

Stowe mail

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NEWS FROM STOWE

GAIA by Luke Jerram

"In Gaia we are just another species, neither the owners nor the stewards of this planet. Our future depends much more upon a right relationship with Gaia, than with the never-ending drama of human interest." James Lovelock: *The Ages of Gaia*

Between Saturday 7 and Thursday 26 October 2023, Stowe is hosting the multi-sensory, award-winning art installation, Gaia, in the magnificent Marble Hall. Created by artist Luke Jerram, the six metre diameter globe details NASA imagery of the Earth's surface allowing viewers to see our planet floating in three dimensions. Stowe is the first school to host this fantastic exhibition.

During the first week, Stowe has run a series of events under Gaia. To begin, we welcomed 70 prospective families to Stowe for a Taster Day, all of whom looked at Gaia in awe. Following this, 40 Senior members of the local community came to enjoy afternoon tea under Gaia. Yoga under Gaia was a huge success on Monday 9 October, with over 30 people enjoying the relaxing glow from the globe in the evening light, including the entire Stowe 1st team rugby squad!

The Climate Action group, led by Dameli Yessey (Upper Sixth, West) researched and planned a range of events to accompany the art exhibition and teachers ran Geography and English lessons under

Gaia to inspire and enthuse pupils. In the evenings, Stowe's A Level Geographers and Biologists listened to engaging pupil-led climate change debates. The two motions debated were the issues of fast fashion and the government's plans to ban new petrol and diesel car sales.

Throughout the week pupils from The Stowe Group's Prep Schools, Winchester House and Swanbourne House, have joined us for various educational activities. Alicia Hayden, who is The David Shepherd Foundation's Artist of the Year ran three fantastic workshops with 45 Prep School pupils and 30 Stoics, teaching them to draw a range of endangered African species, such as pangolins and elephants. Following this, both Year 5 groups from our Prep Schools enjoyed African music workshops run by Matt Phillips, Director of Music and Deputy Head at Swanbourne House.

From Sunday 15 - Thursday 26 October, Stowe House Preservation Trust will open the exhibition to the general public, please book [here](#). We are also inviting local primary schools to visit during the second week of the installation, to see Gaia and participate in a range of educational activities designed by Stoics and Staff.

Shelley Rowley, Geography Teacher



A special thanks goes to Mr Yessey and Ms Yessim who, having been inspired by their daughter's enthusiasm for the project, made a donation which enabled the Gaia exhibition to come to Stowe. It would not have been possible without their support and, on behalf of all of us at Stowe, I am so grateful for their extremely kind contribution. Thanks to Gaia, this has been a week that we will all remember.

**Charlie Clare,
Deputy Development Director**

James Ivory

Civilised Movies Civilise us



It was a real pleasure for our Media, Film, Drama and English pupils (plus Parents and Staff) and myself, to spend an hour or so in the company of none other than the renowned film maker James Ivory on Saturday 7 October, when he visited Stowe to talk about his career.

And what a career.

In a 44 year long period, Merchant Ivory Productions made over 40 movies with Ivory directing the majority of them. His hits include Oscar winning E M Forster adaptations 'A Room with a View' and 'Howards End'; Ishiguro's 'Remains of the Day' and most recently (he's currently 95) he also scripted 'Call Me By Your Name' (an incredibly youthful film - surprisingly written when he was 89 - and for which he received an Oscar).

Mr Ivory's talk covered everything from his passion for Indian culture and his early films made in that country; whether he considered himself "an auteur" (he did) to the importance of the script and the casting director, and working with sex-symbol Raquel Welch.

He was quietly unassuming and humble about his achievements and, when quizzed about why some of his best loved films revealed so much about the British character, he told us that it was all on the page originally and it was

the Director's job to bring it out - faithfully and with integrity. He was also very interesting when talking about how he cast so many unknowns and then coaxed star-making performances from a great many of them.

It was a privilege to share the stage with such an influential film director and hear first hand his stories, memories and insights.

We are grateful to the LaGrande family for facilitating the visit and, of course, the Technical Team in the Roxburgh Theatre who ensured the event ran so smoothly.

Our pupils definitely left with a great many films on their "to see" lists. Older attendees will, no doubt be dusting down DVDs of 'Maurice', 'Heat and Dust' and 'A Room with a View' and revisiting them.

They say - do not meet your idols.

I am happy to say that, in this case, that simply was not true.

James Ivory: a civilised man whose films have civilised us.

And that is no mean achievement.

Dr Andrew Webber, Film & Media Teacher



The Head's Dinner

Join the Head for dinner at the prestigious members only Oriental Club, situated in the Stratford Place area of London.

The Oriental Club treasures its rich history and the extraordinary characters who have been associated with it, since the Duke of Wellington became the Club's first and only President in 1824. Since 1962, the Club's home has been Grade I listed Stratford House - one of the most impressive surviving examples of Georgian architecture in this part of London.

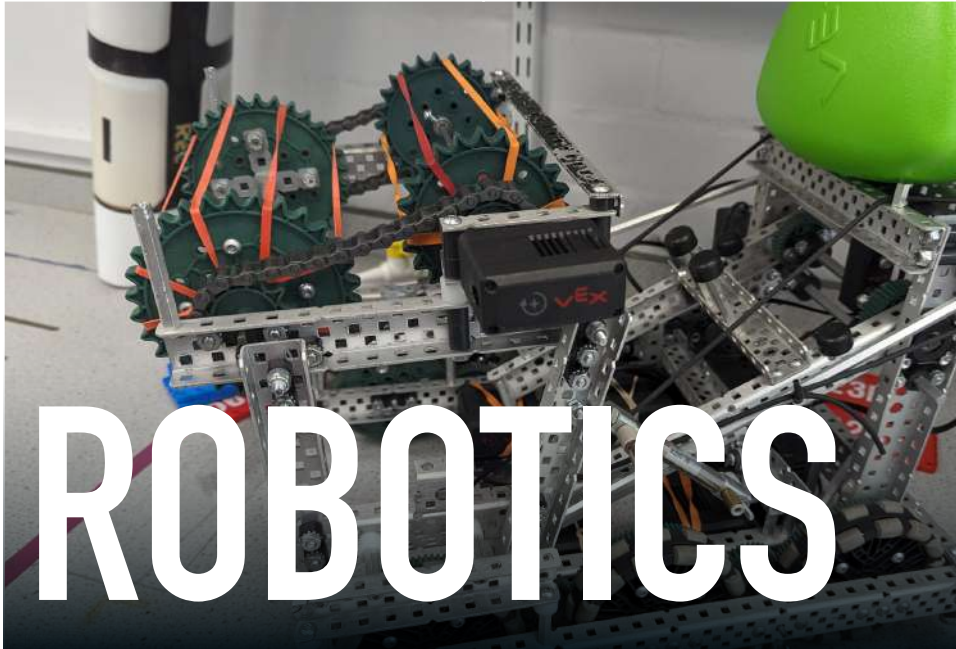
This is an exclusive opportunity for parents, old and new, to meet each other. Dr Wallersteiner hosts the evening and moves around between courses, giving all guests time to converse in this wonderful environment.

