

THE HARROVIAN

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CONTIO LATINA

27 November

contio est apud scholae Hergensis gubernatores habita ante diem V Kalendas Decembres oratore Phoenix Ashworth. It was warming to see (on a cold November day) the whole School fill Speech Room, appropriately masked of course, to witness the unbroken tradition of the School contio. Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, delivered a polished performance, a contio that was filled with hope and perseverance. The message was certainly needed, because of the difficult year that has almost passed. In fact, if we remember, almost exactly one year ago Adam Ait El Caid, *Druries*, was required to deliver his contio to a nearly empty Speech Room, when all other boys were relegated to their boarding Houses.



This year, however, Ashworth was able to enjoy the reward for a successfully delivered contio: the rapturous applause at the end. His speech was delivered with poise and confidence, and the Chairman of the Governors, Mr John Batting, was there himself this year to deliver the *responsio*. Mr Batting followed up his response to Ashworth's contio with a few words of encouragement to the School; given the pressures of the pandemic, he wanted us to remember the generation before who faced their own tribulations during the war; Churchill and Captain Tom were examples to follow, who were products of an era that had overcome great trials. "Never give up, never, never", the words of Churchill were something he wanted all boys to take to heart, particularly in light of new variants of Covid which were emerging, and, on a smaller scale, the first set of Div Trials the boys were to face in the moments after.

HOUSE PLAY

*Newlands, 'The Bloody Chamber',
Ryan Theatre, 26 november*

Having previously enjoyed being under LSA's directorial leadership, I knew that quality was guaranteed when I sat down to see Newlands perform *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter. Indeed, I was immediately hooked by the excellent stage design that not only enticed my questions but my imagination also. As it began, the quality continued with an excellent leading role

by Hans Patel as the Girl whom the play would unfold around. The fact that he remained onstage throughout, a feat in and of itself, yet the commitment to remain in character showed the extent of his dramatic technique. He was able to truly evoke sympathy through a wide and expansive acting style, moving across the whole stage yet knowing how to adapt to the more serious moments.

One moment in particular from Hans Patel caught my attention: there is one moment where he comes far downstage with a cold white light shining on him. The confidence required to keep focus in a moment such as that is no small feat, and all credit must be given to the rigorous determination as well as directorial confidence in such a bold choice. Many of my favourite sections from the play came about from the devilishly intense performance given by Barimah Adomakoh, who played the lord of the castle, Marquis. He managed to weave together a truly intimidating character while still keeping that consistent level of voice and clarity. Towards the end, he brandished a longsword, and the swift, decisive action in this moment effectively gave the illusion that he is properly trained in this weapon (or maybe he is!). Here is an example of interesting costume design as well, with his outfit really embodying his character and telling a story all on its own. One must not forget the ensemble cast who magnificently weaved around the stage in order to assume whatever form or position was required of them. Often, they would take the shape of a chair, a bed, statues or anything else the scene required of them, allowing for a visually interesting performance. And, of course, upon entering the bloody chamber, the girl finds the corpse of the muse, countess and diva (played by Hanno Sie, Zak Banton and Joel Balogun respectively). These three used themselves and each other to truly ooze the feeling of horror that was true to the genre.



Hugo Anderson was particularly effective at this role. I watched him dash across the stage in order to reach his position and he truly transformed into whatever object he was portraying. Indeed, the rigidity of his character when he portrayed a pillar was equally as convincing when he played a stool. One must not overlook these chorus characters, as Hugo Anderson showed us. They are the founders of the atmosphere and eeriness that was so clearly communicated. A secondary moment of excellence came from the use of a frame as a simple prop to create a much wider image. The three corpse characters moved in and out of the frame, allowing for a moment of ghostly

eeriness combined with an underlying tone of humour. This was excellently conveyed through outstanding costume design and synchronisation of movement and lines. The red gashes across each of their wedding dresses allowed for a unique juxtaposition of emotions that was emblematic of their character as a whole. Each of them was an emblem for a certain character trait, yet they never strayed too far from the underlying theme of betrayal and of women being taken advantage of. This horror was further emphasised by the creative use of music to convey the emotions required for the scene.



I am not sure if it is an original score by the Newlands boys, but whatever the case, it effectively fitted the tone of the scene and emphasised the necessary emotions throughout. Every story must have a hero and Freddie Taylor and Charlie Young fitted this role brilliantly as they played Jean Ives and the Mother respectively. Freddie Taylor used the space around him in very creative ways and was always locked into his character, even when he was not the focus of attention. His tone of voice always communicated the appropriate feeling for the moment, allowing him to grow and develop as a character, ultimately being one of my favourites. Further on, as the Mother pulls the trigger towards the conclusion of the story, the use of striking red lighting to portray death in this moment truly heightened the intensity and led to a satisfying conclusion to a gripping tale.

MICHAELMAS CONCERT

27 November

On Saturday, 27 November, the various ensembles of the Harrow music scene graced the stage in Speech Room – many with their new flashing names such as the Symphonic Winds and the Harrow Sinfonia. DNW introduced the Michaelmas program as a journey through music and, indeed, the program brought an imagination of tropical summers to serene evenings.

As usual, the former Concert Band, now Symphonic Winds, performed Mr P's Really Average March. A Sousa-style marching song, composed by music studio legend and beak SM, as a homage to Mr Palmer's vintage response to the band's playing in rehearsals – "Really average." Safe to say, the Symphonic Wind's rendition was nothing but "average," in fact, stellar. In contrast to this jocular appetiser to the evening was an arrangement of The Overture from Mozart's *Magic Flute*. The first half was almost like an orchestral performance, performed with a suitable operatic flavour; this was then layered with a pop-style entry from the brass section in the second half. The Symphonic Winds made quite the finishing statement with an excellent performance of Calypso Carnival, another McWilliam classic! The percussion solo section in the middle was groovy, prompting several band members to swing and jive to their infectious beats.

The Harrow String Ensemble made its debut with a lovely rendition of Waltz No.2 from Shostakovich's Jazz Suite, arranged by Mrs Tait's son, Edward. With their homogenous and fluid sounds, well-balanced in timbre and technical mastery, the Harrow String Ensemble delivered a fine performance of this light Shostakovich delight. Historically, it is a fascinating piece, composed by Shostakovich at the Soviet government's request to reflect the emergence of jazz as a genre. Of course, Soviet Russia was a musical backwater – a freeze-frame in time – regressive and disconnected from the socio-cultural musical developments that were taking place across the globe.



Brass Group – the premier Harrow brass ensemble – made their declaration to the stage with a triumphant Fanfare and Chorus by Buxtehude. This was followed by a slightly unconventional, but historically quasi-accurate performance of Gabrielli's Sonata pian'e forte. Originally, Gabrielli had intended the piece to be performed on the opposite flanking balconies of the basilica at St Mark's Square in Venice. The brass group divided itself into two sections; each section moved to their respective stage ends of Speech Room and successfully mimicked this Venetian phenomenon!

The Harrow Sinfonia, though depleted in its membership number, still performed Dvorak's Serenade for String Orchestra in E Major, Op. 22 with elegance and grace. DNW conducted the ensemble as DNB was filling in for the missing concertmaster, Jon Yuan. Overall, the Moderato and Scherzo movements were played with the ideal full-bodiedness, of course, with great attention to articulated and technical passages throughout. Honourable mentions go to the first desk cellos, who tackled the soli with solid determination.

The Byron Consort delivered the choral offerings of the evening with a fantastic opener – the festive and cheerful William Mathias' *Let the people praise Thee, O God*. It had been commissioned by Charles, Prince of Wales in 1981 for his wedding at St Paul's Cathedral on 29 July 1981. Afterwards, the Byron Consort performed a touching rendition of Ola Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas*, his icebreaker piece into the American choral scene; the work was praised by Randall Stroope as a kaleidoscope of 'very attractive harmonic colours.' They completed their set of choral works with *A Grace* – another work by the celebrated Welsh choral composer William Mathias.

Charlie Parker's *My Little Suede Shoes* was played with great pizzazz and energy and special mention to Max Rugge-Price, *The Park*, for his brilliant debut with the Big Band, who sang *The Lady is a Tramp* and *Come Fly With Me*, two jazz classics performed with good confidence! The former was written as a tongue-in-cheek to mock New York high society and its social pretensions, nonetheless, it eventually became a jazz vocal staple and the latter, a 1958 classic, is a zeitgeist of the emerging Jet Age with its exotic destinations from Peru to Acapulco Bay.

Hats off to the Harrovians who performed so well and found time to offer a delightful evening of musical items, even during a hectic trials week. And a special thanks to DNW, DNB, PJE, SM and music teachers!

CAREERS

*Mr Edward Gascoigne-Pees, Druries 1988³, 'Public relations and financial markets',
17 November*

On the evening of 17 November, Harrow School had the pleasure of hosting joint founder of Financial Public Relations firm Camarco and ex Head of School Mr Edward Gascoigne-Pees (*Druries 1988*³). Following a brief personal introduction to a packed OSRG concerning some of his own experiences at Harrow, the main topic of the event ensued. The opening question, "Does anyone have any idea what financial PR is?" fell on a silent audience, which provided a simple segue into a crucial subject for boys considering a career and therefore a future within this particular industry, or just the City itself. We then learned more about what brought him to financial PR, and its requirements while simultaneously addressing some misconceptions that plague entry to the world of finance.



After having completed his time at Harrow, the speaker went on to study Classics at the University of Oxford. Mr Gascoigne-Pees was adamant that one day he would come back to the Hill and teach in the Classics Department. Clearly it was his passion, but when he realised that several of his close friends were training in accountancy or other finance-related roles and moving to work in the City, he followed suit. Training as an accountant with Deloitte, he was introduced into a new fast-paced and Excel-heavy world. He left Deloitte as a fully qualified accountant. Money was good, but he was not enjoying his job. That was when we decided to take the leap and join a financial PR firm, not really knowing how things would turn out. It turned out that Mr Gascoigne-Pees loved his new role and he stayed with that company as it grew in size and success. Some years later, he split off with two other friends to create the financial PR company Camarco, which now has 96 firms within the FTSE 100, FTSE 250 and other multi-national European companies that employ their services.

Mr Gascoigne-Pees explained that the role of financial PR is to be 'spin merchants' for important news and new positions within the markets. This obviously places firms such as Camarco in a prominent and powerful position regarding the influence of various key monetary factors, like share prices of a firm, for example. It involves working with the financial media, such as the Financial Times, and interacting with the rest of the financial community in general. Broadly, calendar work within this section of finance entails communicating annual or quarterly numbers. Evidently, this process is complex as PR firms must perfectly craft announcements and, equally, expectations in order to paint an encouraging picture surrounding a client company's financial results. They intricately weave the threads of reality, to ensure the best outcome for clients.

Another part of PR work concerns transactions, such as acquisitions. For example, an 'activist' hedge fund that has purchased a stake in an underperforming company might work

with a financial PR firm to find something unfavourable about its CEO, which ultimately may compel the CEO to leave the company. A new CEO might then improve the underperforming company and cause its share price to rise, making the hedge fund considerable profits. This is an extreme example of the power of financial PR, and not every transaction operates like that. In this way, Mr Gascoigne-Pees brought to light how exciting and dynamic financial PR can be, which I am sure will lead to several boys applying for jobs in this sector.

