



HARRODIAN
NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018

14s Art Trip
Yayoi Kusama
Victoria Miro Gallery

ART OF THE



AN ARTISTIC EYE

A regular programme of Senior art trips provides our pupils with an insight into the life and work of the professional artist. This term, as part of their GCSE studies, our 14s pupils visited *The Moving Moment When I Went to the Universe*, Yayoi Kusama's vibrant and sculptural exhibition at the Victoria Miro Gallery. Kusama's work consists of paintings and pumpkin/flower sculptures covered in brightly coloured dots, *above*. Popular with all the pupils was a visit to the 'Infinity Mirrored Room', a small space with polka-dot paper lanterns suspended from the ceiling and walled with mirrors that gave the impression of the art work going on forever. They were also astonished

by the variety of media that Kusama used in her work: painting, sculpture, performance art and installations in a variety of styles. With a GCSE coursework theme entitled 'collections', it was particularly helpful for the 14s to see how objects, memories or feelings were grouped together within the exhibition. Meanwhile, our Lower Sixth Formers were able to conduct first-hand primary research for their coursework, when they looked at abstract art and photography at the Tate Modern and Whitechapel Gallery. At both exhibitions, *Shape of Light* and *Staging Jackson Pollock* respectively, our students had the chance to hear from the curators and better understand their goals in putting the exhibition together.

MATTER

SPOT THE CIRCLE

Circles and spots have formed the theme for artwork produced by our Lower Prep pupils, and circle cutters were purchased to help them in the creative process. Inspired by the work of various artists, including Damien Hirst and his *Complete Book of Spot paintings, right*, they have been working hard to recreate the circle in different forms. In the 8s pupils have been using a pointillism technique to colour in Hirst-inspired butterflies; our 9s have adopted Baldessari's style to create collage self-portraits with spots over their faces; and in the 10s they have been looking at still life circles in their 3D form and using dabbers (circular tipped sponges) to create the soft edges similar to Mark Rothko's work. Departing from the circle theme, our 11s have been studying the work of Charming Baker, and our 12s the relationship between art and bricks in Carl Andre's work. However, pupils in our 13s revisited the circular theme by using small spots, like Lichtenstein in his Pop Art, to create their pieces of art.

DRAW TO PERFORM

Harrodian's Lower Sixth art group discovered just how energetic the exercise of making art can be when they took part in an interactive workshop run by Israeli born artist Ram Samocha, *right*. With his company, Draw to Perform, Ram has created the concept of 'drawing performance' where artists create artwork in front of a live audience while communicating with them. The session began with a warm-up exercise with the group moving their bodies and humming, before they sat down on the floor for a 'mark-making' exercise, in which they drew on two sheets of white paper with black charcoal and graphite. The second exercise



involved the whole group 'taking a line for a walk' on a strip of white paper that crossed the room from end to end with students crouching, kneeling and crawling as they drew. As the workshop gathered momentum, Ram added new ingredients that changed the course of the action. Students were asked to make loud noises as they drew, to speed up and slow down or to head in a new direction. In the last exercise, participants used colour pastels to make continuous circles around themselves, and then in more collaborative exercise around one another. In the after-school talk that followed the workshop, Ram told the audience that what he loves about drawing performance is that 'it is art that relates to your body and environment.' He also explained that he finds it 'lonely' creating traditional art in a studio on his own, and that consequently communicating with his audience through Performance Art is a much more fulfilling experience for him. It was a fascinating talk that encouraged many of pupils who attended to experiment more in their artistic journeys.





SPORTING

UP AND RUNNING

Running and cross country are both very popular at Harroddian, with a number of related clubs that involve children as young as six years old, from PP2 (Year 2) upwards. With our inclusive sporting ethos and extensive on site grounds, it isn't surprising that so many Harroddians choose to compete in the sport. A total of 91 pupils had competed by the end of November, and there were still three competitions to go! This year, rather than selecting the five fastest runners from each year group for all of the cross-country events, teams were changed around and chosen individually for each event. This increases the rate of participation, giving more of our children the chance to compete and to develop their experience within their year group. The knock-on benefits of this approach are an increase in competition at a top level and higher team numbers, which then makes it easier to maintain teams as children progress higher up through the School. 'We have many great individual runners who could be winning medals, if they had a strong team behind them. That is why our focus on building high-performing