Enjoy a drinks reception on arrival, followed by a three-course evening meal with wine in the main Drawing Room, followed by coffee to conclude.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).



ORIENTAL CLUB



ROBOTICS

A Roaring Start

On Saturday 23 September, two of our five Stowe Robotics teams travelled to London to compete in a regional competition. These regional events allow qualification to the National VEX Robotics Competition Finals in March, with the ultimate goal being competing at the World Finals in America.

Both teams competing have been preparing for this season's game since April 2023. The Fourth Form team in particular had put a lot of effort in over the Summer break, planning improvements and redesigns to their robot. They have also been working on their engineering logbook, a complete record of their design process and decisions. Their logbook is currently around 70 pages and growing with each further development. This team went into the competition with justifiably high hopes. They performed well all through qualifying and finished in one of the top alliances going into the play offs. They made it all the way to the Final, and while they lost, they ranked Second in the skills aspect of the event (testing driver skill and programming skills) and picked up the Design Award for the quality of their engineering logbook. Their performance and Award was enough to see them qualify for the

National Finals in early March. The second team competing did well as their robot was not 100% ready and they had an inexperienced driver, so this competition was more of a learning curve and testing event for them.

The competition carries on with regionals until the end of February 2024, so there will be more time for our other four teams to try and qualify for the National Finals and for our champion Fourth Form team to improve and hopefully add even more trophies to our cabinet. We currently have 19 pupils involved in Robotics and five competing teams. We will have another regional competition in November before hosting a regional at Stowe on Wednesday 6 December. If any parents or Old Stoics are involved at all in a STEM field and would like to help judge teams' designs and logbooks, please get in touch with **Mr Thompson** - no previous experience in Robotics is needed!

The Robotics teams are still accepting pupils and particularly new Third Form pupils, who will soon have a choice of activities beyond key sports. Again, please contact and talk to Mr Thompson if you are interested.

Paul Thompson, MIC Robotics

Music

Lunchtime Recital

The first Lunchtime Recital of term, on Thursday 21 September, saw a return to the glorious surroundings of the State Music Room and featured Stoics from across all years of the School.

Isobel Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Annabel Hodgetts (Fifth Form, Cheshire) ably represented the Brass Department with performances of Bernstein's comedic miniature 'Rondo for Lifey' on trumpet and Gershwin's classic 'I've Got Rhythm' on French horn. Two of our talented younger pianists, Mark Shkolnik (Fourth Form, Temple) and Mimi Pilcher (Third Form, Nugent) provided sensitive and mature performances of pieces by Rachmaninov and Yiruma respectively.

Connie Goodrich (Upper Sixth, Nugent) performed one of her own songs 'Teenage Brain' for voice and guitar to the delight of the audience, whilst Grace Nasmyth (Fifth Form, Queen's) delivered a soulful rendition of 'Dream a Little Dream of Me' by the Mamas and the Papas. Two of our A Level Music pupils, Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Holly Ford-Langstaff (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) used the lunchtime recital as a platform to deliver items from their forthcoming mock A Level Performance Recital Programme. Owen gave a compelling performance of 'Run Away with Me' by Brown and Kerrigan and Holly captivated the audience with 'How beautiful are the feet' from Handel's Messiah.

Thank you to the audience members for supporting our talented Stoics and providing such a vital performance platform with which to develop their skills. Thanks also to Mr Thomas Hawkes and Mr Jonathan Kingston for accompanying Stoics during the concert and to all the Visiting Music Teachers who nurture and support our musicians.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music





Equestrian

The last weekend of September was a busy time for Stowe Equestrians.

Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Olive De Courcy-Ireland (Fifth Form, Nugent) represented Stowe at the School Equestrian Games Championships on Saturday 23 September at Dauntsey Park and Emilia Rivett (Fourth Form, Queen's) represented Stowe at the Hunter Trials Championships on Sunday 24 September at Eland Lodge. Although unplaced at these Finals, the girls performed well, and it was wonderful to see Stowe represented.

There was a strong display from Stoics at the Grafton Hunter Trials on Sunday 24 September, with nine members of the Equestrian Team competing across all classes. Clemmy King (Third Form, Queen's) took Third place in the 95cm Individual class, as well as taking Fifth place, with brother Rupert (Lower Sixth, Chandos), in the 85cm Pairs. Congratulations to Olive De Courcy-Ireland who came First in the 85cm Pairs, competing with a rider from another

school. The 85cm Individual class was hugely successful for Stoics with Gracie Cowley (Third Form, Queen's) in Fifth place, Daisy Edwards (Fourth Form, Cheshire) in Second place and huge congratulations to Bunny Hales who Won the class.

Ruby Wetherall (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) competed in the NSEA Showjumping Qualifiers at Bicton Arena, Devon on Sunday 1 October. Ruby came Third in the 1m class and First in the 1m10cm class, qualifying for both classes at the NSEA Championships taking place during the Half Term break. We would like to wish Ruby the very best of luck!

Cecily Holland (Upper Sixth, Nugent) competed in the Hertfordshire Hunt Pony Club Triathlon event on Sunday 1 October. Cecily completed a 1,500m run, pistol shooting at 10m and then a 1m show-jumping round. Congratulations to Cecily who came a very respectable Second place in the Intermediate class.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



Hockey

Ari Hay (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Anna-Maria Collinge (Lower Sixth, Nugent) have both been representing Buckingham Hockey Club Women's 1st XI in recent weeks. Anna-Maria made her debut on Sunday 23 September, helping the team to a 1-0 win on the opening league weekend. Ari joined Anna in the team on Sunday 30 September and both played exceptionally well in a 4-1 win. This is the first time we've had two current Stoics representing the BHC 1st XI in the same team. Well done girls!

