



  
**HARRODIAN**  
NEWSLETTER  
*Spring 2018*  
*Our 1st XV rugby team*

# A WAY WITH



## SPEAKING OUT

All pupils in our 8s to 13s took part in this term's annual Public Speaking Competition. Tasked with researching and writing a speech on a topic of their choice and delivering this to the rest of their class, every single one of them rose to the challenge. Once selected, our finalists took to the Theatre stage and presented their speeches in front of an expert judging panel, as well as their year group. We would like to thank the following Harroddian

parents for giving up their time to judge: Will Kemp, actor; Lisa Reed, journalist and writer; Tom Bergin, a business journalist for Reuters; and Emma Freud, broadcaster and cultural commentator. Our Head Girl, Samantha, and Sixth Form student and top debater, Alexandra, joined the judging panels, as did Dr Parmley, Senior School Principal, and Mr Roets, Head of 11s, all four offering highly valuable feedback. Congratulations

# WORDS

to those pupils who took part and, in particular, our accomplished winners: Jamie (9s) for his impassioned plea to stop the use of plastic, Rosalie (10s) for her persuasive argument that detentions should be banned, and Amber (13s) for her interactive presentation about rap music. They are featured here, *left*, together with the runners up.

## THE ART OF ARTICULACY

Senior debating teams narrowly missed a place in the finals in two debating competitions this term. They were the Oxford School's Competition held at Dulwich College and the University College of London Schools' Competition held at the University. Both followed the British Parliamentary Rules, which meant there was only a very short time for participants to prepare for each discussion. A girls-only team represented Harrodian at the UCL competition, with six girls from our Sixth Form – Alexandra, Beata, Sonya, Daisy, Youmna and Nicola – debating tirelessly over the course of a whole day, and presenting motions on subjects as diverse as the moral justification for citizens of corrupt regimes to evade taxes and how news sources should have an explicit ideological agenda. Elsewhere in the School, teachers have been delivering lectures, as part of our bi-weekly Thomson Society, on subjects as varied as the Northern Ireland peace process to Norwegian Death Metal music. Most recently, Mr Wardell, Teacher of Philosophy and Religious Studies discoursed on the elusive nature of reality in a presentation entitled 'Are you an illusion?', that drew on references as diverse as Descartes and Derren Brown. Students have also been busy sharing their experiences and expressing their thoughts as part of our Student Lecture



Society. Alexandra delivered a fascinating talk about her grandfather's experience in the Second World War and Youmna will soon be presenting about Islam and extremism.

## LANGUAGE MATTERS

This year two Sixth Form French students put their languages skills to the test in the National Debating Competition at St Paul's Girls' School. Both Zach and Cecilia, *above*, expressed themselves succinctly and confidently in the French language, debating motions on the subjects of the independence of New Caledonia, the use of bottles as packaging and the Government's grants for private schools in France. They won one of their debates against Putney High School. Lower down the School, pupils from our 8s/9s and 12s/13s/14s enjoyed interactive French and Spanish plays performed by Onatti production company ([www.onatti.co.uk](http://www.onatti.co.uk)), *below*. Full participation in each meant that on stage pupils were asked to help the actors make decisions about what to wear, say and how to behave!



# CHAMPIONING THE



## DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Our Harroddian School Parents' Association (HSPA) and Events Committee hosted an all-singing and all-dancing Charity Fashion Show this term. Over 100 pupils were involved from PP3 to the Lower Sixth, some acting as models, others as photographers, stylists, compères and members of the backstage and front-of-house teams. A large number of them took to the stage and had great fun strutting their stuff along the pink Easigrass catwalk, whilst modelling clothing

and accessories donated for the event by local fashion designers and Harroddian parents who work in the industry. There were also two brilliant dance interludes provided by Sampson and Julian, Prep School boys, with a body popping performance that they choreographed themselves and by the Senior Dance Troupe's version of 'Another Day in the Sun' from *La La Land*. Much to the delight of the children in the audience, a surprise finale to the show featured some familiar faces. Some of their teachers were good sports and braved the catwalk, even Mr Hooke too! Harroddian parents very

# CAUSE

generously donated prizes for a fashion-themed raffle, and winners were picked out by Stephanie Rad and Marsha Andreeva, both former Harrodians and professional models. Pop-up shops selling clothing and accessories from local fashion houses were located in the Junior Library and other classrooms around the Main Hall. Proceeds will be donated to the Snowflake School.

