

Stowe mail

V13 ISSUE 4
10 DECEMBER 2021
NEWS FROM STOWE



Oliver with a twist!

Friday 3 December

What joy it was to have this much-loved musical brought back to life so beautifully. The Roxburgh, imaginatively transformed into Dickensian London, set the stage beautifully for the creative magic that was to follow. Without denying us the familiar tunes and characters we know and love, this production (living up to its name) had a twist with a gentle nod to a more contemporary lifestyle; mobile phones making a cheeky appearance and the Artful Dodger, part of a gang of three, arriving on a moped.

The company offered everything one could possibly want from a school musical, bucket loads of energy, extraordinary talent, fabulous singing and dancing, and a real sense of fun. It's hard not to sing along to numbers like 'Consider Yourself', 'Oom pah pah' and 'Pick a pocket or two' which were all performed brilliantly by the enthusiastic company. A special mention must go to Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton) who 'nailed' Fagin with his wonderfully sensitive portrayal of the lovable rogue, and really came into his own when 'reviewing the situation' in Act Two. On Friday, Delia Supple (Upper Sixth, West) took the part of Nancy and gave us a lovely nuanced portrayal of a woman trapped by divided loyalty. I could mention more but space prohibits.

Many thanks must go to Rebecca Clark for the inventive direction of this production, along with the Drama Teachers and Technicians for all their hard work. Thanks also go to Musical Director, Paul Peglar and the extraordinary orchestra behind the scenes, and Daniel Scott for the set design. The lighting, sound, set and costume all really helped to give this fabulous show a professional edge. More like this please - bring back the Stowe musical.

To view the gallery of pictures from the night, please click [here](#).

Sheridan Coldstream





Ed Bush Memorial Match

On the wintry afternoon of Tuesday 30 November, a scratch Stowe XV travelled to Eton College to take part in a rugby match in memory of Ed Bush (Cobham, 2018–2021). Ed was a key member of Stowe, who sadly lost his life after being struck by a car in the Summer Term of 2021. He was set to join his brothers, Harry and James, in the Sixth Form at Eton College and the rugby match was seen as a way for the two schools to come together to remember a boy who was deeply loved by so many.

The event was organised at the Stowe end by Toby Blythe (Lower Sixth, Grafton), and space in the team was found for Milan Choudree (Lower Sixth) and Harry Bryant (Upper Sixth), two of Ed's past Housemates in Cobham. Many of Ed's close friends

from Stowe also travelled for what turned out to be a tremendously moving afternoon that was a truly fitting memorial. The match itself will live long in the memory and rarely has an encounter between two schools been played with both such commitment and genuine warmth.

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to Eton for putting on such a spectacular event and our love, as ever, goes to the Bush family - Annabelle, Jonathan, Harry and James. Although we know Ed would have gone on to make a fine Etonian, in our memories he will always be a Stoic and a Cobhamite - one of the very best.

Richard Cortine, Cobham Houseparent

Match Report

When the boys arrived at Eton, we were met by Harry Bush leading the Eton team and we prepared to head out onto the pitch to start the match. The Eton boys sporting rugby kit in Ed's favourite colours with matching face paint. As we headed out onto the field, we ran underneath a bridge leading out to the pitch then as we rounded the final corner, we were met by a tunnel made out of over a thousand Etonians applauding us as we headed to the pitch. With smiles on every face and an enormous feeling of welcome and celebration, it really set the scene for the amazing match that was about to unfold. Once we made it to the pitch, all the players formed a circle arm in arm, Eton next to Stowe signalling the two-minute silence. Once the referees whistle broke through, the applause from the whole crowd fell into silence as every person there reflected on their memories of Ed.

We then split into teams for the start of the match

as James Bush ran onto the pitch to kick off and start the match being too young to play, we all saw how much it meant to him to be able to get involved. As we started playing so did the chants, a thousand Eton boys singing 'Swing Low' and 'Jerusalem' the atmosphere was unbelievable. It was an extremely well-balanced match with Harry playing exceptionally well. At half time Eton were leading and the match was being played in good spirits with both teams understanding how this was more than just a rugby match and a score but a celebration of Ed and bringing all who knew him closer together. The match continued to be evenly matched as we broke into the final five minutes of the game, Stowe were winning by three points and we were defending our try line as Eton tried again and again to get through our defence to score. With seconds left on the clock the ball went out wide and they dived over the line under the posts to score the

winning try. The crowd went wild and both teams were ecstatic with Stowe players celebrating with the Eton players, the true meaning of the match came out.

At the end of the match photos were taken of all the players under the posts arm in arm once more, everyone smiling ear to ear. Johnathan and Annabel Bush then came round, personally thanking each player for participating and handing them a tie in the same colours as the Eton team kit. We then met later for a match tea where Eton and Stowe boys were talking, comparing stories of Ed and the match.

The whole event was amazing, we felt incredibly welcomed and the atmosphere was something not a single person will ever forget. Once again, a huge thank you to Eton and Stowe for helping organise this match, it was such a special way to celebrate Ed.

Toby Blythe (Lower Sixth, Grafton)



Ed Bush Memorial CCF Inter Section Tug of War Competition

This year Stowe CCF Inter Section Tug of War competition was held in remembrance and honour of, and affection for, Stoic Cadet L/Cpl Ed Bush, a strong, able and impressive Cadet NCO with a bright future ahead of him, not only in CCF, but potentially in the Regular Army as well. We feel his loss greatly.

Covid cancelled last year's event, but Ed took part in and thoroughly enjoyed the Tug of War in the Fourth Form, always a hotly contested event in Stowe CCF's calendar.

Stowe CCF's Inter Section Tug of War Competition took place in the fading light of a cold December afternoon, the last dregs of sunlight keeping the chill off.

This event is a popular one in the CCF calendar, and the Army, Navy and RAF platoons flexed their muscles and talked their untested ability up, as they psyched themselves for the physical challenge ahead. A series of heats took place with sinews straining, and some interesting pulling techniques displayed amongst the muscle and brawn, with rubber boot heels desperately digging into and clawing the grip-less, greasy mud and slippery autumn leaves, seeking traction.

Platoons eliminated each other, surrounded by a chanting, cheering atmosphere, as Cadet vocal chords got hoarser and cold hands strained as they clung and heaved on the scratchy ropes.

An excellent effort was put in by all teams, with the 'Endeavour and Effort' prize going to 5 Platoon, Cheshire Company, headed up by CSgt and Head Girl, Jemima Howden (Upper Sixth, Stanhope).

In a fiercely contested and evenly balanced 'to and fro' final, 3 Platoon finally inched the rope over the half way line, defeating 6 Platoon, led by CSgt Rafi Mahmood (Upper Sixth, Walpole), earning a respectable second place.

2021 Tug of War proud winners were 3 Platoon, led by CSgt Alex Goodhart (Upper Sixth, Grafton), with Sgt Al Delis (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Cpl Theo Hahn James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Cpl Ben Anderson (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Cpl Thomas Moore (Lower Sixth, Grenville), and cadets Ed Saunders (Fourth Form,



Grafton), Alfie French (Fourth Form, Bruce), Ben Sutton (Fourth Form, Winton), Noah Rudd (Fourth Form, Temple) and Thomas Smith (Fourth Form, Temple) – all delighted to receive the largest Swiss chocolate Toblerone Bar money can buy, weighing in at a healthy 4.5kg.

Sgt Major Abbey was on hand with mince pies and hot chocolate laced with giant marshmallows at the top of South Front steps for all Cadets and CCF Staff to enjoy - a happy and energetic afternoon to end a successful and enjoyable term.

Best of Christmas wishes to all.

Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander



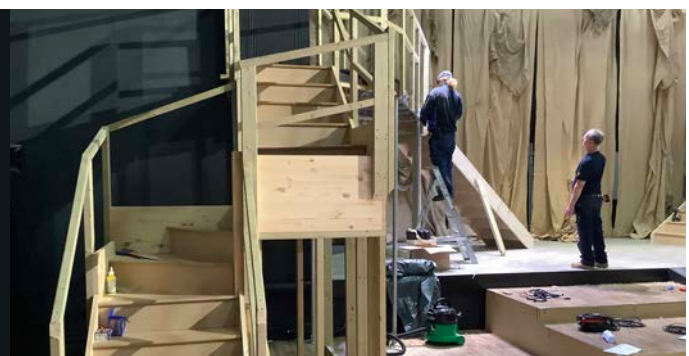
Oliver - Stair Construction

The creation of the set for Oliver! required some considerable construction in the form of a double set of stairs.

