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SIR VINCE CABLE

"How to be a Politician", 23 September, OH Room

On 23 September, the Palmerston Society welcomed Sir Vince Cable, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats and MP for Twickenham (1997–2015 and 2017–19). Sir Vince gave a striking talk, which was attended by over 80 boys and beaks. After a brief introduction from a society Secretary outlining his fascinating life and his work in Parliament, as a member of the coalition government of 2010, and as a lecturer at LSE, Sir Vince's lecture focused on the journey to becoming a politician in the modern era, from how one should present oneself as a leader to the idea of always pursuing what you believe and are invested in. Sir Vince began by reminding the audience of what it truly meant to be a politician in the UK and challenged the often negative view the public had of politicians in the 21st century. He recalled something Billy Connolly said that had stuck with him: "Anyone who expresses a desire to be a politician should be banned for life from ever becoming one." Sir Vince used this to show the different opinions the exist about pursuing a career in politics. Although he did acknowledge that there was an element of luck in politics, he stressed the importance of being persistent when running for office, and how part of being a successful MP was working hard towards one's goals. This notion resonated with Sir Vince who first ran for office in 1970 when he contested the Glasgow Hillhead seat as a Labour candidate. Sir Vince would stand a total of five times before he becoming an MP for the first time in 1997 at the age of 54 in the constituency of Twickenham, and with it demonstrating the benefit of perseverance in both politics and life.



Sir Vince continued to demonstrate the negative perception which the public have of politicians in the UK. He showed the audience a graph that displayed which professions the public viewed as being most trustworthy. Highest ranked were doctors, scientists and teachers, but right down at the bottom of the graph, with -52% trustworthiness, ranked politicians. Having spoken to other audience members after the talk, many agreed that this was not the most shocking of statistics. Sir Vince explained how, in the life of politician, it is never possible to please everyone and, because of the problematic decision making involved in the job, no matter the outcome of any scenario there will always be some people who disapprove of you.

In his next slide, Sir Vince reminded the audience of the high moral standards to which politicians are held – a standard far higher than the average person. Any slip in this standard, be it in personal or political life, will be met with fierce backlash by either the public or the press. Sir Vince also acknowledged that politics abides by the old adage that "doing is harder than saying". Without trying to directly reference any specific parties or people, he spoke cautiously about how, in an election, a party can, and often does, promise to instigate many grand reforms that will allegedly improve the country. There is often, however, a long and arduous process that must be carried out in order to achieve these changes, and, by this point, the promises have either failed to be fulfilled or demand for them has ceased to exist.

Sir Vince then discussed why each person's background matters so much when it comes to politics and how being open about it is crucial in garnering the public's confidence. For example, Angela Rayner has an incredible backstory of leaving school pregnant at the age of 15 without a proper education, to now having ascended the political ladder all the way to the role of deputy prime minister. He noted that this incredible backstory allowed her to be seen as more "human" by the public and, by being truthful and open, voters feel closer to her especially in comparison to how they might feel about many other MPs.

Sir Vince ended his insightful talk by discussing his personal entry into politics and the contrast it has with leaving the political scene. He left the audience with one final and deeply thought-provoking reminder that has been proven all too true by recent prime ministers: no political career ever ends well. Either through scandal or political failure, politicians rarely leave politics graciously. From Blair to Truss, Sir Vince proved that, regardless of any earlier success, politicians are often remembered for what they did wrong rather than right.

Overall, Sir Vince gave an enthralling insider's account of the life of a senior and veteran British politician through his own stories of politics and the wisdom that comes from it. Though he showed the tumultuous and difficult road that lay ahead of any future politician, Sir Vince still managed to inspire many with the benefits of giving back and providing for the community that an MP represents, and how, through politics, real change can be enacted.

HOUSE SCENES

Adjudicator Dr Joanne Bratton, Head of English St Paul's Girls School, Ryan Theatre, 25 September

The annual House Scenes competition traditionally provides an entertaining and atmospheric evening in the Ryan Theatre, and this year was no different. The theme of this year's competition was scenes chosen from a script written by a female author.

We were welcomed and informed of the structure of the night by our entertaining compères, Jasper Brockwell, *Druries*, and Teddy Barnett, *Rendalls*. The person trusted with the immensely difficult job of deciding the winner at the end of the evening

was Harrow's very own former Head of English and the current Head of English at St Paul's Girls School, Dr Joanna Bratten. It was delightful to see that the capacity of the stalls was put to the test significantly more than previous years, with boys and beaks from all year groups and Houses, coming to watch.

Tasked with opening the night were Moretons, who presented a scene from Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*. Dr Bratten noted at the end that the scene was well polished and thought through, as well as being neatly staged, with strong performances from all the actors involved. Following Moretons was The Park, who delivered an emotional and poignant scene from the film *1917*. Up next was The Grove, who presented the first comedy of the evening with a piece from *The Flick*, then it was the turn of The Knoll, who were the first of two Houses to take on J K Rowling's Harry Potter (commendation must be given to Jenkyn Keigwin, *The Knoll*, who nailed the voice of Dobby the house elf). Next up was Newlands, where, upon their introduction, an entire legion of boys took to the stage. Presenting a scene from the BBC sitcom *Ghosts*, the Newlands ensemble was fearless, chaotic and hilarious, and it was no doubt the most entertaining scene of the night. Dr Bratten added that she didn't have a clue what was going on, but thoroughly enjoyed it. Then came the West Acrians, performing a scene from the legendary *Pride and Prejudice* with nuance and passion, followed by Rendalls, who chose a scene from the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Night Mother*. With the added pressure of director Barnett having to fill in on the same day as the competition, the actors did a tremendous job at creating an intense and emotional atmosphere. Following Rendalls was Druries, who performed an extract from Agatha Christie's *A Witness for the Prosecution*. The scene was well put together, with Dr Bratten praising the detailed portrayal of Mrs Vole by Huw Griffiths, *Druries*. Next up were Bradbys who, after a tentative start, quickly relaxed into the scene, bringing to light the comedy of the television show *Miranda*. Then came The Head Master's, who were the second House to take on Harry Potter, doing well to stamp their own mark on such a famous scene. Following them was last year's winner, Lyon's, performing a scene from Yasmina Reza's *Art*. They did not disappoint, captivating the audience in a tense duologue, with Dr Bratten making a particular reference to the polished staging of the piece. Closing the night was Elmfield, taking on *American Psycho*, with Mac McDowell's, *Elmfield*, American accent being of great use when embodying Patrick Bateman.



At the end of the night, Dr Bratten delivered her adjudication and gave the adjudicator's award for best ensemble to Newlands, the runners up were both Lyon's and Druries, and Moretons were given the overall award for best scene. Once again, House Scenes proved an exciting and enjoyable evening, showcasing superb drama across the board.

CLASSICS TRIP TO GREECE

Part 3: Delphi

“μαντεῖον δὲ ὁ Κροῖσος ἐδέξατο τόδε: “ἐάν ὁ Κροῖσος ἐπὶ τοὺς Πέρσας στρατεύσῃ, μεγάλῃν ἀρχὴν καταλύσει.” (But Croesus received this Oracle [from Delphi]: “If Croesus should march against the Persians, he will destroy a great power.”)

– John Taylor, Greek to GCSE 2

Five hundred metres above sea level, hidden in the misty slopes of Mount Parnassus, there is a sacred site of magic and prophecy – Delphi. This was Apollo's realm, a sanctuary once littered with votive offerings of bronze. Here was the fabled centre of the Hellenistic world, where Zeus' two eagles met after circling the globe (you can still see the Omphalos stone at Delphi, the supposed bellybutton of the world). But most importantly, the Pythia – the prophetic priestess of Apollo's temple – dwelt in Delphi.

