he is killing them, then surgically cuts them up and dumps their bodies in the ocean. All the while, he works at the Miami Police Department as a forensic expert." This is *Dexter*.

Dexter is a show rarely talked about nowadays by our generation. It doesn't have the longevity of shows like *Breaking Bad* and *The Sopranos* due to the utter ball fumbling that occurred when the show reached its seventh season. Nor does it have quite the same meme-ability as shows like *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*. But when it was released, you would be hard-pressed not to hear it mentioned in conversations about the best television shows of all time. I hope to rectify this by recounting my personal journey with the show and, I hope, inspiring some of you to watch it.



It was a usual Saturday night before a brunch Sunday, and I had just finished my rewatch of the entirety of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. The familiar empty void of having nothing to watch reopened inside me as I gormlessly scrolled through Netflix, trying to find my next hit. Then the opening scene of *Dexter* played (exactly as Netflix's UI intended), and it grabbed me.

The song opens with a dreamlike cacophony of instruments before releasing into a triumphant trumpet and brass sound. When Dexter's chilling words described how he can easily fake human emotions and present himself as normal, I was immediately hooked! Over the course of my GCSEs, I binge-watched most of the show, including all of Season 2 in just one exeat.

Each season builds on the last to create an even more thrilling and engaging plot, covering "America's favourite serial

killer." Finally, it peaks in Season 4 with the introduction of the fascinating Trinity Killer. This is when most people say the show reached its maximum potential, and every season afterwards is terrible and not worth watching.

But I disagree. I believe Season 5 produces a high-quality story with a very understandable tone and character development after the last season. While I can admit that Season 6 drops in quality, it still presents an interesting extreme biblical approach to murder in the form of the Domsday Killers. However, by the time I got to Season 7, I felt a change and could plainly see lazy writing on the wall, so I stopped watching and haven't gone back to it since.

But those first six seasons were truly incredible, and I would recommend them to anyone experiencing the emptiness of not currently binge-watching something. I'll leave you with this thought: if a TV show can make you root for a serial killer and genuinely care about his life and relationships, it must be pretty damn good!

OPINION

MAKE IMMIGRATION ANCIENT AGAIN

Why Labour should have an 'epic' immigration policy
by Viren Bhaika, Lyon's

Odysseus, the famed hero of *The Odyssey*, was known to have taken many roles throughout the course of the 24-book epic, transitioning from a king to a warrior to a scoundrel and a thief and back again. Today, we might simply classify him as a migrant.

For more than half of *The Odyssey*, its protagonist is on the road. Though the poem begins in Ithaka, readers first meet Odysseus on Ogygia, where he is being kept against his will by the goddess Calypso after his ship was wrecked on the way home from Troy. At Zeus' command, the goddess releases him; Odysseus builds a boat only to be shipwrecked again, on the island of Scheria, where he is found by Nausicaa, the daughter of King Alcinous, leader of the godlike Phaeacians. She sees a shipwrecked, starving and dishevelled version of a once-proud king of a Greek state. After enduring much struggle and tragedy, our kingly hero finally makes it back to his destination after 20 arduous years, only to be disguised as a petty beggar.

Nonetheless, wherever Odysseus goes, and no matter how bad he looks, he is treated with hospitality, what the Greeks called *xenia*. According to the custom of *xenia*, all guests must be treated with respect and dignity and provided with a meal and lodging before they must say who they are or where they have come from. It's the ultimate form of hospitality, mandated by the gods themselves.

But what would become of Odysseus if he washed up on the shores of Dover? In modern Britain, he would probably be detained by the Border Force and deported back to Greece.

Immigration has been a particularly contentious issue in postwar British politics. (One of the most infamous statements of xenophobia came in the 1968 "rivers of blood speech" by Enoch Powell, himself a classical philologist.) But it has become particularly controversial since Brexit.

At times, a humane immigration policy has been harder to craft than a certain high-speed rail link from London to Birmingham – the dearly departed HS2. The Conservatives' plan to relocate refugees and migrants coming into the UK to Rwanda lasted about as long as Liz Truss's lettuce-long premiership. It was also dastardly and cruel. Labour's alternative

is less grotesque, but also focused on limiting migration. Their platform emphasises “strong border security”, dwelling on the downside of immigration more than the potential benefits.

