

THE HARROVIAN

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HOUSE INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITION

Large Ensemble, Speech Room, 11 February
Adjudicator: Mr Mark Batten, Head of Music at
St Nicholas Prep School

The Monday before half term marked the culmination of many weeks of preparation for this year's third round of the House Instrumental Competition – the House Large Ensemble. The School was very privileged to welcome Mr Mark Batten, Head of Music at St Nicholas Preparatory School in South Kensington, to adjudicate proceedings.



Mr Batten began his speech after the competition had ended with a brief account of his founding of the Music Department at our sister school, Harrow Shanghai. He remarked jovially upon his efforts to organise the first Churchill Songs over there, suggesting that we should take a trip out there to experience for ourselves the sound of *Forty Years On* in Mandarin. Not dwelling for long, however, Mr Batten skipped quickly on into his adjudication, beginning with Duries. To mirror the words of our adjudicator, much credit should go to Rafe Wendelken-Dickson who both directed the performance and contributed to it with his bassoon. Druries played *Queen of Peace* by Florence and The Machine, which Rafe arranged too. To their credit, this ensemble achieved great balance between the parts, benefited by strong and confident drum accompaniment. Next was Elmfield, who played *What a wonderful world* by Weiss and Thiele. There was a lovely classical big band texture to this ensemble and, following in this tradition, the group featured a number of solos from a wide variety of instruments. Mr Batten turned his attention after this to Lyon's performance of *The Incredibles*, written by Giacchino but arranged (cleverly, as the adjudicator would comment) by Corran Stewart and William Tallentire. The group captured very well a sense of urgency and the adjudicator was keen to highlight how well George Townshend (drums) and Graham Lambert (trumpet) played to contribute to the excitement of the performance.

The Head Master's performed *Don't stop me now* – a piece demanding no introduction. The ensemble capitalised very well on the natural jazzy variety of the piece, managing aptly the often tricky transitions. The lead guitarist played very commendably too. Moretons combined two of our adjudicator's dearest passions – playing the organ and Coldplay: the House performed *Adventure of a lifetime*. Indeed, what was most unique about this piece was Daniel Baker's somewhat unprecedented decision to involve the organ in his arrangement. The group

displayed a very imaginative use of ensemble and made good use of the vibraphone and glockenspiel; their drummer was also on particularly good form and helped the group to bring out all of the best musical elements.

The Park were up next for commentary following their performance of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. What was impressive about this performance was how the group gave a special moment to nearly all instrumentalists and, as a result, they added great colour to their work. Following The Park, The Knoll performed an excellent Coldplay medley, the ideas of which were linked together very strongly. Newlands were likewise commended after this for their performance of *Blue Bossa* by Kenny Durham. Again, this performance featured excellent percussion playing on the vibraphone, and credit must similarly be paid to some punchy clarinet and trumpet contributions. West Acre were then praised for their imaginative performance of another musical medley, this time comprising the works of Michael Jackson. Josh Harris played a terrific guitar solo, matching Freddie Falcon's lively drum beat, and the former should be congratulated on his excellent direction of the ensemble. Finally, we came to hear of The Grove's performance of 'Married Life' from *Up*, written by Michael Giacchino but arranged by Brian Chiang. The ensemble captured very well the sense of elegance and nostalgia about this piece; indeed, this was much to the credit of Brian Chiang's sensitive violin playing.



Overall, it was a fantastic evening and Moretons, who won, as well as The Park, who came second, should be very much congratulated. Likewise, I should like to extend by thanks on behalf of the School to DNW, all members of the Music department and, of course, Mr Batten.

Small Ensemble, Music Schools, 10 February

On Sunday, the inter-House small ensemble competition took place, adjudicated by Mr Mark Batten, Head of Music at St Nicholas Preparatory School, as well as the organist for Harrow School services on Sunday. The adjudicator made mention of the high standard of playing from all the Houses, especially the sense of ensemble playing.

The evening started with a performance of the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, composed by Pietro Mascagni, by Newlands. The adjudicator referenced the eye contact between the players, and each player's individual understanding of the shape of the melody, resulting in an excellent performance.

The second performance was of the Largo ma non tanto movement from the *Concerto for two violins in D minor*

composed by Bach, by The Grove. The adjudicator mentioned the excellent ensemble feel between the violin players, especially when one violinist would take up the melody that the other one finished, as well as the sensitive piano playing.

The third performance was No 7 – Valse Russe from *Minatures for piano trio in B minor* composed by Frank Bridge, by West Acre. The adjudicator referred to the clear phrasing and articulation of the trio and the expressive cello playing at the start of the movement that captured the elegance of the piece.

The fourth performance was the Prelude and Waltz from *Three Duets* composed by Shostakovich, by Bradbys. The adjudicator referenced the excellent piano moments throughout the pieces as well as great playing and musicality from the two violinists, and the contrast in sound to the previous piece.

The fifth performance was the Prelude – Moderato from *Five Pieces* also composed by Shostakovich, by The Park. The adjudicator mentioned the ensemble between the two cellists and the pianist, as well as citing the cello playing as excellent.

The sixth performance was the Overture composed by Darius Milhaud from the *Suite for violin, clarinet and piano*, by The Knoll. The adjudicator referred to the use of flute instead of a clarinet, and the potential difficulties of a transposing part, as well as the dance-like character of the music.

The seventh performance was the *Sonata in E minor, op 1*, composed by Corelli, by Elmfield. The adjudicator referenced the excellent sense of ensemble and eye contact between the players, as well as the excellent handling of the various tempo changes throughout the piece.



The eighth performance was the Finale from *Trio for flute, cello and piano in E minor, op 45*, composed by Farranc, by Moretons. The adjudicator mentioned that the playing gave a real sense of direction of the melody as well as mentioning that the strong ending of the piece was handled well.

The ninth performance was the Alla Marcia and Andante from the *Serenade in G minor, op 55*, by composed by Robert Stark, by Lyon's. The adjudicator referred to the excellent ensemble playing as well as the sensitive instrumental playing of the ensemble involving a variety of different instruments.

The tenth performance was Mozart *Arias for Bassoon Quartet*, arranged by Whitfield, by Druries. The adjudicator referenced the excellent ensemble playing between the two cellos and the two bassoons, as well as the sensitive playing, in that none of the instruments overpowered the others.

The final performance was the Allegro from *Piano Trio No 1 in D minor, op 32* composed by Arensky, performed by Te Head Master's. The adjudicator praised the excellent lush and lyrical lines of the melody, the excellent ensemble playing and the expressive instrumental playing from all of the instrumentalists, as well as the sensitivity of the accompaniment.

The adjudicator gave third place to Moretons, for the excellent ensemble playing between instrumentalists, second place to West Acre, due to the expressive playing, elegance and use of articulation, and first place to The Head Master's, for the balance between all of the instrumentalists and the lush and lyrical melody lines.

HOUSE ART COMPETITION

Pasmore Gallery and Art Schools, 12 February

Bradbys

Bradbys were placed second in the 2019 House Art Competition. Johnson Lam contributed a large painting playing on the trompe-l'oeil tradition. The scale of the painting along with technical areas meant that a commendable level of perseverance was needed to complete the piece in time for the exhibition. Max Melser's face had been elongated in a Holbeinesque fashion, was pulled off well. Overall, however, the painting was conceptually slightly shallow, and struggled to be anything more than an illusion. Terry Xu was up next, and produced three frescos with a sharp contemporary edge. Graffiti, merged with the remnants of a Michelangelo, seemed to be the starting point of a piece where strength can be found in Xu's dealing with both the coarse and beautiful in a small space. Otto Seymour produced a notable piece – the only metal work in the whole exhibition. Francis Bamford further produced two powerful drawings with a striking texture of crushed charcoal.

