

# Stowe mail

TATLER  
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



## Biennial Review and Inspection

January will always carry an element of weather adventure and she didn't disappoint. Waking temperatures were -6 degrees as the red sun rose on the day of Stowe CCF's Biennial Inspection. Planning for such a scenario ensured half of the afternoon's activities were in the warmth of a pavilion, classroom or temple, so no requirement to defrost our hardy Cadets.

We were delighted to welcome Colonel Edward T Spinelli, the Commander of 422nd Air Base Group, headquartered at Royal Air Force Croughton, to Stowe as our Inspecting Officer for the Review element of the MOD-mandated Biennial Inspection. It was unique and exciting to host an USAF Reviewing Officer, and generous of him to come; he has a busy role leading more than 800 personnel in providing combat support for United States Air Force, Air Combat Command, Air Force Global Strike Command, seven Combatant Commands and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. He was accompanied by Chief Master Sergeant Taylor.

We were also thrilled to be honoured with a visit from Countess Howe, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, accompanied by her PA Kathryn Hobbs. There was no requirement for her to request Lord Lt Cadet support, since Stowe has provided a Lord Lt Cadet for the last three years, and Cadet F/Sgt Max James (Upper Sixth, Cobham) was very happy to host the Lord Lieutenant on home turf.

After an opportunity to meet our brilliant team of Stowe CCF adult volunteers, Officers and visiting Staff, whilst enjoying a hot, tasty buffet lunch, cocooned in the silk-lined walled warmth of the

Blue Room, Colonel Spinelli, Countess Howe and our other Forces visitors and guests were escorted to the various RAF, Army, and Navy Section stands and activities taking place in and around Stowe grounds over the course of the afternoon.

The first stop was the RAF Section, under Cadet Sgts Alice Scheffey (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Angus Kennedy (Upper Sixth, Temple), in the North Front Pavilion who were introduced to the fascinating history of rocketry and useful design tips, by Dr C Adkins, assisted by Dr I Adkins, before assembling and launching their own rockets and firing them over the North Front pitches. We then visited CCF offices in Plug Street, where A/Pilot Officer S Whitby was delighted to show off the RAF Section's brand-new Flight Simulator in action, after devoting much time putting it together. The Flight Simulator was part-funded by a grant from the Combined Cadet Association, with funds matched by CCF subs, and is very popular with our RAF Cadets. The Lord Lieutenant was happy to pilot it, in front of a large, impressed audience. The remaining RAF stand was a TRI DIVE in the School pool, where Cadets were introduced to sub aqua diving overseen by Ms Cheryl Syrett.

The Royal Navy Section, under Cadet POs Max Cowper-Hart (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Martha Blake (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), after practicing in the buildup to the inspection, engaged in a communications exercise using Morse Code, in Queen's Temple, run by S/Lt Cook, and tackled a challenging chart navigation task run by S/Lt Matthews and Lt Easson-Basset. Cadets carried out both exercises, showcasing their skills with





speed, and accuracy, with our Reviewing Officer most impressed that RN Cadets today still learn this form of communication. They then moved outside to the Field Gun activity headed up by Lt Zammit, and Mrs V Lee Stevens, where they assembled and raced a replica field gun. The gun pieces are chunky and the ground was frosty; they were speedy and agile.

The Army Section Senior Cadets, under Cadet Sgts Emily Sutton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Paddy Potts (Upper Sixth, Chandos), took part in a blank firing activity run by Major Corthine, tasked with rescuing a downed pilot near Wolfe's Obelisk (a known enemy location) and applying battlefield first aid. On hand to assist was Major D Boardman, Stowe Reservist and parent, Lt Shah and Mr Fraser. Later, at the Bourbon Pavilion, the group took part in competitive stands involving a brain tingling planning exercise run by Captain R Stephens, ex Grenadier Guards. Meanwhile Captain M Allchurch, ex London Regiment and Stowe parent, ran a navigation stand, and Mr J Sheppe, ran a First Aid Triage stand.

Cheshire Company (Fourth Form led by Lower Sixth NCOs under Cadet Corporals Natalie Nylaende (Queen's) and Ela Shah (Cheshire)) took part in a round robin of stands including Cadet GP 5.56mm rifle, stripping, assembling and weapon cleaning, with our Ghurka Cadet Training Team Sgt Rai. Cadets received an introduction to the 23m indoor firing range and range procedures from Capt A Ashfield, assisted by Lt R Brown and Cadet Cpl Jasper Hayes (Lower Sixth, Bruce); Cadets built up a good fire position, from which they fired their first 5 round 'group and zero' shoot. Concurrently Lt Smith and Mr Angus Shan, from the House Team, put the Cadets through their design paces building the tallest tower out of giant lego pieces, with nuts and bolts, that could hold a full cup of water.

Captain A Arnold, assisted by Mr J Bonomi ran the fast and furious laser tag matches on the grassed, wooded area leading up to the Security hut - plenty of opportunity for Cadets to advance, return fire and take cover in the face of a laser head-banded enemy. Meanwhile in the Biology lab Cadets learnt their Dr ABC using Resusci-Annies with Ms E Newlin and Ms A Blatchford.

The day concluded with presentations and a closing address in the Marble Hall, from Colonel Spinelli who was energized and inspired by our 200 Stowe Cadets; he remarked on their positive attitude, confidence, energy and achievements.

## Awards & Prizes

A well-deserved RN Certificate of Commendation was presented from Commander Edge RN to P/Offr Max Cowper-Hart RN Section

### Rocket pairs who fired the furthest distance

First - Evie-Mae Meades (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Lani Shah (Fourth Form, Cheshire)

Second - Marina Goje (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

and Rosie Allchurch (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

### Winning Senior Army Cadet Team

3 Section, 1 Platoon, led by Sgt Adaora Okoye (Upper Sixth, West)

**Winning RN Field Gun Crew** - led by Martha Blake (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Darcey Moran (Fifth Form, Cheshire)

### Fourth Form Army Section Shots

First - Alfie Corthine (Fourth Form, Winton), with a 20mm grouping

Second - Kezia Hammond (Fourth Form, Nugent), with a 22 mm grouping

Third - Arabella Fraser (Fourth Form, Queen's) with 23 mm grouping

He then delighted our Head Cadet CSM Rafe Gordon (Upper Sixth, Winton), Cadet CPO Issy Reeder (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Cadet F/Sgt Max James with 422nd Air Base Group Presentation Coins from the Commander, all of whom hosted during the day, ably assisted by Cadet C/Sgts Freddie Farrell (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Tom Moore (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Head of Cheshire Company, (Fourth Form Cadets) and Head of Anderson Company (Fifth Form Cadets).

The Lord Lieutenant presented her Lord Lt Cadet, F/Sgt Max James a signed, limited edition David Matthieson print 'Dundee' over Al Asad: At 2022 hrs 17 Jan 1991, a formation of Tornado GRI's from Tabuk, callsign 'Dundee' press home an attack on Al Asad airfield in Iraq, using the JP233 airfield denial weapon.

The Head then closed the day with thanks, to our visitors, congratulating the Cadets and Staff, and remarking just how important the special relationship between the US and the UK is, now more than ever.

The Inspection and Review was an enjoyable day for all and without doubt a great success.

**Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander and WO2 Geoff Abbey, SSI**



# STOICS

## Simon Curwen: Golden Globe Race 2022 - One man, one boat, nonstop, around the world!

Old Stoic, Simon Curwen (Chatham 76) is currently competing in the 2022 Golden Globe Race aboard the sloop rigged Biscay 36, Clara, which was built in 1976 at his homeport of Emsworth, Hampshire. The race course is an east-about circumnavigation starting and finishing in Les Sables-d'Olonne, France.

The race started on Sunday 4 September 2022 and after 21 weeks, Simon has now completed over 50% of the course and he is the undisputed fleet leader. From Cape Finisterre, Simon has consistently sailed the shortest route with an efficient risk/benefit assessment for every move and routing choice.

One man, one boat, around the world, with no technology and no outside assistance. Solo, non-stop and sailing like it's 1968.

Race Patron Sir Robin Knox-Johnston was the first person to sail single handed and non-stop around the world between 14 June

1968 and 22 April 1969. His voyage lasted just over ten months.

Simon has overcome a broken halyard, which meant having to seek safe anchorage to rectify the fault.

Originally Simon expected to finish the race in July but thanks to his expert sailing skills, he is now expected to finish at the beginning of April.

You can follow Simon's progress [here](#).



# OLD

# SHPT

## Beyond the tunnel

We were delighted to see so many Stowe Staff join our first tour of the State Dining Room under restoration on Wednesday 4 January. Susy Pullen and I, both from Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) were on hand to explain the historic background of the room and what the restoration is aiming to achieve.

Attendees were able to see the newly lined walls ready to receive wallpaper copies of the original 18th Century tapestries, template outlines of the new fireplace surrounds and overmantels, and under the floor as it was having services and soundproofing put in. They were also able to see the stripped back woodwork, including the skirting, dado rail, doors and window shutters, revealing beautiful hand-carved decoration, lost under centuries of paint.

Lots of questions were asked and the historic images in the tunnel were looked at. Tours have run throughout the month, allowing more Staff to make the most of this rare opportunity to see first-hand such comprehensive restoration.

**Anna McEvoy, Stowe House Preservation Trust**



# LAW SOCIETY

## Law Society Talk - Artificial Intelligence and its role in the judicial system

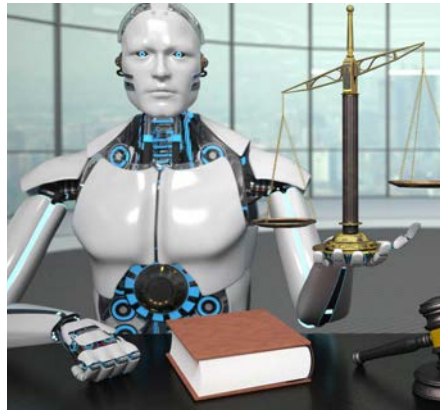
Beenish Chaudhary is currently doing a PhD in Law with the University of Buckingham. Beenish presented a riveting talk on a topic she is researching as part of this course, the role of Artificial Intelligence as Judges, and her experience as a woman in industry. These are both key interests for us, and it was incredibly insightful to learn more about how a very new technology could change the judicial system forever.

When listening to this talk, one question sprung to mind: is AI destructive or productive for our society?

Many well-known people have made their comments on AI, with Elon Musk warning about its effect on society, and Stephen Hawking on the ethical issues with AI, and how it could eventually end the human race. These negative spins on AI give the idea that we should not embrace it in the way one may expect, especially in the form of Judges as it can jeopardise their position in society.

However, many feel AI is the future, and we must adapt to these changes and allow it to upgrade our judicial practices. It is thought that developments in AI will be even bigger in the coming years, so we should allow it to make our lives more efficient. This can be seen already in many countries worldwide, such as USA, Malaysia and China, which use AI in the judicial systems to support Judges' decisions, analyse legal data and streamline judicial processes.

Beenish believes that AI will not completely take over as Judges but could be used in parts to help guide human Judges to the right decisions, as they can eliminate any unconscious bias, but they cannot see



humans' demeanour in court. This shows that both together can reach the most appropriate verdict, and in a shorter time.

In one of our questions following her presentation, we asked how the introduction of AI will affect women wanting to enter the law field. Will we see a decline in women entering law as eventually the Judicial system will be dominated by automation? Beenish responded by highlighting that women and men will both be affected and should prepare for technological advances across all fields, and women should focus their attention into the fastest growing industry, the industry of automation. Women almost have a second chance to immerse themselves in this up and coming world and be respected in this field from the beginning, just as men have had the opportunity to do so in the current world.

We would like to thank Beenish for her incredible talk, and hope to invite her back to Stowe soon.

This talk was part of a series by the Law Society and a programme that is focusing on women in industry. We represented the Law Society and led questioning around women in industry and how the evolution of AI might impact female workers more than their male counterparts.

To watch the talk, please [click here](#).

**Alice Bryant (Lower Sixth, Queen's)**  
**and Mimi Price (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)**

## The Law Society first meeting of 2023

Studying law at university requires a unique set of skills, including critical thinking, analysis, problem-solving, and communication. Through active participation in the Law Society, pupils can develop these skills and gain an understanding of the legal world.

In January, the Law Society is evaluating the case of *R v Martin (Anthony Edward)* [2001] EWCA Crim 2245. This case highlights the problems in Law when a person can use force to defend themselves against attacks on themselves or their property.

Two groups of Stoics will be preparing arguments for and against the ruling, while a third group will research the US Stand Your Ground legislation and its effects on the rate of justifiable homicides in the US. The Stand Your Ground legislation, which changed in 2005, has been linked to a 32.4% increase in justifiable homicides in Florida between 2005 and 2006, and a 134.3% increase between 2006 and 2020.

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Business and Futures**



## Law Society Talk - 'Medical manslaughter: can doctors kill through gross negligence?' with Dr James Slater

On Thursday 12 January, we were joined by Dr James Slater for a criminal law talk in the Blue Room. James is a specialist in the area of criminal law and a lecturer at the University of Buckingham. His 'Medical manslaughter' talk discussed the difference between murder and manslaughter by gross negligence in medical and everyday contexts.

The main points presented were based on the fundamental premise that "even a dog distinguishes the difference between being stumbled over and being kicked", which illustrates the difference between murder, and intentional or reckless behaviour, the purpose of which needs to be proven for it to be classified as murder, and gross negligence manslaughter.

For a death to be considered gross negligence manslaughter, the circumstances of the breach must be genuinely exceptional and reprehensible enough for the

amount of gross negligence to deserve a criminal sanction.

The definition of gross negligence manslaughter doesn't require the accused to be aware of the obvious and severe risk of death. For example, the doctor who is so preoccupied with the thought of promotion that when faced with evidence of an obvious and serious risk of death fails to process that information correctly and take necessary steps to minimise that risk/bring it down to an acceptable level. When using this definition, the 'significance of action' problem arises and it can be summarised as "How can we be sure of the link between indifference and inadvertence".

James' talk can be heard [here](#).

**Valeriy Zubkov (Lower Sixth, Grenville)**

# Quantum Society

The Quantum Society has got off to a phenomenal start this academic year, with a total of 50 members across the Lower and Upper Sixth, making it one of the biggest societies in the School! We have enjoyed talks from members as well as a debate, book clubs and a talk from an expert.

Toby Blythe (Upper Sixth, Grafton) kicked us off on Wednesday 5 October with his Presidential talk discussing 'Which Science is the Best?'. This was a brilliant start to the year as we learnt a lot, and it also got us talking and helped us get to know each other. Following Toby's talk, we had a debate week where we produced motions and then all chose a side and battled it out. This sparked some interesting discussions on topics such as 'Will humans live forever?' and 'Is too much money spent on scientific research?' It allowed people to come out of their shell and show their opinions and contribute their knowledge on each topic. I enjoyed presenting a talk on 'The Three Energy Systems' exploring the biochemistry that goes on in our body to allow us to exercise. This brought another dimension to Quantum looking into a more sport science related topic.

Over the Michaelmas Half Term, members of Quantum had the chance to be part of the Quantum Book Club. This Half Term, the Upper Sixth read 'The 10 Most Beautiful Experiments' and the Lower Sixth read 'What If?'. During the first week back, on Thursday 10 November, we then enjoyed a Chinese takeaway in our Year Groups where we discussed our thoughts on the books. The Lower Sixth had 20 people in their book club and had fun discussing the crazy concepts written about in 'What If?'. These always go down well and are a really special way to talk to like-minded peers about things that interest us. They are one of the ways Quantum really helps to create friendships, and especially now in Upper Sixth there is a family feeling between the regular Quantum members due to events like the Chinese Book Review.

On Wednesday 16 November, we were fortunate enough to have Dr James Crosby come to Stowe to give us a talk which he titled 'The Energy Crisis and Climate Emergency - an Integrated Sustainable Solution'. Dr Crosby has a PhD in Geochemistry from Cambridge University and after doing a talk last year on what killed the dinosaurs, he kindly returned to give another fantastic talk. He outlined the causes and effects of the energy crisis and



then presented sustainable solutions to the problems through renewable energy sources and reduced usage of energy. It was fascinating to hear what he does day-to-day as Head of Sustainability at an energy consultancy company, showing us one of the many fields Chemistry and Physics can lead to. Dr Crosby explained the different options for future solutions to the crisis and how these can be made more accessible. Solutions such as Voltage Optimisation and Ground Heat Pumps were explained in detail to help us understand what is being researched and developed now. After his talk we had flowing discussions on our ideas for the future and questions about the more intricate details of the problems we are facing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, and we hope he will come back again next year!

It goes without saying that none of the amazing opportunities we have in Quantum would be possible without Mr Tearle. So, from everyone at Quantum, a massive thank you Mr Tearle for running the best Society in the School!

**Emily Sutton (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Quantum Society Secretary**

# Beagles

## Boxing Day Meet

The Stowe Beagles met on the North Front on Boxing Day, sixty years to the day after the first such gathering. The weather was glorious in stark contrast to the first edition in 1962 when snow fell, heralding a ten-week period of snow and frost, and last year which saw nonstop heavy rain!

A crowd of over 250 local people and Old Stoics attended and enjoyed Stowe's hospitality, with the Catering Department providing sherry, mince pies and orange juice, served by members of the Stowe Beagles' Supporters Club.

Henry Tavistock (Upper Sixth, Chatham) Joint Senior Master of the Beagles (with Arthur Irvine (Upper Sixth, Chatham), led proceedings along with Kennel Huntsman, Phillip Kennedy and Full Whip Charlie Hodges (Fourth Form, Chatham). Following a lovely social gathering, Henry addressed the crowd, thanking them for their continued support of the event; many of them having been attending since childhood. He also thanked the Head and Governors for their continued support of the Stowe Beagles. The hounds paraded around the North Front pitches before returning to kennels.

**Phillip Kennedy, Stowe Beagles**



*Photos courtesy of Milly Hodges, Parent*



# Netball

The highlight of the afternoon's block fixtures against Oakham on Saturday 14 January was the 1st team's fantastic result in a tight and tense match that ended with Stowe holding their nerve in the closing minutes to win 31-29. This is a very significant result, well done to Phoebe Haynes (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and the whole team.

The U16A team also played superb Netball to win their match comfortably. Oakham proved to have very good strength in depth throughout the block, but all games were competitive.

Well done to the U16A and B teams who beat Rugby on Saturday 21 January. Our other teams didn't register wins, but we fought hard against strong opposition and chilly conditions.

**Victoria Dias, Head of Netball**

Congratulations to Isabelle Kaye (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) on being selected into the England Netball squad that will be representing England at the Europe Netball U17 Competition, from Thursday 23 - Sunday 26 February in Antrim Northern Ireland.

# Badminton

On Saturday 10 December 2022 our boys' 1st and 2nd teams, along with our girls' 1st team travelled to Cheltenham College. In recent encounters Cheltenham have been very tough opponents for the boys, however, this year the 1st team beat Cheltenham College 7-2 and the 2nd team had an impressive 9-0 win.

Our depleted girls' 1st team were competitive in most of their matches but lost 9-0.

The boys' 1st and 2nd teams continued their fine form into the new year as both teams gained excellent 8-1 victories away at Radley on Saturday 7 January.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton**



# RUGBY

## U14 National Cup

Stowe U14s travelled to Cardiff to face Ysgol Gyfun, Glantaf in the last 16 of the National Cup on Wednesday 18 January. It was a tightly fought match with Stowe leading 7-5 at the break, with an outstanding individual try from No 8 Charlie King (Third Form, Winton).

Glantaf responded with their second try, leaving Stowe needing a penalty to draw the match and go through to the Quarter-Finals as the away side, but it was Glantaf who held their nerve and capitalised on some defensive mistakes to secure a 13-7 victory.

Well done to all the Third Form team, they have much to look forward to next season.

**Grant Seeley, Head of Rugby**



# FOOTBALL

The 1st team, led by Captain Max Pascal (Upper Sixth, Bruce) had a good opening match on the North Front on Thursday 12 January. We found ourselves 1-3 down at half time, but the Stowe team showed good character to pull the result back to a 3-3 draw against a strong Oundle team, who won the Midlands League last season.

Well done to the boys' and girls' first teams who both had wins against Akeley Wood on Thursday 19 January.

The boys scored three goals through Charlie Oldershaw (Lower Sixth, Winton), Rory Adams (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Drake Selby Boddy (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and the girls notched two goals through Sofia Comino (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Claire Sorger (Upper Sixth, Queen's).

**James Knott, Deputy Director of Sport**

# Service@Stowe

## Conservation Groups

This term the Conservation groups on a Monday and Wednesday are looking at researching and developing a nature trail around the Stowe grounds, as well as installing bird boxes and camera traps in order to capture footage for our own version of SpringWatch.

If you are interested in joining these groups, please contact **Mr Shuttleworth** or **Mrs Elliott**.



## Service@Stowe Community Christmas Party

On the cold and wintery afternoon of Sunday 11 December, a helpful group of Stoics gathered in the Sixth Form Centre to host a Christmas Party for the community.

We all set off decorating the Sixth Form Centre to bring a Christmas atmosphere to the building. Teamwork was key to help make the decorations and put them up, bringing a sense of joy and Christmas spirit to the room.

Guests were individuals from the local community and groups from care homes: Maids Moreton Hall, The Red House Nursing Home and Ridgway House (Towcester).

As the guests started to arrive, we helped them from their coaches and welcomed them into our Stowe community. They all came in with amazing spirit, which led to happy chatter all around. As the room started to fill, we served refreshments to our guests, and chatted about where they were from, as they asked us about Stowe. Some of the choristers came and lifted the spirit even more by singing Christmas carols. The room was filled with singing and laughter and the community were beaming with joy as the Stoics helped to join in and get everyone involved.

The Head arrived and presented a fantastic game of bingo, which the community all enjoyed. This was followed by three visitors from the Talita Kum Project in Romania who sang an amazing Romanian song - the room was in adoration. Miss Abbott and I then took on the exciting job of the raffle, where everyone was engaged and the lucky ones won some prizes.

A special surprise for our guests were Dr Webber and Alicia Wilson (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) dressed as Father Christmas and his assistant, who handed out chocolate boxes as presents. It was wonderful to see the joy this brought.

Helping with this party was a fantastic way of supporting the community and all Stoics involved were kind enough to give up their Sunday afternoon. I would like to say a massive well done and thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting this amazing event.

**Leia West (Upper Sixth, West)**



## Swanbourne Saturday Scholars

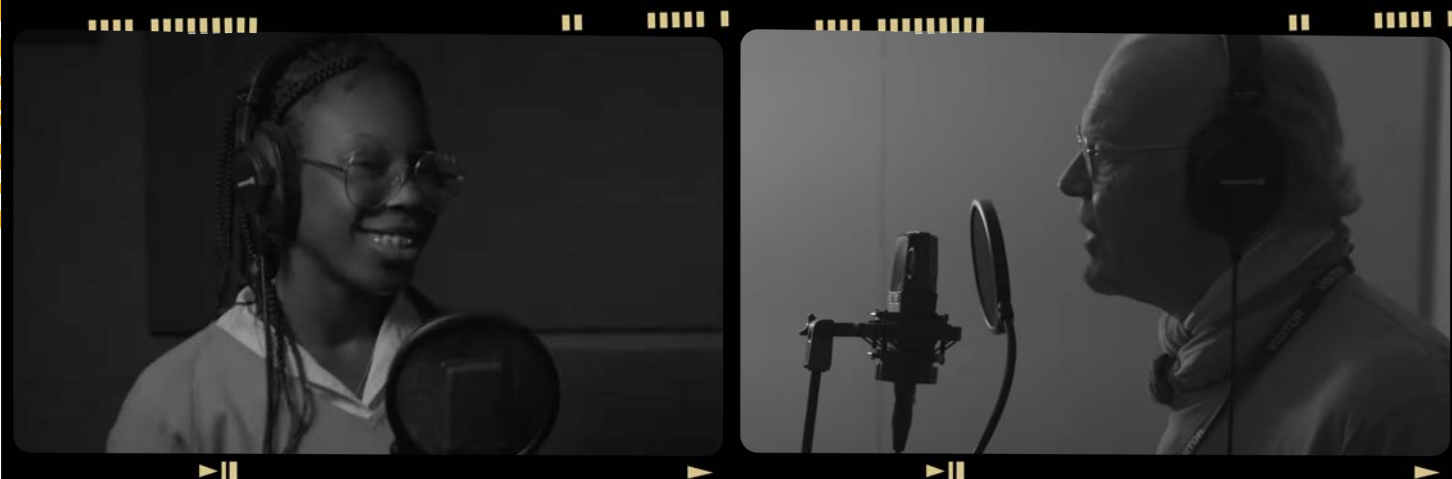
During the Michaelmas Term, I was fortunate to receive a wonderful group of Art Scholars from Swanbourne House who visited the Watson Art School to participate in some fun workshops.

To date, the Swanbourne Scholars have refined their drawings to create reduction linocut prints and looked at colour mixing and layers. In the Lent and Summer Terms, we will be learning about different sculptural techniques as well as textile skills.

I'm looking forward to our next workshop, which will take place on Saturday 4 February. If you see them, give them a wave and ask them what they've been doing!

**Amy Walsh, Artist in Residence**





# What does it mean to be a Change Maker?

After Christmas, we were delighted to share Stowe's new film which marks our Centenary year.

Our latest release: **What does it mean to be a Change Maker?** features current pupils, Old Stoics and members of Staff, it draws on the founding ethos of the School and our vision beyond 2023.

The film was directed by Will Berner (Chatham 11) and his company Ablinq. The creation involved script writing, studio recording, green screening, archived 8mm transcoding, on location filming, animation building, racing droning, photo taking and some music and sound producing... It was an idea that started last year, to characterise a 100-year-old community into a couple minutes of film. A nod to the history with eyes looking firmly into the future.

Jonelle Famutimi (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Old Stoic Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) both had roles in the film, narrating the powerful words that accompany the images of Stowe both past and present. Of different generations, we hear how being in the film and the Change Maker ethos is held by Jonelle, Nigel and Will.

Stoic Jonelle remembers how she felt when she was asked to represent the School in the film, "I was initially quite scared and slightly nervous as I don't tend to speak in front of a large audience or on camera very often, however after the video was completed, I felt accomplished and the positive feedback I received was encouraging." Jonelle sees herself as a Change Maker because she has a goal to make a difference and her actions support this, "I would like to become a mechanical engineer and could therefore help increase the efficiency of vehicles which would help to make positive change, as vehicles are an essential part of many people's lives. By doing this I can impact many people's lives in a positive way."

Finally, Jonelle believes "it's important to be a Change Maker in life because I feel that everyone's goal should be to make change in the world. If everyone is striving to make positive change, then it will happen, and the world will naturally become a better place."

Leaving Stowe 55 years ago, Nigel was asked to represent Stowe as a voice reflecting the past; where the School has come from. In being asked to do this Nigel felt "enormously honoured and really rather flattered!". Whilst the

phrase Change Maker wasn't used when Nigel was here, he believes that he is a Change Maker, his time at Stowe instilling a feeling of individualism in him. He is not keen on maintaining meaningless traditions and rituals, and during his time on the Committee of the Old Stoic Society he shook things up, amongst other things, changing the structure of dinners to allow those who attended to socialise with all ages and sexes, and not be limited to their own Year Groups.

Nigel also recalls that at one time, feeling that the name OLD STOIC SOCIETY sounded too ageist and archaic, he tried to persuade the OS Committee to change the name to give a clear and contemporary meaning to the Society and a visually snappy strapline - he was outvoted although he still thinks StowEX is worthy of consideration...!

Since Nigel left in 1968, he believes the most radical change to the School has been the introduction of girls! He also believes the academic standard has also improved dramatically and the parochial activities of the School seem wider and all encompassing, which, he feels is all down to a brilliant and far-sighted Head and Staff. Nigel believes that being a Change Maker is important in life, and "whilst some traditions are worth keeping, it must be said that some, which were once originally pertinent and meaningful, can over time, lose their relevance. Time moves on, priorities change - and so must the individual and institutions, too."

Will, Director of the film, would leave it to other people to decide if he is a Change Maker, but adds, "video and film content is an extremely powerful tool to incite change, so in some respects I feel like by creating film content it can change other people's perceptions and outlooks".

Since Will left, he feels that the School has "changed physically, but spiritually, maybe not" but "the outside world certainly has", and whilst the 'strap line' "We are Change Makers" wasn't formally defined when he was a Stoic, looking back at his time here, he believes the Change Maker ethos was always in place, but it was disguised in individuality and free thinking.

**We finish asking Will the question, do you feel being a Change Maker is important in life, and if so, why?**

His answer "100%... where is the sweet, spice and life in conformity?"

We hope you enjoy the film which you can watch [here](#).





# LACROSSE

On Saturday 7 January the first block fixture of 2023 was hosted against Marlborough College in some very trying conditions.

**1st X:** Stowe had a strong first half performance, with the score standing at 6-4 going into the break. The start of the second half showed some strong defending from both teams with neither Stowe nor Marlborough able to score for the first 12 minutes. It was then that the oppositions subs on the side-line made the difference, with Stowe running out of steam. Three goals were conceded, including one in the last five seconds of the game, which meant the final score would lie at 9-4 to the visitors.

**2nd X:** The 2nd X had the privilege of playing on the North Front, which may have been a first. The girls started extremely well and led after the first quarter. The game was extremely close throughout; however, the small Stowe bench hampered the girls, meaning through no fault of their own, they tired in the final quarter. Hopefully, we will get another chance to go for victory!

**3rd X:** After just returning from Christmas break, the girls were very eager to get their first game under their belt. The final score was 9-6 to Stowe and everyone put in a massive shift considering the conditions. Stand out performances came from Suraya Hashimi (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Alessia Capella (Fifth Form, Stanhope), scoring 4 and 3 goals respectively, and Dominic Dubsky (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Alice Watson (Fifth Form, Nugent) for denying many scoring opportunities.

**U15A:** The U15A team had the opportunity of playing on the North Front. They were looking to build on a successful preseason and focus on the fundamentals. It was clear from the outset that the girls were up for this game. Stowe dominated and won the game 11-7, which is a great start for what will no doubt be a good season.

**U15B:** This game got off to a quick start, with Arabella Williams (Fourth Form, Stanhope) winning the first draw. Both teams may have scored a few more if it were not for some great positional goalkeeping by both sides. In the second half, Poppy Wates (Fourth Form, Queen's) took over some of the draw-taking responsibilities and Stowe was able to pull ahead, with the game finishing 8-4 to Stowe.

**U14A:** Despite the thunderstorm that soaked us in the warmup, the U14A girls were excited about the prospect of their first match. The first quarter was closely contested and although the Marlborough girls had several strong players, we matched them with athleticism and determination. Mae White (Third Form, Stanhope) made a few great saves early on and the defence made some great slides to force passes. The first quarter score was 2-1. The second quarter went to Marlborough - their stick skills were more reliable, and they carried the ball through midfield with confidence. We had a strong third quarter however Marlborough put the game out of reach in the last quarter with another goal and the result was 5-3 in their favour. Against a strong Marlborough side this was a great effort, and the girls should be immensely proud of the way they played!

**U14B:** We were very slow to get into the game and as a result went down 2-0 early on. As play progressed our confidence grew, but despite best efforts the Marlborough goal was well protected as our attackers peppered the goal with shots that hit the crossbar, posts, and side netting until eventually we scored. This gave the team more confidence, but by now we were 4 -2 down. We wanted to put more emphasis on

our defence in the second half and they improved as a defensive unit as the game progressed. With some great runs by our midfielders who worked tirelessly and helped with our attack, we scored three more goals in the second half. However, Marlborough pressed us hard and some lapses in our concentration led to more Marlborough goals. We ended up on the losing side 9-5, but credit to the team who never gave up and played with determination and team spirit. A big thank you to Penny-Belle White (Third Form, Cheshire) who stepped into the goalkeeper position at the last minute and made some great saves.

## Camden Capybaras LC, Warwick University, Tudor Hall

Stowe 1st X hosted Camden Capybaras Lacrosse Club as a part of a triangular fixture on Saturday 14 January. Despite wet conditions, Stowe got off to a flying start, with a flurry of early goals. Into the second half, Camden had clearly rallied, coming back with a renewed sense of purpose, and put increased pressure on the Stoic defence. A couple of early goals went in for Camden, while their goalkeeper made a few good saves. Hannah Bewes (Upper Sixth, Queen's) made some great groundballs and a caused turnover which led to a goal from Lyla Mulcahy (Upper Sixth, Nugent). The match finished 7-4, and the Stoics prepared themselves for game two of the afternoon.

During the Warwick University game, the rain had started to come down more heavily, causing some scrabbling in the dirt, and it was during the second half of the game when Stowe really pulled away. A hat trick for Lyla Mulcahy (who tallied no less than eight goals and an assist on the day), as well as a brilliant final goal for Hannah Bewes, meant that the final score line ended at 9-1 to Stowe. Thanks must go to both oppositions for travelling, as well as to the parents who braved the grim conditions to support their children.

## Saturday 14 January - Tudor Hall

In what was a hotly contested match between Stowe 2nd X and Tudor Hall 1st X, Tudor Hall used their pace and athleticism to threaten the Stowe goal throughout the match.

Our attacking players all contributed to the goals with Alice Bryant (Lower Sixth, Queen's) scoring 5! Larissa Campbell (Upper Sixth, Nugent) worked tirelessly in midfield constantly producing ground balls and relentlessly tracking back to help the defence. Lucy Wilmott (Lower Sixth, Nugent) stepped into a leadership role in defence and made sure everyone knew the players who to mark. Fourth Former Domino Flint Wood (Queen's) stepped into the team and did not look out of place in the Senior team! The final score was 11-6 to Stowe.

The 3rd X girls arrived keen and eager and were ready to continue their unbeaten streak. We were facing a full Tudor Hall side who were clearly up for the game. Despite missing some key players our substitutes stepped up and acquitted themselves well. The game was very much a seesaw event, with play going from end to end. At half time Stowe were in the lead 5-3. With all to play for, Stowe ramped up the energy during the second half, which saw us hang on in the final minutes to win 10-9 and continue our unbeaten streak.

## Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse

# EQUESTRIAN

Our riders had a fantastic day at the Eventer Challenge Series at Aston le Walls on Sunday 22 January. It was another dominant team performance for Stowe as we won First and Second place in the team 80cm, First in the team 90cm, First in the team 1m and First in the individual 1.10m class!

Special mention to Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who won individual First in both the 1m and 1.10m classes, as well as Bella Timmis (Fourth Form, Stanhope) who came Second in the 90cm class.

Well done to Isabella Russell (Fourth Form, Cheshire), who won Third place in the JA handicap at the British Show Jumping Large Pony Premier event at Aintree International Equestrian Centre on Sunday 22 January.

## Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



Welcome to our **Online Auction!**



# Stowe School Charity Gala

Stowe Cricket has enjoyed some very successful seasons of late winning the Silk Trophy and the Regional Final of the National T20 in 2021 and the David Capel Cup and the U17 National Plate in 2022.



Due to the pandemic we have not been able to tour for several years but in 2023 we will be taking two tours out. The first is February Half Term where the 1st XI will be heading to Cape Town and then during the Easter break – our Junior Colts A will be heading to La Manga in Spain for a pre-season tournament.

To ensure the success of both tours and to make the experience as unforgettable as possible for the pupils involved, we are running this online

auction to raise funds for both tours.

I am very grateful to all the parents who have donated items – it is very much appreciated. Along with D&G this has provided an unbelievable array of prizes. Any amount over and above what we need for the tours will go towards funding additional coaching equipment for cricket.



Please scan the QR code to view the silent auction.

Several parents and Old Stoics have kindly donated items: 2 x tickets for the 1st day of England v Ireland at Lords in the grandstand, donated by Alexander Durtnell; One Week at 5\* hotel resort in the Algarve donated by Dinesh Choudreee, England Test Match Shirt signed by the current England squad donated by Ben Duckett; Family ticket (2 adults, 2 x children) for Northants v Nottinghamshire - 18 June 2023 donated by Gavin Warren; 1 x shirt, 1 x sweat shirt, 1 x England cap, 1 x tie, 1 x tracksuit bottoms worn by Alan Knott when coaching England in the 1990's donated by Alan Knott; Signed copies of James Knott and Andy O'Connor's Batting & Wicket Keeping Books donated by James Knott and Andy O'Connor; 4 x tickets for a T20 blast Match of your choice at Lords donated by Jamie Cox; An opportunity to do 12th man duties for the Northants 1st XI at a championship match. Be part of the dressing room and see what it is like to be a professional cricketer donated by John Sadler (Northants 1st XI Coach); Northants playing shirt signed by the current Northants squad donated by Graeme White.

There are also four tickets to a Surrey CCC home match available on the site. In addition, D&G have donated several truly amazing items themselves and we will take half of any of the money raised from those items.

Follow this [link](#) to the site.

If none of the items listed are of interest but you would like to make a contribution, there is a simple 'donate' option. Anything over and above that we need for the tours will go towards cricket equipment for the school. The auction is 'live' until Friday 3 February.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

**James Knott, Director of Cricket**



## A Busy Time Ahead for the Stowe Racing Team!

The Stowe Racing syndicates are about to kickstart 2023 with two runners at the end of January.

With so much racing being frozen off recently, it has been a challenge to get the horses to the races, even if you wanted to! Thankfully the frost seems to be abating just in time for two of our team to make their reappearances.

A new recruit to the Stowe racing team is five-year-old mare, Ol'river Shine, who was purchased at the Doncaster Sales in May 2022 and she is in training with Alex Hales (Chandos 92), who is based just outside Banbury.

It will be her first race in the School's blue and yellow racing silks for the Old Stoic Racing Club. This time she runs over hurdles - at either Plumpton on 30 January or Newcastle on 31 January - and we hope she can go well.

Next up is our Stowe 100 Club horse, the beautiful grey, Fagan. This is a new syndicate to bring Old Stoics, Parents and Staff together in racehorse ownership during this milestone year for the School.

Fagan gave us such a thrill when giving Grand National winning jockey Derek Fox a super round, jumping over the Grand National fences in the Becher Chase at Aintree in December, where he finished a very commendable Tenth. Unfortunately, things went awry at Newbury last time, but hopefully he can get his season back on track.

Shares are available in both syndicates with lots of events arranged both on and off the course for members to enjoy. If you would like to know more then please contact me directly - [henrykimbell@hotmail.com](mailto:henrykimbell@hotmail.com) or 07979 522744.

The Stowe connections within the sport really run deep and we even have an OS jockey to call upon when we have a jumps horse racing. Harry Bannister (Chatham 12) is now raring to go, having been out of action since October with a dislocated hip. Harry had his best ever season last year with 49 winners and we hope he can hit the ground running with our horses next week.

Keep up to date with our news by joining our Old Stoic Racing Club Facebook Group and also follow us on Twitter via [@StoweRacing](https://twitter.com/StoweRacing)

**Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04)**



# HISTORY

## History Trip to Agincourt, France

The Sixth Form Early Modern History trip (Saturday 19 to Monday 21 November), to Agincourt was definitely one that will be remembered fondly by everyone involved. Learning about one of the most famous battles in English history is exciting when sitting behind a desk, but it does not compete with standing on the same ground as the soldiers once did themselves.

We left School on Saturday afternoon and with only a few stops along the way, specifically to buy adapters which we had all forgotten, we arrived our hotel in Le Touquet late at night and got ready for the next couple of days ahead of us. Sunday was our main day of exploration at Agincourt (Azincourt in French) around the entire battlefield area. We went to the museum, recently created to honour the fallen at Agincourt. As you walked in, there was a wall with the names of every known fallen member of the French nobility. The museum was fascinating, with many accounts written at the time and interactive experiences, including a 3D room where it felt like you were amid the battle, and there were many extracts from sources that were not in the textbooks, which helped us to improve our deeper knowledge of Henry V's conquest of France.

After the museum, we visited the battlefield itself and were shocked at how untouched it was - it was just a field and a lot of the original features described in the sources were no longer clear. We had expected the battlefield to be all dug up and ruined by excavators and archaeologists, but instead it was beautiful and pristine. Before we left, we could not help ourselves and used a corner of the field to recreate the battle, involving one English archer who could not aim his (toy) bow, and one French cavalry member whose horse's foot fell down a rabbit hole!

On Monday, it was time for us to leave, but we ended our adventure back at Le Touquet, where some of us were brave enough to go swimming in the sea and the rest went exploring the shops and cafés. By the end of the trip, we all returned to Stowe, with more knowledge on the Battle of Agincourt than we could ever need, plus some fantastic new friendships. A big thank you must go to Dr Potter, Miss Stafford Smith, and Mr Griffin for giving up their weekend to take us to such a historic place.

**Max James (Upper Sixth, Cobham)**



## and...ACTION!

As part of the Stowe Centenary celebrations, we have organised a fantastic weekend of film and media activities to take place from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March, which we are calling 'and...ACTION!'

During the weekend, we are running our inaugural Film and Media conference for Sixth Formers which will take place on Friday 3 March from 10.30am-3.30pm.

We anticipate that over 200 pupils from Stowe and other schools in the area will attend and topics covered will include 'Marketing; designing quad posters - a lost art form' and 'The future of cinema in the platform world'.

The day will end with a screening of 'Return To Your Corner' - the story of Africa's first ever Boxing World Champion, Louis Mbarick Fall. Known as Battling Siki, he was born in French Senegal in 1897 and won his world title in 1922, when much of the African Continent was being ruled by Colonial powers, and so has been lost to the record books and is recorded as French. He moved to the United States after losing his European title and suffering immense racism, and was shot and died in a New York street at the age of 28. This documentary will be introduced by its award-winning Director and Old Stoic Ashley Morrison (Cobham 82).

We also will be screening a series of films over that weekend with a Stowe connection, primarily aimed at Old Stoics and their guests, with live or pre-recorded introductions by some of the Stoics involved with their production:

**Friday 3 March, 7pm - Peter Collinson's 'The Italian Job'**

**Saturday 4 March, 2pm - 'Shrek' (this is a special family Screening)**

**Saturday 4 March, 7pm - 'The Kingsman'**

**Sunday 5 March, 2pm - Powell and Pressburger's 'A Matter of Life and Death'**

**Sunday 5 March, 7pm - 'Mission Impossible: Fallout'**

There will be an Old Stoics' Lunch taking place from 12 noon-1.45pm on both Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 March.

Tickets for these films and events (which are free) can be booked [here](#).

In addition, The Watson gallery will be hosting the And...ACTION! Exhibition of Film and Media Memorabilia from Monday 27 February to Thursday 9 March - with an official opening on Monday 27 February at 6pm which readers are also invited to attend. Tickets are available [here](#).

If you have any film related artefacts you would be prepared to lend us for this exhibition, it would be much appreciated. Please let me know directly by [email](#).

All in all, this is going to be a memorable and exciting weekend which we hope will play a big part in our 100 year anniversary.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Dr Andrew C Webber, and...ACTION! Co-ordinator**

MEDIA CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY 3RD OF MARCH  
10.30AM-3.30 PM  
THE ROXY THEATRE  
STOWE SCHOOL

1923  
2023



# Leia West



**Stoic  
Spotlight**

## An interview with Leia West (Upper Sixth, West)

Leia West has a passion for photography. Many of her images have featured in Stowemail, on Stowe social media and in our publications. Here we meet the Stoic behind the lens and Leia answers a few questions about Stowe, photography and herself...

### What's your favourite thing about Stowe?

I think it's the number of opportunities available. The support from teachers with extracurricular and sports at Stowe is amazing, helping me to start up my own photography club and business, student newspaper, and much more. Another thing I like about Stowe is the networks and the people you meet, plus (within reason) you can be who you want to be. Oh, and I get to see my dog every day as he comes to work with my Father (who is a teacher here)!

### How did you get into photography?

When I was in Lower School, Mr Scott always had problems with me in Art as I only really wanted to take photographs. My obsession with photography started at GCSE, when I was taking photos of flowers. Everyone complimented me on them and said that I had a really good eye. I spent many hours playing with my camera, taking photos, and asking my parents to drive me to poppy, sunflower and other fields all over the East of England. I love the Summer and the colours and textures of flowers in full bloom.

In the Sixth Form, I decided to just go for it and start taking photos of sport, and I fell in love with it. A huge thank you goes to the Sports Department and the rugby boys for their support of my photography and helping to get my name out there into the community, allowing me to develop my skills and understanding of sports photography.

Rugby and Lacrosse seasons are my favourite, but I have also been lucky enough to help at tennis, netball, swimming, golf, and many School and Old Stoic events. I love recording real-time events through my photography, especially being involved in the Centenary.

### What are your favourite things to photograph?

Sport is my favourite thing to take pictures of because I enjoy capturing special moments for people and bringing them to life through my photos. Over time, I have developed essential skills such as timing and anticipation, which are essential to capturing the best moments.

The famous sports photographer Joe McNally said, "The biggest challenge in sports photography is being in the right place at the right time with the right lens and the right settings."

I feel the Sixth Form at Stowe has been the right place and time to help me develop this passion that will be with me for the rest of my life.

### What three words would your friends use to describe you?

Loving, altruistic and determined.

### What are your future ambitions?

This is a tricky one. I like the idea of working in banking or consultancy, and studies after Stowe will be in either business management or business analytics.

I have a good eye for detail and I'm stubborn, traits that are useful in photography and will hopefully also guide me through my university and early career years. I have applied to some of the best business schools in the UK that also have lots of sports teams, and are near a river so I can row!

### What would be your advice to your younger self?

Whilst I enjoy helping the Lower School in Photography Society, and I always give advice, I found this question so hard.

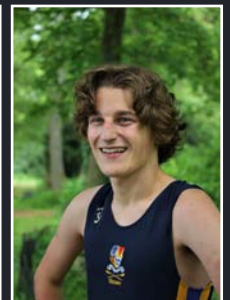
It would be to never to stop learning and never stop believing in yourself. Never stop believing in yourself is harder than it sounds. I have struggled with this at times, and I would advise my younger self to surround herself with genuine friends who will help her through tough times.

My Father is always quoting business people, and I thought I would use famous quotes to advise my younger self with a quote from Henry Ford - "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right." Finally, I would encourage my younger self to always stay humble and never forget the importance of helping others. "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

### What are your three favourite photos that you have taken?

I picked these three photos because I think they are really good quality photos which capture the action in the photos. The rugby photo was from the Finals last year and captures the joy and celebration of the event. The portrait of Max James was from one of our rowing sessions and is a brilliant photo of him as I think it captures the happiness of the moment, and the lacrosse photo I love because of the composition and the way the draw is being taken with the beautiful grounds behind them.

**We wish Leia all the best for her A Levels later this year, her photography and her future studies.**





# Film and Media

## Writing (and Reading) about Movies and Music is Good for Wellbeing

Since the end of 2021, in my spare time, as well as producing (with the music supremo Ben Weston, Music Technology and Studio Manager) two exciting audio events - T.S Eliot's 'The Waste Land at 100' and 'Uncanny; an evening of Gothic Terror!', I have become a regular contributor to several new publications which have given me an outlet for writing about my main passions, cinema and music.

'Cinema of the 70s', a magazine published every two months and only available from Amazon in a physical version, is a project put together by film lovers Dawn and John Dabell. In each lovingly presented issue, cineastes like myself write detailed and interesting articles on movies made in the 1970s - which is considered to be Hollywood's Second Golden Age. It's not exclusively about American film and there are also informative articles on British and World Cinema buried in their too. It was also the decade of the blockbuster films like 'The Towering Inferno', 'Star Wars', 'King Kong', 'Jaws' and 'Alien and Superman' which radically altered audience's expectations.

So, the chance to write about these films and the experience of watching them was something I could not miss, and I have become a regular contributor with forthcoming articles on the films of Raquel Welch, westerns 'The Wild Rovers' and 'The Last Hard Men', Warren Beatty's 'Heaven Can Wait' and Richard Lester's long-forgotten bath house comedy 'The Ritz'.

The magazine has proved so popular that a sister magazine, 'Cinema of the 80s', has been launched and, after my Woody Allen retrospective in the first issue, I've got features on Walter Hill, Leone's masterpiece 'Once Upon a Time in America', Nicholas Roeg, and Bergman's 'Fanny and Alexander' coming up. Again, you can only get physical copies on Amazon.

Contributing to these two magazines rekindled my passion for writing - I find it therapeutic, exciting, creative and inspiring - and I also began to write for a small home-produced fanzine about the long-lost medium of cassettes called, unsurprisingly, 'Cassette Gazette' (available only in physical copies from eBay - search 'cassette pirate'). Whilst I am not actually a lover of the format, there has been a resurgence of interest in cassettes and many new releases come this way. Therefore, I get to review current artists like Bicep, new albums by bands like Leftfield, The Stranglers and Margo Price, as well as re-releases like 'Wish' by The Cure and ABC's 'Lexicon of Love'. I have also reviewed several books about music, including Chrissie Hynde's autobiography and Steven Morris' books about Joy Division and New Order. As I tell my pupils, the best way to get to know about a text is to write about it.

In addition, the Cassette Gazette team launched a weekly 15-minute podcast called 'Lownoise' which you can hear on Apple podcasts or Spotify. So far, we have done 40 episodes covering everyone from Bowie to The Beatles, Kate Bush to Mike Oldfield and lots more. Our plan for 2023 is to focus on movies made in 1973 - which are all, therefore, 50 years old this year.

Finally, I have also become resident blogger on the Oxford independent cinema The Ultimate Picture Palace's website. This lovely one screen cinema off the Cowley Road, which Media and Film pupils visited last year to watch Billy Wilder's brilliant 'The Apartment', regularly screens classics as well as recent releases. I've so far blogged on films as diverse as 'The Shining', 'The Draughtsman's Contract', David Cronenberg's 'Crimes of the Future' and 'Singin' in the Rain'.

Obviously listening to music and going to see films on the big screen is important for your wellbeing (as Staff discovered on our recent StoweEd training day) but I've also realised that writing about something you love is also enormously satisfying.

As I also say to my pupils, try it sometime, you might just like it...

**Dr Andrew C Webber, Teacher of Film, Media and English, FLiX Co-ordinator**

## MATHS Leo Mullins Featured by NRICH Mathematics

Cambridge University regularly sets challenging problems for pupils to solve via their NRICH website, to which pupils can then submit their work for discussion and publication.

We are delighted for Leo Mullins (Lower Sixth, Chandos), whose work was selected for their most recent feature. Leo's careful algebraic proof established an interesting relationship between the faces of a tetrahedron that is reminiscent of the familiar Pythagoras Theorem. In Leo's words, "In a tetrahedron with three perpendicular faces, that is P, R and Q, the square of the area of the final face is equivalent to the sum of the squared areas of the three perpendicular faces."

Furthermore, Leo's work also stood out as he has learned how to use LaTeX Mathematics publishing software for a professional look and feel.

Read more about the problem and Leo's solution [here](#).

**Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths**

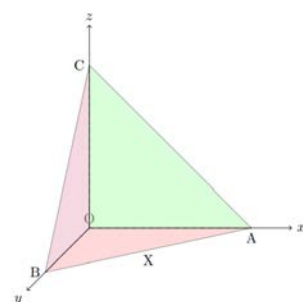


Figure 1: Tetrahedron diagram, whereby the faces AOB, AOC, BOC and ABC are denoted as P, R, Q and S respectively



# Rowing

After the Christmas break, it was great to see the eight out on the water, on the first day of term. We are preparing for our first competition of the year at Northampton, where a boys' eight, girls' quad, and two Junior boys' quads are entered. This will give several Third Form boys, who learnt to row last term, a chance to make their competition debut. It is very encouraging to see them developing, not just their skills, but also a positive attitude, as they learn to work as a team.

For the 1st VIII, we now have eight Sixth Form boys - the first time at Stowe that I've seen this. We are looking forward to seeing how they fare at Northampton, where University of Warwick, amongst others, join them in open eights.

The two competitive Third Form girls, Julia Starke (Stanhope) and Agnès Edwards (Stanhope), who rowed so well in their first race at Cambridge, are joining Lily Jackson (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Leia West (Upper Sixth, West) in the girls' quad, whilst Amelia Hine (Upper Sixth, West) is looking to build on her promising result at Walton in the single.

Our rowers are encouraged to row at clubs in the holidays. Agnès rows with her family on the beautiful lake at Bewl Bridge in Kent. Leia has been training at Northampton Rowing Club, so at their event, they have invited

her to race with three girls from Northampton High School. Last Saturday the Northampton girls and their Coach joined us for training on the 11 Acre Lake. They were welcomed by Liam Copley and James Knott and thoroughly enjoyed their day at Stowe. After a chilly afternoon on the lake, the match tea with the Stoics, was particularly appreciated. Everyone would like to do more together in future, and we encourage all our rowers to explore the opportunities at their local clubs in the holidays.

Our Third Form representatives at Walton were Hecco Harrison (Temple) and Ben Cousins (Bruce). At Northampton they will be joined by Third Formers, Luca Grimble (Winton), Orlando Mayhew (Chatham), Max Frohnsdorff (Temple) and Fourth Formers, Ari Lewis (Walpole) and Cameron Gray (Temple).

After the January Exeat we are looking forward to racing at Hampton Head. There is something about this event that makes it popular with everyone - perhaps it's Hampton Court Palace and the River Thames; convenience for many parents; or the buzz in the boat park as more than a thousand school rowers get ready to race. The Stoics had an enjoyable day last year, so we are looking forward to the same again this year.

**Andrew Rudkin, Stowe Rowing**



# HOCKEY

We managed a full block of 12 teams playing against Oakham on Saturday 14 January. Our boys' 1st team had a one of those frustrating games where we felt as though we were the better side, but the result ended 2-3 to Oakham. It was great to see our boys' U14 teams make such a positive start to their hockey careers, with the As and Bs recording comfortable wins. Well done also to the 3rds and U15Bs who ended with solid draws.

The 1st team had a very pleasing 5-2 win in the first round of the National Cup against Uppingham on Tuesday 17 January. The two Wilfs, Pickard (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Chisnall (Upper Sixth, Grafton) got two goals each and a further goal was added by Captain Ewan Hughes-Rowlands (Upper Sixth, Walpole). The U16s had a midweek win on Wednesday 18 January in their cup match against John Hampden Grammar with Alfie French (Fifth Form, Bruce) scoring two and getting man of the match award. On Saturday 21 January, 12 boys' teams played against Rugby School. Eight of the matches were decided by a difference of two goals or less, but on the whole Rugby had the better of the results. Well done to the 2nds and U14C team for their victories.

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**



## Things to consider when writing a UCAS personal statement and Reference

Stewart Tolley from Oxford Brookes University presented on how to prepare and write UCAS personal statements. He also offered an overview of the importance of working with your tutor to help them write contextualised university references.

A differentiated university personal statement is an important tool for pupils to show the Admissions Officer that they are more than just their grades and a list of extracurricular activities. A good statement can demonstrate to the Admissions Officer that the student is intellectually curious and has developed the academic, personal and professional skills required for university success. It also gives pupils the chance to present themselves in a way that highlights their unique attributes and experiences.

When writing a university personal statement, it is important for pupils to focus on the skills and knowledge they have acquired through their studies and experiences that are relevant to the course they are applying for. This can include any academic extension activities, such as essay competitions, volunteering, or sports. These activities

demonstrate academic and soft skills, such as independent research skills, collaboration and the ability to read and analyse beyond the curriculum.

It is important to show the Admissions Officer how these activities have positively impacted their studies, and how they are well-rounded and motivated. It is also important for pupils to work with a tutor who will write their university reference. A tutor can provide invaluable advice and assistance in helping pupils to structure their personal statement and develop their ideas. Working with a tutor can help pupils to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to make their personal statement stand out from the crowd. They can also provide useful guidance with regards to academic and extracurricular activities and provide advice on how these activities demonstrate academic and soft skills to the Admissions Officer.

You can watch Stewart's talk [here](#).

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures**



## Arts Award

Three members of the Arts Award group were successful in their completion of the course and have received their certificates. Across the year, the members of the group researched, planned and executed their ideas, keeping a clear journal of all the steps made. Visits to the Warner Brothers Studio and an Escape Room fired the imaginations and sparked creativity, as did the workshop on wire sculpture.

"Planning and drawing a character influenced by the Manga Art style tested my patience but gave me the opportunity to be creative in a way I had not explored before." Milo Xing (Fifth Form, Chandos)

"I thoroughly enjoyed participating and completing this journey of creativity, whilst developing my colour theory. I made new friendships and opened my mind to new artistic possibilities." Romayo Seaton (Fifth Form, Grenville)

"While it was rewarding to achieve the Bronze Arts Award, the process itself was far more gratifying, as I deepened my understanding and reinvigorated some life into the wonders of poetry, by delving into the works of Sir John Betjeman, amongst others." George Smith (Fifth Form, Winton)

This year's Arts Award Group are exploring a range of ideas including fashion design, pottery, a Rune book of dragons, architectural photography, and music composition.

We eagerly await the outcome, as these pupils develop their work, and teach their craft to others.

**Laura Parker, Teacher of Drama**

# LACROSSE



## Junior Tournament

**Stowe's 2nd Junior Lacrosse Tournament took place on the South Front on Sunday 15 January.**

**U15A:** The U15A team were competing against St George's Harpenden, New Stars and Hawks.

The first match was a great game against St George's. St George's came out flying and took an early lead. Stowe were up against it as their offence was extremely well drilled which resulted in a 5-1 loss.

Next up the girls were against club team New Starz. Unfortunately, New Starz were a different class to teams that the girls had experienced. However, this allowed the team to focus on the fundamentals and celebrate small victories throughout. Bella Timmis (Fourth Form, Stanhope) managed to score a hat trick, which is no easy feat against a team of this standard.

The final game was against another incredibly talented club side, Hawks. The Stowe girls really turned it on for this game. They battled for every single ground ball, the attack re-defended every single opposition clear, and Annabel Lloyd (Fourth Form, Stanhope) made multiple saves. The girls gave their all and stuck to the fundamentals and I am delighted to report that Izzy Harris (Fourth Form, Nugent) kicked off the scoring with a goal in her first time playing for the A team, Ruadh McCarthy-Wyper (Fourth Form, Cheshire) also scored with Bella rounding off the scoring giving us a score line of 3-2 and a fantastic victory for the girls.

It was a great learning experience, and I am positive the team will have learnt a lot from the games played which we can take and build towards Nationals.

**U15B:** The U15B team gave a great showing at the tournament. Despite a challenging group of opponents, the team tried hard and had some success over the afternoon.

The first game was against a strong St George's Harpenden side, who certainly woke our team up in a 5-0 win for the visitors. Next was the Stowe U14A team. The 15Bs went 2-0 up in the first half, with some great ball movement and excellent goals, however the 14As turned it on in the second

half, notching up three goals to win the game 3-2. This was shortly followed by Tudor Hall, who were dispatched 2-0 with goals from Hebe Hanson (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Poppy Wates (Fourth Form, Queen's). New Starz followed, who had a dynamite centre, scoring several goals, leaving us 7-0. The final game was against eventual winners Wycombe Abbey, who we were at least able to get one past their excellent goalkeeper!

Thanks to all those who came to support and to a U15B team with great cohesion and support for one another.

**U14A:** The U14A team started with a close victory over Tudor Hall. We had numerous shots on target only to be defied by good goalkeeping. In return our goalkeeper, Mae White (Third Form, Stanhope), also made some crucial saves that kept us in the game to make the final score 2-1 to Stowe.

The next game was against our U15B team! They scored first and certainly dominated the opening few minutes. However, a great individual goal by Charlotte Hemstock (Third Form, Nugent) was then closely followed by another assisted with a perfect pop pass by Emily Gauvain (Third Form, Queen's). The U15s scored again but Emily made sure of our victory with another solo effort.

We then faced Wycombe Abbey - formidable opponents who had at least three years' experience on most of our girls. We defended well with some perfect slides and Mae was outstanding in goal making four direct saves. Wycombe managed to score a goal in each half, but a 2-0 defeat was magnificent and the girls should be proud of their efforts.

St George's were aggressive but skilful, able to transition the ball in both their right and left hand. We had opportunities to score but their goalkeeper was strong and her clear was powerful. It was a defeat for Stowe 4-0.

Our last game was against New Starz and fatigue was starting to show but we were outclassed by this team who beat us 10-0 with some excellent skills, athleticism and strength.

The girls learnt a tremendous amount from the five matches played - their individual skills will improve over the coming months and I was unbelievably proud of their efforts, willingness to learn and refusal to ever give up.

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**







## Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Passing Out Parade 16 December 2022

Over the Summer I was awarded an Army Officer Scholarship, so when the opportunity to go to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to assist as a Cadet at the Sovereign's Parade came up, it was simply too good to pass.

Along with 26 other Cadets from Combined Cadet Forces around the country I arrived at RMA Sandhurst on a cold Thursday afternoon, and was immediately taken aback by the stunning beauty of the Academy. We were shown to our rooms for the night in Victory College before forming up to meet a retired Major who gave us a tour around some of the grounds and of Old College. He also gave us the chance to walk up the Old College steps, something Officer Cadets are only allowed to do twice - when they arrive and when they commission. After dinner in the Mess, the Staff organised a general and military knowledge quiz, which my team won!

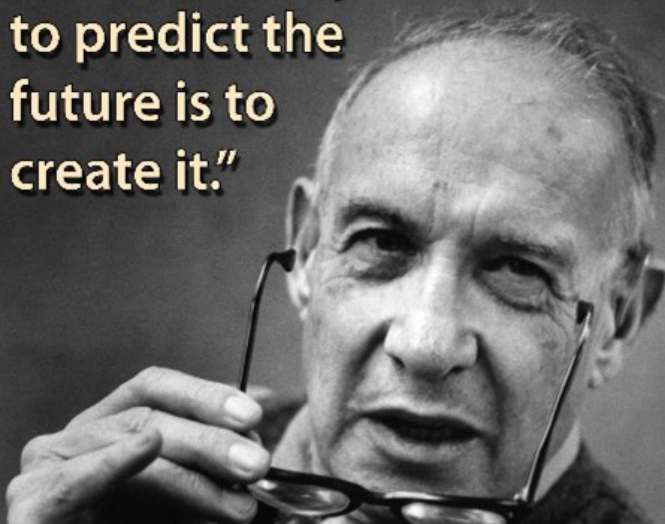
It was an 06:20 start on Friday morning and a cold march to the Mess, but with a hearty breakfast in us we were ready for day. Being the highest-ranking Cadet present, it had been my responsibility to march the group around RMAS, and that was no different as we marched towards Old College Square, where the parade would later take place. The Colour Sergeants even commented that our drill was better than some their Junior term Officer Cadets!

As guests arrived for the parade, we were tasked with handing out programmes and showing them to their seats, which meant plenty of saluting to the Senior Officers who had come for the parade. Once all the guests had arrived, we also took our seats to watch the parade which was quite a spectacle including a march past and inspection by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. To finish the parade, the Senior term Officer Cadets marched up Old College steps, followed by the Adjutant on his horse.

It was an incredible experience, and one I am very grateful for the opportunity. I found it particularly inspiring when thinking that I will be in their place in just a few years' time.

**Cdt CSM Rafe Gordon (Upper Sixth, Winton)**  
Head Cadet of Stowe CCF

"The best way  
to predict the  
future is to  
create it."



# BUSINESS

Stowe's Drucker Society is an innovative business society which allows pupils to explore and understand global business issues. The Society is named after the renowned management theorist and consultant Peter Drucker, and its mission is to promote the application of his principles in the modern business world.

The Drucker Society held a series of presentations by three of its members. Amelia Hine (Upper Sixth, West) presented on the global chocolate market, Mimi Price (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) presented on the UK Art sector and Lily Stewart (Lower Sixth, Queen's) presented on the global beauty sector.

During January, the Society will explore key articles from McKinsey, and the research presented in the reports. These findings will be evaluated using critical analysis skills developed as part of the activity. If you would like to see this month's Drucker Society activity, please [click here](#).

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Business**



# Orthodox Christmas

On Saturday 7 January, a dinner was held in the Blue Room to celebrate Orthodox Christmas.

Traditionally celebrated in many Eastern European countries, the event was attended by pupils from Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. It was wonderful to hear a plethora of languages being spoken during dinner, and the evening was a welcome opportunity to celebrate with friends. The Catering Department did a fantastic job of not only providing a typical turkey Christmas Dinner, but went above and beyond, cooking Borscht (a chunky sour soup), a delicacy many pupils miss whilst at Stowe.

Considering the current events taking place in Ukraine and Russia, the resilience many of these pupils have shown in the face of drastic circumstances has been incredible. Their strength and determination to remain positive is a feat to behold, and it was a delight to celebrate this occasion with them.

**Francesca Shah, Teacher of History and Politics**



# BASKETBALL



## 1st Team

On Thursday 1 December 2022 Stowe 1st team hosted Radley in what proved to be a very exciting and close encounter, with only 3 points separating the sides after the 1st and 2nd quarters. Stowe pulled ahead 32-28 at the end of the 3rd quarter but Radley were not done yet as they clawed their way back into the game to lead 42-41 with two minutes remaining on the clock. Michael Oduguwa (Lower Sixth, Bruce) came off the bench to score from close range to give Stowe a 43-42 lead. Stowe regained possession and after some creative work from point guard Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos) and some slick team passing, Captain Paddy Potts (Upper Sixth, Chandos) finished with aplomb to seal a well-deserved 45-42 win.

Thursday 8 December 2022 saw the 1st team have their final match of the Michaelmas Term, sealing a fine 47-21 victory against Bloxham School. Gilbert Xu top scored with 12 points.

On Saturday 14 January the 1st team travelled to Wellington College for the annual Independent Schools' Tournament. Wellington College, Bishop Wordsworth's School (BWS) and Bradfield were in our group and Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow and Winchester College were in the other group.