Lastly, Mr Gascoigne-Pees clarified that a mathematics-based or finance degree is not necessary for entry into the City. The majority of employees at Camarco do not have such a degree, there is a large distribution of various degrees, such as History, English and even science degrees like Physics. Therefore, the usual misconception stating you must be a mathematician to even get a look in was reassuringly disproven. Ability to communicate effectively in writing, and with clients in person or over Zoom calls, are key factors as well as EQ. Ultimately, it was an extremely valuable talk by a true expert in the field, about a fascinating and growing industry which irrefutably has great potential in the future.

MATHEMATICS SOCIETY

*Oscar Wickham, The Head Master's, 'Getting Wrong Statistics Right – the Art of Misinformation',
10 November*

An assortment of boys (and a few beaks) gathered in Maths Schools to listen to Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, give an exhilarating talk on 'Getting Wrong Statistics Right – the art of misinformation'. The talk was riveting from beginning to end, offering a completely different perspective on probability as well as the dangers misused statistics can cause.

Wickham began with an analysis of the results of the survey that he had sent out before the talk. The survey had asked participants to choose a random number before inputting it into Google's random number generator. The random number thus produced by the generator would then be added to the survey.

As these numbers were all random, it would be expected that the probability of each number, 1–9, appearing as the first digit would be roughly equal, at around 1/9. But bizarrely, this is not the case! In fact, in the survey, 1 appears almost a third of the time, 2 appears just under a fifth of the time, and 9 only around 4% of the time. This can be attributed to something known as Benford's Law, which occurs as a result of the numbers having different magnitudes.

Wickham used the good example of raffle tickets. If you start with only two tickets, the probability of it being 1 is 1/2. At 9 tickets, the probability of the first digit being 1 is 1/9. However, once you get to 19, this increases the chance of the first digit being 1 to over a half. After this, there is once again a decline towards 1/9 as it reaches 100. Wickham drew out a logarithmic diagram which proved that the probability of 1 appearing as the first digit averaged around 30.1% for random data spanning different magnitudes.

So what does this have to do with misinformation? Benford's Law has a very useful application for detecting tax fraud, as when people try to make their numbers seem random, such as by making their first digit appear with roughly the same frequency, they can often be detected using algorithms.

Unfortunately, this is where you need to be careful with statistics. Benford's Law cannot be applied to everything. For example, according to the Financial Times, in Chicago's precincts before the election Joe Biden's election figures did not follow Benford's Law, while Donald Trump's did, suggesting some sort of conspiracy. But why would this be the case? As 98.7% of the votes were in the range 100–1000, the numbers did not

span several orders of magnitude, instead only spanning mostly around one order of magnitude. As Wickham emphasised, always look for alternative explanations for statistics before you determine the reasons behind them.

Wickham then moved onto probabilities. Ingeniously linking his talk to Hadrian Ho's, *The Head Master's*, Maths Society talk from earlier this term, Wickham said that, according to many judges and lawyers, probabilities are predetermined: "There's no place for probability in trials, they're either 100% guilty or 0% guilty". However, this is the equivalent of saying that there is no point in assigning a probability for a toss of a coin, as the way it lands is already predetermined, while in actual fact probabilities can be assigned to it landing heads or tails. Similarly, instead of knowing whether someone is guilty or not (as often there's not enough information for that), we can assign a probability to their guilt.

A tragic example of misused statistics in court was the case of Sally Clark, who was convicted for a double murder. Both her babies had died of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), which the prosecution calculated had a probability of 1 in 73 million of occurring. Therefore, based on this evidence, they convicted her. However, this was not the calculation that they should have done. A 1 in 73 million chance does not mean that she is guilty, just that she is really unlucky. Proper statistical analysis showed that it was 4.5 to 9 times more likely for SIDS to occur twice in one household than two murders, hence leading to an 80–90% chance of innocence. Unfortunately, by this time she had already served three years in prison, and died of alcohol poisoning not long after being released, as a result of her traumatic experiences. This thus shows the significance of handling statistics correctly.

Next was another aspect of statistics – random sampling. Who you are surveying in a survey is very important. For example, if you do a street survey, the sample taken would be very different from a Twitter poll, where the chances are that the people completing the survey are those who follow you and use Twitter. A news article by The Guardian entitled 'Only 8% of schools have received CO2 monitors' sourced a Twitter poll from a headmaster of a school where 91.8% of people said no to having seen a CO2 monitor in a school. The poll didn't include those who don't use Twitter, or the ones who ignored the poll, or those who did not follow the headmaster. However, The Guardian decided to use the Twitter poll as a representation of the statistics in England, which is a very misleading thing to do.

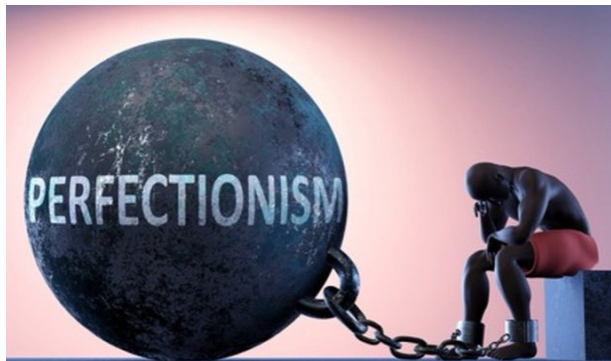
Wickham gave us a few more examples of when statistics are mishandled (often deliberately) to mislead us. First was Steve Jobs and his graph of increasing cumulative iPhone sales shown to shareholders. Here the trick was that it was cumulative: in fact, looking at the gradient, you could tell that iPhone sales were going down. Then there was Fox News and its concerning graph of 'Bush tax cuts expire'. However, the y-axis had been distorted in another case of sleight of hand to make the statistics look more significant than they actually were. Finally, there was a pie chart of the ethnic make-up of the population, once again by Fox News. The trick here was that they had used US undergraduates as their population sample, which would not be a good representative of the overall US population.

Wickham concluded his talk by reminding us that we must always be sceptical about the statistics presented to us, as they can often be deceptive in dangerous ways. A quote shown to us by Wickham at the beginning of the talk, 'There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics', summarised this very well, especially since it was actually by Benjamin Disraeli and not Churchill, as he had hoodwinked us into thinking in the beginning as an example of misinformation. So think twice next time when someone tells you that "7% of Americans think chocolate milk comes from brown cows"! Thanks must be given to Wickham, PDR and the Mathematics Society for hosting the talk.

PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

St John Smith, Newlands, *'The Perfectionist Paradox: A Miserable Amount of Good'*, New Schools 6,
16 November

On Tuesday 16 November, the Psychology Society met in New Schools to hear a talk from St John Smith, titled 'The Perfectionist Paradox: A Miserable Amount of Good'. In a well-articulated, thought-provoking lecture, Smith spoke on the fatal flaw of living a flawless life: the perfectionist paradox. The lecture discussed what makes someone a perfectionist, as well as the issues caused by a perfectionist mindset.



The lecture commenced with a story about a woman who lives a perfect life. From the food she consumes to the way she interacts with her colleagues, everything is calculated to ensure perfection. Only one aspect of her life was left unsuccessful: no one enjoyed being in the presence of this perfect woman. She had no friends. This story excellently illustrated the problem with perfectionism: the perfectionist will never be content, as there will always be a missing piece of the puzzle.

Smith then went on to talk about the characteristics of a perfectionist, where this mindset can come from, and the problems it can cause. He highlighted that perfectionism is driven primarily by internal pressures. Perfectionists have high expectations for themselves and sometimes for others, and are overly critical of their mistakes. Perfectionism often stems from a desire for praise, or a fear of harsh judgement. Feelings of inadequacy can arise from academic and professional competition. Social media can also nurture the perfectionist mindset, as people tend to compare their lives with the misleading lives of social media personalities, which are unachievable in real life. This can cause severe insecurities in people, leading to unhealthy perfectionist lifestyles.

There are two main types of perfectionists: adaptive and maladaptive. Adaptive perfectionists set themselves high and often unattainable goals that they work relentlessly hard for. This mindset often has a positive effect rather than negative (which is usually associated with perfectionism), as adaptive perfectionists are resilient in the pursuit of their goals, not being discouraged when they fail. Maladaptive perfectionists fear failure. They will shy away from challenging tasks in the fear of not achieving their goals. They also tend to procrastinate due to this insecurity.

Of course, there are some perfectionistic traits in most people, although they are not necessarily perfectionists. There is a difference between having high expectations and demanding perfection in every single aspect of life, falling into distress when everything is not the way you want it to be in your ideal world. The comparison mindset in perfectionists leads to significant problems, as it constrains them to working towards an unfeasible ideal.

Smith's intriguing lecture inspired countless questions from those in attendance, sparking complicated conversations. One listener asked how perfectionists interact with each other, for example, in a relationship. Smith established that they would

both have their own separate ideas of perfection. For this reason, the dynamic would not work, as the two perfectionists would constantly argue about how they want to live their life. After all, they will not settle with imperfection. I, for one, wondered whether the education system encourages perfectionism as, in a sense, it demands perfection from students. The competitiveness it instils in students perhaps makes some feel the need to be perfect in everything they do, to get into a good university, to get a good job, to succeed in life. The room debated whether this was indeed the case. It was argued that this competitiveness comes from within certain individuals and is not the fault of the education system. However, I still believe that the system drives students to have unhealthily high standards for themselves.

This fascinating and detailed talk gave insight into the mind of a perfectionist and the reasons behind having this mindset. Smith brilliantly expressed the problems that perfectionism can lead to in the lives of individuals, and the people they interact with. Many thanks to Smith for a magnificent lecture to the Psychology Society.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

John Yap, Newlands, 'Apple M1 Chip: Processing Power Evolved', 11 November

The Computer Science Society welcomed John Yap, *Newlands*, to lecture on Apple's new M1 chip, explaining its computing fundamentals and long-term industrial impacts.

Yap opened by describing the current state of the industry, which is largely populated by CISC-based desktop chips and ARM-based mobile chips. While CISC chips attempt to perform lots of computation in one instruction, the more power-efficient ARM chips operate with a more lightweight 'reduced instruction set', often consuming about ten times less energy. Though they are typically less powerful than CISC chips, with mainstream computers such as the Surface Book utilising an Intel CISC chip, ARM chips feature in most mobile chips and, notably, the world's fastest supercomputer.

Breaking from computing tradition, Yap explained that Apple switched from using Intel-based CISC chips in their laptops and desktops to designing their own ARM chip – M1. Yap continued by outlining the technological advantages brought about by this transition, of which there are very many.