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Badminton

Having beaten Cheltenham 6-3 in their first match of the season the boys' 1st team have gone from strength to strength in the block fixtures beating St Edward's 15-1 on Thursday 21 September, Wellingborough 15-1 on Saturday 23 September and Rugby 8-1 on Saturday 7 October.

The boys' 2nd team are also unbeaten this season and followed up their 5-4 win against Cheltenham with a 6-3 victory over Rugby.

The girls' 1st team continues to make good progress despite defeats against St Edward's (5-11) and Rugby (3-6). In their second match of the season, the girls' 2nd team lost 0-9 to Rugby.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton



Rugby

On Tuesday 26 September the 1st XV held their nerve and survived a fightback from Uppingham with a 22-17 victory. Tries came from Ifesi Ejim (Lower Sixth, Grenville), James Bristow (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Tom Mayo (Upper Sixth, Croft) with Captain Louis Haley (Upper Sixth, Bruce) converting two tries and a penalty.

Also on the North Front were our Junior Colts playing Rugby School, who got to the final of last year's National competition. Will Catley (Fourth Form, Chatham) followed up his charge down to score a dramatic last-minute winning try to seal a 22-17 victory which saw the Stoics rejoice on the pitch and sidelines as the team remain unbeaten this season.

Grant Seeley, Director of Rugby

Stowe House Preservation Trust

Marine Venus

A beautiful new addition to Stowe is the Marine Venus, now taking her pride of place in the niche in the Music Room. She is a copy of the original, which stood here until 1848, and is the result of a generous donation from an Old Stoic.

The original Roman statue was brought back from the Baths of Caracalla in Rome by the 1st Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, while on his Grand Tour in 1827. He had it restored (it is still possible to see these repairs on the original) - and probably had the top of the niche painted with a shell (Venus's symbol) especially to frame her.

When Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited for three days in January 1845, the Queen noticed the piece. When the 2nd Duke was forced to put the contents of the Stowe Estate up for sale in 1848, the Queen remembered the Music Room Venus, and had her German steward bid for it. He managed to buy it for 156 guineas, and it went to Osborne House, the Royal seaside residence on the Isle of Wight. There, Victoria and Albert designed a niche to display her. When the Queen died in 1901, it was moved to Windsor Castle and then to Hampton Court in the 1960s. She was returned to Osborne House in 1981, where she has been ever since.

An Old Stoic kindly donated the money to have it copied. Cliveden Conservation 3D scanned the original statue, which was then 3D printed. This created a mould to have the copy made in resin and finished to make her look like marble. Her repairs haven't been copied across as it was a copy that was made, not a replica.

Anna McEvoy, SHPT Custodian



Inter-House Literary Challenge

The start of this year's Inter-House Literary Challenge took place on Wednesday 4 October in the Music Room.

It was the turn of the Lower Sixth, with two pupils to a team, to represent their House. There were six rounds, including a picture round, testing our pupils' knowledge of literature. It was hotly contested and filled with good humour. The Winners of the Lower Sixth Literary Challenge were Bruce, with Cobham taking Second, and Winton coming in Third place.

The next challenge will take on Thursday 2 November with Upper Sixth pupils taking part. The scores will then be added together to see which House will win this year's Upper School Inter-House Literary Challenge.

Thank you to Mrs Ackroyd, Mr Cook and Mrs Keiller for your help at the event.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Head Librarian



Rowing

Rob Roy
Small Boats Head



On Saturday 7 October, the Stowe Rowing Team travelled to Cambridge for the Rob Roy Small Boats Head. Earlier in the term, we raced at Oxford, with our rowers with just a year's experience. This time we also brought rowers who have never raced before - Erin Perez Quane (Lower Sixth, Nugent), India Gordon (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Alice Watson (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Siri Zamir (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Aizere Brekesh (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Oscar Li (Fourth Form, Chatham), Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Omar Curtis-Bennett (Fourth Form, Chatham).

We were kindly given permission by Jesus College Boat Club, to launch from their Club. The Colleges were holding their 'Freshers' Fairs', so boat house row was alive with hundreds of people signing-up and trying rowing for the first time. As lovely as this was, it did present a bit of a challenge for our rowers, threading their way through the log jam of beginners' eights, as they made their way to the racing course. Our rowers have never seen so many people who do not row half as well as they do!

We saw some confident rowing from the Nugent novice girls, ably assisted by Tallulah Havard (Fourth Form, Stanhope). Our Fourth Form boys' quad of Ned Curry (Croft), Oscar Beumer (Chatham), Max Frohnsdorff (Temple), Hecco

Harrison (Temple) and Ben Cousins (Bruce) were dependable as ever. Good first races in singles came from Oliver Bicknell (Upper Sixth, Croft) and Ari Lewis (Fifth Form, Walpole). Bella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) improved in her single, Coco Bartoszewski (Fifth Form, Nugent) was triumphant over a girl from Leys School, and Lorraine Yan (Fourth Form, Stanhope) defeated a girl from Rob Roy. Ben Cousins and Hecco Harrison went again, with Ben winning the J15 singles event.

Special mentions for Ari Lewis, Siri Zamir, Aizere Brekesh and Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu who were helpful all day long, and to Oliver Bicknell and Max Poliza (Upper Sixth, Grenville), who helped the novices. Star of the show was Stanhope's Daisy Bilderbeck, who joined the team at Cambridge - Stowe's first Third Form rower of the 'Class of '24'.

Many thanks to the parents who supported the team and to Mark and Amina Lewis for their super photos, and to Mr Donaghy for his enthusiasm and effort. We wish him good luck for Great Britain trials next month. Our next event is Henley Long Distance Sculls on Saturday 11 November. There was too much rain last year, but let's hope it goes ahead this year.

Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach



LACROSSE

Empowering Young Lacrosse Umpires

On Monday 9 October, Annabel Campbell, Head Umpire for South West England, conducted a Level 1 umpiring course for four pupils on Change Maker Day, equipping them to officiate matches across England at school, club and university level.

Under Annabel's guidance, these girls acquired essential umpiring skills, including decision-making and leadership, as well as a greater depth of understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.

