

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

V15 ISSUE 10
29 JUNE 2024
NEWS FROM STOWE

Speech Day

The 2024 Speech Day was a memorable event for all who attended. The festivities began with the traditional eve of Speech Day concert, headlined this year by the enchanting Sophie Ellis-Bextor. Her setlist featured hits like "Take Me Home," "Crying at the Discotheque," "Like a Prayer," and "Ain't Nobody," culminating in the iconic "Murder on the Dance Floor," creating an electric atmosphere for the audience to dance the night away.

Speech Day at Stowe is always a grand affair. Early birds witnessed the arrival of classic cars gracing the lawn in front of the Mansion. Some arrived in trailers, some were driven in, and a few, as tradition has it, were gently pushed into place. The South Front was adorned with bunting, picnic tables set, and the sun gradually dispelling the morning dew. The hallmark early morning mist lifted, unveiling a beautiful blue sky as temperatures rose and guests began to arrive.

As guests gathered in the marquee, the main event commenced. We celebrated the achievements of our pupils, with speeches from the Chair of Governors and the Head. Brilliant performances from Lilia Møller, Jemima Pearson-Gee, Connie Goodrich, Ned Goodrich, Holly Ford-Langstaff, Gaia Mesonero-Perez with the String Ensemble, Ben Bailey, Milo Xing, and Gilbert Xu added to the festivities. Prizes were awarded by Dr Potter, followed by a captivating interview of our Guest of Honour, Sir Michael Morpurgo, by Dr Wallersteiner.

Sir Michael, a celebrated author and storyteller, captivated the audience with his rich narratives and warm presence. He shared stories from his illustrious career, recounting tales of creativity and resilience that have inspired millions of readers around the world. His words were not just a recounting of past glories but a profound reminder of the power of storytelling to transform lives and bridge gaps between generations.

In a surprising and delightful turn, Sir Michael further enchanted the crowd by performing a song. His voice, filled with emotion and sincerity, added a personal touch to his appearance, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present. It was a rare and intimate glimpse into the heart of a literary giant, making the day even more special for those lucky enough to be there.





Following the speeches, guests enjoyed lunch in the sunshine at the picnic tables, taking the opportunity to admire the incredible works on display by our pupils in the Art School and the Sixth Form Centre, where DT projects were showcased. For the sports enthusiasts, Stoic versus Old Stoic matches took place across the grounds, with the day concluding with the Beagle display.

These events would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the Stowe Enterprises team, Claudia Copithorne, House Staff, Catering, Security, the General Office, and Grounds Staff. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those involved in making this day so memorable. It truly was a wonderful event to celebrate the school year.

Tori Roddy, Group Director of Marketing & Admissions



OS Classic Car Display at Speech Day 2024

The OS Classic Car Display at this year's Speech Day on Saturday 25 May was a splendid affair. Over 100 classic cars graced the North Front, creating a captivating scene for visitors as they arrived.

Under the warm sun, car owners took advantage of the beautiful occasion by picnicking alongside their cherished vehicles. As part of the annual tradition, our two prestigious trophies were awarded; the Steady Barker Trophy awarded to David Devlin-Jones (Chatham 09) for the 'Car with the Best Story' with his 1963 Bentley

S3, and the Caroline Whitlock Trophy for 'Best Turned-Out Car', was awarded to Peter Holland with his 1955 Sunbeam Alpine MK3.

Anton Poon (Fifth Form, Croft) kindly gave up his time to photograph the event and you can see what a wonderful job he did [here](#).

The Old Stoic Office is already planning next year's event, and we welcome participation from the entire Stowe Community. Please get in touch if you'd like your car to be part of the display oldstoic@stowe.co.uk



Crispin Robinson Memorial

On Friday 21 June, we gathered in Chapel for Service of Thanksgiving for Crispin Robinson who sadly died earlier this year.

Crispin created the History of Art Department at Stowe, now a flagship department with stellar results, and rose to become Senior Deputy Head. A civilised, humane, and compassionate scholar, known affectionately by former tutees as 'Robbo,' Crispin was the consummate schoolmaster who taught his charges "to assume at a moment's notice a new intellectual position, to acquire taste, discrimination, mental courage, soberness and, above all, to gain self-knowledge" (William Johnson).

Crispin retired from Stowe in 2020 after 27 years of outstanding service, winning the gratitude, respect, and admiration of countless pupils, parents, and colleagues. Crispin found huge solace in his faith and the certainty of the resurrection. The counterpart of suffering and grief is the compassion and love it inspires. Crispin's legacy lives on in the History of Art Department and the many Stoics he inspired through his teaching and boundless pastoral care. The Robbo Bursary Fund has been established to honour Crispin.

The Service was a celebration of Crispin's life which was defined by his extraordinary talent as a teacher, his love of art, and his close relationships with family and friends. The Chapel was filled with his family, his friends and former students who came together to remember a man who was kind and generous to a fault. The Service gave his family and friends the opportunity to speak about Crispin's influence on their lives and the lasting legacy of his ability as a school teacher to find the best in each and every pupil.

Following the Service, the congregation gathered on the Chatham lawn to plant

a tree in Crispin's memory and it was an opportunity for us to hear the words of Carol Palmer, one of Crispin's oldest friends:

"We would like to thank Stowe for this lovely moment. This tree will give us, Crispin's friends and family, a focal point to come to so that we can feel closer to him. Of course, Stowe was the perfect school for Crispin with the Gothic temples and Capability Brown landscape. Beauty and Art were the essence of Crispin and he dedicated his life to opening the eyes of all he met to the power of Art to enhance our lives. Baudelaire refers to beauty as his Queen and so it was with Crispin - a Queen who can "make the world less dreadful, and the time less dead."

Here at Stowe, he combined this with a driven work ethic and practical approach to life. If he were making a recommendation to us all now it might be to find a way to make beauty necessary; find a way to make the necessary beautiful.

This small living tree will become a thing of beauty and how fitting that it will put its roots down here, as Crispin did, holding reverberations of the man we respected and loved.'

Tori Roddy, Group Director of Marketing & Admission



New Pupils' Weekend



On the weekend of June 22-23, our new 2024 Third Form pupils and their families gathered at Stowe for the New Pupils' Weekend. This event was an excellent opportunity for families to meet fellow pupils and parents in their new Houses and become more familiar with the School.

Families arrived at their designated Houses on Saturday evening. While parents enjoyed light refreshments, the children settled into their rooms and met other House members. The new Stoics then headed to the State Dining Room for dinner, where they had the chance to get acquainted with their surroundings and meet some of the current Stoics in their House. The beautiful weather allowed everyone to enjoy the pleasant summer evening at Stowe.

Sunday morning provided another chance for the new

Stoics to bond. Working in House teams and guided by their House Prefects, they participated in a treasure hunt around the School and grounds, with Queen's House emerging as the winners.

A variety of inflatables on the South Front provided entertainment before the new Stoics, current Stoics, and their parents attended a Chapel Service led by the Revd James Righetti and Dr Anthony Wallersteiner.

The weekend concluded with a delightful lunch on the South Front. This valuable and enjoyable event allowed everyone to get to know each other before the new school year begins in September.

Tori Roddy, Group Director of Marketing & Admissions



HRH Prince Michael of Kent

It was a great honour to be able to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent to Stowe on Friday 21 June, for his seventh visit in my tenure as Head. His Royal Highness Prince Michael has a long association with Stowe in his own right and through his family. His grandmother, Queen Mary, laid the foundation stone for the Chapel, and his father, Prince George, presided over the Chapel dedication service in 1929.

As patron of the World Monuments Fund, Prince Michael took a close interest in the restoration of the Mansion. He came to open the Chung Music School in his role as Royal Patron of the Russian National Orchestra and the orchestra performed a memorable eve of Speech Day concert with soprano Lesley Garrett. Prince Michael has even taught at Stowe when he gave a lecture on his great, great, grandmother, Queen Victoria. His Royal Highness was our guest of honour at Speech Day in 2013 when he conferred the Distinguished Old Stoic Award on his close friend, David Wynne, and talked movingly about David's ability to make beautiful objects in praise of creation.

David Wynne had a lifelong connection with Stowe where he was at School from 1939 until 1943. He corresponded with every Headmaster from the legendary JF Roxburgh in the 1940s to the letters and cards which I received until he died ten years ago. He wrote to Roxburgh on 5 October 1943, saying that Trinity was the best college: "I see now that what you said about Trinity being the Stowe, and Eton of Cambridge is quite true". In another letter to JF, dated 2 April 1949, David wrote: "since seeing you last I have taken up sculpture, and have got on with it so well that I am seriously thinking of taking it up as a career".

The David Wynne Sculpture Trust was founded in 2006 by Sir David Scholey and Stowe's Chair of Governors, Lord Lyell of Markyate and the first trustees were David Wynne, David Scholey, Bill Shand-Kydd, Nikki Bennett, Robin Caiger-Smith and Nicholas Lyell with His Royal Highness Prince Michael as Royal Patron. We welcomed all the current trustees and our gladness is tinged with sadness as the late Crispin Robinson, a former trustee and the rather

grandly titled "Keeper of the Wynne Collection", would have loved to have been here.

The Trust was founded to preserve and ensure the display of David Wynne's sculptures at Stowe and to illustrate David's sculptural techniques. The Trust's collection spans the whole of David's career and represents his entire oeuvre: the sculptures range from the figurative to the almost abstract, from portrait heads of important cultural figures to small scale animals, from gates to fountains, and from carvings in stone to casts in bronze.

The collection as a whole and the archive which accompanies the collection, will be of great and continuing interest to pupils, members of the public and to future Wynne Scholars. It is only the third unified collection by a sculptor of international reputation in the United Kingdom, the other two being the Henry Moore Foundation in Hertfordshire and the Barbara Hepworth Collection at her former home in St Ives.

It was David's wish that this collection should be displayed at Stowe to inspire future generations of Stoics, and that it should be accessible to the tens of thousands of visitors who come to Stowe each year. Our sincere thanks to our generous benefactors who have made this possible, including the most recent donation from the Stowe Lodge, and to the team from MICA, led by Paul Mullin, Gavin Miller and Lilian Swanson. MICA is the architectural practice created by Rick Mather who devised the Master Plan for Stowe in 2000 and they continue to demonstrate how modern design and architecture can co-exist in this beautiful historical setting. Thank you to the support we have received from Stowe House Preservation Trust and the commitment of the home team led by Rob Cooper (The Stowe Group Project Manager).