Before M1, a CPU's various internal chips had to duplicate information to process it, but M1's unified memory pool makes this process both faster and more power efficient. Its use of cutting-edge five nanometre technology allows it to fit over 16 billion transistors – over 20 times the number of transistors on Intel's leading \$2,000 chip despite costing just \$50 to manufacture. By featuring four high power cores and four high efficiency cores, it enables lower power consumption during lighter tasks such as text processing, and bursts of higher power during more computationally complex sequences. M1 makes use of high speed memory and quite a lot of it at that: Yap's independent calculations put its total cache size at over 18 MB, towering over rivals. These advantages result in the M1 featuring an extremely low heat profile, making it all the more suited for use in devices like laptops. Indeed, M1 laptops achieve the performance of Intel laptops while consuming about 25% of the power!

Yap explained how the M1 chip also features an onboard graphics processing unit, optimised for maximum performance within a tight thermal envelope. While it does not match the performance of discrete graphics cards, it blows away its mobile competition while consuming a fraction of the power. Indeed, the M1's GPU is capable of processing over two trillion floating point operations per second (calculations involving decimal numbers), a capability exploited by the complex manipulation

of polygons seen in highly demanding software. However, Yap noted Apple's clever marketing on this point – as each company calculates 'pixel output' differently, Apple is able to inflate their achievement on this metric.

The M1 also features a dedicated AI chip to boost neural network training performance as well as a secure enclave to help protect the CPU from digital attacks. Yap explored Apple's development of the M1 chip through the new M1 Pro and M1 Max chips, which each feature significantly more transistors, higher memory bandwidth, stronger graphics processing units, and dedicated video processing capabilities.

Yap then fielded a range of questions from the audience. He discussed how competitors such as AMD are unlikely to see much impact on their desktop business, where M1 is less prominent, but now face a new dimension of competition in the mobile space. He discussed how some performance gains are simply attributable to the five nanometre architecture, leaving much room for competitors to overthrow Apple. He discussed which industry segments were most likely to adopt M1, with concerns over sustained performance and graphical capabilities turning away some enthusiasts. The scalability of ARM was also explored – it is likely to represent the future of computing but the fact that there is still room for innovation in the CISC space gives firms such as AMD an incentive to stay put. From a business perspective, Yap praised Apple's ability to synergise their products with the M1 chip and optimise the production process to manufacture it for only \$50 (before stamping on the customary Apple tax on customers), making M1 not only a leap forward in technology but a sound business decision too.

The Computer Science Society thanks Yap for his incredibly engaging and informative talk. Thanks also go to CMC for organising the event.

PIGOU SOCIETY

Maxim Van Aeken, Newlands, 'Money And Morals, Can You Have Both?', OMS, 17 November

Van Aeken, *Newlands*, posed an interesting question. Is it possible to be unfathomably wealthy and a person with respectable morals at the same time? Two examples Van Aeken raised to disagree with this question were Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, two perfect examples of the unfathomable wealthy. He argued that both these money-making machines did break ethical and legal rules to conjure up their wealth: they did not climb to a position of their stature through being kind.

However, in order not to be misunderstood Van Aeken made it clear that there will be immaculately moral people who will possess a large sum of money. Instead directing this question to the (quite literally) 0.000036% of the world's population.

Van Aeken went on to measure the "morality" of a person. How can we measure the morality of someone such as Bill Gates for example? Sure, he has donated billions of dollars to charity, which is more than pretty much all billionaires, but does this make him a moral person? Since he has the ability to do this, it's the least he can do, right? However, using Bill Gates as an example is not as apt as using an example like Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos. This is because, in contrast to Bill Gates, they both unfortunately affect the world in some negative respects such as carbon emissions and treatment/environment of workplaces/workers. Van Aeken went as far as saying they are both not "good" people.

Elon Musk is a genius who holds many revolutionary ideas but that does not cancel out the supposed immoral acts he has committed such as leaving his wife (with four children to look after) and complaints launched by his employees at Space X and Tesla, calling him insensitive and a rather nasty human being. Van Aeken went on to say that if Musk were to be a

more welcoming and kind person, he wouldn't have acquired the wealth he has today, stating that if he were to pay and treat the workers in his cobalt and lithium mines at least a decent amount, Musk would not be as wealthy as he now.

Next, Van Aeken displayed his rather negative view of Jeff Bezos, stating that he is an extremely unempathetic boss, forcing low-paid workers to work excessively long hours in inhumane conditions. In a few instances, some would not be able to go to the toilet. Amazon benefits us all, it is super-convenient and a huge help for everyone using it. However, the concept of Amazon is to undercut and replace high street stores, thus taking away more business opportunities for many people. Moreover, in 2018, Amazon emitted 44.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, that number was higher than the emissions produced by Switzerland in 2018. The country! This staggering statistic indicates that Bezos has very little respect for the Earth and values his own wealth more than the wellbeing of the planet. Thus Van Aeken concluded that Jeff Bezos is an "immoral" person.

Maxim raised some more unbelievable statistics professing that 1.1% of the world's population are millionaires and that 0.000036% are billionaires and together their accumulated worth makes up 48.8% of the world's net worth. These statistics represent the complete mess of wealth distribution in this world. Furthermore, Van Aeken claimed that, while many of these wealthy people may donate to charity, the amount is miniscule in relation to their total worth. As well as declaring that if nearly one billion people live on less than a dollar a day and there are 2755 billionaires roaming around, something has gone horribly wrong.

To conclude his talk, Van Aeken discussed the serious wealth inequality issue the world faces, as well as insisting that almost every billionaire has had to sacrifice morals in order to succeed. Van Aeken also stated, however, that it is possible to regain/maintain one's humanity while being extremely wealthy.

Overall, Van Aeken's talk raised some really intriguing points about wealth inequality and morals. It was very interesting to hear his views and thoughts on certain topics around this. I and many others thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

HANS WOYDA

The Maths team hosted Notting Hill and Ealing High School for their third and final match of the group stages in the Hans Woyda knockout cup last Tuesday. Manager JPBH had made some changes to the starting lineup (partly out of Covid-caused necessity and partly to rotate the squad), so the team welcomed newcomers Yuzhen Yang, Rendalls, and Jerry Zhang, *The Knoll*, in addition to team stalwarts Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, a nd captain Brandon Chang, *Druries*.

Our opponents neglected JPBH out by arriving exactly on time, but it wasn't long before the tray of cakes and sandwiches was delivered to the department and maths could begin.

Clearly the lack of visible cakes at the start had upset the Harrovians because they had a sketchy start, slipping up on some straightforward questions. Fortunately, their opponents failed to capitalise and Harrow held a slender lead after the first round. Harrow were able to increase that lead briefly, but were pegged back in the probability round, which contained some more careless errors (including a probability of "24" which, given all probabilities are less than 1, was not ideal). However, the boys finally found their feet and scored better in the second half of the match to run out eventual winners by 37 points to 13.

With three victories from three matches, the team has now qualified for the knockout section of the competition, which takes place next term.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Aaron Patel, *'The feasibility of solar energy and the use of solar panels'*, 17 November

On 17 November, the Scientific Society welcomed Aaron Patel, *The Knoll*, who gave a detailed and engaging talk on the feasibility of solar panels, and how they have been implemented into the modern-day world. During the talk, Patel delved into many aspects of solar panels: their history and future, the science behind them, the advantages and disadvantages associated with each type of solar panel, and his overall opinion on this topic as a means to be the primary energy production method for the future.

To begin the talk, Patel alluded to how solar panel users only make up a small proportion of the world population. This is ultimately what inspired him to deliver this talk and to convince the audience of both the efficiency and the eco-friendliness that solar panels provide. Following this, Patel began to explain the manufacturing of a typical solar panel. All solar panels require photovoltaic cells to convert light energy into electrical energy, which is in turn passed through an inverter to convert this direct current into alternating current, which diverts to electrical home appliances via a breaker box. Any excess solar energy is stored in the grid through a metre, which can in turn be used when the energy demand is higher. Meanwhile, the semi-conducting materials in the panels (often silicon) are energised when struck by photons, generating an electrical current, which is a phenomenon known as the photoelectric effect.

Patel proceeded with the talk by comparing different models of solar panels, offering the advantages as well as the disadvantages associated with these various models. In terms of efficiency, the concentrated PV cells (CPV) topped the charts by some distance with 41% efficiency, creating a 21% discrepancy between the second-most efficient solar panel design, the mono-crystalline solar panels (Mono – SL). However, both of these models come with notable disadvantages: the inflated price of the Mono – SL, as well as the cooling system which the CPV requires, means that many people have neither the means nor incentive to invest in these products. Of course, these two solar panel designs, as well as the polycrystalline and thin-film panels that Patel also referred to, all have a very high up-front cost. Yet it is also worth mentioning that, due to the panels having low maintenance costs, over time the overall cost of other forms of electrical investments would surpass the overall cost of solar panel installation and maintenance. However, it is also true that solar panels are susceptible to becoming ineffective due to weather conditions, meaning it is often necessary to have a back-up form of producing energy.

Following this, Patel guided the audience through the history of the development of solar panels. From as early as the 1800s, solar panels existed, albeit only with a 1% efficiency. That being said, this efficiency figure rose at an exponential rate, with the efficiency already increasing to 14% in 1960, which was then followed by a 3.8% increase in 2012, and finally an incredible increase to a 44.5% efficient prototype in 2017.

As for the future of solar panels, Patel highlighted how there is continuous testing and development of the equipment and storage which make up a solar panel, meaning the trend in increasing efficiency will continue. Not only this, but the Sun could theoretically supply the Earth with two hours' worth of energy demand in a single world if the installation of solar panels were to be maximised. The reluctance to do so is particularly striking and concerning, given how only 2% of global electricity comes from solar power.

To conclude the talk, Patel caught the audience by surprise, as he created a compelling correlation between solar panels and COVID-19. Unfortunately, many developing countries suffer with a shortage of electricity to power their hospitals, and for this talk Patel picked out the Democratic Republic of

Congo as an example. Because of this, Congo have recently opted to rely on solar energy to power the machines in the hospital, most notably in the Kingulube and Kusisa hospitals. This solar energy enables a 24/7 power supply, allowing all patients to receive better healthcare. These hospitals also utilise batteries that store any excess solar energy produced, meaning renewable energy is always readily available. What is more, the control unit implemented in the system monitors and controls how much energy is released from the batteries, which in turn increases the lifespan of these batteries.

Patel researched and delivered this talk to see whether solar panels are feasible, and if it is something worth investing in. Indeed, the fact that solar panels are cost-effective over time, are eco friendly, and are continuing to become more efficient with technological advancements (as Patel argued), it is imperative to increase the usage of solar panels in the future. Many thanks to Patel for giving this intriguing talk, and to CDB for hosting it.

OPINION

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

'Mobilising Equitable, Just and Gender-Sensitive Climate Finance'

As part of a series designed to raise awareness for issues surrounding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, The Harrovian will be hosting a weekly column about issues facing members of our world community. This week, Ezekiel Akinsanya, Lyon's, a member of the Boys EDI Group, will be discussing mobilising equitable, just and gender-sensitive climate finance.

