#### **Drama: Devised Theatre**

This week Lower Sixth A Level Drama pupils graced the stage of the Dobinson Studio with captivating, entertaining and creative devised pieces for their examination.

"After The Fire" - based on Will Hill's 'must read novel' - Izzy Prothero (Lyttelton), Caitlin Gilmore (Cheshire) and Freddie Kelly-Greaves (Winton) performed a piece that tackled the world of cults. A gripping story of survival. In a mysterious white space that feels a little like purgatory or the afterlife, these three young actors worked with slick precision to communicate a strange, confusing and sinister world. Ultimately, they leave us in with a blend of tragedy and hope. Kelly-Greaves commands the stage, evoking those cult leaders we see on Netflix as Father John whilst multi-roleplaying as the damaged young cult member, Luke. Caitlin plays Moonbeam, the central voice of the story. Her truthful interpretation is moving and raw. Izzy meanwhile plays the intelligent friend, Honey who always knew the cult was a sham. She is mesmerising!

"My Name is Why" - inspired by Lemn Sissay's lyrical, painful and yet hope-filled memoir documenting how as a child he was stolen by the British Government, given a new name and imprisoned; Finn Tyson (Drama Scholar, Winton), Amalie Mager (Lyttelton) and Sam Stephens-Liddell (Drama Scholar, Grenville) challenge public attitudes to children raised in care and remind us of the systemic racism that exists within our government organisations. Sam plays a young, vulnerable Sissay with a charming blend of innocence and vulnerability. Amalie captures the complexity of Sissay's foster mother who

takes him in only to cruelly reject him ten years later. She then adeptly multiroles as the young Lemn when he is transferred to a children's home and inducted through a harsh beating. Finn, who built the puppet Lemn, narrates with a dynamic yet sinister manner as Norman, Lemn's social worker while 'tickety tackety' bashes his typewriter signifying how every aspect of Lemn's life is charted.

Sherlock Holmes V. Arthur Conan Doyle - Documenting how Arthur Conan Doyle created the phenomena that was to become Sherlock Holmes. Cordelia Supple (Drama Scholar, West), Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Chatham) and Alfie Darling (Walpole) are highly entertaining as they execute well-choreographed slapstick routines and journey to the Arctic where Arthur Conan-Doyle 'came of age', conjuring a ship out of thin air! Alfie as ACD is genius in his characterisation, narrating how much he grew to hate the character he had created, attempted to kill him off several times unsuccessfully and finally created his nemesis, Moriarty (also played by Darling in an impressive change of character) to outwit him. Cordelia makes a playful Watson and she shines as ACD's wife Jean, who becomes a little besotted with Sherlock. Tempest-Stewart as Holmes is a tour de force. A film buff and avid reader, you can tell Robin has studied this famous detective, adopting qualities and mannerisms we all recognise. And is there an element of method in there too...





#### **Head Girl & Head Boy Announcement**

We are delighted to announce that Jemima Howden (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Philipp Benedic (Lower Sixth, Bruce) have been appointed to be Head Girl and Head Boy of Stowe for the 2021/22 academic year.

Following the good news, Jemima said, "I am utterly thrilled to have been given this opportunity and I am immensely looking forward to what next year will bring. I would like to thank Stowe for all the support I have been given throughout my time here. Moving out of the pandemic, it is a very exciting year ahead, and I hope to bring the Stoic culture back better than ever."

"I am absolutely honoured to continue the legacy of so many great Stoics, many of whom I was lucky enough to have in my house," Philipp said, "when I joined in the Third Form, Adam King (Bruce 18) was a great role model for me, and helped me a lot to integrate into the Stowe community. Knowing that I will be able to be there for other Stoics, as he was for me, fills me with immense pride."

The Head, on making the announcement, said "I would like to thank Mimi Pearson-Gee and Barnaby Peppiatt for steering the School through one of the most challenging periods in our 98-year history. Their ability to bring the School community together during two lockdowns was truly remarkable and they made a formidable team. Jemima and Philipp will be able to build on secure foundations and we are confident that they will make a truly distinctive and transformational contribution to the School's development."







We are delighted to announce that the Art Department will be exhibiting all the A Level and GCSE work created this year, plus work from the Third, Fourth and Lower Sixth.

Given the lack of studio time that we have had at School, we are very proud that all pupils have managed to complete such amazing work in such a short space of time, and it is important that family, friends and Staff can all celebrate their remarkable achievements.

We will have two 'private views' where refreshments will be provided and the Art School Staff will be in attendance. The first on Friday 25 June, 6pm-9pm, and the second, to coincide with the end of term, on Saturday 3 July, from 11am-2pm.

The exhibition will be open for the duration of the week between these dates.

Pupils, Parents and Staff are all most welcome.

**Daniel Scott, Head of Art** 











## F1 in Schools Competition

The Design, Technology and Engineering Department's inaugrural F1 in Schools team, 'Photo-Me Racing', are in final preparations for the Regional Final of this competition.

The team is made up of Lower Sixth Formers Ben Hartigan (Grafton), Alexander Crasneanscki (Walpole), Joshua Farchie (Temple), Alfie Darling (Walpole) and Arseny Savrasov (Chatham).

F1 in Schools is a worldwide competition in which teams of pupils deploy Computer-Aided Design (CAD)/Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM) software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressedair powered cars.

The team have secured a sponsorship deal with photo booth company Photo-Me, and have produced an initial prototype car, manufactured using the Department's Computer Numerical Control (CNC) router and 3D printers, which they have been testing on the track.

The Regional Final is set to take place during the week beginning 12 July, with the races being live-streamed on YouTube.

Sam Williams, Teacher of Design

# #BackingNoah

On Sunday 7 March, Noah Cosby (Lower Sixth, Temple) had a fall from his beloved dirt bike, breaking his back and becoming paralysed from the chest down. Noah endured six hours of emergency spinal surgery from the team at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, which saw two titanium rods and nine screws straighten and steady Noah's T6 and T7 vertebrae. Noah was at the JR for six weeks, where they made him medically fit to move to the spinal rehabilitation unit at Stoke Mandeville, which is where he is currently.

Many of you reading this will already know Noah, but possibly a great deal of you will only just be learning about him. He's hugely passionate about the things he loves: skateboarding, playing guitar and riding his dirt bike. Only last year, Noah decided to pursue a career in freestyle motocross (FMX). His biggest loathing is to be stuck indoors. His life has now become that of a caged bird with clipped wings.

