

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXVII NO.3

September 21, 2024

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Professor Gesine Manuwald, UCL, 'The narrative in Virgil's Aeneid and its literary context', 10 September

On 10 September, boys and beaks gathered in the OSRG, keenly awaiting to hear Professor Gesine Manuwald discuss Virgil's famous epic the *Aeneid*. This lecture was thrilling, as Manuwald discussed with us the material, the narrative and the importance of gods and men.

Interestingly, the *Aeneid* was not Virgil's first work. In his first piece the *Eclogues*, and in the *Georgics*, he describes his future works. Yet what makes the *Aeneid* stand out is his approach to Roman history and politics. He does not write about Augustus directly, but through the outlining of Roman history, particularly its foundation. He touches on the current affairs of Rome, and does so much more directly to the audience than other epics and myths.



Of course, battles against monsters and men are intriguing topics to discuss, but Manuwald reminded us that delving into the writer's intentions is equally as important, and were the centre of her lecture. Manuwald explained how Virgil used many techniques to enhance Aeneas, in order to make him seem more admirable and more politically correct. For example in the original story, Aeneas originally fled from Troy. This wouldn't have sat well with the public if they read that their ancestor was a defeated foreigner. Instead, Virgil writes that Aeneas originally came from Italy and was the offspring of Dardanus. The locals, hearing this, were accepting of the Trojans, and they lived together, eventually merging their cultures. Therefore, these new settlers were Latin-speaking Latins.

Another example of Virgil's clever writing concerns Aeneas' flight from Troy. While everyone is fighting and defending the city, Aeneas escapes in secret and leave his wife behind. These are the actions of, for a lack of a better word, a loser. Yet Virgil writes that he was commanded by the gods to leave Troy, as it was his duty to find a new settlement for his people. Thus, since it was divine intervention and the gods' will, readers would understand that Aeneas was, in fact, not a coward.

Manuwald went on to give us a wider picture of Virgil as a writer. She explored how Virgil was inspired by earlier Roman epics such as *Bellum Punicum* by Gnaeus Naevius, and confirmed by sources from Macrobius. He uses techniques such as prehistory, flashback narrative and outlooks for the future. However, the *Aeneid* was so popular that it dramatically outlasted

the older epics, leading to the disappearance of the older stories. Although some readers might strike Virgil down for copying and simply regurgitating past works, Manuwald instead told us that he was only inspired by them. Virgil used phrases that he thought were beautiful in his own setting. This is something only skilled poets are able to do, and later writers did with Virgil what Virgil did with earlier writers.



One other important point of discussion was Virgil's position on the emperor at the time, Augustus. Of this there are three readings:

The "good reading": when the *Aeneid* was published, Rome was at the climax of its development, all of which took place under the influence and rule of Augustus. This established the emperor as a just and fair ruler, who further enlarged Rome's prosperity.

The "two voices": there is a deep sense of lament for everything and for the terrible price paid for glory. Aeneas is a victim of forces larger than he, and the inhumanity and cruelty that he showed by the end of the poem was the price he paid. There is one voice that is glory and honour, but there is another voice that is bitter and sorrowful.

The "compromise" reading: there are possible nuances to modify complete readings of epic. It is possible to agree with some negative parts, but one can find compromises in their acts. Aeneas suffers, but for a positive goal.

Finally, Manuwald summarised that the *Aeneid* engages with preceding Greek and Roman literary tradition, combines linear narrative and inserted sections, provides an account of Roman history, reinforces key Roman virtues, and confirms divine support for Rome. Overall, it was a hugely informative lecture by Professor Manuwald.

JACK WEBSTER TEA PAVILION

At the lunch break during this year's Goose Match, the ribbon was cut on the newly refurbished Tea Pavilion, overlooking the Field House lawn and the Sixth Form Ground.

Blessed, against all the odds, with bright sunshine – JW's son Peter Webster (*Moretons 1963*) and Captain of the XI in 1968, rededicated the Edwardian pavilion to the memory of his father Jack, Master-in-Charge of Cricket 1960–70 and House Master of West Acre 1962–77.

In a brief dedication ceremony, DAE, the newly appointed Master-in-Charge of Cricket, thanked the Webster family for their very generous sponsorship, which has not only greatly improved the tea pavilion, but also provided picnic tables in the newly landscaped surroundings.



Mr Webster responded with his thanks to all those involved in the project, as well as with memories of cricketing Giants of Old (many of them present) – and modest mention of his own remarkable nine-wicket haul in the 1966 Charterhouse match (32-21-31-9)!

A toast was raised to his parents Jack and Peggy, before the family's many guests shared memories at a buffet lunch and enjoyed from the Field House balcony one of Harrow's finest views.

ORIENTAL SOCIETY

'4000 Miles and 2000 Years: How the Silk Road Connected China to the World', Tony Shi and Joseph Li, both The Grove, 5 September

Tony Shi and Joseph Li, both *The Grove*, gave a lecture on the Silk Road. Shi began by reading some poetry from *Journey to the West*, one of the four great Chinese classical novels, about the monk Tang Seng. It features characters such as Sun Wukong who has received world acclaim in games such as Black Myth: Wukong. However, *Journey to the West* tells so much more than one might originally give it credit for, as Tang Seng was based on Xuan Zang, a Buddhist monk who lived in the 7th century. He was the first to translate the scriptures of Buddhism to Chinese from the original Sanskrit. He went on a 16-year pilgrimage, setting off from Chang An, home of the Terracotta Army, travelling through China, going South across the mountains into India, following the Ganges river. He studied scriptures from monasteries and made detailed accounts, now known as the Great Tang Records. In this, he referred to different places, such as Gaochang.

The Silk Road is a network of trade routes that connected China and the Roman Empire, with the name only given to it 2,000 years later by Ferdinand von Richtofen. Merchants stopped at great oasis cities along its route to pass on their goods to the next merchant, as almost no one went the full journey of thousands of kilometres.

While China unified in 221BC, they still faced threats from nomadic tribes, which was why the Great Wall of China was built. A certain Zhang Qian was sent to find allies against these tribes, but he was immediately captured after setting out. He became a slave and had a family, before returning to China. Although his original goal had not been achieved, his travels were groundbreaking, recording the sight of war elephants and other exotic curiosities. It impressed the emperor so much that he ordered the expansion of trade routes to the West, and the paths of conquest became paths of trade.

Shi then showed us a vast and impressive map of the Silk Road, where treasures such as silks, porcelain, jade, all things that could not be replicated in the West were traded. The Silk Road also connected cultures by sea as well as land, through Chinese junk ships. Shi explained that the most important things to sailing merchants were the stability and precision of their ships, achieved by constructing precise navigational maps and internal watertight bulkheads that could isolate flooding, also used as inspiration for the first submarines.

After noting some other peculiarities of the ships, aptly demonstrated by the junk model he had bought in, he also found a replica of Zhang He's ship, an important part of China's heritage. Zhang He was born in 1371 and was a member the Muslim ethnic minority. He was captured by government forces as a child, forced to become a eunuch, and sent into the service of the emperor. Lauded for his skills, he was promoted to admiral and was given the task of leading China's maritime expeditions. Setting out on several voyages with 300 ships and 27,000 men, he established trade relations with South Asia, and even ended up in the far-flung reaches of Africa. After his death, China established a closed-door policy and slowly became corrupt. The Silk Road was ruined. With ships established as the Western trade choice, land was completely redundant. The link between the great Eastern civilisations and Western civilisations was destroyed.

