

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



FILM & MEDIA STUDIES

ONE LIFE

A moving experience for Stoics

Old Stoic, the late Sir Nicholas Winton (Grenville 26) played a key role in saving the lives of 669 Czechoslovakian refugee children at the beginning of the Second World War. However, he did remain haunted throughout his long life by the fact that a further 250 children, who were due to escape on the day war broke out, did not make it.

In 'One Life', a new British film directed by James Hawes, Nicholas Winton is played by both Johnny Flynn and Sir Anthony Hopkins; both actors bring this humble but determined character to life with sensitivity.

The film begins in the mid-1980s when the elderly Winton (Hopkins) now retired from the Stock Exchange, is charged by his wife (Lena Olin) with clearing out his study, which overflows with files, photographs, paperwork and clutter amassed throughout his life.

In flashback we then meet a younger version of the character (played by Flynn) who visited Prague just after Hitler's invasion of the Sudetanlands, when the City was overrun with (mostly Jewish) refugees from that region. What he sees - the poverty, hardship and desperation, moves Winton and he is goaded into action. His response to this crisis, to save the children at whatever cost.

Returning to London and supported by his Mother (Helena Bonham Carter) Winton sets about the arduous task of getting visas and travel arrangements made and finding foster parents for the children. He needs the help of the press and the establishment - and with steely reserve

manages to get things sorted, against the odds.

Back in the 1980s, his achievements are finally recognised by the national media when the popular BBC television show 'That's Life' puts Winton in the spotlight by reuniting him with many of the (now adult) children who "owe their lives to Nicholas Winton," live on air. His moving response to this experience forms the basis of the last part of the film and is arguably its most powerful.

I took a small group of LSAS (Lower School Academic Scholars) pupils to see the film at the beginning of term so that they could present a brief overview of Winton's achievements at the forthcoming Holocaust Memorial evening (Tuesday 30 January). They all found the film to be a hugely moving experience.

Nicholas Winton is the type of Old Stoic who exemplifies the Stowe motto 'Stand first'. He was a man who was driven to do the right thing even if others thought he was out of his depth. He persevered and he made a difference.

Let's hope that his story, which 'One Life' chronicles so effectively, remains an example, not just to Stoics but to everyone who watches the film. We can and must all try and do the right thing when given the opportunity. We must always do our best for those less fortunate than ourselves and, even if we fail, the fact is - at least we tried. We must, in fact, stand first.

Dr Andrew Webber,
Teacher of Film & Media Studies





CCF

Stowe CCF welcomes Major Andrew Arnold as new Commander



Stowe Combined Cadet Force has a fresh face at the helm! Following the departure of Kirsty Gerrard (who left to take up an unexpected opportunity to teach chemistry at a school in the Seychelles), we are delighted that Major Andrew Arnold has been appointed Contingent Commander.

In his third year of teaching maths at Stowe, he relishes this new challenge with an infectious enthusiasm that promises to inspire our next generation of Cadets.

"The CCF offers a unique blend of discipline, challenge, and comradeship, and I'm thrilled to be leading this exceptional program". He speaks of his own Cadet experience with great pride, highlighting the skills and confidence it instilled in him. "It's an honour to pass on that legacy to the Stowe Cadets."

His journey to Stowe is anything but ordinary. From navigating the complexities of military engineering to deciphering the rhythm of the oil rigs, Major Arnold has tackled diverse challenges head-on. Yet, it is his dedication to education that truly resonates. Having found a home in the mathematics classroom, he relishes the opportunity to ignite the spark of discovery in young minds.

Outside the classroom and CCF activities, Major Arnold embraces life at Stowe with gusto. A Dad to two energetic young boys, his heart thrives in the vibrant community of Bruce House, where he serves as Assistant Houseparent. "Family is everything to me, and the sense of community at Stowe extends far beyond

the classroom walls."

His passion for his work shines through, be it explaining an intricate mathematical concept, planning a CCF field exercise, or cheering on pupils at a sports match. Major Arnold is a leader by example, a man of service and resilience, with a passion and earnest enthusiasm for learning and teaching.

As he takes on the reins of the CCF, I have the utmost confidence that our Stowe Cadets are in strong hands. Under Major Arnold's guidance, they will continue to navigate a myriad of Army, RN and RAF Section challenges and adventures, alongside life's challenges, equipped with the tools of leadership, perseverance, and resilience. The future of Stowe CCF shines bright, fuelled by Andrew's unwavering belief in the potential of every Cadet to rise to the occasion. Perhaps some will even be tempted to follow his unique path; from rig to regiments, from equations to engineering feats; proving that adventure and academic pursuit can find perfect harmony in the life of a Stowe pupil.