As we ascended the Parnassian slopes to the Temple of Apollo, a sublime and almost supernatural sentiment diffused through the air. Our days in Athens and Aegina were bursting with sunshine, but at Delphi, the sun hid its face behind a thin veil of clouds. Instead of the scorching heat, the Pythia's power radiated and reverberated all around us, deep in the green valley.

On our way up, we encountered the reconstructed Athenian Treasury. It was underwhelming in extravagance and grandeur and is no bigger than our Fourth Form Room. Yet, such a tiny building held the might of a grand civilisation. For simplicity is the ultimate sophistication – or as Editors of *The Harrovian* would know, brevity is the soul of wit (and the saviour of our Wednesday evenings). [If only this article could be as brief – Eds]



Here and there, a lonely cypress juts up into the aether, and dark mulberries are softly shed onto the purple-stained earth. In their gnarled trunks, ageless olive trees record the passing of countless years and magnanimous heroes. Nothing here is constant, except for the everlasting wisdom of three Delphic Maxims once inscribed upon the Temple of Apollo: “Know thyself”, “Nothing in excess” and “Give a pledge and trouble is at hand”.

The first is associated with Socrates' wisdom; in Plato's *Apology*, an account of Socrates' magnificent defence speech to the Athenian jury, the Delphic Oracle announces that “there was no man [in Athens] wiser [than Socrates]”. And yet, Socrates famously said “I neither know nor think I know.” In contrast, he points out many others who “know nothing, and think they know [something]”. The second Delphic Maxim is particularly relevant for beaks planning a prep rampage, and the third may be useful when considering whether to lend money to a friend. As Shakespeare put it 2000 years later, ‘Neither a borrower nor a lender be, For loan oft loses both itself and friend.’

With the sweet voice of wisdom whispering in our ears, we finally came to the Temple of Apollo. Before our eyes were the temple's stone foundations, unravelled like a map. And there

were the six remaining Doric columns, all standing at different heights. The first Temple of Apollo was built here in 700 BC, but it had long been destroyed by earthquake, wind and fire. What we saw was the third Temple of Apollo, constructed in 330 BC and collectively funded by city states across the Hellenic realm. Everyone wanted to hear the Oracle tell their fate and fortunes.



However, the Pythia would only appear on certain days of the year, and the dictation of the Oracle came with peculiar ceremonies. First, the Pythia herself must be purified by bathing in the nearby Castalian Spring, burning laurel leaves, and drinking holy water. Then, a goat would be sacrificed to Apollo. Finally, the oracle-seeker had to offer a pie to the Pythia before being allowed to enter the *naos* (inner temple), where prophecies were made.

There are many theories about the Pythia's prophetic powers. Some say that she was high on psychoactive substances from the fumes of burning herbs. Others believe that she was intoxicated by gases released from rocks underneath the temple. The Pythia herself stated that she simply relayed the divine oracles from Apollo.

The Delphic Oracle was immensely popular among the Greeks; so much so at one time that three Pythiai were working simultaneously in the Temple of Apollo! It is also prominently featured in Greek literature; at Delphi, Oedipus is told that he will kill his father and marry his mother.

Legend has it that King Croesus of Lydia consulted the Delphic Oracle before waging war against the Persian Empire. The Pythia replied, "If you go to war, you will destroy a great empire." Content with this good omen, Croesus invaded Persia, was defeated by Cyrus the Great, and thus destroyed his own empire. Ironically hubristic.

However, Delphi was not only a holy sanctuary to Apollo but also a focal point of sport and culture. Just like the Olympic Games in Olympia, the Pythian Games were held at Delphi every four years in honour of Apollo. Climbing above the Temple of Apollo, we encountered an ancient theatre shaped into the rock, with a capacity of 4,500 spectators – it would host performances of music and drama during the Pythian Games. With our strength already sapping, we reached the well-trodden

stadium at the top of the sanctuary.

In Delphic tradition, victors at the Pythian Games were commemorated with athletic statues, many of which survive today. At the nearby Delphi Archaeological Museum, we saw the immaculately preserved Charioteer of Delphi, a resplendent life-size bronze statue unearthed in 1896. Complete with silver eyelashes and black glass eyes, the charioteer even held bronze reins in his right hand. Its careful craftsmanship is astounding even today, never mind two and a half thousand years ago. Such human wonders require divine explanation. Perhaps it is time to seek the Pythia...

Next week, join us for a journey to Olympia, where you will discover the origins of the Olympic Games!

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

'The chemistry of colour: exploring the magic of reactions, Tony Shi, The Grove, 17 September

On 17 September, Tony Shi, *The Grove*, delivered a lecture entitled 'The chemistry of colour: exploring the magic of reaction'. During his talk, he conducted various experiments to illustrate the marvels of colour and explored the chemistry behind these wonderful physical traits.

Shi began by introducing a simple concept from GCSE Chemistry to identify whether a reaction has occurred – by a colour change. He then asked several passionate volunteers to demonstrate this by conducting an experiment involving "magic beakers" (eight beakers, each containing a trace amount of a certain compound). Starting with water, the contents of each beaker were poured into the next, and the solution transformed through a series of colourful changes.

Then Shi delved into the relation between light, colour and electromagnetic waves, explaining how to determine the colour of the compound by looking at what wavelength of colour it absorbs and thus deducing the colour it reflects (which we observe). These colours are complementary to each other and can be arranged in a colour wheel with complementary colours on opposite sides. A keen Grove gardener, Shi used the colour of chlorophyll to explain that compounds can absorb more than one wavelength of light and therefore the emitted colours can also be a mix of their complementary colours.

Next, Shi explained another fundamental factor that affects the colour of the compound – the atomic and electronic structure. He briefly described the evolution of the atomic structure from the Ancient Greek term *ἄτομος* (meaning uncuttable), which was first coined in 450BC, to the model of 'electron clouds' presented by Erwin Schrödinger in 1926. Shi then introduced the idea of electron sub-shells and orbitals from A Level Chemistry and explored their link to colours.

He then asked a few volunteers to perform the classical quintet of flame tests with metal salt solutions. This demonstrated that different metal ions have different colours when heated in a flame. Why is that? Shi explained this by looking into the quantisation of energy. When ions are heated, the electrons are excited as they move to an energy level with more energy and hence move up into a different orbital. The energy needed to do this is the quanta of energy, which are distinct amounts of energy. Then, a particular wavelength of light is emitted when the excited electrons lose their energy. With a larger energy gap, a higher energy and frequency of light (with a shorter wavelength) is emitted, thus shifting the colour towards the violet end of the EM spectrum. Therefore, potassium ions (with higher-energy electrons) burn with a lilac colour, while lithium ions (with lower-energy electrons) burn with a red colour.

Shi then discussed transition metal complexes, which are formed when central metal ions are surrounded by ligands

(molecules or ions which donate electron pairs through coordinate bonds). Ligands, such as water or ammonia, influence the metal complex's properties and colour. Colourful transition metal complexes, such as the sapphire blue of hydrated copper (II) sulfate, are caused by interactions between the electron pair of the ligands and the metal's d-orbital electrons.

By the geometry of ligands around the central metal ion, certain d-orbitals experience more repulsion, increasing their energy and creating an energy gap with the other orbitals. For an octahedral complex (such as hydrated copper (II) sulfate), d-orbital splitting occurs and two of the five d-orbitals are promoted to a higher energy state. When white light shines on the complex, certain wavelengths (and hence colours) can be absorbed to excite an electron from a lower-energy d-orbital to a higher-energy d-orbital. And the colour we see is usually its complementary colour.



Shi also talked about how π -bond conjugation can affect the colour demonstrated by indicators in acid-base chemistry. This is very important because colours we see every day, such as lycopene, the red colour of tomatoes in The Grove's garden, exist thanks to π -bond conjugation. Shi then performed the highly anticipated experiment of the evening – the “magic bottle”. The magic bottle (containing methylene blue indicator dissolved in ethanol and glucose solution) is colourless at rest, but when you shake it, the solution becomes blue. If you leave it to rest for a little longer, the solution goes back to colourless. The bottle turns blue because the colourless (leuco-) form of methylene blue is oxidized to its blue form by oxygen in the air. However, if you leave the solution, the glucose reduces the blue methylene blue, turning it colourless again.