But you don’t need fancy consultants to set your thinking straight on this issue. Sir Keir Starmer and his ministers should go back and re-read *The Odyssey*. There they’d see that, for the Greeks, migration was always about mutual benefit. You would never know whom you might be hosting: someone who looks like a beggar may actually be a king or even a god.

Hospitality can go wrong in many cases, of course. The Suitors of Penelope who besiege Odysseus’s house in Ithaca overstay their welcome and only leave once Odysseus returns and unceremoniously kicks them out; similarly, modern-day migrants can have negative effects on society if they are not integrated successfully. I am not advocating for the UK to simply open its borders to all.

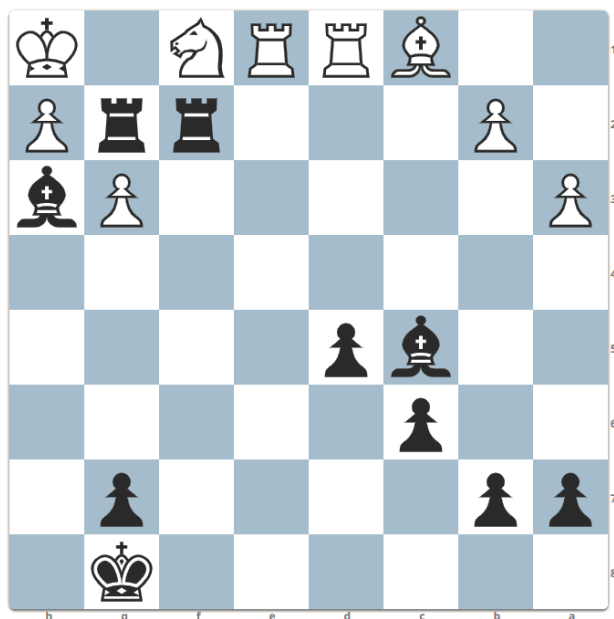
However, immigrants tend to do particularly well in Britain. They contributed 12% more to the economy than they took out of it in between 2001 and 2011, according to research from UCL. Teenagers who do not speak English as their native tongue actually out-perform their British peers on the English GCSE exam. Immigrants will help fill necessary roles in the NHS, and will stave off population decline. Additionally, the British people are hospitable: only 5% told the World Values Survey that they would not want to live next door to an immigrant. The government would do well to take a page from the Greeks, and craft their immigration policy not with the usual xenophobia, but with its friendlier Greek cousin, *xenia*.

CHESS PUZZLE

With the new term starts a new chapter of the chess puzzle competition.

If you find the solution, send it to Mr Hall (Master-in-Charge of Chess – jpbh@) and you will be entered in termly competition. The best overall solver across the term wins a prize, with an additional spot prize going to a random solver who has submitted at least one solution throughout the term.

This term, we kick off with a game between Irish-American James Mason and Austrian Georg Marco, which was played in Leipzig in 1894.



Black to play and mate in two moves.

Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30–6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS5. All abilities welcome!

SPORT

GOOSE MATCH

Sunday 8 September

As the new school year began, a mixture of boys from the Fifth Form, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth joined together on the Sixth Form Ground to take on the Harrow Wanderers in the Goose Match. The Wanderers were made up mostly of boys who had palyed last year and were seeking to continue their winning streak after leaving Harrow. Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, the new Harrow captain, started his regime well by loosing the toss and being asked to bowl first on a slightly damp pitch. The innings started with Aditya Singh, *Moretons*, bowling to Dylan Rawal. Aditya bowled with good pace and accuracy, but, in vintage Dylan Rawal style, Rawal took to the bowlers, scoring at a good rate and putting the Harrow side under pressure. Kavish Mehta, *The Grove*, took the new ball from the other end and, with his first ball, caught the outside edge of Caspar Stone’s bat. Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, did the rest at first slip. Charlie Nelson then joined Rawal at the crease. Despite some good bowling, Nelson and Rawal scored well, particularly Rawal with some supreme power off both the front and back foot. Bowling changes came thick and fast as Jack Nelson picked up the wicket of his brother for a well-made 32. The Harrow side sensed an opportunity and, with some tight bowling, caused Rawal to take a single to Jack Nelson, who picked up cleanly and ran Rawal out for an impressive 69. Jack Nelson continued to bowl well in tandem with Neharen Inpan and Harry Beresford-Peirse, *Elmfield*. Wickets started to fall quickly, with Beresford-Peirse taking two and Jack Nelson picking up another the to end with four. A slight fight back came from Gabriel Harrington-Myers, whose indulgence in club cricket has apparently taught him a thing or two about digging in in tough situations; however, he was undone by some smart bowling by Tom Campbell-Johnston. Despite the poor weather forecast, the 1st XI managed to stay on the field for the whole innings, bowling a strong Wanderers outfit out for 202. A strong effort by a relatively inexperienced squad.