Druries

Sam Macer was Druries' curator, and did a good job in making the most out of what little space he had. His pieces were full of a refreshing vitality – a welcome break from the Harrovian artists taking themselves too seriously. Although Macer's work risked being taken as gimmicky, superficial analysis would be foolish, with intense colours luring the viewer in. Of course, every third person walking by the pieces probably brought up Bridget Riley, whose beautiful work Macer simultaneously cut to the core of and avoided. Aleks Predolac-Miller also produced an intriguing piece, a model of a Middle-Eastern desecrated tower block, with the plaster carved delicately into breezeblocks. This work brought into sharp focus the Syrian War in a mature and thought-provoking manner.

Elmfield

Elmfield's victory in the 2019 House Art competition was set among the tarry shingle of two disappointments on the music front. Thus, the House Art Competition meant a good deal. It was the fruit of a certain Antony Cho's labour, whose dedication was paid off superbly in a stunning show of Elmfield's artistry. I would be so bold as to say that the victory was not the result of two weeks of preparation, but of studied thought. Since the Shell year, Cho's eyes have been on the House Art Prize; fellow Upper Sixth artists can only hope he has expended a little of his energy on this, leaving the upcoming Neville Burston prize up for grabs. From hopeful Shell artists to serious Sixth Formers, Elmfield put on a healthy show. Yizi Wei, in the Shells, showed potential with his commentary on Chinese communism. Mould cavorted with his paint brush daringly, in the sylvan settings he presented. Chubb added a contemporary edge, Rogers too presenting an impressive video. Shubh Malde, Yoh Ishikawa and Freddie Atkinson also contributed.

The Grove

The Grove's artists seemed to be just short of pyromaniacs. Zac Goodman created a model of various rooms, and then set about setting them on fire. Kirill Korobkov created a structure made from picture frames, burnt in a similar manner. This piece drew attention to a Rachel Whiteread-type space, in which the space not occupied was just as interesting as that which was. One Shell completed a fantastic painting of his House, The Grove's more attractive aspect on show. As I inspected the piece, I imagined a lonely Shell, maybe 200 years ago, painting with his easel *en plein air*, the pollen drifting about in the summer breeze. Waugh's Llanabba castle came to mind, Mr Prendergast's bath being concealed behind the finely painted walls.

The Knoll

The Knoll managed to showed that it wasn't just sport that they focused on. George McGovern presented a collection of photographs that, while on a familiar motif, portrayed something different about London's homeless. Put loftily, McGovern was representing the unrepresented. This does sound like a political slogan, but I think it really can be applied to his pieces. He was not empowering them so much as lending their often lonely existences of suffering a collective thirst of hope. Hopefully, our Long Ducker running can relieve some of these people through FirmFoundation.

The Head Master's

Leopold Florescu's pallet knife paintings were beautiful in their heightened domesticity, an otherworldly quotidian. The serious approach and measured process that Florescu clearly went through to complete these pieces could be seen in the work, emanating a meditative peace. However, the pastel colours could not quite decide themselves, and reminded me of those hoodies that you see around sometimes; a murky pink being worn by someone like Kanye West, for example.

Lyon's

Lyon's looked to be strong contenders for the palette and had an especially strong Upper Sixth year. Pieces were, by and large, on the hefty side so credit must be given to House Art Captains Zeddie Johnson-Watts and Yuhki Koshiba for maximising the allocated space. In the lower years, Fifth Former Adam Auret demonstrated strong potential with his small and slightly sinister models of bodies, while Pier Bertelsen, also of the Fifth Form, shocked with a painting of black Jesus.



(Above: Yuki Koshiba, *Lyon's*)

Lyon's House Art Captain Koshiba and Johnson-Watts carried the House with their respective pieces that demonstrated the depth and variety expected of Upper Sixth artists. Johnson-Watts produced a large-scale map coated in clay with strings stretched across the canvas in different colours; grey representing marine vessel travel and trade routes while bronze showing the extent of ocean pollution. The textured surface created by the clay and oil paint was intriguing and indicative of the significant time dedicated in achieving the desired effect: a thoughtful and relevant piece. Koshiba's triptych, displayed as a diptych due to space limitations, of skeletal forms demonstrated a clear understanding of tone and line. Brushwork was expressive and particularly impressing was Koshiba's rendering of human ribs.

Moretons

Having secured one of the best exhibition spots, Moretons were unfortunate not to have done better. Of particular interest was Max Melser's visceral interpretation of flesh and his incredibly

personal triptych consisting of multiple perspex boxes housing a variety of objects finished off with a touch of sprinkle and sand. The choice of personal objects is reminiscent of Virgil's phrase *Lacrimae rerum*, meaning 'tears of things'. Melser's use of unorthodox material and manipulation of texture was a clear highlight for Moretons. Joseph Wang's landscape watercolours were quaint and subtle. Most indie goes to Alexander Ballingal for his black and white film of scissors cutting strings. Clear references to Japanese literature and cinema were injected including an extract of Murakami Haruki's short story *Concerning the Sound of a Train Whistle in the Night or On the Efficacy of Stories*. The black covers over the computer was also a nice detail, nodding to Japanese stagehands in traditional theatre: *kurokos*.

Newlands

Newlands, under the guidance of Matthys du Toit, were well rounded and showcased a wide variety of media, with a strong Lower Sixth presence. Particular favourite was Freddie Strange's series of small-scale mixed-media collages. The central theme of these seemed to be surrounding that of beauty, the human form and fashion. They were relevant and nicely executed. Robert Litton paid a heartfelt tribute to the tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire through a collage of newspapers headlining the incident that formed the silhouette of the Tower itself. There was good attention to detail in the use of charring. Joseph Fan's small and playful treatment of a genre often associated with 'grandness' due to the like of Turner and Constable was noteworthy, with kilful painting with a certain abnormality in the rendering of shadows and shapes that was attractive. Matthys du Toit was extremely skilled in his draughtsmanship and use of charcoal in depicting seated figures, with layers upon layers of exaggerated lines that contain strong traces of Francis Bacon.

The Park

The Park were placed in third after a solid curatorial effort by Spencer Taylor – perhaps not securing second due to the lack of representation in the lower years. Taylor demonstrated his skills in painting through several large-scale pieces, which I am sure everyone is familiar with as they occupy the main walls of the Shepherd Churchill – including a self-portrait and two other portraits done in George Condo style. Arshaan Bhatnager showed sophisticated thought and raised many questions through his reproduction of a slum in sculptural form. Bhatnagar's attention to detail in his crafting of telephone poles and wires was notable. An excellent choice was made by Spencer Taylor in its display, preferring to have it on a flat surface rather than hung on the wall, which made the piece seem more like a sculpture and added to the variety in medium. There was a good, solid drawing from Tomas Kemp (Remove) of Lewis Hamilton but it was slightly gimmicky and lacking in depth. Iggy Gonzalez's (Upper Sixth) exploration of the skull through his small but detailed prints on wonderfully crafted backgrounds was a clean addition.

Rendalls

After winning for three consecutive years, Rendalls were disappointed not to be placed despite a very well curated space by House Captain Alex Lee, who used the area effectively and efficiently. Clear effort has gone into the inclusion of a variety of media and year groups. James Cullimore's (Upper Sixth) striking black and white panels of quick brush-worked cityscape overwhelmed viewers, though there were noted as slightly confusing as the panels didn't actually correspond to each other. Some of the best photographs of the whole exhibition were captured by Rufus Hunter (Remove) who showed an awareness, in his nostalgic handling of the subject, that was far beyond his age. Jack Chen (Lower Sixth) was unlucky not to win in the Lower Sixth category with his model of a burial

mound. Chen's use of technology among natural material, moss and wood was noteworthy. The video of a trapped figure, presented on an iPhone, was cleverly integrated into the mound and shows Chen's confidence in breaking boundaries. Leo Cho was skilful in his use of the pen and overspilled his ideas onto paper, a mass of figures and a carnival of references (including the bear from 'Danganronpa').

West Acre

West Acre were more playful in their approach, with House Captain Callum Jones starting the exhibition off with a leather jacket. The black jacket had bits of canvases containing sketched faces sown on and smiley faces spray-painted on its façade and balaclavas spray-painted on its back. Archie Rowllins (Lower Sixth), who was mistakenly given the best Fifth Form prize, pleased viewers with a cardboard theme park which was intentionally 'crafty' and had heavy political leanings. Myles Dismont (Lower Sixth) won the 'Prize for Best Drawing' for his rough and moody charcoal depiction of the School.