Li continued the lecture on the modern Silk Road by speaking about China as a country of incredible growth, with its GDP increasing six-fold since his birth. However, China had a rocky start, rejecting foreign relations and instead going into many wars against its neighbours in 1950, 1969, 1962 and 1978, with crises in 1954, 1958 and 1995. China underwent many changes of a government during this time, as evident in their frequent foreign policy shifts, where they were trying to find a way to stabilise their ruined economy as well as establish geopolitical advantages. These wars usually ended in China's favour, with it establishing and securing many territories. Yet, China was relatively peaceful in this stage compared with some other first-world nations, with Li claiming all these wars could be seen as defensive. He asserted that his 'waffle' was still relevant to the Silk Road because one needs a lot of context for countries with as long a history and culture as China.

In 1971, China was welcomed back onto the world stage in the UN, with a surprising selection of variously developed countries voting to pass this motion. US Presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter also acknowledged China in the following years, and China opened back up under Deng Xiaoping in 1978, with and joining the World Trade Organisation in 2001. This led Li to speak about the Belt and Road Initiative, the Silk Road of the modern era, touted as the greatest infrastructure project in the world by Li, which affects two thirds of the world's population as well as almost half of global GDP.

This links to the BRI, one of the best policies set out and followed by Xi Jinping's government according to Li. It states that all countries should be treated with the same respect, no matter their size or wealth. This has been demonstrated many times in recent years, with examples such as the Presidents of Syria and Nauru. The BRI further supports China's current foreign policy that supports and invests in lower-income countries, building up countries that could not previously trade, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project that brings many benefits to Pakistan. Many other examples of similar projects exist in other countries such as Kenya and Laos.

Li then refuted claims that China debt-traps countries, and debunked examples of so-called trapping, such as events in Sri Lanka. China has actually done the exact opposite of debt-trapping as well, reducing, delaying and even cancelling billions of dollars worth of debt. Li finally asserted that, while there are problems with the project, the Belt and Road Initiative is incredibly ambitious, as well as being a great cause, with one country trying to benefit the world without greed. Even though

it has been 2000 years, China is still benefiting and reaching out to other cultures through trade and goodwill, perhaps, as Li surmised, due to a reminder of their low-income days of economic turmoil.

Shi finished the lecture with a quotation from Xuan Zang himself: 'Building a seven-storey pagoda is no better than helping one man.'

This was an excellent inaugural lecture for the academic year. It was fantastically well-informed, researched and presented, tracing a wide variety of topics such as history and culture, as well as business and economics.

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

A REAL LOCAL HERO

Mrs Dalton awarded Extraordinary Achievement Award as a Harrow Hero

Casey Dalton, a long-time resident of Harrow on the Hill, was recently honoured with the Extraordinary Achievement Award at the 2024 Harrow's Heroes ceremony. This award recognises her exceptional contributions to the local community, particularly her efforts in leading the Harrow Litter Pickers, which is a local group of dedicated volunteers who tackle litter and improve the local environment. Casey's leadership and passion for maintaining a cleaner, healthier Harrow borough have driven the success of this group and earned her this prestigious recognition.



She formed the Harrow Litter Pickers group, which has since grown to over 1,000 members, as she was motivated to something good for the community. The group organises regular litter-picking events across the borough, contributing significantly to the improvement of the local environment. Speaking about the award, Casey expressed her gratitude but emphasised that the recognition was not just for her, but for the entire team of volunteers. She praised the commitment of the group's members, highlighting how people from all walks of life have come together to make a positive impact on our community.

In an interview with local paper *Harrow Online*, Casey reflected on what inspired her to take the first steps towards forming the group. She explained that it was not a single, conscious decision, rather a growing frustration with the litter and fly-tipping in her neighbourhood. As she began to clean up her street, she noticed that others were willing to help; through Facebook, she was able to organise events and keep in touch with a small but growing number of volunteers. Over a short

space of time, the group expanded and now regularly holds "Ward" events to target specific areas in need of attention. Casey also mentioned similar groups in nearby boroughs, such as Hillingdon and Ealing, which have inspired further growth and collaboration.

The success of the Harrow Litter Pickers can be attributed to the strong sense of community among its members. According to Casey, the group's growth has been fuelled by people's desire not to let their friends down. The camaraderie and shared goal of improving the local environment have created a strong bond within the group, motivating people to participate in regular clean-ups. In addition, social media has played a crucial role in the group's organisation, making it easy to arrange events and communicate with members. Harrow Council has also supported the group by providing litter grabbers and volunteer bags, further contributing to their success.

In terms of impact, the group has made a noticeable difference in the local community, collecting between 1,000 to 1,500 bags of rubbish per month, which equates to 10 to 15 skip loads. While most of what they collect consists of fast-food packaging, bottles and cans, the group has also found unusual items including clothing, weapons and even firearms. Despite these occasional surprises, the primary focus remains on maintaining a clean environment.

Looking ahead, Casey is focused on continuing the work of the Harrow Litter Pickers and expanding the group's presence in areas of the borough where they currently lack representation. Recruiting new members, particularly in the north and east of the borough, remains a priority, as does fostering greater community involvement.

DEBATING SOCIETY

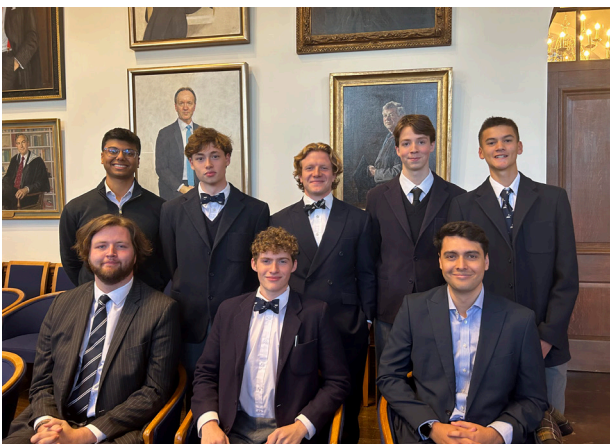
*Exhibition Debate, Boys v OHs, Debating Society,
13 September*

Last Friday, taking over a busy OH Room from the Harrow Test, the Debating Society hosted its first annual exhibition debate of the year, with the current school First IV against four Old Harrovians. The motion was: 'This house would require parents to obtain licences before having children', which was proposed by the boys and opposed by the OHs. We made an excellent start as two OHs arrived half an hour late. The Harrow team also confessed to me 20 minutes before the scheduled start that they had no idea which order they were speaking in.

The debate finally started with a brief advertisement from SMK at around 5.35pm. Arturo Saville, *Rendalls*, spoke first for the School. He began with the point that licenses are measures used to guarantee accountability and safety (one even needs a license to be a tattooist), and in what other fields are safety and accountability more imperative than that of raising children? He proposed a test that would involve mental-health screening similar to that done for parents going through adoption or IVF, to make sure that the parents are not abusive. The proposition also introduced a set of free parenting courses and other forms of financial and educational support to help people become better parents before and after they gain the licence. This would, in fact, allow many people who would otherwise be too poor to care for children successfully, thus improving the quality of life for both parents and children. He pointed out that, under current legislation, abusive parents already have their children taken away from them; the purpose of introducing a licence is simply to stop abusive parents from having children at all, and compared to the other side of the house, a licence would stop abuse before it even happens, offering numerous benefits. This includes the fact that the child will not suffer any trauma as a result of abuse, and therefore will not need additional care

and live a happier life generally. This is a move that saves both children and costs.

