



13S ISTANBUL TRIP



# HARRODIAN

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

PHOTO BY ELENI KHOURI (13H)

# THE TAKING PART THAT



## GIRL POWER

The 8s girls have had a successful sporting year. The U9 A teams have won all their netball and hockey matches and also achieved second place in their end of season tournaments. All of the rounders

teams also remained unbeaten. They were able to achieve their largest win to date against Hall School Wimbledon, beating them 21-3½. Throughout the year the commitment and attitude of all the girls in the 8s has been outstanding.

# COUNTS ...



## THE FINISH LINE

The Harroddian Lower Prep Athletics team (PP3 to 10s) came second overall out of nine London schools that competed in the Thomas' Athletics Competition. The team's success should, for the most part, be attributed to the 10s boys, *above*, who came first in their age category.

## BOWLED OVER

Mr Swindlehurst has enjoyed coaching a very hard-working U13 Cricket A team this year, *below*. Captained by the very talented Ben Birtles (12F), they have won three out their four matches. There have also been strong all-round performances from Jake Williams (12F), Jovis Cherry (12T), J.J. Gallagher (12BE) and the only female member of the team, Neha Khan Dillon (12BG).

## GAME, SET & MATCH

Elisa van Meeteren (12BE) finished the U12 tennis season ranked in the UK top fifteen. She also competed for the Surrey County tennis team. In the finals the team won all their matches and became UK National Champions. Elisa's tennis schedule requires her to train fifteen hours a week and play tournaments at the weekend. However, she still always tries to prioritise her Harroddian team matches. As well as tennis, Elisa has also been competing on a regional level in hockey and a national level in cross-country. A true sportswoman - congratulations Elisa!



# RAISING THE



# BAR ...

## INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS

In addition to receiving excellent offers for universities in the United Kingdom, Harroddian Upper Sixth students have also enjoyed considerable success this year further afield in Australia, Hong Kong and the United States. Mr Behan, Head of Sixth Form, successfully introduced and organised SAT preparation classes in-house at the Harroddian and, as a result, there are a number of students with offers to study in the United States next year. Two such students are Jake Denton (U6B) and Sofia Donovan- Lafuente (U6WA), *left*. It is a big move for Jake, who has been a student at the Harroddian since Reception and was born and bred in Barnes. Determined to study the best course for Film and Business Administration, regardless of distance, he has succeeded in gaining a place at the University of Southern California (USC). The decision was even easier for Sofia, who is not only half-American, but is also the third generation in her family to study at Middlebury College in Vermont, the most sought-after college for her chosen subject – Liberal Arts. Both completed their A Levels but also sat the SATs, a five-hour examination in Mathematics, Critical Reading and Writing, in order to gain unconditional University offers.

## ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Graduation Day marked significant academic milestones and achievements in the Prep School. Our 10s celebrated their

graduation into the 11s, a larger year group with 30 new pupils, whilst also preparing to face the rigours of 13+ Common Entrance. The 12s were congratulated on becoming Senior School pupils. They achieved an overall average of 67% in their Common Entrance, the highest figure yet, and were presented with their examination certificates. Two guest speakers – Arthur Sturridge, *below*, for the 10s and Matt Frei (news journalist and TV presenter) for the 12s – made introductory speeches and presented subject winners and overall achievers with their prizes. It was the perfect occasion to honour our Harroddian Prep pupils.

## CAMBRIDGE FIRST

The Harroddian is very proud of Arthur Sturridge, *below*, Head Boy in 2009-2010, who has just graduated from Cambridge University with a First in Philosophy from St John's College. Arthur will remain at Cambridge to begin his MSc in the Philosophy of Science.





# LEARNING

and a warning of no modern-day luxuries for three days. They experienced life in the great outdoors and learnt various skills such as: sleeping in tents and shelters they built themselves; building fires and cooking their own food; learning songs and telling jokes around the campfire; animal tracking, catching crayfish and setting traps. The whole year group faced new challenges and discovered what it meant to survive in the wilderness with very few possessions, as well as how to work successfully as a team.

## OFF THE GRID

In June, the 10s went on an expedition to the stunning Cornbury Estate, equipped with sleeping bags, plenty of warm clothes



## MOVING MOUNTAINS

Challenging, exciting and moving are the three adjectives chosen by Mr Hardie to describe his trip to Wales with the 12s. Pupils not only had fun, but they were also taken out of their comfort zones and challenged. Activities included abseiling, zip wiring, an eight-hour hike and camping in the wild (some with glorious sunshine and others in the midst of a storm). Many of them were pushed to their own personal limits, whilst also looking out for their friends and, in the process, encompassed what it means to be a true Harroddian.

