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COUTTS LECTURE IN PHYSICS

What can protons tell us about black holes?, Dr. Chris White, Queen Mary, University of London, 5 November

On Tuesday, the School was very lucky to hear Dr. Chris White, professor at Queen Mary University London and formerly Amsterdam, Durham, and Glasgow. Professor White already spoke with many Harrovians studying A-level Physics in a workshop, as he devised an experiment using oranges and cocktail sticks to show that the universe's spacetime is curved. He used a method called parallel transportation, and also gave an example from a Stanford experiment in 2004 in which this was tested using a satellite and gyroscope.



Dr. White's title was "What can protons tell us about black holes?" Dr White started with an overview, explaining the purpose of his talk was to show that all our theories in physics are much more connected than previously thought, hinting at a new relationship (dubbed the double copy) between old theories and strange new ones. However, Dr. White began with a general topical discussion on physics generally. He spoke about how it is natural human curiosity that physics answers and that physics itself spans from the smallest known objects to the universe itself. Dr. White decided to open this discussion by first introducing the two basic ideas of matter and forces, the fundamentals of physics.

The kinds of objects we see everyday obey the laws of Newtonian mechanics, for example these objects have mass, respond to forces, and accelerate due to them. Despite these theories being hundreds of years old, it is still widely applicable. The examples Dr. White gave were the orbits of planets, to the planes we fly on, to bridges and architecture. Finally he briefly entertained the basic idea of relative velocity where if you imagine a car is travelling towards you at 30 mph and you are travelling at 20 mph you would effectively see the car travelling towards you at 50 mph, adding the velocities.

Dr. White then moved onto the force of electromagnetism, stating that all matter is made of particles that have electric charge. Like charges repel and opposing charges attract. This force is sufficient to explain most interactions we see in everyday life. The modern understanding is that every charged particle creates an electric field that fills space, and this electric field has a size and direction.

The Maxwell equations explain how to calculate fields with a given set of charges; one especially famous solution is an electromagnetic wave (like visible light), the speed of which speed can be calculated using Maxwell's theory.

He linked this back to the idea of relative velocity, light breaks this theory as the speed of light is a constant no matter how fast the observer is moving, showing Newtonian mechanics breaks down at very fast speeds. This concept is dubbed Special Relativity.

Dr. White further elaborated saying it took many years for Special Relativity to be agreed upon, as people had trouble coping with the idea that Newton's theories were wrong. What's actually the case is that Special Relativity (when lower speeds are used) will mathematically turn into Newton's theories. Invoking the idea that all our current theories are only "effective" rather than complete.

Newton's theories also break down when things become very small. When Newton's theories are combined with Maxwell's equations, atoms should break down within a small fraction of a second. This is clearly not the case, as I am writing this without spontaneously disintegrating. This then brought forth the idea of quantum mechanics.

We have three fundamental theories to structure Physics: Newtonian Mechanics for large objects moving at slow speeds, Special Relativity for large objects moving at fast speeds, and Quantum Mechanics for small objects moving at slow speeds. But what about small objects moving at fast speeds?

This idea is called Quantum Field Theory, and it combines the ideas of Special Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. All matter and forces in nature have these fields associated with them, each of which have wave-like solutions that get "quantised" into little particles. The particular Field Theory that describes our universe is known as the Standard Model of Particle Physics. Dr White left that thought and moved onto atoms, and fundamental particles like quarks and neutrinos, but also the idea of antimatter, which is explained in QFT, the opposite of matter which annihilates matter with a burst of energy.

Dr. White finished this idea of matter and how it acts, and moved onto forces. All forces are derived from four fundamental forces, electromagnetism, strong force, weak force, and gravity. The first three work on a quantum level, but gravity is tricky as it is so weak and is missing from the Standard Model.

The best theory for gravity is called General Relativity, where stretches and curves in the four-dimensional spacetime act upon matter. General relativity also predicts multiple possibilities for the history of the universe including the big bang. However close to the big bang itself, the equations break down and so something else is needed to resolve the origin of the universe.

The normal theory for making a force quantum is to interpret the waves as particles, but doing the same for gravity (gravitons) gives nonsensical answers. But what Dr. White remarked was that the equations for gluons (another fundamental particle) can actually be written out very similarly to the equations for gravitons. He finished his lecture by offering us new ways to think about gravity and how it acts upon the universe, dubbed the Double Copy theory.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

The absurd and the sublime: a thirty-year adventure in Russia, Michael Gibson (Rendalls, 1982¹), 1 October

Old Harrovian Michael Gibson returned to the hill to talk about his experiences working in Russia, offering a fascinating dive into the chaotic, colourful, and at times bizarre world of post-Soviet Russia, particularly through the lens of the advertising industry of the 1990s in which he worked.

Starting with his time at Balliol College, Oxford, the speaker recalled the dramatic political shifts of the late 20th century, particularly noting the fall of the Soviet Union, and the opportunities that unfolded in its wake. While many of his peers might have been focused on more traditional career paths, Mr Gibson and a friend, both fresh out of university, saw post-Soviet Russia as a place of adventure and as an opportunity to broaden their horizons.

Once they arrived in Russia, Michael explained that the reality, yet charm, of daily life hit hard. They lived in a communal apartment where several families shared basic facilities like a bathroom and a kitchen. As an interesting anecdote, Michael showed the audience a photograph that he had taken, depicting a toilet in one of the apartments; on its wall, different coloured toilet seats were hung: one for each family. Despite the cramped and sometimes challenging conditions, Mr Gibson spoke warmly of his Russian neighbours and the hospitality his friend and him were shown.



His work in Russia began with an advertising publication called “Как дела?” (“How’s it Going?”) in St. Petersburg, which gave him a front-row seat to the birth of the new Russian advertising industry.

The 1990s in Russia, often called the “wild 90s,” were chaotic and unpredictable, and the speaker painted a vivid picture of what life was like then. Capitalism had arrived almost overnight, and advertising became a key player in shaping the new Russia. The advertisements almost possessed a surreal quality, as Mr Gibson had recounted, as well as being blunt and in-your-face. Billboards and posters were plastered everywhere, promoting products and services that most Russians were encountering for the first time. Mr Gibson likened the atmosphere to New York in the 1960s: a “Mad Men” style era but with a distinct Russian twist. One of the more memorable stories he shared was about a cement company’s advert, which allowed people to call a hotline and have a cement truck show up wherever they wanted. It was a perfect example of how the country was still figuring out what to do with its newfound capitalist freedom.

Interestingly, the speaker explained that advertising didn’t just push everyday products, as we might see now—instead, it also celebrated major holidays like International Women’s Day (March 8th), a very important part of Russian culture, or Victory Day (May 9th).

As Mr Gibson’s career developed, he moved into producing video commercials, many of which he showed to the audience,

including a notable one for Nescafe. He described how the blend of Western production standards with Russian creativity led to some impressive results, resulting in aesthetic adverts that simultaneously struck a chord with their audiences.

However, Mr Gibson went on to share that his time in Russia was not all work. Gibson embraced the culture with enthusiasm, throwing himself into experiences that might seem extreme to outsiders and welcoming Russian culture with open arms. He described taking up ice swimming during the brutally cold winters and even briefly training as a pilot.

In closing, Mr Gibson offered a piece of advice that summed up both his personal journey and the unpredictable nature of life in post-Soviet Russia: “Everything you think is going to happen, won’t. Make a list of all the logical outcomes in any situation and eliminate those. What you’re left with is where you’ll end up.” It was a fitting way to conclude his lecture, highlighting the importance of embracing the unexpected—a lesson Mr Gibson had clearly learnt on many occasions during his time in Russia.