The term kicks off with a busy and action-packed rotation of section-relevant training for all Cadets, before the Fifth Form break off for their final advanced training before their exams, at the field-day on Friday 8 March, for which further details will be shared closer to the time.

Lieutenant Colonel Jan de Gale, Stowe CCF former Contingent Commander (2015-2023)

International Society

Stowe is home to over 150 international Stoics, who come from all over the globe. The International Society aims to support our international Stoics, through holding cultural events, and also helping pupils manage things such as homesickness.

This term a questionnaire was sent out to our international Stoics to find out more about their experience of the School, and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. The Stoics stated they really enjoyed the activities on offer and boarding with their friends. "Stowe has a great variety of different people from all over the world" said Sassy Hall (Fifth Form, Lyttelton). This was supported by Salem Badeeb (Fourth Form, Grenville), who said "nobody treats me differently based on where I am from".

It is really pleasing to hear that our international Stoics feel welcome at School and that they are respected whilst with us. We are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year with them in February.

Francesca Shah, Head of International Pupils



Spanish Upper School Gastronomical Extravaganza in Oxford

As the Michaelmas Term drew to a close, the Spanish Department organised an unforgettable gastronomical experience for the Upper and Lower School Hispanics on Thursday 14 December in the historic City of Oxford.

To enhance the experience, the Department invited our distinguished Harvard Fellows, Mr Bulwa and Ms Perea. Their fluency in Spanish added an extra layer of authenticity to the event, creating an atmosphere that transported everyone from the School grounds to a vibrant Spanish tapas bar.

The day began with a unique opportunity for the Stoics to explore the Oxford market. The anticipation for the gastronomic adventure grew as the pupils strolled through the market, discovering fresh produce and unique ingredients that would soon find their way onto plates in the form of Spanish style tapas.

The highlight of the day awaited at a Spanish restaurant, which we were lucky enough to have to ourselves as they opened especially for us that day. Our Stoics indulged in a festive spread of tapas. The menu was an array of tempting dishes, including calamares (squid), albondigas (meatballs), chorizo (Spanish

sausage), gambas al ajillo (garlic shrimp), and a sweet finale of churros.

Adding an educational twist to the gastronomic journey, Ms Peña, our dedicated Spanish teacher, organised a fun and fast paced Spanish Quiz. This wasn't just any quiz; it featured A Level content, challenging the pupils to apply their linguistic skills and cultural knowledge. The Stoics were paired up, creating an engaging dynamic between Lower and Upper School pupils. This collaborative approach fostered teamwork, competitiveness and encouraged mentorship within our Stoics. The Spanish quiz tested their language proficiency and served as a fun and interactive way to reinforce what they had learned throughout the term.

The end of the term outing was a success, leaving the Stoics with memories of a gastronomical feast and a deeper appreciation for the Spanish language and its rich cultural gastronomy. The event served as a reminder that language learning extends beyond the classroom and can be a source of joy and education.

Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish



STOWE HOUSE



Stowe Soane Table Returns

We are pleased to announce the return of an original piece of Stowe furniture, 155 years after it was sold from Stowe. The Soane table is part of a trio, consisting of a pair of side tables and an octagonal table, all of the same design in ebonised mahogany. This table is one of the side tables, with its twin currently on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The suite was designed by Sir John Soane for the Gothic Library (also designed by Soane) around 1805, but was sold in the Great Stowe Sale of 1848 to a Mr P. Box, for a total of £364 shillings (about £5,200 today), when the House and Estate lost most of its prized possessions.

It's thought that the suite stayed together until it was purchased in around the 1960s by Charles and Lavinia Handley-Read as they built up a large Victorian collection - the story goes that the tables were acquired 'off the pavement in Portobello Road, on a wet Saturday afternoon'. When they died in 1971, the whole collection was put up for sale in 1972 and the collection scattered; the other side table went to the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the octagonal table went to the Brighton and Hove Museum, (currently on loan to Stowe House). The other side table was purchased by Clive and Jane Wainwright to add to their collection. It's from the sale of this collection that this table comes home to Stowe.

The table will be displayed in the room it was originally designed for, the small but elegant Gothic Library. Although this is now the Head's Study, members of the public will be able to see it, and the octagonal table, on the 'Secrets of Stowe' tour. Upcoming dates: 22 & 24 February at 1pm. Book your tickets [here](#).