# LIFE SKILLS ...



## A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

This term 70 adventurous pupils from the 13s and accompanying staff spent a week in the Ardèche region of France. Highlights of the trip included canoeing 32 kilometres down the Ardèche river, *above*, crawling

in and out of tiny caves, climbing up rock faces, swinging through a high ropes course and sleeping out under the stars. Pupils also benefited from practising their spoken French. The trip was enjoyable but challenging, a lesson in overcoming fears and endurance.



## ENCOURAGING ENTERPRISE

The 13s' Enterprise Fair was their most successful to date, raising over £600 for *Indian Ocean Disaster Relief*. Pupils were given £5 each to buy their stock and an 'Apprentice'-style struggle ensued as the teams battled to generate the highest profit. Some sold produce such as smoothies, *above*, popcorn and cakes, whilst others organised priced activities such as golf, football and a popular water bomb throwing contest. Enterprise skills learnt by the 13s in the classroom came to life in this practical and energetic application of business in the real world.



# ENRICHING

## AT ONE WITH NATURE

Both PP1 classes enjoyed a trip to Kew Gardens to learn more about flora. They participated in a workshop led by a Kew Gardens teacher and then, divided into smaller groups, had the opportunity to explore the Palm House, the Waterlily House and the Princess of Wales Conservatory. There they discovered a selection of exotic plants, fruit trees and tropical fish. One of their favourite discoveries was a large tree that took fifteen of them holding hands to make a circle around its trunk, *below*.

## IN THE FIELD

During the Easter holidays a group of 14s Geographers and Chemists headed off to Iceland for a five-day trip, *right*. Each day was packed full of exciting activities, including swimming in the Blue Lagoon, hiking on Sólheimajökull, watching the hot water plumes erupt at Geyser, getting soaking wet at Seljalandsfoss waterfall and enjoying the breath-taking scenery of Gullfoss and Thingvellir National Park. They also visited a power station and tomato farm that harness the geothermal energy that Iceland is famous for.

# THE EXPERIENCE ...



# FINDING THE



## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The School's annual Spring Term Science Week involved pupils from Reception through to the 14s. All had the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of experiments and workshops.

### Pre-Prep

Pupils enjoyed taking part in an interactive presentation by the Science Boffins and in classroom workshops where they used balloons and tins to experiment with static electricity, *above*.

### Lower Prep

The Freshwater Theatre Company delivered

# ANSWERS ...



an engaging performance to the 8s about forces and friction. The 9s attended a workshop about sound, different pitches of vibration and the effect they have on our bodies. The 10s participated in a Spaghetti Challenge, *above*. Using only spaghetti and marshmallows they had to build a construction that would support a Kinder Egg.

## Upper Prep & Seniors

Pupils in the 11s spent a month designing and conducting experiments and then had the opportunity to present their projects in the School Theatre as part of the annual Science Fair. This year's overall winners were Charles Drayson (11SU) with his 'Reaction Test', which examined the speed of our reactions and the effect our age has on them, and Gus Crewdson (11B), who investigated different wing designs and their effect on the lift of an airplane. Sultan Al Rahbani (11C), *right*, also won a prize for the best presentation with his experiment about the structures of bridges. In Physics the 12s concentrated on engineering and bridge construction, while the 13s used their ingenuity to design paper roller coasters. Meanwhile the 14s were Crime Scene Investigators involved in analysing evidence and tracking down the murderer of Mrs Allen (Science).

In addition to these activities, all the year groups enjoyed an amazing presentation of birds of prey, with some species even being released to soar and swoop over the audience!

## CHALLENGING ARITHMETIC

It has been a busy year for Harroddian Mathematicians as they participated in the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate and Senior Challenges, as well as the Hans Woyda Inter-School Competition. To prepare, pupils attend a weekly Maths Challenge Club in order to study past questions. Olivia Drayson (U6DO) scored in the top 25% of all Senior School candidates in the UK and received a merit certificate. There were also other strong performances in the intermediate age category from Chris Wheeler (13MY), Damian Elle (13H), Francesco Paschetto (15P) and Jonas Sinjan (15D). Congratulations to all those who took part.



# PASTURES



# NEW...

## A HARRODIAN MARRIAGE

Founding Harroddian Julia Cumming, who left the Harroddian in 2004 after eleven years at the School, recently began her new life as Mrs Weld Forester. She married her husband, Alfie, in May this year at St Mary's Church in Barnes. The reception was the first to be held at the School. Julia studied at St Andrews University, Scotland and is now working as an analyst in the City. The Harroddian feels like a second home to her, and even more so now that her nieces, India (PP2N) and Angelica Swift (PP1M), attend the School too. She has fond memories of her time here; in particular, she enjoyed taking part in drama productions. Above all, she appreciates the life-long friends that she made at the Harroddian, many of whom attended her wedding and are photographed with her here, *from left to right*: Louisa Hawkins, Isabel Nicholson, Katie Potter and Francesca Sperry.