Shi concluded this exploration of colour by discussing quantum dots, highlighting their significance in display technologies such as QDLED TVs. Quantum dots are nanoparticles of semiconductors which have a crystalline structure. These tiny clumps of atoms are carefully controlled in size, allowing them to display consistent colours. Quantum dots function due to the principle of particle-wave duality, where electrons can simultaneously behave as both particles and waves. Though made from the same materials, differing sizes of quantum dots constrict the electron wave by different proportions and thus emit different colours of light. Larger quantum dots allow electron waves with a longer wavelength and emit red light, while smaller quantum dots limit electrons to a shorter wavelength to emit blue light. Thanks to their importance in digital displays and biomedical imaging, the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots was recognised in the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Finally, Shi reminded us that colour is ultimately nature's chemical wonder by showing the kaleidoscopic range of colours produced by adding various acids and bases to an indicator made from boiled red cabbage.

Overall, it was a very fascinating and well-prepared lecture that delved into the complicated science behind colours while keeping the audience engaged through vibrant chemical reactions and demonstrations. Mammoth thanks to JCA and the lab technicians, without whose help none of the demonstrations would be possible!

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

*The internal workings of coral reefs, Arun Mattu,
The Head Master's, 24 September*

Arun Mattu, *The Head Master's*, gave a fascinating talk on coral reefs and marine biology to the Scientific Society. He covered several critical topics in-depth, starting with how coral reefs form around volcanic islands. Initially, a fringing reef develops as coral grows around the nutrient-rich waters surrounding an island. Over time, as the island subsides, the reef evolves into a barrier reef with a lagoon separating it from the island. Eventually, the volcanic island sinks entirely, leaving behind an atoll, a ring-shaped reef. Mattu illustrated this process with well-known examples, such as the Great Barrier Reef, the largest reef in the world, stretching over 1,600 miles off Australia's east coast, and the Andros Reef in the Bahamas.

He further explored the biodiversity of coral reefs, focusing on the seven major groups of animals found there, including marine mammals, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, cnidaria, marine reptiles, and echinoderms. Mattu highlighted the importance of corals as the foundational species responsible for creating the reef structure through their calcium carbonate skeletons. Furthermore, he explained the coral reef food chain, emphasizing the role of sunlight in enabling coral polyps to photosynthesize and support a diverse range of marine life. Key species like sea turtles, which consume algae, and sharks, which occupy the top of the food chain, were discussed in detail. Fun facts were also present: Mattu explained that while most sharks are cold-blooded, species like the great white are warm-blooded to retain enough energy for hunting.

A key aspect of the presentation was the explanation of coral health and the threat of coral bleaching. Mattu described how rising ocean temperatures cause stress in corals, leading them to expel the zooxanthellae algae, which provides them with essential nutrients through photosynthesis. Without this algae, the corals turn white and are unable to sustain themselves, leading to widespread coral death if conditions do not improve. He noted that coral bleaching has three stages: healthy coral, stressed coral, and bleached coral. However, if ocean temperatures stabilize, coral bleaching can be reversed within a limited time frame, allowing reefs to recover.

Mattu concluded his presentation by addressing the environmental impacts of coral reef loss and potential restoration methods. He emphasized that coral reefs are not only vital for marine biodiversity but also serve as natural carbon sinks, storing up to four times more carbon than rainforests. He introduced the concept of coral frames, a technique used in restoration efforts. These artificial structures support coral growth and help restore damaged reefs, although the process can take decades, as coral grows slowly. Mattu ended on an optimistic note, stating that with proper restoration efforts and environmental management, coral reefs can be revived, preserving their critical role in marine ecosystems.

ATLANTIC SOCIETY & PALMERSTON SOCIETIES

*Armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East:
is there a role for international justice?, Dr Phani
Dascalpoulou-Livada, 24 September*

The Atlantic and Palmerston Societies met to listen to Dr Phani Dascalpoulou-Livada on the subject of ‘Armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East: is there a role for international justice?’. Dr Livada has worked all over the world, but it was in her capacity as chief legal advisor to the Greek Prime Minister

and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs that she visited us on the Hill. During her time in both positions, she carefully followed the UN Committee's deliberations for the creation of the International Criminal Court, specifically oriented towards the inclusion of the 'crime of aggression', in the ICC statute, which was finally achieved. Dr Livada's contributions to the addition of the crime of aggression into the ICC's statute, made it the newest (and fourth) crime, to fall within the ICC's jurisdiction, defined as: 'the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, integrity or independence of another State.' The crime of aggression is of particular relevance in relation to the Ukraine war and the Israel-Palestine conflict, as the headlines of both conflicts continue to dominate our news.



Dr Livada began with a brief history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, never weighing one side more than the other and emphasising the complexities of the issue. As someone who worked closely with the UN, she believes it is the responsibility of the UN and international law to prevent war and human suffering as far as possible, though ultimately the disputes must be settled internally.

With UN fumbles such as the Rwanda Genocide of 1994 (800,000 dead in 100 days) or their failure to resolve the Syrian War, it's easy to think the UN ineffective. However, as Dr Livada made clear, during flare-ups of violence, especially in Gaza, the UN has played a role in negotiating ceasefires, often working with regional actors like Egypt and Qatar to halt hostilities. Again, in the Ukraine war, the UN has given humanitarian assistance through agencies like the UNHCR and the World Food Programme, providing aid to thousands of displaced people.

I got the chance to speak to Dr Livada before the lecture, and I asked her about the discrepancies and ineffectiveness of the ICC (International Criminal Court), and whether these pitfalls made the organisation worth its meagre allowance. I was referring specifically to the 2010 Kampala Review Conference in which it was agreed that the crime of aggression should be added to the ICC's statute. What followed was eight years of deliberation until finally, in 2018, the ICC and its member countries decided to begin enforcing the crime of aggression after having collectively ratified it, ostensibly welcoming in an era of accountability. Of course, during the time it took individual countries to ratify the crime of aggression, Russia annexed Crimea, and Saudi Arabia launched aggressive military action in Yemen. The knock-on effects of the slowness of the ICC are clear, and range from terrifying hybrid warfare to the Houthis.

She replied that as long as regulations and networks exist in the form of the ICC, countries may more easily collaborate and unite agendas. Of course the agendas of any two countries are seldom in tandem, though perhaps on grander issues the ICC provides the framework for action.

As it was in the League of Nations, the big players rule the roost. Dr Livada gave the example of Vladimir Putin's recent visit to Mongolia in early September. Mongolia is a member country

of the UN and has agreed to enforce the crime of aggression when necessary. However, when President Putin landed in Mongolia, he was met with adoring crowds and a pair of open arms from Mongolian president Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh. In March 2023, the ICC had issued an arrest warrant for President Putin, obliging Mongolia, as a UN member, to arrest Putin on the spot, but, given the country's close proximity to Russia and reliance on Russian trade, they had no choice but to default on the promise they had made to the ICC and the UN.

A question came from the crowd asked whether international involvement would do anything more than exacerbate the problem. Dr Livada, being an advocate of 'teamwork' in the international sense, said she believes humanitarian aid to be an important international contribution, but when a war between two countries develops into a proxy battle between ideologies, further involvement will only cause trouble.

As with every good lecture, the Q&A section after the talk lasted almost as long as the talk itself with plenty of questions from the crowd including several beaks (RKB included). Dr Livada was kind enough to return to the Hill after the lecture she gave last year, and on behalf of both Atlantic and Palmerston Societies we implore her to come again.