(For a detailed list of all clothing modelled please go to our website: [www.harrodian.com/news/fundraising-fashion](http://www.harrodian.com/news/fundraising-fashion)).

## DINING DONORS

Each year a number of our Sixth Formers group together to organise a fundraising dinner in aid of charities of their choice, *above right*. This year they worked together to host a dinner at the The Spencer in Putney for over 100 guests, consisting of their peers, parents and staff. A selection of amazing raffle prizes and auction items were kindly donated, and guests then generously bid for them. Approximately £20,000 was raised over the course of the evening, from the ticket sales, raffle and auction, and the money will be donated to Alzheimer's Research UK and the Homestead in Cape Town.

(For more photos please visit our website media gallery at [www.harrodian.com/gallery/sixth-form-charity-dinner-2018](http://www.harrodian.com/gallery/sixth-form-charity-dinner-2018)).

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our Harrodian Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), now in its ninth year, is an engaging enterprise that involves all of our 13s (Year 9) pupils. As in previous years, every 13s classes took part, each with five teams, representing a total of 20 charities. After careful research, each group of pupils chose a local charity to represent and then raised



money by arranging activities, including cake sales, mufti days and a sponsored obstacle course, otherwise known as the Fancy Dress Bobstacle. Six groups were then shortlisted for the final and each presented its case to a judging panel as to why its charity should be chosen. This was the first time that representatives from all six charities were able to attend. The winners – Sophia, Donovan, Matilda, Isabela and Lily, all from 13T, *below* – represented Missing People, a charity that offers a lifeline for the 25,000 people, who run away and go missing every year, and provides support for family and friends. They were only too proud to present their cheque of £3,000 to the charity.





# BEYOND

## TALKING SENSE

As part of our extra-curricular programme of events, we hosted a number of fascinating speakers at Harroddian this term. Our Parents Association welcomed Frank Gardner, BBC Security Correspondent and former Harroddian parent, to the stage as part of the In-Conversation series of events. Frank talked to pupils, staff and parents about the qualities required to become a journalist, and about the ways in which he rebuilt his life in the wake of a life-changing assassination attempt that nearly left him dead. He shared his 'frank' views on many diverse subjects in an anecdote-filled, inspiring and entertaining discussion with HSPA Chair, Reza Beyad. Meanwhile our Art Department arranged for Sadie Coles, Harroddian parent, art dealer and gallerist, to talk about her career in the art world and her experience of founding Sadie Coles HQ, a contemporary art gallery in Central London 20 years ago. She gave our Sixth Form art students, and those who aspire to work in the arts, some invaluable career advice and talked about the range of work opportunities available to them, not just as artists, but in other art-related roles.

Parents of children in the Prep School were also offered the chance to attend a talk by Dr Diane Dansey, Clinical Psychologist, on how to raise emotionally resilient children.

## EMPOWERING OTHERS

To quote our Head of the Senior School, Mr Woodward, 'PSHE is the long-used UK term for school lessons giving information and facilitating debate around real-life issues, such as drugs awareness, mental health, e-safety, body image and the all-important Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). It is delivered in the hope that our pupils will feel empowered to make good decisions across the environments and interactions they encounter, prioritising their own health and that of themselves and their friends.' With this in mind, we take our PSHE events very seriously. This term the company ID You, *below*, worked with boys and girls in our 11s and 12s to inspire them to deal with the challenges they face in day to day life – from friendship issues, to dealing with bullying, both on and offline, to social media and image and identity. Pupils in our 10s attended the Richmond Borough's Junior Citizen course at Holly Lodge, so that they could learn to be more independent and safer at the same time. The Senior School hosted a number of talks for pupils and parents, delivered by external speakers, on the subject of alcohol and drug awareness. To understand in deeper detail why these events and PSHE itself is such an important part of pastoral school life, please read Mr Woodward's 'pastorally speaking' blog on our website at [www.harroddian.com/blogs](http://www.harroddian.com/blogs)