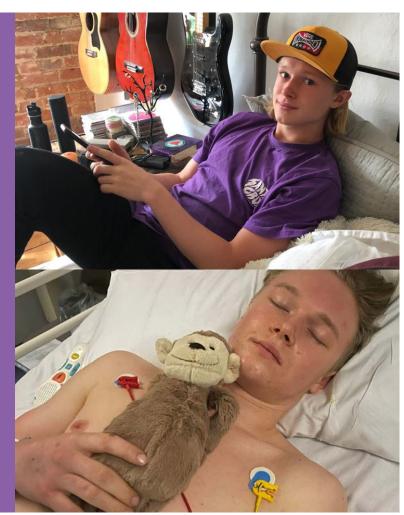
Noah's mindset tells him that he will walk again, but to give him a real shot at that, he needs full-time physio, not just the three hours a week that is available at Stoke Mandeville. He needs hydrotherapy and he needs robotic stimulation. He needs options and therapies that are only available through the private sector, all of which come with a hefty price tag.

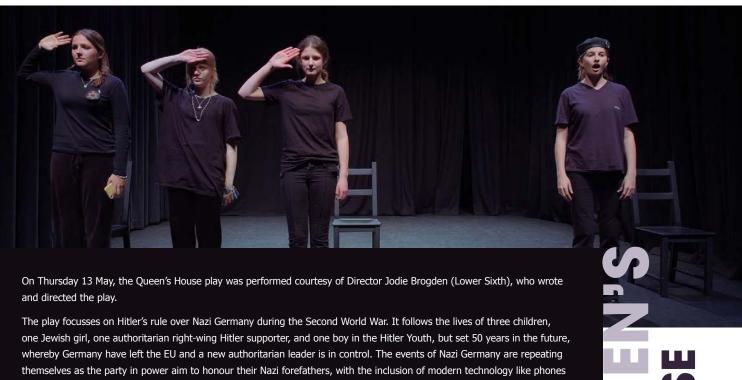
The Cosby Family have a fundraising goal, and even a small donation could help them to reach this. If you are able to help, please follow the link to Noah's **GoFundMe page**, and if you cannot make a donation yourself, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word.

and social media and with a continuation of major events like Kristallnacht.

and Maddie Baker (Third Form). You can watch the performance here.

The cast was: Ele Blane (Lower Sixth), Clara Tearle (Lower Sixth), Tilly Hawkings-Byass (Lower Sixth), Annie Flint (Fourth Form), Alice Bryant (Fourth Form), Amy Brogden (Fourth Form), Iona Clarke (Third Form), Nolly Mannion Miles (Third Form)





Stowemail

Sophie Rickner, Queen's Houseparent

## **BUSINESS SOCIETY**

"Should prospective employee's social media accounts be viewed as part of the recruitment and selection process?"



It's the start of a new era in the Business Society as William Wright (Upper Sixth, Winton), Ollie de Winton (Upper Sixth, West) and Sam Morten (Upper Sixth, Winton) step down from managing the Business Society this week. They have led lively debates, guest speaker events and encouraged a no rules discourse, with an aim to dig deeper into domestic and global business current affairs and issues over the past two years. We will miss these custodians of common-sense and respectful repartee, and wish them the best of success at university and in life after Stowe. May we see you all soon as guest speakers at future Business Society talks.

Now we are under new management, as Grace Hurrell (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Jemima Howden (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) have taken lead of the Society. "There are no rules here. This is a safe space to debate. We will respect your views but expect to be challenged as we debate and enrich the Business curriculum at Stowe."

On Friday 21 May, the Business Society proposed the question, "Should prospective employee's social media accounts be viewed as part of the recruitment and selection process?" The discussion started with the question of whether this would be beneficial or detrimental to a company. With the majority of us stating that it would be beneficial because of examples where standard background checks didn't find anything unusual, social media checks have highlighted inappropriate content. Moreover, it can ensure that as an employer, you are definitely hiring the right person and once you have made the decision that they are the ideal candidate for the role. However, some stated that it would be detrimental due to the fact that there is a large data privacy angle, where if consent is not gained, there is a risk of getting into a difficult situation. Furthermore, by viewing social media accounts, employers may consciously or subconsciously discriminate against candidates based on what they see, and therefore potentially miss out on hiring a great candidate.

On the other hand, you could argue that a company prone to media and the spotlight, needs to do more due diligence on the potential employees, as hiring someone with a social media account or history, could have a detrimental effect on the company. As a conclusion, we had most Stoics stating that a background check of their social media is beneficial, and we believe that there is software currently being created, that will have the capability, in one click, to proof-check the whole of someone's history. Lastly, as social media continues to grow, so will the demand for social media checks to be completed.

Jemima Howden, Business Society Communications Manager (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

#### INTERNATIONAL

#### Welcome Back!

The Summer Term has been one of great delight within the School, as we saw many of our international pupils physically return to Stowe after the Easter holidays. Although this involved having to self-isolate or quarantine upon return, pupils ensured they undertook these extra efforts to be able to continue their education in person.

The overseas pupils were asked about how they are finding the Summer Term, and the response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. The majority said that they have really appreciated being back in the classroom, and able to see friends and engage in sports again. Being so far away from friends whilst we were in lockdown was difficult for many, and the return to Stowe has provided them with the community they have been longing for.

There are still a few Stoics undertaking their studies via the Stowe Distance Learning Programme (SDLP), and they are continuing to work incredibly hard to engage with all the lessons and exams held virtually. This is being well supported by Ms Felton, who regularly meets with these pupils to ensure progress is made, despite their physical absence from School. We do hope that all Stoics are able to join us in person in September, and we can once again celebrate and appreciate the great diversity of our pupil population.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils





#### Latest Release from Stowe Records Happy Girl - Ruby Cooke

Ruby's debut single 'Happy Girl' was released on Friday 28 May, on the School record label. Ruby recently released a music video of an acoustic version of the song with Stowe Studio 100 which had great success prompting an exciting anticipation to the full song release. The song can be found on all music streaming platforms and available to download from all online music stores. Please give the song a listen, add it to your playlists, share it far and wide and enjoy!

**Daniel Mills, Teacher of Music Production** 



#### **Dining Room Restoration**

Restoration and conservation work on the Dining Room ceiling is nearing completion and will be unveiled by the end of term. The room is being returned to its appearance from 1817, when the octagonal paintings in the centre of the ceiling were replaced. Had the original paintings been discovered beneath these replacements, we would have considered an earlier scheme but no earlier than 1771, when the window casings were lengthened.