TRIP TO RUSSIA

Moscow and St Petersburg, 16–21 February

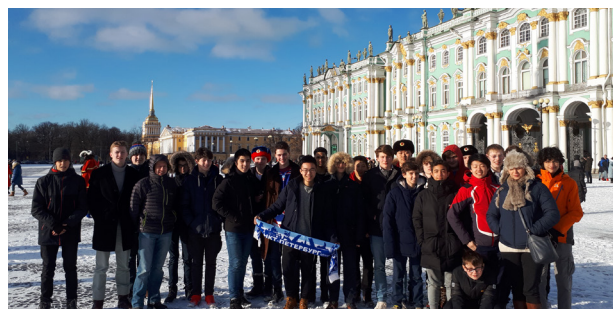
On Saturday 16 February, after a busy few weeks at School and a rather uneventful St Valentine's Day just two days before, a collection of Russian linguists, culture buffs, and those who simply wanted a holiday in Russia gathered early in the morning at Heathrow Airport. At the very outset of this trip, its educational value presented itself to the boys in many forms. Indeed, a special mention must go to Richard Hayward, *The Knoll*, whose insatiable urge for practising Russian and networking prompted him to engage in deep four-hour discussions in Russian with his neighbour on the plane, which provided an early opportunity for him to distribute his self-printed Harrow School-branded business cards, with scarcely a mention of copyright infringement.



The trip began in Moscow, where, having checked into the hotel, the boys headed out for an evening of ice skating in the famous Red Square, surrounded by the icy winds and gentle snow that is typical of the Russian winter. This activity provided some excellent entertainment, especially when various Harrovians gained enough confidence to try a new "trick", with mixed results. The boys then indulged in some local Russian snacks, including the famous *пирожки* (pirozhki, small Russian pastries with various fillings) and caviar canapes.

The next two days consisted of visiting the mummified body of the famous communist revolutionary leader Lenin, a visit to the Moscow Gulag Museum, the State Pushkin Museum, a look

inside the pink frosted-sugar exterior of the famous St Basil's Cathedral, a visit to the Moscow Bloomberg headquarters, and a special tour of the Kremlin, which included a tour of the famous Cathedral of the Assumption, one of the most stunning examples of the Russian Orthodox church style, a chance to marvel at the truly enormous Tsar's Bell, broken before it ever had a chance to ring, the Armoury Museum, home to such treasures as the Tsars' royal collection of original Fabergé eggs, to name only one thing, and, perhaps most interestingly of all, a VIP tour of the Grand Kremlin Palace, the official residence of the President of the Russian Federation, usually strictly off-limits to tourists. This was all capped off each day by delicious dinners at Sixty, one of Moscow's highest restaurants on the 60th floor of an enormous skyscraper, and Café Pushkin, one of the nicest restaurants in Moscow, where a live string quartet contributed to recreating a refined atmosphere of the golden age of the Tsars.



But perhaps the most enjoyable and useful activity in Moscow, certainly for some of the boys, was the visit to School No 1253. Here, five of the School's GCSE Russian linguists: Edward Blunt, *Elmfield*, Bertie Clayton, *Bradby's*, Toby de la Billiere, *Elmfield*, George Gallagher, *The Grove*, and Richard Hayward, *The Knoll*, delivered a presentation to the class of mostly girls. The boys held their audience captivated (quite literally in the sense that they were unable to leave) with facts about the School and its traditions. This was followed by small group discussions with the local students, including the all-important exchanges of Instagram details for some. But our visit to the school did not end there. In fact, led by EPM, all the boys then gathered at the front of the classroom for a semi-professional rendition of *Forty Years On*. This was greatly enjoyed by our hosts and it was both an honour and privilege for us to visit this school. After three days in Moscow, the boys boarded a Soviet-style sleeper train, The Grand Express, to St Petersburg for the second half of the trip.

With yet another early morning, the group disembarked from the train, having travelled over 395 miles while simply asleep. Nevertheless, the boys set out to Peter the Great's first building project of the fledgling city, the Peter and Paul Fortress, including its prisons, and St Isaac's Cathedral for a blast of Russian history during which we heard the infamous Russian quote "In life, everything is possible, except for escaping the prisons of Peter and Paul's Fortress." Indeed, we learnt that in its 200 years of existence as a prison, there was never a successful escape. This was followed by lunch on Nevsky Prospect, widely believed to be the 'Champs-Élysées of the East', which gave the boys a chance to pick up a few souvenirs. And so the boys, the majority of whom were now outfitted with USSR fur hats, returned to the bus after an hour of shopping. The evening was spent visiting Yusopov Palace, the ancestral home of the Yusopov aristocratic dynasty, where the boys were shown the site of the infamous murder of the mystic Grigory Rasputin. Thence, the boys were allowed some relaxation in the hotel for some, or a tour of St Petersburg at night for those with the most energy.

The next day was widely named as the most 'successful day of the trip' by those of a certain cast of mind (or perhaps a more developed sense of irony). It began with a visit to St

Petersburg Gymnasium No 2 (Вторая Санкт-Петербургская Гимназия), a gymnasium founded by the Emperor Alexander I for the scions of the St Petersburg aristocracy, and nowadays a highly prestigious and historic school. Once again, the previously mentioned five boys gave a presentation on Harrow, but then the unexpected happened. Unbeknownst to the boys, a dance had been organised and so 22 boys took to the centre of the hall to take the hands of their hosts for a traditional Russian dance, some with more apparent grace than others. Once again, this was followed by small group time and even the boys who had not ever studied Russian were able to put the few words they had learnt to the test.

After photos had been taken and Instagram “friends” made, the boys departed the school in order to visit Catherine’s Palace, once of the most stunning of the Imperial residences of the Tsars, and home of the world-famous Amber Room (or at least the modern restoration of it); the boys thrilled at the tale of its disappearance when the palace was captured by the Nazis in the Second World War and enjoyed speculating wildly as to its current whereabouts. Afterwards, they were treated to a snow-lined carriage ride around the palace gardens.

The evening, too, was greatly enjoyed as the boys headed to the famous Mariinsky Theatre for an evening of ballets by Stravinsky. The following day, the boys, unfortunately, realised that their trip was swiftly coming to an end, though not before a stop at a huge souvenir shop and a tour of the world-famous Hermitage, the second largest museum of art in the world (after the Louvre), where one would supposedly need to spend nine years in order to examine each of its exhibits for just a minute. Highlights for art lovers included Rembrandt’s final masterpiece *The Return of the Prodigal Son* and the collection’s two Leonardo oils of the Madonna and Child. Somewhat exhausted (and some particularly so) the boys headed to the airport in order to return from a highly successful trip.



Special thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Shumeyko for treating our group to some amazing entertainment, including the ice-skating session in Red Square, the special tour of the Grand Kremlin Palace and the delicious farewell dinner at Café Pushkin, and to Mrs Peganova for the special evening tour of the Pushkin State Museum and the great evening at Sixty. We would also like to thank Mrs Shilova and her colleagues for hosting our group at Bloomberg and for providing us with an opportunity to find out more about how big international companies operate in Russia today. We are also extremely grateful to Ms Kotok and her colleagues and pupils from School No 1253 in Moscow for their warm reception and to Ms Kuznetsova, Ms Priima and their pupils from St Petersburg Gymnasium No 2 for organising such an amazing morning of activities for our group at their school, as well as to Ms Piotrovskaya from St Petersburg University for facilitating our visit.

In addition, we would like to say a huge thank you to our local guides Alexandr Palkin in Moscow and Natalia Ilatovskaya in St Petersburg as well as TCBC School Tours for making our stay in Russia so special.