It is perhaps fitting to David's memory that this endeavour has evolved over nearly twenty years until finding its natural home in Plug Street. As a sculpture reveals itself organically over time, so has the Wynne Gallery.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



Service@Stowe

In the last assembly of the Summer Term on Monday 24 June, instead of talking about what has been happening in Service@Stowe groups, Stoics were given a guide to the benefits of and ways in which they might continue with service, volunteering and community engagement outside School.

Volunteering is useful to Stoics as it helps them to develop life skills, such as cooperation and empathy, because it usually involves teamwork and engaging with people of different age groups and backgrounds. It can also spark new interests and passions and boost self-esteem, as they experience new environments, activities and skills.

Stowe therefore encourages pupils, during their time away from School, to find opportunities where they can volunteer in their local community or away from home, whichever they prefer. Stoics can either pick something they are already interested in and knowledgeable about, so they can transfer their skills to others; for instance by coaching a sport in which they are a high achiever. Alternatively, they can scour the internet for volunteering opportunities and try something where they could learn a new skill. They might also consider aligning their volunteering with a field in which they hope to work one day.

There are so many opportunities we cannot list them all; but they range from working at an animal sanctuary to sports coaching; teaching English to volunteering in a hospice; helping with disaster relief to fund-raising. The opportunities are endless.

We cannot provide an exhaustive list but below are some websites which pupils can investigate to find opportunities:

Reach Volunteering

International Voluntary Service

UNICEF UK

Action Tutoring

Volunteer Now
(Youth Volunteering)

CharityJob
(Volunteers Archive)

Youth Employment UK
(Volunteering in the UK for Young People)

Projects Abroad UK
(Volunteer Abroad & Internship Programmes)

The Association of Service Civil International

Indeed: How to find school volunteering opportunities

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe

Anthony Eyton

Royal Academician Anthony Eyton celebrated his 101st birthday on 17 May 2023 with the unveiling of a magnificent painting of the North Front at the Royal Academy (RA) Summer Exhibition. The painting is the culmination of Eyton's residency at Stowe where he worked in collaboration with Old Stoic artist Mark Flawn-Thomas (Grenville 72).

Eyton is a painter's painter - widely acknowledged to be one of our greatest living artists, but almost unknown to the wider public because he eschews publicity and prefers to devote himself to painting every day. He produces aesthetically pleasing paintings which are concerned with traditional qualities such as close observation, subtle use of rhyming colour, careful measurement, balanced structural composition and depth. Even though the subject matter is the largest neo-classical house in private hands, there is nothing conservative or reactionary about Eyton's work. Paintings are executed after months of direct observation and draughtsmanship in which the subject is investigated from many different angles in charcoal, pencil and pastel drawings.

In this painting of the North Front, Eyton has searched for the apposite image, and produced a synthesis of memory, fact and sensation which resolves the inherent tension between the objective reality of a place and the artist's subjective reshaping of the world through colour, form and pictorial architecture. Eyton's handling of paint is expressive, textural and lyrical, with sensuous surfaces created by a virtuosity of touch and achieved by broad and energetic brush strokes and colours which glow with the lustre and iridescence of semi-precious stones: flesh coloured carnelian, feathery whites, viridian and sap green, warm sandstone, Naples yellow, ochres, sienna, rose madder, cobalt blue and battleship grey. Cognoscenti will recognise the nod to Constable's description of painting as "another word for feeling" and the allusion to Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" as the spark of life crackles in the cloud formation above the School.

The painting is on display at the Royal Academy until 18 August, before coming to Stowe where it will take its place as the key work in the Anthony Eyton Gallery in the Stowe Music School.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



Conservation Group at Primary Schools

Since the beginning of the year we have had three groups visiting local primary schools to give lessons in conservation. Two of the groups offer this as an after-school club at Buckingham Primary School and George Grenville Academy and one as a school time lesson at Lace Hill Academy. Each week the groups cover different topics supported by fun practical activities. The themes covered have ranged from; birds and constructing bird feeders to earthworms, where the pupils collected worms and filled a wormery, to the lifecycle of butterflies - pupils were given caterpillars and had to look after them until they metamorphosed into chrysalises and ultimately into butterflies, to making clay moulds of leaves, for firing and painting and much more besides. For the final lesson Stowe pupils taught the primary school children about bumblebees and showed them how to make bumblebees out of paper lanterns. This is a programme that has been very well received at the primary schools and we hope to restart the clubs in September with a new group at each primary school and a mix of the original group of Stoics and some new joiners.

Tash Blake, Teacher of Biology & Service@Stowe



Sports Day

We had a memorable Sports Day on Friday 24 May, with no fewer than eight records being broken by Stoics; Elsie Jacobs (Fourth Form, Cheshire) in the Inter girls' 800m, Ross Priestley (Fourth Form, Winton) and Alisa Baser (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) set new Inter boys' and girls' 100m, Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce) equalled the Inter boys' 100m hurdles, Katie Webb (Fourth Form, Cheshire) bettered the Intermediate 1500m mark and star of the show Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope) set new records in three events; Junior girls' 100m, 200m, 300m - an outstanding achievement!

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics



Hockey and Rugby Captains

The girls' Hockey and boys' Rugby Captains for the 2024-2025 season have been announced!

Current Lower Sixth pupils Ari Hay (Lyttelton) and George Turner (Cobham) have been appointed Captains of their respective sports.

Ari has been a leading player since joining Stowe as a Third Former. As a Fourth Former, Ari was a major part of the girls' U16 hockey team that made the National Quarter Finals two years ago. More recently, she has broken into the Buckingham HC Ladies 1st XI team, playing the vast majority of matches last season.

George has previously Captained his Year Group at Stowe and impressed the coaches with his positive attitude and work rate. He plays in a very competitive back row and will help set high standards for the 1st XV. We are all very excited about the tour to South Africa this summer when George will lead the team in some hostile environments!

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport



Cricket

Despite the wet weather there has been plenty to celebrate during the Summer Term across Stowe Cricket.

So far, there have been block wins against Abingdon and Wellingborough, with the 1st XI also having success against Stamford on Friday 17 May.

The 2nd and 3rd teams had comfortable victories against Rugby on Saturday 18 May, as did the U15As in a game they managed to win in the last over. The batting performances of the week included - Felix Bentley (Fifth Form, Croft) 95; Seb Dare (Fourth Form, Grafton) 55; Archie Denison-Pender (Fourth Form, Cobham) 66; Jamie Bryden (Lower Sixth, Winton) 40 and Ollie Jones (Fourth Form, Bruce) 40.

A convincing win over Oundle on Saturday 8 June on the North Front saw Charlie Oldershaw (Upper Sixth, Winton) score a century and Dan Bosman (Lower Sixth, Bruce) hit 59 runs. Wilf Pickard (Upper Sixth, Cobham) tore through the Oundle batsmen, ending with four wickets. Other wins were recorded by the 3rds the U15As, U14As as well as the U15C and U14D and the Oundle block as a whole ended with five wins for each school.

Standout performances for the Summer include hundreds from Aadi Sharma (Upper Sixth, Winton), Charlie Oldershaw, Dan Bosman, Azlan Kumar (Third Form, Grafton) and Huw Wilson (Lower Sixth, Croft). Several bowlers have achieved five wicket hauls including Freddie Youngman Sullivan (Fourth Form, Grafton), Finley Cloete (Fourth Form, Bruce), Wilf Pickard, Hugo Jackson (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Noah Ions (Fourth Form, Chandos).

The girls' programme continues to grow with exceptional representation across two Senior teams and three Junior teams. The Juniors have enjoyed wins against Uppingham, Wycombe Abbey and St Edward's while the 1st XI secured their first win against Kingham Hill. Mimi Pilcher (Third Form, Nugent), Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Captain Georgia Brophy (Lower Sixth, West) led the way with great performances.

The Inter-House Finals concluded with wins for Bruce and Nugent in the Seniors and Bruce and Cheshire in the Juniors.

Congratulations go to the U14 boys who have just been crowned County Cup Champions with an emphatic win in the Final against John Hampden Grammar School.

James Knott, Director of Cricket



RUGBY

Colts 7s at Rosslyn Park National Tournament

Stowe once again earned a place in the Final at the prestigious Rosslyn Park National 7s tournament on Thursday 21 March. Our U16 squad had a wonderful two days, during which they showed outstanding resilience and determination to win eight out of nine matches on their way to play in the Final of the Plate competition against Oakham.

Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce) was an inspiring Captain and leading try scorer, and Will Catley (Fourth Form, Chatham) proved to be a superb finisher. The defence was spearheaded by Sam McDermott (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Jack Buckingham (Fifth Form, Temple). Blake Macleod (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Noah Cloete (Fifth Form, Bruce) brought a never say die attitude that counts for so much in a demanding game. Congratulations to the squad who have added to Stowe's superb record at this tournament where we have reached five finals in the last eight years.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport & Paul Calland, Colts Rugby



Tennis

The boys' 1st team had an epic match against Rugby on the shop courts on Saturday 18 May. With the whole match tied at four-all, everything came down to the battle between the two first pairs, neither of whom had lost a single set all season. Arin Chatsuwann (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Bear Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Cobham) played the best tennis we have seen on the shop courts for many years, but the set went to a tie break, and then to 7-7 in the tie break. The incredibly tense match finished with a 9-7 win for Stowe. Congratulations to these two outstanding players.

This block of matches against Rugby was extremely close, with eight matches being settled by the closest margin possible.

Dan Voyce, Head of Tennis

CHANGE MAKER DAY

After the rigour of internal exams the previous week, we used Thursday 20 June to give Third, Fourth and Lower Sixth Stoics a 'Change Maker Day', taking them off their normal programme of lessons and replacing them with a full days activity designed to get them engaged with interesting learning opportunities and asking them to reflect on how these help with the development of the six Change Maker Skills.



Artificial Intelligence: Befriending Your Future Teammate

The Third Form was based in the Drayson Sports Hall for the day, where they had a fantastic set of presentations and challenges around using AI and design thinking to solve problems. The day was designed and presented by a team from HCL Software, who demonstrated some of the latest AI apps that they have been helping to develop and got the groups to research existing AI apps. Pupil groups were then asked to build their own app ideas around one of the categories of Productivity and Organisation, Learning & Education, Creativity & Entertainment, Sustainability & Environment, Health & Wellness, Sports or Travel & Transport, using the free software tool Canva.