The Stowe Estates Department rose to the challenge, and Bob Campbell (General Foreman) and Steve Cory and Charlie Edwards (Joiner and Carpenters) spent six long days constructing the set. I feel very proud of my Team as the stairs were built from scratch, which you may be aware, is very difficult.

The stairs will now be deconstructed, elements saved, and where possible reused.

Martin Langton, Building Maintenance Supervisor





Hugo Cliff - Conservationist

Hugo Cliff (Chandos 17) is currently in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest beginning a career in animal/wildlife conservation. He has worked with Bears in the Andes Mountains, researched and integrated himself with a family of Giant River Otters on an Oxbow Lake in the Manu region, and is now beginning to track, record and monitor eight species of Monkey for San Diego Zoo Global Institute.

What have you done since leaving Stowe?

Since leaving Stowe, I continued onto university, attending the University of Birmingham for three years, to study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. These were undoubtedly three of the best years of my life, with a decent course, fantastic friends and above all else, a lot of fun. After university I was of course bound to my house for the best part of a year whilst the world was placed on standby from Covid-19, twiddling my thumbs and taking small time local jobs in order to generate cash for my current trip to the Peruvian Amazon.

What did you enjoy most about Stowe?

For me, the best thing about Stowe is the people you share it with. Within both the staff and pupil body there were so many differing characters and big personalities that it was difficult to ever find oneself bored whilst in the company of others.

I think it is fair to say that most people at Stowe want the best for each other, tend to have a cracking sense of humor, and are overall incredibly decent human beings.

When you joined Stowe, what were your aspirations for your career/life after Stowe?

If I'm being totally honest, I was always a little bit clueless about what to do with my life after school. I was certain that I wanted to go to university and although my course was Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, I can't say that it was my lifelong aspiration to become a Philosopher. I was sure of the fact that after university I wanted to travel, to explore and visit the wild and remote parts of the planet containing plenty of wildlife, but due to the fact that Biology as an academic subject never came naturally to me, alongside a slight lack of application in the class room, I saw this only possible as nothing more than a gap year.

The thing that has remained consistent in my life is a fascination and love of wild animals, and having a career in wildlife conservation and animal research was always more of a dream rather than a realistic career option in my mind, but nevertheless was something I thought about regularly throughout all my various stages of education.

When did you decide to follow a career in conservation?

I was around two thirds of the way through my first year of university when I decided to get serious about conservation. Triggered by meeting a man called Eduardo Nycander, a leading Peruvian researcher on Macaws and owner of an Eco-tourism company called 'Rainforest Expeditions' changed everything, the limitations I had set myself on being able to pursue a career with animals were lifted, and it began to become clear to me that my lack of a biological background did not matter, and was something that could be fixed down the line with a master's degree.

From this moment onwards I have not thought twice about what I wanted to do with my life. It was a

fantastic feeling finally having clarity on what I wanted for my future.

What is the most life changing experience that you have had whilst on your travels?

Two experiences spring to mind. The first was a seven-day field expedition in the Andes of Peru conducting research on the Andean Bear. I will summarise this by saying that it is true you don't learn anything new about yourself when you are comfortable, and during that expedition, I learnt a tremendous amount about who I am.

The second, and possibly the greatest experience of my whole life, was spending two months at Cocha Cashu Biological Station in the Manu National Reserve, on an Oxbow Lake, day in day out with a family of Giant River Otters, all to myself. This was an opportunity I will forever cherish. In my opinion it is the best job in the world to be told by the station 'there is a family of Giant River Otters here which we know nothing about. Please integrate yourself with this family, find out their genders, personalities, name them and photograph them so we can formulate a Giant River Otter website page'. To say I became attached would be an understatement, being with wild animals and watching your relationship with them evolve fires up a completely different set of emotions which, for me, is as good as life gets.

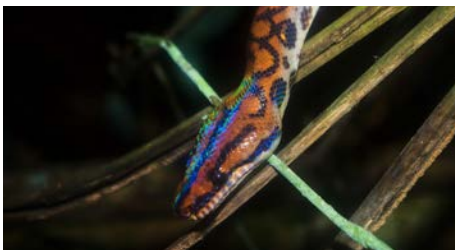
How much hope do you hold for the successful conservation of endangered species in the areas you have travelled to?

There is definitely hope. Specifically with the Amazon Rainforest, the most effective method by far is through protected reserves and areas such as Manu or Tambopata, or by people privately investing in patches of forest themselves. However, overall, it cannot be overlooked that the true power for the protection and conservation of the Amazon lies with the political and major business leaders of the world. The good news is that I sense more and more people are waking up to the issue that the current system in place on Earth is not sustainable, thus with enough pressure from those not in positions of power, perhaps we will begin to see more laws put in place to rule out activities such as illegal logging and gold mining all together. My only concern is how long this will take, and what may be lost in the meantime.

You have a strong belief in the use of Social Media to aid conservation, how can the two work together?

I firmly believe that the way to encourage change in people for bettering our planet, in particular saving endangered species of animal, is not to simply state that the animal is endangered and needs help, but rather to make them take great interest in the animal, admire and appreciate it, and consequently obtain a more genuine desire to protect it. Everyone agrees that species extinction is bad, but in order to cultivate action against this, people need to be emotionally invested and connected with the species. This is the main purpose of my Instagram page. Alongside this I want to show people, especially kids, that a career in animal research and nature conservation is rewarding, fun and most of all important for the future of planet earth and all its inhabitants.

You can follow Hugo's adventures on instagram [here](#).



MUSIC

Christina McMaster Piano masterclass & recital

On Wednesday 1 December, concert pianist Christina McMaster visited Stowe to give a masterclass to a number of aspiring Stoic pianists. I was hugely impressed by Christina's encouraging and motivational style as she gave the musicians lots of very useful tips on how to improve their performances.

Christina is a highly creative concert artist who has made appearances on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and Classic FM. She is the pioneer and creator of the hugely popular 'Lie Down And Listen' which focuses on the meditative aspects of music and the therapeutic effect relating to intentional listening.

The concept of listening featured strongly in the masterclass and as performers, we can all be guilty sometimes of simply 'going through the motions' when we play. Christina's focus on the seemingly obvious, but hugely important point of listening to oneself during a performance, was a very useful reminder to all those present.

I would like to thank the following Stoics for preparing to take part in the masterclass and for responding so well to the direction they were given during the session: Nikki Atife (Third Form, Cheshire), Emily Garwood (Third Form, Cheshire), Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos), Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Sebastian Foxwell (Upper Sixth,

Walpole) and Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham).

Following the masterclass, Christina gave an outstanding evening piano recital which was a real auditory treat for the audience. Her chosen repertoire included Fazil Say's 'Black Earth' which featured some highly creative use of the piano, whereby Christina muted the strings by placing her hand inside the instrument. This piece deliberately imitates the sound of the Saz (a Turkish lute). Christina clearly did an expert job of recreating the sound of the Saz on the piano as an audience member, and former Turkish resident, remarked that she instantly recognised it as the sound of this traditional Turkish folk instrument.

Christina also gave highly individual and sensitive performances of works by Scarlatti, Debussy and Satie. Both the recital and masterclass were outstanding and I would like to thank Christina for her inspiring visit.

On Wednesday 9 March 2022, join us for a keyboard extravaganza featuring many of Stowe's talented pianists and organists. The evening will showcase a huge variety of repertoire - from solos and duets, to multi-piano arrangements of famous themes. There will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



New Music Award Holders' Concert

Our annual New Music Award Holders' Concert took place on Wednesday 17 November. What a joyful evening this was as we were finally, for the first time since Covid, able to showcase our wonderful new Award Holders!

