

# THE HARROVIAN

---

VOL. CXXXIV NO.8

---

November 13, 2021

---

## GLEES AND TWELVES

*Adjudicated by Mr. Patrick Russill, Head of Choral  
Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and the  
Director for Music at the London Oratory,  
Speech Room, 21 October*

*The Wreath (Winner of Glee): The Grove  
The Harp (Runner Up): Lyon's  
The Bell (Winner of XIIs): The Knoll  
John Cotton Trophy (Runner Up): The Grove*

On the night of 21 October, the great efforts of the Houses towards the Glee and XIIs culminated in what was a brilliant evening. Having been reduced last year because of COVID, it was a really special occasion for all of the singers and those watching. This year, our adjudicator was Mr. Patrick Russill, Head of Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and Director of Music at the London Oratory, who gave a detailed, honest and fair adjudication of all the performances. Before the report on the Glee themselves begins, a special thanks must also be given to DNW, all the beaks who helped the Houses in their preparation for the night, the senior boys who were responsible for their House's performance, all the singers, the audience for creating such an amazing atmosphere and to the Deputy Custodian for his exceptional lectern-bearing.



The evening opened with Bradbys singing *Goodnight Sweetheart*. A light-hearted and free-flowing song, Bradbys conveyed the feeling of the song well and created a nice blend of sound. Next up was The Head Master's with *Imagine*, a truly great song. Their performance, with Phoenix Ashworth's most notable beat-boxing, was calming and enjoyable, and, although the audience did applaud early (apologies to the singers for that!), it captured the hopeful message of the song well. Afterwards came The Knoll singing *Viva la Vida*. Introduced by a strong bass line, this lively song was sung well by The Knoll with spirit. Following them was Rendalls with *Edelweiss*. Conjuring the image and sound of *The Sound of Music* well, Rendalls gave an admirable performance of the lovely song. After Rendalls came Lyon's, singing *The Longest Time*. Characterised by a strong and confident soloist and a lively and energetic performance as well as good dynamic

contrast and blend, Lyon's won second prize in the Glee for their strong performance. Next was Elmfield singing *Hide and Seek*. A well-produced performance, Elmfield had very nice tone, enunciation and balance and, in my very humble opinion, perhaps should have received slightly more credit in the adjudication. After Elmfield was the night's winning Glee performance from The Grove with *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* (they have now won four years in a row, which is a joint School record with The Knoll who won between 1952-1955). Gaining no criticism from the adjudicator (which is a rare thing in any music competition), The Grove's performance had an excellent blend of sound, created a great atmosphere and showcased the group's musicianship by sharing solos with almost all of the singers. Following The Grove came Druries singing *When the party's over*. Capturing the essence of the song well and showcasing a confident soloist, Druries presented a delicate and enjoyable performance. Afterwards the folk song *The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond* was sung by Moretons. Although the song seemed simple, its emotion and meaning was conveyed well and Moretons put in a very nice performance. Following a trip to Scotland, The Park took us to revolutionary France with *One Day More* from the famous musical *Les Misérables*. Performing with a number of able soloists and producing the emotion needed for the song, The Park produced a riveting and exciting performance. Penultimately in the Glee was West Acre, who came third in the competition. This time taking us to 1955 in *Back To the Future* in the *Under the Sea* dance, West Acre produced a relaxing and pleasant performance and third place was well deserved. Finally for the Glee, Newlands performed a medley of *Sail and Believer*. A dynamic and animated performance, Newlands produced a spirited version of the two songs, featuring strong solos. Unfortunately, this performance was marred slightly by the reaction of some members of the audience and this I must condemn. No matter what you think of a performance, especially in a competition, all watching must be gracious and complimentary in their reception of all other participants whether prize-winners or otherwise, and I hope that future Glee and XII do not suffer from similar outbursts. To attempt to end this section on a high note, however, well done again to all performers from the houses, well done to West Acre, Lyon's and The Grove for coming third, second and first in the Glee respectively, and many thanks to the adjudicator, Mr Patrick Russill for judging the competition. The first half of term most certainly ended on a memorable and momentous occasion.

### *The Twelves*

The Knoll opened the second act of the evening with a sweet and wistful *When I Grow Up* from Tim Minchin's musical *Matilda*. The Knollites, with their homogenised and well-managed sound, encapsulated the yearning spirit of young Matilda in good spirit. Their first place was truly deserved.

The Grove provided a refreshing contrast with *Hey There, Good Times* by Cy Coleman, managing a competent North-American accent throughout. Their gay mannerisms and confident hold of the song culminated in a compelling performance with a high level of enthusiasm.

Elmfield occupied the stage with a spellbinding rendition of *Friend Like Me* from the musical *Aladdin*. Their performance – confident and dignified – oozed the convincing spirit of a model House XII with a very convincing whisper finale.

Newlands delivered an emotional performance of *From Now On* from *The Greatest Showman*. They captured the audience's attention with their solemn opening and sustained their conviction and commitment. Overall, a very sincere and touching performance.

With an infectious boogie riff from the piano intro, Moretons offered a very enjoyable performance of the Jackson 5 classic, *Blame it on the Boogie* with their rhythmic verve and good-spirited grooving throughout.

Bradby's rendered a dedicated performance of *Someone You Loved*. It receded well in dynamics with a quality of emotive reflection and had honest charm – an inspiring performance with a good rhythmic blend.

Lyon's returned to the stage with a Lyonian classic, *Mamma Mia* by ABBA. Throughout the piece, they demonstrated solid engagement and confident mastery of the dynamic strata of the ABBA hit with assured equality of tone in both the lower and higher ranges of the voice.

Druries sang Billy Joel's *She's Always a Woman*, aptly capturing the longing sincerity in the chorus. Their solemn assurance was sustained throughout the song – an honest and emotional rendition indeed.

West Acre surprised the crowd with a *Fly me to the Moon*, instead of their original choice, *Shotgun*. However, it was a pleasant surprise! Their groovy dance moves and a feel-good factor throughout made us all smile!

The Park delivered Tom Lehrer's *Poisoning Pigeons in the Park* with their debonair urbaneness. A civil and polite performance of a wicked song with a nice sprinkle of devilment.

The Head Master's articulate pronunciation and well-integrated vocals suitably captured the Tabernaclian spirit of *I believe* from the *Book of Mormon*. An appropriate sense of conviction alongside a sustained projection of the text, even at quiet levels was convincing.

Rendalls closed the musical evening with a solemn rendition of *Anthem* with their dignified and homogenous choral sound. A courageous and bold attempt at an emotional song that moved the audience.

Overall, it was a fantastic array of performances and, additionally, a defining moment for those who sang first in Glee's and Twelves last year in an empty lockdown-era Speech Room. No doubt, veteran performers were glad to return their familiar turf. Special thanks to all those in charge of running Glee's and DNW for securing a fantastic evening of vocal music for the School to gather and enjoy.

## PIGOU SOCIETY

Joshua Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, 'NFTs and how a JPEG file sold for \$69 million', OMS, 20 October

On Wednesday 20 October, the Pigou Society was delighted to host Joshua Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, as he delivered a lecture entitled: 'NFTs: how a JPEG sold for \$69 million'. In his lecture, he addressed the basic terminology and concept that underpins NFT and blockchain technology, while also giving an insight their value and potential impacts upon the future.

Soyemi began by explaining what an NFT (Non-Fungible Token) was: a digital 'item', usually an image, that cannot be replaced by an identical or equivalent item. The dollar would be an example of something that was fungible, as it can be exchanged or swapped with another (indistinguishable) dollar. Everything in the economy can be classified as either fungible or non-fungible.

It is also important to understand what a blockchain is. Soyemi chose to define it as "a system in which a record of transactions made in bitcoin or another cryptocurrency are maintained across several computers that are linked in a peer-to-peer network". Essentially, a blockchain is an 'open digital ledger' that is designed to cut out the 'middlemen' – banks – when carrying out transactions. Instead, the transactions would occur on the client side, wherein each computer would hold its own ledger (record of all past and present transactions). These ledgers are, by comparison to each other, universally ratified. Soyemi then described how a blockchain is constructed: each block is made up of the data stored within it, a hash (unique digital fingerprint), and the hash of the previous block. This way, a secure chain of blocks can be created.