Pupils worked in Tutor Groups and were encouraged to not just accept the status quo and to 'fail fast, fail together; learn from mistakes and adapt your ideas quickly'. They were introduced to techniques to help with design thinking, such as always focusing on the needs of the end user and reverse brainstorming, and also framing challenges as opportunities, such as using 'how might we' questions instead of stating the problem.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of HCL Software in running this day and to Stowe parent Kalyan Kumar for organising the activities and the team of presenters, some of whom were flown in from India for the event. We are looking forward to working with them again in the future!

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

Using the de Bono Hats Method to Build Analytical Thinking

Most adults will be familiar with the term 'lateral thinking' and may well also be aware that this term originated from the work of Dr Edward de Bono. He was an academic who held positions at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and London and who developed in the 1980s, a method of training thinking skills whereby individuals and groups can use (metaphorical) 'thinking hats' of different colours to provide a framework for thinking.

The Fourth Form spent their Change Maker Day exploring this method of thinking led by Caspar de Bono (Edward's son), who has recently published a book with educationalist Karen Draper entitled 'The Six Thinking Hats for Schools and Families'. The day started with a riveting introduction which illustrated the power of this thinking method to explore ideas from all angles and to illustrate how the framework can provide space and structure for different and valuable aspects of thinking, leading to original and robust ideas and better decisions. He explained how the 'Hats' are designed to give a constructive framework for creativity and innovation and to separate this from the equally important skills of analysis and evaluation. The method can also help us explore and develop ideas before we evaluate them rather than immediately judge them in a battle of 'I am right and you are wrong'. One of the Six Hats is dedicated to emotions and our ability to empathise with others, and there is a recognition that emotions play a valuable role in thinking because they respond to our values.

After the introduction talk, Tutor Groups worked in response to the very open challenge, to think of what change they would want to make (in the School, or in the world) and to make a plan to achieve it using the Six Thinking Hats method. It was explained that there would be a prize for the group who did the best job in explaining and demonstrating how they used the Hats, rather than the group with the best idea!

In the classroom sessions, tutors acted as facilitators, helping the pupils approach the task using the Hats in sequence to develop their ideas and each group produced a short video to explain how they used the Hats. Caspar de Bono and Karen Draper circulated throughout the morning, dropping in to observe each group, and then spent their lunchtime looking over the videos and also evaluation sheets from the tutors on how well the groups used each of the Hats.

The pupils all returned to the Uglend Auditorium for a plenary talk in the afternoon, where they were given some feedback on their work to help with the final stage of the day when they returned to their classroom bases to capture their thoughts and reflections on the day into their portfolios.

It was wonderful to see all the Fourth Form groups using the Hats with enthusiasm and 'thinking about thinking'. Queen's House was the winning group, with a video that embraced the ethos of parallel thinking. There was also special mention for Walpole and Stanhope, who impressed the judges with their clarity of thinking under each Hat.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)



CHANGE MAKER DAY

Lower Sixth Change Makers Day: A Pathway to the Future

The recent Lower Sixth Change Makers Day on Thursday 20 June marked a significant milestone for pupils as they prepare for their future academic and professional careers. This comprehensive event focused on key areas such as universities, UCAS, degree apprenticeships, and student finance, providing pupils with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed decisions about their futures. The day commenced in the Chapel with an inspiring keynote address from Dale Willis of My Great First Job. Willis discussed the vital opportunities offered by apprenticeships, broadening pupils' perspectives on career options beyond traditional university paths. This introduction set a positive tone for the day, encouraging Stoics to consider a variety of future pathways. A summary of Dale's talk can be [read here](#).

Following the keynote, pupils transitioned to their subject bases for UCAS and apprenticeship workshops. Here they created and completed their UCAS accounts and attended sessions on apprenticeships. This included making preliminary course choices, listing entry requirements for chosen courses (such as GCSEs, entrance assessments, portfolios, and necessary A-level subjects), and identifying registration and test dates. Using the Step-by-Step Guide, Stoics ensured they were registered on UCAS and meticulously completed their personal information and education sections, verifying details like awarding bodies, qualification titles, and grades.

The focus then shifted to the critical task of drafting personal statements. Pupils concentrated on linking their personal statements to their chosen course specifications. They highlighted the skills developed during their studies that align with the demands of their prospective degrees. This dedicated time was crucial for individuals to articulate their unique strengths and motivations, ensuring their applications stood out.

The day concluded with an informative session on student finance by Lucy Nottingham from the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the Chapel. Lucy covered essential aspects of financing higher education, providing Stoics with a clear understanding of funding options, scholarships, loans, and budgeting for university life.

Here is a summary of Lucy's talk [Understanding UK Student Finance: Insights from Change Makers Day](#).

The Lower Sixth Change Makers Day proved to be a pivotal event that empowered pupils with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate their future academic and career paths. From creating UCAS accounts and exploring degree apprenticeships to drafting personal statements and understanding student finance, this day ensured that every Stoic is well-prepared for the next steps in their educational journey, or that they have a comprehensive to-do list for the Summer break.

Dr Gordon West,
Head of Futures



Catering Highlights

With the 2023/2024 School year coming to a close we wanted to take a look back at some catering highlights, changes and things to look forward to in the Michaelmas Term.

Highlights

Head's Buffet Lunch

Speech Day brought around the outdoor buffet lunch for the Head. Fortunately, the weather made for a successful day, and we were able to provide a wonderful seasonal lunch. The menu consisted of fresh, summery dishes combined with a selection of salads and desserts. We placed a lot of focus and time into developing a well-balanced menu that really complemented the picnic style of the day.

Smoothie Bike Demo

With the start of Summer arriving, we brought a Holroyd Howe classic to Stowe for the first time. The smoothie bike when pedalled powers a blender to make a smoothie. This is always a favourite amongst pupils as they have the ability to choose their own ingredients and be involved in making the smoothie in an active way. We find this is an excellent way of interacting with the pupils, building excitement around food and nutrition. This ties in with our core values as a company, creating excitement and understanding around nutrition and following a balanced diet.

Colourful Counters

We have been working on our presentation of the counters during our service, making the food look its best whilst also maintaining the correct procedures to avoid cross contamination and ensure that our allergy process remains secure. We always ensure that our dishes are garnished with fresh ingredients and the counters are dressed and decorated in line with menu themes.

Changes

During the latter stages of this academic year we have put a lot of focus on developing our menus to meet the demand of the pupils as much as possible. We have used feedback cards to gather responses from the Stoics and then analysed them and brought in changes where possible. We have displayed a form with things we have introduced regarding feedback, and we are continuing to respond to the requests of the pupils. We have introduced new counters including a 'build your own yoghurt bar' and continued to develop the 'build your own sandwich bar'.

Things to look forward to in the new term

In the Michaelmas Term we will be introducing a new menu cycle. This will include some all-time favourites and classics, as well as some seasonal and innovative dishes. We endeavour to provide the best service we can and always be interactive and flexible. We will be continuing with our popular tasting tables - expect one of the following options: beetroot, parsnip or flaxseed! We will be looking to introduce a Holroyd Howe Chef Demo. This is where one of our team will be on the counters preparing food to order and interacting with the pupils.

We will also be placing a large amount of focus on food waste. We are working on developing new recipes where we can best utilise all our produce and reduce waste as much as possible. We urge the pupils to be mindful of portion sizes and to all make a concerted effort to reduce food waste across the School.

Matthew Wright, Holroyd Howe Food Services





Change Maker of the Month



Team BRIT at Silverstone

On Friday 14 June, the Motorsport Club and a group of Stoics from Temple House were invited to Silverstone into the garage of Team BRIT. Team BRIT is the world's only competitive team of all-disabled racing drivers. Old Stoic Noah Cosby (Temple 22) races for team BRIT in an adapted car that allows him to fully use hand controls to drive without the use of his legs. During the visit everyone had the opportunity to talk to Noah, and some to another driver, Paul Fullick. Noah gave an interview with Concord & Victory (The Stoic Newspaper) whilst we looked around the garage and at some of the cars. We were also lucky enough to stand on the pit wall which we all enjoyed, even in the rain! The afternoon was very well spent and enjoyed by all, and it was fantastic to see Noah do so well.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Lower Sixth, West)

Swanbourne House - Caroline Larrington. Caroline has been awarded Change Maker of the Month (CMOM) for being so flexible and supporting others. Caroline is a true team player and represents our Change Maker values.

Winchester House - Deborah Molloy. Deb has been awarded CMOM for her excellent organisation skills, caring nature and specifically for her work with the School photos.

Stowe Teaching - Lucinda Stockley-Battams was awarded CMOM for our teaching colleagues, it was noted that in addition to her role as Librarian, Lucinda wears many hats within the Stowe Community. Her interactions with everyone she comes across are the definition of an inclusive, collaborative and kind Change Maker.

Stowe Support Services - Chrissy Powell, Stowe Receptionist, was awarded the Support Services CMOM for her unwavering positivity, and the fact that she always goes above and beyond to help and always with a smile.

Jaimie Chahal, Group People Director



International Women in Engineering Day 2024

To celebrate International Women in Engineering Day 2024 Jojo Parker (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and myself were invited to an event at Aston Martin F1 Headquarters at Silverstone on Wednesday 19 June. The event consisted of a panel of female engineers talking about their careers and their journeys to the point they are at now.

The panel gave a very inspiring talk and answered many questions. I asked what the favourite part of their job was and Amanda Cowell, an Engineer for Juniper Networks, answered that it was 'seeing an idea go from being drawn on a scrap piece of paper to being a fully completed project' and then saying to yourself 'wow I did that, I made that happen'.

Jojo had the chance to speak to Anjela Maharajah about her job as a Chemical Engineer which is a career that she is interested in pursuing.

To be invited to this event was an amazing opportunity for us and we really enjoyed it.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Lower Sixth, West)



How can I help my child have a safe school break online?

Tips for parents and carers - During school breaks, many parents and carers struggle to encourage healthy screen time balance with their children.

Exploring the digital world

Many parents worry about how to amuse their young ones during the school holidays, whilst many children are involved in camps or holiday clubs; stay at home parents and those who work flexible hours often feel that the responsibility to keep children busy falls to them. Particularly with older children and teens, the temptation (or pester power) to allow them to play on computers or watch endless hours of YouTube can be overwhelming! Computer games and technology are not bad, but as with everything, moderation is key. Firstly, it is important to ensure your child is safe online - are they playing age-appropriate games, and if they are online, who are they talking to?

Getting active with apps

With the health and fitness of families in sharp focus, why not use this opportunity to spend time together, doing something active, online and fun? There are some new gadgets and games that may just help. Many of you will have heard of games like Pokémon Go. Why not play as a family team? It encourages physical activity (you have to walk a certain distance to hatch eggs), strategy (set some lures to catch more Pokémon) and is appropriate for all ages. You get to see some beautiful places too!