cross-country teams with more depth to them,' says Mr Proudfoot, Head of Sport. Entry level events, which included the Hall School Wimbledon Competition and Queensgate School Competition in Hyde Park, are the perfect opportunity to harness interest from a wide age group. As for the results, our headlines for this term include: a second place for the girls' team (PP3 to 11s) at the Hall School Wimbledon Competition (*above*); 11s and 12s girls' and boys' teams reaching round two in the English School's Athletics Association competition; and great individual performances by Louis Hodge (14s), Evie Priest (12s) and George Kimble (11s) in the Richmond Borough Competition. Evie has also been selected to represent Surrey County and is our first county runner.

PLAYING BALL

Harroddian netballers in our 12s, 13s and 14s had a great start to the season when they took part in the annual tournament netball weekend at Conover Hall in Shrewsbury. Our U13As team emerged as silver medallists, our U14As won the tournament in their age category and maintained an unbeaten record throughout, and our U15As came third. Netballers in our 12s have been working incredibly hard and have consequently reaped the benefits. Our U13As won silver medals in both the Thomas's and Istock tournaments. The latter was an exciting competition during which the girls beat Emanuel, Highgate, Kew House, St Catherine's and Notting Hill and Ealing High to set up a very close final with Godolphin and Latymer. Despite being



SPiRiT



6-0 down, the U13s succeeded in pulling the score back up to 6-6 but were then eventually beaten. It was nevertheless a great example of their fighting spirit. One of their players, Scarlett Parkinson-Smith (12s), has also just been selected to play in the Surrey squad and is our first Harroddian county netballer. Our U14As, *below left*, have also been playing with great determination and skill. They achieved fifth place, out of the 16 teams that took part, in the Surrey round of the U14 National Schools' Netball Competition. They narrowly missed the top four qualifying finals by just one goal, but played excellent netball against some tough opposition.

FOOTBALL FEATS

Over the half-term, 37 of our 11 to 14-year-old footballers went on a highly productive six-day tour to Madrid, *below*, led by Mr Soleimani. Alongside match fixtures, the tour set out to introduce the boys to the training cultures that have made Real Madrid arguably the greatest club in the world. Four practice sessions took place at Real's state-of-the-art training ground, and Harroddians also toured the famous Bernabeu stadium, where they met Welsh 'galactico',

Gareth Bale, and took in the La Liga game between Real and Levante. Inspired by their experience, our three Harroddian teams excelled themselves on the pitch, winning nine of their 12 matches against tough local opposition. Back at home, our footballers have been making their mark too. This season has been exceptional for our U13A team, *above*. Having only lost one game, they have had an almost flawless run. As well as scoring the most goals (75 at the time and still counting!) across the whole School so far this term, the team is also very proud of its goalkeeper, Artemis, one of our strongest female footballers. Their season finished on a high with a 3-2 triumph against Downsend School, which saw them win the Surrey Cup, a first in Harroddian history. Higher up in the Senior School our football teams have steadily been progressing in the regional level of the Independent Schools' Football Association (ISFA) competitions. Both our U15 and U16 A teams have reached the third round and are aiming to equal or better our previous achievement of reaching the final.



A SCHOOL FOR ALL



PUMPKIN TRICKS AND FEATS

October wouldn't be the same without our Prep School house pumpkin-carving competition! It takes place every Halloween and the creations get more innovative by the year. Tables in the Main Hall were jam-packed with pumpkins on display, with each of the four corners representing a different house. House Captains and Prefects then had the challenging task of selecting four pumpkins from each. With a clear selection criteria in place that focussed on creativity, innovation and effort, sixteen pumpkins were shortlisted and each corresponding pumpkin

carver received a commendation in the form of extra house points. Finally, a selection of the top three pumpkins across the whole Prep School, *above*, was made by Mr Hardie, Mr Hooke and other members of the Senior Leadership Team, - after a tough decision brother and sister team Anais (11s) and Aran (9s) were crowned the overall winners with their 'Harroween Theatre', a pumpkin styled on an amphitheatre with a horror show being performed. Their original creation won extra points for Bridge House, much to House Captain Mr Lineker's delight!