We are grateful to the Hall Bequest Trust for purchasing the table for display at Stowe House. Part of the Hall Bequest's remit is to purchase historic items that help us to further understand Stowe House, and this table allows us to begin to see the Gothic Library how Sir John Soane envisioned it.

Anna McEvoy, House Custodian SHTP





Beagles on Boxing Day

A large crowd of over 200 people attended the Stowe Beagles' traditional Boxing Day meet at the North Front Pavilion. Those in attendance are mostly locals who have attended for many years, but it was great to catch up with some Old Stoics we had not seen for a while, including George Aubrey-Fletcher (Cobham 04) and Matt Constant (Chandos 09), and more recent leavers Tilly Poole (West 23) and Tabitha Ash (West 23).

David Watts, Deputy Manager of Catering and Hospitality, kindly organised a supply of delicious mince pies, sherry and orange juice, which was warmly welcomed by all in attendance. The refreshments were served by the son and daughter, Michael and Liz, of the late Mary Lindsay, in memory of their mother, a long-standing local supporter who fulfilled this duty for over 20 years.

As always, it was wonderful to see the hounds around the North Front before they returned to the kennels.

Phil Kennedy, Stowe Beagles



MUSIC

Harmonising Excellence: Hayden Smith's Triumph in Grade 8 Piano

Hayden (Fifth Form, Croft) recently achieved a significant milestone in his musical journey by passing his Grade 8 piano exam. This accomplishment is particularly commendable given the challenges and commitments he has balanced alongside his studies, including GCSE preparations, sporting activities, and choir participation.

The Grade 8 Piano exam, set by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), represents the culmination of a pianist's graded exam journey. It involves comprehensively assessing a candidate's skills and musicianship through various components. These include the performance of three pieces selected from the ABRSM syllabus, scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, and aural tests. The selection of pieces allows candidates to demonstrate their interpretative abilities across different musical styles. Achieving this level of piano proficiency requires significant time and dedication. For a student to reach Grade 8, it is estimated that they might need to practice for 900-1200 hours, translating to about three to four hours of practice per day, six days a week, for nearly a year. This level of commitment is substantial, especially for a pupil in their GCSE year, managing academic and extracurricular activities.

Hayden's daily routine of arriving at School early after an hour of piano practice exemplifies the dedication and discipline required to excel at this level. His perseverance and commitment align well with Stowe's emphasis on 'Change Maker Core Skills', which include active learning, communication and technology, emotional intelligence, analytical thinking, creativity and innovation, and leadership and social literacy. Hayden's musical journey reflects several of these skills, particularly active learning and creativity and innovation, showcasing how extracurricular activities like music can complement and enhance a pupil's educational experience.

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent



Equestrian News

There have been two events in the Bloxham Eventer Challenge Series over the last two months. The first was on Sunday 17 December, where the 80cm Team of Flora Edwards (Third Form, Queen's), Gracie Cowley (Third Form, Queen's), Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Daisy Edwards (Fourth Form, Cheshire) took First place. The 90cm Team of Bunny, Daisy, Anabelle Robbins (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Lucy Willmott (Upper Sixth, Nugent) continued the Stowe success and also took First place, with Bunny also Winning the class individually. Rupert King (Lower Sixth, Chandos) represented Stowe in the 1m class and rode well to take individual Fifth place.

The final event of the series took place on Sunday 14 January. The 80cm Team (Bea Pinner (Third Form, Stanhope), Flora Edwards, Bunny Hales and Daisy Edwards) continued their domination of the class, putting on a fantastic performance to take team First place. There were a number of double clears in the 90cm class, with Daisy taking individual Second place, Bunny Third and Lucy Willmott Fourth. The Stowe Teams took Third and Fourth places against strong competition. The 1m class was very tough, however both Clemmy King (Third Form, Queen's) and Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) rode very positively. Well done to all our riders - we now look forward to the Championship Event in February.

On Sunday 7 January the Equestrian Team

had a fantastic opportunity to meet as a Team and work with British Showjumping Instructor, Mandy McGlynn. With years of experience both riding and instructing, Mandy took the team through a Training Show Event giving them advice and support on course walks and warm up techniques, as well as jumping a full course of show jumps. The event took place at Addington Equestrian Centre, giving the pupils the chance to ride at a venue which now hosts numerous championship and international events. Thank you to all the pupils and parents who took part and special thanks to Equestrian Captain Grace Haig (Upper Sixth, West), who helped on the day.