Annabel Campbell's mentorship demonstrates the value of nurturing talent and empowering future leaders. We acknowledge her efforts and commend the girls on their achievement. As they embark on their umpiring journey, we anticipate their ongoing success in sports officiating. Well done Maddie Baker (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Emilia Brett (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Freya Embley (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Jessie Frost (Upper Sixth, Nugent).

Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse



A Centenary Gathering

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In response to her passing last September, Old Stoic Day 2022 was cancelled, so this year it was wonderful to have the Old Stoic Community gathered at Stowe for their annual day. Of course, this year we are marking Stowe's Centenary Year, and for many people, it was the first time they had returned since leaving School. We were delighted they brought the warm, sunny weather with them.

Guests arrived promptly at 10.30am on Saturday 23 September and after refreshments, they walked to Chapel, where Revd James Righetti took the Service. With readings by our President, The Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie (Stanhope 86) and our Chair, Luke Chauveau (Cobham 87), and enthusiastic singing of the School hymn by the congregation, spirits were high. After Chapel, the gift of a walnut tree from the Old Stoic Society was planted in Chapel Court.

Following the tree planting, a group of Stoics proudly led the Boarding House tours, with Old Stoics recounting tales from across the decades. Thanks to all the Stoics and Prefects who supported the day and made the alumni feel so welcome.

Pre-lunch drinks were accompanied by two special presentations on behalf of the Society and Committees. John Fingleton (Chatham 66) presented the Head with a 1923 bottle of wine, and the Northamptonshire Cricketer, Graeme White (Bruce 05), unveiled a donated bench from Lord's Cricket Ground (which will sit outside the Stowe Cricket Pavilion). Lunch brought back many memories as Old Stoics and their families queued with their trays through the Servery and sat down to eat with friends and old classmates in the State Dining Room, Temple Room and Music Room. The only difference from their time at Stowe being the wine served with lunch!

Other activities during the day included an OS Art Exhibition in the Watson Gallery, organised by Caroline de Peyrecave (Nugent 04), an appearance of Old Stoic Racehorse, Ol' River Shine, with trainer Alex Hales (Chandos 92), a Centenary Golf Tournament, and a Stowe Inter-House Rugby Tournament. A big thank you to everyone across the School who supported this event. The Old Stoic Society put on a fantastic day, which was full of memories and friendships, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Bev Kelly, Interim OSS Director



Remembrance Events 2023

A very special Centenary year for Stowe will draw to a conclusion during Remembrance weekend in November, when we reflect on the ultimate sacrifice that 270 Old Stoics made during times of conflict. Old Stoics are very warmly invited to join Stoics, Staff and Friends of the School for two significant events: a Festival of Remembrance and our Annual Service of Remembrance. Seats at both events are limited, so we invite you to book your free tickets as soon as possible via the links below.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday 11 November, 6.30pm - 8.30pm | The Music School, Stowe

A Festival of Remembrance will be held in the auditorium of the Music School: combining musical performances from the School's most talented Music Scholars, readings and reflections from the Head, Admiral Sir James Burnell Nugent, Senior members of the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), and relatives of the fallen.

This will be a moving and fitting tribute to those within the Stowe community to whom we owe so much.

We do hope you can join us for this special evening. To book your place please click [here](#).

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 12 November, 10.30am | The Chapel, Stowe

On Sunday 12 November at 10.30am we will hold our Annual Service of Remembrance.

This is the most important Chapel service of the School year, and our distinguished guest speaker is Major General Tim Cross CBE.

We will be joined by relatives of those who fought and died in the Second World War and for whom this Service has special poignancy.

Please note that spaces are limited and we may have to cap numbers as the Service approaches.

To book your place please click [here](#).





What happens at CCF on a Monday

Having now been in the role of CCF Contingent Commander for a month I can reflect on my first few weeks. On almost a daily basis, I get asked "What do you actually do in CCF?". So, I thought I would use this opportunity to showcase the past few Monday CCF training afternoons and the variety of activities the Contingent gets up to.

During a CCF training afternoon each of the three sections; Navy, Army and RAF rotate through a variety of activities aimed at Cadets completing the Cadet Syllabus and gaining qualifications. So far during the Michaelmas Term, activities have included navigation, the flight simulator, field gun, laser tag rifles, air rifles, first aid, drill and preparation for deployment on the October Field Exercise.

Field Gun

The Navy Sections field gun is an excellent way of developing not only leadership and teamwork, but mental and physical resilience. Lead by the Senior Navy section Cadets the team must assemble and disassemble the field gun as quickly as possible. Cadets each have specific roles they are required to become experts in, persevering with the heavy and cumbersome parts.

Army Field Exercise

In preparation for their overnight stay away in field shelters on Sunday 8 to Monday 9 October, members of the Army Section Anderson Company were practicing their section attacks in the stunning Stowe grounds.

First Aid Training

Several members of the CCF Adult Staff are trained First Aid instructors. Cadets are taught basic life support and first aid skills, which are tested in realistic first aid scenarios.

Command Tasks and Team Building

Being a member of the CCF develops many skills in Cadets, including teamwork and problem solving. Command tasks give Cadets the opportunity to plan, solve and lead a complex problem. Often this is the first opportunity they have at leading; it is great to see their confidence improving.

Flight Simulator

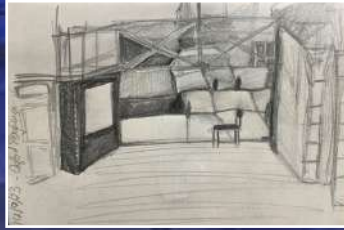
The Contingent is lucky to have a flight simulator including a VR headset. Members of the RAF section practice their flying skills, observing and coaching each other. Options included flying an F35 to joining in with famous Top Gun scenes.

The above is just a small selection of the exciting and challenging activities we get involved in with CCF. Many thanks to all the Staff who put so much time and energy into making the CCF so enjoyable to all the Cadets.

Major Kirsty Gerrard, Stowe CCF Contingent Commander

DRAMA

Blood Brothers



Music and Drama Theatre Trip to Oxford

We took a bus ride amidst a bleak sky that led us into the heart of the lively, bustling Oxford City Centre. The theatre, Oxford Playhouse, was crammed with various pupils from other schools as well as members of the public. The theatre itself was strikingly decorated with multicoloured, comfortable seats, conjuring a very playful, almost child-like ambiance, which reflects the name of the theatre, Oxford Playhouse.