Beginning the series of new tricks for the supposedly old dogs, Theodore Seely (*The Head Master's 2015*³) first offered some rebuttal for Saville. He stated that any type of profession requiring a licence is fundamentally different from parenting because parenting is a continuous process where both the parents and the children learn to become better over time. Good parenting is not gained through a one-off process, and Mr Seely said that he would be very concerned about Saville's future as a father. He used a girl from the school he teaches at as an example: she was abused by her parents when she was young and has since been taken into care by her guardians, and yet she still faces life every day with immense joy and love. Should the licensing system be introduced, she would not have been born and countless happy lives like hers wouldn't exist. While Mr. Seely continued to list the successes of pupils he has seen at his school without any consciousness of what the motion actually is or, in fact, the time he had left, his speech died away under the thunderous gavel strokes of our merciless timekeeper, Tristan Yang, *Lyon's*.



Harry Winward, *Lyon's*, spoke next for the School. He stressed the important idea that the debate is about children, and not about freedom or choice. A licensing system for parents would result in a world better for both parents and children. He suggested that, under current legislation, children who are abused are relocated to a new home, and what the proposition is suggesting is simply an extension of this legislation so that the abuse wouldn't even happen. By providing the necessary knowledge and support for parents and eliminating abusive parents through a licensing system and a course, the interests of both parents and children are protected. A member of the opposition, Ahsab Chowdhury (*West Acre 2018*³), asked for a POI at this point, noting that the education and support systems are not exclusive to the proposition side and can therefore also be achieved on their side of the house as well – a short yet powerful objection. Anyway, we continue. Winward touched on the issue of teenage pregnancies and stated that he would be “horrified to see everyone in the room being able to become a father without any form of support on how to be a parent”. The benefits offered by the licence benefit both first-time parents and children.

Closing the first half of the debate, Hari Rattan (*The Knoll 2013*³) stood up to continue the opposition case. His speech emphasised the idea that all forms of testing the proposition suggests are inherently biased and therefore will yield extremely discriminatory results that would fall into eugenics. He listed some data on how middle-class white people were the most likely to pass things like driving tests or GCSEs, and on how South Asian doctors tend to perform less well than their white counterparts when doing their yearly testing. However, Mr. Rattan seemed to demonstrate little on how this trend would

be transferable to the motion at hand. A POI was offered on how a mental screening test would be racially prejudiced, but the response seemed to fall into confusion and disagreement. He also touched on the adverse economic impacts of the drop in birth rate this would cause as young working populations decrease and shortages of labour lead to reduced foreign investment (perhaps not the most relevant point).

The formidable, boisterous and water-dispersing Ben Shailer, *Rendalls*, opened the second half of the debate. His main rebuttal was that Mr Rattan had addressed lots of things but not necessarily related to the debate itself. He stated that the point of the licensing system is not to stop mediocre parents from having children but to help them. He then tried to address the bias point raised by the last speaker, and in conspicuous contradiction to his teammates, suggested that the test would be an online and anonymous questionnaire, which triggered all four speakers on the other side to offer POIs simultaneously. He then pointed out that the opposition overlooks the bigger picture: 5,000 children in the UK currently live in conditions of slavery, and by making it compulsory for parents to carry a licence, the police would find it much easier to track down these children. He then suggested something completely bizarre, saying that people could look through their neighbours' windows and check if they have children who are not coming out of the house or going to school. Shailer finally pointed out that better parenting support and education would in fact increase literacy and wellbeing in children from poorer families and allow families who would otherwise be unable to afford children to raise them successfully, which turns the opposition's argument of inequality on its head.

Ahsab Chowdhury (*West Acre 2018*³) spoke next for the OH side. His main arguments were that a licensing system fundamentally infringes on our reproductive rights and personal liberty. We are deprived of the right to make decisions about our own bodies, and therefore the right to privacy and integrity, especially that of women. He pointed out that the proposition's approach is a form of fear-mongering that pressures parents into doing what the government wants them to do, as they will have their licences removed and their children taken away otherwise. 1.7 million people would lose their children because they don't have the necessary knowledge or literacy to pass this test, and this would be an outrageous act of eugenics. He thinks that giving more free contraception and allowing people to make decisions about their own bodies would achieve the same effect while also protecting human rights. He concluded his speech by telling us that good parenting is developed, not forced.

Robert Young, *The Grove*, closed the debate for the Harrow side with a string of poignant yet powerful rebuttals. He first addressed Mr Rattan as a traitor for quoting an Eton article. Then he referred to the many occasions of ad hominem where Saville's potential as a father was questioned: the only way to stop him and many other terrible people from becoming fathers is through a licensing system. He then questioned Mr Rattan's scepticism about the testing system: the proposition is also offering free education for parents, so unless Mr Rattan believes that people from racial minorities are abusive, there is no reason why he should believe that they will fail the test. A licence would be immensely beneficial for all parents and children; in the words of Young himself, “no parent is prepared to parent, but a licence would allow them to become better parents.”

Concluding the entire debate, Will Travis (*The Head Master's 2013*³) gave his summary of the debate. He stated that the government has no authority to take away people's rights to have children because it is ultimately a decision people make about their own bodies. He then suggested some kind of trade-off: yes, without the licence, some alcoholics will have children, but more often we see alcoholics give up alcohol and become better people for their children. People can become better parents just for their children, but we will never know if they are banned from having children in the first place. He

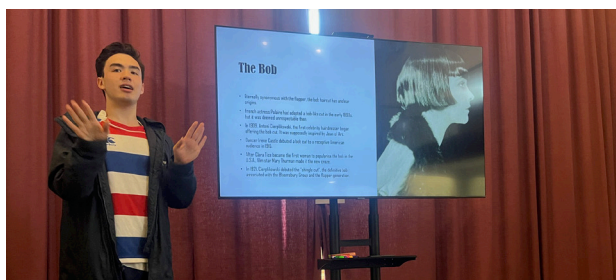
believes that the proposition has not sufficiently proven that such a licensing system is the best way to tackle the problem of child abuse that exists currently, although he himself offered no constructive alternative. He concluded his speech by saying that the proposition is forcing a choice upon every person in society, which fundamentally violates human rights and principles of freedom.

Mr Dolan, the School's debating coach, acted as adjudicator, and awarded the winning place to the School IV, who overall gave more persuasive and relevant arguments, offered more insightful rebuttals, and spoke with better rhetoric and style. If anyone is interested in signing up for the Debating Society, please email SMK.

WESTWOOD SOCIETY:

Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, 'The 1920s and the Flapper in Fashion', and Nicholas Robu-Malaure, *Bradlys*, *Anti-Fashion*, 12 September

Thursday 12 September saw the inaugural lecture of the academic year from the Westwood Society, a haven for the School's sartorially savvy. What was lacking in audience was exceeded in research, knowledge and presentation skills from the two speakers: Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*, and Nicholas Robu-Malaure, *Bradlys*.



Ford led proceedings with an scintillating talk on the evolution of the flapper at the start of the 20th century. He offered excellent context on the constraints of women's fashion – and particularly the organ-crushing corsets of yesteryear – before explaining the new silhouette of the fashionista of the 1920s who cropped her hair, bound her breast and, on rare occasion, flashed her knees. He explained the wider context of a world following the Great War where women had had to participate more fully in society – and their fashion reflected the blending of these masculine and feminine roles. Naturally, as the economy shifted after the Wall Street Crash, a new conservatism crept back into the female silhouette but nonetheless the flappers broke the mould and women's fashion would never return to its pre-war form.