Conservation work started on 4 January, with cleaning of the gilded framework and trials of conservation methods. The structure of the ceiling was found to be in sound condition, but there was a lot of surface cracking. All this has been made good and re-decorated. As a principle, we aim to maintain as much original material as possible and limit the amount of re-decoration. This is particularly important where gilding is concerned, and generally the original has cleaned very well, with a lightly diluted solution of tri-ammonium citrate. Flaking paint was re-attached by applying a very fine Japanese tissue to the surface, which is dampened and gently brushed to ease the flakes back into place. Once the ceiling had been cleaned, it was sealed with an isolating varnish to ensure that all subsequent work was reversible. Loose plaster was secured and the many cracks were filled, before retouching lost or damaged decoration.

Francesco Sleter is believed to have painted the four mythological scenes in the cove, along with various animals, birds and reptiles. Up close, the detail of the ceiling is really stunning. Sleter may have been assisted by Joshua Harris, whose signature can be seen in the south east corner on the cornice 'Josh: Harris: 1750'. Harris was paid for 'guilding (sic) in the long room' in 1751. The three large octagonal paintings were also originally by Sleter but were replaced in the 1820s and 1830s by three paintings representing from east to west: Venus Disarming Cupid; Venus on her Chariot, crowned by Cupid and attended by the Three Graces; and Venus at Her Toilet, attended by the Graces. These paintings were removed for conservation and have now been re-instated. They were removed to see if any original work remained beneath them and also to check the condition of the ceiling.

The images show a general view of work in progress, some of the detail on the ceiling with the re-instatement of lost detail.

The Stowe House Preservation Trust is an independent charity formed to raise funds for and manage the restoration of the Grade I listed mansion, and to open the House to the public by agreement with the School. For details of how to help us, please see the **SHPT website**.

Nick Morris, Chief Executive Officer, Stowe House Preservation Trust

### Lower Sixth Art Trip

On Thursday 13 May, the Art Department ventured into the previously unchartered waters of the Banbury Museum for their 'Portrayals' exhibition.

Given the restrictions due to Covid-19 over the last year, we could have been travelling to the Venice Biennale for all the excitement, and the exhibition certainly did not disappoint.

Featuring paintings and drawings (loaned from the Arts Council's collection) by Hockney, Freud, Lowry, Ofili, Hepworth, Gormley and 32 other internationally recognised artists, we were privileged to have unrestricted and private access to this remarkable show for two hours.

Dove-tailing perfectly with our A Level theme of 'Identity' this year, our Lower Sixth finally had an opportunity to witness art in the flesh once again, rather than trying to assimilate the experience and intention of the artist via a screen. As an art teacher there is nothing more reassuring than the sound of scratching pencils hovering above a silent hum as pupils try to record the image as accurately and quickly as they can from the work itself. It's a cliché, but you never forget those moments when you observe so intensely, and those brush marks and pencil strokes will be indelibly etched on their consciousness for ever more.

This invaluable opportunity (right on our doorstep!) was an absolute treat and has now been interwoven into their contextual research with real purpose and understanding - as only that first-hand experience can give you.

Our thanks go to Chris Grimble (Teacher of Art) for organising the logistics and to Vicki Wood at the Banbury Museum for making us feel so welcome and looked after. We'll definitely be back!

The exhibition runs until Sunday 4 July 2021, and I thoroughly recommend booking to go and see it, if you live anywhere nearby.

**Daniel Scott, Head of Art** 





## Celebrating Diversity with Eurovision!









On Saturday 22 May, a House competition was held by the International Society. Each House was allocated a country from the Eurovision Song Contest, and were encouraged to decorate their House and enjoy cuisine from the country they were representing. Stoics then sat and enjoyed (though many were cringing!) the great variety of performances on offer. Although the Eurovision Song Contest may not appeal to everyone's musical tastes, it certainly does highlight the wonderful cultures from around the globe, and proved a great way for Stoics to engage in the global community, and learn about the backgrounds of some of our international pupils.

The winners of the House competition were:

- Walpole for representing Italy, who won the Eurovision Song Contest.
- Stanhope for Best Decorated House (and most enthusiastic dancing!).
- · Lyttelton for Best Cuisine.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



#### The Farey Oak Tree

As you are all aware, we now have a beautiful new Golf Course, which opened last May. Not only do we have stunning views, but we also inherited the Farey Oak Tree, which originally sat within the lost medieval village of Lamport.

The 1086 Domesday book records Lamport having a population of 11 people. Three of these were 'villeins' which actually translates to a "free inhabitant of a village'.

The Roadside Commissioner's report from the late 18th Century mentions a "great big oak tree" that stands on the side of the road. The groove now filled with hedgerows, is the remnants of this old road, which originally ran from Towcester to Buckingham and Lamport.

The old tree they mention, is the ancient Farey Oak, which is nearly 700 years old. It is a stunning old tree and must have seen a lot of history in its time. This picture shows an aerial photo of the site before the Golf Course was put in place and it shows the old road markings and the village green. The tree really should be celebrated and we are very lucky to have this within our midst.

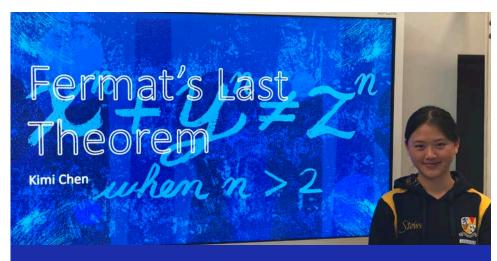
If anyone wishes to see the Farey Oak, please contact the Estates Team, who will be more than happy to arrange a visit when golf is not being played.

Jayne Heason, Head of Estate Management









## Multiverses,<br/>Integers & Cricket

Stowe Mathematicians Oscar Watson (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Kimi Chen (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Ali Short (Lower Sixth, Winton) gave inspiring talks to the Lower Sixth and Fourth Form, using mathematics to answer questions about our existence, questions about numbers and questions about who should win when rain stops play.

Oscar calculated the number of possible arrangements for matter to determine how often the universe would inevitably repeat itself, and how far we would need to travel to meet another Oscar giving exactly the same talk. Kimi told the story of Fermat's last theorem, which is simple enough for a 10 year to understand yet took 300 years of mathematics to solve through the eventual proof of the Tanayama-Shimura conjecture. Finally, Ali explained the mathematics behind the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method for determining the winner of weather-affected cricket matches and gave thoughts on how it could be improved.