Michael Gibson’s talk was not just a glimpse into the advertising world of 1990s Russia, but a reflection on the dramatic effect Russia’s shift from communism to capitalism had on everyday life. Through his stories, he revealed both the absurdity and excitement of the nation during its transition phase, and how the advertising industry became a symbol of this newfound freedom.

The Slavonic Society would like to thank Mr Gibson for his educational and very entertaining talk and KAF for facilitating it.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Appendicitis, Henry Barker, The Park, 16th October

The Medical Society welcomed Henry Barker, *The Park*, who presented a talk on appendicitis. This was both insightful and personal since it combined medical understanding with a firsthand account of suffering the condition. Barker first described the basic function of the appendix – a small, tube-like structure located near the large intestine. Though it is considered vestigial (having lost most of its original purpose), it can still cause serious health problems when inflamed.

Appendicitis occurs when the lumen (the inside space of appendix) becomes obstructed, allowing bacteria to multiply quickly, leading to serious inflammation. Classic symptoms which occur include sharp pain in the lower right abdomen, nausea, and loss of appetite. However, Barker noted that up to 40% of people will not experience these symptoms, thus complicating the diagnosis.

When diagnosing appendicitis, the doctors will use a combination of blood tests, physical examinations, and imaging tests such as ultrasounds or CT scans to confirm the inflammation. While acute appendicitis develops rapidly and requires quick action, chronic appendicitis can present intermittent symptoms which plague the patient over more extended periods (sometimes requiring further drainage to manage the pus buildup).

The more serious risk of untreated appendicitis is peritonitis. This is a bacterial infection in the abdominal lining, which can lead to severe pain and will require antibiotic treatment. In some cases, this leads to a perforated appendix, meaning it bursts and releases bacteria into the abdomen. Barker then highlighted recent research which suggested that people with a perforated appendix often have a higher bacterial load in their appendix, thus contributing to the risk of complications.

Treatment usually involves an appendectomy and is often done laparoscopically (through small incisions). The surgeon will first inflate the abdomen to gain access. Then using cameras to locate the appendix, they remove it through these small

openings. This will reduce recovery time to a minimum and prevent permanent scarring.

Overall, the talk offered both a technical overview of appendicitis and a personal overview of its symptoms and treatment, emphasising the importance of early medical intervention. Barker's own experience brought a relatable and human element to the discussion, underscoring why it is crucial to recognise these symptoms and seek help quickly if appendicitis is suspected.

ITALIAN SOCIETY

The Italian mind behind the bomb: Fermi, Oppenheimer and the atomic age, Leonardo Polese, The Head Master's, 5 November

As I was strolling down to MLS 10 post-prep on a pretty Tuesday evening to attend the Italian Society lecture, I thought to myself that it sounded like quite an interesting topic. Fermi is often the scientist less talked about, often overshadowed by the great J. Oppenheimer; perhaps Fermi is similar to the road less traveled by in the famous Robert Frost poem "just as fair, and having perhaps the better claim." And indeed, the lecture delivered what I had anticipated, an intriguing little odyssey into the life of Enrico Fermi and more.

Polese started off the lecture with a brief summary of the legacy of Italy in science (this was, after all, an Italian society lecture). The ancient Romans were famous for their marvelous feats of engineering, renowned for their roads and aqueducts. Italy, of course, was also the birthplace of the Renaissance. Great artists, engineers and scientists, people like Leonardo (Da Vinci), Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Certainly, we also must not forget, Galileo Galilei, the father of modern physics, was born in Pisa. Italy is also home to 6 Nobel prize winning scientists.

Fermi was born in Rome and enrolled at the University of Pisa with a scholarship at the age of 17, so possibly younger than some of our readers here. He graduated at 21 and was considered a prodigy in Physics. His early work in Italy included developing the foundations of quantum and nuclear physics and at a very young age, he was a globally renowned physicist. Some of our sixth formers here might have heard of his name in perhaps the Fermi-Dirac Statistics or Fermi theory of beta decay. One of the most important breakthroughs that Fermi made in his early scientific career in Italy was the discovery of "neutron induced radioactivity", in other words, nuclear fission; he also discovered new elements from neutron irradiation. These achievements were recognized in 1938 with the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Fermi moved to the US in 1938 with the help of his Nobel Prize money in order to escape the dictatorship of Mussolini. Fermi moved to New York and was inducted into the Manhattan Project. He developed the first nuclear fission reactor, called Chicago Pile-1, in 1942. The way nuclear fission essentially worked was that a neutron would strike a uranium nucleus, and it would split into two daughter nuclei, and release energy and more neutrons in the process, creating a chain reaction as the neutrons collide with more nuclei. Fermi also more generally was instrumental in the development of the atom bomb and he was famously practical. Leo Polese tells us the anecdote of his calculating the power of the atom bomb by how far pieces of paper were blown away by the shock wave. His work, and the collective effort of all the scientists in the Manhattan project, created the first atom bombs and ended the second world war.

The collaboration of scientists internationally in the Manhattan project set a great precedence towards later collaborations in science. Great contemporary examples include the particle physics research institute CERN or the human genome project. Also, undeniably, the atom bomb has shook our world with

its horrifying destructive power and the impact it has on the global political climate.

Polese ended the fabulous lecture with a summary of ongoing scientific contributions from Italy. Examples include the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics and the Italian Space Agency and the recent Nobel Prize winner in Physics in 2021, Giorgio Parisi. There is also the aforementioned example of CERN collaborations.

ITALIAN AND PERCEVAL SOCIETIES

The impact of Italian colonisation on Eritrea: legacy, transformation, and resistance, Simon Michael, The Grove, 1 October

To start the year off strong a lecture was delivered to the Italian Society by Simon Michael, *The Grove*, titled "The Impact of Italian Colonization on Eritrea: Legacy, Transformation, and Resistance". Simon explored the rather dystopian and sensitive side of Italian history in the African Country of Eritrea. Members of all year groups were in attendance, most being Italian students, but with a couple of others attending to reminisce on the nostalgic days when their education was blessed by Mr Guarniero (AG1).

Starting off with an introduction to Italy and Eritrea's historical background, Italy began to colonise African countries in the 19th century with Eritrea being the first of many within East Africa. Eritrea was an attractive starting point, with easy access to the sea and plentiful natural resources. However, due to linguistic diversity in the country, Italy faced challenges managing it. This would be an ongoing issue during Italian control. Soon after, Italy colonised Somalia which would lead to a growing sense of unity among Eritrean groups and neighbouring Somali groups due to shared discrimination from the Italian colonisers.

The next topic discussed was the development in Eritrea from the Italians. Italy invested in Eritrean infrastructure, such as transport networks to move goods. These goods were often coming from the mining and agricultural industries, which Italy expanded significantly after colonising. Although Eritrea was developing quickly, Eritrean people were not actually able to benefit from this as they were treated by the Italians as second-class citizens. Eritreans lost their land, faced constant racial discrimination, and were denied access to high quality education. This constant struggle and oppression led to unity and laid the groundwork for a future independence movement.