Each NFT that is created is minted as an individual 'block' on the blockchain, and because of this blockchain technology, ownership, as well as all past and present transactions involving any NFT, can be verified/ratified and viewed by anyone.

While NFTs are still a very new technology, we have already seen them used creatively across a variety of industries, including concert ticketing, domain-name registry, music (as it becomes easier for artists to license their music without having to sign with a record label), real estate and, most notably, digital artwork. In the last example, the creators of the artwork can put a stipulation on the NFT, so whenever the artwork is resold, the original creator earns a commission percentage of the price.

Soyemi then explored the question of why some NFTs are so valuable and popular. He addressed the problem with an example of two very simple and similar NFTs. Both images were lists of very random objects with little differentiating the two. One of these, however, was an NFT that had sold for around \$1,700,000 a few weeks ago, and the other was just a random list on a Word document.

NFTs have existed for about six years now, resulting in a large community of NFT owners having been built. This community is filled with people who would be willing to buy 'valuable' NFTs for large sums of money to remain as part of aforesaid community. The fact that people have also bought them in the past indicates to potential buyers that these NFTs still have potential to increase in price, signalling them to invest, an incentive likely to be strengthened by the growing fame and hype over the NFT industry. "Token-gating" is also a reason as to why people buy NFTs; certain tokens can give the owner exclusive privileges and access to a variety of otherwise unavailable opportunities exclusive to that token.

Some people may argue that NFT value is purely speculative, a bubble waiting to burst, an assertion of the Greater Fool Theory (which states that prices increase because people are able to sell overpriced assets to a 'greater fool' until there are no greater fools left, but for the lone idiot who spent millions of dollars on now worthless pixels). But Soyemi stated that this is an oversimplification; he compares the situation to the dot-com bubble of 2000, where the collapse caused significant panic around the internet, while the internet still went on to become a very prominent and invaluable part of our everyday lives. He went on to argue that if the NFT bubble bursts, NFT prices will probably become more accessible to most people, hence increasing their use.

The future of the NFT industry is bright, Soyemi argues. In the music industry, it could lead to the elimination of the need for labels, which act as the middlemen in music listing. Through NFTs, artists can directly list their music without sharing their profits with labels. Soyemi's concluding opinion was that NFTs have the potential to revolutionise any digital resource that is scarce and needs verification, and hence could become a very significant part of our lives. It is, however, worth noting that crypto and NFT-based stores of value are obscenely unlikely to subsume traditional money and banking; they will instead grow on their own terms.

The talk gave the audience a useful and fascinating insight

into the world of NFTs and what the future holds for them. It was also thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance, and the Pigou Society is grateful to Soyemi the research that went into this talk. Additional thanks to DMM for organising the event.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

*Masterclass with Mr Kieran Dunn, political campaigner, 'Debating and the media', OH Room, 12 October*

In what was a rainy Tuesday afternoon, the Debating Society was treated to a workshop and lecture by Kieran Dunn, a man with extensive experience in the world of media and debating. Dunn began by explaining his work on the BBC show *Question Time* (a show where a panel of guests fields questions from the audience), working to produce short highlight reels of the main clashes in the show, which are then posted on social media. However, what was more fascinating was the insider knowledge he brought with him about the intricacies of the show: primarily, the fact that it was not in fact a fair debate, using the wonderfully concise phrase of "asymmetric warfare". There was very little chance of winning at *Question Time*, and one should instead try and lose well.

Dunn proceeded by calling up some volunteers from the crowd, in order to demonstrate this key aspect of *Question Time*. He asked them to take up positions as government (in this case Tory), opposition (in this case Labour), third party, and the role of wildcard. Dunn explained that the roles of government and opposition were by far the most difficult, having to accurately display a plan to deal with the situation that the question highlighted. This is in contrast to the third party, often that of the Green Party or some other minor political party, and the wildcard: as they were free to just criticise the government. This theory was then put into practice, the volunteers attempting valiantly to deal with difficult and pointed questions, while also attempting to conform to their roles. Once again, this highlighted the fact that *Question Time* was in no way a fair debate, adhering to the average viewer's interest rather than a debate judge.

However, this small experiment allowed Dunn to shed some light on another difficult aspect of *Question Time*. This was that of aggressive questions where, whatever the answer given, the audience members would most probably not be satisfied with the answer. He explained that the most effective, and most commonly missed, technique to deal with such aggressive questions was that of responding with kindness. By asking for the questioner's name, this disarms them in a way that an aggressive response in no way could. He also encouraged repeating their question through the policy that one is attempting to push, and understand that, for the most part, however good the response, the audience member will not be appeased.

Dunn also highlighted his role as a campaign manager for the Labour candidate Martin Edobor, running against Conservative candidate Priti Patel. He described his job as a mixture of roles, from door knocking to running the social media campaign. Dunn also depicted the seemingly drastic measures of grabbing media attention in politics where, to use Patel's campaign as an example, images were made to appear to be of exceptionally low quality to draw in viewers.

However, he tied this once again back to debating, referring to the 'hustings' debates between candidates. He explained how the aggressive and confrontational nature of *Question Time* was not too dissimilar to that of a debate between candidates in the run-up to elections and that exactly the same advice was given to candidates. The point was not to come out as the clear winner, but to avoid appearing as the obvious loser.

To conclude, this was a well-delivered talk and workshop, providing insight on the more vicious side of debating in real life. It was followed up by some intelligent questions, which received helpful answers.

## SENIOR GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

*Arthur Kay and Will Treherne Pollock, Lyon's, 'How Green is Red China?', 19 October*

The Senior Geography Society met on Tuesday 19 October for a lecture by Arthur Kay and Will Treherne Pollock (both Lyon's). The evening started with a warm welcome to the many in attendance in Old Music Schools who were interested in this topic.

Before going into the details of the talk, the speakers gave an overview of how China has grown into the superpower we see today. They outlined many key facts supporting how China has grown rapidly. These included that between the 10-year period of 2005 to 2015, the GDP of China had grown from \$2 trillion to \$11 trillion. It will reach the £25 trillion mark by 2025. According to the World Bank's measure, the average Chinese person is more than twice as wealthy as they were in 2006 because of the increase in infrastructure in China. Between the 2011 and 2013, China used more cement than the whole of the US did for the entire 20th century. It's also worth noting the importance of the steel industry in China. China produces almost 60% of the world's steel. Therefore, overall, we can see that China's growth in recent years has been astonishing, which can be attributed to its foreign investment schemes and initiatives.

The speakers then started to introduce China's endeavours worldwide, including the Belt and Road Initiative. Xi Jinping, a Chinese political figure, first announced this in 2013 to strengthen trade and investment between China and 65 other countries. All these countries contribute 30% of global GDP, they comprise 62% of the world's population and they contain 75% of the world's natural resources. This initiative includes both maritime trade links and land routes too (costing between \$1 trillion and \$8 trillion). This allows China to spread their dominance and investment throughout the world.

China can also be linked to 'debt trapping' through foreign direct investment. Kay and Treherne Pollock first used the example of Sri Lanka, where a port was planned for construction. However there was insufficient funding available. The Chinese government offered to assist with funding the project and provided a loan of \$207 million, which went along with the condition that a Chinese construction company would be appointed to build it. As a result, most, if not all, of the money was funnelling back into the Chinese economy. Ultimately, this port was a failure and Sri Lanka had to account for the significant debt and gave the port to China along with 15,000 acres of land.

Debt trapping was further illustrated through China's investment in one of the fastest urbanising regions in the world, Africa. China essentially go to the less developed countries and offer them loans and hence debts in return for infrastructure. These countries more often than not accept these offers as it can increase productivity and hence create more employment, which is what they are aiming for. However, as infrastructure gets more complex, this debt can start to be a real financial burden for these countries as the Chinese government gives aid to Africa in the ratio of 70–30 approval. This means that 70% of the project is allocated to Chinese companies and only 30% to the local companies. As a result, money doesn't really get put in the hands of the lower-income countries. To summarise this point, China virtually wins both ways from these deals. If the investment in infrastructure goes well, both China and the country that China has invested in benefit. However, if the infrastructure doesn't go well (like with Sri Lanka's port),



China, through debt, is able to gain leverage over the country. We can also see this in Djibouti in Africa, where China's first overseas military base is situated. China accounts for 15% of external debt in Africa, a huge figure where most of this is risk free and will be rewarding in the end.