Last but not least, we would like to thank KAF for organising yet another unforgettable trip for us and JAPB and EPM for taking care of us and providing excellent company throughout the trip.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Mark Giffard-Lindsay, OH, ‘Tectonic Hazards in Nepal’
5 February

The Geography Society was honoured to welcome Mark Giffard-Lindsay (*The Grove* 1982³), back to the Hill to speak about international development and challenges in Nepal, which is especially relevant to the GCSE course and concerns the recent earthquakes in the country.

After leaving Harrow, Mark acted as a logistics officer for Operation Raleigh’s expedition to West Cameroon with the Paratrooper Regiment Reserve. He went on to work in Nepal for CARE International and the European Community Humanitarian Office. After this, he worked for two years for the Red Cross before co-founding Global Action.

Mark began the talk by introducing the nation of Nepal and why it is in such need of humanitarian aid. It is one of the last Asian countries still on Level 1 of the development index, which means that it ranks near the bottom of the list in terms of development. Nearly 50% of its population in 2015 was living on less than \$3 a day, according to the World Bank. It was during this year that the country was rocked by an earthquake: Nepal lies in a Seismic Active Zone, causing it to be constantly at risk from earthquakes, landslides, floods and avalanches.

As it is a less developed country, the impact of natural disasters is far worse compared to an MEDC. An MEDC will have the infrastructure to cope relatively well. It will also have healthcare of a high quality to take care of those injured. Its buildings are also more likely to be earthquake resistant. In an LEDC that lacks these resources, the population suffers more. Indeed, in Nepal, there were 9,000 fatalities and 3.5 million made homeless, but it could have been even worse. It was generally assumed that the earthquake’s epicentre would be around the fault line in the Kathmandu Valley – luckily it was in rural Western Nepal, otherwise the casualties could have been even more severe.

Its human impact was very profound. As well as the fatalities and injuries from collapsing un-reinforced brick and mud buildings, there was mass internal migration from the affected area, caused by the state of homelessness its citizens found themselves in. The massive settlements set up outside Kathmandu created serious health and security hazards. Many families were hit economically, as the loss of their family members meant a loss of income. Furthermore, there was an impact on tourism, as illustrated by the Langtang Valley. The villages in this once-popular destination had been completely buried, depriving the country of a valuable source of income. However, tourism has been picking up recently, with Asian, American and European tourist numbers increasing. Another interesting effect was its impact on the nation’s culture. The steeple of one of Nepal’s most famous places of worship, the Boudhanath Stupa, recently collapsed. Its resurrection was of the utmost priority to the Nepalese ahead of building accommodation for those who had been made homeless.

Mark outlined the role international development has in aiding such a vulnerable country. Over 2,000 local NGOs and international NGOs assist in disaster risk reduction strategies, emergency relief and reconstruction. Before 2015, there was no government department responsible for mitigating the effects of floods, earthquakes or avalanches. Since the earthquake, there has been consultation with the government and the UN Development Programme to create a ‘National Strategy’. Mark pointed out that bilateral support is a key driver of NGO funding. An example would be USAID’s funding for the Nepalese Red Cross and the SCF.

The process is not without its challenges. Politics can get involved in distributing and blocking foreign aid post-earthquake. Nepal went through political turmoil after the earthquake, with India imposing a two-month economic blockade on their border.

The Nepalese went through no less than four changes. Moreover, the World Bank planned to train 20,000 construction workers, but most Nepalese workers worked in cities or in the Gulf, meaning there was a shortage of trained masons in rural areas.

When describing the grassroots responses to the earthquake, Mark gave an honourable mention to the Gurkha Welfare Trust. This comprises of retired soldiers, who benefit their communities in various ways. For example, they built suspension bridges over a valley allowing students to get to school. British school groups also got involved helping to rebuild school buildings and install clean water systems. At the end of the fascinating lecture, Mark left us with this piece of advice: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Thank you very much to Mark for such a fascinating lecture.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

Dr Alexander Yakovenko, Russian Ambassador's to the UK: "Diplomacy of the 21st Century", Residence of the Russian Ambassador in Kensington, 8 February

On 8 February, five Harrow boys: Anton Shumeyko, *Moretons*, Nick Shishkarev, *The Grove*, Richard Hayward, *The Knoll*, Toby de la Billiere and Edward Blunt, both *Elmfild*, set out with KAF once again, for the second time in a fortnight, to the Residence of the Russian Ambassador. This time, however, it was to attend a lecture entitled 'Diplomacy of the 21st Century' delivered by His Excellency Dr Alexander Yakovenko himself on the occasion of Diplomat's Day, celebrated in Russia on 10 February. Other guests at the event included students from a variety of education establishments in the UK as well as young diplomats from other countries currently working in the UK. The boys began the evening by socialising and networking with the other guests in the main hall of the residence. As soon as all the guests assembled in the lecture venue, Dr Yakovenko warmly welcomed everyone and proceeded with his lecture.



In his talk, Dr Yakovenko explained the main goals of today's diplomatic missions and highlighted the importance of cultural awareness and the ability to speak foreign languages in the spheres of international relations and diplomacy. Dr Yakovenko also spoke about his own story and how he became involved in this career. His fascinating lecture was followed by several questions from the audience, ranging from the topic of Brexit and how it might affect Russo-British relations, through the Skripal case, to the Russian annexation of the Crimea. All the questions were professionally dealt with by the Ambassador.

The lecture was followed by a quick raffle and Edward Blunt, *Elmfild*, was lucky enough to be one of the prize winners! And so, he headed back to the Hill with a huge calendar of Russia's most famous and beautiful landscapes.

The evening finished with a reception held in the Winter Garden Room of the Residence and provided a further opportunity for the boys to network with other guests as well as converse with

the Ambassador himself, while enjoying a variety of delicious snacks prepared for the occasion.

The evening was immensely enjoyed by all and served as a great opportunity for all the boys to deepen their understanding of both a diplomatic career and of Russia as well as its place in the world today.

Special thanks must go to His Excellency Dr Yakovenko for kindly extending his invitation to our group, to the staff at the Embassy for their warm reception and last but not least to KAF for giving up her time to travel with us to the event.

OH WISDOM



"Through education we give children the skills and knowledge to build a better future. The only way to ensure tomorrow is better than today is with education."

Tom Dannatt (*Bradlys* 1992³), CEO and founder of Street Child, launching the Schools for Tomorrow campaign to give more than 100,000 children in Sierra Leone an education over the next five years by building or upgrading 1,000 rural schools. www.street-child.co.uk

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GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from around the Hill

(*On a recent social to a girl's school in St Petersburg*): "My name is Diane or Diana, I am not sure what you say in English." "Then I will call you Diana, after our English Princess."

(*During a test, dead silence, Siri shouts*): "THE EQUATION FOR FORCE IS MASS TIMES ACCELERATION."

"Miss, do some people get angry if you personify women?"

(*At a cricket match*) "Cor, he's had more misses than Henry the 8th!"

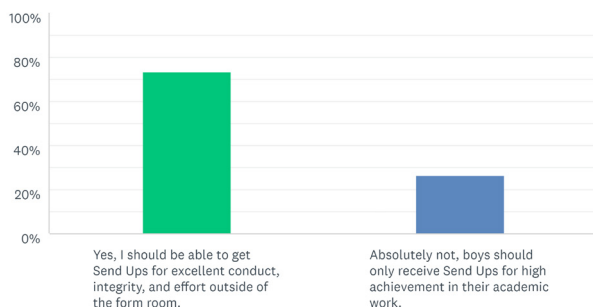
"Now boys, no playing hot Jaffea Cake during this reading period!"

"I've had too much caviar and smoked salmon on this trip... I can't wait to go back to the SCH."

HARROW POLL

“Should boys be able to receive Send Ups for non-academic work?”

With remission calculations in early this week, there is no surprise that there are some boys who are elated by their successes, and others disappointed (or feeling robbed) that they didn't get enough points to quite make it into the three-week tier. Send Ups are ubiquitous now, the expectation for them is growing and the boys are hungry for more. Achievement? Effort? Or both? Boys were asked whether the all-rounders among us should be able to earn a bevy of Send Ups for things outside the form room.