The audience of family, friends and Staff enjoyed an eclectic programme ranging from Mozart to Taylor Swift. We couldn't have asked for more polished performances from Flora Peppiatt (Third Form, Queen's), James Delap (Third Form, Temple), Sebastien Harper (Third Form, Grenville), Annabel Hodgetts (Third Form, Cheshire), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Third Form, Lyttelton), Jasmine Zhang (Third Form, Lyttelton), Grace Hodgetts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Tham Luangvisut (Lower Sixth, Walpole). Thank you to all of you.

This event highlighted just how fortunate we are here at Stowe to have welcomed such a talented group of musicians this year.

It was evident to all that their enthusiasm and ability, point to a very exciting and inspiring future in our Music Department, as they thrive and grow in their musicianship and performance skills.

A huge thank you must also go to Ben Andrew (Head of Keyboard) for his sensitive accompaniment, Emma Bryden (Head of Academic Music) for all of her help and support, and, of course, to our highly committed team of Visiting Music Teachers for preparing their pupils so thoroughly for this event.

Katie Potts, Head of Instrumental Studies



Talita Kum Project

In 2019, Stowe started a partnership with a wonderful project in Jimbolia, Timisoara, Romania.

The Talita Kum project is run by a local family headed by Adi Popa, with the support of the Scottish charity Blythswood Care. Talita Kum 1 and Talita Kum 2 are after school clubs that provide a safe place for children from some of the poorest families in Jimbolia, after their school day finishes. They are inspiring places.

Not only do they provide children with a safe place, they support the children to look after their personal hygiene, by providing showers and clean clothes, and also support their nutrition by providing a daily hot meal.

The most important focus of the project is education. Many of these children would leave school at an early age, and have very limited prospects without Talita Kum to support them with their homework and teach them vocational skills that will improve their life chances. The clubs reach children that live in some of the most challenging conditions in Europe, many of them Roma, living in makeshift camps on the fringes of society.

Adi and the team at Talita Kum have asked The Stowe Group for our help, they would

like the children at Talita Kum to have greater exposure to some of the wonderful educational opportunities we have available within our schools. During the first week of the Michaelmas 2022 Half Term, they would like the support of our teachers and support Staff to run a week of workshops focussing on Music, Art, Drama, Sport and English for the children in Talita Kum.

A team of teachers and staff will travel to Romania for the week, alongside a group of Sixth Form Pupils, to help run this programme. The trip will also involve working with Romanian teachers in the state school during the mornings. Many of the TK children attend this school, and our partnership has also involved looking at ways we can help the state education system, to support children who attend Talita Kum.

We can promise that the support that we are giving to the TK project is extremely welcomed and, as those of us already involved in the project know, it is a hugely valuable experience.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact **Tori, Colin** or **Liam** at Stowe.

Tori Roddy, Group Director of Marketing & Admissions

MONOLOGUE SLAM

On Wednesday 24 November a small audience of Stoics and Staff gathered for our first lunchtime Monologue Slam. This was an opportunity to showcase some of the excellent work that has been prepared for LAMDA examinations, drama school auditions and curricular Drama.

Sam Stephens-Liddell (Upper Sixth, Grenville) kicked off the event in style with an emotive piece set against the backdrop of World War I. In the heart-breaking monologue from 'Killed', Billy is court-martialled for 'cowardice in the face of the enemy'.

Jemima Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent) swiftly changed the tone with her humorous, girl-power piece from 'Girls Like That', standing up to her boss when she is sexually harassed in the workplace.

Freddie Kelly-Greaves (Upper Sixth, Winton) was next to take to the stage with an extract from Sophocles' 'Antigone'. In the moving and powerful monologue, Haemon stands up to his Father to try to save the woman he loves.

Sophie Lloyd (Fifth Form, Nugent) then gave a passionate and heartfelt performance as Juliet from Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', deciding whether to bravely take the potion that she hopes will reunite her with Romeo.

Honor Macdonald (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) subsequently treated us to a piece of original writing, a skilful monologue which offered a variety of perspectives on love.

Finally, the afternoon finished on a high with Amalie Mager's (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) witty and sharp portrayal of Elizabeth Bennet, rejecting the marriage proposal of the rude Mr Darcy.

A big well done to all the performers who delighted their audience with their confident, intelligent and poignant performances.

Lucy Miller, Drama Department

GEOGSOC QUIZ 2021

The annual GeogSoc Quiz took place on Thursday 18 November, hosted by Mr Burch and Mrs Campbell in the Temple Room. It has now become a firm fixture in the Michaelmas calendar and apparently pupils don't just compete because of the edible prizes!

Starting with the old favourite round on 'flags' to warm up, participants also identified countries by their outline, celebrities with geographical names and geographical rocks - both the geological and musical kind - to name but a few rounds.

It was great to see so many Stoics sharing their geographical (and general) knowledge.

The final scores were close, but in the end, Grenville were victorious and will be presented with the shiny GeogSoc Quiz Cup for this year!

The winning team were: Alex Dens (Upper Sixth), Edward Dickinson (Lower Sixth), Arin Chatsuwan (Fifth Form), Calon Heaven (Fourth Form) and Toby Browne (Third Form).

Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography





Thanksgiving Celebrations!

Thanksgiving was celebrated this year, in the USA, on Thursday 25 November.

Thanksgiving Day goes back to the time when Europeans travelled over to start new lives in America. In 1621 a group of Europeans, who became known as the 'Pilgrims', invited the local Native Americans to join them in a feast. Although the actual events of this meeting are hotly debated amongst historians, the day is celebrated annually by those living in the USA and Canada.

lives, and how this is something we should try and prioritise on a daily basis.

At the end of the evening, Stoics were given a wide range of American candies to enjoy, something which many of them sorely miss whilst residing in the UK. It was wonderful to celebrate this special day with our international Stoics, and hope that they continue to see Stowe as a real home away from home.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



The entire School was treated to a delicious Thanksgiving supper, and encouraged to share what they were grateful for within their Houses.

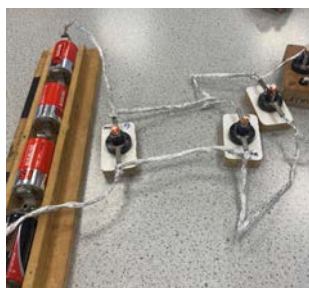
Alongside this, a bespoke dinner was provided for all the US and Canadian Stoics and Staff. Pupils not only enjoyed a wonderful meal, but also participated in a Thanksgiving themed quiz, with Hershey's chocolate given to the winning team. Mr Chitre, our Harvard Graduate, also spoke to Stoics about the importance of being thankful and grateful in our every day



Physics

Third Form Physics pupils recently experimented with parallel and series circuits, with the added difficulty of having to make their own wires!

Steven Matthews, Physics



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Stowe's Amnesty International group have had a fantastic introduction on how they can be Change Makers, as they look towards changing society on a local and national level. They have been exploring ways to lobby for issues with their local Members of Parliament.

The group are currently writing to their MPs about a variety of issues. Lily Jackson (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) wrote to local MP, Greg Smith. The letter focused on the violence, predominantly sexual violence, towards women and girls, with a focus on public harassment.

After only six hours, Mr Smith responded with information that helped Lily and the wider group understand what the Government are doing to resolve the issue she is campaigning for. Lily said: "This issue is extremely important to me and I think affects all people in society. I would like to thank Mr Smith for taking the time to reply so quickly."

On Friday 21 January, the group will host an AmnesTEA event to raise awareness of Amnesty International.

Frankie Holloway, Head of P&R

Equestrian

On Sunday 14 November, Stowe equestrians took part in the first Bloxham Eventer Challenge Series at Aston-le-Walls. The course both combined Show Jumping and Eventing.

Lucy Willmott (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Kitty Scott (Fifth Form, Stanhope) competed in the 90cm class. Lucy got eight faults finishing 18th and Kitty was clear, with time faults, finishing 15th out of 32 in their sections.

Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Cecily Holland (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Cassidy Jorritsma (Upper

Sixth, Cheshire) competed in the 100cm class. Araminta ended up finishing in eighth.