China has often been associated with the overuse of fossil fuels. We have seen their pledge to reaching net zero emissions where, in reality, their emissions are increasing every day. Currently, China spends three times as much on carbon-intensive projects than green ones. The UN has been lenient and, to an extent, unfair to other developed countries. This is because the UN called for all developed nations to stop using coal by 2030, but China doesn't have to stop until 2040. In 2019, China emitted 27% of the world's greenhouse gases, which is more than every other developed nation combined, creating effects all around the world. For example, in the USA, the Environmental Protection Agency found that around 25% of Los Angeles' air pollution comes from China. The people in China are also suffering from emissions: we are seeing the rapid decline in life expectancies and there have been around 30 million premature deaths since 2000.

China's north-western Ningxia Province is the base for the Ningdong chemical and industry. It produces some of the aforementioned emissions and is mainly home to mines, which produce around 130 million metric tonnes of coal every year. This is equal to the annual total amount dug from all 233 coal mines in Britain in the 1970s, when coal was the biggest source of energy. This coal produces energy of 17.3 gigawatts, which could satisfy one third of the UK's peak demand for electricity. Furthermore, the rest of the base is home to 32 companies that use coal to make chemicals, which is also a big producer of carbon pollution. The plant also turns coal into oil, which can emit double the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> pumped into the atmosphere from every unit of energy than just burning coal itself. The plant turns around 20 million tonnes of coal into 4 million tonnes of oil products, 2.7 million tonnes of diesel, 1 million tonnes of naphtha petroleum and 340,000 tonnes of liquid gas per annum. China states that there are at least six other bases of this scale in their country and they are planning to build such bases in overseas territory as well. Overall, China has 1,080 coal-powered plants with a total capacity of 1,005 gigawatts whereas the UK only has four coal-powered plants left with a total output of 5.4 gigawatts. This just shows China's refusal to adapt to the changing world. Even through President Xi's bold claims of China reaching their 'peak' soon, there hasn't been any evidence to support this.

Kay and Treherne-Pollock then displayed two graphs on their Powerpoint presentation. The first one showed the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> that China produces, which are abnormally high and are continuously increasing. In contrast, the UK's level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are much less and have levelled off in recent years. The UK has inflicted a lot of harm on their economy through this transition. Trillions of pounds are expected to be spent to achieve this transition. However, China is not demonstrating a willingness to change. The other graph showed that, in 2011, China first exceeded emissions per capita of the UK. China is promising to go carbon neutral but it can be seen as a nation who is completely free and do whatever it wishes and nobody can get in its way or 'stop' it.

However, China has made some efforts to turn somewhat green as can be seen with the construction of the Three Gorges Dam. This is the world's largest power station. China has built other dams, such as the Zippingpu Dam. However, this came with massive unintended consequence as it was built on a major fault line that triggered an earthquake in 2008, killing 80,000 people.

The South China Sea is valuable and significant for the economy of China as it is very rich in natural resources. There are 11 billion barrels worth of oil, 190 trillion feet of natural gas found under the sea and 10% of the world's fisheries located within the maritime region. It is also very important for shipping as

30% of the world's shipping trade flows through, heading to all parts of the world. However, there are controversial opinions surrounding China's occupation of the South China Sea. This is because there is a UN law stating that a country's territorial waters, where they have exclusive rights to resources and trade, can only extend 200 miles from their shore. This is known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Any area not under a country's EEZ falls under UN maritime law, which means it's there to share. Every country in the South China Sea region uses their 200 mile EEZ except for China. This is because China contends they have historical claim to the South China Sea dating back to the 1400s. This claim is marked through using a dash line, which encompasses 90% of the South China Sea. In 2016, the International Court at The Hague ruled in favour of the Philippines, who charged China with invading their rightful territory in the South China Sea. However, China dismissed this ruling, again showing the dominance and power they have in that region.

The Spratly Islands are man-made and one of the most disputed parts of the South China Sea. They are currently claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia and are dead centre in the South China Sea. These islands are significant because any country that can claim them can extend their EEZ and hence gain exclusive rights to the surrounding territories. China believes these islands belong to them and they asserted their dominance by building some infrastructure on them. China has even been adding to these islands, as they built a new island known as the Fieri Cross.

This island is only one square mile and is home to a Chinese military base, which includes an airstrip, an advanced radar station, a missile defence system and around 200 troops. This is not the only example of a man-made military base, as there are six others in the South China Sea. China does this to pressurise the smaller nations who control the islands in the area.

These islands have significant environmental effects, as they are man made. The general idea is that many Chinese merchant vessels pile tonnes and tonnes of sand and rock onto the reefs that already exist. This has destroyed around 2,000 acres of living coral reefs and natural habitats where they are already under stress due to climate change and increased sea temperatures. Furthermore these man-made islands only have a 'safety' zone of 500m. They don't have the same status as natural islands in a territorial sea of their own. Exerting control of territorial waters through an artificial island is a violation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which China is a signatory. This can also violate agreements surrounding EEZs. These tensions cause almost lawlessness in the island chain and have resulted in unregulated fishing. More than 6,000 fish species have been affected by the overfishing and the destruction of habitats. The construction of islands is set to increase as the tension about who owns the islands increases, which in turn further destroys the environment in the region.

Their last topic was Taiwan, which used to be part of China. During the Chinese civil war in 1949, the Communist Party forced the ruling party to flee to an island called Taiwan. They then set up their own democratic institutions and this led to the independent area and eventually the "country" of Taiwan. In the last 40 years, tensions between the areas have increased because of the frequent military harassments by mainland China. So far in 2021, there have already been more than 600 intrusions into the Taiwan airspace by elements of the Chinese army. China has always publicly shown ambitions to invade Taiwan through propaganda, news and films. The USA stands by Taiwan and supports it by allowing arms deals costing hundreds of millions of dollars. Furthermore, Japan is also concerned about several of the man-made islands, as well as the oil and gas fields in the South China sea if Taiwan were to fall. They also worry about the Chinese expansion in the area. Japan states that, in the event of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, they would declare war on China, but China seem indifferent to

this and in turn threatened Japan, which goes against many of the UN regulations. This tension is worsening and the invasion of Taiwan might be inevitable.

Here, Kay and Treherne Pollock ended their very interesting talk on China and its global dominance and influence. The Senior Geography Society thanks them for delivering such a stimulating event.

## PIGOU SOCIETY

*Aakash Aggarwal, Lyon's, 'Game Theory: How to always win', OH Room, 6 October*

The Pigou Society hosted Aakash Aggarwal, *Lyon's*, who delivered a talk entitled "Game Theory: How to Always win". With all the wit and wisdom of a well-seasoned politician Aggarwal delivered his highly informative talk to a full OH Room (a Pigou Society first for boy-led lectures). His talk gave the audience an incredibly detailed summary of the vast field we call game theory. Before beginning his talk, Aggarwal admitted that the field is simply far too big to cover everything and so this talk would largely serve as a detailed introduction. And what a fascinatingly detailed introduction it was!

Aggarwal began by introducing his audience to the father of Game Theory: John von Neuman (although an audience member unsurprisingly guessed that it was John Nash – the most famous game theorist). Von Neumann was truly a polymath and, having revolutionised the field of computer science, mathematics and even playing a key role in the development of the hydrogen bomb, von Neumann pioneered and virtually established the field of game theory. The field of game theory has been the subject of 14 Nobel Prizes and is most famously seen at auctions (which are a surprisingly efficient way of maximising efficiency Aggarwal noted) and in the Prisoner's Dilemma.

It was then that Aggarwal turned the audience's attention to the following hypothetical scenario. Imagine you and the Head of the Pigou Society have snuck off to Harrow-on-the-Hill Station to go to a lecture at the LSE (the writer should assure the reader that the head of the Pigou Society would never do such a thing, he would take a taxi). Before you get there, you are caught by our beloved former Chief Enforcer Mr Chirnside. He puts you and the Head of the Pigou Society into separate rooms and gives you the following options. Firstly, if you both confess to sneaking out of School bounds you will both receive a detention. Secondly, if you both refuse to confess you both receive 200 double. Thirdly, the Head of the Pigou Society confesses and rats you out or vice versa then the person who confesses will get nothing while the other person will get two detentions. The example is shown by the matrix below.