Robu-Malaure then argued his definition of 'anti-fashion' – garments that challenge the status quo. Weaving in Ford's narrative of the conflation of gender roles, he began by looking

at the image of David Bowie, whose long hair, make-up and androgynous clothes challenged convention. He then considered the role of the grand dame, Vivienne Westwood herself, who frequently used both her runways and her pret-a-porter to raise awareness of political issues, be it her anti-fracking show of 2018 or her T-shirts emblazoned with swastikas to protest the rise of fascism in the 1970s. Finally, he considered the platform of the Met Gala as the final bastion of true anti-fashion, where designers respond to a theme and are liberated from function to create pure art.

If you have an interest in fashion and would like to join the mailing list for the Westwood Society, please do contact the Secretary, Jonathan Ford, *West Acre*.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

Random Number Generators, Gideon Aw, *The Grove*

Gideon Aw, *The Grove*, started his lecture by stating the usefulness of random numbers in video games and mathematical models and simulations. Randomness (or what appears to be so) is very easily achieved in the real world, with perhaps the roll of a dice or flip of a coin. However, computers are fundamentally incapable of producing random numbers on their own due to their deterministic nature and adherence to algorithms. Thus, most random number generation had to be faked, a problem that John von Neumann faced when he needed randomness in a nuclear fission simulation when developing the hydrogen bomb. Back then, they used a machine known as the ENIAC, a primitive computer that required to be fed with physical cards with random number tables, which was incredibly slow, considering the low memory of the machine. The solution that von Neumann came up with was this: input a first number, square the number and take the middle digits as output. To generate the next number, take the output of the previous and repeat the process (squaring and taking middle digits) on that. This is known as the middle square method, one of the first pseudorandom number generation methods.

Aw then explained that random number generation was split into pseudorandom number generators and true random number generators. Standard computers are fundamentally incapable of generating true random numbers, and thus require outside input to achieve this, usually through special peripheral hardware. Most true random number generators use chaotic systems (such as atmospheric noise which causes static) or truly unpredictable events (radioactive decay).

All pseudorandom number generators are thus ultimately predictable, and if were to know the starting input (or seed) of the generator, they would also be able to predict its outputs. Most work very basically like the middle square method, which apply a function to the input and generate the next in the sequence using the previous output as the next input (sorry if that was confusing to read). However, even if one does not know the seed, the generator can still be quite limited by the input. These generators will eventually always loop due to their deterministic nature and end up having the same input as another one earlier; the length of the loops is called the period. The range of the function will always be limited depending on what seeds are given, so the results may be terrible with very small periods. For example, the middle square method is actually horrendous. The output of this method is usually formatted as twice the size of the input, e.g. 4-digit input -> 8-digit output. Take the following as an example: 3317 -> 11002489 -> 0024 -> 00000576 -> 0005 -> 00000025 -> 0000 -> 00000000 -> 0000, et cetera. The previous example led to a zero loop, which is undesirable and, least of all, not random.

Aw then took us to a familiar example of pseudorandom number generation: the Python “random” library. The random number library in Python actually uses an algorithm known as the Mersenne Twister, which has a period of $2^{19937} - 1$. This is quite good and makes it a popular algorithm to use. The algorithm is composed of three steps: initialise, twist and temper. Initialising is itself split into two steps: the first step, growing, applies a recursive function to the seed, turning it into a very large integer; the second step, sowing, populated a 1d array such as: take the last 32 bits of the modified seed (large integer) and make it the first element of the array, for each subsequent element, the modified seed is again put through the recursive function, and the last 32 bits of that are the next element. Twisting changes every value in the array by applying a function on each value as well as many other ones in the array to make it more “random” e.g. the new value of position 1 is also dependent on the old values of position 0, 35 and 6. Twisting only occurs at the beginning or when the entire array has been tempered. Tempering is the process of actually generating (pseudo)random numbers. When a random number is required, the next (unused) value in the array is fetched and a number of binary operations are performed on it.

Aw went on to explain how world generation works in Minecraft (because people like Minecraft). Procedural world generation is pseudorandom and requires a seed, in Minecraft this seed is used to generate Perlin noise (a grid of values between 0 and 1) and converting it to a heightmap (you can imagine how). A visual representation of Perlin noise would be an image with the values as pixel brightnesses.

Perlin noise is generated like so: first use the seed and a pseudorandom number generator to generate an extremely long string of random integers. We use this string of integers to generate a unit vector corresponding to each corner of the cell of a grid. Each cell is further split up into a grid of subpixels. First choose a corner of a square (e.g. top-right corner) and for each pixel in a cell, to get the value of the cell you take the vector dot product of the vector in the chosen corner of the grid and the vector from that corner to the same corner in pixel normalised. Finally, repeat this for the other three corners of the square to get four Perlin noise maps, and combine them together to remove the visible edges.

HERE AND THERE

Guy Manley, *West Acre*, Garrick Tan, *Rendalls*, and Brian Chang, *Druries*, were highly commended and placed in the top 25 from 3000 entries in the Young Economist of the Year competition. Their submission was a superbly researched and referenced animated video on ‘The Impact of the Gig Economy’.

METROPOLITAN

GREEN JOURNAL

Part 2: Weapons

In the last instalment, I wrote about *The Clan of One-Breasted Women* by Terry Tempest Williams. In the Epilogue of the book, Williams talks about the above-ground nuclear testing that occurred in Utah and Nevada from 27 January 1951 until 11 July 1962. This testing affected her and her family in many

ways, but its biggest impact was through the rise of breast cancer in her family. Indeed, seven members of her family had died from cancer since that nuclear testing, including her mother; Williams herself had a small tumor removed from between her ribs.

On 18 March 1989, Williams crossed the Nevada Test Site line and was arrested along with nine other Utahns. As she was being arrested, she recounts this conversation:

‘As one officer cinched the handcuffs around my wrists, another frisked my body. She found a pen and a pad of paper tucked inside my left boot.

"And these?" she asked sternly.

"Weapons," I replied.

Our eyes met. I smiled. She pulled the leg of my trousers back over my boot.’

The pendulum swings between the pen and the sword in modern society. At times, there will be “unprecedented” peace and global unity (as was seen, in part, during the Covid-19 lockdowns). At other times the planet will seem to be on the brink of World War III, as a collapsing chain of political, economic and social events all culminate in some kind of international crisis that warrants swords being picked up but never yet truly swung.

Many argue that the sword is mightier than the pen, not in physical terms but in the threat of its use. Nobody is going to cease their action because somebody threatens to write a law, but most people will cease their action if somebody threatens to fire a missile.

Unlike humans, physical events cannot be reasoned with. They won’t cease their action if you threaten them with pen or sword. Threats mean nothing to them, implementing sanctions, waving around international arrest warrants, making impassioned speeches – none of that actually does anything.

However, like human beings, physical events can be “fought” in a metaphorical sense of the word. People can be evacuated, restorative efforts can be made, and legislation can be implemented that forces companies to change their business practices. The actual use of the pen (and, importantly, abiding by what it writes) can actually slow the onward march of climate change. But we can also “fight” with swords. Making drastic and radical changes to the way we live our lives can make a huge difference, but they must be collective, or else they won’t matter at all.

A pen and a pad of paper can be as much a weapon as formal legislation. Action is what must be taken, in any form, in order to reach stability on this planet. This action can take many forms; it could be education, writing, protesting, making small changes, or becoming prime minister. All these possibilities are tenable, and all of them are valid ways of contributing to the collective action required to reach environmental balance.

Indeed, contributing to this Green Journal is another great way to partake in some sort of action. Pieces can be short, long, fictional, non-fictional, science-focused, ethics-focused, and written by any member of the School. If you want to get in touch, feel free to email 21kulara@harrowschool.org.uk.