On Wednesday 3 November, COP26 welcomed Dr Mary Robinson, the former president of the Republic of Ireland, Nancy Tembo, the Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources from Malawi, Jacinta Silakan, the founder of the Sangida Foundation, and Flavia Bellaguarda, a climate co-ordinator from Brazil, to form a panel and discuss how we can promote practical action and accelerate the radical change that will be necessary to reduce the risk of climate-related disasters for marginalised communities and demographics.

Dr Mary Robinson opened the discussion by talking about the importance of equity when taking climate action. Poor and marginalised people in the global south are hit both more frequently and harder by climate change. Women in these places also often have limited access to resources, and restricted rights and mobility compared to men. As a result of this, their voices are muted when decisions about policy and financial flows are made. Women are the ones who are forced to find solutions to feed their families during a drought, and girls are the ones who are pulled out of school to help their struggling families make ends meet. Having gender as one of the lenses that we look at climate change through will lead to more effective climate action for both the people and the planet.

She was followed by Flavia Bellaguarda who has been working at the grassroots level in Brazil and who gave an insight into the projects they have been running thanks to climate financing. A women's hospital in Brazil had been providing free services to women who needed care, but rising energy costs and unstable energy supply put the care for these women at risk. Flavia started a campaign to line the roof of the hospital with solar panels, with the knowledge that the energy generated would be enough to both allow the services to be provided for free. The difficulty was connecting the financial

sector to the communities, but Flavia was able to bridge that gap and now 90% of the roof is covered by solar panels. This means that no matter what the hospital will always be able to provide care to women in need in that area. Most importantly, it now meant that the finance sector was able to understand the needs of communities and now projects like this can be starting all over Brazil.

Similarly, Jacinta Silakan has been working in Kenya to reduce the impact of climate disasters on women and girls with disabilities. A lot of these women and girls work in the agricultural industry, accounting for 80% of the African region's food production. Therefore, when prolonged droughts start, they must walk 20km to fetch the water as opposed to the 3km they would have to walk during those seasons. This is one of many impacts that climate change has had on women and girls in these communities. With the climate financing Sangida Foundation received, they are training women to adapt to these issues by teaching women new farming techniques that will be more effective and efficient during sustained droughts.

Nancy Tembo was the final speaker of the panel and spoke about the importance of amplifying the voices of women in the climate sphere. Shortly after I asked her "What can we do as young men, and as future leaders, to amplify the voices of women and those who are marginalised?" She replied that first and foremost we should not see this as an attack on men, because what we truly seek is equality, and that we should be focused on giving women and people that have been marginalised a seat on the table, an opportunity to have their voices heard. When we are in positions to make decisions that affect everyone, we must make sure everyone has a say for our decisions to be effective.

CORRESPONDENCE

DEAR SIRs,

Courage, Honour, Humility and Fellowship: these are the Harrow values, but clearly not *The Harrovian's* values. I feel the need to complain in true Winward style as, while my eyes bobbed erroneously round the virtual pages of *The Harrovian* (a minor paper of Harrow and outrageous rip off of 'Harrow Notes' or 'The Drurien'), my beady blues landed on 'A Tea Society? Really?'. I can truly see the fun side of this scandalous slander; however one should never complain about a fellow Harrow organisation, it is the epitome of a lack of class and culture. With that being said:

The Harrovian? Really?

The Harrovian was founded by boys in 1820. According to the Societies handbook, '*The Harrovian* serves as both a font of information and a source of historical record'. They publish regularly, normally on Friday afternoons, for write ups, reports, opinions, correspondence and more. People have often asked what on earth the point of *The Harrovian* is, so I felt the need to respond to the question, 'Really?'

I have no choice but to applaud the editors of *The Harrovian*.

No, really.

They have done what I, informed by Mr Winward, will never be able to do; they have managed to continue to run a loophole that can be used to get artless antisocials into The Guild. They accurately present themselves, and all others like them, as writers who crave the attention of being published weekly and changing the words of the boys like them. So what to make of these witty writers, these precise printers? Having met the majority of them, and admired the others, I can tell you that they all seem to have diluted or hyperinflated the currency that is Harrow School, whether it be a junior history and politics society that forces boys into lectures that don't take their interests, or those that worship ferrets like deities. Despite being alluded to as those that collect ties, when I searched the

name “Winward” in the societies list, it appeared nine times, and “Newman” has over 11 neck garments. (He informed me I could not say the exact amount – however it is under 13.)

Not only is there a need to ask ‘really?’ but also ‘why?’; has the published paper protruded permanently to educate Harrovians on the goings on of the Hill, or for narcissists to explain why climate change is fake or why racism is merely a way for people to gain sympathy? The continuing of this “minor” publication will in no way aid those involved to gain success or dominate the universe; its only use is adding another line to the nonsense-stuffed CVs filled with more gibberish than the beautifully presented words of those previously mentioned.

The Editors carry the literary version of the seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, laziness, wrath, envy and pride.

First of all, it would be wrong to be disingenuous towards the lack of effort demonstrated by the determined division of Editors. They manage to publish write ups written by others, providing a mediocre understanding of the content that was covered and anyone interested had already listened to. They do manage to publish an unimaginable volume of loose letters. They clearly do their best, whether that results in a low or high quality output.

Harrow life serves sweaty segments of stress, so why not escape the cruel, cantankerous crustaceans that are beaks wanting prep and wonder at the words of the clamouring column maze. I may as well ‘turn over a new page’ and read on in the School’s publications. I may begin to write for the cultivation of career creators. *The Harrovian* can only be a good thing...

The Harrovian is probably one of those old ‘News Papers’ run by the sort of Harrovians that would sell their souls, time, and bodies for a quark of credit or recognition – as well as the bonus of a tie and loophole into The Guild. This particular cultivar of Harrow human must have manipulated the system of the SMT to get past satirical versions of their own emails, as well as critique of our beloved NHS, climate change and more. ‘Criticising the Tea Society while having an absurd number of ties for Societies that they do not even attend... that is the epitome of hypocrisy’ says Sidhom. Perhaps these hypocritical hippocampus-lacking hypothetical heathen hippos could genuinely feel that such edited hate speech is proper journalism, and they enjoy having sleepless nights writing such slander for all to see.

In all seriousness, my response in this letter is an inverted and semi-interested ‘ho heigh’. They have published papers to a reasonable degree each week, which is very impressive, and more than most humanoids will ever do. Let’s just hope they haven’t peaked.

“Unread by over half the School (especially beaks)” This was the reply when I interrogated a fellow Harrovian on this very question about 20 seconds ago, that was his response. But a lesser scientist than myself (but certainly better than Newman) said ‘I am neither clever, nor especially gifted,’ (which does not apply to me) ‘I am only very, very curious’ (which does). So I embraced the characteristic that I share with a certain monkey called George. One dark, cloudy maths lesson, I read *The Harrovian*. As everyone else pondered sectors of circles, I pondered upon *The Harrovian*. It was like a Harrow version of *The Economist* from the 1850s. There were thousands of articles, all printed in an old font, old style, and old content. There was a range of words depicting anything from a weekly Tea Review, to why Harrow should be declared independent. Having joined a select group of people who continue to read *The Harrovian* past the title, I decided to go deeper and do what very few boys have never done before – I read the whole paper.

So, what exactly is *The Harrovian*? Being one of the few boys who have ever read it, I can honestly say: I don’t know. Some columns are about the recent sport fixtures, but others may be discussing the need for society to be overthrown and SMK to rule as king, queen (sic) and God. But every day begins the same for these editorial eagles, peering over at the clock,

realising its time to go to 2a after staying up all night writing about whatever 3am fever dream (of the day variety because they never sleep) greets them.

(As an aside, I have been informed by the Editors that a good article involves appeal and very little importance as it could cause uproar – I assured them that this article, and what it concerns, is very unimportant.)

“No new horror can be more terrible than the daily torture of the commonplace” says H.P. Lovecraft. So why is there *The Harrovian*? Do we read it? Should we read it? Who are the bored boys that resort to reading such a mashed, bleached bit of tree...? Which mad, moody monsters contribute to this organisation? The thought of these creatures worries me; it allows me to see the truth behind those printed lies – that life itself is mundane and commonplace. We here at Harrow work through each day with no recollection of the past or future. Every 24-hour period is the same as the last; as we toil through the thick, consistent nothingness that is our lives on the Hill, we think each day is different by the various lessons or lectures that happen – blind to the truth. Bins and laziness guard the common Harrovian from the realisation that nothing is true, and truth is nothing; that every day, of every Harrovian, every year, is a repeat from 1572. If we choose to lay our eyes past the front cover, through writes ups or match reports, we would see that. The papers will cut and burst our bubbles. Reading *The Harrovian* is the visual version of eating from the Tree of Knowledge. I have pondered ‘What is *The Harrovian*?’ without wondering ‘Should I know of *The Harrovian*?’ There is hope however, that Harrow life could change, cultivated in the minds of visionaries like me, and put into the physical congregation of the Tea Society. But until these drops of youth land into the dehydrated mouth of life, I suggest you stray from every copy of this collage of repetitive reads to avoid being cast down by God as Adam and Eve once were. Life will lose meaning, We will lose passion, and Harrow will lose its glory. I say, do not read *The Harrovian*! Here’s a few lines:

Chesty editors

Words without any meaning

Writings on the wall

Some things not write.

The thought of reading *The Harrovian* makes boys go white as a paper. The state of the magazine makes me tear up because its such a hard tabloid to swallow. The Editors seem to have a lot of issues, but based on style or content, it is clearly old news. As a spectator, I can see that *The Times* are rough; we need a *Guardian*, I am *The Sun* of Harrow and *The Telegraph* is in, Harrow’s in trouble, Its Simple edition. (This was the hardest thing to write both emotionally and technically – I am so sorry.)

Isn’t *The Harrovian* a wonderful thing?

After all, there are many publications that have forever affected the English language since ‘twas developed. Mr Shakespeare coined the term ‘wild goose chase’ for going after something impossible. Similarly, when something is very easy one might remark ‘piece of cake’ from the Royal Air Force’s slang. But now, from the rubbish that spam printing companies, we can derive a new one.

When we have to sit through a Physics lesson, or when Queen Park Rangers and Sheffield play each other, for every Living Together Survey that Harrovians must bear, they can say: “It’s more boring than the print of Harrow”

Yours concernedly,

ROBERT YOUNG, THE GROVE

On behalf of the Tea Society and all innocent Harrovians

DEAR SIRs,

An open world is a happier world. A free world is a more beautiful world. A less artificial world is a more satisfactory world. If you agree with any ideas of fellowship and humility, then these words should be self-evident.

Hence I must add, a world without fences is a better world; I

am writing in regard to the many fences put around The Head Master's House garden.

We must get rid of the tyranny of fences. Instead of protecting us, they only deter, divide and destroy. They simply do not work and, worst of all, operate against the interests of the very people they are designed to protect.

It is no myth that fences cannot keep Harrovians out. In fact, if one were really trying to get into the garden, what effect would a line of low, wooden fences have? If a boy cannot climb over a fence, we must surely give up all hope in the Harrow Rifle Corp. Furthermore, it is ridiculous that the Great Wall of Harrow is thoughtfully contrived to keep boys away from the grass. Yes, the grass. What purpose does that serve? If I were coming through The Head Master's House garden, why would I dwell in its pleasant pastures admiring the wintry sun? Surely most trespassers target the path to Shepherd Churchill, which, absurdly, is precisely the one wide open to all boys. Indeed, it seems that the fences are a mocking show of order at best, a purposeless ruining of the landscape at worst.