SEASONS

ODE TO AUTUMN

As autumn leaves fell, fresh produce grown on the School allotment was distributed to the Barnes Foodbank at Castelnau Community Centre, along with many other non-perishable foods that pupils donated for Harvest Festival this term. The total amount of food donated by Harroddian weighed 358.22Kg, the equivalent of approximately 12 children. To mark this special occasion, our Pre-Prep pupils hosted a special Harvest Festival assembly during which they welcomed each class onto the stage to either sing a song or recite a poem, while narrators, Clementine and Aimon (PP3RNA) and Audrey and Theo (PP3KYL), explained the significance of harvest time, *above right*. This annual assembly is the perfect occasion for our Reception children to make their debut on the School stage, but it also serves to remind pupils and teachers how lucky we are to have daily access to the wonders of Nature with plenty of time outdoors during lessons or playtime, in our grounds, our gardens and at the allotment.

WINTER WARMERS

The kindness of our Harroddian community knew no bounds this winter, as parents, staff and pupils gave generously to make it a warmer winter for others. Our Christmas Fair celebrated the beginning of the festive season. Guests were treated to a roller derby game, rodeo reindeer, panto in the auditorium, and much more. As well as being great fun, the Christmas Fair is a vital fundraiser, and this year it supported local charity Castelnau Community Centre around the corner from the School. Pupils in our 14s and 15s bought their own presents for women and children



at the Sutton Women's Centre and wrapped them here at school, while our Pre-Prep and Prep pupils brought in Mary's Meals backpacks full of essential items needed by children in Africa for school, *below*. Our Pre-Prep staff also dedicated themselves to raising money for a good cause when they ran the 5km Richmond Park Santa run, each dressed as Father Christmas, in aid of Princess Alice Hospice. A collection at the end of the Carol Concert also raised money for Lives Not Knives and City Harvest, two charities chosen by Harroddian students for making an immediate impact on the streets of London at Christmas. On the last day of term, all pupils and staff paid £2 to wear Christmas jumpers and the proceeds were donated to Save the Children.





IN MEMORIAM

Harrodians of all ages have paid respect to the fallen on the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War. Ever since the School was founded, all Harrodians have marked Remembrance Day by taking part in an annual Poppy Appeal on behalf of the Royal British Legion and attending a special assembly. It being such a historic anniversary, this year's events had added significance and poignancy. Mr Hooke addressed our Pre-Prep pupils in their Monday morning assembly and explained the significance of the poppy and why it is a symbol of hope and remembrance. Mr Moore, *above*, spoke to our Prep pupils about the First World War and the signing of the Armistice between the



MARKING

Allies and Germany. He explained how many troops needlessly died on the day of the ceasefire and gave an emotive account of one particular soldier, by reading out a letter that he wrote to his family just before he was killed on the last day of the war. The guest speaker at the Senior School assembly was Captain Gary Hesling, Hydrographer of the Royal Navy. In a speech that drew on his personal experience of Remembrance events in global locations as diverse as the Falklands, Iraq and the Antarctic, Captain Hesling spoke of the enduring value of remembrance, but he was also keen to emphasise the importance of making remembrance relevant to the modern world. In all three assemblies, one to two minutes' silence was observed and renditions of the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' were played on the trumpet by Miss McTighe, teacher of Music, and Felix, *top left* (in the Prep assembly).

TOGETHER AGAIN

At the beginning of term, former staff and pupils gathered on the School grounds, *left*, joined by some of our current and long-serving teachers, for drinks and a barbecue served by School chef Josef and his team. Mr Lydon and the Sports Department organised a game of touch rugby for former pupils who were keen to take part. Groups of former Harrodians were also lucky enough to be taken on a tour of the Senior School with its new Sixth Form Suite. Mr Hooke welcomed everyone with an enthusiastic address in which he shared recent academic and extra-curricular successes. On a lighter note, he also celebrated the recent engagement of two former Harrodians, who met each other at the School and are now in their mid-twenties.

THE OCCASION



Just over 100 guests attended with a great mix of former Harroadians representing a wide range of year groups. Much to everyone's delight, the event was attended by some of Harroddian's founding students too.