Some of you may have Fitbit or other fitness measuring devices. Why not set the family a daily walking or swimming challenge?

Capturing memories online

If you are going on holiday, why not start a family travel blog or vlog? The whole family can participate - get the children to review the waterpark or entertainment, while the parents write about food and places visited? You can share it with friends and family and it would make a wonderful memento to look back on.

Balancing screen time with other activities

What did you do during the holidays? Children are spending more time online learning, socialising, playing games, creating and publishing in ways that we could not possibly have imagined when we were children ourselves.

Impact of the digital world

Much has been written about the impact that the digital world which, broadly speaking, is either quite negative and focuses on the risks children face online or is more positive and focuses on the educational, school related benefits for children online. But when it comes to the holidays parents often feel that they are being a 'bad' parent if they have let their children have too much screen time.

Dealing with online trolls - What are online trolls?

The reality is that trolls are just people, but the hurt they cause is real and it's right that you follow your instinct to protect your child, wherever they are wandering.

Responding to trolling

This is not child's play - it's an adult world with adult dangers. The majority of your child's experiences online are positive, but that does not mean it doesn't hurt when someone attacks, and the attack can come from friends or from strangers. Be ready with a hug, look them in the eye and remind them that so much of what they see and read online is pure fantasy. They are wonderful and unique and definitely not a follower.

Arm your child with truth, love, common sense and a sense of humour - and the reassurance that together you can take on anything.

Mike Rickner, Designated Safeguarding Lead

How is too much screen time?

A sensible balance of screen time and other activities is important, but this will vary from family to family and from child to child according to their individual needs, interests and family circumstances and whether it is unsupervised time alone or as a shared activity. Recent research from the LSE has shown that is not about the quantity of screen time that should be concerning parents but the quality of how that time is spent. Just as the school holidays enable families to spend time exploring new places and doing new things together, rather than just imposing a set limit on how long children are online, good parenting is about talking to children, taking an interest in and understanding what they are doing online and sharing some of the online activities with them.

Making screen time count

Rather than being anti-social, lonely and isolating, screens can be social, connecting and creative. Playing games together, looking up new places to visit or finding out 'what's on' in your area are great ways to share screen time in a positive way and making a digital scrapbook of holiday photographs, mementos and links to places visited means your family can also have a lovely record of the holidays to treasure.



Sharing selfies safely

When you hear the word holiday what does it conjure up for you?

Holidays snaps on polaroid

Do you remember when you were young or your children (if they are older than about 15 years of age) and large or disposable cameras could be heard going click in the background taking pictures of these things and making memories?

Remember how those pictures would probably end up neatly stored in an album, or kept in the developer's envelope? This meant you or your parents could decide when or who could or could not see these photos.

Selfie generation

If you consider that today's world technology (smartphones) allows for pictures to be taken almost anywhere, anytime and 'selfies' are the most common type of picture taken with a smartphone. Apps like Snapchat and other 'filter' based selfie apps allow for instant sharing of those images. Taking and sharing photos by young children in holiday outfits such as shorts, swimwear and sexualised outfits for young girls can be difficult to manage without talking to your child first. As apps develop the capacity to store these images for later sharing or distribution it becomes even more important to speak to your children about sharing these images.

How far can a digital image go?

Remember the photo album? Those photos get to stay there and only be seen by people when you choose. Photos uploaded and shared in cyberspace can (by accident on the child's part) end up in the wrong hands and with the wrong type of people. Holiday selfies belong in safe hands and not on the Internet?



Library

With Summer rapidly approaching, we thought that we would share our Summer Reading Activities.

If you are looking for something different why not try Book Bingo?

The challenge is to read three books over the Summer, choose from the categories on the Bingo card. When you have finished make sure you email the completed card with details of the books which you have read. You will be entered into a prize draw. (all books read will be counted towards your Stowe Reading Colours).

31

43

17

56

39

48

The Reading Colours have encouraged pupils to read something different and to enjoy reading. We have put together some activities to ensure our pupils continue reading over the Summer break.

New Stoics

We set a challenge for the new Stoics joining in September - their mission is to design a postcard based on a book from the recommended reading list. They are tasked with a character from the book and a description of them and why they have chosen the character and whether they would recommend the book to a friend. The best entries will be displayed in the Library.

Staff Reading Group

We are excited to announce that we have also created a Staff Reading Group. It would be amazing if the wider Stowe community joined in too. The first book is 'Blue Sisters' by Coco Mellors. You can buy it from Amazon and Waterstones or you might be able to get it from your local library.

The first meeting will be late September in the Library. We will chat about the book and what we thought about it, and get some suggestions on what to read next. It will be a very informal group discussion so please do join us.

We would love for you to take part in any of the activities, we are both very enthusiastic about our passion for reading!

Have a great Summer and Happy Reading!

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Librarian & Samantha Keiller, Assistant Librarian



Triathlon

Stowe once again hosted the South Central Series Triathlon organised by Beachborough Triathlon Club on Sunday 16 June. The event draws competitors from all over the South of England and was well supported with 280 young athletes racing on the North Front.

Congratulations to Stoics Katie and Lauren Webb (both Fourth Form, Cheshire), who came First and Second in the U17 youth category and to Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) who came First in the U15 tri star 3 category.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport

Athletics

Well done to all those who travelled to Bromsgrove on Saturday 18 May. There were many medalists and the following deserve mentions for winning their events: Josh Williams (Fourth Form, Grenville), Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce), Josh Kingston (Lower Sixth, Winton), Elsie Jacobs (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Olive de Courcy-Ireland (Fifth Form, Nugent).

We have some very talented athletes at Stowe, and on Saturday 8 June, many of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form athletes competed in the Bucks County Championships. The following Stoics won their events making them 2024 County Champions:

Tife Atere (Third Form, Bruce) - Discus; Nathan Goje (Third Form, Chatham) - Shot Put; Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope) - 300m setting a new County record; Lauren Webb (Fourth Form, Cheshire) - 3000m; Ross Priestley (Fourth Form, Winton) - 200m; Elsie Jacobs (Fourth Form, Cheshire) - 800m; Josh Williams (Fourth Form, Grenville) - Long Jump; Marina Goje (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) - 100 and 200m. There were several other podium finishes as well so it was a fantastic day for Stowe.

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics

Prep School Athletics

On Monday 13 May Stowe hosted the annual Prep School Athletics meeting at the David Donaldson Athletics track. We had over 400 pupils from nine Prep schools in attendance: Ashfold, Beachborough, Caldicott, Swanbourne House, Winchester House, Spratton Hall, The Dragon, Summer Fields and St John's College in Cambridge.

Spratton Hall claimed victory in the overall girls competition with some very impressive displays. In the boys competition, Summer Fields won by the narrowest of margins (two points) over Second placed Caldicott to retain their trophy for the Third successive year.

Huge thanks to all the schools and their Staff for making the afternoon such a success!

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics

Squash

The 1st team had a thrilling contest against Oakham with many close games throughout, although the end result was 3-2 to Oakham. Henry Roberts and Algy Orchard (both Lower Sixth, Chatham) played five setters with Henry eventually winning his. Captain Eitan O'Grady (Lower Sixth, Temple) was the pick of the Stowe players with a 3-0 win. The 2nd team drew 1-1 with a win for James Delap (Fifth Form, Temple).



Activities Day 14 June: A Day of Fun and Challenges

Friday 14 June was all about amazing outdoor experiences for the Cadets of the CCF Fourth Form who gathered at The Bourbon for an exciting and engaging Activities Day, featuring a range of different hands-on activities designed to challenge and help them develop their outdoor skills. The day included archery, orienteering, escape room, high ropes, laser rifles and command tasks.

The day kicked off with archery, where Cadets had the chance to test their accuracy and focus. It was a real test of patience and precision, as each of them took turns to try and hit the bullseye. This activity not only provided a fun challenge but also helped develop the Cadets' concentration skills.

Next, the Cadets moved onto orienteering. They demonstrated impressive teamwork and strategic thinking as they navigated their way through the Stowe grounds to complete the course. It was a test of their problem-solving and decision-making abilities, as well as their physical endurance.

The escape room was a test of the Cadets' problem-solving abilities under time-pressure as they had to solve a series of clues in order to unlock the box containing the key to disarm the 'nuclear weapon'.

High ropes were up next on the schedule. This activity demanded courage and determination as the Cadets navigated through the course. It was a thrilling and challenging experience that tested their physical strength, balance and bravery.

Laser rifles were another highlight of the day. The Cadets had the opportunity to experience a simulated shooting range, testing their aim and reflexes. Despite the competitive nature of the task, the atmosphere was filled with friendly rivalry and camaraderie.

Finally, the day ended with command tasks. These tasks required the Cadets to work together to solve a series of challenges. The tasks were designed to test their leadership skills, teamwork and ability to think under pressure.

The CCF Activities Day was a huge success, providing the Cadets with a day filled with fun, challenge and learning. It was an opportunity for them to apply the skills they have learned in the CCF in a practical and enjoyable way. The Cadets left the day with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed enthusiasm for their training.

Major Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander

CCF Adventure Training Opportunities

Over the May Half Term (27-31 May), I spent the week with the Cadet Adventure Training Team, supporting the delivery of courses such as mountain biking, open canoeing, inland kayaking, mountain skills and rock climbing. It was a great way to get involved in a range of adventure training opportunities and also see Cadets progress with skills such as teamwork and communication.

Many of the Cadets who attended came alone, but soon made firm friends with those they met on their course. Several of them also utilised the course to fulfil the requirements of the Gold DofE residential. I would strongly recommend Stoics get involved in this provision, as it is a very low-cost way of gaining not only qualifications in a range of outdoor pursuits, but also developing Change Maker skills. If Stoics wish to find out more about these opportunities, they should get in touch with Sgt Abbey, or they can use the following website:

Fun, Friendship, Action And Adventure. Army Cadets UK.

Lieutenant Fran Shah, CCF & Deputy Co-curricular Co-ordinator





Cadets brave the heat at the Annual HQ South-East Summer Camp in Folkestone

The annual CCF Summer Camp, Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 June, was held in Folkestone this year and, despite being the two hottest days of the year, proved to be another fantastic adventure for all Cadets involved.