The fences clearly do not do their job, if they were designed to do any job at all. But what is more outrageous is its implications on us: as members of The Head Master's.

In fact, the fences now act more in keeping our boys in, rather than other boys out. The Head Master's House garden used to be the best garden on the Hill. That little harbour of privacy, silence, and thrill of 5-a-side, so perfectly separated from the rest of the Hill in its own microcosm. Yet what is it now? A jigsaw puzzle of fences and gates perfectly positioned so that even taking a stroll in the garden is a nightmare. You cannot walk five steps before coming across a door. You cannot go to the 5-a-side without crossing fences. You cannot travel for five seconds before getting annoyed. It is no surprise that boys are enjoying our garden less: the organic entity that once was our garden has been murdered and mutilated into tiny fragments, for the sake of 'protecting our space'.

Indeed, I was walking back from Physics Schools a while ago when I decided to climb over the fence next to our 5-a-side, just so I could experience my own garden again. Yet almost immediately, two shrill, blaring voices demanded that I get out at once, without euphemism and without any respect for the fact that I am a member of the House, with a rightful share in the garden. Even after telling them I am one amongst the pink shirts, the beaks were not prepared to allow me into my own garden, citing the fences as some divine rule set in stone. No. If the School's notion of preservation is identical to restraint, if they are not prepared to recognise our right to enjoy our communal spaces, if the fences are now keeping out the very people they are designed to safeguard, on what grounds do they stand?

Take the fences down. They are deterring the wrong people. They are dividing something beautiful up into inanimate scraps. They are agents of destruction rather than protection. Never in history has a closed world been beautiful. Freedom and space, however, have always created joy and inspiration.

When no fences were put up, it is true that we had to share a garden; but when fences are erected, there is no garden left to share.

Please. For the love of the Hill, remove the fences.

Yours desperately,

VINCENT SONG, THE HEAD MASTER'S

DEAR SIRs,

Can I please request that we have more well-known hymns in Chapel? The certified bops such as 'Hills' or 'Emmanuel' always go down well, but if nobody knows the hymns it sounds more like the debating team at a rugby match. And if you need ideas, everyone loves *Jerusalem* (a bit of *Mr Brightside* on the organ can't hurt either)...

Kind regards,

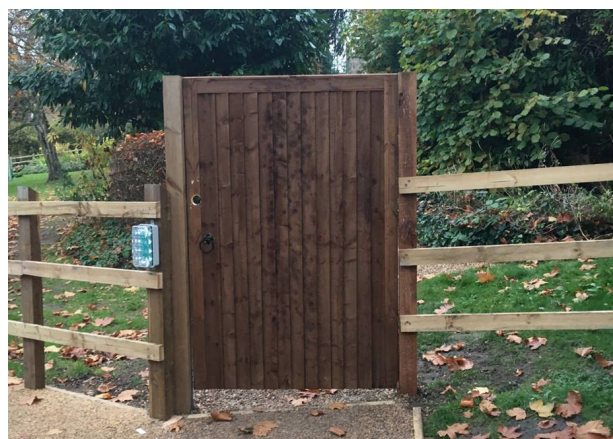
ALEXANDER NEWMAN, DRURIES

DEAR SIRs,

What's up with all these fences? And these huge lamps?



What about this door? What's that even doing here?



Yours confusedly,

EDOS HERWEGH VONK, NEWLANDS

HARROVIAN POLL

What should be on WMAL's Winter Reads list?

With the Christmas season nearly upon us, the Vaughan Library is curating a list of 'Winter Reads'. The Editors asked "What book do you think the Head Master should read this winter holiday?"

Best and wittiest suggestions won a £10 Vaughan Book token.

'The Subtle Art of Not Giving a *&£\$: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living', by Mark Manson

'How to be me', by Jim Hawkins

'That's Not How You Wash a Squirrel', by David Thorne

'Marine Corps Recruit Training', US Government

'Machiavelli Mindset: How to Conquer Your Enemies, Achieve Audacious Goals & Live Without Limits', by R Shaw

'The Philosophy of the 5th XV. by Orlando Hill

'The Firm', by ~~John Grisham~~ the Harrow 5th XV

'Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support', UK Government publication

'Speech Room Announcements: How to switch it up without it feeling forced', by Gaius Scribonius Curio

'The World's Worst Children', by David Walliams

'Eating Gifted Children', by Lewis Burke Frumkes

'Words and Anecdotes from Around Manchester', by Camilla Brook-Chorlton

'The Squash Report', by Simon Halliday

'Travel guide: A-Z of South Harrow', by The A-Z Superstore

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from Around the Hill

"Boys, why would I know what's on your A level, I don't work at Eton."

(Moments before Physics Trial): "Sir I think I have a rough and continuous cough."

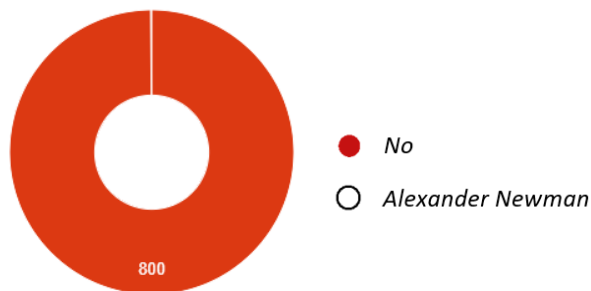
"Virgil was a troubled man, wasn't he sir?"

"My bottom division is very able in the way they approach the paper. They can do quite a lot of it. Wrong."

"The important part of student budgeting is that you spend at least five times as much on beverages as accommodation."

DOING YOUR PART FOR THE
450 CELEBRATIONS*"Have you bought a pin?"*

Who's buying 450 pins?



The Harrovian recently conducted a street survey in which its Editors accosted members of the School community to ask them one question "Will you be buying a Harrow 450 pin?"

Out of those surveyed, 800 were quite sure that they would not be purchasing a 450 pin. One boy even dared to ask how the future can be refounded when 'it has not even been founded yet'. Another boy (choosing to remain nameless) was adamant that the pin collection was a actually Ponzi scheme. Only Alexander Newman, *Druries*, proudly declared he had, in fact, purchased a pin. When asked as to whether it was worth the money, Newman was certain that it was a certified fashion statement of the year. This Editor disagrees.

TRIALS PLOT DISCOVERED!

JDBM and conspirators plot to make scientists suffer

In a cunning new scheme to amp up suffering during Trials week, the School's beaks in charge of co-ordinating Trials have put the Maths, Chemistry and Physics Trials all on the same day. Speaking from the left hand of Beelzebub, JDBM cackled as *The Harrovian's* intrepid reporters approached him for a comment: "Well, after the long stress of the pandemic and all the talk of the increasing importance of Trials with the possibility of exams being cancelled, we decided that putting one of the most popular A level combinations on one day would really be the "cherry on top" in terms of stress and all-round suffering". Meanwhile, HRF sharpened her pitchfork.

THE ANTHEM OF A GONER

Nick Arnison, Moretons

I thought that there was a reason for life.
I thought that the mill, it's we who grind.
But what are we but grain for those who are blind?
Perhaps 'tis the life of barley sweet,
Which is turned to warming beer,
For all villages to drink, and rats to eat.
But think ye not of the brew kettles heat?
Braying the barley for its meat,
Lynching the crop till its wallows extinguish.
Used by the farmer for the seed,
Is this not the life that us humans lead?

I thought that when I looked up, there would be faces
And when I looked down, there'd be more than laces.
Perhaps that folly is ne'er success, but should we
remember it not in jest?
So foolish was I then; the time when Arthur walked the fells:
Steed in gaunt with whistles and bells,
Playing his solemnly stirring tune,
Of which no one could seem to remember.
When Shakespeare had written more than plays,
And the joys of spring were not just a haze
Stricken in my memory,
A little joy soliloquy.

I thought that maybe there would be a chance,
That who I have lost may still hear sound,
That maybe they do feel the cold and the hound,
Tearing their bodies apart; to try to enhance
It's chance in the world by feasting on what it has found.
That maybe the wolves that bid us back,
That maybe the fiends who beg us pack,
To all of the following foolish men,
Who themselves are disciples of "who and when",
To those who must die in a forlorn hope,
for little more than little gained.
For what is life to them than just a game?

I think of my wife, my children, my mother,
my sister, my life, my house and my brother!
But hither comes Mr Murrin...
Oh, the life I would live, but I fear no longer,
For here am I down by football lane
Doing house cross-country again...

AGE

Submitted by Howard Shaw, Harrow Beak 1961-1997

The twilight deepens
And one by one
We go into the night alone.
Lurking in the dark,
Spores of decay scar the once clear mind,
Mask beauty
With the marbled stains of age,
Teaching the futility of opposition
To the inevitable.
The darkness deepens
And we each go out alone.
There is no dawn.

We would like to thank Mr Shaw for his submission, these many years on. We found this poem a perfect anthem for Trials week. – Eds.

METROPOLITAN

BEAKS BOOKS

SWB's favourite book

As part of an initiative in The Harrovian, our correspondents will interview English beaks about their favourite books. For the second week of the column, William Wauchope, The Knoll, was in conversation with Dr Bentley (SWB).

It should be noted that forcing Dr Bentley to pick just one book to be his favourite seemed to cause severe pain (perhaps an easier line of enquiry might be to ask which of his children is his favourite?). In order to prevent any more of Dr Bentley's guilt, it should also be noted that *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck was narrowly piped to the title. That being said, it is easy to see the appeal of *Perelandra* to Dr Bentley: much like the man himself, it is a whirlwind of theology, biting social commentary and rich storytelling.

Perelandra is the second book in C S Lewis' Space Trilogy and thus follows the exploits of its protagonist Elwin Ransom. Some years after his exploits on Mars, occurring in *Out of the Silent Planet*, Ransom is whisked off to Venus, called "Perelandra" in the book. Ransom quickly realises that Perelandra is very different and yet similar to Earth; it is almost entirely oceanic: the water is only interrupted by the presence of floating chunks of vegetation, populated by strange creatures. Populating the planet are just two individuals: the king and queen of Perelandra. Ransom quickly realises why he has been sent to the planet; the devil has come to the planet with the intent of causing a second fall, mirroring the choice of Adam and Eve and tempting Perelandra away from God. Ransom must stop him, by any means necessary. Throughout the book, Ransom attempts to reason with the devil, convincing the queen of Perelandra to avoid the mistakes of Eve. Faced with the devil's beguiling words, Ransom is eventually forced into physical confrontation with the devil: a confrontation made even more painful by the fact that the devil is possessing the body of Professor Weston, who was the antagonist in the previous book. This retelling of the Genesis story is given life through Lewis' consistently enthralling description, and the ability to apply modern theology and agency to such a well-known religious story is an incredible way to keep the narrative fresh.