JOHN LAUTNER

A review by Jonathan Ford, West Acre

John Lautner is a fascinating figure in modern architecture, guiding man away from the superficial metropolis into an idyllic dream of American Modernism. Barbara-Ann Campbell-Lance’s definitive work on Lautner, released through Taschen, conjures a fascinating study into his design process and philosophy, revealing much about one of architecture’s greatest enigmas.

The work, titled *John Lautner*, succeeds for its adopts Lautner’s abstract elegance across mediums: thin and sleek, it appears like a Lautner itself. Images are core to its presentation,

accompanied by lucid prose that attempts not to dissect, rather to paint a picture of an artist at work. This is not to say that it does not offer revelations: immensely perceptive, it delves behind Lautner's all-American sheen, offering a glimpse into Lautner's movements through architecture, a perspicacious eye of perception.

Crucially, the book offers Lautner's childhood as the genesis for his aesthetic revolution. Positing his upbringing on the edge of Lake Superior in northern Michigan with its 'infinite variety of nature' as the core to his naturalist, instinctive approach to distinctly modern and mechanised products, seeking endlessly to achieve 'basic life-giving qualities' in his works. This inherent need propelled the philosophies behind Real Architecture, a format that permitted a building to grow with its inhabitants, offering buildings that provided light, space and freedom.

Lautner's non-linear methods are stunningly elucidated; exploring the iconographic nature of his work, Campbell-Lance eloquently illustrates the metaphorical, almost photographic inspiration on which Lautner drew. Despite dismissing most contemporary architecture, Lautner remained firmly in touch with modern engineers such as Felix Candela and Pier Luigi Nervi, allowing their methods to influence his crafting of a 'patented peacefulness'. Existing outside the realms of typical architecture, he worked closely with individual clients, allowing his houses to impose 'intangible essences' of nature upon their inhabitants, sensations so raw they appear impossible to have been dreamt up on pen and paper. Yet, as the book notes, it is crucial not to describe Lautner as an "organic" architect due to its Frank Lloyd Wright connotations; instead, his work offers a balancing act within the infinite variety of landscapes and form, carving a new and ever-evolving path which may never be classified.

Following this sweeping overview of Lautner's purpose and identity as an architect, the book moves on to studies of individual residences, offering unparalleled insight into material, design and structure, all while exuding the architect's chilled sense of aesthetic movement, allowing bricks and mortar to be the eternal canvas of life. Taschen and Campbell-Lance have not only introduced one of architecture's criminally under-loved figures into literary mainstream, they have also crafted a mission statement for his legacy, and it is every part as brilliant as the man behind those Los Angeles homes.

PHONECALL

All it takes is one misplaced word
at the
end of a sentence. And

all of a sudden commun-
-ication goes
awry.

One semi-tone is all it
takes for the mood to darken
and an argument and

frustration.
Is it
even possible to hold
a conversation for
l o n g e r
than 3 minutes with

out
disappearing down

a rabbit

hole of misplaced

Anger?

I don't think it is. Voices

O V E R L A P at the

worst

possible moments and then

it's "what

did you just say?"

with a

rising tone at

THE END

MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL MUSIC

A new year at Harrow brings a burning desire for fresh music to sustain us. Here is another eclectic selection of albums for you to enjoy.

Indie/Folk Music of the Week

Wilco – Yankee Hotel Foxtrot

Wilco's fourth album exists as a hazy myth in musical culture: with two towers on its cover, its planned 9/11 release was delayed. Brimming with irony, it remains painful and brutally honest. It is widely known yet under-recognised, lauded yet not quite mainstream. Indeed, this reputation is perhaps well deserved: frontman Tweedy chose Warner Music subsidiary Nonesuch Records for the album's distribution, citing the label's blend of artistic support and commercial capacity. As such, Yankee Hotel Foxtrot was destined to live on the fringes of popular music, straddling two poles that rarely intersect. It is contradictory, beguiling, frighteningly familiar, yet unnervingly new. An album born of struggle, patience and inspiration, it deconstructs musical conventions, presenting a work that is psychedelically cynical – an almost-mythical record that has descended to our world.

Rock Music of the Week

Fugazi – Steady Diet of Nothing

Fugazi holds a special place in the hearts of punk enthusiasts: for nearly two decades, they represented everything revolutionary, counter-cultural and *ars gratia artis* that had shaped rock from the ground up. Steady Diet of Nothing may not be their most renowned work (that honour goes to 13 Songs or End Hits), but it is certainly among their most intense. Dense guitar riffs from Joe Lally complement fluid, seething drumming courtesy of Brendan Canty, painting a sparse, dry landscape on which vocalists Ian Mackaye and Guy Picciotto weave their desperate, sprawling pleas. Lyrically obscure yet penetrating, sonically barren yet explosive, the album may not be for the faint-hearted, but it is a thrilling ride for those willing to let the music take control.

Pop Music of the Week

Madonna – Ray of Light

In 1998, Madonna gave birth to her first daughter. She also turned 40 – a decade older than her mother was when she passed away from cancer. Fresh from vocal training for her role in *Evita*, she shed the provocations of her early career, discarding the 'Material Girl' persona in favour of something

rawer and more organic. The result was a towering triumph: produced by William Orbit, Ray of Light fuses electronica and indie-folk with elements of punk and rave, creating a record that reinvents itself through whirling dance-pop odysseys and meditative confessions. Sonically bizarre yet indelible, the record remains an odyssey to this day – the ultimate mission statement from pop’s greatest auteur.

Hip Hop Music of the Week **Eminem – The Marshall Mathers LP**

What can be said about The Marshall Mathers LP that has not already been written? Eternally transgressive, lyrically wicked and sharp, the album presents Eminem as the ultimate rock star for a new generation: with horror-core-infused messages and a violent alter ego, this was the escape for a repressed generation. Unrestrained by societal norms, the record offers biting satire on modern life – a stark contrast to the bubblegum pop of Britney Spears and NSYNC at the time. Yet what makes The Marshall Mathers LP succeed where others would falter is its inherent musical brilliance. Written almost entirely on impulse, Eminem’s sharp instinct is blended with a controlled and precise sonic landscape, laying the foundation for future hip-hop. A triumph.

Electronic Music of the Week **Sufjan Stevens – The Age of Adz**

The Age of Adz opens with Futile Devices, a sparse track featuring an acoustic guitar and Stevens’ hushed whispers, an ode to love in its pains and frailties. This could have been the entirety of the album, had Stevens not suffered a viral infection that caused a nervous-system breakdown. Indeed, every track carries an acoustic foundation haunting the electronic surface, attempting to emerge. In the aftermath of regaining control of his body, Stevens infused the melodrama and hysteria he felt into The Age of Adz, blending his trademark sound with squealing synthesizers, creating a distant and diverse sonic landscape. As the record spirals through its forms, culminating in the 25-minute ode to identity, Impossible Soul, it remains an uncomfortable yet essential listen.

Surprise Music of the Week **David Bowie – Station to Station**

By 1976, David Bowie had done it all. From his humble folk beginnings, he had become a master of sonic and visual extremity, moving between folk-rock, glam-rock and plastic soul as easily as changing clothes – all while creating (and then killing off) some of the greatest alter egos in music history. Androgynous and (at least performatively) bisexual, he was Britain’s alternative darling. This would all change with Station to Station. Having relocated to Los Angeles, Bowie was now surviving on a diet of cocaine, raisins and milk, enduring such breakdowns that he could not recall the album’s recording process. Instead, we are left with an artefact of Bowie’s least likeable character: the Thin White Duke, a far-right, heartless man yearning for emotion. The album should not work – most artists’ cocaine-fuelled records are embarrassing at best – yet Station to Station persists in its drug-induced haze, mechanical, compulsive and somehow seductive.

the explosive debut of the Arctic Monkeys, it shows the first major sound change that the Monkeys explored after perfecting their original style in Favourite Worst Nightmare (2007). This review is my personal journey with the album and my thoughts on what is probably my favourite Arctic Monkeys record.