This brought us to Eritreans' resistance and the end of Italian rule. Eritreans had been attempting resistance for years at this point, using armed and unarmed efforts. These efforts were never successful due to Italy's harsh and extreme measures to prevent them, such as through the use of chemical weapons and military campaigns. Thankfully, Italian rule ended in 1941 because of World War II, when British forces took control of the Italian East Africa. The British failed to successfully stabilize the country due to local resistance with the fear of foreign rule continuing. The UN later mandated Eritrea but this success was short lived, as a conflict with Ethiopia began which would last 30 years as Ethiopia annexed Eritrea. Eritrea's people continued to resist, however, due to memories of Italian rule.

This war of independence finally ended in 1991, but in the aftermath, Eritrea has continued to face challenges in addressing the impacts of colonization with many architectural and cultural influences from Italy still being present to this day.

Today Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki, who has been in power since 1993, is seen as a controversial figure due to the banning of election and being a dictator.

The boys and Mrs Silcott asked a few questions to conclude the first Italian society lecture of the term.

WE REMEMBER



FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

On Sunday, members of the Chapel choir and the Choir of Francis Holland school united for a performance of Gabriel Fauré's unarguable masterpiece, his Requiem mass in D Minor (Op. 48) in seven movements, conducted by DNW. In the long line of Requiem masses, Fauré's surely stands as the finest. Where Verdi created the loudest drum in history in order to turn bad music into bad and loud music, and Mozart dampened the gaiety of his early work with a piece which could only have been created by a man facing death, Fauré presents his requiem mass much like an essay: like a wise, bearded old man with worn features, holding a prism in his hands, turning it over and over, running his fingers over each vertex, Fauré considers many arguments in his piece, from many voices, concluding in the supreme tranquillity of the final, in Paradisium movement. He guides you, like a kindly father, through the tumults and tribulations of the journey to death, rewarding the audience not with a hernia (as is the case with Verdi), but with resolution and absolution. Indeed, in his writings, Fauré reflects that this was his intention. He discusses in his writings both Dante's Inferno and the myth of Innana's (Ishtar) descent into hell (a story quite popular at this time with his good friend Vincent d'Indy, who composed a wholly underrated and wholly masterful variation on the theme, Op. 42, The Istar variations, which I recommend wholeheartedly), with each movement a new tableau in the deceased's journey to heaven.

The piece began with the chilling first chord from the Inroît. The iconic first note reflects the act of death: a grand pulse, which filled the chapel, and brings the audience from the land of the living to that of the dead. In this musical essay of sorts, it is the first question presented, which was swiftly answered by the choir with a quiet and reflective *Requiem aeternam*. The mortal fascination and excitement build steadily, before a sudden crescendo and the first climax of the piece, with the words *Et Lux Perpetua*: the first glimpse of heaven from the bottom of this journey's proverbial mountain. Here, I would like to point out that the combined choir handled the challenge of Fauré's notoriously difficult composition admirably throughout. They captured all the drama of the piece well in their singing, although I would say that I personally found that the first few movements were a little tentative and quiet. However, as the piece progressed, the choristers found confidence and filled the room with their singing very well.

After a well-balanced *Inroît*, we moved into movement two: *Offertoire*. The notes at the beginning seem to fall uncomfortably. They rub against each other, like awkward limbs. The words "*O Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae...*" are placed with intentionality and yet disorder, creating discordance. But, about three minutes into the movement, the Baritone Soloist (in this case, the virtuous Ray Moon, *West Acre*) breaks through the confusion and mist with the Hostias et preces, remaining in the previous key of B Minor and yet finding within it hope and resolution. The movement concludes with a glorious Amen, which is uplifted by being in B Major as opposed to B minor.

As far as the Sanctus is concerned, I personally think that *In Paradisium* would have been a more fitting time for theatrics.

The next movement, *Pie Jesu*, is a clean, simple and relaxing aria, performed wonderfully by a soprano soloist from Francis Holland School. She achieved all the notes admirably, with a clear diction and resolve, and I congratulate her for her determination in standing resolutely alone in front of the audience of at least 150 people. The piece serves as a time for reflection and calm consolation during the tempestuous piece.

In the next movement, *Angus Dei*, we saw, I feel, the downfall of the choice for the accompaniment to consist purely of organ. The serenity of the strings which I have felt brought this movement together in other performances I have

seen, was sorely missed. It opens with a reflective a beautiful *Angus Dei*, which floats above the notes laid down by the organ. However, this piece is cruelly broken with a return of the motif from the *Lux Aeterna* in the Inroît, shattering the illusion of peace constructed in *Pie Jesu*. Here, I think, is where the audience is rewarded for its patience. Whereas most approach the problem of instilling mortal fear in the audience through noise, and almost unceasing drama, Fauré saves drama for moments when the listener is at their most vulnerable. This, I feel, is a much finer reflection of the experience of death. No journey is purely evil or good, terrifying or elating: through a deep humanity and compassion not found in many other composer's works, he considers the difficult problem of death wisely. If we think of each setting of the Requiem mass as the story of the ending of an individual person's life, the life of the one ended in Fauré's was that not of a mortal sinner but of a deeply normal human being. In moments like these, he is forced to atone before eternal rest.

The *Angus Dei* leads swiftly on into the *Libera me*, the which most Harrovians are very familiar with. Having heard it earlier this morning in the glory of a 700-man choir, I couldn't help but feel a little bit underwhelmed. However, the small choir did its best to evoke the same pathos has had earlier been evoked that day. Nonetheless, the Baritone soloist Ralph Lubbe, *The Grove*, did an excellent job, as he had done earlier, in his concluding remarks. I also feel that hearing it, as opposed to performing it, gave me a chance to listen closely to the lyrics:

"Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death,
on that terrible day:
when the heavens and earth will be shaken;
when you will come to judge the age with fire."

The setting is inimitable and suits the lyrics perfectly. The calm, humane and almost fatherly narrative voice returns to tell us of the troubles laying ahead after entering heaven.

However, the deeply moving *Libera me* is contrasted wonderfully by my personal highlight from the evening, *In Paradisium*. Never has ever composer made mere ascending and descending arpeggios from an Organ so wonderful as does Fauré in this movement. The resolution is serene and free of doubt. It feels no need to use loud clattering instruments to eke emotion out of a weary audience, like some maleficent juicing machine: it is quiet, collected and merciful.

Overall, the performance was wonderful and a testament to Fauré. A Harrovian's life is musicless without time for reflection and, I think for those who fail to attend concerts like this are unwittingly cruel. Just 40 minutes on a Sunday devoted to austere pleasure is worthy of anyone, and open to everyone. Music, and good music at that, helps one understand themselves and others better. It is, to the observation of many, the perfect form of art. Do come for the next concert.

My congratulations go to the Harrow boys in the choir, and the DNW for organising and conduction the event.



TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING: US ELECTIONS



A TRUMP VICTORY IN THE US ELECTION

On Tuesday last week, 6 November 2024, I awoke at 6:30am to one boy serenading me with a discordant rendition of the National Anthem. By now it seems as if everyone who ever lived has heard about the US Election results and has formed an opinion (overnight in many cases) about the events of the last few days. The Trump campaign smashed through that great 'Blue Wall', as it is imposingly known, winning Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, losing the state of Minnesota only, I believe, because Minnesota Governor Tim Walz was included on the Democratic ticket. The Trump Vance ticket also outperformed, by a fair margin, Trump's victory in 2016.