In this scenario, there is a Nash equilibrium where both players employ a strategy from which neither will deviate from their current strategy because they have nothing to gain. Here, the Nash equilibrium is if both parties confess, as not confessing could have far worse consequences if you choose to stay silent and the other person confesses.

These game theory matrices can be used to model any game (or competition) and have most famously been used in football, where players determine the best strategies to use to score a penalty (in this case they ought to randomise where they kick the ball into the goal in order to prevent the goalkeeper changing his strategy to accurately second-guess your move). These matrices can also help show what would happen in the event of a price war between two firms, assuming that these firms are in direct competition with one another, that together they control the entire market and that their products are identical. In this instance, it is clear that both firms would lower their price until neither firm wants to lower it any further to avoid making a loss, as consumers would always move to the other

firm where they can buy the same goods for a lower price.

On the subject of two directly competing firms, Aggarwal demonstrated the Hotelling's game using the Outfitters and Billings. Assuming all Harrovians were evenly spaced out on a line, where would Billings and the Outfitters choose to place themselves? In the middle, because this would allow them to divide the entire market exactly in half. This point is also a Nash equilibrium because neither firm can increase their income by deviating from this point. The Hotelling's game explains why we get urban agglomeration and locations with large numbers of designer shops. However, just because this is a Nash equilibrium and a point where both firms maximise profit, it does not mean that this is a socially optimum outcome. This led Aggarwal to then explain why he thought Outfitters and Billings were colluding on price and thus forming a cartel (which is illegal).

	Stay silent	Confess
Stay silent	(100 double, 100 double)	(Nothing, 2 Detentions)
Confess	(2 Detentions, Nothing)	(200 double, 200 double)

As mentioned earlier, auctions are an excellent way of maximising efficiency but only when used properly. When the US opened up to bids from the telecoms companies for usage of masts, they found they received a paltry sum of just tens of millions of dollars. So, while all types of auctions (English auction, Japanese auction, sealed bid second price auction) should raise the same amount of money, a concept known as revenue equivalence, why did the US government not receive a fair value? Clearly, the companies had colluded and agreed that what would be best for them is if only one firm bid on each round, meaning that they could collectively buy the access to masts for very little. So, in response, Aggarwal suggested that the revelation principle be used, where it doesn't matter if the bidders lie because the mechanism lies for them, eventually allowing for a fairer bidding outcome. Aggarwal explained another way to improve auctions, known as the Vickrey-Clarke-Groves mechanism, which would take up too much space to be explained here but I highly recommend the reader to look into this.

To conclude his talk, Aggarwal told the audience what he promised he would: how to win. He said that, whenever looking to win, first identify in what way the situation is a game: who are the players, what are the outcomes and, perhaps, what kind of a game it is. Identify your dominant strategies or the Nash equilibrium, or potentially equilibria, and collude or co-operate where necessary to improve your outcomes. And don't have morals or simply factor them into your utility function (the value of your potential payoffs). In all, it was a highly informative and fascinating lecture. The talk was as slick as a politician's speech and Aggarwal's distinct Rishi Sunak-style resonated throughout the lecture (only Sunak's best qualities of course) with the audience left significantly better informed about this vast subject. I would like to thank DMM for organising the talk and Aggarwal for delivering the superb lecture.

## HOUSE SCENES

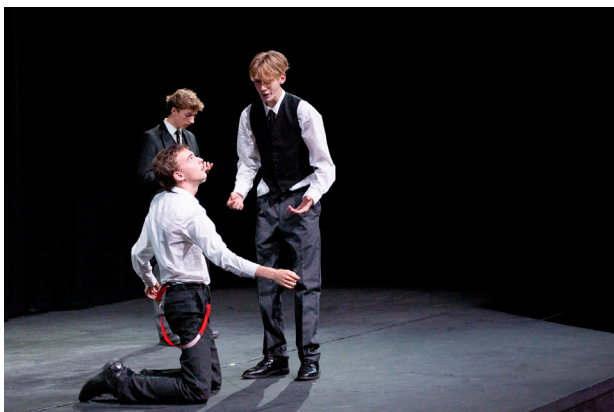
*Ryan Theatre*

On the last Thursday evening before exeat, the annual House Scenes competition took place in the Ryan Theatre. Each scene was chosen, cast, directed and performed by boys in different Houses and each and every one of them made it a very entertaining, dramatic and diverse evening for the audience. This year the competition was announced by Ben Leonard, *The*

Grove, and Max Paton-Smith, *Elmfield*, and adjudicated by Mr Nick Bissessar, who is Head of Drama at John Lyon school. Moretons were first to take to the stage and performed an extract from the play *The 39 Steps* adapted by Patrick Barlow from John Buchan's novel. The performance was directed by Theo Tomlinson and was a very good way to start off the evening. Rory Grant and Victor Grant bought some nice comical moments to the scene, accompanied by Max Morgan and Freddie Williams who performed confidently, bringing some good energy when things took a turn for the worse in the plot.

Next was Druries, who performed an extract from a scene in *A Few Good Men* by Aaron Sorkin. It was a very intense scene with bold and energetic performances from Que Zanjani, who betrayed Jack Nicholson's Colonel Jessup with a particularly fluent American accent, and Luke Simpson, who put his own little twist on Lieutenant Kaffee to counterbalance the anger and frustration which Colonel Jessup built up through the scene.

After that was The Head Master's, who performed a scene from *Art* by Yazmina Reza, a play that has been a very popular choice over the last couple of years in House Scenes. It was obvious that a large amount of work had gone into this as there was a huge amount of detail throughout. Both Matt Travis and Reuben Ackermann did a good job of conveying the emotion of their characters and effectively built up tension as the scene progressed.



The Park proceeded to go next, performing an extract from *Waiting on Trains* by D M Larson. This was an especially engaging performance and extremely funny. George Fenwick created the comedic atmosphere right from the beginning and the contrast between his laid back character and Maxi Farah's stressed and frustrated one continued to build the humour. A special note must be given to Kit Henson's performance of a drunk vagabond. It was obvious he connected well with the audience throughout the scene, as well as giving superb portrayal of his character.

Rendalls went next, performing an extract from *Withnail and I* by Bruce Robinson. This was a very entertaining performance, especially from Arturo Saville-Mascioni whose convincing upper-class accent brought some nice humour to the scene. The difference in energy levels of the characters emphasised the humour and made it a more interesting and engaging performance for the audience to watch.

Next was The Grove, performing a song played by Cody Xu on the piano from the musical *Something Rotten* by John O'Farrell and Karey Kirkpatrick. The choice of song allowed both Indi Abrams and Ben Leonard to express themselves in an exaggerated manner, which, along with the lyrics of the song, made it an entertaining and interesting performance for the audience to watch. The singing was also very impressive with some nice harmonic moments.

After The Grove was The Knoll, who performed a scene from *The Ties that Bind* by P G Wodehouse. The piece was well directed with nice detailed moments and all the actors were convincing in their portrayal of their characters. In particular,

Jasper Smallwood gave a very enthusiastic performance which the rest of the cast responded well to.

Lyon's then performed an extract from *True West* by Sam Shepard. It was a very well-acted scene with spotless American accents from all the actors. Remi Jokosenumi's energetic character brought a good tempo to the piece, which Dylan Winward worked well with, playing a more casual and calm character. Tom Leonard also showed excellent movement around the stage. Overall, the scene worked well and was an effective way to show the relationship between the two brothers.

After Lyon's performance was Elmfield, who performed a scene from *Joseph K* by Tom Basden. Both actors showed the complex relationship between their characters and a range of emotions were used throughout. As well as a few light-hearted moments, they effectively built up tension for the audience towards the climax of the scene.

Newlands went next and performed an extract from R C Sherriff's *Journeys End*. This scene played with emotion for the characters in it, which the actors really captured and brought to life on stage. Each actor clearly showed his character's intentions and feeling at the time, and the whole cast kept the tempo of the piece throughout.