Many thanks to our excellent speakers and the Lower Sixth and Fourth Form mathematicians for thought-provoking questions and discussion.

**Charles Adkins, Teacher of Mathematics** 





#### Royal Navy Careers

On Thursday 6 May, Mr Derek Snaith from the Navy Careers Office in Luton, gave a talk to Sixth Form pupils about careers in the Navy. He started with a presentation on the career paths and opportunities available in the Royal Navy, including the many different branches (Submarine Service, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Maritime Reserves). He also talked about the requirements needed to join each of the branches, as well as the difference in qualifications, training and responsibilities between ratings and officers.

Later in the talk, Derek explained the pros and cons of joining the Navy and the many life skills you can learn from this career. The pros included the opportunity to travel, sense of purpose and a varied day-to-day life, whereas the cons included long periods away from family and arduous work.

After Derek's presentation, Johnny Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and I asked a variety of questions we had, as well those from other Stoics watching the talk via Microsoft Teams. These included "What are the longest deployments you can do?", "What work experience would you recommend to prepare yourself for life in the Navy?" and "Is there anything you would have done differently if you were to join the Navy again?". His answers were "On average 9 months but this can be longer when deployed on ships and submarines", "Get out and travel and make sure you take any opportunity available" and in terms of what he would have done differently, he said he would have been more confident, and thrown himself into everything rather than being reserved.

Thank you very much to Derek Snaith for taking the time to talk to Stoics about careers in the Navy. This talk will be available on the VLE if you would like to watch the full presentation and O&A.

Alexander Dens, (Lower Sixth, Grenville)

#### **Musical Success**

On Saturday 22 May, Nikki Atife (Third Form, Cheshire) and Emily Garwood (Third Form Cheshire) took part in the Northampton Festival of the Performing Arts 2021. Both girls performed to a very high standard and impressed the adjudicator with their accomplished playing.

Nikki was awarded 2nd prize in the Advanced Piano class for her performance of a Waltz by Chopin. Emily was awarded 1st prize in the Advanced Piano Recital class for her performance of an Intermezzo by Brahms. Emily was subsequently invited to perform in the annual festival Gala concert which took place on May 26 at the Deco Theatre, Northampton.

Congratulations to both performers for these musical achievements.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard





As the UK begins to regain some sense of normality, live music, theatre, and sport are all starting show encouraging signs of a recovery. Stowe musicians have naturally complied with all of the required restrictions but have not allowed themselves to become restricted by what they can achieve. It is this resilience that has led to the exceptional run of recorded concerts produced this year. Our most recent offerings in this area have included the first instalment of a series of Keyboard Showcase Concerts capably organised by our Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew. This is to be followed by the first instalment of an Ensembles Concert produced by Head of Instrumental Studies, Katie Potts, which will be released just before Half Term. All of these videos can be found on Stowe's YouTube page and are well worth a watch.

After the Half Term break, we are tentatively hoping that we may be able to host three concerts at Stowe with a live audience. The first of these is our annual Open Mic Event due to take place on Sunday 13 June. However, this year there will be a twist as we move the event outdoors and utilise the serenity of the lawn behind the Chung Music School. The event will take place at 3pm and will be a showcase for many of our talented singers. Numbers will be limited, so please contact Jane Horwood to reserve your spot.

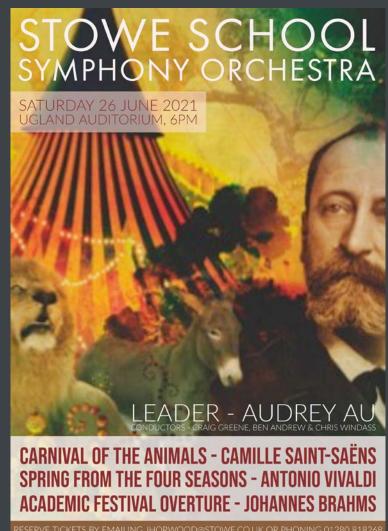
Assuming the government proceeds with the planned removal of all remaining restrictions on 21 June, it is our hope to stage two concerts in the Ugland before the end of term. The first of these, due to take place on Wednesday 23 June at 8pm, will see the Stowe Chapel Choir perform Vivaldi's enduringly popular Gloria accompanied by the finest local professionals of the Stowe Festival Orchestra. The concert will also feature two of our most talented Music Scholars, Jessica Foxwell (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Audrey Au (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), performing concerti by Mercandante and Mozart respectively. This really is a concert not to be missed so do reserve tickets as soon as possible.

Our second 'live' event will see the Stowe Orchestra join forces with a number of our finest pianists for a performance of Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns. The concert will also feature music by Vivaldi and a performance of the celebratory Academic Festival Overture by Johannes Brahms. Originally scheduled for Sunday 27 June, please note that this performance will now take place at 6pm on Saturday 26 June.

It is our plan to live-stream the above events whether an audience is permitted or not, so do tune-in online if you can't be with us in person, and enjoy watching the Stowe musicians getting back to what they do best. Further recorded events will also be released prior to the conclusion of the academic year as well as a live-streaming of the annual Mozart Trio Prize competition.

If you have any questions about any of the above events, please do not hesitate to contact **me** or any other member of the Music Department. We very much look forward to seeing many of you back at Stowe soon!

Craig Greene, Director of Music









#### SWANBOURNE SCHOLARS

The Swanbourne Design and Engineering Scholars have been attending a Saturday morning enrichment activity in the Design Department at Stowe. The Scholars have worked hard this term completing a woodwork project, using the School Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and laser cutter, to design and manufacture keyrings.

They have also looked at 3D printing and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) routing to give them a wide and varied insight into the potential of design and engineering. We were excited to allow the Scholars to be the first pupils to try out our 'F1 in Schools' track after helping to manufacture the race car in a previous week. The two teams tested their reaction speeds by firing the cars down a 15m track in under a second, the teachers in the Department couldn't help joining in too! The pupils have been a pleasure to have in the workshop and have shown commendable skill for the subject. The Department is looking forward to welcoming them back next term, as we develop an engaging and challenging programme for the future scholars.

Victoria Cox, Design Technician



#### **Languages Society**

On Wednesday 5 May, the Languages Society met to hear a variety of presentations given by Lower Sixth Society members. These included: "I'Île de Ré" by Thomas Gibson (Cobham) and Poppy Goaman (Lyttelton) "Italy" by Thanassi Ghertsos (Chandos), "Spanish Wine" by Lily Almeyda (Queen's) and Tilly Hawkings-Byass (Queen's) to Josephine Marr (West) and Matilda Neuhoff (Cheshire) explaining their German heritage.