Headlines have lauded the victory as 'historic' and 'unprecedented', two words, though frequently abused in modern media, that in this case truly apply in their most literal senses. Not since Grover Cleveland in 1892 has a Presidential candidate won the election in two, non-consecutive terms, (Trump & Pence 2016, Trump & Vance 2024). Additionally, it was the quick succession of events from the debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump on the 27 June earlier this year until the sixth of November that have made this election cycle one of the most entertaining in modern history. The criminal trials, Kamala Harris' late-stage replacement of Joe Biden, the assassination attempt in Butler, the second assassination attempt on the Florida golf course, and more recently, eleventh-hour endorsements from some of the most unlikely characters (namely the "mighty and powerful" Joe Rogan). Soon after the morning of the 6th, the victorious party were bused to Mar-a-Lago where they enjoyed a lavish celebration attended by top GOP Politicians and Britain's very own, Nigel Farage. Conversely, on the night of the 5th, thousands of Harris supporters flocked to Howard University in Washington D.C. to listen to the Vice President while watching the televised real-time election results as they trickled in. As the numbers grew dauntingly in Trump's favour, Harris supporters began to disperse from the University campus with tear in eye and lump in throat.

In the famous Joe Rogan interview with Donald Trump recorded last week, Trump recounted how, during his first term in office from 2016-2020, he was faced with the unusual challenge of survival. From the very moment the results had been called in his favour on election night 2016, the Democratic party launched a smear campaign against the president accusing him of colluding with Russia, a charge for which he was never convicted, though from which several impeachment trials sprung. Not only was this a shameless sully of Trump's image (a contributing factor I believe to his 2020 loss) but a cause of great headache for more than half of the country, lasting for most of his tenure in office.

In a deeply satisfying resolution, it was announced November 6th that the DOJ (Department of Justice) will remove ice-man

Jack Smith as special prosecutor and drop the two federal investigations against Trump concerning his actions following his loss in 2020. Fox News reported that the DOJ is removing Smith because "they have acknowledged that they cannot prosecute a sitting president".

What the Democrats did throughout the Biden administration was lie to the American people. Just about everyone could see Joe Biden was not mentally fit to be president, he was undeniably senile to an extent not seen in any other mainstream politician. It was this shameless 'pulling of the wool' over the eyes of the American people that so outraged the millions of Americans who didn't appreciate being treated like mindless pieces of meat. My point: the Democrats deserve Trump. After the Deep State coup of Joseph Robinette Biden, the Democrats had a daunting task before them: sell VP Kamala Harris to the American people as the next President of the United States. This task made all the more difficult when one recalls Harris being one of the least popular vice presidents in American history. In any case, the job for Kamala Harris was a tough one and she ought not feel sore after the loss.

A VERY DIFFERENT DAY

When I heard the news, I was astounded, but devastatingly unsurprised. It feels as though mass amnesia has swept America. I can't imagine what it feels like in Kiev.

I know Trump supporters and engage with them frequently. Many intelligent ones focus on policy over character, pointing to the economy, immigration, or crime. While I disagree that his policies were better than those proposed by Harris, I respect differing opinions. But the character of a candidate matters. I do not respect that, for millions, the protection of democracy wasn't a deal breaker. Not all Trump supporters are homophobes, but for them, homophobia wasn't a deal breaker. Not all are rapists, but they chose to overlook a rape conviction. Not all plotted to overthrow a fair election or lynch a vice president, but those weren't deal breakers either. For millions, harsh rhetoric, a sealed border, and tax cuts for the very wealthy outweighed fundamental democratic values.

I understood Trump's election in 2016. Democrats under Obama took much of the white working-class vote for granted, and the neo-liberal economy sidelined them, so they turned to a cartoonish celebrity businessman to rescue their disappearing jobs and wasting communities. This election, though, was different. One candidate had already presided over the most disastrous premiership in a century, achieving none of what he had promised other the giant tax cut that barely affected his base. And he had already lost an election. The other candidate(s) was part of an administration that solved many of the issues surrounding working American people: Inflation at target, markets are an all-time high, an infrastructure package unlike anything seen in a century, the removal of lead pipes from all schools, high-speed rail finally planned for the US, 12 new automotive factories opening, insulin capped at \$12 a month, free healthcare available to veterans. Not to mention the policies that didn't affect working Americans: NATO stronger than ever, AUKUS, American oil production at its highest peak, the world's largest investment in renewable energy, and a diplomatic win with South American states to ease the border crisis. Whilst Biden achieved all this, in a smart and bipartisan way, I in watched entire Trump rallies and heard little of walls, infrastructure, or jobs – core themes from 2016. This time, Trump's campaign was built on hate and revenge. I believed Harris could win by running on the policy successes of the Biden administration, running on a sensible case. I was wrong. Too optimistic, perhaps. Disenfranchised young men came out to vote in droves, in a way that has never happened before. It's hard to admit, but this was a monumental moment for democracy. Trends have been shattered, and a strong mandate has been delivered to Donald Trump by a Coalition of young men, left behind and scooped

up by the podcast generation, and America's white working-class. Trump's economic plans, involving large tax cuts, have provided him more support from racial minorities than any other Republican candidate in memory, amongst men, but not women.

This is a sad day for the West. I've realized that for many, an outlet for hate, sexism, racism, and xenophobia is more appealing than policy or progress. This was an election between a rapist and a woman of colour. The United States has made its choice, and the world must come to terms with that, and move forward.

A DISCONTENTED ENGLISHMAN

In order to get to the bottom of this new wave of feisty discourse borne from the aftermath of the election, we must examine quite why the result is so divisive. And the conclusion which I have reached is that it is because nothing quite like it has happened before. We have no precedent, especially regarding Trump's brand of populist politics.

I do not believe that the real problem for the European mind is his policies, although I do not deny that they are troubling. To my mind, there is base for complaint for his projected rolling back of hundreds of Environmental protections, the construction of offshore wind farms and green regulations on the manufacture of cars. His approach to abortion may also worry many, as well as his isolationist approach to the Ukraine war. However, I do not think that his policies alone are the reason that the world is quaking in its boots. For instance, whilst his import tariffs on Chinese Goods might affect the average American, as supermarkets like Costco will obviously struggle to keep their shelves stocked with cheap goods, it seems completely unfair to say that Trump alone is some sort of Arbiter of evil by expanding them. Under Biden, these Tariffs were expanded as well (for instance, Aluminium went from 0% to 25%, semiconductors from 25% to 50% and electric vehicles from 25% to 100% in 2024) with clear plans to increase these tariffs upon re-election. This clearly proves that the tariffs are not unprecedented but, indeed, that they follow the will of the Senate and, idealistically, the will of the people.

No, I believe that the real fears of Harrovians lie not in Trump's political beliefs, but rather in his character. People are fearful because, in the US, a political revolution is occurring that has not yet reached Europe: Media Populism. And, by debating his policies, they channel that frustration with innovation.

However, is this new wave so dreadful? Democracy is politics led by the people, for the people and of the people. So what if the people are Idiots? It is my belief that Trump, in his election success, has founded the ultimate form of democracy. And, if Europeans don't like it (which is not necessarily an incorrect position), we all must rethink how we approach democracy overall. Trump is not undemocratic but, I believe, one of the greatest "people-politicians" of history. If he worries you, then it is not he that is the problem, but democracy: and that is a realisation which challenges the very fabric of our modern civilisation. It does make me wonder whether Plato was right all along...



In the classroom, one need not listen too closely to hear the apodictic musings of boys about the recent US election. Although the classroom is no place to opine about one's thoughts about the Trump victory, the Harrovian is certainly an outlet for free and open discourse, and though it is my great honour to document such an historic event in such an august publication, I think it only right to include thoughts from anonymous voices around the Hill.