The camp, a two-night affair, kicked off with a day of live firing at the Hythe ranges, providing Cadets with the opportunity to apply their marksmanship skills against targets that fell when hit. Four Cadets excelled and achieved their marksmanship badges: Henry Schilder (Fourth Form, Temple), Mark Shkolnik (Fourth Form, Temple), George Hayle (Fourth Form, Winton) and Rosie Blythe (Lower Sixth, Nugent).

The second day offered a mix of exciting activities including clay pigeon shooting, paintballing, and an Army Exhibition stand. The indoor laser range was also popular, offering a fun and competitive way to practice marksmanship skills away from the sun's rays. The real favourite was the thrilling Great Escape themed escape room, with Rian Unalkat (Fourth Form, Bruce), Tilly Lee (Fourth Form, Nugent), Will Jones (Fourth Form, Grenville), Charlotte Hemstock (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Mae White (Fourth Form, Stanhope) setting the Contingent record of 46 mins to escape along Harry from Stalag Luft III.

The heat may have been intense, but the Cadets showed incredible resilience and enthusiasm throughout. Their unwavering spirit, combined with the diverse range of activities, made the Summer Camp a truly memorable experience. The camp once again demonstrated the CCF's commitment to providing enriching experiences that challenge and inspire Cadets.

Major Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander



Stowe

Pride Month

Pride Month is celebrated in June to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, pivotal protests in 1969 that significantly advanced gay rights in the US and globally.

Pride is a celebration of love and friendship; highlighting the progress of LGBTQ+ rights while acknowledging the ongoing work needed in many areas. Pride Month focuses on acceptance and equality, honouring the contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals, educating about LGBTQ+ history and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

On Thursday 6 June the Fourth Form and Lower Sixth pupils received a talk from the charity 'Just Like Us'. The charity's speakers are aged 18 to 25 and they spoke to the Stoics about their individual experiences of what it was like growing up LGBTQ+ and myth busting surround the LGBTQ+ community. The Stoics were able to ask questions at the end of the talk and we hope the Stoics gained a better understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and the understanding the importance of making sure that Stowe is an inclusive place for everyone.

During June, Stoics were encouraged to visit the Library to participate in 'Read with Pride' campaign by picking a book that celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.

The Pride Group meets weekly on Monday afternoons at 4.30pm in the Ante-Library and all Stoics are welcome to attend.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Pride Society

Duke of Edinburgh's Award


The Fourth Form Bronze participants recently undertook their second expedition of the season from Thursday 13 June until Saturday 15 June.

The walking groups had an excellent trip to the Shropshire hills, where they took on the challenges of the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd, which on clear days offer spectacular views over the border into Wales. The groups performed exceptionally well in challenging and changeable conditions and the Staff were impressed with their resilience and positive approach to the expedition.

At the same time the canoeing groups were taming the rapids of the River Wye, travelling from Glasbury downstream through Hay on Wye. This was the groups' first real foray into faster moving water and day one was spent learning to read the rapids and understand how to avoid obstacles. With some good learning under their belts, day two was an opportunity for the groups to be much more independent on the water and they impressed their assessor with their paddling skills and teamwork.

Congratulations to all the groups for completing the expedition section of their DoE Award. A massive thank you as well to all the Staff who have given up their time to make the DoE field days possible.

Gwilym Jones, Co-curricular Co-ordinator



Stowe Parents' Association (SPA) Review

A varied and exciting programme of SPA events has been enjoyed by many Stowe Parents, Guardians and friends this term.

A visit to the Royal Shakespeare Company in May, to enjoy a very sharp, playful and contemporary take on Shakespeare's comedy, 'Love's Labour's Lost', was a brilliant way to launch this season's event programme. We were lucky enough to witness the superb acting of Luke Thompson, also known as Benedict Bridgerton from the Netflix series 'Bridgerton'. Having just won a major theatre award, his acting alongside a superb cast of actors, made for an exquisite and amusing performance. The day was particularly interesting as an informative guided tour of The Swan Theatre in Stratford Upon Avon, took us 'behind the scenes'. We learnt much more about the theatre and its history and had a fascinating walk through a vast costume department, allowing us to marvel at decades of history through every sort of costume you could imagine.

As has been the case for the majority of the year so far, the weather for the Head's House and Garden Tour was a little less glorious than one might have hoped! However, whilst a breezy event required warm coats and big smiles, the tour was a great success and much enjoyed by many. Supporters joined our Head, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, for a fascinating tour of Stowe Gardens and the Music Room. His superb knowledge of the House and gardens was impressive and the tour could have lasted a full day! It concluded with a delicious lunch in the House, allowing the group to meet new people and forge new friendships. This certainly won't be the last tour of the year,

its 'sell-out' status means another such tour will be happening next term, with a chance to see the spectacular Autumn colours throughout Stowe Gardens.

This term's events finished on a particularly high note with a most enjoyable tour of British Art at Tate Britain, again under the expert guidance of Dr Wallersteiner. A History Scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, with a Doctorate in Art History and Theory (University of Kent) certainly gives the Head a tremendous ability to talk with great passion about artists including Constable and Turner. The tour also included many new contemporary artworks, David Hockney to name just one. Learning the history of many of the works certainly brought a new depth of understanding for many on the tour and left us with the desire to return to Tate Britain again soon. On our way to the historic Grade II Listed former Westminster Library, for lunch in The Cinnamon Club, the group were lucky enough to witness the spectacular flypast overhead in honour of Trooping the Colour. What perfect timing! A most convivial lunch followed and was a wonderful way to end the event, with much merriment and laughter and new acquaintances made.

The new Parents' Association brochure can be accessed online [here](#). Parents, family and friends are most welcome to join these wonderful days and events.

Here's to another exciting programme of events throughout the Michaelmas Term and thank you for all of your support over the last term, it has been fun!

Gillian Hodgetts, Chair of Stowe Parents Association



Stowe Parents Cricket Club

The Stowe Parents' cricket team's first season has been a great success, with 28 players participating. The team arranged five fixtures, including matches against the Stowe Staff and the parents' teams from Beachborough, Winchester House, and Swanbourne House Schools.

The season provided a fantastic opportunity for parents to meet each other and engage with the schools' Staff in a fun and relaxed setting. The camaraderie and sportsmanship were highlights of the season.

If you're interested in joining the Stowe Parents' cricket club next season, please **contact me**.

Follow us on **Instagram** for updates and photos. We look forward to welcoming new players!

John Saunders, Stowe Parents' Cricket Club



TENNIS



Despite the weather we had 31 teams that played 103 matches this Summer Term. Well done to everyone who took part in both training and matches.

U18 Boys

In the U18 boys teams we would like to highlight the outstanding contribution since Third Form of departing Captain Arin Chatsuan (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and his partnership with Bear Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Cobham).

Player of the Season: Arin Chatsuan

Most Improved Player: Henry Roberts (Lower Sixth, Chatham)

U18 Girls

The girls' teams had great success with outstanding performance from departing Captain Annie Flint and her partner Ruby Colebrook (both Upper Sixth, Queen's).

Player of the Season: Ruby Colebrook

Most Improved Player: Frederica Hodges (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

U16 Boys

The U16 boys have had a fantastic season this year, winning all their matches and collectively turning up to training motivated to learn and improve as a tennis player each session. There has been some great doubles play on display, with the boys demonstrating key doubles skills such as teamwork, communication, and decision-making under pressure.

Player of the Season: Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Fifth Form, Winton)

Most Improved Player: George Rutherford (Fifth Form, Winton)

U16 Girls

The U16 girls have had a short but sweet season due to GCSE exams taking place. Having high attendance at training before exams began, the girls showed significant improvement and tennis proved to be a fun stress relief for them.

Player of the Season: Tabi Acher (Fifth Form, Queen's)

Most Improved Player: Nada Shamsuddin (Fifth Form, Cheshire)

U15 Boys

The U15s had strength in numbers managing to field an A, B, C and D team. Numbers at training were consistent and credit goes to the boys for their attendance and work rate throughout the season, Captained by Benjamin Shorridge (Fourth Form, Croft) who always led by example.

Player of the Season: Benjamin Shorridge

Most Improved Player: Gustav Franzén (Fourth Form, Cobham)

U15 Girls

The U15s have worked hard this season on their doubles play, bringing energy and a sense of fun to each session, enjoying a full fixture list.

Players of the Season: Emily Gauvain (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Ella Mason (Fourth Form, Nugent)

Most Improved Player: Chloe Pearce (Fourth Form, Queen's)

U14 Boys

The U14 Boys have played and trained with competitive spirit and motivation to learn all season. With regular A and B fixtures organised there has been some great doubles on display, with the boys demonstrating teamwork, communication and positivity throughout. A great finish to the season was seen with a fantastic performance in the mixed doubles fixture against Bedford.

Player of the Season: Edward Berry (Third Form, Cobham)

Most Improved Player: Zak Petrusiuk (Third Form, Chandos)

U14 Girls

This year the U14 girls have formed a strong team and progressed well throughout the season. Their commitment to training shone through with many hard-fought matches and coming away with some great wins. The U14As excelled, winning 60% of their matches for the season!

Player of the Season: Flora Barratt (Third Form, Nugent)

Most Improved: Nina Morgan (Third Form, Queen's)

Dan Voyce, Head of Tennis



CCF



Double the Rotors, Double the Fun: A behind-the-scenes glimpse at the home of the UK's Chinook Fleet

Our visit on Thursday 20 June to RAF Odiham, the primary base for the Royal Air Force's Chinook helicopters, offered a fascinating insight into the vital role this facility plays in the UK's military operations. Located in Hampshire, RAF Odiham is home to a fleet of approximately 60 to 80 Chinook helicopters and provides essential maintenance and support for these impressive aircraft.

Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by a ground officer who gave us an informative briefing on the history and mission of RAF Odiham. Established in 1937, the base has grown to become the central hub for the UK's Chinook operations.

Our tour began with a visit to the Chinook maintenance hangars, where we witnessed first-hand the meticulous care and attention dedicated to maintaining these powerful helicopters. Skilled engineers explained the complex maintenance processes, highlighting the importance of ensuring each aircraft is in optimal condition for any mission. Observing the Chinooks up close, with their distinctive tandem rotor design, was a highlight of the tour.

While we were unable to experience a flight in one of the Chinooks, our visit to RAF Odiham was nonetheless a memorable and enlightening experience. It provided a unique perspective on the dedication and expertise required to maintain and support the UK's Chinook fleet, which plays a crucial role in military operations around the world.