More than half the School replied to the survey and a whopping 73% agreed that “Yes, I should be able to get Send Ups for excellent conduct, integrity, and effort outside of the form room.” It makes sense, since Conduct and Integrity appear on the reports, that they should be used for calculating Remission – surely we should be able to earn Send Ups for it? It looks like the brighter sparks we a bit more jealous of the rewards, with 27% refusing: “Absolutely not, boys should only receive Send Ups for high achievement in their academic work.”

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors of *The Harrovian*

DEAR SIRs,

I am writing with regards to the new rewards and sanctions system here at Harrow. While it is my belief that the recent upheaval and digitalisation of the “points” system has improved parity amongst boys and further encouraged high academic performance, I do have several criticisms which I wish to express. To begin with, I find startling the lack of a reward for non-academic success. While the new system aims to reward and quantify our effort and achievement, this is only currently being done in a conventionally academic way. In spite of the much-claimed new focus on “character education” (a noble aim indeed), there is no way for beaks to reward boys who have shown a commitment to furthering themselves in the fields of super-curricular music, art and drama or in societies. In fact, there are rumours of beaks who have actually been chastised for rewarding a feverishly admirable quality of work outside the curriculum. Why can a boy not be rewarded for putting countless hours into a lecture or debate for the benefit of the School? Why can a boy not be rewarded with points for a service to the community? Why can a boy not be rewarded for a commitment to sport? While some may argue that it is the duty of a Harrovian to do all these things anyway, it is also the duty for us to excel naturally within the curriculum.

Others may claim that the points system is only intended to measure academia but, if that is so, should Double and Custos still be logged for points on iSAMS? Remission on the points system, should surely take into account other factors also. For example, I do not believe it right that putting in 30 minutes of extra work on a prep task should be worth more than entering many academic essay competitions. There needs to be a points reward (even if it is of a lower tariff) for super-curricular effort and the lack thereof is something which is negatively impacting the culture at Harrow.

Additionally, the new points system fails to reward consistency. It is positively advantageous on the new system to dedicate one's time towards one prep and neglect to put effort into the others rather than treating all subjects evenly. Already, there is a culture in place (now that Send Ups are significant) of putting all of one's effort into a subject in which the teacher has a reputation of giving many Send Ups. My suggestion to remedy this would be to factor our end-of-term reports into the points system because they are a representative review by a qualified educator across a whole term.

Finally, one wonders whether it is possible to issue us with ways to get into our iSAMS account so we can get an accurate indication of how we are doing in different weeks. While I understand that the same goal can be completed with a simple European Union GDPR request, I am personally of the opinion that it should be easier than that.

I would love to hear some other views on this matter from throughout the School because, while the changes introduced thus far have been positive, we must continue to strive for perfection. Harrow is consistently trying to find new ways of motivating us and preventing us from becoming “wastemen” and I believe that the measures I have proposed in this letter will help in that goal.

Yours faithfully,
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S,

DEAR SIRs,

The BBC is presently filming, and is soon going to broadcast, a mini-series about OH John Profumo (*Druries* 1928), who was a famous Minister for War.

“Jack” Profumo was a sargeant in the Harrow CCF, was in the Bullingdon Club at Oxford, and later served with distinction in World War II, fighting in Normandy and attaining the rank of brigadier. Then he became an MP, and in 1961, was made Minister for War and a Privy Councillor. But he had an affair with a “model” called Christine Keeler, aged 19. The press got wind of this, and gradually tied him in, not only to her, but also to the loose-living set at Cliveden, the Buckinghamshire country house of the Astors. A growing media frenzy included a risqué osteopath called Steven Ward, a gangland shooting, a Russian spy called Captain Yevgeny Ivanov, another “model” called Mandy Rice-Davies, and a very public court case. The BBC will not need to spice up this tale.

Then Ward killed himself. The scandal by now threatened the government of Harold MacMillan. The matter was the talk of every dinner party, wine bar, and golf club. It was the Brexit of its day. We Harrovians trawled the King's Road hoping to meet Christine or Mandy; how sad were we.

My pater Rocky was bamboozled by the furore. He couldn't understand why Profumo would stray, since he was happily married to the most glorious, beautiful, witty actress of the day, Valerie Hobson. If you don't know who Valerie Hobson was, well, perhaps you do, because she often plays Estella in TV re-broadcasts of *Great Expectations*, opposite John Mills. Clips of her are still on YouTube. You may surmise that Valerie/Estella was a tad formal, and maybe that's why Jack strayed towards cockney Christine and chirpy Mandy, who, when learned counsel pointed out in court that Lord Astor had denied ever meeting her, retorted, “Well, ‘ee would, wouldn't ‘ee?” The scandal even affected pater's golf.

Shakespeare's Queen Margaret remarks in Richard III "*Those that stand high have many blasts to shake them, but when they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.*"

So popular was Jack Profumo with his constituents in Stratford-on-Avon that he might have survived the first blast, his frolic with Christine. But he was caught lying to Parliament by denying it, and he could not survive the second blast. Macmillan sacked him. His public life was over. He even had to quit as an MP.

Yet his wife Valerie forgave him, and he spent the rest of his life in atonement, devoting himself to charity work as Toynbee Hall's chief fundraiser. His redemption was complete in 1995 when he was invited to Margaret Thatcher's 70th birthday dinner party, where he sat next to the Queen. Hospital, universally forgiven.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE STONE (MORETONS 1957²)

DEARSIRS,

I believe that the School should grant more boys typing privileges in examinations. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), who represent many of our exam boards (such as AQA and OCR), permit the use of a word processor in exams if it reflects one's 'normal way of working'. Indeed, with the ubiquity of Surface devices in our lessons at Harrow, which are often found in 'laptop mode', many students would fit this criterion.

Typing in exams provides myriad benefits compared to writing them. Most notably, many find their handwriting speed a bottleneck to getting their thoughts onto paper. A significant proportion of boys can alleviate this issue by utilising their faster typing speeds. It is also easier and neater to correct mistakes on a word processor than on paper. The few who prefer paper could continue using it. Somewhat ironically, this already gives a tremendous advantage to boys using word processors due to poor handwriting in writing-intensive exams.

Take the AQA Religious Studies GCSE, for instance: candidates miraculously manage to complete four gruelling essays; eight different multiple-paragraph questions; and a barrage of shorter ones – all in the measly time limit of an hour and 45 minutes! Likewise, in the recent Autumn Trials, many of my classmates found that their handwriting speed and crippling hand-pain got in the way of them performing at their best. However, JCQ guidelines would allow them to type, as it is their normal way of working.

Harrow School would not be alone in this endeavour. Indeed, *The Times* has reported on other schools that follow this very policy. Traditions make Harrow great, but I believe that this one should be forgone in the pursuit of superior academic performance.

Yours sincerely,
A. K. AGGARWAL, LYON'S

THE DIARY

"Whoop!" The young boy looked up in fear, expecting to see an aircraft bomber flying overhead. He instinctively reached for his little sister's red hand and gas mask.

"Whoop! Whoop!.....Ding ding!"

Fortunately, it was not an air raid. It was a shiny green train arriving at the platform. Ash breathed a sigh of relief and carefully helped his sister on-board. She held her teddy-bear to her chest as the heavy door slammed shut behind them. He then steered her wheelchair into the carriage. "Don't worry, Amy! Things will improve now!" Ash reassured her.

They were leaving the grey city behind and heading off to the country. Green fields and rivers flew past the window.

Eventually they arrived at a pretty woodland station. Ash was scared but he dared not let his sister know his true feelings.

A lady in a green feather hat and tweed jacket greeted them with barely a word. She then led them to a thatched farmhouse near the wood and knocked on the door. The garden swayed with daffodils. A small girl with a green bow finally came to the door. "Hello, Lottie! Is your granny home?" enquired the lady.

The girl ran into the house and brought an elderly woman to the door. Her green apron was covered in baking flour.

"Mrs Poppy, here are the two evacuees who will be staying with you until the war is over!" said the lady.