Joining the Third Form last September as an Equestrian Scholar, Lola Price (Cheshire) has already shown her commitment, drive and passion for her sport. She has been working hard over the last few months, bringing on her new four-year-old pony, Cosmo. In the short time Cosmo has been with Lola, she has taken him from having no jumping experience to qualifying him for British Showjumping classes in both the Novice and Discovery Second Rounds in 2024, along with the Blue-Chip Winter Showjumping Championships in two classes. Lola and Cosmo are now taking on cross country fences and will be part of the next Team Eventer Challenge competition. We are thrilled to have Lola as part of the Equestrian Team and can't wait to see her develop in the coming months.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian

Cross Country

U15 Girls are National Champions!

Our U15 Girls Cross Country Team won the Bucks County Championship back in September. They then raced in the Regional round of the Cross Country Cup, which was held at Stowe on Friday 10 November and they won that as well. This qualified them for the National Finals, which was held at Woodbridge School on Saturday 2 December.

Elsie Jacobs, Lauren and Katie Webb (all Fourth Form, Cheshire), Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) and Lottie Rose (Third Form, Queen's) ran against the champion schools from 24 regions in the country in a field of 152 runners. Mollie came an amazing Third overall and Katie was Fifth, with the rest of our team all close behind. Our cumulative total was lower than all the other schools, so we are very proud to say we are the National Champions!

These fantastic results are a reflection of the tremendous hard work the girls have put into their training over several years and are a great example of what can be achieved through commitment and hard work.

The girls will now focus on the individual schools competition this term, with the Bucks County Championships as a primary focus, which is being held at Stowe on Wednesday 7 February.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport



Forthcoming Music Events



Piano Recital with James Kirby

Ugland Auditorium, Chung Music School - Wednesday 7 February 2024

Stowe is delighted to welcome esteemed concert pianist and educator James Kirby for an evening recital of music.

As a soloist and chamber musician James performs regularly throughout the UK and Europe. His recital work includes appearances at major concert series in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Holland, the Czech Republic, Bermuda, Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Malaysia and in the UK at Wigmore Hall and the Edinburgh and Aldeburgh festivals. Having studied at the Moscow Conservatoire (during which time he reached the Semi Finals of the International Tchaikovsky Competition) he has returned to perform in the former Soviet Union on many occasions. Highlights have included performances at the Sakharov Festival in Nizhny Novgorod and the Omsk Festival.

Between 3.30-5.30pm, Stoic pianists will have an opportunity to learn from James' expertise in a masterclass and gain invaluable insights into the repertoire they are currently studying. At 7.45pm, James will take to the stage to perform a wonderful programme of Chopin and Schubert. This is an event not to be missed.

Please book [here](#) for the evening recital.

Dates for your diary

FEB
15

**Thursday 15 February
Lunchtime Concert**
State Music Room,
music begins at 1pm

MARCH
14

**Wednesday 14 March
ABRSM Diploma Piano
Recital - Eva Ng
(Lower Sixth, Stanhope)**
Ugland Auditorium 7.45pm

MARCH
21

**Thursday 21 March
Lunchtime Concert**
State Music Room, music
begins at 12 noon

Stowe Gardens: Call for Memories

Last year's Centenary celebrations at Stowe highlighted the visionary role played by the School's founders, and subsequent Governors, Staff and pupils, in ensuring the survival and restoration of Stowe's glorious landscape and buildings.

2024 marks 35 years since the National Trust became the custodians of Stowe's internationally famous landscape gardens, due to an act of incredible generosity on the part of the School. This act means everyone can experience and enjoy the beauty of Stowe's gardens and landscapes.

The ongoing partnership with the School and the Stowe House Preservation Trust has, so far, enabled the National Trust to raise and invest over £30M to continue the conservation and restoration work started by the School. The National Trust is now reflecting on the past and considering the future.

We would like you to answer a **few questions** about your memories and opinions of Stowe Gardens, to help the gardens continue to be shaped by these views and by future generations.

Responses will close on Sunday 4 February 2024 and we thank you in advance for submitting this valuable feedback about the gardens.