Finally, Bradbys performed a scene from *Good Will Hunting* by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Clearly a large amount of attention to detail had gone into the production of it. Both actors (Sam McGougan and Omar Ait El Cait) spoke with very clear and detailed American accents, and they both kept the rhythm of the scene going at a good pace, increasing at the end, building tension towards the climatic ending.

At the end of the performances, Mr Bissessar gave some constructive feedback to each House, outlining the positives and what they could work on. Kit Henson, *The Park*, was then awarded the best individual act of the night for his performance of the drunken vagabond in *The Park's* performance. Indi Abrams and Ben Leonard of *The Grove* were awarded the best duo of the night for their musical performance. Elmfield (Kyle Debrah and Max Paton-Smith) were awarded with the best performance of the night with their scene from *Joseph K*. Overall, it was a fantastic evening and everyone involved is very grateful for Mr Bissessar's adjudication, as well as the Ryan Theatre production team.

## SLAVONIC SOCIETY LECTURE

Vadim Gurinov, *The Grove*, 'Gorbachev – the man who rebuilt the Empire or the one who lost it?',

MLS, 5 October

On Tuesday 5 October, Vadim Gurinov, *The Grove*, gave a lecture to the Slavonic Society entitled 'Gorbachev – the man who rebuilt the Empire or the one who lost it?' Gurinov firstly discussed the outline of Gorbachev's upbringing and rise to power. Born on 2 March 1931, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was the son of Russian peasants in the territory of Stavropol, IN south-west Russia. Gorbachev was initiated into the communist regime from a young age, joining the Young Communist League, or Komsomol, in 1946. Notably, for the next four years he drove a combine harvester at a state farm (*kolhoz*), highlighting his rudimentary and simple upbringing. In 1952, Gorbachev entered the law course at Moscow State University, which formalised his entry into the Communist Party as a member. In 1955, post-graduation, Gorbachev grew into a more established party member, rising to become the First Secretary of the regional party committee (1970).

Gurinov continued the presentation by addressing the successes of Gorbachev in his journey to power, accentuating his success in becoming the youngest member of the Politburo (the supreme



policy-making body of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) upon his accession, and detailing his prominence as the Politburo's most active member. He explained that, in relation to Gorbachev's personal goals of power, his primary domestic goal was to save the 'stagnant Soviet economy' after its lack of growth under Leonid Brezhnev (1964–82). Gorbachev's plan of action was to call on the 'rapid technological modernisation and increased worker productivity' of the Soviet Union. The speaker described the pre-Gorbachev USSR as 'cumbersome', explaining that Gorbachev amended it to form a more efficient and responsive economy.

One of Gorbachev's initial policies was *glasnost*, which translates from Russian to 'openness'. This was the cause of a national cultural softening, resulting in fundamental changes to political structures in the Soviet Union, reducing the power of the Communist Party and commencing multi-candidate elections, among other adjustments. The overall effect resulted in the country's legacy of 'Stalinist totalitarian rule' being 'completely repudiated'.



Gurinov continued his focus on Gorbachev's policy introductions by narrating the effect of the policy of *perestroika*. Meaning 'restructuring', the policy made the first attempts to democratise the Soviet political system. Limited free-market mechanisms were introduced, but, notably encountered resistance from the party, which was 'unwilling to relinquish control over the [economy]'.

Next, the speaker discussed the historical events that took place after Gorbachev's rise to power, his motives, reforms and further actions leading to the end of the USSR. As said by Gorbachev: 'If what you have done yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today'. This naturally resonates well with his time in office, having caused the collapse of an 8,000,000 square mile empire.

As Gurinov's lecture came to a close, so did Gorbachev's presidency in his narration, as, following his resignation on 25th December 1991, the USSR ceased to exist. Gorbachev continued his political campaigns in the years to come, gaining less than 1% of votes in 1996. In 2008, it was announced that he had cultivated a new political party with former lawmaker Aleksandr Lebedev (whom he co-owned *Novaya Gazeta*). However, it never materialised. Although Gorbachev was critical of the Russian leader Vladimir Putin, he supported the country's annexation of Crimea during the Ukraine crisis in 2014.

To conclude, Gurinov discussed the life of Gorbachev and his vast influence upon the USSR, which resulted in its eventual collapse at his resignation, subjectively suggesting that Gorbachev was indeed the man who lost the Soviet Empire.

The Slavonic Society is immensely grateful to Gurinov for enlightening us on this hugely influential politician and his role in one of the biggest historical events of the 20th century, and to KAF for organising the event and sweetening it with a few boxes of her favourite childhood sweets from across the western border of the crumbling Soviet Union.

# OPINION

## CORRESPONDENCE

*Letters to the editors*

DEAR SIRS,

'My favourite yellow bin liner' was the description of this esteemed publication from a current Master. As an Editor of The Harrovian, I must admit that I was ever so slightly offended. Yet despite being rather harsh in his review of the School's newspaper, it is understandable why he held this sentiment. The Harrovian is still serving its purpose 'as an organ of record', judging by the number of society reports on these hallowed yellow sheets. However, its other purpose as a 'forum for comment, debate and expression of individual opinion within the School' is not being utilised. Judging by the very little reaction to controversial articles, namely 'Stay woke' and 'In favour of privatising the NHS', it is clear to see that The Harrovian is not benefiting from good engagement from its School-wide readership. Moreover, many boys are not expressing opinions that they may hold because there currently seems to be a lack of interest in the newspaper, and what better way to increase this by permitting anonymous correspondence (last seen in April 1999).

In this debate over why anonymous correspondence should be brought back, I shall begin by equipping myself in this argument with sometime pre-emptive rebuttal. Honourable individuals who will oppose my proposal will state that anonymous correspondence lacks principle because it encourages people to complain and grumble, without having the courage to put their names on their letters to the Editors. Furthermore, those in authority who will most probably refute my proposition will encourage us Harrovians to have a 'backbone' or 'spine' and openly write what we feel (within limits of course).

It is undeniable that several members of the School community feel discouraged from sending letters because of a perceived backlash that they may receive from boys and beaks alike. This wonderful institution, which I am honoured to be a part of, should permit anonymous opinions so that the School community can gain a sense of what is on the minds of Harrovians and Masters. There is currently a blind spot in which anonymous correspondence seems to be conflicting with some ethical ideals. This is where signed letters are considered to be "good" and anonymous letters are "bad". Not permitting anonymous correspondence seems to automatically devalue and undermine the integrity of arguments, as Editors assert an ethical certitude over the masses.

It is wonderful to see the magnificent rise of intellectual activity on the Hill reflected in The Harrovian in the form of lecture reviews, but we must not let The Harrovian continue to be an information-heavy paper that is rarely read in its entirety. The extracts read by Max Morgan, *Moretons*, and Remi Jokosenumi, *Lyon's*, at Harrow Association Songs were a delight to listen to and it is my hope that the current generation will produce such witty and engaging content.

I must acknowledge that anonymity can be, in places, intoxicating and, on the internet, it has emboldened people to become more vulgar. Rest assured, this would not be the case in The Harrovian. Hence, under this proposal, boys and beaks would be allowed to use appropriate and clever pseudonyms to sign-off their anonymous letters, and the content of their letters would be approved by the Editors and the Master-in-Charge, who will form a 'review group', in order to ensure that content doesn't overwhelmingly undermine the purpose of the School. Who knows? An increase in anonymity may stimulate a welcome rise in quality correspondence of both of a satirical

or serious nature. It is our hope that, forty years on, our hearts will thrill at the thought of the Hill, so let's begin by instilling more life into our 'organ of record' and, thus, please permit anonymous correspondence!

In anticipation of your valued response,  
ANDREW ARTHUR, THE KNOLL

DEAR SIRs,

On Wednesday 6 October, Nathan Shepard, *The Park*, addressed the Mathematical Society on 'Beating the odds: the maths of sports betting', in a most fascinating and informative talk about how one could earn a profit from utilising mathematics in sports betting, without needing any prior knowledge of the sports themselves.