Blood Brothers tells a compelling story of twins, Mickey and Edward, separated at birth, who experience completely different lives; one is brought up in a wealthy neighbourhood, and one in a poorer environment.

I personally did not know what to expect from the play, having never seen it or researched it, so this is a truly first-hand account. We were immediately greeted with joyful singing, introducing the characters in the story. At the beginning, to emit the dance-like atmosphere, lots of stage effects were used in different scenes to allude to specific emotions. Blazingly colourful lights with a disco

ball swirled around colours of purple and pink, alongside a change of music to further dictate this change in scene - notably a guitar playing.

The set was creatively made, and I appreciated the hand-painted backdrop of the Liverpool streets and houses, balcony bridge connecting between the houses, and lots of contrast between the stage props.

During the interval, there was also a new set change (with some modified scenery and houses) to replicate the new location that the story moved to. There, we were greeted with some light, airy, bright countryside scenery in juxtaposition to the cramped, dark streets of Liverpool. Throughout the entire play, a range of styles and all stages of life passed by in under three hours, leading us through a rollercoaster of emotions right up until the tragic ending.

Everyone tremendously enjoyed the play, and we all thank the Music and Drama Departments for organising this trip.

Gaia Mesonero-Perez, (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



DRAMA GROUPS

On Tuesday 26 September, the two Upper Sixth A Level Drama groups presented their Component 2 Devised performances. Both developed from novels and shaped using the methodology and performing techniques of Frantic Assembly, two very contrasting worlds were created.

From 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' by Richard Bach, came the question: "Should we separate art from the artist?"

Told via young American journalist and writer, Samantha, played by Camille Thornton-Izzard (Cheshire), we met Owen Gunn (Chandos) with a mature but patronising portrayal of Bach, his long-suffering wife, played sympathetically by Ilaria Beni (Cheshire), and were brought into the world of the Bach family by daughter Erica, whose determination to reveal the broken family behind the idealistic spirituality of the novel showed us the reality through heart-felt monologues and searing, overlapping dialogue. This group created beautiful imagery of a girl trapped inside the snowglobe of a less than loving family unit, transformed the dining table and chairs into the biplane, where Bach found solace and silence in the sky, and ultimately, literally, brought the Seagull to life through the pages of the book.

Dostoevsky's 'Crime and Punishment' was the challenging and thought-provoking starting point for the second performance. This tome of moralistic enquiry was transferred into the here and now, swapping St Petersburg for the run-down neighbourhood of the British city, peopled by folk of the subclass. Here we saw Annie Flint's (Queen's) portrayal of Ronnie, genius student, would-be lawyer, who refutes the materialistic workplace, but desires a heroic solution to the poverty around her, which includes her destitute sister, Donna, played with believable desperation by Gracie Lavery (Nugent). Donna has resorted to borrowing from local money-shark, Aly, a character brought to life by Holly Ford-Langstaff (Cheshire), with fevered fervent passion. Aly also controls Sonya, a 17 year old refugee, whose only way of sending money back home is via prostitution. Amina Aldabergenova (Lyttelton) showed us that Sonya was sensitive and intelligent, holding onto her dignity, whilst being demeaned by Aly's twisted religious attitude. The obvious crime was murder. The ongoing crime is the social destitution so many must face.

Our thanks to the supportive audience members, our Theatre Manager and Technical Team.

Laura Parker, Acting Head of Drama

SWIMMING

Swimming Tri-Cup

Stowe travelled to Marlborough College for the annual swimming Tri-Cup, a fixture between Stowe, Marlborough College and Bradfield. A clash with hockey meant that our girls' team were missing a few swimmers so Aroa Ane Herran Berraondo (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Emily Hampson (Third Form, Cheshire) offered to swim to make two groups of four girls in the U18 and U16 categories. A win by Isobel Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) in the U18 girls butterfly gave Stowe a great start to the gala. Consistency was key for Stowe with multiple Second and Third place finishes. Isabella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) won her backstroke race for the U16 girls which gave Stowe momentum going into the breaststroke, in which Stowe won three of the four races with Samuel Gray (Lower Sixth, Winton), Charlotte Hall (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and Johnson Sun (Fourth Form, Bruce) all winning. Freestyle races were won by Samuel Gray and Phoebe Haynes (Upper Sixth, Cheshire). In the individual medley races where all four strokes are included one after the other, Johnson Sun won his race but swim of the day was Katie Harvey (Fourth Form, Stanhope) finishing Second, with Aroa Ane Herran Berraondo coming in Third. Fantastic individual swims by all. Swimmer of the day was Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire), swimming in the U18 category.

Onto the relays where Stowe were told that they were ahead so leading into the double points relays, the pressure was on.

Second in the U18 boys' medley relay was a solid start but the U18 girls and U16 boys both won to ease the pressure. The U18 girls won their freestyle relay but disaster struck when the U16 boys, who won their race, were disqualified for leaving their lane before the race had finished. The U16 girls however finished the gala with a brilliant swim. The team were lead fantastically by Phoebe Haynes and Sasha Bodnaruk (Upper Sixth, Temple) with great help from Charles Smith (Upper Sixth, Grenville). Julian Smith (Lower Sixth, Grenville), William Harrison (Fourth Form, Chandos), Joshua Hall (Third Form, Winton), Finley Newman (Third Form, Croft), Sebastian Hughes (Fifth Form, Croft) and Sultan Saigol (Fourth Form, Grafton) all contributed massively to the team.

Onto the results. Marlborough won the boys' side with 128, ahead of Stowe was 117 (it would have been 131 if we had not been disqualified), with Bradfield on 95 points. The girls won their side with 123 points, ahead of Bradfield (118) and Marlborough (105). This meant overall Bradfield totalled 213, Marlborough were Second with 233 and Stowe were victorious, with a combined score of 240. A wonderful swim by all and a fantastic result for the swim team.

Andrew Pynegar, Head of Swimming



Rugby

Prep School Rugby Festival

13 schools came to Stowe on Wednesday 27 September to take part in the U11 and U10 Festival. It was a fantastic occasion, with over 250 Prep School pupils all enjoying an afternoon of rugby on the North Front.

Aysgarth School from North Yorkshire attended for the first time and the Stowe 1st XV rugby pupils did an excellent job refereeing the matches.