Finally, Jemima Howden (Stanhope)
presented some of her research from her
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on
"Should languages be compulsory at school?".

These presentations were incredibly interesting and well researched, a big thank you to all who presented!

Ollie de Winton (Upper Sixth, West)



#### **Politics**

Politics Round Up of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Local Elections

Thursday 6 May saw many people across the UK flock to the polling booths to cast their ballots in local elections, mayoral elections and also for devolved governments. The A Level Politics pupils have been studying in-depth the different factors which may influence the voter. The elections provided a great example to investigate, as not only are national issues such as Brexit impacting voters opinions, many regional dilemmas such as Scottish Independence came into play.

Sabyn Maude (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) paid close attention to the outcome of the elections, and provided this useful summary of the results. Her account clearly shows the tumultuous time we are currently facing within UK politics.

"Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish National Party won the election in Scotland with 64 seats. However, the SNPs were one short of a majority. The Conservative party won 31 seats; the Labour party won 22 seats. The minor parties such as the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats won eight and four correspondingly.

The SNPs said that their priority was the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as holding an independence referendum once the crisis has passed. Boris Johnson said that the independence referendum would be 'irresponsible and reckless' and 'ripping our country apart'.

The Labour Party won the assembly elections in Wales with the leader Mark Drakeford and 29 seats won. The Conservatives won 11 seats followed by Plaid Cymru winning 12 seats and the Liberal Democrats winning just one seat.

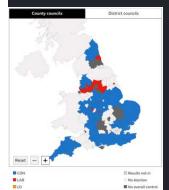
Mark Drakeford previously worked on policies such as free school breakfasts and bus passes, built on a philosophy called Progressive Universalism. Other early policy proposals from Drakeford's campaign include a pilot of universal baby bundles and a push for the devolution of the Probation

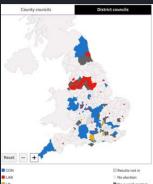
Many English councils have changed hands after the 6 May election, mostly at the expense of Labour. The Conservatives had a net gain of 12 local authorities and 296 seats, while Labour had a net loss of eight councils and 254 seats.

The Conservatives beat Labour in the Hartlepool by-election. This is the first time a Conservative MP has been elected in this constituency. Jill Mortimer, the winner, was also the first woman to win in that constituency.

This means that the Conservative majority in the House of Commons will have increased, therefore making it easier for <a href="the-Government">the Government</a> to pass legislation through the Commons."

Fran Shah, Teacher of Politics





#### Golf

Stowe beat St Edward's in the first round of the National ISGA competition, with Max Faulkner (Lower Sixth, Temple), Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Edward Davis (Fifth Form, Bruce) playing in the team. Edward had a fantastic afternoon, shooting a new course record of 66 (4 under par), off the white tees at Stowe. Edward then backed that performance up with a win in his Bucks, Berks and Oxon competition on Sunday 9 May, where he again shot 4 under par, winning the competition by seven clear strokes.

On Tuesday 25 May, Stowe Golfers beat Radley College in the Regional Final of the ISGA National Schools Championship and will now progress to the Grand National Finals in Manchester in June.

Congratulations to Max Faulkner, Edward Davis and Chanel Fontaine-Geary.

Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf

#### **Tennis**

The Third and Fourth Form girls' tennis teams played a new fixture on Saturday 15 May, when they travelled down to Wycombe Abbey School in South Buckinghamshire. Four teams played at each level, and all can be rightly pleased with their performances as every team recorded a victory and represented the School very well.

A special mention must go to the Third Form girls, with almost every pupil being involved in sports matches on Saturday afternoon, as they managed to put out four tennis teams and a full athletics team and won them all!

Our first full block fixture of the term on Saturday 22 May, saw our girls and boys take on one of the strongest tennis schools on the circuit. Bradfield have set themselves up as a centre of excellence for tennis, so some Stoics found themselves playing against nationally ranked players. However it was good to see that Stowe's strength in depth was better than Bradfield's, and congratulations go to the girls' U14A, B & C teams as well as the girls' U15A, B & C teams, who all won comfortably. The girls' 2nd VI also had a win and special mention again to Bella Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Eliza Percy (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who only dropped three games in their three sets playing as No. 1 pair in the first team.

The boys had a tougher afternoon, but enjoyed playing on Bradfield's clay and indoor courts.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis



Well done to Grafton who beat Chandos in the Final of the Senior boys' Inter-House cricket on Tuesday 11 May.

On the evening of Friday 14 May, our U17s played Bedford in a cup match at Stowe, the young side put up a good fight, but Bedford went on to win the match. The next day our full 1st XI travelled to Bedford for another cup match, this time it was the national T20 competition. Stowe managed to overturn the result of the evening before and recorded an excellent win. Rhys Noble (Upper Sixth, Chandos) was man of the match.

On Wednesday 12 May, our U14 and U15 sides all won comfortably against Bloxham.

Congratulations to the 1st XI who beat Rugby School, on Saturday 22 May on the South Front, with a hugely impressive performance in the National T20

competitions. The 1st team have now won all eight of their matches so far this term, clearly their year-round commitment to practice is paying off.

Overall, the fixtures against Rugby were shared with three wins each and a tie in the U14A team.

Other victories were recorded by the 3rd XI and the Yearlings C team.

In the midweek game on Tuesday 18 May, the Junior Colts As had a County Cup match against Aylesbury Grammar School. Stowe had another good win with a superb performance by Will Harrison (Fourth Form, Winton) returning bowling figures of 6 wickets for just 9 runs.

In the Senior Inter-House girls' competition, congratulations go to Nugent, who beat Queen's in the final to lift the trophy.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

#### **Athletics**

A record number of athletes travelled to Nuneaton for the second meeting of the season Saturday 15 May.

They competed against Rugby, Bromsgrove, Bloxham, Kings Worcester and Repton.

There were some fantastic individual performances with a total of 15 Stoics winning their events. The Junior girls produced the outstanding team performance to come first overall with Josephine Parker (Third Form, Cheshire) winning all three of her events. The Junior boys came second with six individual victories.

Both the Inter boys and girls also had numerous individual winners and the Senior boys and girls performed well despite being depleted on numbers.

Highlights of the afternoon included Lulu Goaman (Third Form, Lyttelton) showing great determination in the home straight of the 800m to win her race, the Junior girls storming home to victory in the 4x100m relay and a 1st and 2nd for Harvey Poole (Fourth Form, Winton) and Tobias Ellson (Fourth Form, Walpole) in the same 400m race.