I should like to ask young, uber-numerate Nathan one question – he mentions that two people were able to make £838,000 by modest football bets in the 2018–2019 Premier League season without any prior knowledge of football; well, if it's as simple as that, why don't the Governors hire Nathan to make gazillions for Harrow so that we can be as rich as Eton?

I was a Maths teacher within the state comprehensive system for many years, but all it really involved was arithmetic, because so many Darrens and Sharons had learned nothing at primary school. But I have never been tempted to bet online.

No, for me the magic of the betting shops has been irresistible. Only last week, at about 4pm, a scraggy youth leaned over the counter and asked me if I shouldn't be back home for dinner and then bed? I quipped in return, should not he be in prison? On another occasion a young man was being torn off a strip by his *pater* for wasting his money on huge losing bets. I asked *pater* to dial it down a bit, as he was preventing me enjoying reading *The Racing Post*. The son then threatened to kill me!

I enjoy the bawdy madness of the betting shop. I even wrote a full stage musical called *His Grace's Betting Shop*.

*In every High Street a bet shop is lurking  
Welcoming all whether working or shirking  
In for a pound or grand you can bet all  
At tempting odds that will test every mettle!*

Come on, Nathan, help us all make some real dosh.

Yours sincerely,  
MIKE STONE, MORETONS 1957<sup>2</sup>

DEAR SIRs,

There are a number of questions that comrades from other lesser institutions ask me when finding out that I attend Harrow. What is the deal with the hats? Do you really have to wear them all day? Is Songs just a mass hypnosis exercise designed to subdue the masses?

But the question that really stings is one which is produced by a simple reading of the education section of any national newspaper. Whether sensationalist or not, whenever a local rag talks about a local state school (or even a Singaporean institution) succeeding, it is Harrow that comes up as the frame of reference. 'Local school gets more students into Oxbridge than Harrow' is not an unusual find in *The Times* or *Daily Telegraph*. It stings in particular because I have always regarded Harrow as a decently academic institution with a wide extra-curricular provision.

Now, granted, I understand that getting students into top universities and achieving top results is difficult for schools in the private sector. With the increased emphasis on socio-economic and geographical equity, it is increasingly difficult to catalyse positive university outcomes. This is not a problem unique to Harrow. However, it does seem that this is a problem that affects Harrow somewhat disproportionately in relation to other rival schools in the United Kingdom. Eton, Westminster, Magdalen College, King's Wimbledon, Brighton, Sevenoaks, Dulwich, Winchester, Latymer Upper, Wellington, Alleyn's, Radley and

Whitgift all beat us (both in terms of the number of admissions and the percentage of applicants achieving entry) according to an article in *The Spectator* this year. All are private schools, which are recognised by most as privileged. All are likely to be wanting to read similarly difficult courses. All are schools who many Harrovians would describe us as being better than.

So why is it that we are doing so poorly at Oxbridge admissions by comparison? What could we be doing differently?

For starters, one thing that many applicants (and I recognise that, as a non-applicant, I both have no right to comment and am in a position where I am privileged to do so without the burden of a personal stake) have complained about is the lack of individual attention given to their preparation for interview. In fact, many Harrovians are finding themselves needing to hound their beaks on the way down to lunch or in the High Street in order to ask their question on game theory statistical models or German enlightenment philosophy. While the Oxbridge Elective can lead to more learning, it simply does not give students enough experience in discussing their subject in an individual environment. By way of contrast, at the other place, tutors seem to be assigned (from my understanding having spoken to people there and having consulted their website) to students with similar interest to them. This means that each student has an expert who is personally responsible for answering their queries and has an obligation to do so. Moreover, meeting with them once a week for an hour to discuss the subject furthers the quality of their subject-based conversational articulation. Why don't we do this at Harrow? It would be relatively easy to assign tutors to boys at the start of their Lower Sixth year based on subject interest. This would not only benefit Oxbridge interviews but academic enrichment, personal statements and cultivating intellectual curiosity.

Moreover, it seems that many Harrovians are behind schedule in preparing their application. For starters, from my observations of September (or, in some cases, October) common-room panic, very few Harrovians seemed to have written their personal statements over the summer compared to students from other institutions. As someone not doing a UCAS submission, it amazed me to see how many Harrovians were flying close to 15 October. This astounds me for three main reasons. First of all, in no other significant potentially life-altering application would you do that. For my US university early application, I submitted nearly two weeks early, and for a job you would never leave it to the night before. Secondly, this doesn't seem to be the case at other schools. Every friend I know who is applying to Oxbridge from somewhere other than Harrow did so far in advance of the deadline. But perhaps most shockingly, it seems that not all of the fault for Harrow's relative tardiness and rushed panic is down to the boys. I know a number of boys whose references were not ready for submission the week of the deadline. After the School has had the entire summer to write, review, edit and confirm them, this surely is not at the standard of a £40,000 per year institution. Shouldn't we all be more prepared?

Finally, enrichment opportunities do not come as soon as they could do. Our rotating carousel 'Harrow Diploma' style Electives programme is designed for breadth, and that is certainly commendable. But breadth does not help one get into Oxbridge or advance significantly in a chosen field or career. Recently, I was amused by a friend pointing out to me that Oxbridge Elective classes begin earlier (so there is more time dedicated to preparation) at a Harrow school in East Asia than here on the Hill. More time, energy and effort is put into preparing students in Japan for an Oxbridge admissions test and interview than at a School a mere 50 miles from the Bodleian. Why don't we do what so many other more successful schools do and try to get our talent to engage with their subject of choice at an earlier age? Wouldn't this lead to them being better read in the subject, having a better understanding and having greater opportunities to explore their field of intellectual curiosity?



Now, I realise that university outcomes are not perfect marker of education. Getting into Oxbridge should not be the ultimate marker. But it is one marker, and an important one at that. The fact that our number is not just a little lower but so much lower than where we would expect to be points towards more significant structural issues with the way we as an institution prepare our students with specific subject-based knowledge, the ability and practice at articulating that, and the skillset to explore their areas of intellectual curiosity.

The Harrow education is succeeding in so many ways but we need to refocus on Oxbridge

Kind regards,  
DYLAN WINWARD, LYON'S

## SUDOKU

*Persevera per severa per se vera*

3						6		
			4		1			
					7			5
				8			2	
		7						
				6		3	8	
8				2				
		4						7
					5			

## EDITORIAL

*Was all the talk at COP26 just cheap?*

As a new addition to this periodical, the Editors will respond every so often to a topical issue, either in School or in the world. The start of November saw world leaders, activists, and celebrities travel to Glasgow to attend the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). This conference was envisaged to be a summit where leaders accelerated action towards the UN framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Activist Greta Thunberg said that the summit was a failure and a “PR exercise”, so the Editors were tasked with evaluating the question present in the title. They would also like to remind the School that The Harrovian is not simply for pseudo-intellectuals and all boys are encouraged to contribute to the paper in the form of correspondence, articles, creative pieces, satire pieces, School reports or critical reviews of music and film. The roll has been called and it is in alphabetical editor.

*Q. Akhavan Zanjani, Druries, Upper Sixth*

Ted Kaczynski wrote that ‘the Industrial Revolution and its consequences have been disastrous for the human race’. Looking

at it from an environmental slant, it's hard to disagree; we all know the vaguely exponential-looking CO2 graph, and those who actually listened during Shell Geography know why we call the post-Industrial era ‘anthropocene’ (era of man). We can make the somewhat credible assumption that these technological advances are also vaguely bound to capitalism; free trade breeds competition, hence innovation, hence advances, with no myopia-surpassing incentive to be sustainable. Further, we can surmise that capitalism as an ideology has its roots in the basally, evolutionarily derived competitiveness intrinsic to the human condition. I'm running out of characters, but the question I'm asking here is: was the climate crisis inevitable?

*A K Arthur, The Knoll, Fifth Form*

The recent COP26 summit was hailed as the “last chance saloon” by Prince Charles. Thirty years of ineffectual talk was intended to come to a swift halt. Celebrities, activists and politicians all flocked Glasgow, as their modes of transport to Glasgow quickly became matter of discussion in the media. Nevertheless, ambitious targets for 2030 were set by some politicians, with the UK pursuing a ‘green industrial revolution’. Rather disappointingly, only 11 nations have actually enacted their zero-net targets into law, making it harder for their leaders to be held to account over their pledges. President Biden, also known as ‘Sleeping Beauty’ after he was caught dozing on a few occasions, has also unfortunately struggled to pass any bills through Congress.