1. "I set my alarm for 2am on Election Night, knowing this would be the most influential election of our lifetimes, America has dodged a bullet. Kamala, you're fired!"

2. "I felt sick and nauseas all day, I woke up with tears in my eyes, I've been thinking about it all day and I'm sure I'll be thinking about for weeks."

3. "I think its been the most important election since Reagan, it's basically reordered the united states. We were in the wrong place and it was only getting worse – a victory that was long overdue and one that will make a big difference in the world."

4. "Most Trump supporters are not rapists, but they decided it wasn't a deal breaker."

5. "A truly pivotal moment in the lives of us all; it finally feels like we're living through history, not just reading about it."

Now we wait until January 20th to witness Donald Trump, in a strange mist of Déjà vu, sworn in on the capitol steps, the fate of NATO, millions of illegal immigrants, and every American, hanging in the balance.

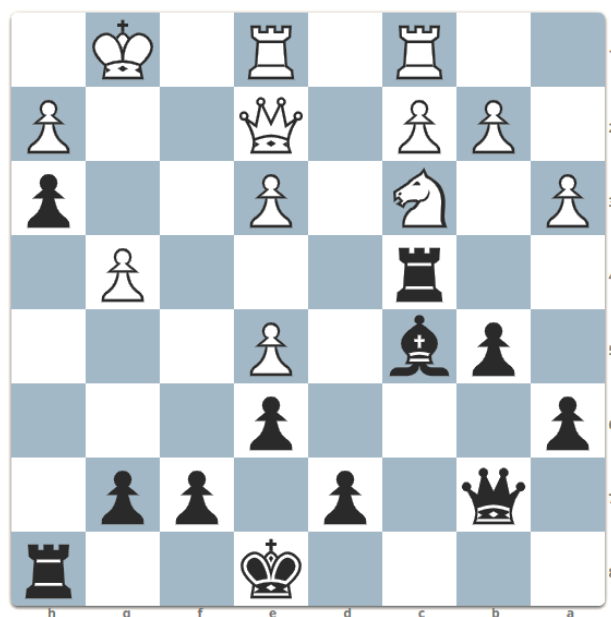
METRO

CHESS PUZZLE

This week's puzzle comes from a match between Jo-Kai Liao of Chinese Taipei and Irishman Colm Daly which was played in Tromsø in 2014.

Black to play and win in 2 moves.

Email your solution to JPBH to enter the termly competition.



Last week's answer: **1.Rf7+ Qxf7** (anything else loses next move) **2.Rh4+ Kg8 3.Qh8#** (or **Rh8#**)

Interested in chess? Come along to Chess Club, 4:30-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in MS 5. All abilities welcome!

JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE SEASON 3

*A slice of life becomes a murder mystery and the killer desperately tries to make it go back to a slice of life,
Review by Henry Barker, The Park*

Welcome back to the bizarre world of JoJo reviews. Having finally finished Part 4 I thought it only right to continue my reviewing of the series and more so than any other part do I have a lot to say. So, join me as I look through my time with Diamond is Unbreakable.

Coming off the unforgettable ending of Part 3 I was expecting another big adventure which would take us around the world to fight some big bad again, but I could not have been more wrong. Having finished Part 3 in a semi tv marathon the night before it was still freshly in my mind. This worked against Part 4 as the yellow skies and purple grass of Morioh completely threw me off especially after the very realistic looking art direction that Part 3 had used. Plus, the change to a slice of life way of story telling really pushed me away from the series and after only watching two episodes I had to have a break.

When I came back a few weeks later I still wasn't really loving it. Which seems to be a common occurrence with the beginning of JoJo parts (except Part 2 of course). I pushed through as I knew a certain villain was coming up who I really wanted to see. Then once I got to about episode 17 it really picked up. And I ended up binging it within two weeks and yet again doing another finale marathon (a five-hour bus journey down to Lymptone helped with that).



Now to discuss the actual story. I think that the change of genre to slice of life elevates the themes of Part 4 it makes the small town of Morioh feel far more realised and lived in compared to towns in other parts which were more of a backdrop. One of my favourite examples of this is the morning radio jingle that plays at the start of a new story arc. It just adds layers to the world which make it much more engaging. My favourite slice of life arc was definitely Yukako Yamagishi falling in love with Koichi as the interactions between the two of them are definitely some of the funniest moments in the show.

Now it's time to talk about the best part of Part 4 which is the one and only Yoshikage Kira (spoilers ahead). First of all, I need to discuss how cool Kira's name is. Kira is written in the hiragana (き ら) which is a normal Japanese name but it the sound kira can also be written in the katakana (キラ) which means killer as in murderer. Meaning his name is actually secretly telling everyone that he is a serial killer. On top of this his stand is called 'Killer Queen' after the Queen song which again mixes his name and what he is doing together.

Talking about his stand the ability 'Bites the Dust' was an amazingly horrifying ability which really made the finale stand out as for once it wasn't the JoJo of the part who had to figure out how to beat the main antagonist, but it was an 11-year-old child really elevating the stakes and making the

viewer wonder how the hell he was going to win. Also, a quick aside here, it seems since stands were introduced Araki has an obsession with time-related final boss stands which always seem impossible to beat.

Plus, Kira's death was just perfect. The fact that he was killed because the ambulance driver couldn't see him (just like how he always wanted to remain invisible to the world) and that his face was completely disfigured so again people wouldn't be able to recognise him. It was completely genius from Araki to give him his wishes in an ironic twist of fate.

Finally, the music in this part was amazing. The soundtrack was pure gold from the start and all three of the openings are bangers which I would recommend anyone to watch if they are interested in the series specifically 'Crazy Noisy Bizarre Town'. Onward to Part 5 and il vento d'oro!

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs,

In last week's edition of *The Harrobian*, an article complained of the "excessive luxury of Catholic Mass" in the following words: "The numerous silk robes and tablecloths for different seasons, the aromatic candles, the gleaming metal candle stands, mirrors and crucifixes, the exotic incense... and so the list goes on. SPS and JDBM allegedly spent £200 on hair conditioner last month."

This is an outrageous, typically prejudiced and dishonest caricature of the alleged opulence of the Catholic Church. We have never used aromatic candles. I remain greatly incensed!

Yours sincerely,
SPS

DEAR SIRs,

'Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.' It's been a while since any beaks flashed boys; however, the dress sense of some beaks is an even worse crime. It is crucial for a gentleman in any level of society to be able to dress appropriately. Indeed, many schools teach such things; however, Harrow seems to assume that boys who attend already have a level of class such that it needn't be taught. Alas, this is not the case. In fact, boys are learning poor habits from beaks who somehow think it appropriate to dress like elderly impersonators of the middle class.

This issue was conjured in my mind when a beak was attempting to teach me, and all I saw were his light brown brogues, dark blue chinos, dark brown belt, loose tie, black waistcoat with the bottom button done up, and tweed jacket. There were so many assaults to the eye that one hardly noticed him (that is to say that one didn't notice his certainly important teaching, not at all to suggest that perhaps he were an assault to the eye). A culture of criminality forms, and breaking laws becomes the norm. I witnessed a beak button up only the bottom button of his jacket; henceforth, I have noticed how many Harrovians fail to button their blazers properly. Boys cannot make it in high society without basic knowledge of how to dress. I even find myself wondering what is quite appropriate.