After a classic motivational talk from Ramps, the openers Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*, were ready to head out to the middle looking to score positively against the Wanderers’ fierce bowling attack of Felton and Baker. From the offset, the boys looked strong with Bourne-Arton playing a signature flick off his pads for four while generously leaving Nelson the majority of the strike to go after Baker’s signature up and down meds. Sadly, it wasn’t meant to be for Bourne-Arton as he ‘middled it’ to the keeper soon after for 4. With Nelson beginning to motor, now on 40 off 34 with a fair few boundaries to his name including a nicely struck bomb over extra cover, the pavilion was buzzing with the mention of first win of the academic year until the set batter fell to Charlie Hope’s dibly doblers. Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, the new season’s captain, joined Jones and looked positive when it came to rotating strike: for the time being all was well. That was until Archie Jones, *Lyon’s*, was given ‘objectively a seed’ (or so he claimed), as Richardson ragged one back in through the gate from outside off, leaving another batter wandering back to the pavilion at a decent rate, Jones making 7. Now at the crease was Shell extraordinaire batter Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, who had joined captain Snow at the crease with the XI 68-3 in the 14th, still with much to do on a deck with a bit in it. With Richardson and Hope still on, they looked to apply some pressure in the run up to tea. A Rob Nelson bowling change paired with Harrington-Myers’ sledging from gully, however, was the difference, getting Snow as he edged behind off James Nelson for 8, leaving us

89-4 with a few to go before the break. Fifth Former Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, headed out looking to impress after a pleasing season just gone. Both batters now in looked to hit Nelson and Richardson out of the attack, with Herron sending the latter towards Jackson while Nicholson took a liking to Nelson for the time being. Heading into the break the XI were sitting on 105-4, looking for guidance on where to go from here. However, DAE's chat followed along the lines of 'job's not finished', giving the batters plenty to think about. Undeterred, they headed back out, looking to continue on at the current rate with Nicholson pouncing on Hope's "express pace" with a few elegant shots, which the sideline photographer must have been loving the look of. However, in standard fashion, having seen off Richardson for the time being, after putting him over the sight screens once more, it was Nelson senior himself who was Herron's undoing, skyng one from the off-break veteran to cover and departing for 29 with the XI now edging closer on 123-5 after 23. Now we were in the deep end with 'genuine all-rounder' Harry Beresford-Peirse, *Elmfield*, joining Nicholson at the crease with plenty of batting still left to do. After hanging about to see Beresford-Peirse off the mark, Nicholson deemed it more entertaining to watch the match play out from the pavilion (good call Nicholson) after striking one to mid-wicket off Nelson senior, which Baker plucked with an acrobatic effort. A good effort from the Fifth Former of 15 had the current boys 134-6 in the 30th, with Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, racing out, eager to have his first bat of the year, having been promoted from his usual 12th man position. Then came the domino effect, with Beresford-Peirse seasoning up Campbell-Johnston before running him out for 2 while going for a second, bringing Kavish Mehta, *The Grove*, to bat before repeating the process for himself wisely, heading back on that long walk for 10. Now 138-8, the sunny afternoon down on the Sixth Form ground was appearing rather bleak for the current XI as Aditya Singh, *Moretons*, joined his Fifth Form colleague, signalling the start of the tailenders. With Singh falling shortly after for 0 meant, full-time number 11 Neharen Inpan, *Bradlys*, was due a crack with 60 odd still required. After a Harrow career-first boundary, the pavilion erupted with joy while the supporters remained silent. Inpan, letting the chat from behind the stumps of "good bats go twice" get to his head, fancied going after Charlie Nelson, and so naturally found himself caught in front of all three pegs, departing for 6.