Major Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander



Gliding with Edgehill Gliding Club

Five of our Fourth Form RAF Cadets took to the skies on Monday 3 June. Jasper Farhadi (Bruce) recorded the longest flight, having found good thermals over a nearby industrial area. William Rendell (Croft), Hecco Harrison (Temple), James Stratford (Walpole) and Alex Wang (Bruce) also flew; practicing winch-launched take-offs up to around 1000ft, banked turns - some of them very steep, and landings on the grass strip airfield. They all helped by retrieving the gliders after each landing and setting them up ready for the next launch. Our thanks to the volunteers at Edgehill Gliding Club who made the afternoon possible.

Stephen Whitby and Charles Adkins, CCF



Upper Sixth Mess Dinner

The evening of Friday 7 June saw the Annual CCF Upper Sixth Mess Dinner, which this year was attended by the 23 Cadets. It was an evening filled with camaraderie, respect and shared experiences, as the Cadets gathered alongside the Staff and guests to celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to their future.

The event took place in the majestic Music Room, which had been transformed into a military-style Mess for the evening. The Cadets dressed in black-tie and arrived early, eager to partake in this time-honoured tradition. They were greeted with a drinks reception on the North Front before being piped into the Temple Room.

The highlight of the evening was the speech by distinguished guest speaker Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Steffano Capello of the Royal Marines, who shared his experiences and offered advice and inspiration based on his wealth of experiences from expeditions in Antarctica and service in various theatres of operation, both medical and combat.

His words resonated with the Cadets, who listened attentively to his sage advice on how good leadership is personal, adaptable and laced with humour.

Before the speech, a delicious three-course meal was served which was enjoyed by all the Cadets, their conversations filled with laughter, shared memories and plans for the future. The evening concluded with toasts to the King and to our guest speaker, to the highest-ranking Officer in the Royal Marines.

Overall, the Mess Dinner was a resounding success. It was a testament to the spirit of the CCF and the commitment of its members. For the Upper Sixth Cadets, it was an evening to remember, one that celebrated their achievements and offered a glimpse into their exciting futures. As they strode off into the Summer night, they did so with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the CCF and its values.

**Major Andrew Arnold,
CCF Contingent Commander**



Out of Bounds Centre

On Saturday 15 June, the CCF Fourth Form Cadets embarked on an exhilarating day at The Canoe Trail Outward Bound Centre in Bedford for a day filled with adventurous activities ranging from rafting, stand-up paddle-boarding, climbing-wall challenges, the leap of faith and bush-craft skills.

The pupils enjoyed a round-robin of activities which kicked off for some with a rafting session. The Cadets, equipped with safety gear, demonstrated teamwork as they first built their rafts from core materials before then steering them along the river. The activity not only tested their physical strength but also their ability to coordinate effectively as a team.

Next, the Cadets tried their hand at stand-up paddle-boarding, a task that demanded balance and patience. Despite several comedy capsizes and splashes, the Cadets showed resilience as they laughed off their mishaps and continued to strive for better balance and control over the paddleboard.

The climbing wall was up next. The towering wall presented a formidable challenge, but the Cadets approached it with determination. As they climbed, they demonstrated their problem-solving skills, choosing the best paths and footholds. The activity was a testament to their courage and determination.

The leap of faith was perhaps the most adrenaline-induced activity of the day. Cadets had to climb a tall pole and leap towards a trapeze bar. Despite the heart-pounding heights, the Cadets showed remarkable bravery as they took the leap, embodying the spirit of adventure that the CCF nurtures.

The day concluded with a lesson in bush-craft skills. Here, the Cadets learned valuable survival skills such as starting fires and identifying safe-to-eat wilderness foods. The session was not only informative but also gave the Cadets a greater appreciation for nature and survival skills.

The day at the Canoe Trail was an exciting addition to the CCF's activities, offering the Cadets an opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, develop their skills and create lasting memories. The Cadets returned from the day's activities with a sense of accomplishment, newfound skills and stories to tell.

**Major Andrew Arnold,
CCF Contingent Commander**





STOWE SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A glorious Summer day at Stowe's tennis courts on Sunday 19 May with the sun high in the sky casting warmth over the meticulously manicured lawns ensured a great day was had by all.

International Guests and Friendly Rivalries

Players and spectators from Denmark, Germany and Italy had gathered for a fabulous tournament organised by Buckingham Tennis Club and Buckingham Twinning Association. The language barrier melted away as the shared love for tennis bridged any gaps.

The Enchanting Surroundings

As our guests stepped onto the tennis courts, they could not help but marvel at the breathtaking surroundings. The courts, surrounded by trees, their leaves rustling gently in the breeze. Beyond the courts, the rolling gardens stretched out. It was as if nature itself had conspired to create the perfect setting for a day of tennis.

A Privilege to Play

The privilege of playing in these beautiful grounds was not lost on our guests. Stowe had generously opened its tennis facilities to the community, allowing us to share the magic of the place. The courts themselves were impeccable - smooth surfaces that seemed to invite every forehand and backhand with open arms.

A Potluck Lunch and Tea

Midway through the tournament, players took a break to refuel. The Buckingham Twinning Association and Buckingham Tennis Club Players had prepared a delightful potluck lunch - a colourful spread of sandwiches, salads and homemade treats. Laughter and camaraderie filled the air. Later, as the sun dipped lower, we gathered for tea and cake - a quintessentially British tradition in this idyllic setting.

Gratitude to Stowe School

We felt immense gratitude to Stowe for allowing our international guests and local Buckingham community to be a part of this experience. Their generosity had created a space where tennis transcended competition, it became a celebration of friendship, nature and the joy of play. The most beautiful victories are ones shared under the open sky.

Jo Veglio (Buckingham Twinning Association Sports Organiser) and Liliana Peřa (Vice Chair of Buckingham Tennis Club) & Stowe Modern Languages

Stowe mail



LSAS Science Museum Trip

On Wednesday 8 May, the Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS) group of Third Formers went to the Science Museum in London. Individual Stoics responses to the museum's many wonders:

Emily Hampson (Cheshire)

Over the course of the Summer Term, we have been learning about how our brain works on memorising different things, whether they are short-term or long-term memories and seeing how well we could recall them. At the Science Museum, we were looking at the sections on how our brain works. The most interesting thing for me was the different sections of the brain and the functions of each section - this is known as Phrenology, which is the study of the mind. In the early 1800s, phrenologists believed that different areas of the brain were responsible for personality traits and abilities. They wrongly concluded that someone's character could be determined by measuring the bumps and lumps shaping the skull, however this was eventually discredited by the 1840s.

Kelvin Liao (Cobham)

I was very interested in the driving simulator and how it teaches us the way our brain learns. What it does, is simulate driving but the input of the steering wheel is reversed - while steering to the left, your car goes to the right. The first attempt shows a very long time for the lap because the brain is used to the proper direction, but this is something new and we will automatically have muscle memories to turn it the natural way. The second attempt shows improvement, as we learn to get used to the reversed steering wheel. The key is that it is not just about driving - it is about every life skill we will experience and, no matter how inexperienced we are at something, with practice we can always get better.

Patrick Kingsman (Winton)

Magnetoencephalography (MEG), takes photos of your brain's activity by detecting the magnetic pulses generated by brain cells. They are over a billion times weaker than Earth's magnetic field, so these devices must be incredibly sensitive to detect them. MEG Scans are often useful as they can identify causes of seizures and other brain conditions. They are especially important as there are no risks involved with the scan. Similarly, EEG (Electroencephalography) measures brain waves. It is a dome shaped net placed on your head made up of electrodes to pick up electric currents generated by brain cells as they communicate with each other.

These have helped us investigate how infants recognise faces. Only minimal risks are involved with an EEG scan, being that an epileptic person may experience a seizure during the process; this could help with a diagnosis, however doctors need to be careful when carrying out this test.

Libby Doughty (Cheshire)

The Apollo 10 and control panel were a couple of the extraordinary artefacts at the Science Museum. The command module and control panel are very rare and valuable. They give us a real look at the time when people were exploring space and making amazing achievements in space travel. There aren't many things like this that you can see in person, so this exhibit gives a special chance to see real space history up close.

Winston Li (Croft)

I found the lightbulb exhibit interesting due to the simplicity yet meaningfulness of the piece. This exhibit acts as an analogy to the real world while using a powerful symbolism displayed via the light bulb. It is also related to the industrial revolution symbolising the spark of electricity and also the term 'revolution'.



FUTURES



Engineering Degrees at the University of Warwick

After an exciting Change Makers Day on Thursday 20 June, Professor Adam Noel presented an insightful talk on the range of engineering degrees offered at the University of Warwick. This talk was hosted by some of our budding engineers from the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form. Adam highlighted the comprehensive curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring graduates are well-equipped for professional success. Professor Noel discussed the entry requirements, which typically include high A Level grades in Mathematics and Physics and emphasised the importance of strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

He elaborated on the learning and assessment methods employed at Warwick's School of Engineering, which include a mix of lectures, laboratory work, projects and group work. Assessments are conducted through exams, coursework and practical evaluations to ensure a well-rounded education.

Interview with Professor Adam Noel - Engineering Degrees at the University of Warwick. [Click here to watch.](#)

Professor Adam Noel's Research

In addition to his teaching and recruitment roles, Professor Noel leads a research team focused on communication in cell biology. His research explores how cells communicate through biochemical signals, which has significant implications for understanding biological processes and developing medical technologies. For those interested, Professor Noel's research group has a YouTube channel where they share videos targeted at a general audience. A recent paper by his team is available as a public preprint.

University and Faculty Overview

The University of Warwick is a prestigious institution, consistently ranked among the top universities in the UK. According to the Guardian University Guide, Warwick's School of Engineering is ranked Sixth in the UK for General Engineering. It is renowned for its cutting-edge research and strong industry links, making it an ideal choice for aspiring engineers.

Professor Noel's talk provided a comprehensive overview of the engineering programmes at Warwick, detailing the entry requirements, learning methodologies, and the exciting research opportunities available.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



OLD STOICS



OS Corkscrew Dinner and Wine Pairing

On Wednesday 19 June, twenty Old Stoics gathered for a wonderfully special wine pairing dinner at Hawthorn restaurant in Kew. Hawthorn is owned and run by OS Chef, Joshua Hunter (Cobham 08) and specialises in modern European fine dining. Josh very kindly offered us exclusive use of the restaurant and designed a four-course menu for the evening. Josh has enjoyed a wonderfully successful career working in a myriad of restaurants around London over the last 15 years, together with working for high profile private clients as their personal chef.

The evening began with a warm and friendly welcome from Talulla Rendall (Née Barrow, Lyttelton 07), who has been instrumental in organising OS Corkscrew events over the last eight years. She introduced Josh, our Sommelier for the evening Michal, and our guest speaker Clem Yates (née Bennett, Stanhope/Lyttelton 94), Master of Wine.

Josh pulled out all the stops to impress our guests, laying on a delicious menu designed to complement four fine wines selected by his in-house Sommelier, Michal. As we approach the 50th anniversary of girls at Stowe, we challenged Michal to select wines by female producers and he came up trumps choosing a 2023 South African Chenin Blanc, Method Ancestrale, as an arrival drink, followed by a 2021 Portuguese Encruzado, Quinta dos Carvalhais to accompany the Raviolo of rabbit and guinea hen starter. Roast Cornish Monkfish was paired with a 2020 English Pino Noir, Winston Estate. The showstopping pudding, Banana Souffle, arrived with a 2016 German Riesling Spätlese, Zeltinger Sonnenuhr.

During coffee, our guest speaker, Clem, thrilled us with tales from her career in the wine industry. She explained how her days at Stowe lead her to studying Chemistry at Exeter before an Old Stoic suggested she work in the wine industry. She has spent her career making wine for people all over the world and over the last 15 years, sourced wines, and designed wine styles for the major retailers. Clem is one of only 417 people in the world to have earned the title of Master of Wine and, notably, one of only 38 women Masters of Wine. Clem is also a trained winemaker, having studied Oenology in Australia. She ended by telling us about her current project as a vintner producing her own premium English rosé, which we were delighted to sample during the tasting. Click to read more about Pink and Co [here](#).

Our guests were treated to a truly memorable evening, with exceptional food, wine and company. We would like to end with a great many thanks to Josh, Michal, Clem and Talulla for laying on such a wonderful evening for our guests. We very much hope to hold another Wine Pairing Dinner with Josh next year. To register to receive OS Corkscrew invitations, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager

Stowe Radio

Stowe Radio began in 2022, with the first show releasing in June of that year. During the last two years, 21 shows have been produced featuring a whole variety of different features, interviews and fun.

Looking forwards towards the 2024/2025 academic year, Stowe Radio will be merging with Concord and Victory, as the two are given new life as a multimedia platform. Some of your favourite features will however return as the Stowe Radio name and brand is retained. On top of that plenty of new and exciting additions to the show will be made as the new team bring it into a whole new era!

Araan Sobhan (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

We say a huge thank you and congratulations to Araan, who has put in so much hard work and effort and has made Stowe Radio what it is today. We wish him all the best for his future as he leaves Stowe and we hope that radio presenting is a successful part of it!

Nicola Borman, Head of English



The Summer Term started with Regional selection for Bella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) in the Inter-Regional Eight on Saturday 27 May and wins at Birmingham for the girls 1st VIII, and for Will Crabb (Upper Sixth, Croft) in singles. At Worcester on Saturday 18 May the boys double of Ben Cousins (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple) beat Hartpury University and in a race full of drama, the Stowe girls VIII crossed the line ahead of Teddies - something I never expected to see. The first half term concluded with a match with Teddies at Stowe. Teddies send their Championship crews to National Schools, on our Speech Day on Saturday 25 May, but John Wiggins brought their Second tier rowers to us. Their girls outwitted us in quads, but our boys had the upper hand. Our singles and doubles were completely dominant - with Aggie Edwards (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Bella Bawden winning in singles, before we had the bright idea of putting Fourth Formers Ben Cousins and Lorraine Yan (Stanhope) and Hecco Harrison and Aggie Edwards out for a mixed doubles race. Odhran Donaghy umpired the race and said it was the most furious he had ever seen at Stowe - with Ben and Lorraine taking the rating through the roof, while Aggie swung into those long strokes, which saw her and Hecco edge it, by the narrowest of margins. At National Schools Teddies were on the podium in boys and girls Championship Eights - so our Stowe rowers are mixing in the right company.

After Half Term we had a friendly with Berkhamsted. It was a pleasure to welcome them to Stowe. With only their short and narrow stretch of the Grand Union canal, a 20-minute bus ride from school, they think our facilities for rowing at Stowe are amazing. They were brought by Max Stallard, who's brother Tom raced in the GBR eight at Athens and Beijing, where he won Olympic Silver. As schoolboys they both rowed at Henley for Oundle. We are very hopeful of doing more with Max's Berkhamsted rowers. They are a friendly and enthusiastic group who loved the experience of coming to Stowe.

The main aim of the rowing year is Henley, however many of our Lower Sixth rowers were already booked on DofE Gold before they even took up rowing at Stowe, and the dates clashed with Henley Royal Regatta. So, Henley Women's Regatta, a week earlier on Saturday 22 June, became their goal. Initially they trained in an eight, which would have been a nice boat at Henley, but as some made different Summer Term choices, we settled on a Junior 18 double with Alice Watson (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and India Gordon (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Junior 18 quad of Lower Sixth Formers Jasmine Dolan (Lyttelton), Martha Bond (West), Erin Perez Quane (Nugent), Lulu Goaman (Lyttelton) and Junior 16 quad of Coco Bartoszewski (Fifth Form, Nugent), Madya Liu (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Aggie Edwards and Bella Bawden). Although the standard at this world event is daunting, the girls and their parents loved being part of such a big event. The setting was fabulous and the high drone footage on the livestream is breath-taking. Considering where most of them started - new to rowing this year - to be able to row at Henley is a huge achievement. We hope the experience will inspire them take the sport further. The scholarship opportunities at universities in the USA are realistic for those that want to take them. Old Stoic, Ted Bainbridge (Walpole 69) is planning to organise a visit to Leander Club next term, to meet the development coaches who run their gap year programme, for those seeking scholarships in USA.

On the last day of term Friday 28 June, we have Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers, where we are taking boys and girls quads of mainly Fourth Form pupils. Last year they were the youngest rowers at Henley and may again be this year - however with one rowing at Henley for the fourth time, no J15 rowers have more experience. We wish them luck!

If you are looking for Summer holiday rowing opportunities, then get in touch with Gillian Lindsay, who visited Stowe at the start of term. Once the GB Olympic team move out for Paris, Gillian is running rowing camps at their base at Aviz, Portugal throughout the Summer - www.glcamps.co.uk

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



OLD STOICS



OS Finance and Insurance Networking Reception

On Tuesday 11 June, the Old Stoic Society hosted a vibrant networking drinks reception for over 40 Old Stoics who either work in or aspire to work in finance or insurance.

The event was kindly hosted by Piers Winton (Walpole 00) and fittingly held at Paragon Insurance's offices in the heart of London's financial district.

The guest list featured a diverse range of ages, creating a dynamic atmosphere where both seasoned professionals and young aspirants could engage. Indeed, it also gave contemporaries the opportunity to catch up and reminisce about their days at Stowe.

Many swapped details and LinkedIn profiles, fostering connections that extend beyond the event and the younger OS took the opportunity to make connections that only events like this can provide.

Zara's Kitchen, owned by OS Chef Zara White (Lyttelton 06), provided delicious canapés to accompany the evening. The positive feedback we have received will no doubt make this an annual event in the OS calendar.

We would like to extend our thanks to James Kalbassi (Current Parent), Paragon International Insurance Brokers Ltd and Piers Winton (Walpole 00) for a wonderful evening.

If you have ideas for future events, we would love to hear suggestions, please [email](#) or telephone 01280 818349.

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager



Appointment of Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports

The King has approved the appointment of Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB, DSC, ADC, DL (Walpole 76), as Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports.

Sir George was educated at Stowe and Southampton University and was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1980. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1982, flying with the Fleet Air Arm, to Commander in 1994 and Captain in 1999. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) following operations in Sierra Leone. In 2002, Sir George was made Commodore and was appointed Principal Staff Officer to the Chief of the Defence Staff, serving Admiral Boyce and General Walker, before command of the UK Amphibious Force, and the UK Maritime Force. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 2011, and to Admiral in 2012 as NATO Maritime Commander and UK Commander in Chief. He was appointed KCB in 2012 and became First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval staff in 2013. In the 2016

New Years Honours he was appointed GCB. Beyond his commercial career in small hi-tech companies, he holds charitable positions, as an Elder Brother of Trinity House, in the White Ensign Association, the VC & GC Association, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, The Shipwrecked Mariners Society, the Navy Wings Trust and the Fly Harrier Trust. He is Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State.

The office of Lord Warden and Admiral, now ceremonial in nature, was once one of the most powerful in England. It was a vital link between the Crown and ports on the South-East coast which provided a fleet to serve successive Kings for 500 years before the foundation of the Royal Navy. Recent holders of the office have included Sir Winston Churchill (1941-1965) and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (1978-2002). Sir George is only the third Admiral to have held the office during its 800 year history.

Anna Semler, Director Old Stoic Society

Olympic Selection

James Rudkin (Walpole 12) has been selected to represent Team GB at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. James will once again be part of the Men's eight (W8+). James has represented Team GB at the World Rowing Championships for a number of years. He won a Bronze medal in the Men's eight at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Best of luck to James and his team, we will be cheering you on!



PreMed at Stowe

PreMed at Stowe is a bespoke programme designed to prepare pupils for careers in medical and health-related fields. Our participants typically apply for courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science, among others. Throughout the year, pupils attend tailored sessions aimed at deepening their biomedical knowledge and honing skills that are essential for university success and professional interviews. The course has grown in popularity, offering innovative teaching methods such as problem-based learning and critical evaluation of scientific literature, ensuring our pupils are well-equipped for their future academic and career endeavours.

PreMed Stoic Theo da Costa (Lower Sixth, Walpole) explains his interest in medicine.

"I was always interested in pursuing a career in medicine, but the event that inspired me to commit to medicine occurred during my work experience at Whipps Cross Hospital with Dr Michael Machesney.

I was at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, shadowing Dr Nishal Amin, a Consultant in A&E and Trauma Medicine. I watched whilst they investigated patients and then determined a treatment plan. I saw all manner of cases from sepsis to car accidents and was particularly interested in the professional interactions with the patients and the way each case was treated like jigsaw puzzle, trying to piece together the information to create an image of what was going on. This was an incredibly valuable experience, and my key learning points were the importance of autonomy and shared decision making between the patient and doctors, whilst keeping the patient's best interests at heart. Also, how imperative it is to use all members of other multidisciplinary teams to provide holistic care. I also shadowed an ambulance service who were responding to calls from falls to strokes, as well as the occasional cardiac arrest. It was amazing to witness how quickly they react and how calm they are under pressure.