**Harriet Still, Install Architects,
on behalf of Stowe National Trust**

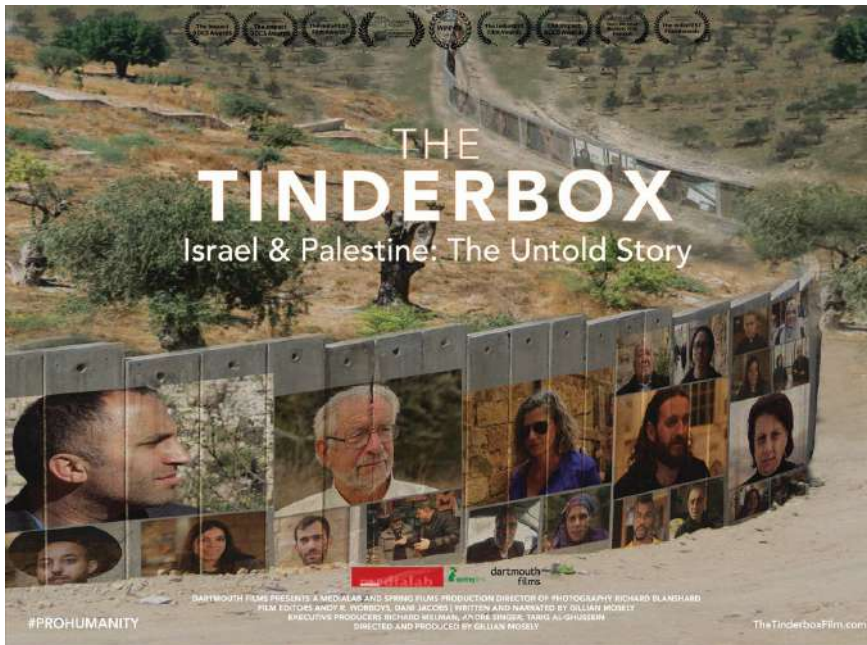


DTE TAKES SHAPE

The new Design, Technology and Engineering (DTE) building is coming to life - its size can be realised and timber frame appreciated as the building takes shape!

The work on the foundations, the installation of helical piles, steel framing and ground floor concrete slab has been completed, and now it's all go as the crane is on site lifting the timber frame construction of glulam and CLT (cross-laminated timber) into place.

The two-storey state-of-the-art facility will comprise of modern teaching spaces, studios and workshops, and will serve as its own educational resource. We can't wait until it is ready to provide the Stoics with the most amazing space to learn and work in.



History Open Minds Talk

Events in Gaza and Israel have brought the Middle East to the top of the news and to the forefront of people's minds in recent months, accompanied by a polarising and often toxic public debate.

Stowe's Fifth Form began studying the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict in September and have developed a strong understanding of the core issues and events through their lessons. Questions about the current conflict are frequent.

To extend Stoics' thinking and facilitate an engagement with these events, we were delighted to welcome Gillian Mosely to Stowe for a showing of her film, 'The Tinderbox' (2022), followed by a Q&A session. Gillian is a multi-award-winning writer, producer and executive producer with an impressive track record in creating, developing and producing high-end factual programming for both UK and international broadcasters.

'The Tinderbox' is based on a series of interviews with Israelis and Palestinians, bringing out a range of conflicting narratives; an Israeli settler, the lead singer in a punk rock band and a Palestinian Christian all feature. These interactions are overlaid with the history of Israel-Palestine and Gillian's own reflections on her changing understanding of the conflict, which lands on an appeal to try to understand different views through dialogue.

As an Open Minds talk, we welcomed

pupils from across the School body, who clearly took a lot away from the film, which acted as an excellent stimulus for a nuanced and engaging set of questions. Gillian's answers illustrated her experience as a filmmaker and the depth of her knowledge in this area. We explored the difficulty and rigour that goes into making anything about such a contested issue, the perceived risks associated with filming and reflections on the current conflict.

If online threads about this issue are anything to go by, we might have expected an angry or entrenched discussion among attendees to ensue. Nothing could have been further from the reality. Spurred by the spirit of the film, the audience was thoughtful and curious in their questioning; a tone that has continued in follow-up conversations in class.

One of the joys of teaching history is drawing out links and making parallels with modern events, so it was heartening to devote an evening to focus minds on this issue and then follow up for further thoughts in class. As the war continues, I hope that Stoics will continue to approach the topic with a desire to understand complexity and resist the simplistic or dehumanising narratives about the Middle East that can seem so pervasive.

Paul Griffin, Head of History

History of Art

The controversial restoration of the Sistine Chapel frescoes: Triumph or Travesty?

Is there a clear distinction between conservation and restoration? And is science always a force for good when it comes to art history?