# THE CURRICULUM



## FUN IN LEARNING

It is not serious at Harrodian all the time, though! Having fun whilst at work and play is one of the key ingredients of a happy school life. Pupils of all age groups, staff too, enjoyed coming together to play in the snow. A whole school snow ball fight was attempted, as were combined efforts to build snowmen. Some of our Senior pupils heard about Justin's snow canon on the Pre-Prep putting green and so came to join in the fun with the younger pupils. House Mufti Day and House Drama, while reinforcing an already-strong team spirit in the Prep School, is also an opportunity for pupils and staff to enjoy themselves. Our Senior pupils also had a great time not taking themselves too

seriously, when they wore funny costumes to take part in the Bobstacle. Our teachers are also great sports: Mr Fenn-Smith had a go knitting for the first time at the Prep knitting club (and revealed his concentration face in the process!); Mr Woodward, Mr Nathan and Mr Almond were just some of the non-Sports teachers to be brave enough to take on the students in a football match; Mrs Tremayne and Mr Roets both headed up teacher teams at Quiz Night and were very gracious about losing for the first time in five years; and Mr Hooke strutted his stuff at the Fashion Show, *top left*. All of which are positive affirmations of a shared sense of fun and involvement that add to the unique Harrodian community spirit.

# ENRICHING



## EARLY EXPLORATIONS

All our Pre-Prep pupils have benefited from educational outings this term. Reception pupils visited the Natural History Museum as part of their topic on dinosaurs. They examined skeletons and fossils, handled precious minerals and marvelled at the size of the blue whale skeleton. PP1 learnt about childhood in the past and old toys as part of a workshop hosted by Wandsworth Toy Museum, *inset above*. They also walked down to St Michael and All Angels in Barnes, where they enjoyed learning about

the church from Father Stephen. Prompted by their 'Nurturing Nurses' topic, PP2 attended a Florence Nightingale workshop at Gunnersbury Museum, *above*, where they dressed up in period costume and participated in an interactive workshop and role play. PP3 has been studying Henry VIII and food in Tudor times as this term's History topics. To enhance their learning, pupils visited Hampton Court Palace and took part in a workshop called 'Tudor Fun and Games', exploring the different games and activities that Tudor children and adults enjoyed. They also toured the royal apartments, Haunted Gallery and extensive kitchens.



# EXPERIENCES

## CULTURAL AWARENESS

To support their learning of Religious Studies as part of the Humanities syllabus, our Prep pupils visited different places of worship. Our 9s pupils were welcomed by Mrs Coussins, Harroddian parent, at the Wimbledon Synagogue, where they were able to gain a greater understanding of Jewish customs and practices by examining the Shabbat Table, undressing the Torah scrolls, reading some Jewish prayers, and discussing how Shabbat is celebrated. Our 10s meanwhile visited a Sikh temple, the Central Gurdwara in Notting Hill. They were able to see the religious scripture and holy book of Sikhism lying upon its own ornate throne, *right*, and try food in the Langar (kitchen). They learnt that Sikhs are not allowed to point their feet in the direction of the holy book, nor are they allowed to cut their hair as it is considered a gift from God and they also have to keep their hair covered. One of the major principles of Sikhism is to consider all human races equal - a concept that our 10s children were able to appreciate and relate to. Elsewhere our 14s visited the Buddhist Centre in Kennington to support their learning of Religious Studies too.

## A FIELD DAY

Fieldwork is an essential part of the Geography curriculum, as it enables pupils to connect geographical concepts to real-life phenomena. This term our 10s enjoyed an extremely bracing but bright day out on a trip to Rushall Farm in Berkshire, *right*. The group were introduced to both the traditional and modern aspects of this mixed farm, which accommodates organic beef and lamb production alongside bean and cereal



arable crops. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the opportunity to see a lamb born, and everyone got to cuddle one of the new born lambs. 50 of our 14s Geography students also had the opportunity to benefit from a field trip, when they visited Epping Forest and learnt about the living and non-living factors that make up its various ecosystems. Under the instruction of experts from the forest's Field Studies Centre, they learnt how to use specialist equipment to measure and record features of the forest, including vegetation cover, tree height and light intensity.





# ART OF THE

## MOTHER OF ALL DESIGNS

Our Lower Sixth Media Studies students enjoyed a trip to Mother London, one of the world's leading independent creative agencies, to view a retrospective of its most impactful non-commercial work over the 21 years it has been open, *below*. The exhibition, and its many examples of subversive design, demonstrates how advertising can become activism. There were quite a few surprising exhibits which were not for the faint-hearted! One of these featured a collection of images of female pubic hair in an attempt to honour the beauty of the untouched human body. A second exhibit featured Russian dolls that were all made to look like famous British gay celebrities – Elton John, George Michael, Stephen Fry, Graham Norton and Tom Daley. Mother sent the Russian nesting dolls to staff at the Kremlin and the Russian

Embassy as part of the agency's annual political stunt. Another conspicuous exhibit was a large inflatable breast that filled an entrance room. The advert was created to make women feel more comfortable about breast feeding in public. It was a fascinating but controversial exhibition that explored the power of design to bring about change.