Grant Seeley, Director of Rugby



Netball

Over the weekend of Friday 6 - Sunday 8 October, Izzy Kaye (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) represented England U21 at the Europe Netball Championships in Sheffield. The competition was highly contested between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The four countries went head to head over the weekend in pursuit of the Europe Netball crown.

England's pursuit started on Friday 6 October, with their first match against Northern Ireland. With a strong performance from the Roses, the game finished 75-35. On Saturday, England took on Wales, with Izzy starting at WD. The match was incredibly fast paced from both teams, and saw England pull ahead 40-57. Strength and tenacity were shown from England to tussle for the ball and help bring the score line up to 60. The final score was 44-63 to England. Izzy was awarded Player of the Match for this game. Izzy executed some impressive one-handed catches throughout the game and was instrumental in England's win against Wales.

On the final day of the competition England faced Scotland, with Izzy starting the match in centre position, the score 30-22 to England at the end of the first half. The opening five minutes of the third quarter continued at a frenetic pace with intense defensive pressure from both sides, forcing turnovers on the attack. England extended their lead to 10 with just over five minutes to play. England stayed ahead 39-33 going into the final 15 minutes. Pushing to the end, the England Roses extended their lead as they played with confidence and flow in the attack. England's U21s secured the win 54-43 and were crowned Europe Netball U21 Winners.

Jess Bell, Netball Coach





STREET CHILD COMMITTEE

The Street Child Committee began in January 2023 and has grown in members since. The first aim for the Committee was to find a focus, which was girl's education in Sierra Leone. The Committee came together, while communicating with members of the Street Child charity to find ways of fundraising for girls in Sierra Leone.

On Wednesday 8 March 2023, members of the Street Child Committee, alongside the Head, were invited to the International Women's Day event in London. The event was very inspiring, as we had talks from guest speakers including Mr Michael Whitehall and Mrs Hilary Whitehall, as well as a live auction.

Our main event to raise money was a raffle on Speech Day. The raffle was successful, with all the money donated going straight to help children in Sierra Leone. However, the committee were keen to round up our total, and did this by holding a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale. Due to popular demand, the doughnuts sold out instantly!

Since starting the Michaelmas Term, the Street Child Committee have met weekly, on a Monday, and have been discussing our next projects. Recently, the Committee had a meeting with Anna Lloyd (who works for the Street Child Charity), and we spoke to



her about how our Committee can help. At that time, the top priorities were to raise money for the Moroccan earthquake appeals and the Libyan flood appeal. The Committee had to act quickly and we held a Home Clothes Day, one week after the meeting. The Home Clothes Day raised £2,000 to be sent directly to the appeals.

Our long term focus is to build a school in Liberia. A school provides friendships, education, and the opportunity to show creativity and skills within learning. Children can also have a break from life at home and have something to look forward to. To build a school in Liberia it costs £20,000. The Street Child Committee are in the middle of planning a Street Child Charity Ball for Sixth Form pupils, to help fundraise for the school.

Alessia Capella
(Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



Law Society

Deliberations at the Dock: Stowe Law Society Explores Sentencing Protocols

On Thursday 5 October, the Stowe Law Society embarked on its first discussion of the academic year, open to all with a keen interest in law. The promising turnout signifies an engaging year ahead. The week's discussion centred around a presentation on the heinous crimes of Lucy Letby, a serial killer known for the murder of seven infants and numerous assaults during her tenure as a neonatal nurse. This presentation segued into a riveting discussion among society members on the question: 'Should defendants be legally required to be present in the dock when being sentenced?'

This question is particularly pertinent given recent legal developments in the UK. According to the Ministry of Justice, judges now possess the authority to mandate an offender's attendance at a sentencing hearing. Should a criminal defy this order, they risk an additional two years of incarceration. This new stipulation is applicable in cases where the maximum sentence is life imprisonment, covering grave crimes such as murder, rape, and grievous bodily harm with intent. These new measures were unveiled by the government, aiming to ensure criminals face a longer jail term if they evade their sentencing hearing. Effective since 30 August 2023, judges are empowered to order offenders to attend sentencing hearings, with the provision that those who refuse can be compelled into the dock by prison staff or else receive an extra two years in prison.

Lucy Letby's case exemplifies the catalyst for such legal reform. Bereaved families and former Justice Secretary Robert Buckland advocated for the enforcement of defendants' presence during sentencing, particularly in light of Letby's inclination to evade her sentencing hearing. Buckland suggested playing the sentencing in Letby's cell, ensuring she hears the victim statements from the families she devastated.

Killer nurse Lucy Letby gets 14 whole-life sentences.

The meeting also marked a milestone as it was the first to utilise the newly refurbished Common Room at Croft House, which will host future discussions, debates, and presentations.

Henry Clare, Law Society Chair (Upper Sixth, Winton)





Different Seasons

Productions from the creative wellspring of Dr Webber have become a regular and much anticipated part of the arts events calendar in recent years. Webber's latest production, 'Different Seasons' performed in the Uglund on Wednesday 4 October, did not disappoint.

In this latest production, Dr Webber combines some of the English language's most beautiful and evocative poetry with recorded music and sounds, all masterfully engineered by Ben Weston (Head of Music Technology). In a development from previous productions, this live event interweaves the gorgeous recordings with live musical performances from Stowe pupils and Staff.

The evening was divided into four parts, each representing a season. Two particular favourites of mine were featured; 'Blackberry Picking' by Seamus Heaney, read beautifully in the lyrical lilting Irish tones of Heather Parker, and 'Aldelstop', performed by Dr Webber himself.

Stand out musical moments were: 'Different Seasons' (Dr Webber and the Hyacinth Girls), 'October' (Tchaikovsky) performed by Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), 'California Dreaming' by Alicia Wilson (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Pachelbel's 'Canon' performed in string quartet by Eva-Grace Mg (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Gaia Mesonero-Perez and Olivia Ng (Fourth Form, Lyttelton).

It was a beautiful, evocative and celebratory evening of poetry and music, and I look forward to the next production, set to be on the theme of London.

Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media Studies



Summer Adventures

*The children step out into the soaring sun
Overjoyed that Summer has begun
No more clouds, no more rain
It is too much excitement to contain.*

*The sun is blazing in the silent sky,
Whilst children watch the clouds drift by
Speckles of sunlight kiss the ground,
While children dance and play around.*

*The scent of wildflowers fills the air,
As the children weave through the forest without a care,
Collecting treasures in their tiny hands,
The forest's gifts, like grains of golden sand.*

*And on sandy shores, where waves collide,
Footprints fade, as the tides decide,
Children's laughter fills the salty air,
Building castles without a care.*

*But leaves of green are starting to lose their sheen,
As Autumn paints its vibrant scene,
The sunflowers bow their heads low,
While memories of Summer softly glow.*

*Ice cream cones and sandy toes,
Are replaced by textbooks in neat rows,
The laughter of children, now replaced by the bell,
As they bid farewell to freedom's spell.*

*So school bells ring, and they say their goodbyes
To the long days of freedom underneath the sapphire skies
The children embrace the new chapter, with hope in their hearts
For Summer may end, but the enjoyment never departs.*

Libby Doughty (Third Form, Cheshire)

Autumn Falling

*As the crisp auburn leaves drop to the ground,
The knowledge they hold of Summer, whilst falling, is profound.
Rustling and whispering amongst the fallen leaves,
Whispers of the Summer solstice then fall silent to grieve.*

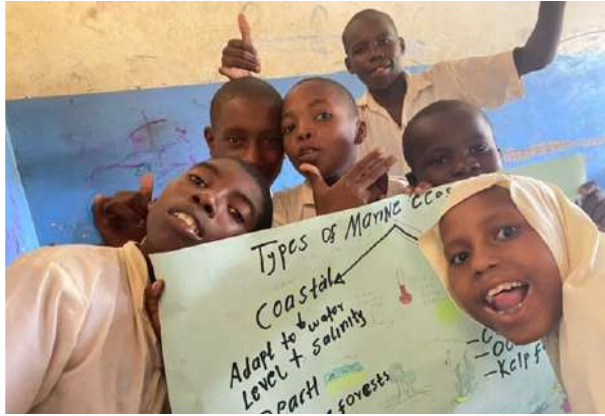
*As a red-breasted robin sings its Autumn's calling,
A caterpillar, preparing to chrysalise, goes crawling
Along the cedar.*

*Letting go of Summer memories,
Green turns to brown, just like any other Autumn for past centuries.*

*But still the trunk stands tall and proud,
A pillar of everlasting beauty - high above the ground.*

**Tallulah Havard (Fourth Form, Stanhope)
& Sophie Rojas (Fourth Form, Cheshire)**

LSAS Poetry



Myles Henry Award Trip

Recently, we were awarded the Myles Henry Award, (which is open to all Lower Sixth Formers), to travel to Zanzibar and complete two weeks of volunteering. We set off in late August and after arriving in Zanzibar we took a taxi to our home for the next two weeks.

We had decided earlier in the year during our planning process, to apply for a conservation-related volunteering project. In the end we settled on coastal conservation in Zanzibar, which we could not recommend more. Zanzibar has a rich cultural heritage which consists of many historical sites, ceremonies, fishing practices and is best known as the 'spice island'. It was important to us that we were going somewhere with some history so that we could enjoy it on the weekends, and we were able to research it before arriving.

Whilst we were there, we took part in a variety of activities on land to sea. Some of our favourites had to be reef monitoring with marine biologists. Here we helped to record data for the coral reefs so the biologists knew what species were doing well and which species may have to be monitored a bit more closely. We also enjoyed visiting the local primary schools and teaching the children about coastal conservation and why it is so important, as well as helping with some of their English pronunciations and translations.

Another highlight was the beach patrol, despite the early mornings, starting at 5am, we were able to watch the sunrise as we scanned the beaches for turtle tracks by boat.

Finally, we finished our days teaching some of the local women how to swim. Despite living on an island many of the women and some men are never taught how to swim and so being able to help them with this life skill was extremely rewarding. We also very much enjoyed learning how to cook local dishes by some of the women in the village and we tried our best at learning some Swahili.

We have both agreed that having this opportunity was one of the best things either of us have ever done at School. By taking advantage of this award, we were able to go on an unforgettable trip and immerse ourselves in a completely new culture. We managed to give back to the community which was our main aim when we decided to go to Zanzibar. We would both highly recommend this trip to anyone in the Lower Sixth and are very thankful to the Myles Henry Award team who awarded us with this unbelievable opportunity.

Jemima Dare (Upper Sixth, Queen's) & Martha Robertson (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

If you would like to apply to the Myles Henry Award, please contact **Ms Guntner**

Gap Year

Last year, I was lucky enough to be awarded a Gap Year Scholarship to help fund my nine months of volunteering and travel. I also worked at a local café over the Summer and Christmas periods and received help from my family who, very kindly, agreed to match my income.

I had originally planned to volunteer in Nepal on a 10 week programme with Raleigh International. Nepal had been hit by a major earthquake in 2015 and Raleigh aimed to re-build permanent structures such as houses, community centres, toilets and washing stations, as well as provide education on sanitation and hygiene to help prevent the spread of disease. Unfortunately, because of Covid-related financial problems, Raleigh went bankrupt a few months before I was due to travel.

After a re-think, I decided to volunteer with Naankuse Wildlife Sanctuary in Namibia. This entailed eight weeks of volunteering across four Naankuse owned sites, including two nature reserves and a desert research centre. My day-to-day work included animal feeding, enclosure cleaning, maintenance work, animal research and monitoring; as well as working with the anti-poaching units on patrols and training their dogs. Some of my highlights from this experience were getting up close on foot to lions, cheetahs and elephants, working with the anti-poaching units, and having the opportunity to visit some of Namibia's National Parks.

Alongside my volunteering with Naankuse, I spent just over five months solo backpacking around Europe and South-East Asia. Firstly, I travelled east through Europe from Portugal to Croatia before embarking on a 16-week trip through South-East Asia.

In total, I travelled through 12 countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, immersing myself in the culture, traditions and nature of them all. I really enjoyed getting to see so many different sides of each; I learnt about how national identity had been shaped in Vietnam and Cambodia after the Vietnam war and about the Khmer Rouge. I was able to take part in some major national festivals including the Lunar New Year in Vietnam and Songkran (New Year) in Thailand. Traditionally Songkran involved Thai people gently pouring bowls of water over one another to wash off the misfortunes of the past year. More recently, it has become the world's biggest water fight where locals and tourists (me included!) arm themselves with buckets, water guns and hoses to welcome in the New Year. In addition to experiencing the local history, culture and traditions, I was privileged to see a wide variety of natural landscapes with some breathtaking views. I visited plenty of waterfalls, jungles and volcanoes and managed to achieve both my Open Water and Advanced Scuba Diving licenses, offering me the opportunity to visit some amazing diving sites.

Although I travelled solo, I was very rarely completely alone and made friends with people from all over the world. There is a well-trodden route through South-East Asia so I often came across people I had met before (including some Old Stoics!).

If you would like to apply for Gap Scholarship Award, please contact **Ms Guntner**.

Alex Dens (Grenville 22)



Handel's Messiah in the Stowe School Chapel

Saturday 18 November 2023 at 7:00pm

Please join us for a performance of Handel's Messiah featuring The Stowe Chapel Orchestra and soloists, and the combined forces of The Stowe Chapel Choir and The Stowe Group Choral Society. Held in Stowe School's beautiful Chapel, and conducted by Jonathan Kingston, Messiah continues to be one of the most performed and enduring choral masterpieces. This performance will be supporting the Change 100 campaign - Stowe's bold vision of raising an endowment fund of £100 million, dedicated to providing access to a Stowe education and financial assistance to children from less-advantaged backgrounds.

Tickets are £5 and you can book [here](#).



Change 100 Visit to EYLA

On Sunday 8 October, a group of five Change 100 Ambassadors accompanied the Change 100 team and the Head on a visit to Eastside Young Leaders' Academy (EYLA), one of our key Change 100 partners. EYLA's aim is to create leaders of character and purpose for tomorrow's world, drawn from those most in need in grassroots communities. Central to our Change 100 scheme is a belief we share with EYLA: that education is a launchpad and a gateway to belonging to an influential peer group who will individually and collectively exert positive influence in society.

The event, held at their Academy in London, was designed to offer some insight to EYLA parents and children interested in the Boarding experience. We were treated to a delicious lunch during which we were able to chat to many members of the Academy, and our Change 100 Ambassadors mingled extensively with the children, sharing their thoughts on Stowe.

The Head spoke passionately about the benefits of an education that extends beyond the Curriculum. Our Ambassadors, who were called upon with no prior notice, did themselves and Stowe proud by speaking with confidence; eloquently and affectionately of their Stowe experiences.

Reflecting on the day, Romayo said, "It opened my eyes to seeing what an amazing opportunity Stowe is offering to those who are not as fortunate and enabling them to use their talents to turn it into their superpower".

Catherine Trotman, Change 100



West House Award

We were delighted to hear that West House was Highly Commended at the Buckinghamshire Design Awards on Monday 2 October.

In 2014 three detached neo-Georgian villas in Home Park, originally built in 1935 for Housemasters who left the day-to-day running of their Houses to the Senior boys, were converted into Houses for Sixth Form pupils (originally mixed, but now Sixth Form girls). The House was called West to signify its geographical positioning as well as honouring Sir Gilbert West, a member of the Temple Grenville family who was also a classicist, poet and politician.

To meet the growing demand for Sixth Form places, West 5 was designed in 2018 by Rick Mather Associates (now called MICA) to provide en-suite study bedrooms for 24 pupils. The building showcases the most radical architecture since Lyttelton was designed by Lyster and Grillet in 1967.

West is characterised by a series of asymmetrically arranged cubist elements, a jazz like modernist riff on the geometry of the original neo-Georgian villas, playfully disrupted by the addition of a cylindrical brick tower. MICA show their customary sensitivity to the contextual surroundings of Home Park as a gateway to the Western Garden and further synergies and assonance are achieved in the careful selection of the honey-coloured bricks to match the original materials of the neo-Georgian houses. With its comfortable living spaces, common rooms, gardens and terraces, it is not surprising that West is one of the most over-subscribed houses at Stowe.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



THE *Stowe* GROUP

You are invited to

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2023
6:30PM-8:00PM

FIREWORKS NIGHT

6:30PM - ARRIVAL AND FOOD VANS
7:00PM - STOWE BRASS BAND
7:30PM - FIREWORKS

STOWE SCHOOL | STOWE | BUCKINGHAM | MK18 5EH



BTCC Silverstone Trip

On Sunday 24 September, the Motorsport Club took a trip to Silverstone circuit to watch the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

The day started off watching the first touring car race of the day, which was thrilling, with Jake Hill taking the win for BMW racing. This was followed by the first Porsche sprint race, where the cars entered the track from right next to the stand we were in, which gave us a great first look at all the cars about to race.

After the race finished, we went to watch the podium which was a fantastic experience for us all as the drivers were within an arm's length of us the entire time. We all laughed as the champagne celebration failed when the drivers were unable to open the bottle!

We then started to walk to the pit lane, however we were too late to enter, as it was filled so quickly. We waited at the other side of the garages and managed to meet drivers and get pictures and autographs as they came through. In total we got six autographs from drivers and some great photographs; we even got reigning Champion Tom Ingram's autograph and a picture with him.

We watched the second BTCC race with Ashley Sutton taking the win for NAPA racing. This race was filled with action, crashes, safety cars and many cars spinning off the track right in front of us.

The final race was the 2nd Porsche Carrera Cup Sprint Race. Unfortunately due to delays it meant that we couldn't watch the full race. Before we left, we took a quick pit stop to the Silverstone store as we walked back to the minibus, and whilst none of us bought anything, it was a fun little stop. Overall, we had a great day out and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Lower Sixth, West)



The Language of Bells

Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 7:30pm
Roxburgh Hall Theatre

We are delighted to announce a forthcoming concert by internationally acclaimed percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie, taking place in the Roxburgh Theatre on Wednesday 1 November at 7:30pm. Dame Evelyn will be performing *The Language Of Bells*, a new piece by composer Jill Jarman, featuring the Chelys Consort of Viols with vocal soloists Emily Atkinson, David Gould, Steven Harrold and Robert Rice. We highly recommend you take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience what will be an outstanding musical event.

The ringing of bells has meant many things to people for centuries: the call to worship, a marking of time, an alarm for danger, the joy of marriage, the sorrow of death. *The Language of Bells* mixes the sounds of old and new, life and death, celebration and mourning, and examines the call of bells pealing across the centuries of human experience.

Please use this [link](#) to make your advance booking.

The concert will be 70 minutes with no interval, and there will be a pay bar available prior to the start of the concert.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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