All in all, it was a solid effort from the XI and a nice opportunity for many of the boys to play together for the first time, with much to learn from when it comes to finishing off an achievable run chase. Granted the XI sadly fell short on 147 all out with Mehta the last man standing at the crease on 3*; however, it was still a great day out for all and much to look forward to for the 2025 season.

Top scorers – Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, 40 off 34, Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, 29 off 37 and Louis Nicholson, *The Park*, 15 off 27.

SOCCER TOUR CALIFORNIA 2024

On the day after term ended, 25 boys and messers DH, NT, OS, Dan, Dr Sam, ADJT and RHTN set off for a once-in-a-lifetime tour of San Francisco and Los Angeles. There could not have been a better way either to end the year or to prepare the squads ahead of the new season!



Matchday #1 was against the SF Glens. The 1st XI were in action against a technically strong and athletic side, full of boys who are 18/19 years old and all on their way to D1 and D2 colleges in the autumn. The boys held their shape well and were patient in possession, with Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, showing some nice touches and lots of tenacity in the centre of the park. Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, was equally impressive at the back, marshalling the defence and containing the opposition strikers throughout the game. Despite eventually losing 2-0, the Harrow boys created chances of their own and on another day could have forced a result. Regardless, this was an impressive start to the tour and a performance that promised much for the remaining games.

The 2nd XI faced a similarly tough opposition, but put on a brave performance that showed their commitment to playing in a cohesive manner both with and without the ball. Despite being on the losing end of the result, this game produced a fantastic goal from Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, who lashed home following some typically skilful play from Elliot Macleod, *Newlands*. Given the particularly hot conditions, both sides can be really proud of what they achieved, and certainly learned much about themselves and each other as footballers.

Matchday #2 kicked off against SC Newark, a local club side who faced off against our teams in a 4 x 30-minute game. The 1st XI won 3-0 in dominant and impressive fashion, moving the ball patiently from side to side and pulling their opposition out of shape. Harry Winward, *Lyon's*, poked the ball home from Peter Ballingal's, *Moretons*, low corner in the first period, and from then on the match settled into settled possession for the away side. As the fitter of the two teams, the Harrow boys began to find more and more space in the second period, with Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*, making a huge impact off the bench. Soon after coming on, he provided two brilliant assists, the second of which was a beautifully disguised reverse pass that Ballingal latched onto before dinking past the keeper. DH used the word 'love' 13 times in his post-match team talk, so I think it's safe to say he was happy with what he saw.

As the shadows began to lengthen, the 2nd XI then took to the field. The Newark boys soon became lost in the newly formed Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, -Elliot Macleod, *Newlands*, - Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, triangle, mesmerised by neat passing combinations and Edu's shoulder-dropping. Oliver Rezek, *Druries*, terrorised his left-back through the game with his blistering pace and direct running, constantly stretching the game and creating chances.

Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, and Toye Kolawole, *Newlands*, were exceptional at the back again, even if Lourie was slightly fortunate to escape a late penalty shout. Although the score in this game finished 0-0, OS was delighted with the performance as the boys demonstrated excellent commitment to their positional system and moving the ball with positive intent.

We then returned home hot, tired, but happy, with the exception of ADJT, who was devastated not to end the day with his beloved In-and-Out burger.

Having gorged ourselves on copious amounts of hash browns and poached eggs, we set off for Galaxy Park and our third match day of the tour. Like last time, the 1st XI were sent out to begin, this time against a technically strong team provided by LA Galaxy. In the opening 20 minutes of the game, Harrow spent much time in possession, patiently moving the ball between Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, and Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, in order to pull the opposition out of their compact 433 shape. The home side, on the other hand, were mostly trying to play the ball into the channels for their strikers and wingers, as an attempt to exploit our high defensive line. They achieved little success with this tactic, largely thanks to sweeper keeper Seb Pesel, *Moretons*, who was quickly off his line with clear calls and a strong starting position. The breakthrough was then provided by Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*, who burst down the inside right channel, lobbing the keeper from 20 yards out. Following the resumption of play after half-time, the home side grew in confidence and forced an equaliser. Parity, however, was not to last for long, as soon Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, forced a mistake from the centre back and poked the ball home from close range. The points were soon made sure of by Elliott Macleod, *Newlands*, in his first appearance on tour for the 1st XI, who arrived late in the box to slot a cross from Rocco Addati, *The Knoll*, past the keeper. The boys held on well in the final minutes and deserved their win. Special mention must go to Leo Polese, *The Head Master's*, who dominated the midfield from start to finish with strong tackling and crisp, accurate passing.