They say that ‘drastic times call for drastic measures’ and the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that governments can act swiftly when they feel a strong need to. One does not need to have a drinks reception with Leonardo Di Caprio or attend a Greta Thunberg protest to change their habits. It was wonderful to see some vibrant energy shown towards a crucial societal issue, but the aftermath of the summit may still leave a lot to be desired. I think we should eagerly wait and see before coming to a definite conclusion. The talk may turn out to be cheap, we will all have to pay for it.

*E A Herwegh Vonk, Newlands, Upper Sixth*

Why has the prompt been phrased like this? ‘Talk is cheap’ is a well-known idiom and is accordingly recorded in the Merriam-Webster (I would have used oxforddictionaries.com but it has been rebranded as ‘Lexico’). What about ‘talk was cheap’? There are a reasonable number of entries in the British National Corpus and elsewhere, so it has some precedent, but why use the clumsy ‘Was all the talk just cheap’ when you could say ‘Was it all just cheap talk’? Or perhaps some sort of reference to hot air or empty words instead? Odd.

As for the actual substance of the prompt, I don't really know. It's a bit too soon to judge whether all the agreements made so far will really amount to anything but, given many nations' track records, my hopes aren't too high.

*A P Newman, Druries, Fifth Form*

On paper, the pledges yielded from the tail-end of COP26 certainly are not cheap, fiscally that is. As of writing this, at least 19 UN nations including the United Kingdom are expected to commit to a pledge to cut emissions and keep the temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, the estimated one trillion figures being floated around seem unfeasible for many developing nations, who would ordinarily struggle to ensure payment is maintained, and even more so after the pandemic. The steady turn away from global policy in many Western democracies, stemming from both the pandemic and a rise in right-wing nationalism, is also cause for concern as governments will not be willing to invest in climate policy if their electorate will not stand at their side.

The notable absence of a representative of global fossil fuel emissions leader the PRC (China) does not bode well for the future. Responsible for approximately 30% of global emissions,

China's refusal to build towards a more sustainable world is deeply concerning and could derail the ambitious agendas the more environmentally inclined members of COP26 are pushing for. Other large nations refusal to pledge, such as Brazil and the Russian Federation, cast a gloomy shadow over attempts at optimistic speeches.

As we come away from COP26, nations need to act, not just pledge, so that the legacy of COP26 can be more than a collection of eloquent speeches. In the meantime, continue to petition, protest and advocate for change. And remember, dear reader, any voice, no matter how small, has the power to change the world.

*H J Ridley, The Park, Lower Sixth*

Alas, despite my perceived youthful optimism, I must disagree with the prevailing wind that COP26 was a serious event with serious people. Biden's horde of 24 black SUVs driving down an Edinburgh road from his private jet to discuss how the common masses must make alterations to their lifestyle has the pungent stink of hypocrisy wafting around it, as do the actions of most of the delegates, who belong to an Überclass of wealthy neo-aristocrats, with multiple homes, cars, private jets etc., all of which is undoubtedly making our planet a worse place to live upon. Likewise, the fact that neither of the leaders of the world's first- or fourth-largest polluters attended COP26 shows that large sectors of the world are quite happy to benefit from climate change (yes, for certain nations there shall be benefits which they shall want to exploit – Russia and Canada come to mind). Xi Jinping decided not to attend, despite the fact that China released around 10,000,000 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, around double that of the second-largest polluter, America. Russia is the world's fourth-largest polluter and seems on track to continue to increase its emissions, with Putin giving vast oil-field-fiefdoms in Siberia to his oligarchs. If world leaders are serious about climate change, they ought to show this with personal commitment, and show themselves as willing to take serious action against countries not pulling their weight. Until they do this, COP26's climate talk will be nought but hot air.

*Y Song, The Head Master's, Fifth Form*

COP conferences occur yearly, yet what has been achieved? CO2 concentrations, global temperatures and sea levels have continued to escalate. Even the "great" Paris Agreement has yet to effectively motivate countries. There is no reason why COP26 should be any different: at best a publicity stunt of unity, at worst an empty bag of words. But perhaps it should not be expected that international conferences can solve anything other than wars. While international co-operation is important for climate change, its real history should be written within the country. And to this end, maybe COP26's public spectacle may at least persuade more businesses to adopt greener solutions. What policymakers must realise, however, is that regardless of what international agreements they negotiate, real change must happen within their society: its industry, energy sources and lifestyle. If they are not willing to make this sacrifice then all the talk is just cheap.

*W.A. Wauchope, The Knoll, Upper Sixth*

This week on Top of the COPs:

1. "(California's Burning but) We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Melting Pole
2. "It's Raining, Men" by The Weather Girls
3. "(Don't) Keep the Home Fires Burning" by John McTarmac
4. "Drive My (Electric) Car" by the (Organic) Beatles
5. "Hold Back the River (PLEASE!)" by James "Overflowing" Bay

*D K Z Winward, Lyon's, Upper Sixth*

When in Glasgow, do as the Glaswegians do.

Much like every other time politicians get together for photo opportunities, the majority of the work of the 26th Conference of the Party had already been done before any of the politicians even set foot in Glasgow. Civil servants and diplomats who have professional experience dealing with these incredibly complicated and scientific issues have spent years coming up with targets that can be rejected for fear of unsettling "the base". For the politicians, it is a chance for them to pad their resume on green issues without having to write or propose any piece of controversial policy. For activists, it is a chance to receive free publicity in lieu of genuine progress.

Much like the people who are from Glasgow, everyone partied, drank and then got the fastest private flight out of Glasgow.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

*On Pronouns*

*As part of a new series designed to raise awareness on issues surrounding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, The Harrovian will be hosting a weekly column on issues facing members of our world community.*

If you ask most Harrovians to define a verb, they would probably be able to do so. A noun is fairly basic. One would hope that you can grasp the nature of adjectives from your Shell English lessons. Those who are particularly advanced might even understand the idiosyncrasies of an adverb. But what Harrovians seem to struggle with on a more fundamental level is the concept of pronouns, particularly gendered ones.

This is particularly true now that we live in an age where there is a renewed focus on the importance of pronouns. Nowadays, pronouns are displayed on business cards, email signatures, Instagram profiles and even verbally at conferences. Simply put, outside of our bubbled Hill life, understanding how to use different gender pronouns is a key part of being able to fit in with socially responsible social cues and engage with other members of society. According to the School's Inclusion Alliance, gender is defined as 'socially constructed behaviours and roles that vary from society and over time'. As a result, different people might have different genders and could be offended or marginalised by any perceived refusal to acknowledge their right to gender-based self-determination.

But, on a more fundamental level, why do we need to display our pronouns? Why is it wrong for us to just assume and be corrected, especially since pronouns will only be different from our assumptions in a small minority of cases?

Firstly, by normalising asking for gender pronouns, you make it less awkward for individuals who do not take the pronouns that would be the natural assumption of many members of society. If it is unusual for people to give pronouns, it makes individuals who are using pronouns other than those which would be expected, or pronouns that are non-conforming, feel like they are in the wrong when correcting you about their pronouns. Instead, as part of our collective push towards active inclusion, asking for pronouns and giving them as the default places nobody in the wrong.

Secondly, mistakes made (even if they are made once) can touch particular sore spots for individuals who have in the past been marginalised. For many people who have had a gender misassignment at birth, using dead-names or dead-pronouns can lead to the resurfacing of past trauma and the rekindling of painful past memories. Rather than waiting to be corrected, if you take an active step to share pronouns, you avoid potentially triggering situations.

Finally, allowing individuals to express their pronouns within an organised and societally conventional framework prevents individuals from feeling burdened in expressing that.

For many people, coming to terms with their gender can be a transformational critical moment in their lives. Allowing them to share that without it being unusual can lead to us giving an open acknowledgement and acceptance of their situation, which will help make them feel included and put to rest any fears they might have about negative treatment or a lack of understanding regarding gender issues.