Ellie Martindale (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Cecily Holland (Fifth Form, Nugent) competed in the 110cm class. Ellie went clear and came third, whilst Cecily got four faults and ended up fourth overall.

Well done to everyone who took part, we are looking forward to the next Eventer Challenge, which takes place on Sunday 12 December.

Lucinda Stockley



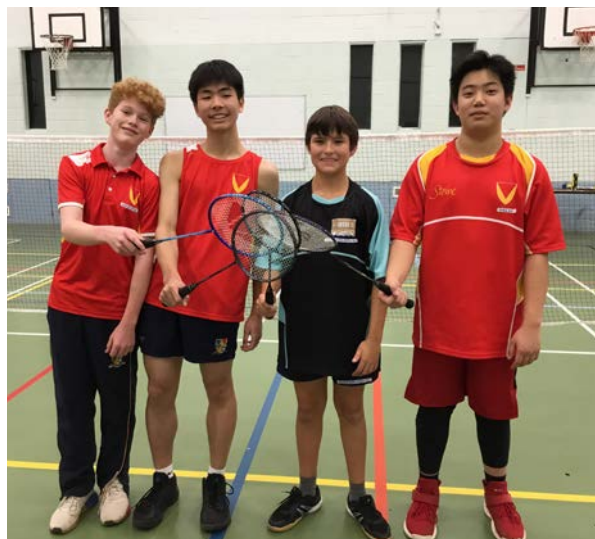
RUGBY

England U18 Training Squad

Archie McParland (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Jamie Annand (Upper Sixth, Temple) were selected to attend the England U18s training squad over 20 and 21 November, the Exeat weekend.

Wales U18 Squad Selection

Will Plessis (Lower Sixth, Grenville) has been selected into the Wales U18s squad. Will has also signed a professional contract with The Scarlets which will see him study at Swansea University, while training as a professional rugby player.



BADMINTON

In their last competitive match this term, on Saturday 4 December, the Senior 1st team hosted Cheltenham College who proved to be stiff competition in this evenly contested match.

With the scores level 4-4 going into the last match, all hopes were pinned on 1st pair Ben Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) & Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton) against their Cheltenham counterparts. Cheltenham took the first game 18-21 but the Stowe 1st pair dug deep and came back to win the next two games 21-19; 21-17, to help secure a fantastic 5-4 victory to add to their other victories, against Oundle, Rugby, St Edward's and Uppingham this term.

We were also delighted to have been able to put out a girls' team against Cheltenham College, even though it resulted in a 6-3 loss.

The ever improving U16 team had a fantastic 9-7 win against Magdalen College School Oxford on Saturday 27 November. 1st pair, Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Third Form, Winton) & Ned Goodrich (Fifth Form, Chandos) won all four of their matches. 2nd pair, Will Harrison (Fifth Form, Winton) & Jasper Calkin (Fifth Form, Cobham) and 3rd pair Thomas Bicknell (Fourth Form, Winton) & Harry Langford (Fourth Form, Chandos) won two matches each, with 3rd pair Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos)/Daniel Lau (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Sam Zhang (Fourth Form, Walpole) winning their crucial match against their counterparts 21-11 and 21-16.

The Junior boys' and girls' Inter-House singles and doubles competitions were held on Sunday 28 November. Congratulations to Queen's who beat Nugent 3-0 in the final of the doubles and to Dominie Dubsy (Fourth Form, Nugent) who beat Madya Liu (Third Form, Stanhope) in the final of the singles.

In the boys' competition, congratulations to Chandos who beat Winton 2-1 in the final of the doubles and to Gilbert Xu (Fourth Form, Chandos) who beat Oliver Dickmann-Peña in the final of the singles.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton





ROWING

Stowe Rowing - Michaelmas Term

After good competitions at Worcester and Henley this term, our attention is now on the first competition of the New Year, the Hampton Head, on the Thames, in the first weekend of February. In rowing, the Autumn is all about sculling, but in the New Year, the focus switches to rowing in eights, in preparation for the big head-of-the-river races on the tidal Thames in London and then the Summer regattas.

To help our rowers prepare, we are continuing with the Stowe 50km ergometer challenge. The girls are led by Harriet Hines (Cheshire, Upper Sixth) on 12,758m, followed by Sienna Bettany (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) on 12,217m and Honor Macdonald (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) on 9,111m.

For the boys, Ed Whitbread (Lower Sixth, Cobham) leads on 29,648m, Josh Green (Upper Sixth, Chandos) is second on 28,427m and Hugo Comerford (Lower Sixth, Chatham) third on 24,959m. It is worth noting that although some of these rowers are not necessarily our strongest, they have the most commitment and best attendance at training - which counts for everything in team sport!

As we approach the end of term, we are continuing to get some good training sessions on the 11 Acre Lake, and our rowers are adapting to the challenges of training in cold weather, with hats, scarves and extra layers of warm clothing. At Hampton we hope to boat our boys 1st Eight and girls 1st Quad, where many other schools will also be putting out their lead boats for the first time.

Two of our leading rowers, Thanassi Ghertso (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton) have been awarded their colours for their outstanding effort, commitment and leadership to the Rowing Club.

Best wishes for the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on the water in the New Year.

Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach



HOCKEY

Hockey Cup Success

The Girls U16A Hockey team travelled to Marlow to face Sir William Borlase's Grammar School on Tuesday 23 November 2021. The Stowe U16 Cup squad had already reached further than any Stowe team ever has, but they went into the match wanting to prove themselves even further, and set themselves up right from the start.

The match began with both teams a little sluggish, but once Stowe got going they had some early breakaway chances, and after an excellent move down the left channel from Alessandra Jahina (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Lottie Moffat (Fifth Form, Nugent), Izzy Kaye (Fifth Form, Cheshire) finished the move with a push past the keeper to make it 1-0. Stowe then began to get in the flow and quickly managed to double their advantage with Lottie Moffat releasing Jojo Parker (Fourth Form, Cheshire) on the right wing for her to drive in and finish smartly for 2-0. Stowe continued to do a good job defensively to limit Borlase and a third goal came with Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form, Cheshire) getting herself in the D and rolling stick on ball for Izzy Kaye to tap in. Borlase then grew into the game, beginning to get number advantages on the wings and running at Stowe's defence and a goal quickly followed as Borlase drove the right baseline to cut the ball back for an easy finish. Stowe went into half time 3-1 up, knowing that they had done well to hold back Borlase in the final few minutes and that a renewed opposition would most definitely be playing in the second Half.

Once again Stowe had their mindset spot on, knowing Borlase would provide a tougher challenge in this half, Stowe started on top and got an early goal through great work from Lottie Moffat on the left-hand side of the D, before Ari carried into the D and pushed the ball toward back post for Milly Robertson (Fifth Form, Queen's) to finish off. The three-goal barrier gave Stowe the confidence to go through large periods of time under intense pressure from Borlase, but simple organisation and marking proved dividends for Stowe as they continued to keep Borlase out. The match ended much more calmly than any of the other cup matches thus far, with Stowe coming away the better side who had taken their chances well, a great 4-1 victory for Stowe to reach the final eight in the country.

MVP was awarded to captain Lottie Moffat for her hard work, creativity and immense leadership throughout. Dominie Dubsy (Fourth Form, Nugent) played a fantastic game and looked like she had always been in the squad, despite having been called in last minute. Sophie Lloyd (Fifth Form, Nugent) also had a very good performance in defence. In addition, Phoebe Haynes and Alessandra Jahina worked superbly in midfield, defensively and to be a threat to the opponent. A fantastic outing for Stowe School U16s.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Lacrosse

The 1st X had an excellent game against Oxford Brookes University on Saturday 27 November, winning 12-11 in freezing conditions, special mention to Kimi Chen (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) who was outstanding in goal.

On Saturday 4 December, a Senior select squad (predominantly 2nd X players) played against St James' Girls' School 1st X, winning 13-5.

The 14As also got to experience their first ever game of lacrosse, also against St James' Girls' School 15A, and won 4-3, with three goals from Layla Keable (Third Form, Queen's).

The Fourth Form girls showed the U15A boys rugby team how it should be done by beating them 6-4 on Friday 3 December.

Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse



Stowe SPORT

Sports Performance

Hockey

Well done to the U14A team who competed at Duke's Ride in the Regional Finals on Tuesday 16 November. This team then went on to play Repton away on Saturday 27 November, so they have faced some of the best school teams in the country over the last two weeks. Their coaches are impressed with their never say die attitude and consistently positive attitude.

The Senior girls' 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI teams all beat Magdalen College School, Oxford on Tuesday 1 December. This was particularly rewarding for Mr Scott, our current Head of Hockey, as he welcomed back his Stowe predecessor Luke Stone, who now runs Hockey at MCS.

Netball

It was good to see the Senior teams get some warm up fixtures this term. On Wednesday 24 November they beat The Hazeley Academy.

The U15 team played their Round 4 match on the afternoon of Monday 29 November, against The Broxbourne School in the National Cup. It was another very tense game and the game ended with Stowe winning 48-46. Their campaign in the National Cup continues in the New Year.

Swimming

Stowe hosted a very high standard gala before Exeat on Tuesday 16 November. Nine schools raced in front crawl and medley relays.

The Stowe girl's Intermediate team of Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Isobel Cox (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Charlotte Hall (Third Form, Cheshire) and Hannah Campbell (Third Form, Nugent) were the most successful, winning two bronze medals.

Squash

Stowe's Squash No. 1, Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple), asked Mr Knott if the Stowe Squash teams could rise to a new challenge and take on Wellington College. A match was subsequently arranged on Saturday 4 December and Stowe lived up to Michael's faith in his team by beating them at 1st V and drawing in the 2nd team.

Basketball

On Thursday 2 December the Senior 1st team hosted Radley College. Stowe stormed into a 19-3 lead at the end of the first quarter, and continued to dominate the game to finish the first half 29-10 up.

Radley came back strongly in the second half, but were not able to threaten the lead, with Stowe eventual winners 50-39. Teide Lokpobiri (Upper Sixth, Chatham) top scored with 13 points and Alex Gu (Lower Sixth, Chandos) hit 12.

Tennis SENIOR SCHOOLS' TENNIS COMPETITION YEARS 11-13

This event is now back under a new title, and is a National event. Players are ranked in order, one to four, to play one set of singles each. Players one & two play a set of doubles, as do players three & four. MAning, six sets are played in total.

The competition starts as a box league, with the winner going through to the knockout stages in February 2022.

In a very close girls match against Tudor Hall on Thursday 18 November, both Hannah Bewes (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Ele Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's) won their singles. Both pairs won their doubles giving Stowe a 4-2 win.

The boys were as successful against Aldenham, playing their first match on Wednesday 17 November. Archie Burnet (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Arin Chatsuwon (Fifth Form, Grenville) all won their singles, and both pairs won their doubles, giving Stowe a 5-1 win.

On Wednesday 1 December the boys had their second fixture v. Watford Grammar School. After the first round Stowe were 3-0 down. In the next three sets, Stowe won two and were a point away from winning the third, which would have meant a tie-break shoot out. Unfortunately, the set went to Watford Grammar giving them a 4-2 victory.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis

Champagne & Jazz



MUSIC at *Stowe*

On Friday 12 November, a highlight of the Stowe musical calendar, Champagne & Jazz, made a triumphant return after a year away. The event was a dazzling affair with splendid catering and music of the highest order. The Stowe Big Band (capably directed by Miles Nottage) led the line-up, performing a wide array of Jazz standards.

The sound produced was sparkling and illustrated the immense talent of a large number of Stowe Pupils. Many solo singers also took to the stage with rousing performances of classics through the ages.

The event was particularly poignant in that we were raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity, a link organised by two Lower Sixth formers, Bella Elliott (Stanhope) and Grace Hodgetts (Cheshire). We are extremely grateful to them for the hard work that they put in.

Overall, the evening was a fine celebration of Stowe music and a fantastic event to host having not been able to for such a lengthy period.

Fast forward a couple of weeks to Wednesday 24 November, and we hosted our Winter Concert in the Ugland Auditorium. This concert was a great

opportunity for our larger ensembles to take to the stage.

The event opened with a rousing couple of pieces from Wind Band. This was swiftly followed by the Big Band playing 'Autumn Leaves' before our newly formed Saxophone Ensemble made their debut performance. Bassoon Trio gave a fabulous rendition of music from 'Swan Lake' before the Chamber Choir put us in a more reflective mood with John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'.

The concert concluded with the Symphony Orchestra performing extracts from Bizet's enduringly popular opera, Carmen. Star turns from Caroline Bartoszewski (Third Form, Nugent) Harp, Jessica Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) Flute, Sophia Southwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent) Oboe, Seb Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Walpole) Trumpet, and our three Bassoonists, Samuel Ellis (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce), gave the performance an extra dimension and all of them demonstrated their supreme musical skills. The whole orchestra produced an amazing sound, expertly led by Abi Roberts (Upper Sixth, West).

Craig Greene, Director of Music



CAREERS

Careers in Fashion: Condé Nast College of Fashion and Design



Zoe Souter from Vogue Condé Nast Fashion College in London presented the many different careers in fashion.

Condé Nast is home to some of the world's most iconic brands, including Vogue which aims to entertain,

surprise, and empower. Condé Nast provides exclusive access, and is trusted to lead the way. From the iconic brands they cultivate to the world-leading talent they engage, they are committed to the best of the best.

Zoe introduced the breadth of roles in fashion design, fashion retail and fashion media e.g. Studio Manager, Press Officer, Social Media Manager, Events Coordinator, Editors, Commercial Advertising, Communications Director, Brand Consultant to name a few.

To work in the fashion industry, you don't need to study fashion at university, however, you need to be informed and passionate about the industry. To stand out, there are a variety of activities that you could do in advance

CONDÉ NAST

e.g. take a fashion course, get work experience or work in retail. You could also organise a fashion show, go to exhibitions and watch fashion films as well as create portfolio of ideas, write for the school magazine and learn another language.

Another way into fashion is a BA Fashion Communication and Industry Practice at Conde Nast in London, which benefits from contacts to industry experts like Victoria Beckham or Tory Burch and offers unique access to Vogue editors and exciting industry collaborations and projects.

July 2022 will be the next opportunity for pupils to experience the fashion industry with Condé Nast during the Vogue Teen Weekend. The Vogue Teen Weekend is a two-day event that delivers an insight into the fashion and media industries, as well as giving pupils the unique opportunity to connect with industry professionals and network with fellow Vogue Teen Weekenders from around the world.

Lucianne Guntner-Jones, Careers Advisor

Study Art and Design at NABA, Milan

Valentina Torricelli introduced Art and Design degree courses at Nuova Academia di Belle Arti which is an International Art and Design Academy in Italy with campuses in Rome and Milan.

NABA has been selected as the Best Italian Academy of Fine Arts according to the 2021 edition of QS World University Rankings® by subject Art and Design. The academy specialises in various BA degrees such as Fine Art, Graphic, Set, Product and Fashion Design to name a few, and has therefore excellent facilities and resources dedicated to these degrees.

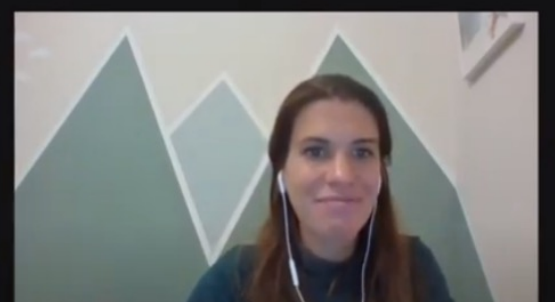
The degree courses are three years long and have the benefit of being taught in English. The classes are relatively small with a maximum of 20 students and uses a multidisciplinary approach, focussing on innovation and experimentation, and practical work with leading companies and studios. NABA regularly works with industry experts to set up fashion shows or to work on real life projects such creating luggage designs with EasyJet or working with pasta company Barilla.