I also shadowed Dr Michael Machesney whilst he performed hemicolectomies (operations to remove bowel cancer from patients) using keyhole surgery and went around the recovery ward, interacting with the patients. This was so valuable as it showed me the human side of medicine and how rewarding the medical field is, seeing how thankful the patients were post-operation. I also observed how calm the surgeons are under pressure when obstacles came up. During my time in Hammersmith Hospital, I worked with Dr Ghada Mikhail, a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist who works in a Cath lab performing Trans Aortic Valve Implantations and STENTS. I shadowed her and watched her perform multiple operations replacing the aortic valve of patients using the femoral artery to access the heart. It was an incredibly valuable experience as it taught me how they adapt to different situations when somebody comes in with a heart attack, the importance of taking action and how each member of the surgical team has their own individual job that they perform exclusively without getting in the way of other members of the team".

Jess Reinhold, Head of Medical Applications



Stowe House Preservation Trust News to Celebrate

We were thrilled to receive an invitation to the King's Creative Industries Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 15 May. Susy Pullen, our Head of Visitor Experience, attended the event and shared her excitement: "It was an honour to represent The Stowe House Preservation Trust and celebrate the incredible industry we work in. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many talented people from across the sector."

As we mark 25 years of restoration in 2024, this event was a perfect way to highlight the hard work that goes into preserving this extraordinary building. We are guardians of a vital piece of Britain's heritage, working alongside Historic England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Visit England, The Museums Association, Historic Houses and many regional tourism and culture partners. Together, we promote the work of our charity and raise awareness of our internationally significant Grade I Listed country house.

An essential part of any visit to a heritage attraction is collecting a guidebook. With many changes in the State Rooms over the last several years, it was time to update ours. After months of collaboration, research, edits and a longer-than-anticipated Eurasian shipping journey, we are pleased to announce the new guidebooks have arrived. They are available in our visitor centre to purchase for just £6.

The Conservation Continues

When pupils leave for their holidays, Stowe House becomes a hive of activity through both an increase in visitors to look around the restored State Rooms, as well as undertaking vital maintenance projects. Special contractors and conservators are used work to maintain this historic building and since some tasks are not possible during term time, we schedule this work to minimise disruption to the School routine.

This Summer, we have a wide range of tasks to complete. Several tapestry wallpapers are being adjusted in the State Dining Room now that the initial work has settled. Repairs will be made to the North Portico ceiling where a water leak damaged the plasterwork. Our House Custodians will reapply UV filters to the State Music Room windows which omit UV, reduce visible light, solar gain and glare, all without being noticeable. This will protect all the wall paintings from most light damage, thus preserving them for longer. Additionally, experts will conduct a fine arts evaluation over three days to help us value historic art items under our care, owned by both the School and Stowe House Preservation Trust.

One significant progression Grenville pupils will notice upon their return in September is the restoration of the Grand East Staircase landing (Grenville Fifth Form landing). Expert conservator Rhiannon Clarricoates and her team are returning to continue their work to reveal hidden wall paintings behind layers of modern paint. This will be the longest consecutive stint for her team at the House and our charity's largest investment in this project. We aim to identify and attribute the original artist, potentially William Kent, which would be an exciting discovery.

Donations towards our restoration and conservation efforts are gratefully received. Please donate via our **online giving page** or contact our team to discuss ways you can support our ongoing work at **Stowe House**.

To learn more about our projects, follow us on social media and read more on our **website**.

Susy Pullen, Head of Visitor Experience SHPT



STOWE HOUSE

Events at Stowe House



Stowe Tots

Monday 22 July 10-10.45am

A fun-filled sensory play session for families with young babies and preschool toddlers. Running once a month, session themes will vary. Held in our visitor centre, activities will be led by our friendly learning and community team.

Booking is essential. One child and one Adult £5

Lost Treasures of Stowe Trail

6 July-1 September, 10.30am-4.30pm

Working as a team, delve into the secrets of Stowe as you unlock hidden mysteries, crack codes and piece together the puzzle of centuries past. Follow the clues and complete the quest to help find the lost treasures of Stowe. The trail and child admission is free with a paying adult.

Lost Treasures of Stowe

Unlock hidden secrets, decipher codes, and piece together puzzles of centuries past to complete the quest to find the Lost Treasures of Stowe

Uncovering the Past

The research and science behind the interior restoration of Stowe House

Wednesday 3 July, 6pm

Hear about the research and science behind the interior restoration of Stowe House with Annabel Westman (Textile Historian) and Patrick Baty (Paint and Colour Historian).

Book here to attend the talk £5.

Open Arts Exhibition 2024

16 July-31 August, 10.30am-4pm

49 secondary school pupils participated in creative workshops at Stowe House, focusing on portraits and identity, architecture, and restoration. Inspired by these themes, their artworks will be showcased in the State Library.

Free to enter exhibition, normal admissions apply.

Open Arts Exhibition

Photography Competition

Don't forget about our ongoing 2024, photography competition.

To find out more information and to get involved visit the [competition web page](#).

Secrets of Stowe Tours

24 and 30 July/11 and 20 Aug 2pm

Go on a behind-the-scenes tour, a highlight for visitors will include seeing the latest addition to the Gothic Library - the Soane table - an original piece of Stowe furniture that has now returned thanks to a generous donation by the George Clarke Foundation.

Book your tickets [here](#). Adult £12, Under 16s £6.

Rooftop Tours

18 & 26 July 2, 13 and 18 August, 6pm

Enjoy the chance to climb the noble cantilevered stone staircase to admire the magnificent view from the roof and look over the world-famous gardens; this truly is 'the finest view in England'.

Booking is essential **Adult (16+) £15**

Romeo and Juliet

Thursday 25 July, 7.30pm

Two wealthy families, the Montague's and the Capulet's, are in a long and bitter feud. But when Romeo (Montague's son) meets Juliet (Capulet's daughter) everything changes. The pair fall into a forbidden love that sets in motion a chain of devastating events. The surprising thing about this iconic tale is that it's extremely funny too! This production of Shakespeare's classic is passionate, poetic and utterly gripping!

Adult £18, Child £10.

Booking essential [online](#).



The Adventures of Dr Dolittle

Friday 23 August, 6.30pm

One day with the help of his wise old parrot Polynesia, Doctor Dolittle makes an extraordinary discovery - he can talk to animals! As news of his unique talent as an animal doctor spreads, animals from across the world send messages asking for his help, so he buys a leaky old ship and embarks on a thrilling quest. Hugh Lofting's timeless classic celebrates the power of empathy and inspires audiences young and old to see the world through the eyes of animals. This funny, exciting new family musical is performed with flair and wit by Illyria in the great outdoors.

Adult £18, Child £10. [Box office booking here.](#)



Lino Print Workshop

Sunday 25 August, 10am

Make the most of the Summer views and create your own multi-layered Summer-inspired lino print in a one-day artist-led workshop with expert printmaker Alexandra Buckle.

In this artist-led workshop, you will create a multi-layered lino print based on images or photographs that inspire you.

Secure your space on the workshop. £80



Planetarium 31 August

Enter our mobile planetarium and let the darkness surround you in an immersive 360-degree learning experience that will take you on a journey through the night sky! Shoot for the stars and **book a slot** to visit the galaxy.

Summer holiday activities - Families

Enjoy free family activities when you visit Stowe House this Summer.

29 July, 1-2.30pm **Teddy Bear's Picnic** (3-6 years)

8 August, 1-2pm and 3-4pm **Photo frames and cyanotypes** (8 years+)

12 August, 1-2.30pm **Teddy Bear's Picnic** (3-6 years)

30 August, 1-2pm and 3-4pm **Book binding** (8 years+)

Booking essential online. Normal admission applies.

Children go free with a paying adult.

Proceeds from the events hosted by Stowe House Preservation Trust go back into restoring and maintaining this Grade I listed 18th Century masterpiece.



Stowe Racing

Farewell to 'Sir Bob'

Longstanding racing broadcaster and Stowe Racing owner, Robert Cooper (Cobham 68), will be hanging up his microphone at the end of July after nearly three decades in the job.

'Sir Bob' as he is affectionally called by his co-presenters started out in racing with Mecca Bookmakers before joining The Racing Channel, which became At The Races and now Sky Sports Racing.

Robert reflects, "I'm looking forward to it really, I see it as a new challenge and everything comes to an end. I think I've been traipsing around the racecourses reporting for nearly 28 years and I've thoroughly enjoyed it - I really have."

Thank you, Robert, for your many years of top and regularly 'unbiased' reporting whenever you have spied a Stowe runner at your course, and we look forward to working with you on some exciting projects around the School's racing syndicates.

Robert's final on-course shift will be at Yarmouth on Tuesday 30 July so if you are in the area do go and give him a send-off!

Fanshawe oh so near in the Epsom Derby

OS trainer James Fanshawe (Temple 79) has held a licence for over three decades and won many top races in the UK and overseas. He has however, until this year, only had one Derby runner.

This year he was represented by Ambiente Friendly (below in the yellow colours) and market vibes were strong as he had won the Derby Trial at Lingfield impressively by five lengths making him 5/1 second favourite in a field of 16. He travelled strongly into the home straight at Epsom looking like the winner before Aidan O'Brien's City Of Troy powered away from him, and the rest of the field, to win this year's event.

Still, it was a superb run and well done to James and all his team at Pegasus Stables. 2025 marks twenty years since the last OS trained horse to win flat racing's most coveted prize - Motivator for Michael Bell (Cobham 79) - so let's keep our fingers crossed for further Stowe success!

Henry Kimbell, OS Racing



Summer Spine Challenge

The Montane Summer Spine Challenger North is a non-stop, 160 mile trail running race along the Pennine Way from Hardraw to Kirk Yetholm with 5,290m of ascent.

The trail crosses some of the most beautiful and difficult terrains in Britain including; the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Northumberland National Park, Hadrian's Wall, and the Cheviots; finishing at the Scottish Borders.

This race is open to those who wish to test themselves and compete in a truly demanding race. Tiredness, fatigue and sleep deprivation are all to be expected and to finish participants must be prepared and willing to push themselves harder than ever before.

In an extraordinary achievement, Fern Parker, Cheshire Matron, finished the race on Thursday 20 June finishing as the Second woman overall!

Fern completed the challenge in 64 hours 43 minutes having stopped to sleep for just 90 minutes in the three days.

How do you recover from such a physically and mentally exhausting experience? Accompany Stoics on their Gold DofE expedition to Scotland a few days later of course!

Congratulations to Fern on such an incredible accomplishment!

Cheryl Davis, Cheshire Houseparent

SOCIAL MEDIA





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