Yet, fashion giants walk among us, as if Speech room is an even more exclusive Met Gala. Perhaps the greats, like Custos or Dr Hayes-Smith, could teach us beyond the bounds of for what the school currently asks. The Westwood society may be an opportunity to teach, as could be electives. This opportunity cannot be missed, for Harrovians are ending up in chains.

Scandalously dressed,
ROBERT YOUNG, THE GROVE

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"Two PHDs among you and you can't find a bus."

"Boy, you have about as much game as a flat football."

"Speak again, boy, and the next time you see your legs, they will be in a kebab shop."

"Look, you can't put Custos and Double on your UCAS."

NAVIGATING AFRICA'S FUTURE

An insight from the Financial Times Africa Summit, by Jeffrey Arthur, The Knoll

During the half-term holiday, I had the pleasure of attending the Financial Times Africa Summit in London. Over the course of two days, I had the privilege of being in the company of impactful change-makers, business owners, bankers, politicians and development agency staff.

The first day of the summit focused on finance and investment within Africa. There was a strong emphasis on building Africa's economic performance and enabling its future growth. African economies have, in general, been slower to bounce back from Covid-19 than those elsewhere. Yet forecasts also state that 12 of the top fastest-growing 20 economies in the world will be African. This is apparently due to the rapidly growing population which is projected to nearly double to 2.5 billion people by 2050, when one in four of the global population will be African. In 2023, figures showed that around 40% of the continent's population was aged 15 years and younger; showing the great opportunities that many countries will have in the future with a young working population. The real question; however, is how finance ministers and central bankers across Africa are navigating this complex economic climate and how they will seize this opportunity to reach its full potential.

A further key talking point on the first day was the growth of venture capital in Africa. A decade ago, venture capital in Africa amounted to only \$40-\$50 million, but it has surged to \$3-\$4 billion. This growth is remarkable and a positive indication of the positive nature of views surrounding Africa. Over the past three years; however, there has been a slowdown in venture capital funding for startups, with approximately a billion dollars fewer flowing into the sector than in previous years. This is a result of economic headwinds such as weak currencies and high inflation that have dissuaded investors from investing in startups in the continent. As previously mentioned, with projections that by 2050, a quarter of the global population will be African and one-third of the working population will come from the continent, the demand for venture capital funding for financial services is vast. Fintech investment in telcos takes advantage of the informal market sector. This sector presents an opportunity for growth, enabling faster and cheaper transactions and connecting more people to the global economy.

A discussion on technology stressed that internet access was not a major problem in many African countries, but access to affordable devices remains a critical barrier to internet connectivity. The Founder and CEO of M-Kopa, Africa's leading company in mobile phone production, outlined the companies' initiatives to finance smartphones for lower-income earners in Africa. He also stressed that Fintech solutions must focus on reaching unbanked populations with services that fit their needs. Mobile money, which I frequently use when I travel back to Ghana, has already become a game-changer in this regard and has allowed many in both the informal and formal sectors to

transact and manage their money from the touch of a finger through mobile devices.

On the second day of the conversation, the conversation shifted towards energy and natural resources. The president of Glencore, a company that strategises energy projects in Africa and globally, deplored the fact that many African countries are subject to unfair discrimination when it comes to financing energy projects from European powers. Financing for these projects is often restricted to renewable energy, sidelining natural gas and crude oil that is still abundantly found in many nations on the continent. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, security and government stability are significant concerns affecting investment. The president of Glencore noted that the company faces challenges in several countries including Canada during harsh winter months, and the challenges in the DRC are no different and therefore the discrimination is unjustified. The Chief Commercial Officer from Karpowership, a Turkish owner of power ships in Africa, stressed that supporting renewable energy is a long-term solution. In her view, it was crucial to establish a secure baseload power supply and improve transmission and distribution before looking at renewable solutions. She further stressed that many grid systems can become overwhelmed during warmer and festive periods of the year when the need for a secure infrastructure becomes even more evident. As such it is essential that governments distribute power to a secure level, before looking at and financing renewable energy solutions.

The Lobito Corridor, a century-old railway line, has evolved into a vital transportation route for critical minerals. This strategic corridor, which crosses four regions of Angola, plays a key role in connecting Angola with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, facilitating the movement of goods for both agriculture and mining. The Angolan Secretary of State highlighted that the corridor, historically essential for transporting minerals within Angola, is now being positioned to attract private investment, to stimulate development in surrounding areas. Over the past seven years, Angola has implemented significant reforms to its investment laws, removing barriers for foreign investors. These changes have sparked interest from numerous European investors, eager to tap into the country's growth potential.

In conclusion, the Financial Times Africa Summit was an enlightening experience that offered me insights into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Africa. The discussions not only highlighted Africa's potential for growth but also underscored the critical challenges that must be addressed to unlock its true potential. The insights shared at the summit reinforced that the future of Africa lies in fostering partnerships between governments, businesses, and international investors.

SPORTS

RUGBY UNION

The School v Epsom, 6 November

The 1st XV, Away v Epsom College, Won 21-13, National Cup Round 4

The XV produced a memorable cup performance away from home to defeat a highly-touted and previously unbeaten Epsom side 21-13 to advance to the National Quarter Final for the fourth year in a row.

In misty and damp conditions, Harrow started well with Fraser White, *The Head Master's*, crashing over after sustained forward carrying pressure. Epsom soon got back into the game to take the lead at 10-7 before Harrison Dunne, *Elmfild*, spotted a gap and sniped over to take the score to 14-13 to Harrow

at the half. More ferocious ball-carrying from Harrow's ever-dominant pack soon paid dividends going downhill as Hal Hersee, *Newlands*, snuck over from close-range to take the score to 21-13. The remainder of the game was frantic and frenetic but Harrow controlled the tempo and possession and should have put the game to bed if not for tenacious Epsom defence. Overall, this was a superb performance and a brilliant bounce back from the loss versus Cranleigh – the goal of a return to Twickenham remains alive.

The School v Tonbridge, 9 November

The 1st XV, Home v Tonbridge School, Won 12-8

The XV showed good heart to close out a 12-8 victory against a tenacious Tonbridge side. Tries from Rory Griffin, *The Head Master's*, and a short range pick and go gave Harrow the lead and enough to close out the game after a few missed opportunities in the second half. A proud performance after a busy week but lots to work on as always!

2nd XV, Home v Tonbridge School, Won 43-26

Harrow 2nd XV put in their best performance of the season to beat Tonbridge 43-26. Tries came from Matthew Finnegan, *Druries*, Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, Wallace Kirk, *The Grove*, Xander Jones, *West Acre*, and a hat-trick from man of the match Toye Kolawole, *Newlands*. Freddie Williams, *Moretons*, Will Codrington, *Rendalls*, and Noah Poyser, *Bradlys*, also stood out for their excellent performances.

3rd XV, Home v Tonbridge School, Lost 12-21

After an impressive week of training the 3rd XV were in high spirits. The warm-up (once it got going) echoed this and the depth on the bench looked promising. The match kicked off and immediately the team tried to play rugby... in the wrong areas. Slow ball and playing from deep in our half put unnecessary pressure on the 3's, eventually leading to Tonbridge scoring a quick tap penalty. We move on. The next 10 minutes could hear the foghorn of Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*, or 'Faz' as he might become known, controlling the team, nail, hammer, nail, hammer... and when he put boot to ball the XV chased well. This, paired with the bulldozing 'chuckle brothers' Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, and Jude Munro-Peebles, *Elmfield*, kept the momentum high. We had a great platform to play from in areas that we knew we could score in. Dropped passes and the odd knock on were painful to watch in the final third resulting in Harrow failing to convert the strong field position they had worked so hard to conquer. The Harrow team kept their heads up and the pressure on and where attacking rucks were 50/50, the hard-hitting enforcers certainly weren't. Tomas Linares, *The Knoll*, Christopher Weavind, *Moretons*, and Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, were slotting the red and white southerners like Brian Lima in his heyday. Eventually we got over the white line to raucous cheers from the hardy supporters, and referee DMM; who controlled the game superbly with the whistle.