PRIZE CELEBRATION

Current Harroddian Sixth Formers joined last year's A Level students and their parents on 6 September, for one of the most uplifting annual events in the School's calendar, the annual Senior Prize Giving evening, which acknowledges and celebrates the achievements of our Senior pupils and departing Harroddians in all aspects of School life. Special guest and speaker at the event

was Harroddian parent and England rugby legend Mr Matt Dawson, *above*, who handed out 71 subject awards and 55 special prizes to students for their academic, sporting and cultural achievements at the School, as well as presenting scholarships and exhibitions awarded to high-achieving Sixth Formers. In a highly entertaining speech, Mr Dawson recalled the path he took from his grammar school in Buckinghamshire to the climax of his own rugby career as England's World Cup winning scrum half. He reflected on the fundamental importance teamwork and perseverance have played in his own success and encouraged our Senior prize winners to build on their promising starts.

KEEPING



NEXT GENERATION

Twelve years ago, we said goodbye to former Harroddian Suzy Khan, *above*. A few weeks ago, her brother and his family visited the School on a tour and they registered their son with our Admissions team. Suzy is delighted at the thought of her nephew and the next generation of Khans potentially repeating history and attending Harroddian. She herself joined in the 11s and stayed until completing her A Levels in Classical Civilisation, IT and Drama. Afterwards she took a gap year during which she worked to save enough money for her travels around the world with a good friend and fellow Harroddian. In September 2008, Suzy started her Event Management course at Leeds Metropolitan,

a four-year course with a placement year. She spent a year in industry at CH&CO Group (a venue-finding service) in London, working in their head office as part of the operations team. After graduating, Suzy went back to them as an Events Coordinator and was soon promoted to managing her own events at Stationers' Hall. In December 2015, she moved to Berenberg (a German investment bank) and has been there ever since. She organises events for them all over the world and enjoys both the travel aspect of her job and the variety. From organising formal conferences abroad one day to wine tastings in castles the next, she loves the way every day is different. At the moment, she is happy where she is but one of her ambitions for the future is to run her own events

IN TOUCH

company. She still loves skiing and has many happy memories of Harroddian ski trips. On thinking back to her school days, she recalls the beautiful grounds, her many close friends and last but not least, chicken and chips on the lunch menu!

URBAN LEGEND

Former pupil, David Urban, *right*, recently bumped into Mr Hooke at the Olympic Studios an apt venue for someone who, since leaving Harroddian, has pursued a career in TV, Media and Film. David joined Harroddian in the Lower Prep and left in 2008, ten years ago, after completing his A Levels in English, History, Psychology and Geography. His older sister, Leah, also studied at Harroddian and a strong family connection was forged. After leaving Harroddian, David took a year out to travel around South Africa, Thailand and Brazil. He then read Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. After graduating, he spent the next seven years working at BT Sport, British Forces Broadcasting Services, the BBC and finally the *Daily Telegraph* before founding his own production company. His current venture involves developing a travel documentary series, with the *National Geographic*, called 'Beyond Your World' about UNESCO World Heritage, and he has teamed up with two other former Harroddians, Rupert Simonian and Charlie Whelton, who run their own production company called Lost Tribe. Together they are co-producing the series that maps journeys across countries according to their UNESCO World Heritage sites. Their aims are to try and show people a different, more sustainable and immersive way to travel. Their first programme focuses on Russia (the trailer can be seen on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Do7PglK2ubE?t=5>). They



will be covering other countries, but are hoping that Disney+ will commission the rest of the series. David's immediate career aspirations are to get people to think differently about travel. Long term, he would like to learn some more languages, get a pilot's license and retire at 40! He stills loves football and skiing, both activities which he discovered and developed a passion for while at Harroddian. With many happy memories of his time at school, David says it is first and foremost the people – pupils and staff – that made such a lasting impression on him. He made friends for life, and the fact that he is now in business with two of his Harroddian friends is proof of this. He quotes many of his teachers as having been a positive influence, but in particular Mr. Thomson, our former Principal, with his supportive presence everywhere but especially on the sidelines at matches, and Mrs Locke, Deputy Headmistress, for her engaging Geography lessons. He also remembers with great enthusiasm his participation in the stage production of *Bugsy Malone*, an action-packed school trip to Russia and the fun of Sports Days.