**Grant Seely, Head of Athletics** 





Sam Wardlaw (Lower Sixth, Grenville) has been selected as Captain next year. An excellent helmsman, he has been doing a great job in promoting the sport and has been very welcoming to the newer sailors.

To support him, Samuel Ellis (Lower Sixth, Chandos) will be Vice-Captain. Samuel has been on a sailing journey since joining Stowe, developing from a keen novice, to now coaching our new sailors - quite an accomplishment from a standing start.

I am confident that they will both do sailing proud at Stowe.

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing



#### Lacrosse

The Lower Sixth lacrosse side travelled to Tudor Hall for two experimental 6s games on the evening of Friday 14 May. It was agreed before the match that scores would not be kept, however every Stowe player scored except the two goalkeepers; Kimi Chen (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and making her Stowe debut, Abi Roberts (Lower Sixth, West). Stars of the game were Jodie Brogden (Lower Sixth, Queen's) with five goals, Rosie Grayson (Lower Sixth, Nugent) for leading from the front, and Ottilie Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Nugent) for excellent defensive play and leadership.

On the afternoon of Sunday 23 May, the Stowe 14As hosted Oxford Hawks and scored 14 unanswered goals. Ronnie Mulcahy (Third Form, Nugent), Maddie Baker (Third Form, Queen's) and Emelia Brett (Third Form, Queen's) all found the net on several occasions.

During the same afternoon, our 14Bs hosted Oxford City, in their first ever game of lacrosse. Araminta Orchard (Third Form, Nugent) and Freddie Palmer (Third Form, Cheshire) got on the scoresheet and Sandrine Van Grembergen (Third Form, Queen's) was outstanding in defence.

Additionally, on the same day, the 1st X hosted Oxford Hawks 16s. Stowe's experience shone through with the Upper Sixth Formers Holly Phillips (Nugent), Willa Hodson (Queen's) and Cosi Prestwich (Nugent) all scoring hat-tricks. Frankie Macleod Matthews (Nugent) contributed with several assists. The final score was 14-3 to Stowe.

Rob Ingham-Clark, Head of Lacrosse

#### Equestrian

Well done to Mimi Price (Fourth Form, Cheshire) who rode at Bury Farm Equestrian Farm on Sunday 4 April, in the 1.10m Pony Elite Qualifier for Hickstead. Mimi not only won, but was the only rider in the pony and horse section to get a double clear in this class.

Competing again at Bury Farm on Sunday 23 May, Mimi was placed Third in the NSEA 1.10m on her new horse 'For Sira'. This is her second horse now qualified for the Championships at Hicksted.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager







#### Rowing

Rowing at Stowe has got off to a super start this term. The Eleven Acre Lake is picturesque at this time of year, with crystal clear water, sunshine and blue skies, and the Stoics have been making the most of it.

Recent joiners Philipp Benedic (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Al Deliss (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Thanassi Ghertsos (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Finn Tyson (Lower Sixth, Winton) have given us a Sixth Form 1st VIII, with some promise. We have seen some good rowing from the girls, with Leia West's (Fifth Form, Queen's) regular practice paying dividends, and new starters YanRan Li Zhu (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Alicia Wilson (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and India Gordon (Third Form, Nugent) enjoying learning to row.

The Colts VIII are all natural rowers and most have been rowing since they started at Stowe in the Third Form, so they are completely at home on the water. The beautiful Henkel oak-framed boathouse at the Eleven Acre Lake is a superb facility. Stocked with six quads, three doubles and about 20 singles, it now has racking for up to five eights. Within a short walk of the Houses, the Stoics can fit rowing, up to four times a week, into their busy academic lives.

With the gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we are now able to take the Sixth Formers, on their half day, to the lake at Hollowell where they can row pieces of over 2,000m. This week they will take part in a National Virtual Regatta organised by the Schools' Head, using GPS timing against teams from across the country. We are also hoping to be able to attend the Marlow Regatta in person, on Saturday 19 June.

**Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing** 



#### A Return to Geographical Fieldwork

As expected, Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from completing our usual fieldwork activities last year, and the continuing restrictions this year also meant that we had to make alternative plans. Nevertheless, we were all excited to be able to restart our fieldwork as the government restrictions lifted on Monday 17 May.

Sadly, our usual residential trip to Dorset wasn't possible, so instead we undertook two risk-assessed, socially-distanced day trips to cover the two most popular themes for the A Level independent projects: 'Changing Spaces, Making Places' and 'Crasts'

It wasn't quite the balmy May weather we'd hoped for, but despite the rain and hail, the trip to Oxford and Woodstock was deemed a success. Starting on the Cowley Road in Oxford, pupils were able to put theory into practice, assessing the cultural diversity of the area, land use, environmental quality and completing sensory mapping. They then moved to the City Centre, where surveys were done of the new Westgate Centre and its impact as an urban regeneration project. The final part of the day was completed in Woodstock, providing a

stark contrast to the Oxford locations, where sleepy town meets English Baroque Palace.

On Tuesday 18 May we spent the day on the south coast enjoying the sunny and rather windy weather. Starting at West Wittering (complete with a Spitfire flypast that I rather enjoyed!), pupils were able to learn how to use the equipment needed for physical geography projects and then collect some data of their own to enable them to practise analytical techniques. Surveys were carried out on the East Head Spit sand dunes, looking at everything from soil temperature and vegetation cover, to dune angle and wind speed. This was followed by assessments of beach profiles, infiltration rates, coastal defences and characteristics of a rural beach, to name but a few. After a quick packed lunch, we then moved to Bognor Regis, where a number of techniques were practised. Pebbles were measured and the characteristics of an urban beach were assessed, and there was then just enough time for a quick ice cream before the long journey home.

It was great to be back in the field and to see lightbulb moments as pupils saw in full 3D and colour the landforms and features that so far had been limited to textbook images.

Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography



#### **House Singing Part-Song Competition**

On Thursday 6 May, the Ugland Auditorium roared back into life with the eagerly anticipated Part-Song Competition. Stowe's mini-Eurovision saw 10 Houses compete to claim the title with the standard of the performances being excellent across the board. We were lucky to have the expert thoughts of Mr John Wilkinson to adjudicate the event. Mr Wilkinson began his career at Stowe and from September is to take up a full-time teaching position at the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School in Aylesbury. It was fantastic to be able to welcome him back to Stowe and we are grateful for his informative and encouraging adjudication.