## INSIDE LONDON ART

Sixth Formers were provided with a special opportunity to see Sadie in action when they visited both of her London galleries. The visits were part of a fascinating and enlightening day tour of London art destinations for our Lower Sixth Art students. The day began with a trip to the Royal Academy to see *From Life*, an exhibition that examines one of the oldest art disciplines of all: painting and sculpting 'from life.' The collection includes art work from the 18th century to the present day with a glimpse into the future too, and it asks what it means to make art from life and how the practice is evolving as technology opens up new ways of making and seeing. After a taste of more traditional art at the RA, the next stop at Sadie Coles HQ, *right*, had a distinctly modern feel to it. Sadie herself acted as a guide to an exhibition of the work of Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, a British artist known for her reworkings of iconic moments from cultural history in improvised performances and who was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2012. She also introduced the group to another of her artists, Darren Bader, and



# MATTER



drew their attention to his installations, videos and texts. After this, the group only had to cross the road to visit the Gagosian, one of the leading modern private galleries where they were treated to a show by Glenn Brown, an artist whose vivid and challenging work is said 'to transcend time and pictorial conventions'.

## ALL IN THE DETAIL

As part of the Graphic Design curriculum, our Lower Sixth students attended a day

workshop at the London Centre for Book Arts in East London, *inset above*. Students spent the day learning specialist design techniques, including letterpress and Risograph printing, foil blocking and book-binding, as well as developing their knowledge of the history of print. Over the course of the day, the group produced a collaborative book, which included work from their current design brief.



# ON THE



# WORLD BOOK DAY



## BOOKS AND THE BEAST

'The Beast from the East' may have caught the official World Book Day on 1 March in the grip of its icy talons, but Harrodian's hordes of bibliophiles were not to be denied their annual celebration of the joys of reading. Pupils, teachers and librarians simply moved their activities to another day. In the Lower Prep, 8s, 9s and 10s pupils were asked by the English Department to create a three-dimensional representation of their favourite book – either the bedroom, the bag or pocket of their chosen character or

the setting of a particular scene from their preferred story. Each year group took daily turns in displaying their efforts in the Prep School entrance hall, while parents, pupils and teachers attempted to identify the book and the moment that was illustrated. The winners were Lily (8s), Jamie (9s) and Jaye (10s), *above*. Meanwhile all our Pre-Prep and Prep children brought in photographs of themselves reading a book to a friend or relative, and these were also displayed. House points were allocated to those who took part. Encouraged by the example of the 11s who had to postpone their literary 'dress

# SAME PAGE

up', teachers joined in the fun, *inset left*, by adopting personae ranging from characters such as Osborne in the GCSE text and play, *Journey's End*, to a trio of psychiatric patients featured in Ken Kesey's novel, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Harrodian's libraries contain over 17,000 books, so it isn't surprising that (through no fault of their own), some titles often languish unread on the shelves for years. As part of the World Book Day activities, pupils were challenged to read one of these lonely books and were rewarded accordingly. Both pupils and staff also participated in the annual book swap that raised money for Book Aid International. Our Head of English, Lucy Thomas, was impressed and encouraged by the success of this year's event, despite challenging circumstances. 'We're so lucky to have a dedicated day every year when the whole school as well as the Library and the English Department, is able to demonstrate their love of books,' she said. 'The determination of staff and students across the School to make it happen this year shows just how much books continue to mean to us.'

## KEENER READERS

Our Pre-Prep department enjoyed a week of fun activities dedicated to literacy too, but just a bit earlier in February. On Book Character Day, all pupils and their form teachers came to School dressed as book characters. In assembly, each form was invited onto the stage to hold up their favourite books and show off their corresponding costumes. To add to the excitement, Miss Engel and Mr Hooke challenged our Pre-Prep pupils to complete two writing tasks. The first involved help from parents, and set children the task of creating their own board or card game and writing clear instructions to accompany it,



*below*. As part of the second task, Mr Hooke sent letters to each class, with a photo of an edible treat that he wanted them to make, *above*. In the process, they had to write a clear set of instructions as to how they made their treats so that Mr Hooke could then replicate them himself. A video of him doing just this was then shown in assembly, much to the delight of the children! The exciting activities did not stop here. Also included were an outer space themed Perform drama class, the opportunity to write their own book reviews, a storytelling workshop by childrens' author Adam Guillain, the chance to buy a signed book from him and purchase even more books to read at the Book Fair.