Obviously, as one may have garnered from reading the article thus far, *Perelandra* raises many theological questions, forming the book's primary appeal to Dr Bentley. Lewis reimagines the Christian narrative not as the Romans did, but as the modern physicist should, applying God on a cosmic scale. Each planet is essentially viewed as its own discrete Christian community, with each forming separate covenants with God, allowing the residents of Perelandra to make their own Genesis decision, separate from humanity, in the pages of the novel. By imaging the universe as such, Lewis asks the question that, if the incarnation happened as a result of mankind's participation in original sin, how can such anthropocentric theology apply to an infinite universe and its inhabitants. Further concerns are raised a result of Ransom's debate with the devil; the latter argues that, since Christ and the good that he provided for the world could only come about as a result of original sin, wasn't it, as Irenaeus argued, as happy accident? While this question originally stumps Ransom, he returns with the argument that, while the outcome may have turned out for the best, the unknown good was lost. Maleldil, the not-at-all-veiled Christian God of Lewis' universe, is able to bring good out of any action and so, Ransom reasons, he was able to create good out of bad. However, in the process of doing so, the unknown good of

what could have happened later was lost. Furthermore, what is the significance of the novel ending in physical confrontation, rather than reasoned debate; is Lewis saying that the fall was logical action or that confrontation with sin and temptation requires near physical effort? Out of all the different races and planets, is there any significance in Jesus's choice to become man specifically? Are we the summit of creation or were we the most in need?

A further dimension of the book to be explored is its place in Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien's friendship. They were both professors at Oxford and had an incredibly intimate relationship. Tolkien was the person who pushed Lewis towards Christianity, though he was heartbroken that Lewis never joined the Catholic church. Ironically, though Lewis love of Christianity and religion came directly from the immense effort of Tolkien, Tolkien despised much of what Lewis attempted to do in his books, specifically his Narnia series. Tolkien, like Ransom, was a philologist (for those of you without an English degree/dictionary/insufferable verbosity, loquacity and periphrasis, a philologist is someone concerned with the historical study of language); as such, Tolkien was concerned with making his created world as rich as possible, adding fictional languages, lengthy genealogy and detailed geography, often through beautiful, hand-drawn maps. This directly contrasted with Lewis, whom Tolkien felt was far too agenda-driven in his literature. The Space Trilogy, in many ways, was a olive branch between the two. Especially in the first book of the series, Lewis had attempted to create a rich cosmos, especially Mars and its inhabitants, and had, to an extent, managed (in the words of Dr Bentley) to avoid his extreme desire "to be understood". However, *Perelandra* represented the defenestration of this desire, with Lewis taking the world-building of Tolkien over with his own unique brand of theological analysis.

Perelandra is a dinner party book for a dinner party reader. As such, the conclusion to this article may disappoint *The Harrovian's* readers (or, at least, those who have not just skipped to Gaffe and Gown). This is not a recommendation. *Perelandra* is complex, intellectually challenging and unfamiliar to those without an extensive biblical lexicon. To those interested in attempting to take up the challenge, please submit yourself to Dr Bentley, who will ascertain your worthiness, most likely through some form of martial combat (this author does not like his chances). Though, as a result, he will presumably be the cause of a future pastoral crisis, many thanks are offered to Dr Bentley for the immense of time and care that he put into his interview.

NEW BEAKS OF THE HILL

As part of a series of interviews conducted with new beaks, Dylan Winward, Lyon's, interviewed Mr Ayling (JCA) on behalf of our editorial team.

What do you do as an Essex lad with four eclectic A levels when you realise that you don't want to be a barrister after all? This was the question that Mr Ayling, who is the newest member of the Harrow School Chemistry Department, was faced with at the age of 18. Having initially harboured intentions of studying law at university and putting work towards A levels in English and History to good use, the influence of a fantastic teacher led to a complete change of life direction. In fact, in the end Mr Ayling dropped English at the finish line so he could pursue the eventual true passion of his life.

However, it was not at this point that Mr Ayling discovered what he wanted to do with his life. That came a lot later. Having left university disorganised and without a career plan (a path which we are sure that Mr Wright would not recommend), he

found himself back at his local rugby club preparing for yet another pre-season. But then, everything changed. Following a training session, a teammate asked whether he would be interested in being a teaching assistant for a year while applying for management consultancy roles. Having agreed, he then found out that the sudden departure of a teacher would lead him into a full teaching interview.

After two days of planning to teach a Remove class, Mr Ayling walked in with meticulously prepared slides to teach the class. It was at that moment that disaster struck. He trod on the HDMI cord (something we can imagine that all teachers could relate to), breaking it in the process and rendering it impossible for him to use his glossy Powerpoint presentation. Nonetheless, with nerves of steel, he managed to deliver the lesson *ex tempore* and, before he knew it, he had the job and was falling in love with teaching.

With experiences at state grammar schools, a rough TeachFirst academy and, worst of all, Wellington, Mr Ayling thought that Harrow would be a great place for him to experience being an all-rounder and trying new things. Unfazed by the range of activities in the New Beak's Welcome Pack, he is excited about trying new things across the School and getting involved in coaching sport in the future. Moreover, the idea of teaching both top and bottom sets is something that he hopes can keep things interesting for the future. Although he is on a temporary hiatus from rugby following an injury, he is excited about future opportunities to watch and play sport at the School.

Today, Mr Ayling finds himself leading a chorus of boys from his Upper Sixth divisions in a rugby bus rendition of *Jerusalem*. An admirer of both the dining room's katsu curry and frankfurter with chips, he is excited to see what the School has to offer and we feel very lucky to have him.

SPORT

SQUASH

National Schools Championship Report

Blackball Moneyball

Harrow's First V went to Eton on Tuesday 23 November for the first round of the National Schools Championships. The devoted squash fan (could he make himself known?) will remember Eton's sports centre fondly, the panelled, chalet-like corridor of its courts, the undeniable 80s sports-centredness feel of the place, recalling an age of Jahangir Khan, leg warmers, financial ebullience, Javier Sotomayor and exercise videos. He will be regretful, then, to hear of its imminent foreclosure in advance of a new set of courts with glass backs (no doubt Eton's own devoted squash fan will be buying the planks for home decoration).

The first round of the Nationals takes place between four nearby teams. This year was Eton, Habs' Boys, Berkhamsted (threateningly known as Berko, conjuring imagery of Viking warrior-priests) and Harrow. The scoring requires that each boy plays not matches exactly, but three games against each opponent, so nine games in total, and notes not victories, but points accrued. If a boy wins each game 11-0, he has donated 33 points to the Harrow cause (and has also earned 1.5 halves of a pizza – a whitewash game of 11-0 earned a half, although the team was asked to keep this fact to themselves, in order to avoid the castigation of the opposing coaches).

The table should indicate Harrow's thoroughgoing excellence on the day.

Harrow played 45 games, and there were therefore 495 total points available. The Team Statistician informs me that we won 97% of our matches. If that doesn't show you how well this team has done, the 'points against' is also informative. 206 is an average of 4.5 points lost per game, and this shows the miserly tightness of the Harrovians. I dread a future world in which this First V rises to the top of HM's Treasury. Bridges will go unbuilt, potholes unfilled, and charities punitively taxed, if these libertarian pinch-pennies have their way.

Team	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points for	Points against	Total Points
Berkhamsted	2		43	174	492	174
Eton College	32		13	375	341	375
Haberdashers	20		25	370	360	370
Harrow	41		4	480	206	480

Squash, perhaps due to its status as a 'minor sport', sometimes suffers from boys thinking they're playing something else. This means that, to their coaches, it really does look like they're playing something else. Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, won his games with flair, ease and relentless competitiveness at 2, but John Eaton has suggested that he sometimes plays rackets like a black-ball player and vice versa. Our 2nds, although they aren't playing in the Nationals, are in danger of exhibiting similar symptoms. Does George Ferguson, *Newlands*, play squash like a cross-country runner? He certainly fights doggedly for every ball, and if squash were played in eight inches of mud and technical clothing he'd probably be captain by now. I'm sure if James Nelson, *Bradlys*, realised that he'd spent much of the term at squash training, and not at the indoor nets, he'd be shocked. But it's too late to tell him now, and so he'll just have to carry on cover driving on court until he finally achieves his ambition of breaking through the back wall. Captain Ilyas Qureshi, *The Park*, our Eminent Physicist, clearly sees the game of squash as the practical application of classical mechanics (it's so nice when boys find real-world parallels to their studies in the squash courts), and as Einstein's early diagrams for his General Theory have just sold for over \$10 million, the Squash Club will be keeping a Qureshi Archive, recording GIFs of his matches and auctioning them off on the burgeoning NFT market. With luck, this will allow the Squash Club to act as principal sponsor of the 500th anniversary campaign.

Jat Tse (OT), *Rendalls*, however, certainly thinks he's playing squash. It is possible that he rarely thinks otherwise, and his beaks are asked to keep a close eye on him in the form room, where he is likely to occupy the corners and walls. He should also be very good at geometry and momentum, and now that he's lost his first game (not match) of the season, against Habs' number one, he might start showing improvement in statistics, as 'won 62-1 lost' is conceptually more interesting than his record before this Tuesday of 54-0. However you cut it, it is an astonishing record, and the Tsetse Fly's arrival at Harrow has compelled us all to raise our games. Later in the week, on Thursday, he returned to his usual ways in a quick 3-0 victory against Charterhouse's number one. It has been a spectacular season to date.

Sotir, veteran racketeer, has been playing out of his skin, working weekly with England coach Paul Carter and single-handedly keeping England Squash in the black by entering every tournament they cook up. We have, if the reader will permit auto-flattery, the strongest top two this club has seen in a long time. Shared custody has worked well so far, and he only rarely gets lost on his way from rackets. His combinations are improving (there has occasionally been a desire to kill the game where drawing the opponent out, into exhaustion, has been the percentage play), and he appears to be having great fun on the squash court at the moment. This is perhaps because the courts are a refuge from Custos. Overall, he has had a very strong campaign indeed. Although he is usually ahead of his opposition, he can read their game and react quickly if he ever finds himself on the back foot.

Third seed Darren Chiu (OT), *Newlands*, has rebuffed his coaches' presumptions that there is a whiff of laziness in his air of ease and calm, in part through diligent hours of training and in part through playing two matches on every game day. The presumption is unfair; let it be struck from the record. Errors are few, but he fights for any ball that squiffs out to the middle of the court, and usually gets to the most impossible-looking balls. He moves like spaghetti, his opponents like lasagne. This may of course spell danger for his joints in years to come. He had a harder battle, all the more impressive for it, against Charterhouse two days later, where he came back from a game down to win his match (at second seed, in Sotir's absence) 3-2.

Tim Yu, *Moretons*, like the Jat Attack, is a recent addition to the Squash Club's roster, and a very welcome one. He is tough, talented, resilient, hard-working. In an era of automation, he embodies the spirit of the Shire horse: usually at training long before the coaches, he is frustrated when they decide to shut up shop at 6pm. He has had some hard matches this term, and most of them have gone to all five games. Killing the ball, when he's pinned the oppo to the back wall, must be his focus now, and our apologies to RSMJ if he finds the Sixth Former practising this in Yarder at 2am. He is currently sporting some impressive cuts, won by going for every ball and ignoring the undeniable fact of the squash court's wall.