PIGOU SOCIETY

*'Finance and hedging', Jason He, The Head Master's,
25 September*

After a warm round of applause, the Pigou Society hosted Jason He, *The Head Master's*, who gave a captivating lecture regarding the interrelation of hedging (a form of strategy used to reduce or eliminate the risk of adverse price movements in an asset) and calculus (a branch of mathematics that focuses on studying how things change using differentiation and integration). He explained the unpredictability of the financial market using the phrase '*Rara Avis in terris nigroque simillima cygno*' from Juvenal, a famous Roman poet. This phrase, penned in 16th-century London, regarded the presumption that all swans must be white, since all historical reports have proven so, leading people believing that black swans do not exist. However, in 1697, Dutch explorers found a swan with undeniably dark feathers, ripping this presumption to shreds. Employing this example as a paradigm for others, an inappropriate rationalisation could lead to catastrophic collapse of a fragile realm of thought. A set of solid conclusions could be undone overnight if there is only a tiny flaw in the fundamental axioms. In this case, the observation of a single black swan has led to the disparagement of the ancient saying of thousands of years.

He then referenced the book *Fooled by Randomness* by Nassim Taleb, in which the black swan event was discussed. Taleb disagrees with the idea of certainty in the financial market, claiming that the variety of determinants that catalyses, effectuates and inaugurates the sector revolves around a complex of utter randomness that would be extremely difficult for a definitive model to forecast the future state and status, therefore the future remains. With huge possibilities, a choice opens endless risks. He touched upon the concept of risk and return, a central foundation of investment decisions and the behaviour of financial markets. Risk refers to the uncertainty associated with the potential outcomes of an investment, including the possibility of losing some or all the initial capital. Return, on the other hand, represents the financial gain or loss derived from an investment over a specified period. Investments with higher potential returns, such as stocks or venture capital, typically come with greater risk, as their value can fluctuate significantly. Conversely, safer investments, like government bonds, tend to

offer lower returns, as the risk of losing capital is minimal. However, is there a possibility of finding risk-free investment?

Using a realistic Minecraft-themed game, he demonstrated with ease the modelling of financial markets using Brownian Motion and its application in stock prices. Brownian Motion, a random process first identified in the movement of pollen grains in water, is used to explain the random fluctuations in stock prices. Mathematically, stock prices can be described as following a geometric Brownian motion, with two key components: drift (the general trend) and diffusion (volatility, or randomness). The basic equation for modelling stock prices is expressed as:

$$dS(t) = \mu S(t) dt + \sigma S(t) dB(t) \quad dS(t) = \mu S(t) dt + \sigma S(t) dB(t)$$

where $S(t)$ is the stock price at time (t) , μ is the drift (or expected return), σ is the volatility (or diffusion term), and $dB(t)$ is the increment in Brownian motion. This equation, foundational to numerous financial models, illustrates the interplay between randomness (represented by Brownian motion) and predictable tendencies in influencing stock values. Ito's Lemma is also introduced to extend the basic calculus tools to stochastic calculus, allowing for a more accurate modelling of complex financial instruments such as options.

To conclude, he further illustrated how dynamic hedging techniques can be applied to minimise risk, allowing investors to use financial derivatives, such as options, to offset potential losses by balancing risky and safe assets within a portfolio.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LECTURE SERIES

Transformation, Part 1: Father S P Seaton, 'How Christianity made the modern world (and why the West will die without it)', 23 September

At 9.10pm on 23 September 2024 AD, in the Old Speech Room Gallery, our Dchool community was given a lecture by Father Stuart P. Seaton on the influence and importance of Christianity on the West. The lecture focused on four central areas of Western civilisation: culture, morality, science and secularism.

Western culture today owes much to Christianity, from our time system (BC/AD) to language, architecture and education. Christianity in Western culture is visible from the literature of the King James Bible; it encompasses expressions like 'holidays' (from 'Holy Day'), and the architecture of cathedrals, chapels and monasteries. Many universities, which play a key role in the development of our society, were founded as Christian institutions. Additionally, Christianity preserved much classical knowledge through monks' work, saving another major influence on the West from extinction. However, Fr Stuart also conveyed a dirgeful message: Christianity's influence is fading. 'Common Era' now replaces BC/AD, religious expressions are declining, cathedrals are no longer built, and universities are fully secular.

Our modern concept of morality builds on the idea that all humans are equal and therefore all deserve the same rights. This concept of universal equality among humans is often based on the idea that we are each made in the image of God and therefore all have absolute value. Social justice, which dictates that everyone contributes what they can and gets what they need, is a fundamentally Christian principle. Regarding the equality of all humans, Christianity's main competitor is the idea that all humans are fully capable of being rational beings and are therefore equal. While logical, this concept is often difficult to grasp and uphold, hence why Robespierre created the Cult of Reason to make it more accessible. Without this moral compass, the speaker argued, the West risks descending into a

state where moral relativism could erode its social fabric. The danger of losing those morals can be seen in the exploitation of humans and the environment.

In an especially interesting segment, Fr Stuart talked about the influence of Christianity on science and its development in the West. Contrary to popular belief, he argued that Christianity was not opposed to science but indeed an essential foundation of modern-day science. He pointed to early modern scientists, who were deeply religious and saw their scientific endeavours as ways of understanding God's creation. It was suggested that the Christian worldview, which claims an orderly and rational universe governed by natural laws, provided the philosophical framework that enabled the scientific method to flourish. This concept of an rational universe can also be found in ancient Greece, but, as previously mentioned, we might not even be able to know this were it not for Christian monks. This interconnection, between faith and reason, Fr Stuart contended, was critical to the development of scientific inquiry in the West and without it, science would be abused by ideologies (e.g. in Nazi Germany).



The lecture concluded with a reflection on secularism, an increasingly dominant force in Western societies. Fr Stuart, while acknowledging the West's shift toward secular values, questioned whether secularism could sustain itself without the moral and cultural foundations laid by Christianity since its keystone is a passage from the Bible. It was suggested that the decline of religious influence could lead to a vacuum in which the guiding principles that have long underpinned Western civilisation may falter unless they are replaced by a new, perhaps unconscious, form of religion. Fr Stuart warned of a potential moral and cultural decline if secularism continues to strip away the Christian underpinnings of Western institutions and values, leaving the West vulnerable to losing its identity and cohesion.

The lecture left the audience with much to think about, raising critical questions about the future of Western civilisation in an increasingly secular world. The discussion underscored the need for a deeper understanding of Christianity's historical contributions, while also opening the floor to debates about the role of faith in modern society. The importance of Christianity's role is best seen by the number of times it was abused to allow for incredible inequality and cruelty (e.g. slavery in the confederacy, colonialism or feudalism) or was abolished to blind the people into committing the utmost crimes against humanity (e.g. in Nazi Germany).

As the evening drew to a close, the audience left the OSRG with a renewed appreciation for the intricate relationship between faith and civilisation – a reminder that the threads of history are often more intertwined than we may realise. The lecture proved to be not only a lesson in history and philosophy but also a call for reflection on the values that will shape the West in the years to come. Ultimately, we don't want to end up in a world in which nothing is true and everything is permitted.

METROPOLITAN

JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE

Season 1 Review

JoJo's Bizarre Adventure has a reputation, an online presence and a cultural significance that all have completely different understandings and interpretations of this brilliant piece of fiction. Today I would like to discuss the anime adaptation of *JoJo's* Season 1 and explore my journey from ignorance to obsession with this amazing series.

Firstly, as with most people, I knew of *JoJo's* but only through memes and the amazing Golden Wind theme from Part 5, which was impossible to not hear back in 2018–19, but I knew nothing about the actual series until one day I decided to bite the bullet and started reading the manga.

It was nothing like I expected. It took place in 1888 in England and followed Jonathon Joestar (JoJo) and Dio Brando, with a plot surrounding a stone mask that gave mysterious powers. But even though it had an interesting premise, and I was enjoying it more than I thought I would, I just stopped reading after two or three chapters and never picked it back up again. Then I went to Japan!