WITH OPEN ARMS

There is no doubt that Harroddian is a warm, inclusive and caring community and what better way to highlight this than with our annual Community Tea Party. This term we welcomed a group of 40 Senior Citizens from FISH, Viera Gray Care Home and guests of the Age UK group at Castelnau Community Centre. Our PP3 pupils hosted them in the Theatre, chatted to them and also helped them to fill out a fun quiz all about the School. Meanwhile our Lower Sixth students poured tea, coffee and made sure everyone had enough cake. The children then sang three songs that they had prepared and stayed to take part in a sing-along, which was led by Mrs Sampson and Lower Sixth students Lauren, Lucy, Ella, Rosie, Arabella and Charlie. At the end of the tea party, our PP3 pupils gave each guest a goodie bag, *above*, containing, amongst other things, lavender bags that they had made on the allotment and handwritten cards. The guests, pupils and staff left with a spring in their step, having all enjoyed their afternoon!

ENGAGING

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

This term Harroddian launched Project Portobello, a fundraising initiative organised by our Sixth Form Charity Prefects – Alexandra, Rachel, Fareedah and Beata – that supports the work of the Rugby Portobello Trust (RPT), and focusses on helping local communities in and around West London and people affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster. A Musical Instruments Amnesty was the first event to kick-start the project. It involved asking pupils to scour homes and attics for unwanted, unloved, forgotten or abandoned musical instruments of all kinds and to bring them along to the School in return for wearing their own clothes. Over 60 donated instruments, including a piano and drum kit, were collected at School and then delivered to the RPT Centre, accompanied by our Charity Prefects, *below*, and staff. They will be used in their new but largely ‘instrumentless’ sound studio, while any extras will be passed on for use by children in nearby primary schools. While at the Centre, our students greeted local primary school children who were delighted to try the instruments. They witnessed first-hand how the joy of music will benefit those who have had little access to it. Next in the pipeline is a Christmas song that has been written by Luca Firth (U6), George Claassen (U6), Lauren Billingsley (L6) and Ella van der Gaag (L6) and assisted by Music Technician, Mr Almond. The song will be called ‘Holding Hands at Christmas’, a message about reaching out to the community, and will feature vocals performed by our Harroddian Pre-Prep choir and West London school



THE COMMUNITY



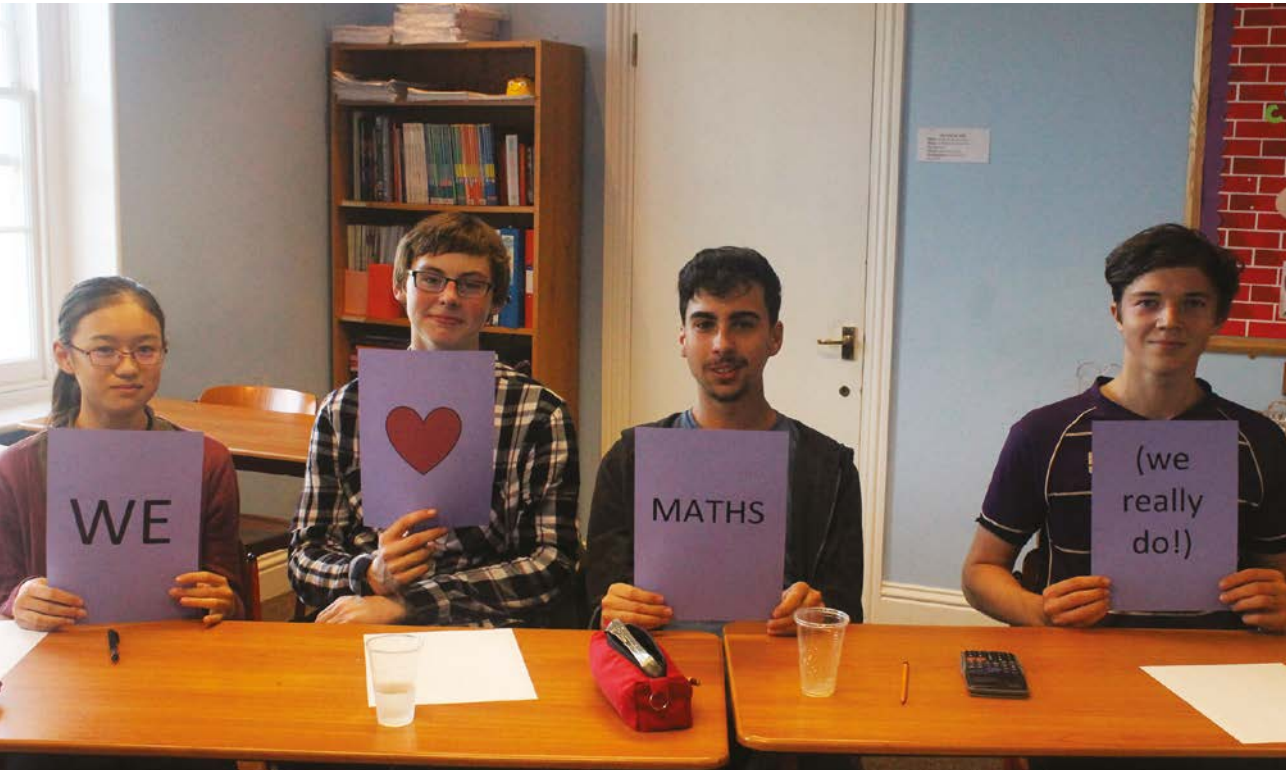
children who depend upon RPT for support. Their ambition is to sell the song on iTunes to raise more money for the RPT centre, so watch this space!