# SPORTING

## LAPPING UP SUCCESS

Twelve swimmers from our PP3s to the 10s took part in the Richmond Borough swimming heats in early February. Eight of them qualified to go through to the Independent Primary Schools' round. Congratulations to Callum and Adriana (PP3), Zac and Daisy (8s), George (9s) and Ella, Michael and Luca (10s). They all competed to a very high standard. Three of them were successful in reaching the Richmond Borough Finals, where they competed against all primary schools in the local area: Callum (PP3) finished 6th, Zac (8s) finished 5th and George (9s) finished 6th, both Prep boys featured *above*. Our Harroddian boys were amongst the six fastest swimmers in each of their age categories in the whole of the Richmond Borough.

## TEAM TRIUMPHS

Despite the wintry conditions this term, our pupils have made good progress in

spring sports. The focus in rugby for our PP3 to 12s boys has been about developing skills. Higher up in the Seniors, a more athlete-centred approach has been adopted, in order to provide an environment that ensures players grow continuously with every training session and every match. Our 1st XV rugby team has had a fantastic season, winning six out of ten games with Dillon at the helm as captain and Dan as vice-captain. Three of these wins against ACS Cobham International School, Latymer (the photo on the front cover features a lineup that took part in the Latymer match) and Ibstock Place School were particularly impressive. Our U13A team also took part in the Surrey Schools 7s tournament where they played against some strong teams like Emanuel, Richard Challoner and Wimbledon College and finished the event in a very respectable second place. In hockey, four of the five teams that took part in the Ibstock Place School Tournament were placed in the top three. One of these teams, our U14s, *left*, managed to win three penalty shoot-outs and achieved second place. Our U18s 1st team also achieved two important victories in matches against Kingston Grammar School and Emanuel. During both games, the opposition teams were unable to score against our indomitable girls.

## DOWNHILL SUCCESS

Our Harroddian Ski Programme has gone from strength to strength over the past eight years, with a ski programme that has grown from ten Harroddians with no race experience to 60 currently enrolled this year. Nowadays our skiers are achieving impressive top ten



# SPIRIT



finishes against racers who train regularly and often attend racing academies full time. A squad of our twelve best skiers, *above*, were chosen, via a competitive selection process, to take part in the Artemis British Interschool Ski Challenge in Pila, Italy. This year's results were impressive and can be seen in full by visiting [www.gbski.com](http://www.gbski.com) (and searching > Recent Competitions > Artemis British Interschool Ski Challenge > 5th March 2018). Alex Richards (15s) won two medals for 6th and 7th place out of 37 racers in the Giant Slalom and Slalom and was awarded as the best Senior skier in the end of term sports assembly. Theo Sparks (11s)

achieved 11th position in the U14s Slalom and was awarded best Prep skier. Our girls' results were also impressive with many of them finishing in the top 20. Training takes place over the course of the year, and there are other races to take part in, including the Harrodian Championships at the Hemel Hempstead indoor ski centre. The team has also been able to train at Chel-Ski, a snow centre, that has a revolving ski slope, excellent for developing technique. Pupils interested in joining the Ski Programme are able to receive information on how to be selected by emailing [sdillon@harrodian.com](mailto:sdillon@harrodian.com).

# KEEPING



## TEACHERS IN THE MAKING

Former Head Girls, Hannah and Charlotte, have both decided to follow in the footsteps of our very own Mrs Locke, *above centre*, by becoming Geography Teachers. Hannah, *above left*, who left Harrodian in 2014 after joining in PP3, studied Geography at the University of Newcastle and is currently studying a Secondary Geography PGCE at St Mary's University in Twickenham. As part of her placements she has been working at two schools, teaching pupils from Year 7 up to Year 12. Hannah remembers Mrs Locke

teaching her Physical Geography in Lower Sixth and attributes her class's excellent results to Mrs Locke's expert knowledge. She also has a new-found respect for her teachers at Harrodian as she is able to appreciate how much happens behind the scenes and the effort that goes into planning lessons. Charlotte, *above right*, joined Harrodian in the Senior School and after finishing her A Levels in Geography, History and Politics, she went on to complete a degree in Politics at the University of Nottingham. Since graduating she has worked and travelled extensively in Australia and Asia, and only recently decided



# IN TOUCH

to make the leap into teaching. She decided to focus on Geography, a subject she feels has great social impact because of the important role it plays in teaching us about our increasingly globalized and environmentally fragile world. Charlotte will be starting her first teaching position as a Key Stage 3 Geography Teacher in September. Both girls have very fond memories of Harroddian and all the events and trips they were involved in and in particular of their time in the Sixth Form, as Head Girls, when they forged long-lasting relationships with their peers and teachers.