## ARRIVEDERCI MR ROSSETTI

A farewell dinner was held in honour of Mr Rossetti, *above*, who has taught at the Harroddian since 2003. Mr Rossetti led the Classics Department up to 2009 and then became Head of Prep. A large number of staff and pupils, both current and former, came to wish him well. Matteo



will be leaving the School and the UK to live and work in Rabat, Morocco with his wife, Smita, who will become Deputy Ambassador, and their three-month-old daughter, Mira. Matteo will be travelling to and from Morocco, dedicating himself to setting up a prep school in Rabat and continuing to lead the governing team at Thomson House, a free school he co-founded in Mortlake, which opened last September. We wish him the best of luck and hope he will return soon.





## THE SPOKEN WORD

English pupils in the 11s were treated to a workshop with the Dreadlock Alien, Poet Laureate of the Midlands and a performance poet, *above*. They participated in an energetic and engaging poetry slam where they rapped, sung and danced their poems. Further up in the Senior School,



# READING

the 14s enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the outdoor theatre in Regent's Park where they attended Arthur Miller's play *All My Sons*, *right*. It was the work that established Arthur Miller as one of the greatest playwrights of the twentieth century and is the play that the year group will study next year in the 15s for GCSE. The play's theme of betrayal generated a powerful and moving production.

## STORY TIME

Bella Boulter (11B), *left*, entered the Hay Fever and BBC Radio 2 500-words Competition with 'Re-entry' - her short story about a disturbingly realistic computer game set in space. She was shortlisted for the final and came 25th out of all the entries in the 11 to 13 age category. Her story was then read by 'Eastenders' actor, Ashley Kumar, on the 'Chris Evans' Breakfast Show'. It is now available to read and to listen to on the BBC website. Both Bella and her family were rewarded with an-all-expenses-paid trip to the Hay Literary Festival and seats at the live broadcast of the BBC Radio 2 'Chris Evans' Breakfast Show'.

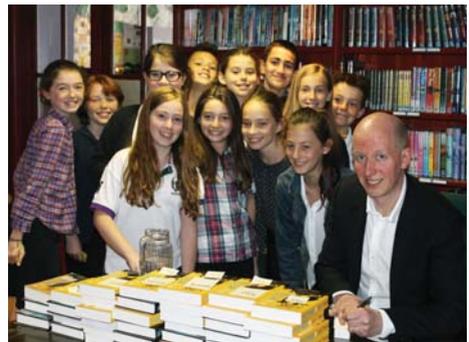
## BOOKWORMS

This term there have been a number of popular events organised for avid readers. The Junior Library arranged a Dads' Reading Morning with a war and peace

# BETWEEN THE LINES ...



theme, A Night in the Library and a book signing by children's writer and author of *The Last Wilde* series, Piers Torday, right. Miss Beckett (English) also held a Readathon for the 12s. Over a period of two weeks pupils were sponsored to read a challenging amount of books and were given time in their English lessons to achieve this. Over £2,000 was raised and donated to the Roald Dahl Foundation and CLIC Sargent.





# EXPLORING

## LA DOLCE VITA

There are few places in the world as blissful as Rome on a perfect spring day. The Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, sunglasses and ice-cream... what more could a Harrodian want? The 11s visited the Holy City's most awe-inspiring sites. They also walked the cobbled streets of Pompeii, frozen in time, climbed Mount Vesuvius and went to Pozzuoli to see the dormant Solfatara, a volcano once believed to be the gateway to hell. Some of our pupils enlightened their peers with well-researched presentations on many of the sites; others delighted them with impromptu concerts on a variety of stages, from the Trevi Fountain to Pompeii's

2000-year-old theatre. Mr Rossetti looked a little anxious at times, but no one was sure whether it was because the volcano in Naples was about to erupt or because his wife in London was about to give birth...

## AN ANCIENT CAPITAL

In preparation for their trip over the May Bank Holiday, the 13s Classicists attended two talks about the history of Istanbul: one by our very own historian, Mr Murray (Head of Photography and Graphic Design), and the other by novelist/historian, Jason Goodwin. On arriving in the ancient city, Mr Hooke set the tone for three days of intense activity by leading the group on its first sightseeing trip, immediately upon arrival, at 1.00am! They experienced Istanbul by night, when most of the city still seemed to be dancing and singing in the streets. Over the next few days, they visited some magnificent buildings: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Basilica Cistern and Topkapi Palace. They also sailed on the Bosphorus and shopped in the Grand Bazaar, with the Muezzin call to prayer as their backdrop.