I can’t fully remember when I listened to Humbug for the first time, but I do remember being on the Arctic Monkeys subreddit and seeing a poll for the best tracks of all time — at number one was ‘Crying Lightning’. I listened to it and loved it; while it’s not my number one pick, it is certainly up there. I then listened to the whole album.

At first, I wasn’t a major fan of the harder-sounding guitars and the slowed-down tempo of the album, but it slowly grew on me the longer I listened to it. By the time of my fourth or fifth listen, I absolutely loved it, especially the small guitar licks in the background. These added so much texture to each song and made the album extremely replayable, as you can always hear something new which you didn’t catch before.

The album opens with the blasting drums of ‘My Propeller’, followed by its ear-achingly brilliant guitars. They then blend perfectly with Alex Turner’s deeper and more sombre voice compared to previous records. This sets the tone of the album immediately as you prepare yourself for a different experience from previous works. This is preceded by ‘Crying Lightning’, a superb track that continues with all the small details that makes this album so amazing.

Another standout track is the preantepenultimate (really?) (fourth from last) song entitled ‘Cornerstone’. Probably the most well-known song from the album, it opens with its guitars played in reverse. This creates an almost dreamlike entrance to the song’s story, which follows Turner’s search for a long-lost love with some very imaginative and playfully descriptive lyrics such as ‘I elongated my lift home’ and ‘I smelt your scent on the seatbelt’. This track is also littered with those oh-so-amazing backing guitars and a beautiful climax that brings everything together, elevating it to a true masterpiece.

I would also like to highlight the most underrated track on the album, the 5 minute 44 second finale titled ‘The Jeweller’s Hands’, which is divided into three distinct sections. The first part is driven by an electric bass, creating a groove that is almost impossible to not move your body to. In the second section, Alex loses his drums and guitars and sings, accompanied by just a keyboard until they return triumphantly, leading you into what feels like the final chorus. But then the third and final part unveils itself to our ears with a sudden drumroll followed by a beautiful mix of both low and high guitars, which then climaxes after Alex’s voice returns for a few more lines. And then everything slowly becomes quieter and quieter until you are left with nothing but your own thoughts.

To conclude, this album is a masterpiece, and if you have any interest in rock, I would implore you to try this album and have your own experience and journey with it.

OPINION

HUMBUG

A review by Henry Barker, The Park

Welcome to the Arctic Monkeys’ third studio album, Humbug. It’s an album filled with symphonic guitar work and slow rock beats that entice you to experience a California-produced psychedelic masterpiece. Released in 2009, a few years after

WHO IS “FIT FOR OFFICE”?

Viren Bhaikhe, Lyon’s

2024 has been a year of elections, with more than half of the global population voting in some 70 contests ranging from the UK to India. The calendar has saved the most

consequential for last: the US Presidential election, on 5 November. Republicans Donald Trump and JD Vance will face off against Democrats Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. The American people will have to decide on which pair is more qualified to run.

Democracy is an ancient idea – the very word itself is Greek, meaning ‘rule by the people’. But Greek democracy looked rather different from its modern descendant. In the citystate of Athens, only free Athenian men could participate in government. Historians estimate that there were around 30,000 or 40,000 ‘citizens’ in a city of 140,000. Those who were qualified could then participate in the Assembly. But within the assembly, the vote counters – those who ensured that votes were accurate – were chosen by lot. Similarly, members of the Council of 500, the city’s full-time government, were also chosen at random using a machine called the *kleroterion* (whose workings have unfortunately been lost to time).

The logic behind choosing rulers at random is simple: in order to be fair, everyone needs to have an equal shot at governing. It was also something of an insurance policy against corruption: it wasn’t clear who was worth corrupting.

There might also have been a bigger idea in play, namely, those most able to govern may not be the people most eager to do so. Plato, in his *Republic*, compared the state to a ship. The crew is rowdy and bickering among themselves about how the ship should be steered. The captain is bigger and taller, but a little deaf and not particularly good at navigation. Among them is a “true navigator”, who pays attention not to the infighting among the crew but to the stars and the weather. But he does not get to steer the ship. The metaphor is clear: demagogues can appeal to the people without really knowing how to govern.

The Romans were more exacting about the qualifications of their leaders. During the Republic, the Senate at first only permitted military veterans over 60 who were patricians, or aristocrats. Over time, the minimum age decreased, and eventually plebeians were allowed in. Eventually the ranks of the Senate expanded to include magistrates, police chiefs and other dignitaries. Augustus, the first Roman emperor, established a property requirement: Senators would have to be worth 1,000,000 sesterces – and the role would have no salary. A vanishingly small portion of the population would have been eligible to become a Senator, though, of course, in the Roman Empire really only one man ruled.

In today’s United States of America, just as in Ancient Greece and Rome, there are a set of requirements that must be fulfilled by a candidate wishing to participate in governing the world’s most powerful democracy. The Constitution of the US clearly states that any person wanting to run for senator must be at least 30 years of age and have been a US citizen for at least nine years. The much-coveted office of President has a few more boxes to tick off the checklist: the holder must be a whopping five years older, and have been a resident in the US for at least 14 years. There are no property requirements – though, practically speaking, candidates must have access to a big war chest in order to compete.

It is a lot easier to be “qualified” to govern in modern America than in ancient Greece or Rome. And that is a good thing: technicalities should not get in the way of a potentially worthy candidate. Yet, in modern-day America, you might be forgiven for thinking that the true navigators are left to the sidelines, just like on Plato’s metaphorical ship of state. The US Constitution does have some requirements for who can hold the office of President, Senator, and others. But the job description really is whatever the *demos*, or the people, want. Campaigns are costly contests of charisma, rather than policy. Increasingly, citizens doubt the integrity of the whole process. Perhaps, then, modern American democracy might take a page out of its ancient predecessor, and consider selecting its ruler, touted as the leader of the free world, at random.

CHESS PUZZLE

This week’s puzzle comes from a match from the 1929 Carlsbad tournament between Slovenian Milan Vidmar and Dutchman Max Euwe (who later became world champion).

White to play and win in two moves.

Email your solution to JPBH to enter the termly competition.



Last week’s answer: 1... **Rg1+** 2.Kxg1 Rxf1#

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

SPORT

RUGBY UNION

*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 against St George’s School 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.

The School v Dulwich College, 14 September

The 1st XV, Home v Dulwich College, Won 46-17

The XV bounced back from a first-week defeat with a superb reply on The Sunley against an excellent Dulwich side. Outstanding moments of flair and skill tied with resilience under pressure saw The XV respond from going 7-0 down and with the score right at 22-12 pushing to a 46-17 final score.

2nd XV, Home v Dulwich College, Drew 26-26

The 2nd XV drew with Dulwich 26-26 in an exciting fixture. Two tries from Matthew Finnegan, *Druries*, one from Jack

Mapletoft, *The Park*, and one from Harrison Dunne, *Elmfield*, including three outstanding conversions from Jake Turner, *Druries*. Mapletoft was man of the match.

3rd XV, Home v Dulwich College, Won 21-7

After a pretty abysmal training session on Friday, Harrow arrived an hour before the game was due to kick off to try to fix a few things. Luckily, it took Dulwich 2 hours 45 minutes to get to Harrow (glad we weren't away this time!). This gave Harrow just enough time to sort themselves out.