The second half was tough. Despite William Riddick, *Druries*, and Tom Campbell-Johnston, *Druries*, dancing their way through defenders we struggled to get the go forward needed. IN spells when the lines were being run and we wanted to spin it wide it looked promising. The tireless effort from Hugh Mercer Wong, *The Park*, and Dominic Hopkins, *Elmfield*, both of whom seemed to be everywhere, couldn't break the deadlock. The smiles and enthusiasm from Tom Brocklebank, *Rendalls*, and Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry, *Lyon's*, gave us belief. Alas what could we do? Well, I wish there was a fairytale ending to this ramble... sadly not. The 3's lost in a competitive and well fought game that could have gone either way. The coaching team which consists of the Lions greatest scrumhalf, Jack Cullen (IRE), a famous rottweiler with an Oxford Blue, and ruddy cheeked enthusiast were hugely impressed by the quality in large patches of the match. We look forward to seeing it all come together for

the last few weeks of the term. Let's hope for the double next weekend; 3rd XV and England – what a treat that would be!

Colts A, Away v Tonbridge School, Won 21-8

Harrow Colts A secured a hard-fought 21-8 win over Tonbridge U16 A, despite missing several key players due to injury. The match showcased Harrow's resilience, depth, and strong team effort, with several standout performances across the board.

Tonbridge took an early lead after Harrow failed to chase down a kick, allowing Tonbridge to scoop up the loose ball and race in for the first try. This put them ahead 5-0, but Harrow quickly responded, finding their rhythm and coming back strong.

Edward Stabb, *The Head Master's*, got Harrow on the board, picking up the ball from a ruck just past halfway. He made a well-timed dummy pass, deceiving the Tonbridge defense, before using his speed to sprint the length of the field for a try under the posts. Alexander Storer, *West Acre*, converted, putting Harrow ahead 7-5.

Harrow extended their lead with a second try from Colville Wood, *Elmfield*. Wood made a smart break near halfway, using a dummy pass to confuse the Tonbridge defense before powering his way over the line. Storer's conversion made it 14-5 to Harrow.

Tonbridge did manage to narrow the score with a penalty midway through the second half, closing the gap to 14-8. However, Harrow's defense held firm, with crucial tackles and a solid team effort preventing Tonbridge from scoring again. One standout defensive moment came from Alfred Lawson-Brown, *The Park*, who made a crucial tackle on the Tonbridge captain late in the first half, preventing a try and preserving Harrow's lead.

With five minutes to go, Harrow sealed their victory. Lawson-Brown took a quick tap penalty, catching the Tonbridge defense off guard, and surged forward to within one meter of the try line. He then offloaded to Wood, who scored his second try of the match. Storer converted, making the final score 21-8.

Man of the Match: Lawson-Brown

Shot of the Day: Lawson-Brown's crucial tackle near the try line late in the first half, halting a Tonbridge attack and maintaining the Harrow lead.

Colts B, Away v Tonbridge School, Won 21-15

Colts C, Away v Tonbridge School, Lost 0-50

Junior Colts A, Away v Tonbridge School, Lost 14-33

The JCAs started off the game with fierce intent, pushing the opposition back and being dominant in line-outs. Although strong attempts were made to stop the opposition, Tonbridge had two quick penalty tries in quick successions before adding another prior half time. Heading into the second half, Harrow started quick again and pressed on the Tonbridge defence before being rewarded with a try by Barnaby Winters, *Elmfield*. Tonbridge then scored a try against the run of play, before Harrow was awarded with a try from a hard-fought chase down by Barnaby Winters and try scored by Evan Song, *Rendalls*. Although, line speed and intent was high for the Harrow boys, Tonbridge managed to squeeze in their fifth try. Tension between the two teams was high but Harrow came at Tonbridge with all they had in the last moments of the game. Overall, a solid effort but unlucky game.

Junior Colts B, Away v Tonbridge School

A well fought fixture against a very strong Tonbridge side. The team showed incredible courage and determination to stay in the game particularly around half time. Well oiled attacking play from the forwards and committed defensive work was turning the momentum. In the end it wasn't enough.

Junior Colts C, Away v Tonbridge School, Lost 21-25

Junior Colts D, Away v Tonbridge School, Won 24-22

Yearlings A, Home v Tonbridge School, Lost 5-21

A tight and competitive fixture in which Harrow were unfortunately unable to make the most of the attacking positions they created. Outstanding performances from Hugo Bucher, *Druries*, and Henry Doherty, *The Grove*.

Yearlings B, Home v Tonbridge School, Lost 12-36

The first half performance lacked character but the boys demonstrated resilience after half time for a much tighter second half. POM—Dexter Reis, *Elmfield*.

Yearlings C, Home v Tonbridge School, Won 19-17

Yearlings D, Home v Tonbridge School, Lost 12-57

Yearlings E, Home v Tonbridge School, Lost 43-60

Yearlings F, Home v Tonbridge School, Won 43-38

Harrow's Yearling F's rugby team triumphed 43-38 in a thrilling match against Tonbridge School. The game was a fast-paced, back-and-forth contest, with both teams showing great attacking flair and resilience.

Tonbridge started strong by securing the first try of the game. However, Harrow fought back and managed to secure the victory by pushing through the defensive line. The Harrow team's leadership and determination were critical in holding off Tonbridge's late surge, securing a well-deserved win. Well done, Boys!

Junior Colts C, Home v St Benedict's School, Won 60-0

Unfortunately this was a mismatch of ability; even with bringing on the available D team players Harrow were far too strong for St Benedicts and the game had to be stopped early.

Yearlings C, Home v St Benedict's School, Won 46-5

Harrow Yearling C's came out firing against St. Benedict's, setting the tone from the very first whistle. From the outset, hard-hitting tackles from Konstantin Blirup, *Druries*, Abhi Desai, *The Grove*, and Mustapha Ghorri, *Lyon's*, stifled any early momentum from St. Benedict's, allowing Carlo Grabau, *Druries*, and Kevin Yang Dente, *Elmfield*, to secure clean, quick ball. The platform was set, and Trifone Corbisiero, *The Park*, delivering a man-of-the-match performance, seized the moment. With a stunning hat-trick, he powered through weak tackles and continued his exceptional accuracy with the boot, ensuring Harrow dominated early on.

The forwards played a crucial role, with two more tries from Ghorri and Bradley Nolan, *The Grove*, showcasing relentless power and determination. This dominance up front allowed the backs to finally spread the play. An impressive Moretonian link-up between Felix Bearman, *Moretons*, and Jasper Brewer, *Moretons*, led to George Shirt, *The Grove*, breaking free to start his own hat-trick.

However, the second half saw a shift in discipline. Harrow fell into bad habits, giving away penalties with high tackles, side entries at rucks, and offside, which prevented them from fully maintaining control. This lack of discipline eventually opened the door for St. Benedict's, who scored a well-deserved try, capitalizing on Harrow's slip in focus.