# DIFFERENT CULTURES ...



# A SCHOOL FOR ALL



## TENDING THE GARDENS

That the Harrodian has such well-tended gardens is due to the tireless work of Julia Nunn and her team. The School is also fortunate to have an allotment. This was

the idea of our late Harrodian Principal, Mr Peter Thomson. Recently the HSPA donated a bench in his honour and it was placed at one end of the allotment. To mark

# SEASONS ...



the occasion Mr Thomson's wife, Sheila, cut the ribbon around the bench and was first to be seated on it alongside the Headmaster and Mr Beyad (HSPA Chair), followed keenly by a group of Pre-Prep gardeners, *left*. Carla Fernandes and her team of parent helpers now supervise the allotment and since January they have grown an abundance of fruit, vegetables and herbs.

## SUMMER SIZZLERS

To celebrate the arrival of summer, the HSPA organised some wonderful events to warm us all up! The sun was shining this year for the annual Summer Fair, which raised nearly £7,000 for three local charities: Castelnau Community Centre, Trinity Hospice and Shepherd's Bush Families Project and Children's Centre. The Fair hosted an array of stalls to cater for all refreshment requirements, such as the school chef's homemade ice cream, *above*, and also a bazaar, selling clothes and other items, for those in need of some retail therapy. Music, comedy and a multitude of activities – including swimming in the school pool and inflatables – kept everyone entertained. Elsewhere the dance floor sizzled as Harrodians around the school put on their dancing shoes. Pre-Prep and Prep pupils had fun at a neon-themed, end-of-term disco in the school Theatre, while parents and staff enjoyed a party in the marquee.

## STEPPING INTO SPRING

To celebrate the arrival of spring, the Pre-Prep took part in the annual Easter bonnet parade, *below*. There was a spectacular selection of colourful and creative hats on display. In the Music Department, Ms Reynolds organised an Easter concert that gave everyone a spring in their step. A tribute to the silver screen and the MGM era, it was a glamorous evening of song and dance. It was not only the final performance for some of our dedicated Upper Sixth students, but also one of the last Harroddian triumphs for Ms Reynolds, who will be leaving us at the end of the term. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the best for the future.



# ART OF THE



# MATTER...

## SCULPTING HER FUTURE

Congratulations to Sonya Falkovskaia (U6DO) whose paper sculpture, *left*, can be seen displayed online in Gallery Three of the Royal Academy A Level Art Exhibition at:

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/32>

In this piece Sonya set out to depict the relationship between architecture and nature. Sonya has a passion for architecture that is reflected in most of her work. It is no surprise, therefore, that she has chosen to read Architecture at Downing College, Cambridge University, when she starts there in September.

## A CUT ABOVE

Mrs Maryam Eisler, art collector, patron of the arts and mother to Ariana in 12BE, kindly arranged for her daughter's class to have a private and bespoke tour of *Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs* at Tate Modern. Mr Scott (Art) gave the group a brief introduction to the gallery and accompanied them around the exhibition. Tate Modern artist educators then split the class into smaller groups, so that pupils could create their own cut-outs in response to the images they had seen on display, *above*. Each of them also received their own book about Matisse – a generous gift again organised by Mrs Eisler.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DAMIEN HIRST

Twenty pupils from the 13s, 15s and Sixth Form were invited by Damien Hirst (father to Cassius in 13B and Cyrus in 8M) to visit his studios. The group were given a special preview of a future project that will go on display in three years' time. On view, amongst others, were his spot paintings, diamond skull, bug and animal pieces. Everyone also had the opportunity to spin their own paintings, *below*. This is the second time that Harrodian students have been fortunate enough to experience such an insight into Mr Hirst's work.