The old woman of the farmhouse looked upon the children with kind, twinkling eyes as if she knew their personal pain.

"You'll be just fine here, children! There's much on the farm to keep you busy!" encouraged Mrs Poppy. The children quickly adapted to country life – milking cows and feeding pigs. Lottie and Mrs Poppy were very caring and helpful to Amy, but Ash would often have to work on the farm all day long. He missed his parents terribly, back home in the war zone. Ash would occasionally escape to the barn overlooking the green wood to think alone after work. Sometimes, the old farmer would also be there. The farmer was now extremely old and he would go up to the airy barn to escape his wife and the noisy farm hands.

"Ash, could you do me a favour?" asked the ancient farmer one night. "I don't want to get into any trouble!" replied the boy, cautiously. "I need you to find a book in the farmhouse attic, but Mrs Poppy won't allow me up there anymore," said the old man. "Why is that?" asked Ash in fear.

"Because it's dangerous with no light up there," replied the man, "But if you find the book I promise I'll return whatever favour you wish for." Ash did not want to upset Mrs Poppy as she had been so kind to them. But he did have a heartfelt wish, so he agreed to the old man's request.

That night, when everyone was asleep, Ash stole upstairs to the attic. The old man had given him a torch to help him in his quest, but even in the torchlight it seemed strangely dark and spooky. As Ash crept across the floorboards he noticed a strong smell of mothballs. The attic was covered in dust, antique boxes and furry objects too scary to investigate, yet nothing he touched seemed to resemble a book. His hands searched in vain until his fingers suddenly found something leathery and square. He immediately shone his torch into the cold darkness. To his amazement, Ash discovered that it was a book and that it belonged to one 'Alfred Poppy'. He excitedly slipped it inside his pyjamas and returned to his bedroom.

The next morning a triumphant Ash gave the ancient farmer his long-lost book. Mr Poppy was beyond happy and overcome with joy. "This was my diary from when I was an evacuee during WWII! I want you to read it to me one last time!" declared the old man, "But first tell me your wish, Ashraf?"

"I wish my parents would come and live with me and Amyra in this beautiful green country!" Tears of despair welled up in the old man's eyes. He knew from his own personal family experience of WWII that this was the one wish that he could never make come true for the Afghan orphan.

HERE AND THERE

Just before half term, 19 Sixth Form biologists entered the Biology Olympiad competition, along with 10,000 other students from over 700 schools across the country. The Harrovians did very well with more than two-thirds receiving a bronze, silver or gold award. Special mention goes to two boys in the Lower Sixth, Freddie Murley, *The Park*, and Kingston Lee, *Elmfield*, who both achieved gold.

SUDOKU

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DAME VAUGHAN
AGONY AUNT

Dear Dame Vaughan,

O Great Goddess, in your plural-paged palace, I prostrate myself before you in humble supplication. I have had an encounter with the divine and wish to communicate further with the omniscient deities who manifest themselves in our world. However, I only wish to encounter them in novel form. Face-to-face experiences are a bit – what’s the word – unnerving. No, scratch that: weird. At least the kind of deities I’m encountering... See, a couple of weeks ago I was watching an amazing programme, *American Dogs*, when suddenly the TV started talking to me, proclaiming itself to be the Great Televisual Avatar, and that I was one of its greatest acolytes. I put this down to extreme tiredness but, ever since then, I’ve had visions and prophesies from the letterbox, the Metropolitan line, a football, and even Junction 15 of the M25/M4 interchange. Furthermore, last night, just as I was about to go to sleep, this old guy with a long beard and BO issues turned up at the foot of my bed, started praising ‘Boden’ or something (I mean, it’s not even a good clothing line) and then said I was the nexus between the Old and the New. I’m incredibly confused, humbled and a little weirded out. Anything which could explain these existential enigmas and alleviate my anxieties would be greatly appreciated.

Yours agnostically,
Genuflect Happyhuman

Dear My Devoutly Dubious Deity,

Heavens preserve us! What a theologically threatening thing to occur. Luckily, you have come to the right deific dame. I myself have been mistaken for a goddess in my time – well, I mean, who can blame them? Long story short, I was travelling, back in youthful days, across the frosty, wind-chilled depths of civilization known as Swansea. Obviously, the poor peasant folk had never seen someone in my likeness, so naturally they thought my beauty beatific. Cut to present day, there are now two shrines and one holy well in my name, a small but gloriously adorned chapel, and I’ve had to take a restraining order on my Chief Priest because he’s slightly too devout. Anyway, your issue: I have the perfect novel: *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman. Recently released convict Shadow, whose

wife was killed in a car accident only days before his release, accepts a job from the beguiling Mr Wednesday (your misheard ‘Boden’ is Woden, or Odin, hence Wodensday – Wednesday). However, Shadow soon learns that the past never dies, and the old gods still lie beneath the surface of society, battling it out for America’s soul with the new upstart gods arising from a technocratic society. A raucous and rumpy read which will no doubt give you some tips with how to communicate with the arcane and solve your godly woes.

Yours divinely,

Dame Vaughan

[If you have a book-themed predicament and wish to seek advice from the omniscient Dame Vaughan, please email the editor or the Vaughan Library, who will pass it onto the Dame’s people]

HILL LIFE

The School’s health education is far ahead of that of its counterpart in the public sector, as is clear from the number of talks and the vast array of issues we cover in our one-on-one sessions, but is it ever asked what is healthy for us to be taught?

Such questions have been raised by Justine Greening’s new ‘Relationship and Sex Education’ ‘LGBT+’ update. The new policy is to alter the current sex-ed course to focus primarily on gender and transgender relationships and to make this compulsory for all children to be taught after the age of 15, with or without their parents’ blessing. This went down with local parents worse than a renewal of *Jim’ll Fix It* (a chat show for children with Jimmy Savile fixing their problems). A petition in opposition gained 100,000 signatures swiftly (it is now at 108,070 signatures at the time of writing) and the story gained considerable traction in the media. As such, the outpouring of opinions has been great. On the one hand, arguments for more diversity, inclusion and a modernisation of the sexual education programme to include all minor varieties, on the other, anti-LGBT+ and religious arguments for liberty and privacy.

The considerable expansion of the LGBT banner which now includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, pansexual (the last one is largely to do with people’s spirits) can certainly be described as modern and are certainly currently not over-represented in the syllabus. However, is it right? Questions about gender seem to be at the crux of the issue – the new syllabus intends to put a new focus on adding these. This is to make children aware and sensitive to gender as a non-binary force but ultimately to rule out myths about gender, such as the male and female archetypes. Right. However, talks about feeling “trapped” in one’s gender leads to considerable confusion and anxiety among children too young to know for sure. Ferocious arguments from the likes of LGBT+, PrideMatters, MeToo and even the National Union of Teachers (who voted, at a conference in 2017, to teach ‘LGBT+’ issues and lifestyles to toddlers in nurseries) have led to more children than ever declaring they are not in the right gender. Significantly, a large number of children grow out of this with age, reverting to their original gender; according to the Transgender Trend this number is 80 per cent. Creating gender dysphoria is a direct result and it reveals the main aim of these gender questions: destroying normality.

Adversely, compelling evidence has shown children are far healthier when they are raised by their parents, ideally inside a marriage. Rather than calls for promoting heterosexual relationships in a time where it is seen as unpopular, “traditional” teachings are being axed from syllabuses in search of further and further diversity and political correctness. As Melanie Phillips rightly pointed out in her comment column in *The Times*, what it ultimately is is an authoritarian, illiberal dictatorial policy opposing normal lifestyles and, in addition, more sinisterly, completely disregarding religious assent and, as such, posing ‘a direct attack on traditional Christians, Muslims and Jews’.

Gender is a touchy subject on the Hill and is a very slippery slope everywhere else. The teaching of it here is rather brushed over – probably due to it being an all-male environment – and doesn't gel well with our traditional style. Some of the Health Education tutors, for example, are now teaching second generation of Harrovians sex-ed. Ultimately, there is a lack of any concrete evidence due to the very short life of this gender crisis, one could argue; however, it is not all sunshine and rainbows.