Numerous performances were singled out for their quality and it was great to see many opting for sophisticated instrumental accompaniments. However, at the end of the day, the primary assessment criteria for this event are based on singing, and the top three houses executed their vocal performances exceptionally. Cheshire took third place, narrowly behind a complicated but convincing performance by Nugent. However, it was Lyttelton that took the win with an interesting performance featuring elements of rap alongside the more traditional harmonies.

Congratulations to all involved for making it such a wonderful evening! My thanks also go to Mr Nottage for organising the event, Mr Kingston for his finest Dale Winton impressions when introducing each house, and Mr Weston for enabling the event to be live-streamed and enjoyed by all.

Craig Greene, Director of Music



## service@stowe









## STOIC PERSPECTIVE: The Library Project



'Working at the Library for Mrs Foden and Miss Stockley has been great fun for the past few years. Helping to maintain the new and old books across the library has certainly kept us busy, yet has been rather calming as well. The many books that come into the Library each week really shows just how dedicated pupils are at maintaining a regular reading schedule, and how dedicated Staff are at ensuring a wide variety of books are available, to anyone that wishes to read them.

Decorating the Library for whichever time of year it is, really allows us to add a personal touch to our work in the Library. At Christmas for instance, we gather many of the older books and stack them in the shape of a tree, to add to the Christmas spirit in the Library for anyone that wants to visit.

Working in the Library also has its perks as we see what goes on behind the scenes, we often work on the second floor that some may not even know exists. It gives a great view over the whole Library and often leads to many confused looks from anyone working below!'

Luc Katyar (Upper Sixth, Walpole) & Alex Man (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

#### seaside@stowe

#### - A Wet and Wild Afternoon!

The wet and windy afternoon of Sunday 23 May, did not deter Stoics and Staff from enjoying a variety of activities and treats at the seaside@stowe fundraising event, hosted by the service@stowe Community Projects team.

This event saw all the family fun of the British beach being brought to Stowe; BBQ, Pick and Mix sweets, puppet shows, an ice cream van, volleyball, ring toss, mocktail bar, water pistol fights, and the most popular booth, "Whack-a-Teacher" Sponge Toss.

Stoics kindly donated some of their pocket money to attend, which saw the event able to raise over £300 for The Getaway Foundation. The Getaway Foundation (Charity Number 1187336) is a Buckinghamshire based charity which raises funds and organises UK seaside holidays for families in absolute poverty in the local area.

Pupils were able to request a standard ticket, or a VIP ticket to this event, with the VIP tickets being entered into a raffle for a range of prizes. The winners of the raffle are;

- Kitavi Mwendwa (Third Form, Temple) has won a private pool party for him and his friends.
- Josh Cowley (Lower Sixth, Bruce)
  has won the chance to have breakfast served
  in bed by his Head of House.
- Nolly Mannion Miles (Third Form, Queen's) has won an ice cream sundae bar for herself and friends.
- Charlie Keane (Lower Sixth, Grafton)
   has won an afternoon on the trials bikes.
- Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Upper Sixth, Walpole) has won a takeaway for himself and friends.
- Liam Finn (Upper Sixth, Winton) has won a box of Krispy Kreme donuts.
- Jodie Brogden (Lower Sixth, Queen's)
   has won a dinner out in Buckingham for her and friends.
- Jemima Howden (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
   has won a cinema trip for her and friends.
- Cosima Prestwich (Upper Sixth, Nugent) has won a basket of baked goods.
- Max James (Fifth Form, Cobham) has won supper with the Head for himself and a friend.

"The weather was not ideal, but the event was really fun, the Third Form loved the water fight," said Sonia Steffanson (Lower Sixth, Stanhope). Mr Giles Cuddy, a Whack-a-Teacher volunteer, said as he dried his face with a towel, "It was great to see the pupils having fun," and he was "surprised by the accuracy of students when it comes to sponge throwing!"

Thank you to all who supported the event.

Anyone who would like to donate to this worthwhile charity can do so through the link **here**.

Andrea Westmoreland, service@stowe Coordinator



# LSAS THE WAR GAME

"Horrific... with brilliant effects"

Rocky Mongia-Couling (Fourth Form, Temple)

"Compelling and harsh"

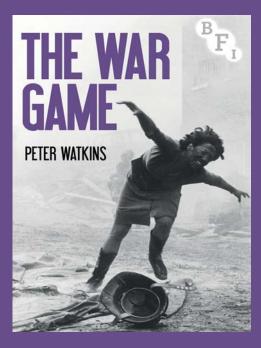
Hemish Rajguru (Fourth Form, Bruce)

"An eye opener"

Lily-Anne Moon (Fourth Form, Nugent)

"Real"

Hugo Plessis (Fourth Form, Grenville)



Peter Watkins' 1965 BBC docudrama about the consequences of an imagined nuclear attack on the UK, The War Game was famously banned from being broadcast only hours before it was due to go on air in the mid-1960s, apparently at the behest of none other than the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson.

It took counterculture figures like John Lennon to enable the film to get shown in

cinemas, clubs and CND gatherings thereafter and eventually, in the mid-1980s, against a backdrop of Ronald Regan and the 'Star Wars' project, the film was finally screened on TV for the first time. This was a few years after the BBC's other great anti-nuclear play from that period 'Threads'. It was then, that as a young Under Graduate, I first encountered its power and raw emotional clout and have remained haunted ever since.

Essentially, the film which was shot on a very low budget in my home county of Kent (Rochester, Chatham and Canterbury are key locations), portrays with startlingly realistic imagery, what it would be like if the bomb was to be used again. Watkins suggests that the government is hopelessly unprepared for such an eventuality and that the UK public remained largely ignorant of the potentially catastrophic consequences of using the nuclear bomb as a

deterrent. Of course, the film was made at the height of the Cold War and probably felt alarmingly relevant when it was made, but all these years later, I am convinced that it remains one of the most significant pieces of television ever. When I can face it, I like to use it in my teaching as both a salutary lesson on the importance of voting and the absolute horror of nuclear war and, as a Film and Media teacher, a superb example of what can be achieved by the small screen.

Our Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS) have been finding out about the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima as part of their preparation for Ms Pickering-Polláková's unit on Japanese culture, which they will be studying next term.

They began by watching the Japanese anime Barefoot Gen, based on Nakazawa Keiji's Manga autobiographical account of a young boy's experience of surviving the blast in Hiroshima which killed over 72,000 Japanese citizens. A blast which, incidentally, was also observed from Enola Gay, the plane which dropped the bomb, by former Stowe pupil Leonard Cheshire (Chatham, 36), who later went on to question the justification for the use of atomic weapons during the Second World War.