I was waiting for an internal flight and, for whatever reason, I decided to start watching the anime adaptation on Netflix and watched Season 1 during the rest of the trip. The first part, 'Phantom Blood', was quite enjoyable, but I feel the plot dragged in some places and failed to keep me fully engaged. A real highlight for me was the opening theme as it offered a sense of hype every time I started a new episode and prepared me for the next part of the adventure. By the end of Part 1 (nine episodes in), I enjoyed it, but I didn't love it. Then Part 2 started...

I love Part 2. I love Joesph Joestar. I love everything about it: the music, characters both good and bad, the new and exciting way in which the power system Hamon was used. Again, the opening was brilliant and has slowly become one of my favourite openings of all time ('Bloody Stream' for anyone wants a taste of it). Joesph Joestar is one of the best characters I have ever seen. His arrogance due to his abilities and amazing battle instincts makes him a much funnier and arguably much more interesting character than his grandfather, both because he is not afraid to run away, unlike Jonathon, who was a proper gentleman in every sense of the word.

The setting being in 1938 is equally as brilliant, and the scope of the narrative was greatly increased because of the technological advancements that fitted with the historic context. As well as being a perfect way to see some of our favourite characters from the first part 50 years on, Part 2 is what made me understand the 'JoJo hype' that people talk about.

I watched the dubbed version of the show, and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to get into an anime in English, because the voice actors are brilliant, especially Joesph Joestar, it is one of the reasons his character works so well. Overall, this is an extremely brilliant show that will make you feel a wide range of emotions in such a short period of time that you will be both tearing up and laughing at the same time. So, I bid you, please embark on this bizarre adventure for yourself!

FINDERS KEEPERS, HELLENES WEEPERS?

When Lord Elgin first encountered the Parthenon, on the Acropolis in Athens, it was in a sorry state. Most recently, the Ottomans had used the sacred temple as an ammunition depot, and it had taken direct fire from the Venetians when they attacked the city during the sixth (yes, sixth) Ottoman-Venetian war. An incoming round on 26 September 1687 sparked an explosion, and the Parthenon went up in flames. Some of its famous sculptures, or metopes, depicting the battle of men with Centaurs and Amazons, and the Fall of Troy, supposedly by the hand of the great Greek sculptor Pheidias, were strewn on the ground.

It is true that no one much cared for the Marbles when Lord Elgin carted them off (and in some cases pulled them down and even sawed them in half to facilitate transport) – though the famous OH Lord Byron, famously, called him a “paltry antiquarian” and his agents “despicable”. The Ottoman rulers of Greece signed a legal document, allowing Lord Elgin to export about half of the surviving Marbles in 1801. When the Marbles finally got to London (after a few mishaps, including one shipwreck and resulting recovery mission), Elgin attempted to persuade several artists to restore them, but they demurred. So when the sculptures went on display, they caused a stir. Previously, ancient sculpture meant highly restored, perfectly white statues, often Roman copies of Greek originals. No one had seen unrestored antiquities displayed in a gallery as art, and not merely archaeological curiosity.

The Elgin Marbles, also known as the Parthenon Marbles, became an event in the history of art. They also soon became the greatest treasure of the British Museum's collection after Elgin, in need of money, sold them to the Crown in 1816.

But, in 1983, the Greek government made its first formal request for their return. Though that state had not existed when Elgin exported the Marbles, and he had technically done everything above board (or as above board as could be done), the Greeks have insisted for more than four decades that the Marbles belonged in Athens. They were exported by a colonising power, for one. But really, their argument is not a legal one. It is an ethical one instead: the Parthenon has become the symbol of modern Greek democracy, and its crown belongs to Greece.

During the Second World War, the British government even considered returning the Marbles as a reward for Greece's assistance in fighting Nazi Germany. But the “gesture of friendship” (rather than formal restitution, to avoid setting a precedent that might result in too many antiquities being called into question) stalled over the conditions that might be imposed – and of course, there was a war on. Once Greece raised the topic again, the British Museum was ready with a battery of arguments to fend off their request.

First, the British Museum claimed that it was the only safe place to preserve the Marbles. But in 2009, the Greeks opened the state-of-the-art Parthenon Museum at the foot of the Acropolis, ready to receive the Marbles. And just this year it came to light that one of the British Museum's curators had

stolen nearly 2,000 antiquities from its collection and sold them online, which rather undercut the institution's credibility.

The other argument frequently made is that the Marbles belong to the history of all humanity, and are best understood in the context of a "universal museum" that has a global audience. But while there is some merit to this idea, it has largely gone out of fashion, as criticism of colonialism has become more widespread. Whether or not the curators still believe in the universal museum, at this point the British Museum has endured so much criticism and bad publicity that insisting on its inherent virtue may result in a Pyrrhic victory.

George Osborne, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and chairman of the British Museum's board, has for several years been working towards a loan arrangement. The British Museum's new director seems to support such a deal, and it has been reported that the prime minister would not stand in the way. It might help the British Museum regain some respect in the public eye, and it would certainly not hurt Britain's global image.

OPINION

STARMER WARS THE RETURN OF THE SAUSAGES.

*Is Keir really up to fixing Britain?, in this first edition
of the Palmerston Society Political Journal*

"I call again for the immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and for the return of the Sausages"

-Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC, 24/09/24, in a speech at the Labour Party Conference.

While the evening of 4 July was like a muddy haze, the morning of 5 July is one I remember very well. The day before, I had sat my IGCSE Maths paper (which, as I would later learn, I had completely bombed). Nevertheless, I awoke with a keen excitement. Indeed, my memories of it feel not at all dissimilar to the memories of the Christmases of my childhood. I pulled on my pyjamas, scuttled down the stairs and, with a wide, hopeful grimace, barrelled into my living room, wherein I found my family glumly sat watching the news; champagne in the fridge, arms crossed meekly, and the party hats saying 'Satan loves Starmer' which we had bought the day before discarded in a heap on the floor. It was at that instant that I knew that Keir Starmer was the prime minister.

Truthfully, however, I would not say that I was disappointed. I, as did many members of the swinging community (as I have come to call the "upper-middle class"), had a strange, insidious kind of hope alive, however flutteringly, in my heart. Keir, although in many ways an unappealing choice as the patriarch of the English tribe, was our chance at change. His rhetoric in the Palace of Westminster promised a "new era", and a "chance to rebuild". Indeed, I do believe that a new era is exactly what is coming our way as a species, whether Britain is ready or not. The hierarchy of nations has changed, or is in the unstoppable process of changing, and, as Hegel tells us not to fear, nothing will really be the same again. Britain no longer has an empire and must come to terms with this fact. And policies which promised co-operation with this Brave New World, and yet which did not tread on the toes of Britain's heritage and successes, which, all together, moved our slovenly nation into the future as a bright star amongst a sky of them, were exactly what Sir Keir Starmer was promising. Labour, in its manifesto, had okay-ish policies with which the socialist within me could

agree. He promised to reform planning laws, removing power from local government, allowing for the continuation of projects which our nation had so embarrassingly stumbled over. He promised the establishment of a national wealth fund and (in vague terms) nationalisation of the railways. His policies were clean, sanitary and, perhaps, senile. But they struck a perfect, laboured-over balance. Indeed, in his 2020 manifesto, Keir suggested "the abolition of the House of Lords", so I was also pleased to see a deradicalisation of his party's rogue aspects.

And yet, after over four months of the Starmer premiership, I cannot decide whether I am satiated or wetly disappointed. It is like that awful moment in football when a hyped-up player slips up on a loose shoe lace in the box. The only thing one can is... "what now?"

Simply put, too much was expected and too much was promised.

Labour's policies, while not nearly radical enough to actually achieve this aim, promise to fix a "broken Britain". But what exactly does this mean, and is it exactly true?