## CUTTING THE RIBBON

Maria Sukkar, member of the Tate International Council, collector and patron of the arts, cut the ribbon in the marquee and declared this year's Senior Art Exhibition officially open. She was delighted to see such an open celebration of Art and the importance attributed to it in the Harroddian curriculum. She was particularly impressed by the quality and diversity of the media used and by the passion and dedication that each artist

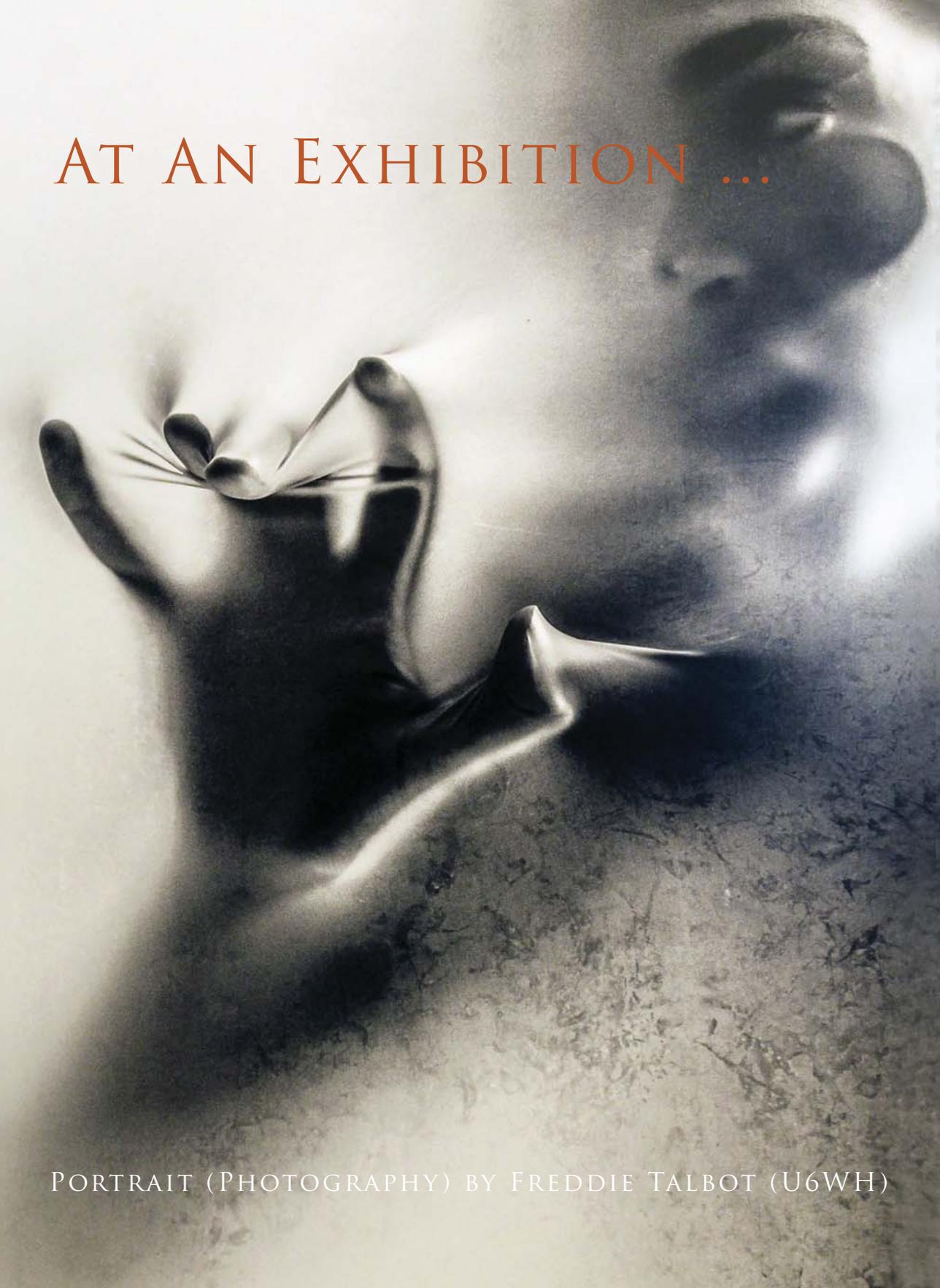
injected into his or her work. All the guests were unanimous in their appreciation of the artistic talent on display and the high quality of work submitted by Harroddian A Level and GCSE students, as well as the expert tutelage offered by the Harroddian Art, Photography, Graphic Design and Media Studies Departments.

Lower Sixth group portrait, *above*.

Maria Sukkar, *left*, comforts one of the life-size paper figures stressed out with her Common Entrance examinations. These pieces were sculpted from hand-rolled, newsprint paper coils by groups of pupils in the 12s.

Sophie Hallam (L6H), *below*, has painted one tree across three divided canvases.





AT AN EXHIBITION ...

PORTRAIT (PHOTOGRAPHY) BY FREDDIE TALBOT (U6WH)

TWINS BY BEN JOSCELYNE  
(15W)



OUR NEW WORLD BY ARCHIE PEARCH (U6M)





PORTRAIT (PAINTING) BY FREDDIE TALBOT (U6WH)



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