However, Dulwich scored early on...but, unfortunately for them, the referee didn't see it and Wallace Kirk, *The Grove*, ran off with the ball. The game began as it continued, with enormous physicality. It was a real arm wrestle. Harrow dominated the first scrum when they got into Dulwich territory and turned over the ball. Excellent work from props Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry, *Lyon's*, and Piers McDowell, *Elmfield*. After several phases and pick and gos, Dominic Hopkins, *Elmfield*, powered over the line for the 1st (ish) score of the game. Harry Schneider, *Elmfield*, stepped up gingerly to have a go at the conversion and played it spectacularly.



Mitchell Roberts, *Moretons*, was able to kick nicely and put Harrow in the right areas. Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, had a great game and was able to get down low in the tackle despite his height and chop down some Dulwich trees. Roberts scored a try that may have been a double (or even a triple movement) to take Harrow two scores ahead.

Dulwich got one back after a quick tap from a penalty. Harrow's penalty count was pretty high but not as high as their tackle count. Jo Hult, *Elmfield*, screaming "blitz" and Kirk and Sebastian Kain, *The Grove*, duly sprinting up in the midfield and making tackle after tackle. It could well have been 15-20 phases without a missed tackle or mistake on more than one occasion. MJ Stafford-Davies, *Lyon's*, put in the shot of the game, drilling his man back 5m, and Tomas Linares, *The Knoll*, and Lucas Ramus, *Lyon's*, put in some hits that the DC boys will be having nightmares about over the coming months. Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, captained the side well and made a couple of dominant picks from the base.

A final try was scored with one of the few line breaks of the game created by Jeffery Arthur, *The Knoll*, and eventually fed to Oliver Rezek, *Druries*, who ran over in the corner but scored under the posts with Hult screaming at him where to put it down. Schneider converted again (3 from 3). The game looked won but Dulwich had not given up and Harrow did really well to not lose focus and concentration or relax and closed out the first win of the season nicely.

4th XV, Home v Dulwich College, Lost 12-40

In a match where the final score did not reflect the skills and fellowship displayed on the pitch, the 4th XV successfully found holes in the Dulwich defence allowing Leonardo Lord, *Lyon's*, and Timmy de Hemptinne, *Bradlys*, to score one try apiece.

Colts A, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 19-28

Harrow won the toss and decided to kick. With a high and deep kick from Alexander Storer, *West Acre*, it put Dulwich under pressure inside their own 22. After a few phases of attack Dulwich executed an exit set piece with a big kick that landed into Will's hands. With space on the left side Will looked to seize that space in aspiration of a try. After we had exploited the space, we were inside Dulwich's 5-meter line and with an overlap on the right side of the field Eli de Venecia, *The Head Master's*, looked to utilize that space by flinging a beautiful miss pass into the hands of Edward Stabb, *The Head Master's*, who dotted the ball down into the corner for Harrows first try. Shortly after a promising start from Harrow, Dulwich aimed to bounce back with some points on the board. After a fumbled ball in Harrows 22, Dulwich had an overlap on the right side of the pitch and with a few miss passes surely, they were in the corner for their first try. Despite Dulwich's try Harrow's morale was high, and the team were looking for another try to put Dulwich under pressure. With a powerful run from Toritseju Backhouse, *Druries*, Harrow were well positioned in the middle of the 22 and were looking for a chance to score another try. With yet another overlap on the right side of the pitch Storer judiciously kicked a cross field in the hopes of another try. Whilst the ball was soaring through the air Stabb leaped towards it and miraculously caught it and scored Harrows second try putting them ahead of Dulwich. Despite this, Dulwich were persistent in their attack and scored another try just before halftime to tie up the match.

After an insightful team talk from the captain (de Venecia), Harrow were motivated and were looking to take their first victory of the season. With the wind against us, the ball was kicked into the centre of the pitch and subsequently, Dulwich exploited the space on the left side of the pitch and scored a try. A similar sequence of events happened, and Harrow found themselves down by two tries. Despite this, Harrow scored a late try in the game after a promising carry off a set piece by Alexander Trudel, *Druries*, which later generated a try from Niniola Olagundoye, *Bradlys*, which was beautifully converted by the captain de Venecia. Despite Harrow's late efforts to snatch back the win, Dulwich ended victorious in a great rugby game.

Colts B, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 12-17

The Colts B lost a close encounter despite the brave effort from the boys. In an extremely physical battle the Harrows boys stood tall and faced up to the challenge. Some excellent defensive play by Alexander Long, *The Park*, Abraham Babalola, *Druries*, and George Boyle, *Elmfield*, restricted the opposition from scoring more a large portion of the game. However, some critical handling errors and breakdown discipline hampered Harrow from scoring and building on the defensive pressure. Ultimately, we did not capitalise on our opportunities and lost the game 12-17.

Colts C, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 7-15

Harrow started slowly but played some good rugby and almost came back to win in the last ten minutes. Man of the match was Bomi Shodipo, *The Grove*, with some fantastic carries and dominant tackles.

Junior Colts A, Home v Dulwich College, Draw 7-7

This was a toughly fought game between two even and talented sides resulting in a 7-7 draw. The Harrow defensive press was excellent, and we managed to keep the Dulwich attack at bay for the majority of the game. In attack, we created many chances but were not able to finish them off.

Junior Colts B, Home v Dulwich College, Lost 14-43

A good team effort with new positions and set piece plays to learn. A solid lineout and maul created a great base to attack.

Some outstanding break away tries brought us back into a challenging fixture. Lots to learn and take away. Well done to all those involved.

Junior Colts C, Home v Dulwich College, Won 47-19

The team went two tries down before raising their game and scoring seven tries and restricting Dulwich to one further try. It was a genuine team performance with six different try scorers, and the team spirit was excellent even when the boys were behind. It was a very good first run out with some strong carrying, a positive attacking approach and good hands. First-time tackles are the area to improve on for next week.

Junior Colts D, Home v Dulwich College, Lost 21-57

The Junior Colts Ds showed great courage in the face of a physically dominant Dulwich pack with some excellent attacking play in the second half. Moroti Akisanya, *Newlands*, was superb, scoring all three of the Harrow tries.

Yearlings A, Away v Dulwich College, Won 24-17

A to and fro game saw Harrow match everything that Dulwich threw at them and a well-worked try in the last minute gave them victory in their first outing in Harrow colours.

Yearlings B, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 0-60

Yearlings C, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 10-29

The first half saw Harrow holding their own, led by the talismanic Henry Doherty, *The Grove*, who turned over the ball five times single-handedly.

After a crucial turnover from Doherty, AJ Montrivat, *Rendalls*, gave Harrow their first try of the match. Captain Peter Temple, *Newlands*, kept the pressure on, but despite his leadership, Dulwich's slick attack and rock-solid defence began to show their dominance.

In the second half, Harrow struggled to keep up as missed tackles and failure to secure the ball at the breakdown allowed Dulwich to take control. Dulwich's superior preparation and clinical execution meant the home team pulled away as the game progressed, eventually securing a 29-10 victory.

Yearlings D, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 12-47

Yearlings E, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 12-17

Yearlings F, Away v Dulwich College, Lost 17-27

RACKETS

The School v Radley, 12 September

1st, Away v Radley College, Won

Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, pulled through a tight match against a strong Radley pair. Nelson played some excellent attacking rackets, and Hufford-Hall dominated the final game.

2nd, Away v Radley College, Won 3-0

Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, and Henry Porter, *Moretons*, produced a fine display of serving and consistent rallying to secure a convincing victory.