Obviously, at this moment at Harrow, we have an entire population of boys (to the best of the knowledge of this author) who use “he/him” pronouns. However, in the future, if this is no longer the case or when facing externally, this author would encourage everybody to ask for the pronouns of the people they are meeting. If you ask someone’s name to avoid that awkwardness or share your own name, why not add pronouns to the mix?

# METROPOLITAN

## POETRY

*From ‘Ink Sweat and Tears’*

Published on National Poetry Day 2021.

<https://inksweatandtears.co.uk/day-one-of-choice-for-npd/>  
by Aditi Banerjee

### Homonyms

Today in English, my teacher said  
“words can have more than one meaning,  
depending on their context”.  
This lesson sounded familiar.  
Similar to learning how an object  
can have more than one purpose,  
relative to survival.

At 5, we learnt a lollipop  
can be a sweet or a Trojan horse,  
depending on the hand it occupies.  
Age 10, a key can be a key or a weapon,  
depending on the shadows  
and how quickly they approach.  
Headphones on a jog  
can be a vehicle for music  
or vehicle for easy capture,  
depending on the time of day.

Most days, assume a compliment is bait.  
I wonder if there is a name  
for this survival manual.  
If you can purchase it on Amazon,  
with enough apologies  
to be granted a discount voucher.  
Smile politely and silently for free delivery.  
If we can fit it in our pocket or our purse,  
next to our pepper spray.

Or, if it only exists through the generational tongues  
of mothers warning daughters  
of all that lurks between the cracks in the pavement,  
and how sometimes danger  
comes wrapped in a friendly grin.  
Women warning us to watch where we’re going  
and that it’s worth changing route

if it means we will make it home.  
This is our morse code.

Every day, we go to war,  
armed with a whispered battle cry  
of survival tactics sung into a lullaby.  
We recite the lyrics as though our life depends on it.  
Our life depends on it.

When my teacher asked  
for an example of a homonym,  
I said “song”.  
I said “sometimes a song is about music.  
Other times every lyric is a guide, a map,  
a means for surviving the walk home”.

Aditi is a 16-year-old spoken-word artist, producing videos inspiring societal change on her YouTube channel SaveOurWorld. She’s performed on local stages, livestreams, nationally at UK Youth Inspiring Hope Awards and at international events such as Art and Conversation.

## SPYGLASS

*Your favourite section is back. Don’t worry the Spyglass Editors haven’t already given up. For those wanting to give suggestions, please contact the youngest Editor on the Editorial Board. We’ll let you work out who that is.*

Spyglass would like to echo the words of the Deputy Custodian, by saying how great it was to be back at Glee and Twelves. After a two-year absence of an audience in Speech Room, the event was worthy of two and a half sedentary hours on the hard Speech Room chairs. Whether this can be credited to the outrageous dance moves from a certain House, the premature applause for another House or the raucous celebration from a winning House, the evening was undoubtedly entertaining. As long as your party wasn’t over after the results were announced, Spyglass would find it very hard to believe that all the boys and guests didn’t enjoy their evening. It will long live in the memory of Spyglass when they grow up and are smart enough to answer the question why several “XIIIs” had nine boys. Possibly some additional off-timetable arithmetic lessons are in need.

\*\*\*

1st XV rugby finally returned to the Sunley, with considerable success. Whether it was down to JLM tempting the School with fried chicken burgers via an ‘AllBoys’ email or the thought of seeing your 125kg idols zipping around the turf with a rugger ball, the Sunley did manage to attract huge crowds. Spyglass would say that the atmosphere was electric. Thanks must undoubtedly go to Harrow’s self-professed supporters club, also known as ‘The Firm’. For those wondering how to join this cultured club of supporters, Spyglass has a few tips. Find an overcoat and a flat cap, and rock up to the side-lines equipped with risqué chants and, who knows, you may be even rewarded with an unofficial School darts tie (please don’t check the Awards Directory). Following their unfair but at times hilarious noise, filled with wit, last Saturday, Spyglass is waiting to see how The Firm reacts when the boys from Slough arrive next Thursday.

\*\*\*

Returning to our theme of returning events, Long Ducker returned to its more usual format this year and once again, it was a success. The Military Fitness crew had the chance to show the School why they all love to train at ungodly hours and, more importantly, it was a chance to raise money for a wonderful cause. No one had the chance to keep changing “tracks” along the course, because once again, headphones



were banned. After “jogging” their memory, Spyglass would like to commend the rising number of boys who choose to go above and beyond each year, whether it is in the form of a Short Double Ducker, Long Double Ducker, or the half-marathon. Particular applause to those boys who managed to walk the whole thing slower than even SPS.

## FIVES

*The School v Mill Hill & Belmont Schools, 4 November*

Harrow hosted Mill Hill on Thursday, with the Seniors winning 3-0. Jonathan Barley, *The Grove*, and Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, played excellently and didn't drop a single point. The Yearlings won 4-0 with strong performances from Tosin Oyegade, *Moretons*, Dominic Hopkins, *Elmfield*, and Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*.

## FOOTBALL

*Junior Colts A v Princethorpe College  
National Cup – Round 2, Won 8-0, 6 November*

The Harrow side comprising Shells and Removes put on an imperious performance that simply blew away the opposition. Jonah Esposito, *Newlands*, took home the match ball with his hat-trick, but Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, was the standout performer with a goal and four assists.

*The School v Gordon's School Boys-Under-18A*

Development A XI, Lost 1-2

Development B XI, Won 3-1

Development 16 XI, Won 3-0

Harrow dominated the Development 16 XI fixture and played some particularly good passing football in the first half. Max Baygual Nespatti, *Elmfield*, and Tobi Amusan, *Moretons*, scored outstanding finishes from outside the box before Ralph Collier-Wright, *Rendalls*, scored a well-worked team goal to put the icing on the cake.

## WATER POLO

*Junior Colts A v John Lyon School Boys-Under-15A,  
Won 7-3*

With an impressive hat-trick on his debut for the School, Gus Chukwuemeka, *Druries*, was man of the match. Special mention goes to Sias Bruinette, *Newlands*, with an astounding solo venture nominated as goal of the game.

## RACKETS

*The School v Cheltenham College, 6 November*

An enjoyable and competitive afternoon of rackets. Ten Harrow pairs competed in matches, of which Harrow won five to four. Match of the day was our First Pair of Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Alonso Fontana, *The Grove*, who, after a rusty start going 0-2 down, found their rhythm to fight their way back into the match to win 3-2, with some attacking and intelligent play.

## RUGBY

*The School v Northampton School for Boys  
The XV, Won 34-12*

Harrow led a cagey first half, featuring an excellent try from Oliver Miall, *Newlands*, and two penalties from Tito Edjua, *Lyon's*, 13-12. In the second half, buoyed by the superb support of the Sunley crowd once again, Harrow extended their lead to 20-12 after another well-taken Miall try. A superb goal line defensive stand kept Northampton out at a key point of the game, and Harrow capitalised with two superb tries from Dani Neal, *Moretons*, and Oliver Newall, *Druries*, to clinch an excellent 34-12 win.

2nd XV, Won 40-10

A new-look 2nd XV comprehensively beat NSB 40-10 in another impressive performance.

Colts A, Lost 5-7

Junior Colts A, Won 22-7

A dominant start led to a strong Harrow lead that was difficult for Northampton to claw back from. The whole team remained composed during tense moments and increased their intensity as the game progressed.

Junior Colts B, Lost 17-19

Yearlings A, Won 60-15

A physically demanding performance from an Under-14 team that are developing into a skilful and disciplined side. Five tries for Will Codrington, *Rendalls*, and three for Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*. Further tries scored by Jeffrey Arthur, *The Knoll*, Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, Ben Cutts, *Elmfield*, and Jake Turner, *Druries*.

Yearlings B, Won 60-5

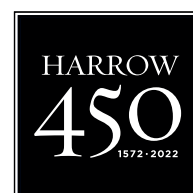
An excellent start to this half of term. Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, scored three tries. Jack Mapletoft, *The Park*, was man of the match and scored two.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge [smk@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:smk@harrowschool.org.uk)

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian* online at [harrowschool.org.uk/Harrovian](http://harrowschool.org.uk/Harrovian)



CELEBRATING OUR PAST  
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE