

## Remembrance Weekend

### 11-12 November 2023

Saturday 11 September saw clear blue skies for the Head Cadets from each section to represent the CCF on the steps of the North Front for a two-minute silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month. The Last Post and Reveille was expertly and flawlessly played by LCpl Isobel Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire).

Saturday evening saw the Centenary Festival of Remembrance. An evening of both reflection and celebration - reflecting on the 270 Old Stoics who lost their lives whilst protecting the freedom of their country, alongside celebrating the huge military contributions made by Stoics over the last 100 years. The evening was opened by flag bearers LCpl Tabi Acher (Fifth Form, Queen's) and LCpl Will Heaven (Fifth Form, Chatham) leading the Contingent Commander into the Ugland, where she opened the evening by giving the guests an insight into the modern Stowe CCF. After an evening of poems, music and singing, the flag bearers saluted the audience with their flags while the names of all the Stoics who gave their lives for their country were projected with the backdrop of Adagio being played.

The Remembrance Parade took place on Sunday 12 November, a freezing cold and rainy morning, adding an extra layer of solemnity to the already sombre occasion.

As the Cadets gathered outside the Chapel, shivering in their uniforms, they were reminded of the sacrifices made by those who came before them. Each Cadet stood with their head held high, taking in the sight of the Chapel adorned with wreaths and poppies, a poignant reminder of the Stoics who lost their lives. Major General Tim Cross, alongside the Head Dr Wallersteiner, inspected the Contingent and spoke with members of the CCF Staff. He was impressed with the diversity of the Cadets and how so many nations stood side by side in unity.

Cadet LCpl Tabi Acher and LCpl Will Heaven led the procession into the Chapel, showcasing perfect drill. Acting Pilot Officer Imogen Adkins and guest, Jan de Gale, gave readings from the Testaments. Thoughtful prayers were read by Cadet LCpl Beau Deacon (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Cpl Isobelle Blount (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and LH Darcey Moran (Lower Sixth, West).

As is Stowe tradition, the names of 20 of the 270 Old Stoics who died in the Second World War were read out by the Contingent Commander as the wreath bearers and their escorts laid the wreaths at the memorial.

Thank you to all those who took part in all aspects of the Remembrance weekend.

**Major K Gerrard, Contingent Commander Stowe CCF**



## Centenary Festival <sup>1923</sup><sub>2023</sub>

You could have heard a pin drop as the final name faded away on the screen. The guests at the Centenary Festival of Remembrance had just seen all 270 names of the Old Stoics who died in the Second World War displayed on a big screen. Men who died serving in the Army, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Air Force. Men killed in close combat fighting, shot down in aircraft or drowned at sea; men who died from their injuries and in prison of war camps. It was all there, and most starkly how young they were, many barely out of their School uniform when they answered the call to serve. This was just one poignant moment in the Festival of Remembrance, which brought together Old Stoics, Stoics, parents, and Staff, and most importantly the relatives of some of the Old Stoics whose names they had just witnessed.

It was a memorable evening of music, recital, speeches, poetry and song, with family recollections from relatives of the fallen including Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie (Stanhope 86), Air Commodore Andrew Seymour RAF (Grafton 58) and Toby Gauvain, Vice-Chair of the Old Stoic Society (Temple 89). Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (Grafton 67), spoke of the Stoic contribution to the war, and Dr Wallersteiner told the story of the design of the war memorial in Chapel and its dedication by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1949. Luke Chauveau, Chair, Old Stoic Society (Cobham 87) and Head Cadet CSM Natalie Nylaende (Upper Sixth, Queen's) also spoke, and there were wonderful performances by musicians, singers and choirs. Our grateful thanks go to Emma Bryden, Director of Music, Major Kirsty Gerrard, CCF Contingent Commander and the CCF Cadets, and everyone involved in this special centenary event.

By the end of the evening, no one was in any doubt of the sacrifices made by so many Old Stoics during the dark days of war. In our prayers we thanked them, in our voices we honoured them and in our hearts we remembered them. They died too young, but we still hold them close.

**Bev Kelly, Interim Director, Old Stoic Society**







## Long Service Award Presentation

As shared in the first Stowemail of the academic year, several members of Staff received Long Service Awards this year.

The Head, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner was presented with his award for 20 years of service at Stowe, at the start of the Stowe Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday 11 October, by Chair of Governors, Simon Creedy Smith - congratulations Anthony!



## Prep School Art Day

On Wednesday 8 November the Stowe Art School hosted 70 pupils from 15 different prep schools from across the south and east of England.

This year we moved from more traditional processes (such as printing and sculpture) into stop-motion animation. The schools were invited to work in mixed groups, collaborating with different years, to storyboard, design, make and tell their unique stories around the theme of 'momentum'.

Pupils were utterly engaged throughout and produced over 17 short films which were showcased in the Watson Gallery at the end of the day, for pupils, Staff and parents.

My thanks go out to the Art School Staff and the Marketing Department for organising and facilitating this action-packed day so successfully.

**Dan Scott, Head of Art**



**Change  
Maker Day**  
Monday 9 October

## Television Advertising Campaigns

Sixth Form pupils spent the day analysing moving image artwork and advertising campaigns before producing their own television advertising campaigns.

Many Change Maker skills were developed as they worked in groups to produce their advertising campaigns. The pupils engaged with new editing technology, overcame technological and practical challenges, collaborated with team members and planned projects to meet a brief and deadline. All groups worked well together, demonstrating some excellent teamwork, and the outcomes were impressive.

Each group's outcome was a TV advert and most groups produced supplementary campaign work such as posters, billboards and websites. The pupils developed technological and soft skills that will prove invaluable in school, their wider lives beyond school and, one day, in the workplace.

**Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media Studies**

## Languages Day

A group of 75 eager Year 7 pupils from both Swanbourne House School and Winchester House School were greeted with a warm welcome to Stowe, as they embarked on an enriching linguistic adventure designed to ignite their creativity, promote teamwork, and stimulate their analytical thinking skills.

Guided by the expertise and enthusiasm of our Senior linguists, the Year 7 pupils thrived throughout the day, conquering a multitude of linguistic challenges. They delved into a multilingual world and demonstrated their linguistic prowess by speaking in different languages, tackling complex puzzles, interpreting non-verbal communication, engaging in entertaining role-play scenarios, and even singing and dancing to the rhythm of a lively Spanish song!

**Dr Isabel Soriano-Ferrero, Teacher of Spanish & Prep School Languages Lead**





# Stowe House Preservation Trust



## 100 years of Restoration and Conservation

As Stowe School celebrates its Centenary year, the visionary role played by the School's founders and subsequent Governors, Staff, Old Stoics, parents and pupils, in ensuring the survival and restoration of Stowe's glorious landscape becomes ever more significant and remarkable.

This centenary also marks 34 years since the National Trust became the custodians of Stowe's internationally famous landscape gardens, due to an act of incredible generosity on the part of the School. This act means everyone can experience and enjoy the beauty of Stowe's gardens and landscapes. The ongoing partnership with the School and the Stowe House Preservation Trust has, so far, enabled the National Trust to raise and invest over £30M in continuing the conservation and restoration work started by the School.

With the School's 100 years firmly in mind, the National Trust is now reflecting on the past and considering the future. How have the gardens been formed by those who have been connected with them over almost three centuries? And how will they continue to be shaped by these and future generations? And how will they continue to be shaped by this and future generations?

To help answer these questions, we are asking for memories and contributions from past and current Staff and Stoics. We want to understand how and why Old Stoics value Stowe's landscape and we want to

celebrate the key role the School has played in the site's survival in the 20th Century and beyond.

You can respond [online](#) or write to us by Thursday 21 December at: Donald Insall Associates, 118 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BX

We are especially interested in hearing about:

- Key memories that you associate with Stowe's landscape gardens and what you value most about the place.
- A favourite area or building within Stowe's landscape gardens, and why it is important for you.
- How you would like to see future generations enjoying and supporting Stowe's gardens and landscapes.
- Further improvements and developments to the gardens and landscapes of Stowe that you would love to see.
- Whether you have any worries regarding the heritage of Stowe – now and into the future?

The research is being carried out on behalf of National Trust by Donald Insall Associates, an award-winning architectural practice and historic buildings consultancy, specialising in the care, repair, adaptation and conservation of historic buildings, and the design of new buildings for sensitive sites.

**Anna McEvoy, House Custodian,  
Stowe House Preservation Trust**



## Stowe House wins again!

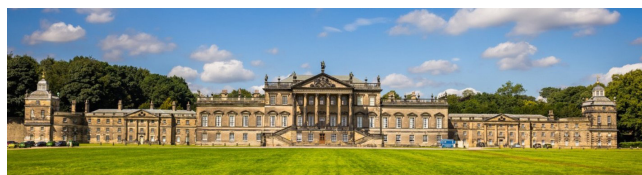
Stowe House Preservation Trust have had a great three years with the restoration culmination of the State Rooms, with the State Drawing (Temple) Room and the State Dining Room. Both have been well received by users and admirers alike. In 2021, we were lucky to get Highly Commended from the Georgian Group for the Drawing Room restoration and we were told we had been short-listed for the Georgian Group restoration awards on Tuesday 14 November for the Dining Room. Little did we know that we had been awarded Restoration of a Georgian Country House by the Georgian Group for the official restoration finish of Stowe House. For me, it was like the building's life-time achievement recognition for what has been achieved over the last 23 years.

At the evening itself, Andrew Fane (SHPT Chair), Nick Morris (former SHPT CEO), Simon Wales (current CEO), Susy Pullen (SHPT Head of Visitor Experience) and myself represented Stowe and it was a great accolade for what has been a long-term project of love, dedication and, of course, fundraising!

We could not have done it without the support and partnership of the School and the National Trust; with special thanks to Dr Wallersteiner, for his foresight to allow the work to flow around the busy School life, and to Colin Dudgeon, for his tireless fundraising and campaigning on our behalf.

We are very proud of our achievement and hope that it shows in every magnificent state room and exterior we have restored.

**Anna McEvoy, House Custodian,  
Stowe House Preservation Trust**



## Façade Competition

The Stowe House team have been involved in an unusual competition taking place over recent months, to ascertain which stately home has the longest façade in the UK, and what constitutes a building's façade.

This project has been created and led by the team at Wentworth Woodhouse near Rotherham, and the Stowe House team visited earlier this month for a day of filming and the unveiling of the winner.

The longest façade winner was announced as being Wentworth Woodhouse, as decided by Tony Barton, who is the Chair of Donald Insall Associates. By his definition, they have the longest façade, Stowe House is the longest building, and Hopetoun (near Edinburgh) have the longest garden frontage - so everyone is a winner!

This project has generated some very good TV and radio coverage for all three houses, click [here](#) to watch a short news item on BBC Look North.

**Simon Wales, CEO Stowe House Preservation Trust**





# Cross Country

Well done to all who completed the 5k cross country on Wednesday 11 October. The idea behind running the same course each year is for pupils to challenge themselves, as well as others, to better their previous times or positions. Whilst it may not be noticeable at the time of running, the Stowe course is surely the most picturesque School cross country course in the country.

## This year's winners are:

### Third Form

#### House Champions

Boys - Grafton  
Girls - Stanhope

#### Individual Winners

Finley Cummins, Grenville  
Mollie Davis, Cheshire

### Fourth Form

#### House Champions

Boys - Grafton  
Girls - Stanhope

#### Individual Winners

Eddie Hartigan, Grafton  
Katie Webb, Cheshire

### Fifth Form

#### House Champions

Boys - Grafton  
Girls - Nugent

#### Individual Winners

Paul Ostroverhy, Chandos  
Charlotte Hall, Cheshire

### Lower Sixth

#### House Champions

Boys - Grafton  
Girls - Nugent

#### Individual Winners

Lleyton Moss, Grafton  
Ruby Wetherall, Lyttelton

### Upper Sixth

#### House Champions

Boys - Chatham  
Girls - Nugent

#### Individual Winners

William Miller, Walpole  
Phoebe Haynes, Cheshire

### The fastest runners in the School this year are:

#### Boys

Eddie Hartigan  
(Fourth Form, Grafton)  
- 18 minutes 10 seconds

#### Girls

Katie Webb  
(Fourth Form, Cheshire)  
and Mollie Davis  
(Third Form, Cheshire)  
- 18 minutes 22 seconds  
(joint fastest)

### The overall top Houses this year are:

Boys - Grafton  
Girls - Nugent

**Andrew Arnold,**  
**Head of Cross Country**



## SUPA - Friendly tournament

On Sunday 8 October Stowe took two teams to play in a SUPA (Schools & Universities Polo Association) organised tournament at Oxford Polo, Kidlington.

Our A team Captained by Lucas Stern (Upper Sixth, Grenville) with Archie Hestletine (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Luca Natella (Lower Sixth, Cobham) played in the Open division. Their first match was against Cheltenham, who they beat 5-1, followed by the ultimate grudge match against Harrow, who we beat 3-2 and in a final match against Rugby we won 4-0 to be the Open division winners. The A team all scored goals and played fast and effective polo as a fantastic team!

The B team, having lost their Captain Leander Sautter (Fifth Form, Cobham) the night before the match due to a hand injury, were saved from withdrawing by Pia Glynn-Smith (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) stepping into the team. Jemima Hammond (Upper Sixth, Nugent) acted as Captain with Third Former Edward Berry (Cobham) representing Stowe for the first time. They fought hard, scored some excellent goals and all worked well as a team, and after taking on some tough opponents they came Fifth. This bodes well for the coming arena season.

**Fiona Corthine, Head of Polo**



# Golf

Stowe Golf is currently in a strong position. Our A team played a competition at The Berkshire recently, where both Tristan Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Miki Khursheed (Lower Sixth, Bruce) shot level par rounds on the Championship course. That earned them tied Fourth position overall out of more than 60 players, and Stowe came an impressive Second against other top schools in the country.

The Stowe A team was drawn in the National Cup against the Stowe B team. This was always going to be a close match, and it proved to be just that with the match going to the 3rd play-off hole. The A team of Elliot Strickland (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Miki Khursheed and Poon Prachakrit (Lower Sixth, Grenville) came out victorious.

The afternoon was a great reflection on the sport at Stowe.

**Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf**

# Lacrosse

Our lacrosse teams have had a busy phase competing in the County Championships at Seniors and U15 levels. These have proven to be useful competitive experiences; with our most successful side being Stowe's 2nd X, who had an enjoyable 15-1 win against Warwick University on Saturday 7 October.

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**





# Physics Trip to CERN

Early on Sunday 15 October, 22 Sixth Form Stoics met at Heathrow to fly to Geneva. The focus for the four day trip was a visit to CERN, the biggest physics experiment in the world, but we also visited other museums and attractions along the way. Once in Geneva, we checked into our hotel and set off immediately to the Red Cross Museum via tram. We saw plenty of thought-provoking images and movies before we played an interactive group challenge to protect a town from a tsunami. We moved onto our evening meal after a bit of free time in Geneva, before hitting the hay as we had an early morning wakeup call.

The second day was a two hour train journey to Bern, the country's Capital, where we visited Einstein's House and museum. He lived here for the longest period in his life whilst working at the University and it was a very happy period for him early in his life. The most striking image for me was a photograph of Einstein enjoying an open car parade to thousands of adoring citizens. I can't imagine this happening for a present-day physicist! An evening meal in Bern ended the day before the train ride back finished another enjoyable day.

The third day was spent at CERN. The morning was taken up with the new exhibition, explaining all things particle physics and the Large Hadron Collider; a 28km circumference beam of particles moving very close to the speed of light. After lunch we had our guided tour by an esteemed physicist. First was the LHC control room, this is where the engineers control and monitor the beam, currently made up of lead ions, the heaviest particles they can smash into each other. Massive detectors capture smaller, short-lived particles after these collisions, and we had more information given to us by our guide on the detector she works on.

ALICE stands for A Large Ion Collider Experiment, and we enjoyed an interactive

presentation on the inner workings where they are searching for the origins of the universe, minutes after the big bang occurred. Needless to say, the Stoics and Staff were blown away by both the physics and scale of engineering in these experiments. After our visit, we enjoyed traditional fondue, accompanied by live folkloric music in a very lively restaurant - a fabulous way to celebrate our last evening.

The final day started by eating lots of different chocolate at a local chocolatier, including 100% cacao - very bitter with a strong aftertaste! The final visit of the trip was another amazing experience at the Palace of United Nations. Here we saw actual meetings take place in those large circular rooms familiar to us all, with delegates from all over the world.

A safe flight back completed the trip, and everyone disappeared either with parents, or on the minibuses back to Stowe. I would like to thank the Staff accompanying me on the trip, Dr Lyons and Mr Gardner, who were invaluable, pointing me in the right direction on occasion and keeping the troops entertained whilst travelling and waiting for departure times. We can all certainly count to 22 after the trip! Lastly, we could not have done it without the generosity of the outbound and return airport minibus drivers, Messrs Whitby, Arnold, Quinn and Thompson - thanks chaps!

**Brian Hart, Physics Teacher**



# Inter-House Literary Challenge

The Upper School Inter-House Literary Challenge was this year again hotly contested. There were two separate events, one for each Year Group, with the scores from the Upper and Lower Sixth events added together to find the overall winner.

All Houses with Sixth Form pupils took part, with two pupils from each Year Group entering. At the beginning of the challenge, teams had to decide on their Joker round, meaning double the score for the chosen round would be received.

The Lower Sixth went first on Wednesday 4 October with six rounds in each section, including a picture and 'dingbat' round. After the Lower Sixth Challenge, the scores were very close, with Lyttelton just emerging as the winner. Cobham were Second, and Winton Third, with Bruce and Stanhope close behind. That left all to play for in the Upper Sixth Challenge on Thursday 2 November. Again, this was hotly contested, and good-humoured. The winners of the Upper Sixth were Bruce, with Cheshire a close Second, and Queen's coming Third. All the scores for each House were added together and the overall winners were announced. Cheshire were victorious, last year's winner Bruce were Second, and Temple were Third.

The winning House received a box of chocolates and a trophy to commemorate their win, which they get to keep for the next year.

Thank you to Mrs Borman, Mrs Ackroyd, Miss Bodor and Dr Webber and Library Prefect Aurora Flanagan (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) for your help.

**Lucinda Stockley-Battams, School Librarian**





# Silverstone Enterprise Day

**Change  
Maker Day**  
Monday 9 October

Over 40 Fifth and Sixth Form pupils attended an Enterprise Activity Day at the iconic Silverstone Formula 1 Circuit. The event, held on an unusually sunny October day, provided pupils with a blend of enterprise and business-related education.

The Enterprise Day, organised in collaboration with the British Racing Driver's Club and the Silverstone Circuit, aimed to nurture the pupils' entrepreneurial spirit. The pupils were exposed to the multifaceted world of motorsport, where they were encouraged to think creatively and explore potential marketing and promotional opportunities within the industry.

The day commenced with an inspiring keynote address from members of the Silverstone F1 marketing team, offering insights into the business side of Formula 1, such as the monumental complexities and costs of running an F1

weekend. Pupils were then divided into groups, tasked with developing innovative marketing proposals related to F1.

Throughout the day, pupils had the chance to tour the Silverstone facilities, explore the racetrack, and talk with some track stewards. The high energy atmosphere of the racetrack served as an ideal backdrop for brainstorming, fostering out-of-the-box thinking.

The Enterprise Activity Day at Silverstone not only ignited the pupils' entrepreneurial spirit but also gave them a taste of the dynamic world of motorsport. The pupils arrived back at Stowe, ready to present their ideas on how to make F1 more accessible and appealing to a wider demographic. These presentations were well considered and thought-provoking.

**William Freeman, Head of Business**



## Crafting Futures: The Exeter Experience from Academia to Societies

On Thursday 2 November, Ruth Boyce, a representative from the University of Exeter, delivered an insightful presentation to Stoics at Croft House. The talk was a comprehensive guide to the University, which proudly sits within the top 15 in major UK league tables and is a member of the Russell Group, indicative of its prestigious research capabilities.

She emphasised the significance of personal statements in the UCAS application process, a step that the University of Exeter scrutinises closely. Personal statements are an opportunity for applicants to showcase their enthusiasm for their chosen subject and demonstrate why they are the ideal candidate for their desired course.

The University provides resources on how they assess applications, which can be instrumental in understanding what the admissions panel looks for, guiding students to tailor their applications accordingly.

In terms of documentation, Ruth mentioned the necessity of authenticity and accuracy within the application. Applicants must sign a declaration to this effect, and upon receiving an offer, must provide evidence of their qualifications, amongst other supporting documents. This underscores the University's commitment to integrity and excellence in their admissions process.

Ruth's guidance was clear: Lower Sixth pupils must meticulously research and prepare their applications, distinguishing themselves through their personal statements. By doing so, they align with the University of Exeter's high standards and increase their chances of securing a place at this esteemed institution.

At the University of Exeter, the student experience is enriched by a thriving

society culture, with around 300 different Guild-affiliated societies catering for a multitude of interests. Students have the opportunity to join conventional societies like the English Society, Ski Club, and Jazz Orchestra, as well as unique ones such as the Chocolate Society and Hide and Seek Society. Where students have a new idea, the University supports them in setting up a new society.

Sports enthusiasts can join any of the 52 sports clubs run by the Athletic Union, which include activities from American Football to surfing. The Penryn Campus offers a diverse mix, including traditional sports clubs and societies like the Hip Hop Society, Exploration Society, Bee Society, and the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Society, reflecting the campus's dynamic community spirit.

Moreover, the University's student media network, X-Media, consists of three student-run media outlets that have been stepping stones for many successful careers. The network includes Xpression FM, Exposé, and XTV, catering to radio, news, and television enthusiasts.

The University's Raise and Give (RAG) society exemplifies the student body's commitment to philanthropy, having raised significant funds for charities through various events and initiatives.

These societies not only enhance the students' social and extracurricular life but also provide valuable experiences that contribute to personal and professional development.

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

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures**



# Cryptology and Maths

Twenty-two budding code-breakers enjoyed a challenging day learning about Cryptography and Maths. Pupils learned about the history of ciphers and code breaking and their applications, right from ancient times through to the present day, where encryption plays a fundamental role in the management of electronic information. A range of ciphers were taught and then used to crack codes, including the Pigpen cipher, the Polybius Square and of course the famous Caesar Cipher.

An afternoon orienteering activity gave the Stoics an opportunity to put their code breaking skills into practice.

Included across the day, were a range of excellent presentations from four of our Upper Sixth Further Mathematicians; which tackled topics including, applications of Binary in encryption, the maths behind cracking Wordle, applications of modular arithmetic in relation to number systems and how to crack codes built from enormous prime numbers.

A thoroughly enlightening day was had by all.

**Amanda Ayres, Teacher of Maths**



**Change  
Maker Day**  
Monday 9 October



## Discovering Law at Stowe

We were thrilled to host an engaging evening of legal insight on Thursday 9 November at Stowe, where aspiring law students gathered valuable knowledge and skills for their academic and professional futures.

The event commenced in the Blue Room, where Ben Edeh (Grenville 20) an esteemed law student from Nottingham Trent University, shared his experiences of law education and offered early career insights. He discussed his placement at Dawson Cornwell and his integral role at the Netherfield Advice Clinic, providing attendees with a real-world perspective on starting a career in law.

As the evening progressed, we were joined by Julie O'Shea, Clinical Legal Education Manager at the University of Buckingham. Her talk was instrumental in demystifying the direct undergraduate routes into law and the conversion courses that lead to legal practice.

Julie O'Shea's extensive role at the University of Buckingham, coupled with her background as a solicitor at Fennemores Solicitors and her contributions as a consultant for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), brought a wealth of experience to her presentation.

She explained the various pathways into the legal profession in England, from the traditional university route and Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) for aspiring solicitors to the Bar course and pupillage for future

barristers, and the CILEx Professional Qualification (CPQ) for those seeking a more practical and flexible approach.

The discussions of the evening highlighted the multifaceted journey into the legal profession and the commitment required to succeed. We hope the attendees left feeling more informed and inspired about their prospects in the field of law.

For those who could not join us or wish to revisit the invaluable advice shared, we encourage you to explore further resources and guidance on pursuing a legal career:

**The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)** for information on the SQE.

**The Bar Standards Board (BSB)** for details on the route to becoming a barrister.

**The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx)** for the CPQ route.

Our gratitude goes out to both Ben Edeh and Julie O'Shea for their enlightening talks, and we look forward to hosting more events that foster the growth of future legal professionals.

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures**



# CCF

## Navy Field Day

On Monday 9 October the CCF Navy Section was divided into two groups for the Field Day.

Fourth Formers remained at Stowe and were involved in the running of the water activities on the Eleven Acre Lake and during the afternoon learnt how to race a Royal Navy Field Gun, whilst the Fifth and Sixth Form Cadets had the opportunity to sail at Greatmoor Sailing Club.

### Fourth Form - Kayaks, SUPs and Field Gun Training

I was in the group that went to the lake in the morning to do kayaking and paddle boarding. I thought this to be a very enjoyable experience as my group got to learn many new skills, I especially enjoyed it when we did the exercise where everyone on paddleboards had to join into a single-file line and then form a circle. It taught me about teamwork and cooperation as my group worked together to get this task done. I very much enjoyed being on the water and learning about these two sports and would someday in the future like to revisit them as I believe that it is important to continue to develop new skills, as it is to never forget them and improve.

In the afternoon, my group went to do field gun training at the athletics track and we were told about the history of the Battle of Ladysmith in 1899. We worked together in two groups to assemble the field gun and with patience and communication, eventually managed to assemble it in one minute and 16 seconds. We also learnt that there is an annual competition where schools can compete against each other and see who can complete the field gun exercise the most efficiently. I hope and believe that if we continue these field gun sessions, we will eventually be good enough to take part in the future.

**Julia Likierman (Fourth Form, Stanhope)**

### Great Moor Sailing

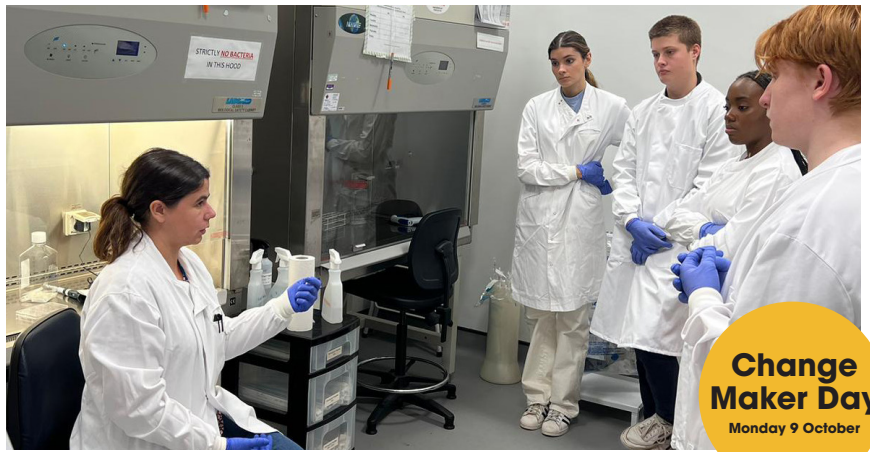
As soon as the Cadets arrived at Great Moor Sailing Club, we all took part in rigging the Argo boats and carrying them down to the jetty in preparation of setting sail. After the safety briefing, we manoeuvred the boats onto the water. A number of Cadets, who are also part of the School's sailing race team, were each in charge of boats; each of these boats had three other Cadets onboard and they were responsible for giving them instruction and guidance in sailing.

After lunch a group of Cadets attempted to use a spinnaker, which under windy conditions would have allowed the boat to move across the water a lot faster. As there was insufficient wind, the remainder of the Cadets took part in capsizing drills, which provided an understanding of how to right the boat and ensure all the crew remained safe.

We ended the day playing a game of Pirates, which involved a team swimming out from the pontoon to capsize and take over one of the boats.

A very fun day, I'm looking forward to the next one!

**Leading Hand Darcey Moran (Lower Sixth, West)**



**Change  
Maker Day**  
Monday 9 October

## Reading University Research Lab Visit

A group of Sixth Form Stoics accompanied by Mrs Blake and myself returned to Reading University to visit the research lab which I had once been a part of.

We were welcomed by Professor Ian Jones, a molecular virologist and team Post Doctoral Researcher Dr Silvia Laureiro. Here, we experienced first-hand what it is like in a fully operational laboratory and the time that many molecular processes take before they reach the application stage. For example, Professor Jones spoke on his research into the Foot and Mouth Disease Virus and the application of empty (genome free) virus like particles (VLPs) which can be used to initiate a harmless but protective immune response in a host.

A second post-doctoral researcher helped take us through the purification of bacterial plasmid for an overnight culture. We then digested these plasmid with restriction enzymes to insert genes of interest. To prove that the divers worked we ran these samples on an agarose gel and visualised the stained DNA under UV light. What was very evident throughout was how sterile the environment was, and the aseptic techniques used at every stage to ensure the purity and accuracy of the results.

After lunch we were taken to tissue culture. Here we observed the application of insect cell lines (Sf9s) and the conditions used to grow them. Dr Laureiro showed us how to plate out insect cells on a 6-well-dish using the unique sterile air flow of the laminar flow cabinets which prevent external contaminants from entering the internal environment. After looking at the cells settle on a light microscope, we learned how electronic cell counters calculate the viability of the cells in the culture and allow the scientist to calculate how useful the cells are or whether they have been infected with the VLPs they are studying. Another molecular process we observed was the expression of green fluorescent proteins inside the cells. The expression and concentration of the protein could be localised to specific areas of the cells thanks to the fluorescent tag.

To close our visit we were fortunate enough to be able to visit a very high-quality TEM (Transmission Electron Microscope) worth around £250,000 which felt like an amazing upgrade from the light microscopes at School! The lab was using the TEM to visualise the inside of the VLPs as well as proteins expressed on the surface to determine the stability of their FMDV vaccine. This was such a valuable trip for everyone involved and has given the Stoics a much greater understanding of what they will be embarking on after they leave Stowe. The Stoics were also fortunate enough to have the chance to ask a lot of questions on the day which gave us a wonderful insight and perspective into the life of a research scientist.

We are very grateful to Professor Jones and his team and we hope to welcome them to Stowe very soon to present their findings to the Biomedical Society.

**Dr Sinéad Lyons-Deyzel, Teacher of Biology**







# History & Politics in Washington DC

During October half term, 20 Sixth Form Stoics visited Washington DC on a History and Politics trip. They were accompanied by Ms Guntner, Mr Bonomi (although we did have a slight panic that Mr Bonomi would not be able to join us due to Homeland Security cancelling his Visa!) and myself.

Many of the sights seen led to valuable and interesting discussions, deepening the Stoics' understanding of American politics and its historical significance. For instance, at the White House Visitor Centre, Stoics learnt about the duties and responsibilities of both the President and the First Lady, which then provided a good basis to discuss how powerful the President is, and how their role has changed over the course of history.

The group spent time touring Congress, the International Spy Museum and Ford's Theatre. This allowed pupils to undertake a discussion of which branch of American Politics is the most powerful; The President or Congress? Although no final decision was agreed

upon, it was fascinating to be able to see the exact location where President Lincoln was assassinated and died.

A visit to the Library of Congress and the National Archives allowed the group to see the original Constitution and Bill of Rights; which many would argue are the two most important documents within the whole of the United States. This was a great opportunity to discuss the historical events which led to the independence of the country, and whether the Constitution provided an effective manner of ruling the new country in 1776.

Returning to the UK on an overnight flight, provided a welcome opportunity to rest and sleep, which was much needed after such a busy few days. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Bonomi and Ms Guntner for joining me on the trip and helping to both supervise and engage with Stoics, who no doubt gained a lot from the experience.

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



Pupils from the History and Politics Departments went on a trip to Washington D.C. to explore the enriching history of America, and its correlation to both A Level courses. Having visited countless museums and monuments, we gained a great grasp of Washington itself, making it a trip to remember. Throughout the five days, we certainly gained a great deal of knowledge, on top of what we had already been learning within the confines of the classroom. Being able to see in person the founding documents and historical locations we have been learning about was an incredible experience.

We were all very excited to land in Washington, and my first thought was, why are there so many American flags? The answer to this became apparent throughout the tour - America is a very patriotic and united country.

Sunday marked our first full day. We all woke up excited for a great buffet, including delicious waffles and syrup. During the morning, we all took the Metro to visit the White House. It was an incredibly sunny day, and thanks to Miss Shah, we were able to navigate around Washington smoothly and efficiently. Visiting the White House and learning all about its history was astonishing. With tight security and controls, we were fortunate to enjoy two hours learning about the importance of the White House. What I found extremely interesting were the stories of the Presidents who lived in it and how it has evolved over time. After visiting the White House, we had the great opportunity to visit the Smithsonian Museums. With over 15 museums to choose from, ranging from the Natural History Museum to the American History Museum, we were grateful to have the opportunity to visit these important historical places. Visiting the Air and Space Museum to see Apollo 11 and seeing helicopters from the Vietnam War was fascinating.

After a very long day, we had the great opportunity to do the 'Ghost Tour'. For almost three hours, we were accompanied by a historian who walked us around the main buildings on Capital Hill, and told us of their importance, historical past, and the present ghost stories in each of these buildings. Although it was a 'Ghost Tour' of the most important buildings in America, it was definitely a talk full of knowledge that helped all of us understand the importance of Washington. What I found very interesting was the fact that all the main buildings were connected by tunnels, something which I am sure not many of us knew.

We had the great privilege of an outstanding tour of the U.S. Capitol building, the home of the Congress, which in my opinion, was incredible. After the tour, where we learned about the important paintings and statues of the building, we later went to the Spy Museum, where we learned all about the importance of spies, both in the Cold War and in the present day. I found it fascinating to learn about the stories of spies, the methods they used, and their importance during the Cold War, especially in Cuba.

We ended Monday by going to the theatre in which Abraham Lincoln was shot. We found it very interesting because we grasped step by step what had happened during the incident. Looking at the exact place where he was shot, and later going to the nearby building in which he later died, and understanding the story behind it all was truly an experience.

On Tuesday, we visited the Library of Congress, where we saw the Gutenberg Bible as well as the fascinating library, which was genuinely incredible. It was a moment to remember. Later that afternoon, we visited the Capitol Ice Hockey Game. I can say that this was one of the best experiences on the trip for me, as we all entered the stadium with great excitement; this was my first-time spectating at an ice hockey game, and it was brilliant.

On our last day, we woke up early to visit the Arlington Memorial, which was an addition to the itinerary. We rushed to the 'Unknown Soldier Memorial' to make it for 10am to see the changing of the guards. This 10-minute ceremony to commemorate all those who died was poignant and gave us goosebumps. We then visited the JFK memorial and walked around the deeply historic cemetery before a walking tour of the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the WW2 Memorial. We were fortunate at the memorials to talk to veterans about their stories, which was a great way to round off this incredible trip.

I would like to say thank you to Miss Shah, Mr Bonomi and Ms Guntner for organising everything - it was most definitely a trip to remember.

**Daniel Flames (Upper Sixth, Cobham)**





# Exercise STOWE BRACKEN 23

Sunday 8 October

During the CCF field exercise (STOWE BRACKEN 23), the Anderson Company Cadets engaged in various scenarios, refining their skills, and fostering a sense of camaraderie among the Company. The first day kicked off with section attacks where the use of smoke grenades and flash grenades led to changing circumstances, where the adaptability and critical thinking of the Cadets were tested. Implementing a strategy where one section flanked the enemy while the other two sections provided covering fire. Impressively, the Cadets showcased their expertise in handling weaponry through their utilisation of laser rifles.

Later in the day, the Cadets demonstrated resourcefulness by setting up bashers for the overnight stay. This activity emphasized the significance of adaptability and analytical thinking.

As night fell, an exhilarating night-time ambush awaited the Cadets. Armed with laser rifles they patiently awaited the enemy's approach displaying timing and precision during the attack. This exercise served as a testament to their discipline and ability to operate under cover of darkness, making great use of the concealment tactics.

The weekend concluded with blank firing exercises involving section attacks employing the strategic approach as before. Repeating these exercises allowed our Cadets to solidify their learning and ensure internalisation of manoeuvres.

These training sessions not only pushed our Cadets physically and mentally but also fostered teamwork, communication skills and quick-thinking abilities.

We are incredibly proud of Anderson Company's dedication and enthusiasm throughout this field exercise. Their dedication to acquiring knowledge and evolving, as individuals and aspiring leaders, is truly praiseworthy.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the CCF Staff who worked tirelessly to coordinate this occasion, providing our Cadets with an invaluable experience that will undoubtedly shape their futures.

**Cpl Josh Parker (Upper Sixth, Croft)**



### Cheshire Company Deployed on Ex STOWE BRACKEN

This was the first time the Fourth Form had deployed on Exercise in the CCF. The Lower Sixth acted as NCOs guiding and helping the Fourth Form.

The first day of my field exercise with CCF Army was amazing. We experienced lots of different activities including learning how to camouflage and conceal ourselves, how to cook and eat rations and how to make bashers in the woods. At night we had a navigation exercise where we had to navigate our way between enemy locations, collecting sensitive information.

It was a new experience, and I learned lots of things that will help me now and in the future. I wish we could do this every single weekend!

**Cadet Nicolas Bacho (Fourth Form, Grenville)**



## Edgehill Gliding

The Fourth Form RAF Cadets went to Edgehill Gliding Centre on Monday 9 October to learn the basic principles of flying.

On arrival we took the gliders (K-13 and K-21) to the field where they would be winch launched. After we were given a safety briefing on how to fly the gliders, including learning how to use a parachute, we took off and were shown how to use the basic controls. We also learnt the primary and secondary effects of the controls and how they affect the flying experience. Overall, we had a wonderful day.

**James Stratford (Fourth Form, Walpole)**



## DRAMA

# Monologue Slam

On Monday 13 November Drama pupils from across The Stowe Group performed in the annual Monologue Slam. Now in its third year, pupils from Swanbourne House (SHS) and Winchester House Schools (WHS) joined Drama Scholars and LAMDA pupils to showcase their performance skills. A very supportive audience of Parents, Staff and pupils were entertained by an eclectic mix of classical and modern monologues and duologues.

Once again, the adjudicator for the evening was Mr Sheridan Coldstream, who has been in the performing arts industry for more than thirty years as an actor, singer and vocal coach, and who recently appeared on *The Voice*.

The evening was hosted by Scholar Annie Flint (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and one of last year's winners, Annabel Lloyd (Fifth Form, Stanhope). Mr Coldstream gave special mention to Alice Crabbe and Nuala Lane-Nott (both WHS) for making their peach from *James and The Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl so believable for the audience.

There was a powerful performance from Barnaby Rathbone Brewer (SHS) who performed a moving monologue from *Private Peaceful*. It was a very difficult decision and after much deliberation, Mr Coldstream eventually decided the overall Prep School winners were Caitlin De Niese and Sara Gill (both SHS), for their performance of 'Anger Management' by Lindsay Price which involves the well-known Shakespeare characters, Juliet and Ophelia, meeting in the afterlife.

Swanbourne pupils recognised and chatted to former Swanbourne pupils who are now Third Form Stoics, and all Stoics made an excellent job of welcoming the youngest performers.

The Senior competition had contributions from most Year Groups. There was a great sense of comedy from Harry Smith (Third Form, Croft) who performed 'Tidy Up' by Antony Weiland, which requires the ability to role play some lines as David Attenborough. There were some very dark pieces performed with subtlety and menace by Tia Sualp (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Victoria Lee (Fourth Form, Cheshire). Shakespeare features prominently in LAMDA examinations and the audience were treated to some fine classical performances of *Romeo*, *Richard III* and *Portia* from *Julius Caesar* from Alex Wyvill (Third Form, Temple), James Barnett (Fourth Form, Winton), and Sophie Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent) respectively. Harry Blackwood (Third Form, Grafton) concluded the evening with a very moving rendition of 'Invictus' by William Ernest Henley.

While Mr Coldstream deliberated over the winning monologue, Lower Sixth A Level pupils performed a scene from Timberlake Wertenbaker's play 'Our Country's Good'. The play tells the story of convicts transported to Australia in 1787 putting on a production of George Farquhar's restoration comedy, 'The Recruiting Officer', to entertain the community of convicts and the soldiers guarding them.

The standard of performances was exceptionally high, and Mr Coldstream confessed to the audience that he had changed his mind several times about who should win this year. After much thought the overall winners of the Senior Monologue Slam were Sofia Garvin (Third Form, Cheshire), playing Laura from 'Vicious Circle' by Nick Teed, and Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos), playing George from 'The Unreturning' by Anna Jordan.

Well done and congratulations to all the performers who delighted their audience with confident, intelligent, and poignant performances.

**Janice Wrigley, Teacher of Drama**







# CRICKET

## Northants EPP Success

Three Stowe pupils have made it onto the Northants Emerging Players' Programme (EPP): Archie Lazarus-Ingman (Fifth Form, Croft), Finley Cloete (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Noah Cloete (Fifth Form, Bruce).

They join Aadi Sharma and Charlie Oldershaw (both Upper Sixth, Winton), who are in the Northants Academy, as well as Azlan Kumar (Third Form, Grafton), Zorawar Sidhu (Third Form, Bruce), Blake Macleod (Fifth Form, Bruce), Connor Lawford (Fifth Form, Walpole), Wilf Pickard (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and James Bristow (Lower Sixth, Bruce) who are all part of the Northants pathway.

Stowe's partnership with the County has never been stronger. In addition, Toby Sutliff (Fourth Form, Bruce) is part of the Bucks EPP, Aayush Baluja (Fourth Form, Bruce) is part of the Essex EPP and Krishnan Nair (Lower Sixth, Winton) is in the Bucks U18 squad.

We wish them all well for their Winter training ahead.

**James Knott, Assistant Director of Sport**

# Hockey

Congratulations to Stowe's 3rd team as they reached Half Term undefeated, having beaten Royal Latin School 1st XI and Rugby School.

Both our U16 and U14 sides had excellent days at the Bucks County Championships on Thursday 5 October and Thursday 12 October respectively. After consistent strong play through the taxing competitions, both sides rose to become County Champions. Congratulations to Captains Hannah Campbell (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Lila Rigg (Third Form, Stanhope) and the rest of their teams!

Stowe's U16A team beat Kingham Hill 1st team in a midweek match on Thursday 12 October, with goals from Bel Williams (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and two from Sienna Wilson (Fifth Form, Nugent). Well done to Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who was awarded the most valuable player.

On Saturday 4 November, 12 hockey teams played against St Edward's. A pleasing 3-0 win for the 1st team got their second half of the season under way. Alessandra Jahina (Lower Sixth, Nugent) scored two goals and Maisie Slack (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) also found the net.

Other highlight results were a 7-0 win for the 2nds; the U15B won 4-0 and the U14C 3-0. Three other sides had draws in what was a very even contest overall.

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**

# Squash

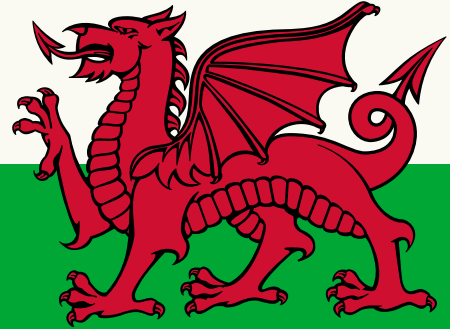
Well done to our 1st and 2nd teams who, on Saturday 7 October, beat Cheltenham and had convincing wins against Berkhamsted a week later on Saturday 14 October.

# Netball

## International Netball Success

Congratulations to Lottie Moffat (Upper Sixth, Nugent) on selection for the U19 Wales Netball squad. Lottie has been named as one of 10 defenders selected for the Welsh squad. This is an incredible achievement, and we are looking forward to seeing Lottie compete for her country.

**Jessica Bell, Assistant Head of Netball**



# Rugby

A notable statistic from the block of fixtures against Rugby School on Saturday 7 October is that Stowe won 11 out of the 13 matches. The 1st XV had an excellent win 35-10, playing on the pitch where the game was invented. Another significant result was the U16A team who won 25-15, a great achievement as that same side lost by 50 points in the Third Form.

On Wednesday 11 October our 1st XV hosted Berkhamsted in the second round of the National Cup. A very tight match, which saw the lead change hands several times, finished with a glorious individual try from Rafe Witheat (Upper Sixth, Temple), who scorched a full 60 metres to score under the posts. Well done to the whole team on this excellent result.

Stowe played Radley College for a place in the Quarter Finals of the National Cup on Wednesday 8 November. Full-back Rafe Witheat again used his electric pace to chase his own kick to score in the early moments and this was followed with further tries. Stowe tried to capitalise on the favourable conditions in the first half but crucially, Radley scored an interception try just before the break to narrow Stowe's lead to 27-20. It was all Radley in the second half, but the Stoics showed huge character in defence by continually denying Radley to cross their line. Radley finally took the lead with ten minutes to go. Stowe had a chance to snatch victory for the second time in two games, but despite being camped on the Radley line, just couldn't execute the pass, so they fell agonisingly short, losing 28-27.

**Grant Seely, Director of Rugby**





# MUSIC

## The Language of Bells

### Viols Talk and Demonstration

Prior to our composition workshop on The Language of Bells, we were presented with a talk and demonstration on viols given by Alison Kinder of The Chelys Consort. Viols were the early form of string instrument, related in some ways to the violins, violas and cellos of today. Alison performed on several sizes of viol, from the smallest (the treble viol) to the largest (the bass viol or Viola da Gamba). These instruments would be played in stately homes, such as Stowe, after a large meal and guests would have their own instruments to hand; playing socially for quite some time into the evening. It was fascinating to see these instruments and hear how composer Jill Jarman used them in her composition, The Language of Bells.

### Ben Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos)

### Composition Workshop

We met in the elegantly adorned Music Room, setting the perfect scene for making compositions on bells for the GCSE and A Level music pupils. The sound reflects well inside and stays ringing in the air even when the singing stops, which similarly sounds like a bell, ringing after the clapper has hit the mouth. The composer, Jill Jarman, gave us an introduction on how different bells interact in various churches across the world, and interestingly how bells ring in different pitches. Shockingly, we found out that we would not be playing with bells and instruments but would be using our own voices. We were separated into small groups where we were required to compose our own bell piece, combining solely our voices. Across the groups, everyone tried out different techniques of singing to imitate a bell.

My group of Ben Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Jasmine Zhang (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Dhilan Collin (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Araan Sobhan (Upper Sixth, Bruce), took an idea from Ben on continuously singing and breathing while people sustain long notes, therefore as a whole you get a ceaseless tintinnabulation sound. We also drew inspiration from our own School bell at Stowe, chiming at 15-minute intervals, and began replicating the tune of it. Whilst experimenting, we set one person to keep a consistent note, and everyone else would join in one by one, each harmonising to the singular note. To add variation and change the texture of the sound to a polyphonic sound, I implemented a repeating melody, like an arpeggio. Once we brought together our ideas to showcase our bell compositions to the rest of the groups, there was a real variety on how other groups decided to interpret the brief, ranging from a short melody that repeated 12 times to convey 12 chimes of a bell, to simple held notes. Overall, it was an enlightening experience for all of us to learn how to improvise with our voices to achieve certain effects, such as bell sounds.

### Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)

## The Language of Bells makes us Stop, Look and Listen

*Quiet friend who has come so far,*

*Feel how your breathing makes more space around you.*

*Let this darkness be a bell tower. And you the bell.*

### Rainer Maria Rilke

We are so lucky here at Stowe to have (amongst many other things) the superb Roxburgh Theatre and an extremely talented Music Department. Our School can attract performers of the stature of Dame Evelyn Glennie, the renowned Scottish percussionist (and pianist), to give us an evening of world-class quality music, as she did on Wednesday 1 November.

Accompanied by a quartet of singers and what is best described as a 'Viol Quintet' (the viol is a 16th Century instrument which resembles a cello), plus composer/conductor, Jill Jarman, the impressive maestro spent most of the concert (aptly entitled The Language of Bells) behind a bewildering array of percussion instruments, including bells, drums, xylophones and lots of slightly weird-looking, hanging metal objects, which resembled bird cages.

Using a variety of methods - sticks, beaters, brushes, saws and her bare hands, Dame Evelyn teased out beautiful sounds from these pieces of rose wood and steel, which forced us to think again about how significant and beautiful percussion can be. This reached its peak when, in the climax to the show (Jarman's 'In Celebration of Peace') the other musicians on stage used their own bodies to add to the rhythm by stamping feet, clapping and finally ringing bell-like instruments in unison. It was a spectacular and moving moment in an impeccable show.

The basic idea of the performance was to investigate how bells peel across centuries of human experience; how they connect us with past and present, warn us, play a big part in our rituals (especially weddings, dancing, churchgoing) and, because we may take them for granted, are deserving of special attention.

Folk songs by CF Abel (1723-1787), Anthony Holborne (1545-1602) and Michael East (1580-1648) were interspersed with compositions by both Glennie and Jarman into a seamless whole - the idea being you let the music take you wherever you wanted to go, which is what the best music does.

We were all enraptured by this experience and are extremely grateful to all the musicians, and especially Dame Evelyn, who gave up their time to bring their music to Stowe.

Emma Bryden must be thanked for co-ordinating the evening and, of course, behind the scenes the Roxburgh Staff and the Stowe Presents team are also deserving of our gratitude.

**Dr Andrew C Webber (Teacher of Film & Media)**





# Halloween Flash Fiction

The Third Form challenge of drafting a scary story in five hundred words was set, for those brave enough to take up the gauntlet. The budding writers of Stowe rose to the challenge with their entries to the Halloween Flash Fiction competition. Some channelled their inner Mary Shelley and some would give Bram Stoker a run for his money.

There were many scary and spine-tingling tales to choose from. It took some considerable time to read all the stories about zombies, ghostly capers and things that go bump in the night.

The winner was Beatrice Fielding (Third Form, Stanhope) with 'Haunting of Stowe House'. Second place was Emily Hampson (Third Form, Cheshire) with her story 'Possessed in Wenlock'. Third place was awarded to Poppy Pragnell (Third Form, Queen's) with 'Halloween Story'.

Congratulations to everyone who took part - there were some terrifying stories! To read them click [here](#).

**Samantha Keiller, Assistant School Librarian**

# Maths

## Cambridge University Talks & Discussion

We were delighted to welcome back visiting Old Stoic Kimi Chen (Lyttelton 21) with her good friend Charlotte Bardsley, both of whom have just started their second year at Cambridge University. Kimi is studying Mathematics at Christ's College and gave a brief talk on Special Relativity, one of her favourite Applied Mathematics courses from the first year of her degree. Perfectly pitched for an interdisciplinary audience, it was an engaging tour of the history of these ideas, starting with classical mechanics and Newton's laws, before introducing Galilean relativity, and culminating with Lorentz transformations and Einstein's special relativity.

Charlotte Bardsley is studying History and Politics at Sidney Sussex College and gave an entertaining but carefully considered talk in defence of the humanities. Charlotte began by asking the Stoics to imagine that in the year 2053 a huge asteroid is heading for earth and that they, as a Minister of State, have to decide which 100 people should be evacuated to Mars. Her point was that the answer to this question lies in the Humanities, a treasure trove of knowledge and experience, which she expanded upon brilliantly.

After their talks, we held a question-and-answer session in which Kimi and Charlotte shared more about what it is like to study at Cambridge, in terms of both work and activities; both play table tennis to a very high level and Charlotte represented England in the 2022 Commonwealth Games. It was also clear that they achieved true excellence in their subjects before applying to Cambridge, and they shared valuable insights into how they developed their skills and prepared their applications.

**Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths**

## A Level Shakespeare Masterclass

On Tuesday 7 November, our A Level Drama and Theatre classes were immersed in an amazing three-hour Shakespeare Masterclass, led by Mr Rodney Cottier. The session was artfully structured to introduce The Globe Theatre, The First Folio, and then everyone actively explored the opening scene of King Lear.

Mr Cottier has played the lead in Hamlet twice - his first on our stage in the Roxburgh Theatre, before it was re-designed. At the start of his visit, he reminisced about the rooms in the building that used to be practice rooms and changing rooms, some of which are now the Staff offices. As the official LAMDA website states: "With 35 years of experience as a stage director and teacher of stage combat, acting and text at LAMDA, Rodney brings a wealth of knowledge to students, he has directed 25 plays from Shakespeare's canon. Rodney worked at Shakespeare's Globe as Master-of-Fight, on several productions, including Mark Rylance's Hamlet, as well as at the Royal Opera House, English and Welsh National Opera, the National Theatre Studio and many regional theatres."

We were not disappointed in this impressive masterclass; the pupils were provided with more than enough material to support Component Three, and the teachers were reminded of many facts they knew, as well as learning more. All information was delivered at pace, with fantastic dry humour, and many quoted lines.

The opening scene of King Lear lasts approximately 16 minutes and begins with the reading of a Will. By the end of this section the family has been torn apart, violence has been threatened, a favourite daughter banished, a villain has over-heard all he needs to wreak havoc, and true love has been declared. Everyone had a part to play and discovered that the variations in the seven versions of the First Folio can lead to the most fascinating interpretations.

Rodney Cottier was not allowed to rest at the end of the three hours, as several of our pupils had further questions to ask about pursuing their love of theatre at university and stage schools. We hope he considers returning to Stowe; first to see our adaptation of 'Macbeth: Paint it Black' (Senior Congreve, 6-9 December), and secondly, next year, to share his expert knowledge with next year's A Level group.

Our thanks not only to Mr Cottier, but to Mr Colin Dudgeon (Development Director) for helping to facilitate this masterclass.

**Laura Parker, Acting Head of Drama**





# Languages Society

On Wednesday 4 October, the Languages Society had their first meeting of the academic year. We were fortunate to listen to presentations from the President Egle Formichetti (Upper Sixth, West), Vice-President Valeriy Zubkov (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Upper Sixth, Chandos).

During the evening the Stoics learnt about a variety of topics including the impact of the Roman Empire on modern day languages. 'Tuscany and its Arts', was another topic covered and members learnt about the most famous architects, artists and poets of Florence during the Renaissance period; a time where the Italian culture flourished under the rule of the Medici Family. Architects like Filippo Brunelleschi, Michelangelo Buonarroti and poets such as Dante Alighieri were the main focus. Finally, our last talk, was on the topic of geographical borders, and how they can take various forms and serve different purposes; including demarcating the limits of a country, state, city, or other administrative divisions.

We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the evening, and we are looking forward to more events the Society has planned for the rest of the term!

**Egle Formichetti (Upper Sixth, West)**



## Beagles

On Thursday 28 September, Blanket the beagle gave birth to five puppies.

Blanket, who was kindly given to Stowe last year by the Dummer Beagles in the Cotswolds, is a massive favourite with the Stoics. The father of the puppies is Stowe's Sopwith.

Yet to be named, the puppies are proving quite a hit at the kennels this term!

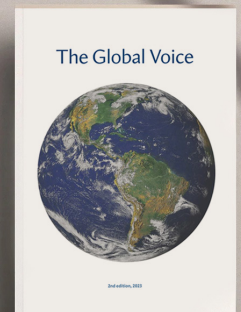
**Phil Kennedy, Kennel Huntsman**

# International Languages Magazine

The Languages Faculty put together an activity called 'International Languages Magazine'. Pupils from the Fifth, Lower and Upper Sixth Forms wrote two articles each on an international topic of their choice.

This year, articles ranged from Marie-Antoinette's influence on fashion to chess in Azerbaijan. Our Chief Editor, Alina Rabyk (Upper Sixth, West) put all the articles together using the Publisher app, et voilà... [click here to read it](#) - happy reading!

**Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media**



# ROWING

26 Stoics travelled to Cambridge to row on Saturday 11 November. It was great to support our girls' eight (who competed against, and beat, several Senior crews), our girls' and boys' U15 quads, and to watch our boys' eight come halfway in the line-up of over 200 boats. It was a fantastic day of sunshine and rowing on the River Ley, well done to everyone who competed and thank you to all who supported on the day and for the fantastic photos by Mark Lewis.

**Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing**







# Maths

## Change Maker STEM Project Prize

A prize of £100 is awarded to an Upper Sixth Stoic who applies science, technology, engineering or mathematics to tackle a real-life problem or set of problem(s) during their time at Stowe. The finalists for this year's Change Maker STEM Project Prize were Jacob Embury (Upper Sixth, Croft), Satis Johnson-Greene (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Hardy King (Upper Sixth, Chandos).

Jacob captured the imagination of the judges with his work on trajectories for missions in space. He developed a mathematical computer simulation of how stars and planets interact and move under the influence of gravitational forces. He then used an evolutionary algorithm to determine the optimum thrust vectoring to enable a spacecraft to travel to another planet and be captured by its gravity. As expected, the initial run of the programme saw the spacecraft travel directly into the sun, but the algorithm quickly learned how to adjust the thrusts and avoid such a calamitous outcome, instead using the sun for a gravitational slingshot.

Satis' presentation on the application of Chemistry in artistic processes was very engaging, with animations, videos and 3D printed structures. Prussian blue is associated with famous artworks such as Hokusai's Great Wave and work from Picasso's blue period. Satis synthesized her own batch of Prussian Blue, a metal-organic framework (MOF) that can be made from potassium ferrocyanide. Satis led us through the process and how she obtained a yield of 147g, before blending and stabilizing it with an alkaline binder. Satis also explained to the judges how MOFs are an area of cutting-edge research with applications as customizable nanomaterials that can act as drug delivery systems or artificial enzymes.

Hardy has been through a long process during Sixth Form of developing his skills in machine learning and artificial intelligence, culminating in his own implementation of a generative pretrained transformer (GTP) model, along the lines of chatGTP. Hardy wrote this functional version from scratch as a means of ensuring that he fully understood its mechanisms. The scale and ambition of producing a natural language processing model without relying on any ready-made functions or modules is impressive, as was the way that Hardy explained highly complex processes in plain language as he led the judges through the structure of his code.

The finalists were assessed against five criteria - independence, technical skill, perseverance, communication and initiative. Ideally, we would have liked to have awarded the prize to all three finalists and, indeed, adding up the scores for these criteria showed just how close the competition was. There was only one winner though, and our congratulations go to Hardy King!

Well done to all the Finalists.

**Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths**

# DRAMA

*Stowe*

Senior Congreve 2023



An elite ensemble cast of 25 are poised to perform this year's Senior Congreve production.

Shakespeare's famous Scottish tragedy will be presented in a unique adaptation in the Roxburgh Theatre from Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 December.

The 75 minutes of this production will be driven forwards by the pulsing beat of classic songs from The Rolling Stones - which is what shaped our title: 'Macbeth: Paint It Black'. Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft, reigns supreme over the mere mortals in this version of the story. See how manipulation by the supernatural shapes the fate of our would-be hero. The warrior, Macbeth, is promised greatness, rises to the heady position of King of Scotland, and then meets his gory end.

The plot moves swiftly, from the blasted heath, where Macbeth and Banquo are met by The Witches, back to the battlefield, and into the castle grounds. The ensemble transform from soldiers, to Lords and Ladies, and also to strange spirits of the underworld. Come and see crowns, wands, swords, daggers, smoke, blood, lights and action.

Holly Ford-Langstaff (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) as Hecate leads our coven of witches of Camille Thornton-Izzard (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Gracie Lavery (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Claudia Kilonback (Lower Sixth, West), Sophie Ellenberger (Lower Sixth, West) and Flora Peppiatt (Fifth Form, Queen's). The title role itself is taken by James Smith (Lower Sixth, Winton) as Macbeth, Sophie Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent) as Lady Macbeth, supported by brave and true Banquo: Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos). In the final scenes, come and find out how MacDuff played by Ed Mercer (Lower Sixth, Grafton) seeks his revenge on the overly ambitious Macbeth.

The excellent teamwork of Stowe's Drama Department, with stunning support from our Theatre Manager and Technical Team have been joined by Rob Parker, Musical Director, to create this production - first seen in Brooklyn in 2020. This is the UK premiere of this exciting adaptation, and we can't wait to see you in the audience.

Click [here](#) for tickets.

**Laura Parker, Director/Acting Head of Drama**

*Stowe* mail



# MUSIC



## Brass Ensemble

The Stowe Brass Ensemble delighted attendees at the fireworks display on Saturday 4 November on the South Front, providing background music before the display began.

The Ensemble, under the effervescent direction of Mr Richard Lewis, performed a thoroughly entertaining set of music from stage and screen including the themes from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and The Muppets, 'Bare Necessities' from The Jungle Book, and 'Blue Moon' by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart.

Congratulations to all involved for such uplifting and joyful performances.

We look forward to hearing the Brass Ensemble perform again in the Winter Ensembles Concert on Friday 1 December in the Ugland Auditorium at 7:45pm.

Tickets can be booked [here](#).

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music**



## Grade 5 Theory Success

Congratulations to Annabel Hodgetts (Fifth Form, Cheshire) for passing her Grade 5 theory exam with Merit.

Annabel is one of our Music Scholars and a talented French Horn player - we look forward to following her success as she undertakes the higher-grade performance exams.

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music**



## Music School Staff Concert

The Stowe community were treated to a wonderful programme of music performed by our incredibly talented Music School Staff during the lunchtime concert on Thursday 2 November.

After refreshments of soup and bread in the Marble Hall, in the stunning surroundings of the State Music Room, a full audience listened to the delights of classical pieces from Purcell, Couperin, Beethoven and Bach, to the more contemporary works of Ranki, Barellics, Joplin and the current rock band Incubus.

As with the power that music has, the emotional responses evoked from the various pieces ranged from sadness and tears with Emily Bradshaw Gibson's

'Dido's Lament' and Liz Miller's powerful rendition of 'She Used to be Mine' from the musical 'Waitress', to joyous, with works on the piano, cello, flute, and oboe.

The final performance, Jonathan Kingston performing Scott Joplin's 'Maple Leaf Rag', left the audience with huge smiles on their faces at both the piece and his ability.

All the musicians were fantastic, demonstrating how lucky Stowe is to have such a talented Music Department to teach and support the Stoics.

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music**





# St Andrews University

## The value of attending university open days

On Wednesday 11 October, I was fortunate enough to travel to Scotland to visit the University of St Andrews. I hope to study for a master's degree in Marine Biology, including study and work abroad, starting September 2024.

My first impression was excellent; the town had a great vibe, and I thought there was a perfect combination of historic and modern buildings, some on cobblestone roads.

The facilities, especially the Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI) and the world-famous Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), instantly allowed me to understand the high level of study that takes place and why St Andrews is renowned for such high academic excellence.

I was impressed with the organisation at the University, and I was always able to find someone to talk to, taking the opportunity to ask many questions. I gained insight into what being a student at the University would be like and came away with essential knowledge to help me decide whether St Andrews was the right place for me.

I attended various subject talks, had tours of the town and the SOI, and attended a student life talk. Life at St Andrews looks and sounds great! One of my key points to take away was how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

Everybody seemed extremely happy to be there, proving why St Andrews has the top student satisfaction in many league tables.

The accommodation was extremely impressive, with many choices, and my tour was brilliant. There was just a 5 to 10-minute walk to the town, making it accessible and easy to travel. The surroundings and natural scenery are beautiful, and people were even going for a swim in the sea!

Although St Andrews is a small town, the saying 'there is nothing to do' is a myth. I realised just how many societies you could be a part of. They also had a club as part of the student union! All the little things about St Andrews made it a very appealing university, and I plan to study there next year.

I would recommend going to university open days. I had almost completely ruled out St Andrews, due to thinking it was too far away and just a small town, but after my visit, I think it would be the best place for me to study at the highest level, to make me highly employable whilst also having a good time. I've also heard they have a lovely golf course...

**Alejandro Sanchez Podesta,  
Deputy Head of House &  
Academic Prefect for Croft House**



# November

The Chatham boys (and a handful of Staff) were out running on the afternoon of Sunday 12 November to raise money for 'Movember'.

November is Men's Mental Health Month, and with Movember being a charity dedicated to this month and topic, the Prefects felt it was only right to raise awareness and funds for it.

Throughout the month of November, the charity has set the challenge for everyone to walk or run 60km, sadly representing the number of men (60) who take their lives globally each hour.

The House Prefect Team set a challenge for the boys in each Year Group in Chatham House to run 60km between them, to raise money. As a House, the aim was therefore to run a total of 300km. We are pleased to say that as a group they ran a total of 310km at the athletics track! It was cold, windy and wet, but the boys were superb.

Thank you to those of you who have supported this with some very generous donations. The JustGiving page is still live and if you would like to support, then please click [here](#).

**Patrick Dias, Chatham Houseparent**



# Sports Science

23 Sports Science pupils travelled to Loughborough University for a day of activities and presentations about how to be elite athletes at university.

Loughborough University staff talked to Stoics about how to apply to a top sporting university, as well as the support they provided for their elite athletes while studying for their degree. We based ourselves in the University Netball Centre, where we met a variety of staff, coaches and current students, and where we were able to watch the Leicester Riders Basketball team and the England Netball team complete a series of fitness tests.

Our pupils then got to take part in their own training session, led by Vicky Burgess and Olivia Murphy, both of whom coach Loughborough Lightning Superleague team and Loughborough University Performance Pathway.

After a tour of the University Stoics had a question and answer session with some of Loughborough's top elite athletes. Overall, a very impressive day!

**Victoria Dias, Head of Sports Science**





# Badminton

Our depleted boys' 1st and 2nd teams suffered their first defeats on the season against Bromsgrove on Saturday 14 October with both teams losing 6-3. On the same day the girls' 1st team and boys' 3rd team travelled to Bromsgrove with the girls losing 7-2 and the boys pulling off a fantastic 9-7 win. 1st pair of Alexander Humphreys-von Bittschwan (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Oliver Lamberton (Fifth Form, Grenville) won all four of their matches.

Both boys' 1st and 2nd teams bounced back in their next matches on Saturday 4 November with the 1st team winning 6-3 and the 2nd team winning 8-1.

On Saturday 11 November we put out five teams against Uppingham. There were fine wins for the boys' 1st team (7-2), the boys' U16As (8-1) and the boys' U16Bs (9-0). The boys' 2nd team played out a thriller losing 5-4 with the final match going to three sets. The girls' 1st team gave a good account of

themselves in their 6-10 defeat with 1st pair Annie Flint (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Madya Liu (Fifth Form, Stanhope) winning all four of their matches.

The Junior Inter-House Boys' and Girls' Doubles and Singles Competitions took place on Sunday 12 November, with the following results.

## GIRLS

**Doubles:** Lyttelton beat Nugent 3-0 in the final (21-4; 21-5; 21-13).

**Singles:** Tia Sibanda (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) beat Emilia Combastet (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) 21-9.

## BOYS

**Doubles:** Chandos beat Cobham 2-1 in the final (15-21; 21-18; 21-20).

**Singles:** Alex Fan (Fourth Form, Chandos) beat Arthur Pomeroy (Fourth Form, Cobham) 21-13.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton**



# Equestrian

The first of the Bloxham Eventer Challenge Series took place on Sunday 15 October. Stowe was very well represented and there were fantastic results. Gracie Cowley (Third Form, Queen's) took First place in the 80cm. In the 90cm, Lucy Willmott (Upper Sixth, Nugent) took First place and Stowe also won team First with Gracie Cowley, Anabelle Robbins (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope).

At the NSEA Championship Event held at Addington Equestrian Centre on Saturday 21 October, Ruby Wetherall (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Ruby Sturgis (Third Form, Stanhope) and Lola Price (Third Form, Cheshire) competed. Huge congratulations to these girls for representing Stowe at these National Finals. Special mentions to Ruby Sturgis who was Reserve National Champion in the 95cm class (in a field of over 170 riders), she also led the 105cm class all day, however had an unlucky pole down in the jump off, finishing in a respectable Fourth place, and to Ruby Wetherall, who came Third in the 110cm class.

Lola Price, had two double clears at Cherwell on Saturday 21 October, qualifying for the Blue Chip Championships in April.

Clemmy King (Third Form, Queen's), came Third in the 90cm NSEA Eventer Challenge at Rectory Farm on Saturday 28 October, qualifying for the Championships at Hickstead next year.

Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent) had a busy day on Sunday 29 October at Dallas Burston Bicester Pony Club Eventer Challenge, taking Fourth Individually, Team Third in the 80cm class and Second Individually and Team First in the 90cm class. Bunny also won the 80cm class at Aston le Walls on Sunday 12 November meaning she has two ponies qualified for the Championships in February.

Congratulations to Izzy Russell (Fifth Form, Cheshire) who won the 1m Open class at Bury Farm on Sunday 12 November.

Fantastic results for all those representing Stowe Equestrian.

**Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian**



# Basketball

On Thursday 12 October the 1st team put in a fine performance against Radley to win their first match of the season 62-47. In the first quarter Radley took an early lead but Stowe clawed their way back to level the score 17-17 at the end of the quarter. Stowe took the game away from Radley winning the second quarter 22-7 and the third quarter 14-8. Radley rallied in the last quarter but fell well short of the Stowe score in the end.

Leading points scorers: Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos) 16, Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Upper Sixth, Chatham) 14, Harry Langford (Lower Sixth, Chandos) 13, William Wu (Lower Sixth, Grafton) 11.

On Thursday 9 November the 1st team showed a great deal of resilience to come back from a 12-point deficit to beat Abingdon 42-39.

Leading points scorers: Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos) 15, Max LaGrande (Lower Sixth, Temple) 9, Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Upper Sixth, Chatham) 8, Yi Lin Wan (Upper Sixth, Bruce) 8.

The U16 team put in a spirited performance against Abingdon on Thursday 2 November in their first match of the season and although they lost 25-48 they improved a great deal as the game went on. The team are looking forward to the return match later in the term.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball**





# Philosophy & Religion

## Reverend Jonathan Aitken Visit

On Wednesday 1 November, we were lucky to be able to welcome Reverend Jonathan Aitken to Stowe, who gave a highly interesting talk on his remarkable life to the Sixth Form Politics, Philosophy and Religion pupils.

He first spoke to us about his career in politics as an MP for South Thanet - 'life in the fast lane' as Revd Aitken put it - when he reached the grand heights of the Cabinet table and was touted as a future Prime Minister (though as Aitken himself pointed out, the title of future PM was bandied about to several people in this era). He then took us through his subsequent very public fall from grace, when he was sentenced to prison for perjury, as well as reflecting with great humour on his experiences in prison; where he acted as a mentor and letter writer for fellow prisoners (it is important to remember that a disproportionate number of prisoners are illiterate).

Despite these events being very dramatic in their own right (the first Cabinet Minister to go to prison

in living memory), perhaps the most interesting part of the Reverend's talk was his description of the spiritual journey that he embarked on during and following his perjury conviction, and how he has since found true contentment, happiness and purpose in his vocation as a Prison Chaplain - something that remained elusive whilst he was a politician.

The evening was then concluded with Aitken taking questions on a broad range of subjects to do with politics and religion, from the nature of miracles to the reasons why the calibre of our political representatives have declined.

The talk was enjoyed by all who attended, and it certainly made people reflect on the idea of all our lives having a specific purpose, and on the importance of happiness and fulfilment in our lives over that of material success or public adulation.

**Joseph Barnett (Upper Sixth, Winton)**



Old Stoics

## Durham

On Thursday 2 November, Charlie Evans (Old Stoic Events Manager) and I were on the road visiting Old Stoics in Durham. After a long train journey, we arrived in the beautiful cathedral city. In the evening all 16 Old Stoics who are students at Durham University joined us at Revolution Bar for a get together. Some of them only left Stowe this Summer, but they were all keen to hear news of the School, the teachers and the various Houses.

Gracie Potts (Queen's 21) who is on the Croft Committee for Old Stoics aged 18-30, made a great speech saying how young people are the future of the Society, and asked them to get involved and to put forward ideas for events, clubs, and activities. As Old Stoics leave higher education, the Society is a great steppingstone into careers, with business networking, mentoring, and career advice in a range of industries and professions. We encourage all Old Stoics to connect with the Society and make the most of these valuable membership connections.

Everyone had a great evening, and thanks again to all our Durham Old Stoics for being there. Our next stop is Newcastle Upon Tyne on Thursday 23 November when we will be hosting the Old Stoics at '97 & Social' in the city centre. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Bev Kelly, Interim Director, Old Stoic Society**



Old Stoics

## Fiji Fundraiser

During the Summer of my second year at university in 2022, I had the privilege of linking up with the charity Think Pacific to participate in a community expedition project in Nadavacia Village in the province of Ra, Fiji. The project's aim was to contribute towards Fiji's development goals by constructing a much-needed medical dispensary, whilst living in the village and immersing ourselves in Fijian culture.

During this period, our hosts explained the devastating impacts of Cyclone Winston in 2016 when many buildings in the village were destroyed. Much has since been restored; however, the village church still remains in a state of disarray due to a lack of funds. As I am sure you are aware, Christianity is integral to Fijian culture. It is a

central aspect of their lifestyle.

My experience in the village had a profound impact on me, and now that I have finished university, in an attempt to repay their kindness, I intend to raise money so that the church can be rebuilt. I will be hiking the Te Araroa trail which spans 3000km over the North and South Islands of New Zealand. The adventure will take four months and I can't wait to get started!

I intend to document my journey on the Instagram account [@fundraise4fiji](#) and will also be posting regular updates via my LinkedIn profile (Albert (Bertie) Bryant) so I will be able to keep those interested informed on my progress.

If you would like to donate, please click [here](#).

**Bertie Bryant (Cobham 20)**



## My Experience Volunteering in the Peruvian Amazon

In October 2022 I was fortunate enough to travel deep into the Peruvian Amazon to be a conservation volunteer for Crees at the Manu Learning Center (MLC). From living totally disconnected from many familiar comforts, to discovering the complexity of an ecosystem, this experience has permanently expanded my perspective.

The Crees foundation pioneer experiential learning and educational tourism at Manu to support conservation and community projects in the Peruvian Amazon to create a better future. Manu is the most biodiverse place on Earth (and a UNESCO World Heritage Site), but it is under threat. Poverty and population growth drive people to destroy the rainforest through logging, farming and mining as ways of providing for their families. To save Manu, Crees believes that sustainability must be a realistic choice for local communities. That is why Crees is working on the solution through conservation research, environmental education and sustainable livelihoods.

On arrival, I soon learned that I would be restricted to cold showers and to only two hours of electricity every other day and that all the produce needed for our meals would have to be carried across fields and through the jungle on a weekly basis. I would also have to venture into the jungle, up a steep hill for a chance of mobile reception and would have to clean my clothing with a hose.

My naivety soon became apparent to me, especially as I navigated getting the sweat out of my clothes in an environment as humid as the jungle! I learned to accept and adapt. More than that, I learned to truly value every meal and to take advantage of every ray of sunshine. I learned to let myself be bored, still and alone at times. Fine tuning my adaptation skills is a fundamental part of how living at the MLC enriched my life.

A day at MLC was never quite the same. Rising with the sun was a regularity, although sometimes it was to record data about the species of macaws feeding at the nearby clay lick; other times it was to set up butterfly traps for the following week's survey on the variety of species in a specific area of the forest. Some surveys are done at night to monitor amphibians and reptiles. Venturing into the pitch-black Amazon with only a headlamp to guide you is a particularly thrilling experience.

We were also assigned to work on the center's bio garden (primarily for research purposes) and jobs included gardening and also collecting data to determine what the best methods are for producing the greatest yield of fruits and vegetables using the smallest growing space. Everything grown is carefully looked after by volunteers; weighed, measured, and then used by the MLC kitchen.

MLC is a center for research as well as education and community development. The 'Teaching the Teachers of the Future Program' is free for local students and involves teaching them about the work done at MLC; empowering them to be leaders of sustainable decision-making.

There is so much more I could say about the rich experience I had, from the unique friendships I made, to the entrancing stars; seeing a staff member pick up an extremely deadly snake with his bare hands or that time I stepped into flip-flops infested with fire ants! My time at MLC has strengthened my discipline and resilience, fueled my desire to protect the environment and shown me many ways I can do so. I am so grateful for the entire experience.

To read the full report click [here](#).

To learn more about the Programme click [here](#).

**Ella Ivanovici (West 22)**



## Building Your Academic Efficiency

Active Learning is one of the six Change Maker core skills, and this was developed to its fullest for the pupils who attended the 'Building Your Academic Efficiency' session.

Pupils delved deep into the cognitive science, underpinning the Human Learning Architecture and gave specific focus to Working Memory and Long-Term Memory. Pupils learnt how to maximise the intrinsic load of studied material whilst also minimising unhelpful extraneous load by focusing attention and securing the learning environment that they find themselves in.

Some key areas covered in the session included topics such as Retrieval Practice, Cognitive Load Theory, Spaced Repetition, Interleaving and Dual Coding, and pupils were also given time to learn, explore and develop the specific learning strategies that could maximise these key focus areas. Some great examples of what pupils created culminated in the construction of Flash Cards, Cornell Notes, Brain Dumps and Retrieval Grids.

**Luke Radley, Head of Teaching and Learning**

**Change  
Maker Day**  
Monday 9 October





## SPANISH TRIP TO SEVILLA & CORDOBA

In an enriching educational visit, the Spanish Department embarked with 25 GCSE Stoics to two of the most beautiful cities in Spain, Sevilla and Cordoba, during half term (Monday 16 October to Friday 20 October).

The adventure unfolded with an early departure, landing at Malaga Airport, followed by a scenic two-hour coach drive to Sevilla, where the pupils were welcomed by their host families. This memory will forever linger in the hearts of our Stoics as a poignant moment of the warmth of Spanish hospitality. The embracement of the host families with their arms wide open, accompanied by the traditional hugs and standard welcome cheek kisses that characterise Spanish culture, marked the beginning of a cultural exchange. For some pupils, this unexpected display of affection initially stirred a sense of discomfort. However, as the journey unfolded, these cultural nuances became an integral part of their experience, embraced with open hearts, which were reciprocated by the end of the trip.

The first afternoon set the tone for the trip, featuring a guided tour through Seville's breathtaking City Centre. The Stoics were immersed in the rich history and architectural marvels that make Seville a treasure of cultural heritage, walking around La Giralda tower, General Archives of the Indies, Cathedral of St Mary and the Alcázar Palace. Mornings were dedicated to intense Spanish language lessons, providing Stoics with real-life practice in bustling scenarios, such as navigating the vibrant local market or deciphering a treasure hunt. The immersion experience allowed them to apply their language skills authentically which is noticeable now in lessons.

Another afternoon was dedicated to the Andalusian art of Flamenco where the Stoics had an intense dance class. The pupils tapped into the rhythmic flows and foot movements that define the traditional Spanish "Sevillanas". The day concluded with a mesmerising Flamenco show in an authentic theatre nestled in the old town of Seville, leaving the pupils captivated by the expressive and powerful performance of the dancers. The evening was

finished eating tapas under the mushroom-like architecture market of Seville.

Initially, we had envisaged a day trip to Cadiz to visit the Caleta beach and la Torre Tavira, but the weather forecast threatened to disrupt our plans with heavy rain with 90km/h gusts of wind. Quick thinking and flexibility led to a strategic decision to redirect the visit to Cordoba City just two days before. This proved to be a correct choice, sparing the group from severe storms, floods, and potential risks at Cadiz. Cordoba, although windy and rainy with its blend of Jewish, Arab, and Christian influences, unfolded as a historical marvel of Spain's cultural heritage. The Stoics, with our expert guides, walked mesmerised the historic and narrow streets and visited the most southern synagogue in Spain, the heritage of the Safadis until they were expelled by the Catholic monarchs in 1492. We finish the day with a visit to the world-renowned "La Mezquita de Cordoba" or the Great Mosque of Córdoba. The visit became an enlightening example of the enduring legacy of Arab influence, evident in the architecture and history that graced the city.

As our educational journey concluded, we had the opportunity to go to El Tintero restaurant on El Dedo's beach in Malaga. This restaurant is famous in Malaga with a unique and inimitable concept. The dishes are not ordered. The waiter passes with the fish dishes and the diners buy the dish from them. This was a great time at Malaga's beach, where the sun shone again, and the opportunity to eat tapas whilst swimming in the Mediterranean sea was appreciated by all the Stoics.

The Spanish Department feels that everyone returned home with improved language skills and an appreciation for the cultural diversity and historical richness that define Spain. I would also like to thank not only the exceptional behaviour and positiveness of our Stoics but also our extraordinary two members of Staff who went with me on the trip, Mrs Peña and Miss Bernal.

**Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish**

## Stowe House Preservation Trust

# Community Learning

During the first week of the Half Term break for Stoics, Stowe House welcomed a total of 291 Year 5 and 6 children from local primary schools to engage in an educational visit held in relation to Gaia, the floating sculpture of Earth by internationally acclaimed artist Luke Jerram, which was temporarily housed in the magnificent Marble Saloon.

The children were invited to marvel at the artwork and interact with various activities, from designing their own deep-sea creatures, to learning about symbiotic relationships in different environments. They even had a go at experiencing volcanos and earthquakes through virtual reality headsets! Seeing the world in this way, the children were able to tap into what has been described as the 'Overview Effect'; explained by astronauts as a feeling of awe for the planet and a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life. We hope that the children left with a renewed sense of appreciation for our natural world and a feeling of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

Special thanks to Roland Shuttleworth who ensured the smooth running of visits, Amber Phillips (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) who kindly gave up some of her Half Term holiday to come in and help, and Shelley Rowley (Teacher of Geography) for lending us the VR headsets. A big thank you to Sarah Cooke and Jo Bayliss for their fantastic design and printing skills, House Staff for their support in the quick turnaround from School to public visits, and lastly Dave Smith and his team who secured transport for many of the children who would not have otherwise been able to come.

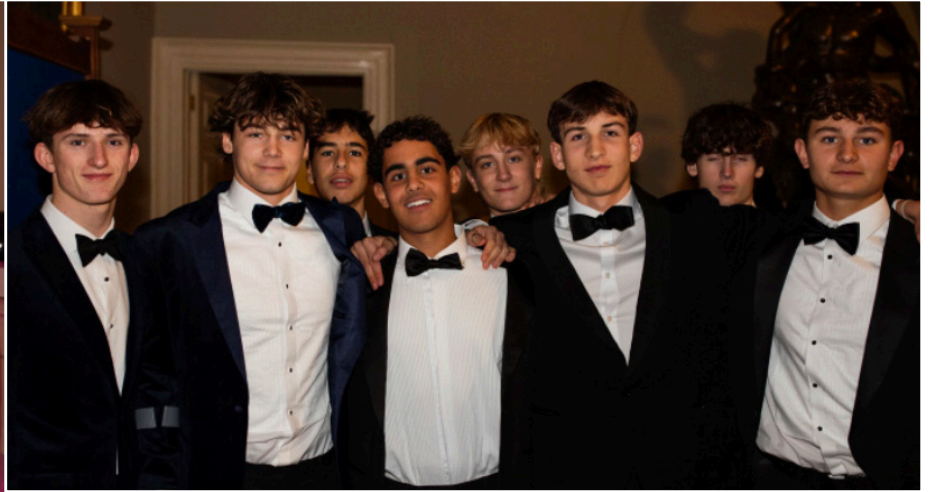
**Amy Walsh, Community Learning Officer,  
Stowe House Preservation Trust**







# The Charity Ball



Over the past few months, the Street Child Committee have been planning a ball for Sixth Form pupils. The aim of the ball was to raise as much money as possible which will go towards our goal (£20,000) to build a school in Liberia.

The ball on Saturday 11 November was a great success, with a total of £7,000 being raised for the charity, and the Stoics all having a great time.

Creating the opportunity to help others and provide children with an education, friendships and memories is why the Committee is so motivated to raise money to build a school in Liberia.

**Alessia Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)**



## Street Child Gallery

On Wednesday 25 October, I visited the Street Child Gallery, in Southbank, London. The gallery presents different perspectives of the lives of 15-year-old children, from a variety of different countries (Ukraine, Bangladesh, Nigeria). The photography was very thought provoking as it illustrated the different lives that people live, as well as showing us each and everyone's individual aspirations.

**Alessia Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)**







# Photography Portraits

Gillman & Soame took Third Form and Lower Sixth portrait photographs earlier this Michaelmas Term. If you haven't already, please order these photographs as soon as possible (especially if you would like them for Christmas). If you did not receive an email with how to order, please contact Gillman & Soame by **email** or call 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password **stoveschool492tvg2023** and they will assist.

## Prestigious Award for CPR and Defibrillator Communications Campaign

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) has won a Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) award for a pioneering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillator communications campaign.

Entitled Defibrillators: A deadly game of hide and seek, it was named best healthcare campaign at the CIPR PRide Awards 2023 in the Anglia, Thames and Chiltern region on Thursday 28 September.

The campaign was centred around the launch of new International Resuscitation Guidelines designed to improve survival from cardiac arrest with a specific focus on Automated External Defibrillator (AED) signage. This includes ensuring that signs are illuminated at night, visible at all times, identifiable from a distance, that the direction and distance it indicated and that there are annual routine checks of all signage and AEDs.

The communications team at SCAS developed templates and a guidance pack for download on the new international signage guidelines and selected Stowe to be the first School in the world to implement the new AED signage.

After unveiling Stowe as the first in the world to introduce the new signage based on international guidelines, SCAS worked with the Resuscitation Council UK, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) and the British Heart Foundation to rollout the templates and guidance to more schools.

Gillian Hodgetts (Mother of Annabel (Fifth Form, Cheshire)), Director of Communications, Marketing and Engagement at SCAS, said: "We are delighted this work has been recognised for its impact and success with such a distinguished industry award. It is a great reflection of the dedication and desire right across SCAS to keep pushing forward with CPR and defibrillator awareness to help save more lives."



## What Parents Can Do To Tackle Online Misogyny

**Internet Matters reports:** Even as more responsibility shifts to platforms through online safety regulation, parents will continue to have a central role to play in supporting children to have safe online experiences. The findings in this report strongly point to parents being key: we have found that many children are learning about misogyny through their parents, and that most teenagers would go to their parent to address intimate image-abuse.

It is important for parents to build children's resilience against harmful views early and, as far as possible, take action before misogynistic content takes root. Resources like Internet Matters x Samsung's **The Online Together Project** are helpful starting places to talk about difficult issues, like hate speech and online misogyny.

Where parents are concerned about their child's access to misogynistic content, or their views or behaviour towards women online, it is important to reach out for help. Organisations like Internet Matters provide resources on talking to children about misogyny, 'How to talk about misogyny'. Other parents and School can also help.

For any Safeguarding concerns or advice, please contact **Mike Rickner**, Designated Safeguarding Lead.



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MIDDLEHAM

*Stowe* mail

Open to Old Stoics,  
current/former  
parents and staff

CONTACT: HENRY KIMBELL  
CHANDOS 04  
E: [henrykimbell@hotmail.com](mailto:henrykimbell@hotmail.com)  
M: 07979 522744

#OldStoicsRacing



# Art Historians

Dr Wallersteiner, Mr Griffin, and Mr Christie took Stoic Art Historians to London where they spent the day in the collections of the National Gallery and Tate Britain.

Upon arrival at the National Gallery, Dr Wallersteiner had already given a lecture to those present about the belligerent urban planning scheme, which resulted in the creation of Trafalgar Square.

The group was paired off, with each pair assigned a painting to locate and report on. The second part of this writing task required them to think more generally about the wider context of gallery curation. There was then time for

Mr Christie to give a brief talk to pupils on the innovations of Renaissance Venetian painting.

After lunch the group raced under ultramarine London skies to Tate Britain, where Dr Wallersteiner lectured eloquently on the evolution of British painting from Turner to Hepworth.

The Stoics on the trip, part of a generation which has lost three years of social maturing - something we are often quick to forget, will hopefully have found these direct experiences with imagery more than just instructive.

**Paul Griffin, Head of History of Art**



## Service@stowe



## Doughnut Sale

On Tuesday 31 October the Romanian Schools' Charity Group, comprising of Stowe Sixth Formers, held a fundraising doughnut sale for Talita Kum, an organisation providing after-school care, food and hygiene to disadvantaged children in Jimbolia, Romania. We sold all the six hundred doughnuts within of a couple of hours and raised around £600 for the Romanian children.

### The Groups Motivation

We found the sale to be an "exciting process" from start to finish. The group had to overcome many challenges that arose, as a team, and as a result developed many of our Change Maker skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving and leadership skills. Overcoming problems and learning new skills has driven the groups motivation to find more ways to fundraise for our charity.

The group consists of perceptive and thoughtful individuals who want to help the world to become a better place. We stand firm in the belief that the education of young minds is imperative for our future, and this is where we start today.

Having not only employed several Change Maker skills during this event, but also knowing that every penny raised may contribute to an impactful change, The Romanian Schools' Group will continue to do the best that we can to support The Talita Kum Project.

To learn more or to donate, click [here](#).

If you would like any more information about the project, please click [here](#).

**Alicia Wilson (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton),  
Romanian Schools' Group Leader**



## Visiting the Elderly

We have a very caring group of Stoics who regularly visit residents of Maids Moreton Hall, a residential home. This is a valuable activity for the residents, who really enjoy the chance to interact with much younger people. The Stoics in turn benefit greatly, developing their emotional intelligence, having to deal with communication which can sometimes be outside their comfort zone, and dealing with challenges they are not accustomed to.

During a particular visit Gracie Lavery (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Ilaria Beni (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) made a wonderful connection with one of the elderly residents. Despite this being their first encounter with the lady, within a few minutes she asked one of the carers to fetch her photograph album from her room, so that she could share it with the girls. The carer told the accompanying Stowe Staff that this is an album that she rarely shares with anyone, so much so, that she had not even shown it to the carer yet. For the remainder of the visit, the lady used the photographs as prompts to enable her to share her life story. The carer was so impressed with how the resident responded to Gracie and Ilaria's kindness that she was almost in tears herself. They must be congratulated for their caring attitude and pleasant manner in which they gave their time to make such a huge difference in someone's life. We are very proud of them.

Hemish Rajguru (Upper Sixth, Bruce) regularly plays chess with a particular resident who now specifically asks for him to meet for a game. This is the highlight of the resident's week and encourages him to put aside significant depression and have a chance to meet and communicate with an outside visitor.

The group also goes the extra mile and on one visit Stoics were asked to make poppy decorations for Remembrance Day. This is important to many of the residents who lived through the war.

**Rowland Shuttleworth,  
Service@Stowe**





Winchester House School

## ADVENT FAIR

in support of Diabetes UK

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10am-3pm

Over 40 beautiful hand-picked stalls  
Festive food & drink  
Brass band  
Meet Father Christmas  
Carols by the children  
Children's Christmas activities

We look forward to welcoming  
the Brackley Community

£5 Adult entry for charity. U16s Free



## Aid to Ukraine

I have joined a team crowdfunding to raise £50,000 to buy and fill five vehicles with medical and humanitarian aid driving to Lviv, Ukraine in January 2024. The team I am joining have to date raised some £250,000, and have taken out four aid convoys to Ukraine including ten pickups and an ambulance each full of medical and humanitarian aid. A fourth convoy of six vehicles with aid leaves in November.

The team includes organiser, Paul Parsons, Oleh Naida and his wife Uliana, who are Ukrainian guests temporarily living with their three children in Towcester, with Anthony White and Tisha Sykes. Oleh has accompanied each aid trip to Lviv and plays a vital role in liaising with Ukrainian authorities and our contacts once in Ukraine, Uliana establishes the priority needs of those we are supporting and acts as buyer of aid, Anthony sources vehicles and Tisha, a solicitor, acts as treasurer.

There are no administrative or overhead costs, and all travel expenses including diesel for the trucks, will be funded by those of us driving the vehicles. All money raised will be used to buy, here in the UK, the items that have been requested by our contacts in Ukraine.

When delivered in Lviv, the aid will be passed to our trusted volunteer network, as will the vehicles which are to be used for the evacuation of wounded military and civilian personnel from the frontline and areas caught up in the conflict.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you so much in advance for your generosity. All donations will be very gratefully received. Click [here](#) to donate.

**Mrs Sam Mayo, (Mother to Thomas (Upper Sixth, Croft) & Luke (Fifth Form, Winton))**

STOWE HOUSE

# CHRISTMAS

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KIDS ACTIVITIES  
FOOD

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FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE

25TH AND 26TH  
NOVEMBER  
2023

10AM-5PM

STOWE HOUSE  
STOWE  
BUCKINGHAM  
MK185EH

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR. CARD PAYMENT ONLY

## Carols at Stowe

Monday 11 December at 7pm in The Chapel, Stowe

Stowe welcomes you all to join us in the School Chapel for a traditional Christmas carol service, including readings, performances from our School choirs, and communal carol singing. The service is from 7-8pm, and please do join us from 6.15pm onwards in the Chapel for a drink and a mince pie!

Please use this [link](#) to reserve your free spaces.

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Stowe