Certainly, on the surface, Britain may appear to be on the losing end of some catastrophic joke. To the average Brit, Britain is at a "new low" (as one Labour MP has stated) "in its history". The trains, perhaps, are a good example. A train journey, one might think, takes longer now than ever in history. When the trains actually are operating, they smell, are overcrowded and rock in an unpleasant way. Indeed, as one commentator pointed out (as with football, cricket and colonialism), "we were there first, now we're the worst". It also seems to be commonly accepted that the British economy is failing, perhaps because of the endless torrent of BBC articles beginning with "The Bank of England predicts..." and the common usage of various misleading phrases like "cost of living crisis". Self-deprecating factors such as these, combined with an increase of closed shops on high streets, drug use at an all time high and a particularly unstable political sphere, naturally leads the average man in the torrent of all this to say that Britain is dying. Many British Harrovians whom I've asked even suggest that in the future they want to move to America or some such place, so as to "flee the sinking ship".

But, when appreciated in a world context, Britain is not "dying" at all. Whilst rail disruption in this nation is annoying (7.95% of trains did not reach their destination in 2023), it's nowhere near as bad as Germany (the old "bastion of efficiency"), where only 64% of long distance and 91% of Regional DB trains actually reached their destinations, let alone on time. In a similar way, now let us consider the UK economy. In comparison with our European "friends", are we behind? No, we are not. In fact, Britain has recovered relatively well from Covid in comparison to our European neighbours, as a result, it must be said, of Jeremy Hunt's responsible, if tenuous, leadership.

The recent government guidelines show that in the second quarter of 2024, UK GDP grew by 0.6% compared to 0.3% in the EU and 0.4% in the US. As of August, Government borrowing has decreased by £ 300 Million, as have NHS waiting lists whilst Consumer confidence has increased (according to GFK index). And, whilst the unemployment rate (4.2%, as of 27th of September) was above that of Germany and the US, it is almost half that of France (7.5%).

If we are "flat broke", as Keir Starmer has stated, it is obviously not because the economy is broken. It is because we have just survived the deadliest virus in a century, in which every man and woman had to cower in their homes without coming outside (in a time without tinned food, this would have meant famine for most). The economy is clearly growing, so there is not a great need for the fight or flight rhetoric which Starmer is whipping up in Parliament, which badgering suggests that Britain needs a lifeguard to save it. We, as we were before Covid, are genuinely growing.

However, that is not to say that our nation is without need of reform. Our key institutions, which we so endlessly cling to for meagre pride, such as the NHS, are clearly malfunctioning

in some ways. I am in no ways denying that rusting nuclear submarines, obese military reserves and overcrowded hospitals are not a need for concern. But, alas, what has Keir offered? A simultaneous insistence both that we ought to change in some radical way and yet a clear lack of ambition to do so.

To use one example, when asked about immigration, he stated: "The politics of national renewal are collective. They involve a shared struggle. A project that says, to everyone, this will be tough in the short term but, in the long term, it's the right thing to do for our country. And we all benefit from that." (Evening Standard, 25/09/24)

But what does this statement actually mean? Any boy who is a member of the debating circuit will be familiar with this kind of waffle: "shared struggle", "national renewal" and "tough in the short term, but right in the long term" are statements I have certainly heard Robert Young use at various points in his 'career'. But they mean nothing: they are like little vegetables bobbing in a soup made of LIES! The Rwanda policy, though perhaps ill-conceived, was not at all hateful or malicious. It was a genuinely diplomatic, pragmatic and rational attempt to solve an issue. And yet Labour backbenchers debated every point surrounding it during Rishi's tenure. But now that Starmer is in the throne, the best he can do is offer slogans.

There are simply thousands of examples of this pathetic statesmanship, which makes me yearn even for the likes of Anthony Eden. He says that he supports Israel, and yet denounces it. He calls for economic reform, and yet claims that he doesn't want England to become "nuevo Singapore". And he hails a new era of government, but is as crooked as any other politician that came before.

What we need now more than ever is a new approach to politics. We need policies which neither look to the past (like the national wealth fund, Starmer's ill-fated nod to Atleeism, or Brexit, a clear nod to the Hundred Years War) nor ones that declare a new age for egalitarianism (such as bills that welcome illegal immigrants as brothers). We need ones that do what is right to grow and persevere as a healthy, adult nation. Like, as I see it, removing complete universally unpaid healthcare. But, instead, Keir has flip-flopped with policies that achieve nothing, and yet seem as though they, just maybe, might. Such as, for instance, his VAT private school reform: a senseless policy from a place of Robespierrian bitterness.

So, overall, is Britain doomed? Well, not really. But do we need change? Absolutely. And is Sir Keir Starmer, oh retriever of sausages, the answer? Dear reader, I posit not. To defend the Conservative government is somewhat of a *Noli me Tangere* in British journalism, and yet I cannot help but yearn for the days of Theresa May, who at the time was heralded as the worst prime minister of all time, but now appears to me to be a beacon of an uneasy, somewhat tipsy national worth and rationality, which has been lost.

HOLY WRIT

Acknowledging our greatness

A few weeks ago, in a letter from no less a spiritual authority than the HR department, beaks were invited to 'Acknowledge your greatness'. This immediately resonated with a passage of Pascal's *Pensées* that I had been reading just the evening before, but more on him later. The missive enumerated concrete steps one could take to make such an acknowledgment, including making a list of anything that generates 'a flicker of pride', silencing our 'critical inner voice', and taking 'some time to let pride absorb into your being'. On the other hand, we were encouraged to fulfil our obligations even when it becomes difficult to do so, to be a reliable emotional support to our family and friends, to focus on the possibilities for virtue in

small acts of kindness, and the importance of being merciful to oneself. From the Christian perspective, it was much like the current break-time biscuit selection in the Masters' Common Room, containing as it does both the heaven that is the Jammie Dodger and the insipid hell that is the "chocolate" Rich Tea biscuit, which somehow tastes both worse and less than the original, like the shadow cast on a wall by a Rich Tea biscuit poorly illuminated by a badly flickering fluorescent bulb.

Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that it was a real mixed bag, morally speaking. Proverbs 29:23 says 'A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.' In the Christian worldview, pride is the first step in the wrong direction, because it is a step towards oneself rather than towards God. To continue to walk in that direction is to become slowly more and more self-absorbed, and the destination of that journey is to get exactly what one wants: only and entirely oneself. (Read C S Lewis's *The Great Divorce* for one of the best literary portrayals of that reality.)

For the Christian, the right way – the narrow way – is the opposite way: away from oneself (the imperfect) to God (the perfect). 'Honour shall uphold the humble' is both a great verse because it allows me to mention two School values in a single breath (that'll be two commendations please), and because it expresses so clearly the Christian perspective that denial of self is the true way to try self-actualisation. All great truths are paradoxical. 'For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.'

Furthermore, Christians have a name for one such 'critical inner voice' that we are called on by the HR department to silence: namely our conscience, and while, like us, it is not perfect, listening to that 'still small voice' can lead to greater virtue and self-knowledge. Even Immanuel Kant, that great prophet of the Enlightenment, who tried in vain to locate the ground of morality outside of the transcendent goodness of God, acknowledged the primacy of conscience, writing in his *Critique of Practical Reason*, 'Two things fill my mind with ever new and increasing admiration and reverence: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me'. To paraphrase St Paul, our conscience is the law written on our hearts.

So what has Blaise Pascal to do with all of this, the Frenchman known more as a mathematician, and whom A-Level students of Mathematics will know only by his eponymous triangle of binomial coefficients? Well, Pascal was also a great philosopher, and once of the first truly modern Christian apologists – not modern in the narrow-minded sense that he was somehow superior to Augustine or Aquinas because the year he was born in was a bigger number – but modern in the sense that he speaks to modern man, knowing his unique flaws. I leave you therefore with Pascal's reflection on the importance – and the danger – of acknowledging your greatness, and – as I do so – humbly imploring the HR department for their mercy.