## STAYING GROUNDED

Two of our former pupils, Bryn and Gabriel, *right*, have joined forces to start their own exciting business venture. Both boys joined Harroddian in the Prep School, stayed until the end of Sixth Form and have remained friends ever since. They both studied similar subjects for A Level, with History and Geography in common. Bryn studied Geography at Loughborough University but also completed a Masters in Finance at the University of Exeter. Meanwhile Gabriel, graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Social Anthropology. A shared passion for sport, both at School and in their everyday lives, means that health and fitness is a priority for them and also the inspiration for their business idea: Grounded Drinks. They both realised that drinks, especially juices, contained far too much sugar and discovered a gap in the market for low-sugar, natural drinks that actually tasted good. Their philosophy is that we shouldn't drink more fruit than we would eat, and this has been the driving force behind their product, which they launched



only eighteen months ago. The first batches of the drink were lovingly squeezed by Gabriel at 3am in a remote industrial juice kitchen in South London. Now with clients such as Sainsbury's, WHSmith Travel, the Coop, Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Fortnum and Mason and some other independents, the boys have a state-of-the-art juice factory in Holland. So far they have managed to operate on a shoestring budget and most of Gabriel's savings. Being immensely resourceful and having achieved a lot in a short space of time, they are looking to expand their operations and have had overseas interest from retailers in Dubai and Iceland. All they need now is extra financial muscle in the form of investment. You can find out more about them on their website: [www.groundeddrinks.com](http://www.groundeddrinks.com).





# ROCKING

## SCHOOL OF ROCK

We all knew it would be compelling to watch our children play rock on full-size instruments on stage and amusing to see some of them acting the part of teachers, but what none of us predicted was the scale of reaction that this term's *School of Rock* received. The show, which met with standing ovations, caused a word-of-mouth and social media storm, and consequently tickets sold out for all three performances. Members of the cast were met outside the Theatre every night by young groupies from the audience, offering them flowers and asking for their autographs! The production literally took the audience's breath away with pupils and parents saying it was as good, if not better, than a West End musical. It has been the most ambitious show that the School has undertaken in its 25-year history. Not only were the company of 40 pupils, spanning ages from 9 to 15, required to sing, act and dance, but also several of the leads were required to play musical instruments competently at the same time. Add in the logistics of staging live music in a school theatre, the technical complexities of extra lighting and sound, and you get a sense of the real challenge that they set themselves.

The three directors, Mr Glen, Mrs Ashe and Ms Edwards worked tirelessly and their efforts were certainly rewarded: they produced both an impressive show and engaging learning experience for all those involved.

The cast's commitment to the show and their bond as a close-knit group was unquestionable. Despite a gruelling schedule, they all turned up for rehearsals and for the live performances (which is just as well as there were no real understudies planned!), and even though they felt they were part of something important, it wasn't until the dress rehearsals when the lighting and sound teams arrived, that it really dawned on them how big the show was and unlike anything the Harrodian had staged before. Although the nerves must have set in at this point, there was never any sign of this on stage. Headset microphones got splashed and stopped working, there were some tight costume changes, a few broken guitar strings - just some of the minor mishaps that the audience was not even aware of because the cast was so professional. They performed to such high standards and consistently so for three nights on the trot.

A great part of the show's success hinged on the energy of the main part, Dewey Finn, played in true Jack Black-style by Ed (13s), *below centre and top right*. Not only did Ed have a large number of lines but



OUT!





he acted, sang, played guitar, performed a cappella, all of which he took in his stride, except for the complexities of working amps and managing multiple instruments on stage, which he admitted to finding somewhat 'overwhelming'. It is still pretty impressive for someone who went into the audition thinking he probably would not get a part, or only a 'small part possibly playing guitar!' Lauren (15s), *above right*, who played Rosalie Mullins, Headmistress of Horace Green School, felt confident to audition for her role, as it involved reaching some of the high notes in Mozart's 'Queen of the Night', something she knew not many of her peers could achieve quite as well. Her favourite part was performing the solo 'Where did the rock go?' which she did with note-perfect accomplishment. The younger members of the cast, who played specific parts in the band, gave equally assured and impressive performances, and the instrumentalists amongst them also faced the added challenge of playing live on stage (there was no miming). Two of them, Rosalie (10s) and Julian (11s), learnt new instruments (bass guitar and keyboards) specifically for their parts in the production.