I am pleased to report that The War Game has lost little of its power to shock, unsettle and educate its viewers over 50 years later.

Full of haunting images, disturbing facts and horrific predictions, The War Game even goes so far as to suggest that surviving a nuclear explosion would be a worse option than dying. It's bleak stuff but our LSAS pupils were up for the challenge, and by watching and discussing the film, it can only be hoped, that they are a little more informed about a subject which, it could be argued, is as important today as it was on that day in 1965 when The War Game was denied an audience by a government who feared its message and ordered the BBC to effectively ban it.

For further viewing/reading - Raymond Briggs' 'When the Wind Blows' is also essential, alongside, Kubrick's delirious black comedy 'Dr Strangelove' or 'How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb'.

**Andrew Webber, LSAS Coordinator** 

## **Keyboard Showcase**

Stoic pianists have been busy this term preparing for a three-part Keyboard Showcase Concert series. Each concert features a wide repertoire spanning many genres, from Baroque to Atmospherica, and Stoic musicians from all year groups have taken part. Part One and Two of the concert can be viewed <a href="here">here</a> with part Three set to be released shortly after the Half Term break.

For musicians, performing to a camera is a very different experience to performing in front of a live audience. I was hugely impressed by the way in which all the performers rose to the challenge and each Stoic delivered a



highly accomplished and communicative performance.

Congratulations to all those who have taken part so far and we look forward to the release of the third and final instalment of this concert series.

Thank you to Ben Weston for his assistance with filming.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard





#### The Languages Society: Open Mic Night 2021

The penultimate Languages Society of the academic year got underway on Wednesday 19 May in the Ugland, where twelve acts took to the stage to perform in a variety of languages. From Ukrainian songs to German tongue-twisters and Japanese poems, the night had a vibrant feeling of mixed cultures and backgrounds.

The Head also joined the event, to unknowingly participate in some comical French tongue-twisters, brilliantly performed by Tom Gibson (Lower Sixth, Cobham). A topical German song by Clara Tearle (Lower Sixth, Queen's) called 'Elefant' on mental health and the importance of having a "happy place" moved the audience, even though the lyrics were in another language.

From Modern to Ancient languages, a Lower Sixth class performed 'The Gruffalo' in Latin, providing an unusual twist on a children's classic. Another highlight could have been the improvised nature of Henning De Salis (Upper Sixth, Temple) and Caspar Vaughn's (Upper Sixth, Temple) German tonguetwisters, due to revision taking priority. Nonetheless, the act was hysterical, and the crowd enjoyed repeating some unnecessarily long and complex words to the performers.

A Third Form French class grew the confidence to perform 'Vois Sur Ton Chemin', the first act of the show which determined the quality that was to ensue. From first to last, in performance order, the Pearson-Gee sisters Jemima (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Mimi (Upper Sixth, Nugent) closed the show with a most beautiful and moving rendition of the Icelandic song, 'Ævin Endar' by Jónsi.

Overall, the evening was a great success, with the Head seemingly impressed at the amount of talent and courage that Stoics displayed that evening, while also allowing for pupils themselves to experience variations in music and singing styles, and how they vary from country to country. A massive thank you goes out to Mrs Tearle for organising the event within such a short timeframe due to Covid-19 restrictions, as well as Mr Fuentes for taking on the role of introducing each act. Of course, a final thank you goes to all the performers for making such a great evening out of what would have otherwise been revision or prep. This was the first whole School event in over a year, let's hope plenty more will follow. You can watch the night here.

Matteo Pangherz (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

#### Wellness Garden

We were recently tasked with producing a Wellness Garden in the area behind the Medical Centre.

George Kent, a member of the Garden's team, took inspiration from this online quote, when designing it.

"The purpose of a Wellness Garden is to distract you from the unhealthy thoughts spinning in your head. When your senses are distracted by sights, sounds and smells (among other senses), your mind can be easily swayed to relax and live in the moment. Many times, these inthe-moment sessions can bring about solutions to your problems and to better health."

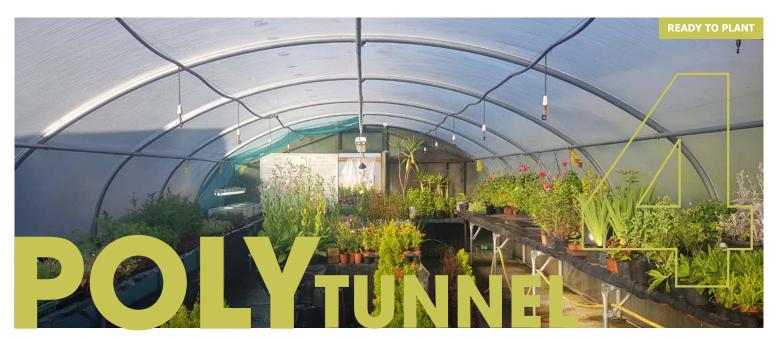
The purpose of the garden is to provide a space for relaxation, stress and anxiety reduction by using plants to help stimulate our senses and we hope that you make the most of this new facility.

Kevin Beasley, Assistant Grounds Manager









MID GROWTH

This week we have started to plant various flower beds, tubs and hanging baskets with herbaceous, annual and perennial plants and are installing them around the School. All have been grown from seed in our polytunnel, which is situated next to the Grounds Shed in the Bourbon compound. We installed it in November 2019, measuring approximately 24m x 5m it includes its own heating and irrigation system.

This is the first full season we have grown plants in the polytunnel, with it providing excellent year-round conditions for them to flourish, it is already proving to be a great asset for us to have.

Kevin Beasley, Assistant Grounds Manager

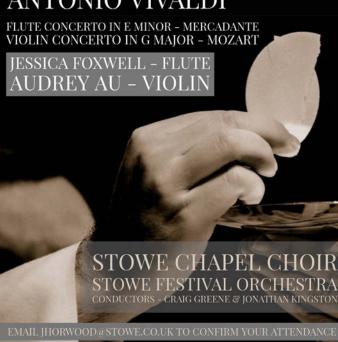








#### GLORIA Antonio vivaldi





Stowe School Stowe Buckingham MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000 f | +44 (0)1280 818181 e | stowemail@stowe.co.uk

w | www.stowe.co.uk

Editorial Team: Mrs Cath Clarke Mrs Tori Roddy