'It is dangerous to make man see too clearly his equality with the brutes without showing him his greatness. It is also dangerous to make him see his greatness too clearly, apart from his vileness. It is still more dangerous to leave him in ignorance of both. But it is very advantageous to show him both. Man must not think that he is on a level either with the brutes or with the angels, nor must he be ignorant of both sides of his nature; but he must know both.'

'Let man now know his value. Let him love himself, for there is in him a nature capable of good; but let him not for this reason love the vileness which is in him. Let him despise himself, for this capacity is barren; but let him not therefore despise this natural capacity. Let him hate himself, let him love himself; he has within him the capacity of knowing the truth and of being happy, but he possesses no truth, either constant or satisfactory.'

'All these contradictions, which seem most to keep me from the knowledge of religion, have led me most quickly to the true one.'

MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL MUSIC

As we burrow ourselves deeper into the treacherous trenches of the Michelmas Term, let us have music to illuminate our souls. (Or send them into spiralling darkness...)

Indie/Folk Music of the Week

Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire – *The Swimming Hour*

Andrew Bird, virtuoso violin player, moody vocalist and professional whistler, faced an artistic dilemma at the turn of the century – the frontman of a jazz quartet at the forefront of the swing revivalist movement, his esoteric approach had made him an indie darling. He had also just purchased his first modern record in years and was deeply affected by the sonic innovations and genre-bending at the core of the alternative music scene. *The Swimming Hour* is the sonic rationalisation of this dichotomy – an album that sprawls across genres, moods and styles, it remains remarkably cohesive, bound together by the enigma hidden behind the violin. A rewarding listen and a remarkable gem of a record.

Rock Music of the Week

David Bowie – *Low*

After recording *Station to Station* in a cocaine-and-fasting-induced haze, David Bowie fled Los Angeles, escaping to Berlin. Here, *Low* would be recorded as the first in his 'Berlin trilogy'. Though no longer on the junk, Bowie remained defiant in his desire to conquer genre and innovation, presenting an album constructed from sounds never before experienced, even featuring the beginnings of electro-ambient music on side B. From the opening whirs of 'Speed of Life' to the mystical 'Sound and Vision', Bowie allows his dynamic blend of electronica and rock n' roll to dictate a stunning, anti-aesthetic approach, simultaneously tearing apart and extending the sonic identity he had so fastidiously created with Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane. Featuring some of the best vocalisations of his career, *Low* is one of the quintessential Bowie albums. A must-listen.

Pop Music of the Week

Madonna – *Erotica*

In 1992, Madonna was the most vilified pop star in the world. Fresh off an excommunication from the Vatican, a music video banned by MTV and calls for her retirement, she decided to whip up this media firestorm further with *Erotica*. More of an album about erotica than an erotic album, Madonna abandons sensuality and flirtation, instead abstracting herself into a detached vision of sexuality. Cold and unmoving, Madonna is not interested in desires: she demands submission. Her star faded so deeply into promiscuity, she is now anonymous, an empty slate upon which tales of sadomasochism, self-masochism and voyeurism are spun. Character come and go like those in a porno, leaving only synthesisers and drums to define the record's uneasy atmosphere. At a time when AIDS was rampant across the globe, Madonna's frank discussion of sexuality was a beacon of hope and a brilliant record.

Hip Hop Music of the Week

Ms. Lauren Hill – *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*

One of the most lauded albums in the history of music, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* remains a key milestone in the tale of modern hip-hop. Dynamic, powerful and meticulously researched, it nevertheless remains an enigma to critics and audiences alike. An album deeply deserving of repeated listens, new details and nuances are picked up each time. There is frankly little else to say that has not already been poured forth in abundance upon this album. It is truly historic.

Electronic Music of the Week

Aphex Twin – *Selected Ambient Works 85-92*

Richard David James, commonly known as Aphex Twin,

occupies a mystical place in electronica. Not quite a birth-giver like Kraftwerk or a mainstream-breakout like Daft Punk, Aphex lies on his own wavelength, bizarre and eternally misunderstood. Portrayed as either a manic genius or pathological liar, Aphex allows his music to justify all. This began with *Selected Ambient Works 85-92*, a record that single-handedly rejuvenated electronica as a genre, demonstrating an instinctive feel for pulsing synthesiser moods. Sleek, moving and atmospheric, it is amongst the core ambient albums ever released. Let the vibe overwhelm you.

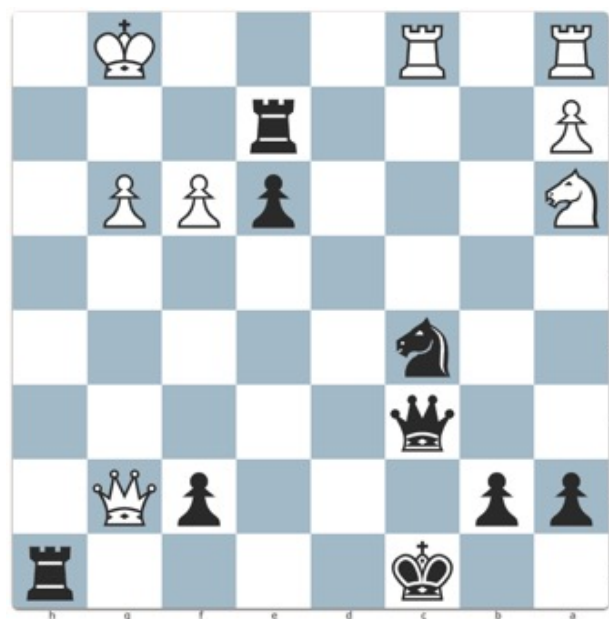
Surprise Music of the Week

St. Vincent – *Daddy's Home*

St. Vincent has always been a provocateur. From her early days as an 'Illinoise-maker' for Sufjan Stevens to her glam-rock persona that tears up electric guitars, she has always had one step in the future. *Daddy's Home* suggests a change to this approach: rooting itself firmly in the alt-rock world of the 1970s, St. Vincent revives the legends of Candy Darling and Warhol's New York, seedily exploring an era so removed from ours today. The result is nothing but astounding. Psychedelic, dark and gritty, it sprawls across genre, mood and texture, leaving us yearning for the days of the Chelsea Hotel. A fabulous record and a must-listen for those who appreciate the works of Patti Smith and Lou Reed.

CHESS PUZZLE

This week's puzzle comes from a match between Hungarian national champion Győző Forintos and Russian legend (and world champion) Boris Spassky which was played in Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad) in 1960.



Black to play and win in 3 moves.

Email your solution to JPBH to enter the termly competition. Last week's answer: **1.Na6+ Kxb7 2.Bd7+ (or Be8+) Kxa6 3.Qb5#** Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4.30–6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

SPORT

FENCING

Fencing v Westminster, Away, 26 September

On Thursday, the Harrow fencing team took on Westminster for their third match of the first quarter of the term. A large number of fencers attended: the Foil A team, the Foil B team, the Epee A team, the Epee B team and finally the Sabre A team. First was Sabre A, which consisted of Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Aiden Lee, *The Head Master's*, and Luke Pain, *The Head Master's*. In a well-fought match, the team was victorious, winning 45-20. Goff, Lee and Pain all performed excellently, finishing with an indicator of +7, +9 and +9 respectively. Next was Epee A which consisted of Jonny Cullinane, *Newlands*, Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*, and Ben Wang, *West Acre*. In what was an extremely close match, the Epee A team unfortunately lost 45-42. Next, the Foil B team took to the piste. It consisted of Robert Young, *The Grove*, Edward Shek, *Druries*, and Sinan Basak, *Bradlys*. The Foil B team was dominant, winning 45-22 with outstanding performances from all team members, with Young, Shek and Basak scoring +8, +6 and +8 respectively. The Foil A team were up next and were not as lucky. In what was an extremely close match, a 42-45 loss, Goff showed great fortitude, managing to pull a +5 indicator despite the loss. The team to compete on the day was the Epee B team. Unfortunately, the 23-45 loss is not representative of the effort the team, Kim Sangyoon, *Moretons*, Cyrus Chang, *Druries*, and Daniel Zhou, *Druries*, put into the match. Nevertheless, the final match did well enough to stave off the scoreline turning in Westminster's favour, ending the day one a victory, with 194-177 as the final scoreline. The fencing team will continue to train to maintain their unbeaten streak.