So, what do you have to do to be the next Dewey or Miss Mullins? To take part in the next big show? And what do Harroddian performers have in common? A love of music and also the desire and drive to perform together with serious dedication. Ed, who appears to live and breathe music, can be found in the Music block whenever he has any free time. He started learning the saxophone at the age of 6 and taught himself guitar, and has only been having proper lessons with peripatetic music teacher,

Paul James, since he joined Harroddian in the 11s. He is a member of the jazz band and plays in a number of rock /punk bands in and outside School. Lauren too works hard on her singing and drama, as well as playing the piano and guitar. She is studying music and drama for GCSE and intends to continue with them for A Level. She has calculated that 12 hours of her week are dedicated to dance, music and drama. Arts Ed School, Stagecoach, Powerjam Youth Bands, the Band Project are just some of the places where our aspiring performers hang out after School and songwriting, riffing, jamming and producing music on their computers are just some of the things they do in their spare time (gone are the days of playing a few cover songs!).

The level of support that these young stars receive shouldn't be underestimated either. There is a Harroddian team of dedicated music and drama teachers coaching them, parents in the background helping them learn their lines, peers and friends cheering them on and coming to each of the performances, and not forgetting a very supportive and encouraging Headmaster. All of the cast agree that Harroddian is the right place for them to pursue their passions and extra-curricular interests. Ed believes that 'music is not about achievement but about self-expression', a mantra that is relevant to all of the Arts and which appears to be shared by most Harroddians. One of the best things about the *School of Rock* was seeing all the children let loose and enjoy themselves onstage, with no inhibitions. And this is what the Harroddian does so well – giving the kids the confidence and freedom to express themselves.



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

It was time for Harrodians to bring out their studded leather jackets and rock out in the Theatre as our next generation of Dave Grohls and Adeles took the opportunity to show off their skills onstage. And who better to compete the evening than our very own long-haired, head-banging rock star Mr Lineker? (*above*). Audiences just can't get enough of this event, and they are not the only ones who come back year after year. John Giddings (former parent and Isle of Wight Festival organiser) returned for his tenth time as lead judge on the panel. This time he brought two emerging singer/songwriters with him – Rothwell and Sophie-Rose Harper of Paradisia – to help him choose the winners.

Natasha, Luca, Mac and Will (Lower Sixth), all members of the band Wednesday, were thrilled to receive the famous silver guitar trophy as winners of this year's competition. They wrote and performed their own song, 'Caught Up', which was so upbeat it got the audience singing and clapping along. Wednesday will share the Isle of Wight stage with Skye (also Lower Sixth), *above right*, who received a special commendation for her song 'Hard to Love You', which she wrote and sang, accompanying herself on the piano. Last year's winner, Ally, was awarded second place for her song entitled 'Questions,' and the Coopers, led by Ed, otherwise known as Dewey from the *School of Rock*, made a debut appearance this year with their rock/punk inspired song 'No Parking', and achieved third place.

As I was keen to find out what makes a great band, Wednesday shared some tips with me: first you must reach a proficient level at playing your instrument, then choose band mates who are your mates or at least share your music taste and can also play their instruments well, practice regularly together and most importantly have fun! Luca and Natasha wrote the lyrics together over the summer holidays and Luca then produced the music on his computer. The next step was getting the input of Mac, the drummer, and Will, the bass player, in order to put the live band version of the song together. The three boys, who donned ridiculous wigs as the *School of Rock* No Vacancy band, don't take themselves too seriously and are all for enjoying themselves. They are already in a band together outside School, so working together was easy and Natasha, a previous winner of Battle of the Bands and semiprofessional singer/songwriter, was the perfect addition. They certainly looked like they were having fun on stage, as did our Staff band, the Humanities, who closed the show with a rendition of Queen's 'Hammer to Fall' and showed us that anyone, young or old, can totally rock!



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