At the end of the presentation Skye Leather (Upper Sixth, West) asked various questions. One question related to how the Academy is staying relevant. Valentina explained that NABA is inviting industry experts on a regular basis so that the students can be updated on new and future trends in Design and Art. Sky continued to ask about the quality of students NABA is looking for. Valentina explained that it isn't the technical skills NABA is looking for but instead the applicant is expressing their motivation, passion and creativity in their chosen degree. She continued to explain that technical skills are being taught at the Academy.

To apply you need to have three A Levels, submit a portfolio as well as a motivational letter, the application form and a transcript. The portfolio should showcase your creativity.

For more information about NABA, please click [here](#). To watch the talk please click link [here](#).

Lucianne Guntner-Jones, Careers Advisor





Inter-House Rugby

In the Inter-House Rugby competition on Saturday 4 December, the following Houses are the 2021 Champions:

- Third Form - Chatham (beating Grafton in the Final)
- Fourth and Fifth Form combined - Grafton (beating Winton in the Final)
- Sixth Form - Grafton (beating Bruce in the Final).



Congratulations to the Fourth Form A team who won their Cup match against Bedford Modern School on Tuesday 16 November. They followed this up with a win over Dean Close on Thursday 25 November. A special mention goes to Sam Cousins (Fourth Form, Chatham) who has scored five tries in the last two matches. In the other fixtures against Dean Close, all the teams returned with victories including the Colts A and B teams and the Junior Colts Bs.

The regional Semi-Final of the cup was against Haileybury on the North Front on Tuesday 30 November, despite a great display of rugby by the Stoics, Haileybury took the win.



Hockey



On Tuesday 7 December the girls competed in the Inter-House Hockey competition. Cheshire were the winners of the Inters, whilst Nugent won the Senior competition

CCF

Sea Kayaking in October!



I first got into Kayaking whilst on a Paddlesport instructor course through Stowe CCF in June, since then I've joined the local club in Milton Keynes which has taken me on rivers, canals, playing canoe polo and even whitewater. I was looking for my next challenge when Sergeant Major Abbey mentioned sea kayaking through the CCF, and immediately I booked on.

This was not an experience for the faint-hearted; Sea Kayaking in October is certainly daring! It was good to meet like-minded (or perhaps slightly nuts), people like me on the course from other CCFs and ACFs. (Army Cadet Forces). It was great to chat to them to find out what their cadet forces do, how they differ to ours and share ideas too. Most of them are also regular teachers, and I have definitely made some good friends on this course.

On the first day, our group of 6, were introduced to sea kayaks; great long boats which are more cumbersome to move than the nippy little kayaks in the School pool, until of course the wind catches them, then we discovered they move like rockets. This we discovered quickly as our leader Ali Othen took us to a stunning lake at the foot of Snowdon to get the hang of the boats.

Ali was such a fantastic leader, and not before long we were trying out the slalom course, rescuing each other, playing games in the kayaks and exploring the rocky inlets and pools. The water was certainly chilly, but they provided all the kit for us, so not one of us got cold.

By day two, we were already looking at tidal and wind planning, Ali took us through all the steps and involved us through every stage of his thinking process, allowing

us to become independent leaders from the start.

The weather was nothing short of dreadful for the next few days and careful planning was mandatory. We went to the Menai Straits, the thin slither of sea between Wales main land and Anglesey, which is a mecca of sorts for sea kayakers, and kayaked straight under the enormous Menai bridge itself. Had the weather been clear, we would have seen the entire Snowdonia National Park to our left. There is one of the largest seal colonies in the UK in Anglesey and we kayaked right along-side them. The seals were huge, and so playful too, and we saw their little pups too which was definitely the highlight of the trip for me.

Sea Kayaking is such an amazing way to experience nature, right up close and low impact on the environment as well and has led me to appreciate our natural world in a far more visceral way.

On the third day, the weather was so bad, even the lake had waves, but it didn't stop us, and Ali led us carefully through all the steps of safety and looking after each other. Rather than battle against the elements and be exhausted, we actually used the wind to our advantage and linked all our kayaks together used our emergency shelter as a huge sail and shot across the lake.

When the conditions were too bad to go out in the kayaks, Ali took us to a couple of sites across Anglesey, including Treaddur Bay. Everyone was out to watch the huge waves crash against the shore and it was breathtaking. He also took us to a little Welsh town with the longest name in the country Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch! Try saying that...



Throughout, Ali was telling us about the sea conditions and reading the coastline from the perspective of a sea kayaker. He has done some amazing trips through CCAT, which any commissioned officer can also do, including as far as Lofoten in the Norwegian Arctic Circle!

The final day was unforgettable. It was the first day, due to the weather, we could get onto the sea. Launching our kayaks off the corner of the Menai Straits, where it opens up to the sea, we kayaked as a group out to the shipwreck, The Hoveringham II, a sand dredger which sank after developing a leak in 1971. We kayaked right up to its upturned hull and on a day with lower water levels you can actually see right into it.

Being on the sea felt so surreal, especially as we could see nothing but grey and white between the sea and sky. We got out to the island and saw some of the most enormous seals I have ever seen. Despite our careful planning the day before, unexpectedly enormous waves appeared on the corner of the island, stopping us from going around.



We turned, only to find that the route back was also gusty too and there was no way we could kayak back. This was a freak gust of wind and not on our forecasts at all.

Led by Ali, we scrambled onto the rocks, pulled up our kayaks and pulled out the emergency shelters. The team leaders were fantastic, calling the coastguard and planning a possible route back. 30 minutes later however, the winds calmed down enough to allow us to make our way back, and Ali, along with another group of expert sea kayakers, guided our way back past the ship wreck to shore. We got back, and whilst were very soaked, we had big smiles and team spirit!

I should mention that I wanted to do this exact course in the Summer with Plas y Brenin, the National Outdoors Centre at a cost of £750, and was ready to go, when the instructor got Covid-19 and it didn't go ahead. I then found out I could do this course, and so many more, through CCAT for £40. This is due to MOD heavily subsidizing adventure training courses for Cadets and Cadet force adult volunteers. We had the exact same instructors, provisions, and actually were a lot more involved in

the planning, and we were out longer than the teams from the Plas y Brenin courses.

It's such an unbelievable opportunity. You meet so many like-minded people who come back for courses year on year. I met one person who had done 15 courses! It doesn't even matter if you are an adult or Cadet either, we had one Cadet in our group who was fantastic. Some courses are adult only, others Cadet only. I cannot wait to book onto another course, in particular Summer Mountain Leader, Caving, White Water Kayaking and Rock Climbing. They do courses in Wales, but also Halton, Aviemore and also Navy courses in Weymouth; they even do skiing courses in other countries too!

Once you discover what an insane opportunity this is, you'll be hooked and book long in advance. I've discovered so many outdoor adventures through CCF, I had it to blame for buying myself a campervan and planning trips well into next year! If you are interested in joining the CCF team, go for it, Lt Col Jan de Gale would love to hear from you and would be delighted to welcome you to one of our Cadet sessions to have a look.

2Lt Ziz Trelawny Vernon CCF

CCF Navy Training

As an English teacher, I spend my time encouraging a confident spirit and a questioning independence of mind. So how had I come to be standing in line, dressed identically to 47 other people, in the first light of a late October morning, whilst the bellows of a Warrant Officer led us to understand that he was not impressed with our efforts to march in step?

I was at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, to be given a week's initial training as a Royal Navy CCF Officer.

What I got was a crash course in the ethos of the Royal Navy, and also in to the stunning opportunities which the organisation offers to its Cadets. In an intensive schedule of activities, instruction was mixed with entertainment - exactly what the Royal Navy wants for its Cadets. And so, for example, our group was told, 'You have five minutes to learn Morse code, after which you will be given the instructions for your next activity to decode...'

We were shown around the training vessel HMS Hindustan, a decommissioned minesweeper used for training purposes, and also as Cadet accommodation on weekend courses. The tour included a short and, inevitably, wet introduction to firefighting procedures aboard ship. Once Covid restrictions ease, Stowe's cadets will definitely be heading to the Royal Navy's firefighting school on the South Coast. After all, a crew of Stoics and some high-pressure water hoses; what could possibly go wrong?