It is testament to the depth of the squad that Vice-Captain Hanno Sie, *Newlands*, a county player with a wonderfully elegant stroke, finds himself at fifth seed. But he quite likes it here, providing a solid foundation for the squad. He found himself up against a fellow Herts player on Tuesday, and there were fears that he might mix business with pleasure. But on court his naturally cheery demeanour was immediately dropped, in favour of amicable destruction. He is a mainstay of the club, and again has had a good season.

It has been a fabulous season to date, with the majority of matches leading to strong, and a few gritty, victories. There are two matches left (St Paul's and Radley) before next term brings with it, inter alia, a Jesters match, the second round and final of the Nationals, and the Roehampton Invitational. Boys are asked to return all the balls they've gradually pocketed over the course of the term, not least because we have been inspired by that mean-fisted tightness of the First V at Eton (and also because it is theft of School property), but also because we intend to start tightening the purse strings in order to buy a ball machine. It is only to be hoped that such a machine, an invention inspired by cricket's bowling automata, doesn't confuse our batsmen, (Connor 'The Droëwors Dynamo' O'Flaherty, and 'Admiral' James 'Viscount' Nelson 'of the Nile and Burnham Thorpe'), but of course, confusion is at the heart of squash.

BADMINTON

School v John Lyon School, 27 November

After captain Alex Locke, *West Acre*, fled to the Cayman Islands for reasons *The Harrovian* understands to have nothing to do with the badminton team's tax and sponsorship status, it was time for a caretaker to be left at the reins. Doubt swept over a packed Sports Hall as all wondered whether capable hands would be at the helm. But cometh the hour, cometh the man: both Marcus Tung, *West Acre*, and his moderately oversized pocket square were ready to rise to the challenge and take the wheel. Those in the world of sports already know how difficult it is to be a temporary manager: for every Gus Hiddink there are five Ricky Sbragias. However, when it came to the team's match against John Lyon it was clear that there was more truth to the temporary boss' evil genius act than unsubstantiated masquerade.

The first pair won their opening match 21-10 and 21-7 against our opponent's second pair with Sunny Ye, *Rendalls*, smashing professionally to win with relative ease. However, more testing was the bout with the strongest players our brother school had to offer with a 21-19 loss in the early game putting our hopes of victory on a knife's edge. However, Aarav Tribhuvan, *Moretons*, was calm in the face of pressure in what the temporary captain termed to be an "excellent return to form" in the aftermath of a bitter injury and a slow return to play. Eventually, scores of 21-9 and 21-11 in our favour showed that we were simply too strong for our opponents.

Harrow's second pair opened against a strong John Lyon team. After losing 13-21 in the first game, things looked tight. However, Jackie Guo, *The Grove*, began to unleash his trademark smash and with all the rancour of luminescent liquid gelignite, the pair brought 21-10 and 21-14 wins out of the darkness. Their second match, against John Lyon's second pair, saw Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, deliver a mature coup de grace to our opponents as part of a 21-16 and 21-19 rampant display.

Our third pair, which contained a debut from both Leo Waschkuhn, *Lyon's*, and Dawei Sun, *Bradlys*, won their first match by a significant margin. Having started with a lacking level of communication, they quickly improved. However, things would not prove so easy in their second match. Facing John Lyon's third pair, they experienced what it is like to be in an extremely close game. Nonetheless, they fought them in the service box. They fought them in the tramlines. They fought them underneath the net and they protected their precious court space. In the end a 23-21 victory in the first game cued passionate celebrations from the home fans and a 21-18 win in the second game helped send John Lyon packing back down the Hill for yet another year.

Finally, was the fourth pair for Harrow. In a bitter first loss against John Lyon's third pair, Alex Anikin, *The Park*, showed immense aggression in his play. However, a slightly sloppy lack of team co-ordination made the game difficult to watch for fears of seasickness leading to him getting a pep talk from Jarvis Lam, *The Park*, who was helping to coach the side. Following some tactical magic sauce, Anikin and Jaden Lim, *The Head Master's*, showed ferocity and a carnal desire to win 21-10 and 21-11, wrapping up all loose ends. Even though this performance required more kneeling than the lead singer at a Bryan Adams' concert, it was nonetheless an elegant end to a strong fixture.

After a strong Harrow win, one has to wonder whether our caretaker manager is gunning for a more permanent position. Thanks must go to VHA and the scorers for the day for facilitating such an excellent win.

FOOTBALL

The School v Dr Challoner's Grammar, 23 November

Development A XI, Drew 1-1

Despite dominating possession, the 1st XI couldn't quite find the break through in front of goal to polish off a solid team performance. Elliott Taylor, *West Acre*, was the sole goal scorer with a well-worked team goal in the first half.

Development B XI Lost 2-1

A last-minute switch in the destination of this fixture meant that the Development B squad travelled over to Dr Challoner's on a bright wintery afternoon arriving at the changing rooms that Father Tivey described as "rather like a weekend away at Centre Parcs". The opposition requested a quick start to proceedings and the lack of a proper warm-up really seemed to affect the Harrow team. Despite a very strong line-up Harrow

were second to every ball, poor in their passing and lethargic in their defending which culminated in concerning two sloppy goals in the first 10 minutes - one a free-kick given away right in front of goal and the other a tap-in after failing to clear away a cross.

A few stern words from DH at half-time seemed to kick the boys into action and greater care in possession enabled Harrow to start building a platform with their play, putting pressure on the Dr Challoner's side by keeping the ball in their half for long periods of time. Charles Edu, *Lyon's*, came into the defence impressively whilst Kanta Morisighe, *Newlands*, and Max Baygual-Nespatti, *Elmfield*, provided composure and control in the middle of the park. Eventually, Harrow's pressure paid dividends with an excellent strike from Morisighe from outside the box. With little time on the clock, Harrow almost grabbed an equaliser after wonderful wing play from Zane Akbar-Khan, *Moretons*, but his exquisite cross wasn't met with the desired level of quality in the finish.

Harrow learnt some valuable lessons from this defeat which they must incorporate into their future performances. If they keep playing as they did in the second half then they should end the term on a high.

Development C XI Drew 0-0

The School v Wilson's School

Development A XI, Drew 1-1

Development B XI Won 2-1

Development C XI Won 5-0

RUGBY

Yearlings D v Latymer Upper School, Won 45-15

After letting Tonbridge cross the line 12 times in our last game, training since has been all about defence. Today, against Latymer Upper School Under-14Cs, that training paid off. Boys were putting in hit after hit, maintaining their defensive lines, and committing to the break down.

The new-look Yearling Ds started the day with purpose. Early down to the pitch on a sunny and cold November's afternoon, the boys warmed up properly. With Latymer still not arrived, the boys maintained their professionalism, geeing each other up and concentrating on the game ahead.

When the whistle blew at 2.50pm, Latymer fired out of the blocks. Their big runner tore through with relish. Twice. It seemed we had forgotten everything we had been working so hard on over the past couple of weeks. Then we switched on. With a defensive charge led by the likes of Lucas Ramus, *Lyon's*, and Max Walton, *West Acre*, we started to push them back. Whenever the ball ended up in the hands of Toluwalase Akindele, *Newlands*, Latymer regretted it. His strength, his pace, and his deft footwork gave him two memorable tries, one a grubber through the defence that will stay long in the memory. Piers McDowell, *Elmfield*, and Lucas also displayed their devastating combination of strength and acceleration to put two more on the board for Harrow. Ill-discipline, however, cost us and Latymer scored another after a slew of Harrow penalties.

At half-time, Ben Allard, *The Grove*, and Ramus showed powerful leadership as they rallied the boys for the second half. The game was in the balance; within ten minutes, it was ours. Tomas Linares, *The Knoll*, Joseph Thornton, *Newlands*, and Rupert Lawless, *The Knoll*, showed off their individual brilliance as they shrugged off defenders and darted for the line. Counter-rucking was courageous, with Max Walton and Alex Gethin, *Rendalls*, causing havoc at the breakdown. The

cherry on the cake for Walton, who could not have asked for a better first game for the Yearling Ds, was an unstoppable break that resulted in a try. Finally, Debe Njoku, *The Head Master's*, trying his hand in the forwards, made up for earlier penalties with a strong dash to the line.

The School XV v Bedford Won 27-7

"Only in darkness can you see the stars" – Martin Luther King

I'm not a particularly superstitious person. Black cats crossing roads don't draw fear out of me; I'm happy to walk under a ladder. And so far, things have worked out alright for me I guess. Yet, when it comes to rugby, I do have one weakness; I like to wear the same matchday outfit during a winning streak. At the start of the season, a blue and white check shirt saw me through Hurstpierpoint and Dulwich before being consigned to the laundry basket after the defeat at Whitgift. Since then, I've opted for a simple white shirt, standard grey chinos, traditional rugby boot shoe finished off with the Harrow Sports Tie, a natty ¾ zip and long Harrow coat if needed. And since St Paul's we've not looked back. It's now six wins and one draw in a terrific run of form for the XV.

Saturday's fixture with Bedford proved the toughest test – not so much for the players of The XV, but for testing my superstitious resolve. The weather forecast made sad reading; heavy rain, chances of snow and wind gusts up to 70mph creating a 'feels like' temperature of -5 degrees. In Friday's session, a range of wind-related tactics, under the subtle codename 'GALE FORCE', were practised; keep your lengthy kicks low and your high kicks short and high, tap penalty plays to avoid tricky lineouts and various measures to work out which way the wind swirled on The Sunley. Come Saturday and the forecast came true; it was pretty bleak, no snow and perhaps not as wet as expected but the icy wind was brutal. JAA went for waterproofs and wellies; MJW, MiC of the Junior Colts Cs, had camo trousers on and a stiff windbreaker and our resident soft South African GBF was spotted wearing 16 layers, wrapped up like a matryoshka doll. Yet, I couldn't do it, held by my fear of defeat and so the usual garb was put on, and my lack of layers was instantly felt as my deck shoes swelled with water.

With Hampton and a place in the National QF looming, this match afforded some opportunity for rotation, rest and a chance for the 35th boy of the year, Jack Hedley – who has been imperious as captain of the 2nd XV this season and fully deserving of his chance – to represent The XV. Jasper 'Jaspy' Cockburn-Miller was back in the side in a new front row partnership with Philip 'The Grand Master' Truscott. Walker had slipped back to the back row alongside Hamblin with Ferreira sliding forward into the row with Dunn; Stirling was back at 8 after a 'rest' against Eton. Douglas and Chatwin ran the show at 9 and 10 whilst Thayil and Miall formed a formidable centre pairing. In the back 3, Nsouli, also newly installed as goal kicker, Newall and Cross were ready to patrol the backfield, made strong by a week of high ball training (or was it just crossbar challenge?). Ferneyhough, Hedley and Martin were the forward subs with Anderson providing support for the backs. Game on.