The second team game started evenly, with Oliver Rezek, *Druries*, causing all sorts of problems down the right-hand side with his pace and strength, until he was sadly forced off with an ankle injury. Just as in the previous game, the Edu-Pan-Macleod triangle was in full effect as these three began to find each other more regularly with passes in dangerous positions. It was Macleod again who found the back of the net, this time stroking the ball home from 18 yards past the keeper into the bottom corner. While the boys did eventually lose the game, there were strong individual performances across the pitch, and again the team played with good cohesion and a solid defensive structure. Eddie Cooke, *The Park*, in particular, had a fantastic game at left back, dealing well with the opposition winger and still finding the energy to bomb forward down the left wing, despite the fact he was on his weaker side.

This was a truly sensational tour in every possible aspect. On our non playing days, we got the opportunity to experience everything the Golden State has to offer. Personal highlights were the visits to Stanford and Berkeley, the all-American

barbecue at Rincon Beach, our early morning tram ride down to the Golden Gate bridge, and watching the footy with the boys. Staff and boys alike, we have all built memories that will last for a lifetime.

FOOTBALL FESTIPHIL

7 September, Philathletic Grounds

On Saturday, 25 OHs and 30 Sixth Formers came together to play in the annual FestiPhil tournament on the Philathletic Ground. The Green team, captained by Joss Awdry, *Moretons*, 20133, won the event on goals scored after tying on points and goal difference with the Yellow team. Young Player of the tournament was Isaac Humphrey, *West Acre*, for a commanding performance at the back.



On Sunday, ten 1st XI players took part in the ISFA Soccer Sixes tournament at Chigwell School. After an initial win against Marlborough, Harrow were left to regret some missed opportunities and dearth of fitness in the remaining games. Jack Young, *Newlands*, deserves a special mention for playing as an outfield goalkeeper with a string of remarkable saves.

GOLF

*The School v The OHGS at The Berkshire,
5 September, Won 2-1*

The golf team wasted no time at the start of the Autumn term, with a fixture on just the second day. The heavens opened, and the boys – most of them without wet-weather gear – trundled off into the distance down the par-5 opener of the Red Course at The Berkshire. While everyone else sprinted off the course in search of a warm cup of Bovril in the clubhouse, the Harrovians showed their grit and powered through the heavy torrents.

Captain Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, and Kieran Wee, *Newlands*, led the school out against Matthew Gibbens (*West Acre 1984*³) and last year's outgoing captain, Fred Hewer (*The Park 2019*³). I'll refrain from calling him Oliver "Chunk" Cheuk after his first tee shot, to avoid any sort of curse, but this didn't hold him back; he soon found form with a string of birdies on the front nine. The highlight of the round came on the tenth, with the holy grail of golf for Wee – a hole-in-one! The boys found themselves 5 up after Wee's ace, but Gibbens and Hewer wouldn't back down. The match went down to the 18th, but the boys had just enough left in the tank to secure the win.

Thomas Tian, *Newlands*, and Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, faced two recent leavers: Archie Chatwin (*West*

*Acre 2017*³) and James Gibbens (*West Acre 2017*³). The two Toms dovetailed well but were up against supreme sportsmen in Chatwin and Gibbens. This was set to be the nail-biter of the fixture. The game was level through the front nine, as both sides battled to see who could even grip the club in such torrential rain. Chatwin and Gibbens showed their class, taking the match to dormie two, but a great up-and-down from Campbell-Johnston on the 17th, followed by a solid par on the 18th from Tian, sent the match into a playoff hole. Chatwin and Gibbens held their nerve to win and level the fixture. The final game saw local hero Ned Steel, *Druries*, playing on his home course, partnered with Michael Samuelson, The Head Master's. They faced two legends of the game: George Webster (*Druries 2016*³) – a celebrity in match reports of old, known for his fairway rants, huge divots and trademark jeer of “you’ve been tangoed” – and Peter Cartwright (*The Grove, 2016*³), who couldn’t wait to remind the Master in Charge of his (dubiously claimed) record-equalling 9&8 victory back in 2021. No doubt feeling intimidated by their opponents, the boys dug deep to carve out a wonderful lead by the turn. After seeing “Dr Chipinsky” on both the 10th (Samuelson) and the 11th (Steel), they were 6 up with only 7 to play and soon managed to see out the match with a fine 6&5 win. A brilliant day out in trying conditions. A huge thank you to Mr Gibbens Snr for organising such a competitive match in beautiful Berkshire.

RUGBY UNION

The School v Clifton College, 7 September

The 1st XV, Away v Clifton College, Lost 12-26

The XV lost their first regular season game in two years on a tough away day at Clifton to open up the 2024 season. A three-hour bus journey would be easy to blame, but Harrow started well and looked confident in defence early. Penalties and errors on kick receipt, however, allowed Clifton to keep building momentum. It looked early on like Harrow would take the lead first after sustaining goal-line pressure and Oliver-Willwong, *Bradlys*, just pulled down short. A botched pass was then dropped and Clifton could clear their lines. With the score at 0-0 with nine minutes to go in the first half, Harrow were their own worst enemies allowing Clifton to score 19 unanswered points before the half with some sloppy defence and poor mental errors.

After the break, Clifton scored again to take the lead to 26-0 and Harrow were leaking both points and players with a number suffering injuries, leading to two backs filling in to the back row. However, The XV's resolve was on show and they stuck at the game to score two tries and pull the score back to 26-12. A decision not to award Harrow a penalty try

slowed the comeback but the boys can certainly take heart in some excellent attacking rugby.

Losing is not something this group is particularly used to, but this defeat will undoubtedly refocus some hearts and minds, with lots learnt ahead of another long season.

2nd XV, Away v Clifton College, Lost 17-31

The 2nd XV demonstrated all four Harrow values in abundance in their narrow loss to Clifton College. Tries from Miles Herron, *Rendalls*, Toye Kolawole, *Newlands*, and Harrison Dunne, *Elmfield*, pushed Clifton close in a game which was played in excellent spirit by both sides. Man of the match was Seb Boreham, *Elmfield*.

Colts A, Away v Clifton College, Lost 7-14

For the first 15 minutes Harrow started off with great intensity, applying pressure to Clifton and making some big hits, particularly Edward Stabb, *The Head Master's*, who made a try saving tackle dragging him into touch and Sam Gibbard-Jones, *The Head Master's*, who put a hit 5m from the try line following a line break. We continued to put pressure but ultimately Clifton scored breaking through the line. We started to lose control of the ball as a result we had to defend heavily, conceding again before halftime as they converted both. Nicolas de Leo, *The Park*, had the shot of the week with one of his many crunching tackles in the game. In the second half, Harrow were playing downhill as we had more momentum, however, we kept losing the ball. Harrow were kicking much better in the second half as we looked to kick deep with Eli de Venecia, *The Head Master's*, slotting a 50-22. We continuously kept applying pressure late in the second half being in their 22 for a long period of time. We finally got our breakthrough right at the end with a terrific pick and go by Niniola Olagundoye, *Bradlys*. The try was coolly converted by Eli de Venecia to finish the match 14-7.

Colts B, Away v Clifton College, Won 33-19

Junior Colts A, Away v Clifton College, Lost 7-22

*The 1st XV, Home v St George's School, Harpenden,
Won 67-5, National Cup – Round 1*

Looking to retain their National Cup from 2023/24, the 1st XV were clinical in attack to advance through to Round 2 with a strong 67-5 win vs. St George's Harpenden. Some direct attack, slick handling in the backs and effective carrying from the forwards proved too much for St. George's, who showed great resilience on a windy Sunley afternoon. Harrow's class in the first half proved too much moving to 40-0 at the break. The tempo dropped in the second half and Harrow were disappointed to concede but ultimately won with a comfortable 67-5. Congratulations to all 16 boys making their debut for The XV on The Sunley.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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