Everything - the uniform, the drill, the activities and classroom sessions, the messing about in boats on the Dart, even the sailors' own language of Jack Speak - kept coming back to that idea of ethos, expressed by the Royal Navy as Courage, Commitment, Discipline, Respect, Integrity and

Loyalty. And whilst one could only marvel at the illustrative tales which the course instructors could tell from their seagoing experience, they made it clear that these ideals apply to all our endeavours from the newest Cadet upwards.

It takes courage to stand up and speak in front of a group perhaps; commitment to turn up each week; self-discipline to polish your boots - and yes, there was even a training session on that too! Along with the respect for both self and others, the integrity not just to say the right thing, but to do it as well, and the loyalty that inspires and encourages the maintenance of those other values, this ethos amounts to something very much in keeping with the wider educational aims and values which Stowe champions.

To be unashamedly partisan in my section loyalty, the Royal Navy extended family of the CCF, offers Stoics the chance to build this kind of leadership and character education in a whole host of exciting and entertaining activities and locations beyond the classroom. As it turns out then, the military experience ends up fostering the very same values which I worried might conflict with my English Teacher attitudes.

On the last morning of the course, getting ready to leave for our passing out parade, I fumble and drop my phone along with my shiny new Officer's cap. I catch the cap, the phone hits the floor - sorry, deck. 'That's it,' laughs my cabin mate, you're properly militarised now: left the phone, saved the cap! And I rather think he's right.

If you're reading this and not sure, my advice is, join - you'll be surprised.

Jonathan Cook, English Department



service@stowe

Visiting the Elderly

Service@Stowe is wrapped up in the HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

The Service@Stowe Visiting the Elderly Programme really got into the holiday spirit this year. Members of the Visiting the Elderly Programme spent the weeks leading up to the Winter break hand making cards and adding sweet thoughtful messages, as well as selecting craft items and decorations that were beautifully wrapped by Stoics. These cards and gifts were donated to care homes in the local community, "We haven't been able to visit the residents, but we wanted them to know we are thinking about them and wishing them a Happy Christmas", said Molly Muhoho (Fifth Form, Nugent).



Tree Decorating with The National Trust

Will King-Eccles (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Lydia Moseley (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) designed decorations and created the theme for this year's Stowe School entry into The Stowe National Trust Community Tree Collection.

The Stowe School Tree along with many other beautifully decorated trees are on display at New Inn located at the main entrance of The National Trust.



One SWEET Christmas Fundraiser

The Service@Stowe Visiting Primary School programme members ran a "Christmas Message with a Treat" fundraiser.

Pupils who wished to participate in the fundraiser paid £2 to submit a Christmas message that they would like delivered to a fellow Stoic. The Visiting Primary Schools' members printed and attached the messages to holiday lollies, then they distributed the messages and sweet treats to recipients during the last week of term.

Over 600 Christmas messages with a treat were sold! The funds that were raised from the sale will go to the Windmill Children's Centre in Milton Keynes, who will use the funds for purchasing gifts and necessities for refugees from Afghanistan.

Paris Broughton (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Beatrice Tofan (Upper Sixth, West) and Polina Von (Upper Sixth, Queen's) are pictured writing the messages, other elves were Jet West (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Eliza Wilson (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Maya Lopes-Wilson (Upper Sixth, West).

If you would like to learn more about the Windmill Children's Centre please contact **Ms Andrea Westmoreland**.



Christmas Hamper Project

Over the course of the second half of the Michaelmas Term, the Service@Stowe team has been involved in the Christmas Hamper project. We aimed to put together hampers of non-perishable food items and soft toys to distribute throughout the local community in order to give vulnerable people support in the run up to Christmas.

On Monday 29 November, the team interviewed Paul Irwin who is a local Councillor who runs two charities. Inspire helps people in the local area provide Christmas presents for their families, and Bernie the Bus travels around the villages in the local community and supplies food to struggling families.

When we **interviewed Mr Irwin**, he conveyed to us the dramatic increase in food bank usage during the Covid-19 lockdowns, explaining that the demand for foodbanks increased from 200 food parcels a week to 600 parcels a week, as many people were plunged into temporary food poverty due to the pandemic. During lockdown, he was more active with his two charities than ever before.

Mr Irwin said how much he loves working within the community, and would encourage anyone to get involved in such work.

Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to put together food hampers which we will pass on to Buckinghamshire County Council, who will distribute the parcels to various food banks, including those run by The Trussell Trust, where they are most needed.

If anyone would like to find out more about how they can help then follow the [link](#) to The Trussell Trust.

Joseph Barnett (Fifth Form, Winton)





Festive Fun

Community Christmas Party

On Sunday 5 December, Visiting the Elderly Programme members, and Staff volunteers, welcomed 45 guests to enjoy a fun and festive afternoon. Visitors were treated to music performed by wonderful Stowe musicians in the Marble Hall, followed by carols lead by Mr Craig Greene and Mr Miles Nottage on piano.

The guests were taken to the Temple Room where Stoics served tea, coffee and delicious cakes to them, and sat and chatted. "The visitors are so sweet, I loved taking to the ladies and hearing their stories, I really love events like this," said Alice Butler (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton).

The Head delighted those in attendance as he played the role of Bingo-caller and announced raffle winners. The room was filled with conversation, laughter and festive cheer. The event ended with a visit from Father Christmas, played brilliantly by Dr Andrew Webber, and his sack full of goodies!

The afternoon would not have been possible without the Stoic and Staff volunteers. Thank you all for their effort and participation, the party was lovely and enjoyed by all.

If you would like to learn more about the Service@Stowe Visiting the Elderly Programme please contact **Ms Andrea Westmoreland**.



FLIX

FLiX News:

Dr Webber's Films of the Year 2021

As a Film Studies Teacher I am often asked about my favourite films, so, as a strange year draws to an end, I have been reflecting on the films of 2021 which have had the biggest impact upon me at the cinema (which is where, after all, movies should be seen and heard, if at all possible).

In spite of the fact that cinemas only opened to audiences again in late May and most of the films we have seen this year were actually completed in 2021 or earlier, but had releases delayed due to Covid, 2021 has not been a write-off by a long stretch. Cinemas across the country have been screening blockbusters (Bond, Marvel etc.), indies, foreign films and even a healthy dose of British movies since their doors re-opened.

In addition, the arthouse cinemas have also played their part in ensuring that cinephiles like myself have been able to access "classics," specially curated seasons and re-releases; many of which have been the highlight of my year (The BFI in London's Altman and Morricone seasons proving especially exciting – who'd have thought I'd ever get to see the full 5 hour version of Leone's masterpiece 'Once Upon a Time in America' and all 3 hours of both Altman's superlative 'Nashville' and his equally awesome 'Short Cuts' on the big screen in such a year?).

So, as we look towards the availability of films on DVD or streaming services over the coming months, in no particular order, here's my favourite new releases this year:

'The Nest' (Sean Durkin): Jude Law is spot-on in an 80s set story of family meltdown and greed. Carrie (Ghostbusters) Coon also shines.

'Dune' (Denis Villeneuve): a brilliant, cinematic, sweeping piece of Science Fiction, superbly designed and genuinely epic.

'Mothering Sunday' (Eva Husson): a very touching, beautifully shot story of post-WW1 English melancholy, filmed with Gallic frankness.

'Another Round' (Thomas Vinterberg): Danish teachers decide to see how far they can go when under the influence of the demon drink with suitably tragic and comic outcomes.

'The Green Knight' (David Lowery): a highly original fable, literally transporting viewers into the world of Arthurian myth.

'The Card Counter' (Paul Schrader): a cool and finally moving drama about a lonely man's quest for redemption. Schrader makes the same film over and over but when they are this good – who cares?

'The Power of the Dog' (Jane Campion): a brilliant Johnny Greenwood soundtrack accompanies this superbly shot (in New Zealand) neo-western with Cumberbatch on good form as a repressed and violent cowhand and Kirsten Dunst outstanding as one of his many victims – you really do not see the twist coming.