WALKING FOR LOVE'S SAKE

As Harroddian pupils have proved over recent months, the simple life-affirming act of (persistently) putting one foot in front of the other has huge potential both to bring people together and to raise money for charity. Harroddian Lower Sixth student, Ellie, is a great example. In the aftermath of losing her beloved father to cancer last April,

Ellie decided that a charity walk in support of cancer research 'would be a good thing to do'. Rather than attempting it alone, she decided to see if some of her friends might be interested in helping out and she certainly got the support she was after. On 22 September, her charity initiative came to a triumphant climax in a 'Shine Night Walk' at which Ellie, her mother Olivia, sisters Chess and Anna and the rest of Team Warham – a band of friends, 72 strong, including 30 Harroddians – raised over £100,000 for cancer research by walking a 13-mile route around central London in four and a half hours. Ellie says she's not finished yet. 'We'll go again next year,' she vows.

BEYOND THE



PROBLEM-SOLVING

Every term our Mathematics department runs a Maths Challenge Club, open to pupils from our 13s (Year 9) to Upper Sixth. The Club welcomes keen mathematicians of all ages across the Senior School and of all abilities, as it works to prepare pupils to participate in a number of national and regional mathematics competitions. It also assists our Sixth Form Further Mathematicians to prepare for the MAT/STEP examinations that are used by some universities, in particular Oxbridge, as a basis for conditional offers. Mr Lee, Head of Mathematics, is quick to point out the long-term qualitative benefits of attending

the club, when he says, 'Members of Maths Challenge Club learn great communication and team working skills and also acquire confidence, often resulting in pupils from lower sets moving up to higher ones.' Challenged to think out of the box, club attendees are faced with puzzles that they would not usually encounter in their normal lessons. This term teams of four were selected to take part in Hans Woyda, a mathematics competition involving 64 London schools. The teams are carefully selected, with players changed around to offer more opportunity and reserve players on standby. Harrodian mathematicians, Aika, Zebedee, Sam and Christian, *above*, competed against

CURRICULUM

Wellington College in the first round of the competition with a format similar to the TV programme, *University Challenge*, with times of 30, 60 and 90 seconds to beat. Despite losing the first round, the team continued through to the second, having made a substitute with Agustin from our 14s, and drew against St George's College. The next competition takes place at Sir William Perkins College, and this time Ned (13s) will have a chance to take part as a member of the team. Other excitement for our mathematicians included the Team Maths Challenge, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). Sixteen Sixth Formers took part and nearly all came home with medals. They celebrated seven bronze, six silver and one gold between them. With more Maths challenges to come in the New Year, there will be plenty of opportunities to challenge Harrodian mathematicians in their problem-solving skills.