RACKETS

The School v Eton College, 26 September

1st Pair, Home v Eton College, Won 3-0

Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, played positive attacking rackets to secure a convincing 3-0 win showing plenty of development.

2nd Pair, Home v Eton College, Won 3-0.

Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, served aggressively and after a tight first game, played with more precision to win 3-0

3rd Pair, Home v Eton College, Won 3-0

Diego Castellano, *Rendalls*, and Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, won a comfortable match. Diego volleyed well. Arjan was composed and in control of his game.

Colts A, Home v Eton College, Won 3-0

Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*, both served well to take the game away from Eton.

Junior Colts A, Home v Eton College, Won 3-0

Max Warner, *The Head Master's*, and Ethan Jones, *Druries*, played their first match together. Warner served strongly and Jones returned well when called upon.

RUGBY

*Junior Colts A, Away v Hampton School, Won 47-14
National Cup – Round 1, 24 September*

The JCAs capitalised on the early pressure they put on the Hampton side with their line speed and well-worked set pieces. They attacked with quick and direct plays, with much better rucking and support, helping gain valuable ground. Tries came from Barnaby Winters, *Elmfield*, x3, Luke Attfield, *Druries*, x2, Cheng Ku, *Bradlys*, x1 and Jinyi Zhou, *West Acre*, x1. Evan Song, *Rendalls*, and Frank Thompson, *Elmfield*, also put in solid performances with their direct running and breakthroughs. Lolu Adeyinka, *The Grove*, and Cayden Debrah, *Moretons*, contributed with superb speed and quick feet too. Overall, a solid performance from the JCAs with a comfortable victory to give them their first victory and a good start to their cup run.

FOOTBALL

The School v JLS, 26 September

Development B XI, Away v The John Lyon School 1st, Won 6-0

After the short walk down Sudbury Hill, the Harrow side arrived at John Lyon, ready for their second match of the season. After a slightly shortened warm up, the Harrow boys were ready to go. From the first whistle, it was constant pressure from Harrow, due in large part to the creative midfield display of Harry Winward, *Lyon's*. At the 15-minute mark, the deadlock was broken by Joel Oturuoh, *Lyon's*, who, having been played through by Winward, glided past two players to calmly slot the ball into the bottom left corner from 20 yards out. A truly impressive goal. Good passing football and calmness on the ball ensured that Harrow dominated for the rest of the half. This dominance finally played dividends when after some nice build-up play, Tochi Orji, *The Park*, finished well on his weak foot to double the Harrow lead. The first half ended with a good spell from John Lyon, who looked to play on the counter, but were unable to due to strong work from Harrow's back four, comprising of Tobe Odogwu, *The Knoll*, Sam Gibbard-Jones, *The Head Master's*, Mika Magomedov, *Rendalls*, and Louis Deshpande, *Moretons*, as well as keeper Rish Rawal, *Rendalls*. This ensured that Harrow went into half-time with a two-goal cushion.

After half-time, the Harrow side raised their level again to the next gear, playing some tiki-taka football through the midfield axis of Aris Aldrich-Blake, *West Acre*, Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, Eric Pan, *Lyon's*, and Harry Winward, *Lyon's*. This midfield control alongside both good forward pressing orchestrated by Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, and deadly runs from Auberon Dragten, *Rendalls*, allowed Tochi Orji, *The Park*, to add two more to his tally. A further 30-yard strike from Alex Edu, *Lyon's*, plus a well-taken goal from Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, further enforced the Harrow side's dominance on the game. Good sweeping-up play from the centre half pairing of Sam Gibbard-Jones, *The Head Master's*, and Tobe Odogwu, *The Knoll*, (including a goal line clearance from Gibbard-Jones) ensured that Harrow would come away with a clean sheet.

Overall, this was a committed performance from the whole team and a good way to go into the exeat break, which will offer the chance for the team to rest and recuperate, to come back stronger.

Development C XI, Away v The John Lyon School 2nd, Won 4-0

There was an excellent display of teamwork which led the

Cs to a convincing win. Two goals from Julian Gudgeon, *Druries*, alongside exquisite finishes from Henry Zhu, *Bradlys*, and Simon Michael, *The Grove*, sealed the victory. Babade Fasinro, *Lyon's*, was player of the match with a commanding performance at centre back.

The School v Harrodian, 26 September

Junior Colts A, Away v The Harrodian School, Won 4-0

For our first football game against Harrodian School, we went into the match with little training, but we stuck to our compact 4-4-2 shape. Our press allowed us to get the upper hand and capitalise with two set-piece goals scored by Damola Alabi, *The Knoll*, and Cheng Ku, *Bradlys*. In the second half, we kept the ball much better and dominated possession, which was rewarded with a goal by Joshua Nwakolo, *Newlands*, into the top corner. We finished the game with another set-piece goal with Damola Alabi, *The Knoll*, completing his brace. Man of the match going to Alabi after a brilliant performance topped off with two goals and a clean sheet. Debuts for Jesse Olaniyan, *The Grove*, and Henrik Willet, *Druries*. Overall, a great start to the campaign and onto the next round!

FIVES

The School v Charterhouse, 26 September

1st, Home v Charterhouse, Won

A very good display from Harrow's top pair resulted in a 3-0 win, losing only eight points in the match overall. It was good to see Charlie Allday, *Moretons*, and Olly Filo, *The Park*, take control of the game early and not let up. Both of them are reading the game exceptionally well now and will no doubt look forward to their next match.

Colts A, Home v Charterhouse, Won

A great performance from the top two pairs with all four boys, Alf Beresford-Peirce, *Elmfield*, Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, Rupert

MacDonald, *The Park*, and William Bearman, *Moretons*, showing good resilience in the difficult moments to come out on top. Junior Colts A, Home v Charterhouse, Won

A great win for all three pairs against Charterhouse today with some encouraging performances. In particular, Niky Burov, Noah John-Brown, and Nabhan Chowdhury, *all Lyon's*, all played some great shots to get back to winning ways again. The top pair of Henry Murray, *The Head Master's*, and Woody Venville, *Lyon's*, also won again and are constantly understanding their game further as each match goes by.

Yearlings A, Home v Westminster School, Won 6-0

Six pairs out this afternoon and for many it was their first fives match. At one point, the howling wind and rain threatened a hasty retreat by the spectators. Braving the weather, the boys performed really well and managed to win several games. The outstanding pair of Alexander Witt, *The Knoll*, and Issa Corn, *West Acre*, were the highlight as they demolished their opponents with strong cutting and great movement.

SQUASH

The School v Epsom, 24 September

First V, Away v Epsom College Mixed Under 18A, Lost 1-4

The Firsts acquitted themselves well in a tough fixture against the national champions. 4-1 is a respectable result in the light of Epsom's strength. Epton won at fifth seed, and the lower order generally are to be commended for a much more attacking, front-foot style this week. Blumberg played well off the back of his county championship victory the previous weekend.

Second V, Away v Epsom College, Won 5-2

The 2nd team pulled out some great performances, winning strongly. This was a great result, and the players should be proud. Max Warner, *The Head Master's*, Ethan McCullagh, *The Park*, Ryan Anand, *Elmfield*, Jimi Olunloyo, *Moretons*, and Davyd Sobolyev, *West Acre*, all played very well.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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