THE FUTURE OF QUANTITATIVE EASING

When the financial crisis suddenly struck in 2008, economies found themselves in a liquidity trap, which makes stimulation from monetary policy practically impossible. Central banks worldwide swiftly lowered their interest rates to the vicinity of zero, but this had no perceivable effect (Graff, 2014). The only option was to turn to unconventional monetary policy methods and hence quantitative easing (QE) was introduced.

When QE started, there was considerable concern among both economists and the public that it would lead to large-scale inflation (Cline, 2015), resulting from implications of the Quantity Theory of Money, made famous by Milton Friedman in the 1970s, that stated that inflation was directly proportional to the growth in the quantity of money in circulation, or the money supply.

Strikingly, however, there was no large-scale inflation; no wheeling bank notes around in wheelbarrows; no burning cash in place of firewood. 'Nothing [happened]' as Krugman (2018) put it bluntly 'the money just sat there'.

The question is why not?

One argument is that QE was actually inflationary but that we don't identify this because it was used at a time of a large decline in aggregate demand. It was attempting to reverse, or at least negate, a whole range of deflationary impacts (Orviska & Hudson, 2017). Furthermore, the deflationary impacts would have been particularly severe in the 2008 financial crisis since the behaviour of financial systems is pro-cyclical (Borio, 2012). Credit to the private sector dramatically increases in periods of expansion, while credit decreases in periods of recession – accentuating such recessions.

This argument falls short, however, when explaining the effects of QE in Japan in both the early 2000s and post-2013.

In 2001, the Bank of Japan adopted a QE scheme to counter persistent domestic deflation. Yet, after five years, QE had failed to rid the world's third-largest economy of its dilemma. The Bank of Japan tried again in early 2013 with the goal of using QE to achieve Japan's 2 per cent inflation target. But, again, despite a large increase in the monetary base, there was little or no ultimate effect on inflation (Williamson, 2017). While inflation increased temporarily in 2014, largely due to an increase in Japan's consumption tax, inflation has averaged roughly zero from mid-2015 to March 2017. Correspondingly, most experts consider the Japanese experiments with QE to be a failure (Junega, no date).

Prominently, these weren't times in the direct aftermath of a major financial crisis. Yes, there were deflationary impacts present but, if QE was in the least bit inflationary, surely there would have been a noticeable effect? In the 2001 scheme, despite a doubling of the monetary base, deflation actually continued! QE hadn't been inflationary in the slightest.

It seems that a better, more thorough, argument to explain why QE didn't lead to inflation is found through addressing a common misconception. QE is not money creation; it's more accurately described as reserve creation (Brightman, 2015). And the linkage, Brightman (2015) suggests, between QE and money supply is indirect. Banks will use new reserves to create money, but only when reserves are an active constraint on lending. When banks simply use the excess reserves to improve the aesthetics

of their balance sheets, as it could be suggested they did in the aftermath of 2008, QE does not increase the money supply.

This is supported by Cline (2015), who notes that, after 2008, private banks did not lend money to private-sector customers, businesses or consumers; instead, they aimed to reduce their debt exposure and build up their reserves. Moreover, evidence from Japan in the late 1990s suggests the same – that increasing liquidity through QE does not stimulate credit flows to consumers and firms. Indeed, Elliott (2014) suggests that far too much faith was put in the banks to channel QE to where it was needed. Handing a cheque to members of the public would have got money into the economy much more effectively.

Considering this in retrospect it was unlikely that QE would ever have led to excessive inflation. If the money supply wasn't increased, and if the price level is directly proportional to the money supply, then it is clear why there was no inflation. And, in this way, with reference to the Quantity Theory of Money the lack of inflation after QE was, despite widely unpredicted, entirely predictable (Krugman, no date).

Ironically, if the banks had done what they were supposed to, by extending more loans because of QE, it is likely QE would have been inflationary. In other words, the reason there were no adverse effects of QE is that it didn't work as intended.

Moreover, there may be a tendency for Central Banks in the future to, faced with a slowing economy, resort to QE again. However, in the face of continued QE, private banks would need to continue hoarding excess reserves if inflation is not to return and there is absolutely no guarantee of this. It should be suggested that QE must remain a last resort for a large crisis – as in 2008.

GOLF

Golf v Hampton School

*ISGA Matchplay Knockout Tournament, Regional Final,
Stoke Park Golf Club, Match won 3-0, 12 February*

Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, won 4&2

Charlie Witter Capt, *Elmfild*, won 4&2

Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, won 8&7

The match was played at Stoke Park as a neutral course for the Regional Final with no home advantage for either school. This was the first time we have played Hampton and we had no idea how strong they might be. Our previous-round match against a strong St Paul's side prepared us to be up against stiff opposition. The conditions were good, with soft ground but no wind or rain to interfere with scoring, and no temporary greens.

The match was played over holes 10 to 27. It would be fair to say that the back nine is a gentler test than the front nine of this 18. There are some spectacular holes in the front nine, including the famous 18th (9th for us), the location for James Bond's epic golfing duel in the 1964 classic 007 movie *Goldfinger*, culminating in a dangerous gesture from Oddjob!

In the first game, Max Shirvell started well with a solid par, going onto stiff his next tee shot to around 4 feet which he converted for a birdie to go 1 up. The third hole was won with a solid up and down from right of the green for 2 up. His momentum was slightly stalled with a loss on hole 4. However, things were looking up as he went on to win holes 7 and 8. Hole 9 was halved in birdies. Max finished the front nine 2 up and 2 under par.

He started the back nine with a loose tee shot leading to a bogey on 10. But he bounced back with a birdie on 11, taking him to 3 up. After a couple of average holes, he once again lifted his game to win hole 16 and with that the match, 4&2. An emphatic win and he ended up with a gross score of -2. In the second game, Charlie Witter chipped in for birdie on the par 3 2nd to give him a nice start. He went 2 up

after an eagle on the par 5 4th. A great wedge shot to a tough pin on 7 meant another birdie and through nine the score was 3 up to Witter. After an almost hole out on the 12th from 100 yards, Witter went to 5 up. Then followed some fighting golf from Hampton to take the match back to 3 up through 15. But a par on 16 meant Witter won the hole and the match 4&2. Like Max Shirvell, Witter's gross score was an impressive -2 after 16 holes.

In the third game, Toby Shirvell started brilliantly with a birdie. This was the first of four birdies in total, including a chip in for one. The poor Hampton player, although playing well, did not expect to come up against this quality in the third pairing. Shirvell sealed the win on the 12th with a solid par, finishing 8&7 and an extraordinary -4 for the 12 holes played.

We drove away from Stoke Park very satisfied and looking forward to going to Royal St Georges for the National Finals at the end of April.

SQUASH

The School v Eton College (away), 14 February

1st V Lost 2-3

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Won 3-0

DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Lost 0-3

KH Jafree, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1

TC Santini, *The Park*, Lost 0-3

SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Lost 1-3

2nd V Won 4-1

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Lost 2-3

WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1

H Qureshi, *The Park*, Won 3-2

FAW Murley, *The Park*, Won 3-1

CD Powell, *The Grove*, Won 3-0

Junior Colts Lost 0-3

HAX Sie, *Newlands*, Lost 2-3

I Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 0-3

HC Oelhafen, *Lyon's*, Lost 0-3

Under-14s Won 4-1

WTC Sotir, *Druries*, Won 3-0

APC Gupte, *West Acre*, Lost 1-3

GC Black, *West Acre*, Won 3-1

CR O'Flaherty, *The Head Master's*, Won 3-0

ALO Du Roy de Blicquy, *Elmfield*, Won 3-2

The School v Lancing College (Home), 31 January

1st V Won 4-1

B Sodi, *West Acre*, Lost 0-3

DD Shortt, *Newlands*, Won 3-2

KH Jafree, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1

TC Santini, *The Park*, Won 3-1

JD Gibbons, *The Park*, Won 3-1

2nd V Won 5-0

H Wilson, *Elmfield*, Won 3-0

SWS Sebag-Montifiore, *The Knoll*, Won 3-0

WA Orr Ewing, *Elmfield*, Won 3-1

H Qureshi, *The Park*, Won 3-0

F Murley, *The Park*, Won 3-0

Junior Colts Lost 1-2

H Sie, *Newlands*, Won 3-1

I Qureshi, *The Park*, Lost 0-3

M Ding, *Lyon's*, Lost 0-3

Coach: Your opponent only scored about three points. Was he in a wheelchair?