TEAM THINKING

It is not always easy being a 'newbie' at school, even one as friendly as Harrodian. That's why, according to Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Alison Heller, the School introduced special team-building days and trips in the Autumn term five years ago. This term was no different with four year groups benefiting from special team-bonding exercises. Our Lower Sixth students were first to take part with a day of team challenges at the Thames Young Mariners, an outdoor experience centre by the river in Ham, which offers a day divided into three different sessions – raft building, kayaking and a land activity. This was followed by our 11s, 13s and 14s, who took part in their own half-day events organised and managed by the School's regular Duke of Edinburgh



partner, Activ Adventures. Following on from this, our 11s were given an additional opportunity to connect on a residential Coastal Craft trip. With a large intake of pupils, Mr Fenn-Smith, Head of 11s, felt this trip was essential for his cohort, many of whom were new to the School in September. 'It frees us and the children from the physical or social formality of the classroom,' he says. 'It's a brilliant way of encouraging new friendships and bonding the group as a whole.' This year they travelled to Dorset to take part in an action-packed three-day camping expedition that included working in groups to make campfires, building shelters and camouflaging themselves, *above*. Also on the schedule were: a visit to the local RNLI Lifeboat Station in Swanage; line fishing from the pier, *below*; kayaking in a nearby lake; and a coastering expedition along the Jurassic Coast, which included a leap off a five-metre cliff. What all these activities had in common was the opportunity for pupils to push boundaries, face new challenges, hone leaderships skills and appreciate the importance of friendship and teamwork.





ENRICHING

SPEAKING OUT

This term Senior pupils have been making an impression with their skills in debating and diplomacy. Eight of our Sixth Formers and two of our 14s pupils, all of whom are Model United Nations (MUN) lunchtime club members, attended a weekend MUN Conference at King's College London. The event involved role-playing national ambassadors to the United Nations and gave them the opportunity to learn about global issues, diplomacy and mediation, problem-solving and leadership. Over the course of two days, they attended a training session on UN procedures, drafted resolutions in committees and voted on them. The Conference closed with an awards ceremony. The following three Harrodians won awards: Kristjan Gudjonsson (L6) who represented Venezuela on the Human Rights Committee; Lucas Brownson (14s) who represented Empress Eugenie in the French Cabinet on the Historical Crisis Committee; and Faris El-Kholy (L6) who represented Syria on the UNICEF committee. Debating Club is also thriving at Harrodian, with two different time slots to accommodate

numbers. Led by Mr Wardell, Teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy, pupils in the 13s upwards can spend time over their lunch break preparing and researching a variety of motions and taking part in adhoc debates. Controversial motions this term have included making people pay for non life-saving medical treatments, and banning smartphones for under 16s and faith schools. Two of our keenest debaters, Rachel and Alexandra (U6), *above left*, represented Harrodian at the English Speaking Union's School Mace competition where they argued articulately in favour of weighting voting for younger voters. They won their debate this term and will be competing against St Paul's Girls School and Godolphin and Latymer in the next round.

TREASURING MATHS

Making Mathematics fun is all part of the Pre-Prep approach, and Miss Horan was thrilled that a pirate-themed Maths Day reignited a love of the subject, *bottom left*. Captain Morgan from school workshop company As Creatives conducted fun and interactive mathematical workshops with all the Pre-Prep pupils. Reception investigated the different shapes on the pirate ship and the associated mathematical language. Our PP1s to PP3s all worked with pirate-themed artefacts, which each had a different maths challenge associated with it. These included fractions, number patterns and calculations. The children worked in teams to solve the puzzle for each artefact, then moved onto the next one. Each year group had a different set of puzzles, all aimed at their particular curriculum. Many children also took part in a special competition where they had to guess the number of coins and jewels in the treasure chest and practise using their estimating skills.



EXPERIENCES



FUN IN THE FIELD

For children of all ages it's been a busy start to the school year in Geography. The driving force behind the all-action practical approach is Mrs Shaw, who has championed field trips ever since she became Harroddian Head of Geography six years ago. 'It starts them on a path to acquiring skills that are both essential for geographers and transferable,' she explains. The 10s' trip to Kew Gardens, *above*, was an introduction to careful observation. In class they have been learning how plants adapt to the tropical conditions of the Brazilian rainforest, and once inside the Palm House they looked at growing plants such as cocoa and listened to experts talking about them, made notes and drew them. By the time they reach the 12s, pupils are starting to acquire

further practical geographical skills, such as collecting data and taking measurements. On their trip to Richmond Park, our 12s conducted a study on the number of visitors to the park and the impact they have on the surroundings, *inset above*. They collected data about pedestrian and motor traffic and used simple equipment to measure the impact of footfall on plant coverage. Meanwhile our 15s GCSE geographers used their trip to Swanage to refine their data collecting and analysis skills. They examined the importance of tourism to the town and coastal management/erosion on the Jurassic Coast. Finally, our Lower Sixth Geographers, who have been studying the carbon cycle, honed their fieldwork skills at Juniper Hall and practised data presentation techniques such as GIS mapping skills.