Onto the game and Bedford made things tricky for us from the get go by not arriving until 2.35pm – five minutes after the scheduled kick off time. Fortunately, the boys had had the sense to stay in the warmth of the changing room and with Bedford finally ready and the referee happy, the game kicked off just before 3pm. It was great to see Ferreira lead the team down The Sunley steps with the five newly minted Rugby Lions (Walker, Wilkins, Douglas, Miall and Hamblin) wearing their Lion on their chest with pride. The strange collection of oddly dressed Harrovian supporters cheered away and the occasion was set. There was a heavy diagonal wind running from the tennis courts across the field and up towards Park Lake. Bedford started with the wind and Chatwin did well to force his kick off deep. Immediately, Bedford's intent to play was admirable

if not, foolish. They chucked the ball left to right, balls out the back, nice hard decoy lines and a huge effort to play to width. Yet Harrow's defence was stout and Dunn put in a great early hit to set the tone for how Harrow wanted to defend today; soon, Bedford chucked it on the floor and Harrow had the early advantage with a scrum.

Camped in Bedford's half, the pressure was soon too much for the opposition as Harrow kept the ball very well, working through multiple phases before Chatwin pulled a nice pass behind the on-running Thayil to Cross who beat three men to finish very smartly under the posts. Nsouli added the extras. Things only get better when Harrow's relentless defensive pressure and Bedford's lack of desire to use the heavy wind kept Harrow in advantageous positions.

A further Bedford error led to a Harrow scrum about 40m out. Inspired by his Scottish brethren and Chatwin's constant desire to play like Finn Russell, JAA had introduced a new backs chip kick move called 'Finn', designed to entice the defense forward only for a chip kick to be put into a dangerous area for the on-rushing Thayil and Miall. With the scrum set, JAA muttered 'He's going to run 'Finn'; this is not the right time, it won't work as well off a scrum...'. The Jedi Lord was right and his young Padawan had indeed called 'Finn'. Harrow won the scrum, Chatwin advanced forward and his chip kick went up – not a great kick, too high and the winger was over to cover. But, the swirling wind took over, blowing the ball away from the covering blindside winger and into the hands of Miall, a couple of passes later and Cross crossed over again for a well-worked team score.

14-0, 10 minutes in and Harrow were rolling. However, I wrote the same thing in the Eton match report...and the misfortune struck again. Chatwin tried a grubber through, blocked by the Bedford centre and picked up by their nippy hippy 9 who ran 50m for the try. Boo. 14-7. Ferreira gathered the troops under the post; there was to be no panic, just more of the same control. Bedford kept playing their ambitious rugby and were marred by several errors; Harrow were camped in their 22 but little errors and poor decisions meant the score stayed firmly at 14-7. Cross was doing a great job running kicks back and Wilkins and Cockburn-Miller were carrying with some force but to little overall avail. With a penalty to Harrow in front of the sticks, Harrow opted to tap it. No points came and we squandered possession. 5 minutes, similar penalty, same spot. Ferreira had had enough and went into cup rugby mode; the ref pointed at the posts and Nsouli tapped it over for a 17-7 lead. This was really nice to see and showed the evolution of this side over the last 12 weeks, particularly when reflecting on that cruel 7-0 loss at Whitgift; don't chase the game, build up your score and that will give you the confidence to play.

At the oranges, Ferreira and JAA led the conversations as I haggled with the referee over the length of the second half; the scoreboard was already beginning to function as a floodlight and with one eye on Hampton on Tuesday, a short second half seemed preferable. A few big half-time changes were made – Wilkins was pulled off to rest for Tuesday (which left us with limited lineup throwing options – good luck, Nick Martin) and Douglas came off to as Gabriel Black slipped in for a half.

The second half was underway with Harrow now playing with the wind. Clearly we hadn't learned the lessons of Bedford and were guilty of overplaying for the first 10 minutes. Yet, we are a better side than Bedford and when we tried to overplay, we made it stick. We got some good turnover ball deep in our own half; the easy answer would be to kick it deep. Instead, we whipped it wide, Chatwin floating the ball for Thayil into space. Ivan went round his man and then fed Nsouli who finally had the ball in his hands. He galloped down the touch line and was brought down 5m out, offloading to Cross who burrowed down looking for a hat-trick but falling short. The forwards arrived and took over, picking and going until finally Stirling snuck over. Nsouli added the extras for a 24-7 lead.

Things then got rather scrappy. It was getting pretty dark and so the error count on both sides was increasing. Harrow still applied pressure and persistent fouling from Bedford led to a yellow card. Ferreira sensibly opted for the points again and the game was put to bed at 27-7. However, the yellow card seemed to disadvantage Harrow as the referee insisted that Stirling be dropped from Harrow scrums in order to match Bedford's 7 man pack; this meant Black had no protection at the back and every scrum seemingly just led to another. All rather messy.

With light fading and the quality of the game slipping away, the referee after 20 minutes of the second half blew the final whistle and brought the game to a close. This was a very professional and workmanlike win from The XV; the task was always to get through this one in one piece ready for Tuesday's clash with Hampton. The boys did just that and performed very confidently in the process. Chatwin had his best game at 10, Hedley and Ferneyhough both had stellar second half performances and Cross' early clinical finishing was a difference maker. The pride of Lions grew larger subsequently too; Chatwin and Stirling both so effective this year in different ways were awarded their Lion after the match.

That's now seven games without a loss in a row and things are building nicely as the regular season begins to draw to a close. There is a constant sense of growth within the squad right now, both as individual players and as a collective, and there is a sense of a slight coming of age, just at the right time. Tuesday's challenge with Hampton provides another exciting opportunity for growth and, with limited turnaround time, that pivotal phrase of 'We go again' springs to mind – meanwhile, I've got a shirt and pair of chinos to wash to be ready for Tuesday.

2nd XV v Bedford School Won 19-0

3rd XV v Bedford School Won 31-0

4th XV v Bedford School Won 43-0

Colts A v Bedford School Won 27-0

Harrow secured an excellent victory with the help of three tries from St John Smith, *Newlands*, and the most complete team performance of the season in testing conditions.

Colts B v Bedford School Won 60-0

Colts C v Bedford School Won 26-0

Harrow v The Leys, won 10-7

With an early try from The Leys, Harrow started to bring it together and, with great physicality and mauling, a try was scored by Sutherland, *Lyon's*. In the second half, with an absolutely stunning grubber kick from Ackah, *Newlands*, Othman, *Newlands*, succeeded in placing the ball behind the try line.

Harrow v Bedford Won 26-0

Immediately following their match against The Leys School, Harrow faced Bedford School and, with light fading, both teams agreed for a shorter half. There was great running and tries by Stabb, *The Head Master's*, Sutherland, *Lyon's*, and a great solo try by Hanbury, *Rendalls*. Cox-Lang, *The Knoll*, secured a 100% conversion rate.

Junior Colts A v Bedford School Won 43-5

It was a tough game against Bedford the weather did not help however the squad rose to the challenge and showed real character. After a few dropped balls to start with, Harrow started to pick up the pace with a try from Henry Snow, *Rendalls*, followed by two from Cameron Knight, *Newlands*, as Harrow started to ship the ball wide and exploit the gaps. The second half got off to a rough start with an aggressive Bedford side scoring shortly after the kick-off. However, Harrow kept their

composure and a try from Joshua Willwong followed, putting Harrow back on the front foot. The tired Bedford side could not keep up with the high intensity and a try from Sam Winters. *Elmfield*, followed by two from Sammy Clayton-Bennett, *Newlands*, wrapped up the game. Securing the win for the team.

Junior Colts B v Bedford School Won 7-0

Junior Colts C v Bedford School Lost 5-15

Junior Colts D v Bedford School Draw : 17-17

Yearlings A v Bedford School Won 40-10

A valiant performance in beautiful rugby weather. The first 25 minutes were a gruelling battle with little structure on both sides. After the hairdryer treatment at half-time, the Harrow forwards took control of the game, allowing the backs to work their magic.

Because of the exposed pitch, the wind played a significant role in the first half of the game. Harrow struggled to find field position, putting the boys under pressure for the first 25 minutes. Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, kept the As in the game with some outstanding cover tackles on defence and piercing running lines on attack. Following suit, Jeffrey Arthur, *The Knoll*, and Ben Cutts, *Elmfield*, ensured that any threats from the outside were dealt with effectively. The loss of Will Codrington, *Rendalls*, early on made it difficult for the Under-14s to stay organised in defence, resulting in Bedford scoring some soft tries.

The second half was a completely different game, Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, sniped well from the scrum and rucks, giving the team some momentum. This gave Jake Turner, *Druries*, the opportunity to execute accurate kicks into the opposition 22. The forwards were able to carry directly from the likes of Monty Morgan, *Rendalls*, from this platform, with strong support lines from his contemporaries, resulting in space opening up out wide. Harrow's strategic decision-making resulted in multiple tries from both the backs and forwards, resulting in a well-deserved victory.

The team will need to rest up before the cup match on Tuesday in order to maintain their strong performances.

Yearlings B v Bedford School Lost 10-25

Yearlings C v Bedford School Won 45-10

Yearlings D v Bedford School Won 65-40

Yearlings E v Bedford School Won 45-10

Yearlings F v Bedford School Lost 70-80

The match began and already, the Harrow boys were demonstrating more confidence and control with the ball than any game prior. The focus on tackling in training also appeared to be paying off - finally the boys were going low, with Arthur Yang, *West Acre*, consistently being unafraid to throw himself at any Bedford boy that came across his path. The first 25 minutes might as well have been a tennis match with the back-and-forth nature of the tries being scored by both sides, and when the whistle blew for half-time, the score stood at 35-30 to Bedford.

Nevertheless, it was at his point that the weather delivered what seemed almost inevitable: icy cold rain. Having had a season of incredibly temperate weather, the Yearlings F were unaccustomed to playing rugby in such arctic conditions, and this became more apparent at the start of the second half where the boys seemed cryogenically frozen by Bedfordshire's biting winds. The Bedford side used Harrow's moment of weakness to dominate the play, scoring another 35 points in only 10 minutes. All hope seemed lost for the Harrow team, who had seemingly let the fate of such an evenly matched game be decided in moments. However, Xavier Majumdar, *The Knoll*, appeared to be knocked out of the wintry trance that had gripped the Harrow side by Bedford's sudden lead, and alongside Indi Gupte's, *West Acre*, rousing speech on the pitch the boys had their heads back firmly in the game. Going fully on the attack, the Harrow side clawed back 30 points in quick succession, placing the game at 70-60. With only minutes left in the game, the boys attempted one more final push to equalise, but were sadly met by two successive tries by Bedford who spotted gaps in our defensive line. Again, Harrow responded, likewise scoring two more tries, but there just wasn't enough time to close that 10 point gap before the whistle blew.

Overall, this was a fantastic game of rugby for the Yearlings Fs, the loss not reflecting the passion from the boys in this game, but the score definitely demonstrating their growth as a team across this term.

*This is the last edition of
The Harrovian for this Term*

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

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