Murley: No, but he did say that he'd never played squash before.

This short but important conversation shows how vital it is that coaches communicate effectively with their players. After Murley had recorded a rare victory, it was clear that his coach did not want him to get carried away. It was crucial that he remain grounded. However, the coach need not have worried because his players have an in-built resistance to developing Enhanced Self-Esteem (ESE), as shown by the fact that Murley had already investigated. Realising that he had accidentally won a match (it took a while to sink in), he had immediately suspected that there was something wrong with his opponent and so had undertaken an independent investigation, discovering that the poor lad had been plucked out of lunch due to Lancing being one short in the minibus. This of course made Murley feel a lot better.

Finding a rational explanation for rare victories is the only way that the Psychiatric Unit (PU) can survive in the dog-eat-dog atmosphere of the Airfix Dome, where players can never live down the ignominy of winning due to superior ability alone. Regular defeats encourage modesty and self-deprecation, as shown by Murley's reaction on winning. Humza Qureshi also won and looked positively frightened as a result. Was he worried about the coach's reaction to his insolence?

Humza: I won.

Coach: (*incredulously*) What?

Humza: I didn't mean to.

Coach: Well, what happened?

Humza: He wasn't very good.

Having said that, Humza looks frightened whether he wins or loses. It was just so long since he won that no-one could remember how he reacted.

Santini was another one to explain away his victory by pinpointing the uselessness of his opponent. There was a classic conversation between the two at the end of the match.

Opponent: Sorry about the first game (*he had lost 1-11*)

Santini: Oh, that's ok. I'm sorry about the second (*Santini had lost 2-11*)

Opponent: Oh, that's ok.

This could have been a cute psychological ploy by the Lancing player in suggesting that the only reason Santini won the first game was because of his own uselessness rather than any innate ability on Santini's part. The fact that it was the truth is neither here nor there. This is designed to deflate any feelings of incipient triumph that Santini may have been feeling. However, he had met his match with Santini, whose riposte was equally deflating. Santini was clearly outraged at the suggestion that here was an opponent who could claim to be more useless than himself.

This was a good example of Second Game Syndrome (SGS) when a promising first game is followed by a simply awful second. Santini is a serial SGS offender. There are several reasons for this that lie deep in the subconscious, which is a messy area for Santini. 1) After a surprisingly easy stroll in the first game Santini's subconscious has decided that it is now a walk in the park. 2) Santini's Real Time Mental Awareness (RTMA) is not strong enough to overrule his subconscious so his subconscious takes over. 3) Santini has lost control over his bodily functions. His limbs behave erratically as if on strings from a deranged puppeteer. He trips over thin air. He serves into the tin. He dribbles uncontrollably. 4) The second game is history and the match stands at 1-1. Bearing in mind the awfulness of his opponent his SGS rating on this occasion was 97%.

Shortt is another serial SGS offender and he was keen to show off the power of his subconscious to his parents who had nothing better to do than turn up to see the grisly truth. Suspecting SGS after a decent Shortt showing in the first game, the coach had a simple message.

Coach: Well done. The second game now becomes dangerous.

Shortt: Yes, I know.

Coach: You must get mentally up for this. Start the game well.

Shortt: Yes.

Coach: He will come out fighting. You have to match him mentally.

Shortt: Yes, ok.

Shortt starts the second game and his arms go limp. His feet are lead weights. He serves into the tin. He of course loses the second game. SGS rating is 76% because his opponent is not the pushover that Santini's is. Sebag-Montifiore is also a SGS junky. He has been known to win the first game 11/0 and then lose the second 0/11. The Only Fifth Former Playing Squash (OFFPS) has all sorts of mental demons that emanate from not seeing another member of his own year group for over a year.

But the big question for SGS offenders is "What happened in the third game?" Can they repossess power over their subconscious or do they remain comatose for the duration? Shortt struggles to regain control over his mind and body but then something incredible happens and his opponent gets Fourth Game Syndrome (FGS). Having won the second and third against an increasingly immobile Shortt he freezes in the fourth and fifth. It now looks as though both players are simultaneously trying to throw the game. Tin follows tin as both players' subconscious battle to lose. Shortt's of course was the weaker and so he could not help but win. Confused? Not as much as Shortt is. "Why can't I just win 3-0? You'd think after 13 years of squash I could improve a little".

Santini's problem is more deep-rooted. He has First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Game Syndrome. In other words he has Multiple Game Syndrome (MGS). Only he rarely gets as far as the fourth and fifth games for us to see how he would cope. He arrives as jelly and goes home as jelly.

JUDO

*Independent Schools Judo Tournament,
Wycombe Abbey, 23 February*

A team of 16 boys entered the Independent Schools Judo Tournament, held this past weekend at High Wycombe Judo Centre. Four Shell boys entered the Junior age band of the competition. Josh Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, took gold in the Under-66kg category, Emmanuel Olowe, *The Grove*, a silver in the Under-73kg and Philip Truscott, *Elmfield*, and Giancarlo Urselli, *The Grove*, finished with silver and gold respectively in the Over-73kg category.

In the Intermediates, Sultan Aben, *The Knoll*, and Jake McDermid, *Rendalls*, fought hard through a tough Under-60kg category with Aben finishing with a bronze. Vladimir Skorobogatko, *Rendalls*, had an impressive run through to the final of the Under-81kg category, winning all matches by Ippon, and finished with a silver after a close and very physical final.

Nine Harrovians entered the Senior competition, with five of them grouped together in the Under-81kg category. Caspar Gurney, *Druries*, fought his way past experienced opposition to reach the final and a silver medal, while, in the other half of the group, Alex Leung, *Lyon's*, managed a bronze.

In a tough Senior Under-73kg category, Ostap Stefak, *Newlands*, was eliminated after a good win in the preliminaries, while

George Davies, *The Head Master's*, pushed through for a bronze.

In a very large Senior Under-66kg category George Biles, *Bradlys*, finished with a bronze medal after a slow start but a close semi-final contest. Captain Will Collins, *The Head Master's*, also in the Under-66kg, was superb throughout, reaching the final following three clinical wins and then taking the gold medal by submitting his opponent by armlock in an excellent display of groundwork judo.

In the final medal table, Harrow finished as winning school with 21 points, ahead of St Paul's on 16. This is the fifth year in a row that Harrow has won this tournament and this is now the longest winning streak in the tournament's history. The team is now preparing for the British Schools Championships, which takes places in three weeks.

FENCING

Bouts vs Bradfield College, 14 February

1st Team, Won 134-90

Foil A won 45-36

Foil B won 45-21

Epée won 44-33

The Harrow team recorded their second win this half term, with a 3-0 victory over Bradfield College. The Foil B team took to the piste first and led comfortably throughout, winning 45-21. At the same time, the épéeists had a much closer game, with Bradfield in the lead for much of the first half of the match. However, Daniil Kuznetsov, *Newlands*, steadied the ship and Harrow managed to turn the game around to win 44-33, losing out on the 45th point due to the team running out of time in the final bout.

The Foil A team finally took to the piste and had another close fight with their Bradfield opponents. Halfway through, the match looked like it could go either way but Harrow's patience and determination came to the fore and eventually they brought home a victory by nine points, with Harrow thereby winning the match over all by three blades to nil.

SWIMMING

Gala v John Lyon School, 14 February

Colts A Won

John Lyon proved formidable and strong opponents in this second gala of the season against them. Harrow won overall but there were some excellent swims from John Lyon who did not allow Harrow to have things all their own way. There was an excellent sense of camaraderie poolside with our brother school.

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

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