'The Many Saints of Newark' (Alan Taylor): When the Alabama 3 Soprano's theme tune finally blasts out at the end of this prequel to "the greatest TV show ever" (which features James Gandolfini's son playing a younger version of anti-hero Tony) you are reminded of a) how much you originally enjoyed the show in the first place and b) how much of this account of Tony Soprano's formative years has been of a similarly high standard. No mean feat.

As for 2022? Well, I'm already guessing Paul Thomas Anderson's coming-of-age drama 'Licorice Pizza' is likely to be a contender for film of the year and all three 'Godfather' films are being re-released in March as part of that movie's 50th anniversary: you'll find me in the front row with the cannelloni.

Andrew Webber, Film Studies Department

RETIREMENTS



Annie Hudson

After joining in 1988, looking after the Masters' Mess, making wonderful coffee in the Common Room and serving meals to all with a smile and twinkling eyes behind her mask, Annie Hudson is retiring from Stowe next week after 33 years and 3 months.

Liz Butler, Food Services Assistant and good friend of Annie said, "I started on February 1, 1999, and within 60 minutes of starting my job, I became friends with Annie and we've been friends ever since. There are too many lovely memories of our time together, she's been there for me and I've been there for her. Stowe won't be the same, it will be very strange without her, to me, Annie is Stowe."

Annie will leave a huge whole in our Department, we will miss her constantly happy, smiley face! A pleasure to have her around – thank you for all your hard work over the years Annie, you are a great inspiration.

Debbie Kelly-Greaves, Food Services Manager

Panos John

Panos Ioannou (known as Panos John) is retiring after 18 years at Stowe.

Panos spent his early years working in the Aluminum Extrusion Industry before he decided to retrain as a teacher, working in four large state comprehensive schools before coming to Stowe in 2003 as Head of Business Studies. After 12 years Panos stepped down as Head of Department and since then he took on the morning slot of sanctions, coordinated exam invigilation, was and Cover Co-ordinator. Organising many trips for Business Studies,

probably the biggest and best trip he went on was a 10-day trip to China.

Other things you may not know about Panos; in his time at Stowe he learnt to play the Trumpet, played a lot of Squash, sang in a Choir, was in a staff play, took numerous Chapel services, and played lots of golf.

Panos has been a great colleague and brought much richness to the common room. We all wish him every success on his well-earned retirement, travelling, and spending time with the family.

Mark Wellington, Senior Deputy Head

We also wish Jean Dufort well as she steps down from her role of Matron of Walpole House. We don't say goodbye to her completely as she continues at Stowe as a Chaperone. A fond farewell is also said to Jon Murnane who has been our incredible Head of Classics for the last six years.

Alan Konrad

After over forty years working at Stowe, Alan will be retiring at the end of the year.

Alan started working as a plumber at the age of 16 in August 1972, and with just a short break to try another career, he was back in January 1982, and has been working here ever since.



In his time at Stowe, Alan has seen many changes, from the gifting of the grounds to The National Trust and the formation of Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT), the renovation of the Mansion, four Heads, the co-education of the School, and the expansion in pupil numbers to the present level.

During all those years Alan has been faithfully looking after the pipework of the site, with a smile and cheerful word for everyone. With plunger and pipe wrench in hand, he has unclogged, repaired and plumbed his way around every inch of Stowe; many times over.

I have been lucky enough to have worked with Alan for the last 18 years and in that time, nothing has been too much trouble or too much work.

Alan has had many memorable incidents, mainly involving flooding part of the site, in either water or sewage, but we know that the diligent work that he has put in, has saved the buildings from disaster on many, many more occasions than being the cause!

A keen swimmer, Alan's biggest passion at the School is the swimming pool which he has looked after and checked to ensure that is safe for Staff and pupils almost every single day for the past 25 years, including weekends.

From everyone in the Estates Department and from the School as a whole, we all wish Alan a happy and pleasant retirement, and hope that we will see him when he is on one of his walks which he enjoys so much.

Ryan Powell, Building Services Engineer

Christmas Cookies at West House



On a cold Sunday 5 December, some of the West girls were busy making, cutting and decorating their bespoke festive cookies.

Leia West (Lower Sixth) made the cookie dough and had to improvise, using a water glass, when it came to rolling out the dough, as she forgot to bring a rolling pin in from home.

Without an oven in the Boarding Houses, the girls used Dr West's oven to bake the 80+ cookies. The girls then started to ice and decorate their cookies. Some of the cookies lasted long enough to be fully decorated with Phoebe Strom (Lower Sixth) and Lizzie Sole (Lower Sixth) looking rather crumb-laden by the end of the activity as they seemed to have eaten more than they decorated! I don't think Phoebe's gingerbread man will be running very far (front right). Thank you to Pearl Muir (Lower Sixth) for the awesome photos and thank you to Adaora Okoye (Lower Sixth), Nastya Fischer (Upper Sixth), Natachi Ogbuebile (Lower Sixth), Grace Newton-McCann (Lower Sixth), Zahra Tinubu (Lower Sixth), Tamia (Sibanda) (Lower Sixth) and Phoebe for their wonderful designs and thank you to Leia for organising event.

Gordon West, West Assistant Houseparent



CHURROS CON CHOCOLATE

On Wednesday 17 November, the Languages Society enjoyed an entertaining evening, learning about the influence of the Arab world on Spanish Cuisine.

The evening began with an informative presentation from Señorita Lamrabat Benkacem-Ziani, teaching us about the history of the cuisine. It was fascinating to learn about the historical impact on the food and culture enjoyed by Spaniards and the world; as we saw how different countries have adapted Churros into their own cuisine.

Following this, pupils had the opportunity to watch Señora

Peña make the infamous "Churros con Chocolate" and later tried the delicious dessert.

To finish the evening, Señor Morales organised a game to test what we had learnt from the session. It was lovely to see some new faces and this experience really helped to bring the society together. Thank you to the Houseparent of Cobham, Mr Cortine, for allowing us to use the kitchen, to all the Staff involved and the presidents of the Society.

Connie Adams
(Upper Sixth, Cheshire)



Sweet Reward leading the field and coming home in front for our racing club at Sandown this Summer.

To celebrate Stowe's Centenary year in 2023 we will be launching the Stowe 100 Club

Are you aware Stowe has a Racing Club aimed at Old Stoics, parents and staff?

It has tasted top level success on the flat and over jumps with winners on ITV racing.

We would love you to be involved!



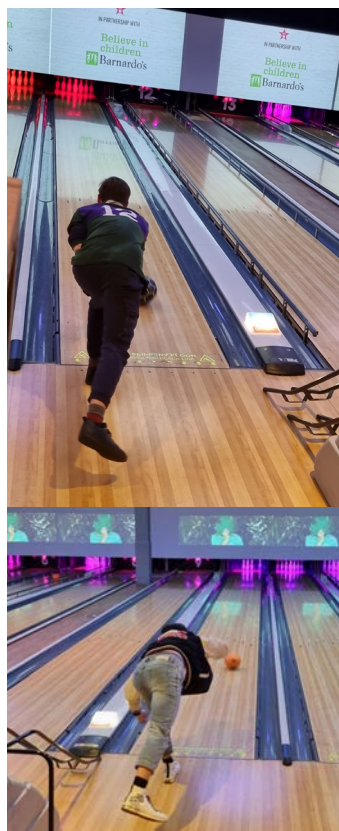
To register your interest please email the Old Stoic Society



Electric Buses

We are very excited that two new electric buses have arrived at Stowe, to replace Natasha, Stowe's beloved London Bus, who has retired from service.

The new buses will be used to transport pupils to and from the Bourbon playing fields.



Strikes R Us!

On Wednesday 24 November, the Chandos Sixth Form were treated to a trip to Milton Keynes with Miss Shah and Mr Matthews, enjoying dinner before challenging each other to a bowling tournament.

Although some of the techniques used to get the bowling balls to hit the pins were interesting (many one-handed throws seen!), some of the boys did play exceptionally well, with a number of strikes being clocked up.

It was a brilliant way to celebrate a long and busy term together, especially as the Upper Sixth have been working so hard on their UCAS applications. They certainly deserved the McDonald's and Nando's they enjoyed for supper!

Fran Shah, Chandos Tutor



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