Colts A, Away v Radley College, Lost 2-3

Despite a 2-3 loss both Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, and Ned Steel, *Druries*, showed plenty of promise with skilful play, and evident determination throughout.

FIVES

1st v OHs, 7 September

It was a great first day for the boys and the OHs who came to show off their skills. There were some promising performances, with Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, and Olly Filo, *The Park*, being the standouts from the boys' point of view.

The School v Eton, 12 September

1st, Away v Eton College, Lost 3-0

With Captain Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, not playing, it was a difficult day for the team experimenting with Eton's newly refurbished courts. However, there were some very encouraging efforts from Michael Samuelson, *The Head Master's*, and Rory Grant, *Moretons*, at second pair, and Judah Amankrah, *The Knoll*, and William Martin-Jenkins, *The Park*, at third pair. Angus Lao, *Moretons*, and Tony Shi, *The Grove*, also quickly got into their stride at 4th pair with some "titanic cuts from *The Grove's* own Tony Shi".

Colts A, Away v Eton College, Draw 1-1

A great performance from Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, and William Bearman, *Moretons*, produced a 2-1 win at first pair, giving Harrow a creditable draw overall.

Junior Colts A, Away v Eton College, Won 2-0

A solid performance from Woody Venville, *Lyon's*, and Henry Murray, *The Head Master's*, culminated in a 3-1 win. At second pair, Nabhan Chowdhury, *Lyon's*, with Noah John-Brown, *Lyon's*, also triumphed to give Harrow the overall win. A phenomenal day for the boys.

FENCING

Latymer School, 14 September

On Saturday, the Harrow fencing team faced Latymer School for their opening match of the season. Due to low numbers on Latymer's part, only the A teams for foil, sabre and epee were represented. The first match of the season started off with the Sabre A team, consisting of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Aiden Lee, *The Head Master's*, and Luke Pain, *The Head Master's*. In a dominant and measured performance, the Harrow Sabre As were victorious with an excellent scoreline of 45-33. All members of the team put on an excellent display of skill, as exemplified by Aiden Lee, *The Head Master's*, who pressed the opposition with precise and accurate swordplay. Next, the Epee A team, consisting of Cyrus Chang, *Druries*, Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, and team captain Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, engaged in an extremely close and hard-fought match which ultimately resulted in a victory on Harrow's part: 45-43. Exceptional performances from Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, and team captain Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, with positive hit indicators of 5 and 6 respectively, ultimately enabled Harrow to snatch this hard-earned victory. Finally, the Foil A team took to the piste, consisting of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Oliver Mak, *Newlands*, and Alexander Yong, *The Grove*. What followed was a swift match that ended in a resounding Harrow victory. Strong performances from Goff and Mak with positive hit indicators 11 and 9 respectively, were a result of effective capitalisation of mistakes and rapid adaptability, and it was this that allowed Harrow to run away with a strong 45-34 victory. Overall, Harrow won on foil, sabre and epee with an impressive overarching scoreline of 135-110. All members of the team were successful in this match, with valiant efforts from all. Saturday was a brilliant and successful start to a new season, and, hopefully, the team will carry this momentum with them for the duration of the year.

FOOTBALL

The School v Forest, 14 September

Development A XI, Home v Forest School 1st, Won 3-2, Friendly

A fantastic start to the season with the Development As playing some quality passing football in the opening 20 minutes to go 2-0 up with goals from Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, and Aris Aldrich-Blake-Ouzounis, *West Acre*. Two terrific goals drew Forest level and the Harrow team had to grit hard in the second half before Akachi Anyanwu, *The Grove*, scored a deserved winner in the final moments. This was a very positive start in terms of a committed team performance, and a hard-working display to dominate in the final ten minutes.

Development B XI, Home v Forest School 2nd, Won 1-0

The Dev Bs started quickly against Forest and created several chances from pressing high and winning the ball in the opposition's defensive third. If it were not for some excellent saves from the keeper, Toluwalase Akindele, *Newlands*, Tochi Orji, *The Park*, and AJ Anenih, *Rendalls*, would have all have got themselves on the scoresheet. The goal eventually came from Alex Edu's, *Lyon's*, corner, after the ball dropped in the middle of the box before Joel Otaruoh, *Lyon's*, smashed it home from 5 yards. Forest came back into the game towards the end of the first half.

Harrow responded well to the restart of play and began to put together longer periods of possession, in addition to looking very dangerous on the break. Despite numerous crosses into the box and plenty of opportunities, we were unable to add to our first-half goal. Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, Tobe Odogwu, *The Knoll*, and Babade Fasinro, *Lyon's*, were dominant at the back, ensuring that Forest barely had a sniff all game, apart from a one-on-one that Rawal shut down very quickly. Mikail Magomedov, *Rendalls*, was very impressive at left-back, calm in possession and strong in the tackle. Man of the match was captain Edu who, alongside fellow central-midfielder Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, controlled the game from the centre of the pitch. Edu set the tempo when we were in possession and was particularly effective at shutting down the opposition in the central spaces of the game.

Above all it was very pleasing to see this week's hard work on effective communication, transitions and making it difficult for the opposition all paying off! Great start for the MDfC.

Development C XI, Home v Forest School 3rd, Won 3-0, Friendly

This was a fine team effort. Two composed finishes from Julian Gudgeon, *Druries*, and a near-post poacher's goal from Damon Chiu, *Newlands*, secured the win, with Sebastian Aucott, *Lyon's*, producing a tenacious play-of-the-match performance in midfield.

BADMINTON

The School v Eton, 12 September

1st, Home v Eton College, Lost 2-6

In the first fixture of the new academic year, Harrow School faced a challenging match against Eton. The team entered the competition with enthusiasm and determination, eager to set a positive tone for the rest of the season. However, despite their best efforts, our players managed to secure victories in two of the eight matches.

The matches were intensely fought, and the bravery and effort displayed by our players as the results unfolded were nothing short of commendable. Each player gave their all on the court, demonstrating resilience even in the face of challenges. A special shout-out to Ron Liu, *Elmfield*, for his impressive debut for Harrow, where he showcased excellent skills and a strong fighting spirit throughout the games.

The School v Winchester, 14 September

1st, Home v Winchester College, Draw 4-4

After their match against Eton, the boys faced Winchester College in their second fixture of the season. Building on their experience from the previous match, the badminton team performed exceptionally well, demonstrating improved co-ordination and teamwork. The fixture ended in a 4-4 draw, with Harrow narrowly edging out Winchester by a point difference of 294 to 282. A special shout-out goes to Jackie Guo, *The Grove*, and Ron Liu, *Elmfield*, for winning both their games, making a significant contribution to the team's success. They also displayed great humility and sportsmanship by graciously conceding a disputed point as the hosts in a hard-fought game, and went on to win decisively, 21-17.

GOLF

1st, Away v West Sussex Invitational, 12 September

Harrow quickly found the dining room for some pre-match scrum (10/10 burger, chips and chicken goujons). Shortly after, the two pairings – Keiran Wee, *Newlands*, and Oliver Cheuk, *The Grove*, and, Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, and Bertie Bradley, *Druries* – received their debrief from the head of the juniors, Mary, and teed off the 1st hole with two lovely drives from Cheuk and Allday, setting them up for the rest of their foursomes round. Wee and Cheuk came into the clubhouse with 33 points, and Allday and Bradley with 32, putting the team joint first in the Handicap Stableford competition. Unfortunately, despite the team's hard efforts, they lost on countback to Cranleigh, placing them overall 2nd – Harrow's best finish in the competition with 15 schools entered this season.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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

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