MUSIC TO THE EARS

One of the beauties of Harrodian's musical output is its range and variety, and the number of music events this term were a case in point. First up, the Autumn Concert, *below*, which kept its audience guessing from dramatic modern film themes (*The Pirates of the Caribbean* performed by the orchestra) to popular musicals (a duet from *Thoroughly Modern Millie* sung by Lower Sixth girls, Lucy Herring and Lauren Billingsley) and from pop hits (Pharrell Williams's 'Happy' sung by the Training Choir) to piano classics (Erik Satie's 'Gnossienne No.3' solo played by 13s pupil Stellaria). Following on from the success of the Autumn Concert, our Music department hosted different auditorium recitals for our Pre-Prep pupils (PP2 and above), our Prep children, our GSCE musicians, and our A Level music students. Next term pupils in our Senior School (13s and 14s) will have the chance



IN THE

to do the same. The opportunity to play to different audiences, varying from large and exuberant in the Theatre to small and intimate in the auditorium, is an invaluable experience that helps our musicians develop their versatility. Finally, it was the Carol Concert, *below right*, which brought the end of term to a climactic close. St Paul's Church in Hammersmith was again full to the brim with pupils, parents and staff celebrating the festive season through the medium of song. The programme, with its cover designed by Maria Kolobova (10s), *above*, included a mix of traditional and modern carols. For all the range on offer, what the music had in common was the quality and confidence of its performance and the joy of its delivery.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Ms Edwards and Mrs Dampier, from our Music and Dance Department, triumphed again with yet another full-house audience and show-stopping dance bonanza, which had as its theme the film *Back to the Future*. The show was a feast for the ears and eyes, with performances and choreography by individuals, small groups and large dance club troupes. Diverse highlights included: the 12s Dance Club's performance of 'I'm Feeling You'; Louis (15s) and his partner's ballroom take on 'Reet Petite'; Sean's (15s) athletic 'I know where I've been' solo; the Senior dance troupe's 'Spellbook Medley' to the soundtrack of *Edward Scissorhands*; and our PP3 pupils' first ever performance in a dance show performed to a song from *High School Musical*. Mr Lineker, Teacher of Latin and History, compèred the evening in the

SPOTLIGHT

guise of wacky *Back to the Future* time travel inventor, Doc Brown. In character, he warned the audience that a 'time paradox' might occur that would create an unappealing 'alternate future' with no more dance shows. However, after all the talent on display and the staff dance finale – a fluorescent-coloured rendition of 'The Power of Love,' with star performances from our Prep teachers – Doc Brown declared that the space time continuum would stay intact and that future dance shows had been saved! (*photos on right*)

CLASSICS REVISITED

As back in the fourth century BC Aristotle declared *Oedipus Rex* to be a 'perfect tragedy', you might not expect Sophocles' play to have much relevance in our 21st century world. Yet as its regular performance today demonstrates, this tragedy of a man led by the Fates to kill his father and marry his mother continues to fascinate and horrify us almost 2,500 years after its first performance in 429 BC. Codirected by Harrodian Head of Drama, Mr Glen, and Latin and History teacher, Mr Lineker, this compelling production of the play by the 15s – featuring

females cast in the lead and other 'male' roles (*photo on the front of the fold-out*)– captured all the brooding darkness that has made *Oedipus Rex* a renowned classic. A sinister soundtrack, together with atmospheric lighting, added to a sense of gloom and menace, which was lifted by the cast who brought sensitive touches of humanity and humour to their roles. Another timeless classic, brought to stage this term was Wilde's *Importance of Being Earnest*. The play was directed, produced and staged entirely by a Harrodian student. Rachel Coussins (U6) feels honoured to be trusted with such a big responsibility. 'I don't think many schools would trust their pupils to produce and direct and stage their own play, but Harrodian puts so much faith in us,' she enthuses. Eleven other Sixth Formers formed part of her acting and production team and their group effort definitely paid off. The play was 'sensational' and full of fantastical touches, much like Cecily and Gwendolen's diaries!





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