The 1st team didn't really get going in the first group match against BWS, losing 24-8. In the second group game against Wellington College the team came to life and grew in confidence as the match went on to eventually win 15-10. The team went into the third group game knowing that a victory would seal a place in the Semi-Final. They certainly did not disappoint and gave an assured and disciplined performance to beat Bradfield 19-5.

Having come second in the group, Stowe had to face runaway winners of the other group, Charterhouse. The 1st team stunned Charterhouse to go in ahead at half-time. With a couple of crucial refereeing decisions not going Stowe's way and a bit of tournament fatigue setting in, Charterhouse clawed their way back to win 11-7. Charterhouse went on to beat BWS in the Final. The Stowe team should be very proud of what they achieved and are looking forward to the rest of the season.

Well done to the U16s who beat Bloxham 1st team on Thursday 19 January.

## 2nd Team

Whilst the 1st team were away at the Independent Schools' Tournament, on Saturday 14 January 2023 the 2nd team hosted Bloxham's 1st team. It proved to be a very close encounter with Bloxham edging the match 45-40. Top scorers were: Bradley Tyrer (Lower Sixth, Grafton) 10 points and Charles Smith (Lower Sixth, Grenville) 8 points.



## U16 Team

Having lost 40-26 to Abingdon on Thursday 13 October 2022, the U16 team put in an impressive performance in the return match on Thursday 24 November 2022 to win 50-44. Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos) top scored with 23 points and was well supported by Harry Langford (Fifth Form, Chandos) on 9 points.

The U16 team started the Lent Term with a majestic display against Bloxham U16 on Saturday 14 January 2023 with a fine 51-25 victory. Top scorers were Harry Langford 13 points, Andre Davis (Fifth Form, Chandos) 10 points and Julian Smith (Fifth Form, Grenville) 8 points.



## Junior Inter-House Girls' and Boys' Competition

On Sunday 8 January the Third and Fourth Form girls and boys competed in the Junior Inter-House Basketball Competition. Nugent were crowned champions winning all three of their group matches 8-0, 10-0 and 8-2 respectively.

In the boys' competition Grenville beat Bruce 6-2 in the first Semi-Final and Walpole beat Grafton 6-4 in the second Semi-Final.

Grenville were worthy champions, beating Walpole 10-4 in the Final.

The first team travelled to Stamford School to play in a triangular tournament on Saturday 21 January. We beat Rugby 30-11, but Stamford proved too strong for us in the second match.

Sunday 22 January was the Senior Inter-House competition. In the girls, Nugent won all four of their matches beating Queen's 6-0 in the deciding match and making them the 2023 champions.

In the Semi-Finals Bruce beat Chatham and Chandos beat Grenville to set up a Bruce versus Chandos Final. This was won 11-4 by Chandos making them the 2023 champions.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball**

# Positive Masculinity

“Young men who work to end sexism and violence typically can easily identify themselves in terms of what they do not want to be, but they may be less practised at imagining what they do want to be. We need visible, public models of the forms of masculinities or selfhoods we desire.”

## - THE MEN'S PROJECT

School is a place where many boys feel unsafe. They are afraid they won't live up to the rules of manhood - they won't be cool enough, popular enough, or tough enough.

'In Boys: What It Means to Become a Man', Rachel Giese explains:

“Underneath all that is the very real fear of becoming a target. Acting out by bringing another

boy's manliness into question by calling him a homophobic slur, or by harassing and sexualizing a girl with a catcall, is a way to fortify their masculine image.”

The rules of manhood are making our youth feel unsafe, resulting in behaviours associated with an increased risk of substance abuse, suicide, and other mental and physical health problems.

## Unpacking what positive masculinity means:

### Courage - To manifest these qualities even when it is scary

“I was stuck between courage and bravery, but I found out that courage means feeling fear and doing something anyway. These qualities require a lot of vulnerability and openness, and that is scary. To be clear, I don't believe that these traits are uniquely accessible to certain gender expressions over others. But knowing that these are my qualities of positive masculinity means that I can reflect them back to the boys that I work with, and use them as a touchstone in challenging conversations. When boys talk about being a bystander, for example, I can ask them what courage looks like. When they struggle with mental health, I can help them build resilience rather than try to stay tough.”

### Resilience - To be strong in ourselves

Resilience is about recovering from setbacks, such as asking for help or sharing failure and trying again, rather than strictly being tough enough to overcome them.

### Compassion - To make that support a source of comfort

“I originally wrote down empathy for a sensitive emotional presence in caring relationships. But empathy is a response to others, while compassion is a choice I make myself.” Compassion means actively reaching out.

### Dependability - To use that strength to support others

Be reliable.

# LESLIE HUGGINS

## MASTERCLASS & RECITAL SERIES

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2023  
UGLAND AUDITORIUM 7:45PM



Stowe

CRISTIAN GRAJNER DE SA - VIOLIN  
MARINA NADIRADZE - PIANO

Franck - Sonata in A Major  
Beach - Romance, Op. 23  
Brahms - Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108  
Brahms - Scherzo in C Minor from the FAE Sonata

Tickets available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/stowe-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stowe-school)

## ForEver Stowe Team

The SEN group are working on two projects this term and we would welcome further participants who may be interested in helping.

1. Planning of next year's Stowe Disability and Neurodiversity Week
2. An event day for Evergreen SEN School during Change Maker Week in the Summer Term.

The projects would suit individuals interested in business, psychology, education and other social sciences; media or medical fields.

The activity offers Stoics the chance to gain a lot from the projects, but in return it does require commitment to active participation as the projects have specific outcomes and are reliant on Stoics' meeting deadlines.

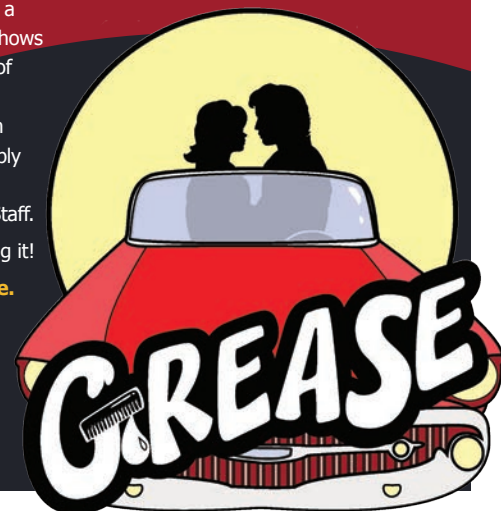
Stoics should contact **Mrs Pickering Polláková** if they are interested in joining this group.

## Grease! on film...

We are delighted to release a new Stowe Film. This film shows behind the scenes footage of the recent Senior Congreve production of Grease, which we can all agree was superbly performed by Stoics and supported by members of Staff.

We hope you enjoy watching it!

You can watch the film [here](#).



# Stowe Events

The Stowe Events team are proud to announce that Stowe House has been recognised by the Wedding Industry Awards as a Regional Highly Recommended wedding venue.

On Sunday 12 February we are hosting a Wedding Showcase. The House will be set for a Wedding Ceremony and Reception, and we will be joined by some of our approved and recommended Wedding Suppliers. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone looking at getting married or interested in Stowe House as a potential Wedding Venue.

Come and speak to our Wedding Coordinators or [email us](#) if you require any further information.



# SPANISH

## Spanish Upper and Lower Sixth Film Night

On Friday 13 January, A Level Spanish pupils from the Upper and Lower Sixth enjoyed an evening out in Buckingham.

First, we enjoyed eating pizza at an Italian restaurant called Louis'. After a relaxed dinner, we headed to the Buckingham University cinema, where we watched a film called 'Official Competition'. It was a Spanish comedy featuring Penélope Cruz and Antonio Banderas.

We thoroughly enjoyed learning new vocabulary and phrases, which we aim to put into practice in upcoming exams, as well as learning how to differentiate between regional accents and intonations from Spain and Argentina. It was a lovely evening out, and I hope we have many more trips to come.

**Aiyana Unalkat (Lower Sixth, West)**

# STOWE SCHOOL SHOP

## Opening Hours

**School Shop**  
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
(The Shop is closed at weekends, but for essentials please ask the Tuck Shop Staff)

## Tuck Shop:

Monday-Wednesday 2.30pm - 5.45pm  
Thursday 1.30pm - 5.45pm  
Friday 2.30pm - 5.45pm  
Saturday 10am - 4.45pm  
Sunday 12pm - 4.45pm



**STOWE HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE**

SATURDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023  
10AM - 5PM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STALL HOLDERS TO FILL OUT OUR STATE ROOMS FOR OUR HIGHLY ANTICIPATED STOWE HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2023!

IF YOU'VE GOT A UNIQUE BUSINESS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE STOWE EVENTS TEAM ON 01280 818280 OR EMAIL [EVENTS@STOWE.CO.UK](mailto:EVENTS@STOWE.CO.UK).

## Date for the Diary

The popular Christmas Gift Fayre is making its big return to Stowe on the Michaelmas Exeat weekend of Saturday 25 November and Sunday 26 November 2023.

As in previous years approximately 60 exhibitors will be situated throughout the magnificent State rooms of the mansion and outside lawns, selling a variety of handcrafted items and food and drink products.

Each year we see on average 2,000 visitors from the local areas attend, and they follow a planned one-way route which ensures every stand is passed. Car parking will be free of charge, with a shuttle bus service from the visitor parking area to the fayre, and a tea room will serve refreshments to visitors.

If you are interested in exhibiting (stands are available on a first come, first served basis) at the event or have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Events Team on 01280 818280 or [email](#).

**Megan Smith, Wedding and Events Assistant**



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