Despite the lapses, it was an impressive display of early intensity and team cohesion, with much to build on for our final game against Berkhamsted.

GOLF

1st v The John Lyon School, Lost, 2-1, 7 November

A new-look golf VI took on a strong John Lyon side at Northwood on Thursday, narrowly losing out 2-1. Max Walton and Henry Murray partnered up well to dominate in their match.

FOOTBALL

The School v Sevenoaks, 9 November

Development A XI away v Sevenoaks School 1st, Won 3-1

The Dev A's continued their impressive run with a comfortable 3-1 win against Sevenoaks school. Having dominated the first half they went in at half-time 1-0 up with a great goal from Jack Young, *Newlands*. They continued to dominate in the second half with goals from Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, and Jesse Eledan, *Newlands*, with a man-of-the-match performance from Issac Humphrey, *West Acre*, who controlled the back line throughout the whole game.

Development B XI away v Sevenoaks School 2nd, Won 4-2

Harrow came back from 2-0 down at half-time to win 4-2, thanks to two poacher's goals from Tochi Orji, *The Park*, a thunderous half-volley from Aris Aldrich-Blake Ouzounis, *West Acre*, and a fine strike from Joel Otaruoh, *Lyon's*. MOTM was Joel for providing a constant threat down the left and impressive defensive work rate.

Development C XI v Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School 1st, Lost 2-5

The Dev. Cs were magnificent against A-team opposition. Drawing 2-2 with 5 minutes to go, they ultimately short. Goals from Henry Zhu, *Bradlys*, and Damon Chiu, *Newlands*, capped an excellent team display.

Junior Colts A v Epsom College, Lost 0-2

Harrow lost a very evenly contested 3rd round match against Epsom, having good opportunities to equalise before the away side made the game safe in the final seconds. There were standout performances from Shiden Goitom, *West Acre*, Cheng Ku, *Newlands*, and William Lee, *The Head Master's*. The whole team should be proud of their fellowship and the football they played today.

FENCING

The School v Eton, 7 November

Thursday the first team fenced Foil, Epee and Sabre teams at home against Eton, winning overall 215 to 185. with standout performances from Aidan Lee, *The Head Master's*, Oliver Mak, *Newlands*, and Arthur Cullinane, *The Head Master's*. Also on Saturday, Nathan Goff, *Lyon's*, Wilfred Kent, *Bradlys*, and Old Harrovian Francois de Robert Hautquerre fenced in a Foil tournament at the Lansdowne Club in London. Following the group stages, they went on to beat Eton again to secure third place overall.

BADMINTON

1st away v Eton College, Won 5-3, 7 November

On Thursday, the first badminton team played an away match against Eton College, winning overall 5-3—an impressive response to their previous home loss earlier this term. Special commendations go to Josh Mather, *The Knoll*, and Ivan Chang, *The Grove*, who made an impressive debut as a pair, playing with composure to beat their opponents in two tight games, 21-19 and 23-21. Well done to John Kwong, *Lyon's*, and Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, who performed exceptionally well and effectively applied their coaching, making them the only pair to win both their games against Eton's first and second pairs. Excellent spirit and maturity from the team overall as they aim to maintain this momentum for upcoming fixtures.

RACKETS

The School v Charterhouse, 7 November

1st away v Charterhouse, Won 1st Pair Won 3-1

Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, overcame a wobble in the 3rd game to win the 4th game convincingly. In his debut at 1st Pair Tom served intelligently and Ben was very steady.

2nd away v Charterhouse, Won 2nd Pair. Won 3-0

Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Arjan Lai, *West Acre*, were too consistent for their opponents and combined well in a strong performance.

3rd away v Charterhouse, Won Colts A Won 3-1

Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*, did well to wrestle the initiative from 1-1 in games. Ned served with great accuracy and Arthur struck the ball cleanly in the rallies. A fine effort to win against a pair of similar standards.

Junior Colts A away v Charterhouse, Won 3-0

Ethan Jones, *Druries*, and Pablo Castellano, *Rendalls*, showed composure to come through 3 tight games to win 3-0. Pablo hit some powerful shots and Ethan displayed some skillful stroke play.

Yearlings A away v Charterhouse, Won 3-0

Hector Gray, *Druries*, and Alex Bishop, *The Head Master's*, showed passion and determination on their debut to win a tightly contested match.

SQUASH

The School v Various, 12 November

First V v Charterhouse, Won 5-0

Harrow won with an impressive 5-0 victory against Charterhouse. Darren Chiu, *Newlands*, Rishaad Bhushan, *The Grove*, and Diederik Brouwers, *The Head Master's*, all won 3-0, and Filip Wiszniewski, *Druries*, and George Epton, *The Head Master's*, won 3-1. It was a very convincing display from an improving team.

Colts A v Charterhouse, Lost 2-3

The U16B lost narrowly to Charterhouse, but displaying great grit as they did so.

Colts A away v Berkhamsted School, Won National Cup-Round 1

The U16A team won their first-round National Cup encounter away at Berkhamsted, playing with great determination and

efficiency. Beating Berkhamsted and Bradfield very comfortably, they found the greatest challenge in Dr Challoner's, but still managed to beat them by a narrow four points to top the group. Congratulations to Sam Blumberg, *Newlands*, Max Warner, *The Head Master's*, Jimi Olunloyo, *Moretons*, Ryan Anand, *Elmfield*, and Ethan Jones, *Druries*.

Yearlings A v Charterhouse, Won 3-2

In only their second full fixture, the Yearlings played very well to win against a strong Carthusian outfit. Kenji Ma, *Moretons*, Tobi Olunloyo, *Moretons*, and Max Wight-Boycott, *Newlands*, all performed very well to win, and great teamwork was on display throughout the afternoon. With two missing to play in the cup match, the future looks very bright for this Yearlings outfit.

SWIMMING

The School v Abingdon, 7 November
1st away v Abingdon School, Regional Cup

The School swimming team travelled to Abingdon School to compete in the very first Southern Schools' Championship against not only the hosts, but other schools such as a strong Coopers Coborn side, as well as Eton, amongst others.

Unfortunately, due to transportation problems, Harrow arrived late and subsequently missed the first nine events which were the medley relays across all three age group categories where double points were on offer (to put that into perspective, that corresponded to a maximum of 36 points that could have been earned).

Unphased by this and the lack of a warm-up, the U14s began their campaign with the individual 50m backstroke. First out of the gate was Madi Mynbayev, *The Park*, who swam a personal best time of 36.00 seconds. In the U6 category of the same discipline, Ollie Finch, *Newlands*, swam a personal best of 29.4 seconds, whilst Stirling Smith, *Lyon's*, recorded a very strong time of 30.06 seconds allowing Harrow to take maximum points. Not to be outdone Eric Lesesne, *West Acre*, recorded a time of 27.40 seconds and Joseph Li, *The Grove*, obtained a season's best of 27.80 seconds, once again giving Harrow maximum points, setting up us nicely to chase down the deficit from the medley relays.

Subsequently, Harrow won or finished second in every other event. Impressive swims from Jayden Kwon, *Lyon's*, Vincent Ko, *Lyon's*, Luke Wu, *Elmfield*, and Villa Kam, *The Head Master's*, helped Harrow to finish second to Coopers Coborn and Company by only three points. So, although Harrow did not return to the Hill with the inaugural Southern Schools' Championship Trophy, the team were very much the moral victors on Thursday afternoon.

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