Paul Taylor, distinguished Scholar of the Warburg Institute and author of 'Condition: The Ageing of Art', will address these questions in his talk at Stowe on Tuesday 5 February, on the controversy surrounding the 20th Century restoration of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes.

According to its critics, the cleaning campaign was ruinous, because the restorers had failed to understand Michelangelo's painting techniques. The decision by restorers to apply a universal cleaning technique to the entire ceiling failed to consider the fact that Michelangelo adapted his technique throughout, retouching or finishing areas a secco. Whilst restorers insisted that a deep clean was necessary to remove layers of dirt that had accumulated on the paint surface over centuries, the abrasive chemicals they employed resulted in the destruction of significant detail in the paintings, irrevocably altering their appearance. By examining a host of visual evidence, as well as written accounts of those who have inspected the frescoes over the centuries, Taylor's analysis offers a cautionary tale of the dangers involved in restoring historical monuments.

To book, please click [here](#).

Elliott Christie, Teacher of History of Art



Lunchtime Concert

On Thursday 18 January, the Music Department hosted the first Lunchtime Concert of the Term.

The standard of musicianship demonstrated by all those who performed was of a high level, and it was lovely to hear such breadth of style and genre. From Rhianna to Mozart, each Stoic acquitted themselves expertly on the stage and gave highly engaging performances.

We very much look forward to hearing them again in future concerts. Congratulations to Tia Sibanda (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Olivia Ng (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Annabel Hodgetts (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Benji Salter (Fourth Form, Walpole), Francesca Edwards (Third Form, Lyttelton), Ben Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Sophie Ellenberger (Lower Sixth, West) for providing such an entertaining concert.

Thanks must go to Jonathan Kingston for his assistance with curating the programme for the event. We look forward to the next Lunchtime Concert on Thursday 15 February.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard

Sport on Saturday 13 January

The nice weather conditions on Saturday 13 January allowed us to get a full programme of Inter-School sport under way at the start of the Lent Term. Stowe fielded 41 teams across ten different sports with very encouraging performances throughout. Well done to all those who contributed to forming the new teams and getting them up to such a good standard in under one week.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport

Lacrosse

The 2nd X played brilliantly with a 5-0 result against Wycombe Abbey, and a 6-0 result against Berkhamsted. Standout performances include our goalkeeper Annabel Lloyd (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who kept a clean slate across both matches. Gwen Grovit (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Suraya Hashimi (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Beau Deacon (Lower Sixth, Queen's) received the Players of the Match accolade. It was a really great start to this term for a very promising team.

The 3rds had a fabulous first game of the year with an 8-4 win against Berkhamsted. The opposition named Dominic Dubsy (Lower Sixth, Nugent) as the Most Valuable Defender and Isobel Crabb (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) as Most Valuable Attacker after scoring six goals.



Stowe SPORT

Netball

The Shop Courts were a hive of activity and the January sunshine along with some very competitive matches contributed to a very positive start to the netball season.

16 Stowe teams took on Oakham, with the standout teams being the U14A and D teams, the Senior 2nd and 3rd teams and the U15Cs. Player of the matches were awarded to Emelia Brett (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Annie Flint (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Lulu Goaman (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Arabella Innes (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Abi Snow (Third Form, Cheshire) and Zara Kalu (Third Form, Cheshire).

The 1st team also had a close game but were beaten 37-43.

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).

Hockey

Stowe played 11 matches against Oakham, with Stowe just winning the block, six matches to five. We also marginally outscored Oakham 21-20 overall, so it shows how well matched the two schools are. The strongest year groups on Saturday were the Fourth and Fifth Forms, who won all their matches. Particularly impressive are the U15As who backed up their superb rugby performances with a convincing 5-0 win on the Oakham Astro. The U14s also started well and showed good strength in depth with wins from both the B and D teams. A particular highlight was a hat trick for Joshua Reynolds (Third Form, Winton).

Cross Country

The squad travelled to Uppingham where our boys' Intermediate team performed particularly well, with four Stoics in the top ten places. Well done to Noah Ions (Fourth Form, Chandos), who was Second in the race, and to all the pupils who took part.

Football

We took three football teams to Radley, winning all three games and scoring 21 goals in the process. Dan Goje (Lower Sixth, Chatham) was the standout performer in the 1st XI's 6-1 victory, scoring twice. The 2nd XI won 10-1, with a masterful display from Will Chamberlain (Lower Sixth, Croft), whilst Blake Packshaw (Fifth Form, Cobham) put in an immense shift in the 3rd XI's 5-3 victory.

International Netballers

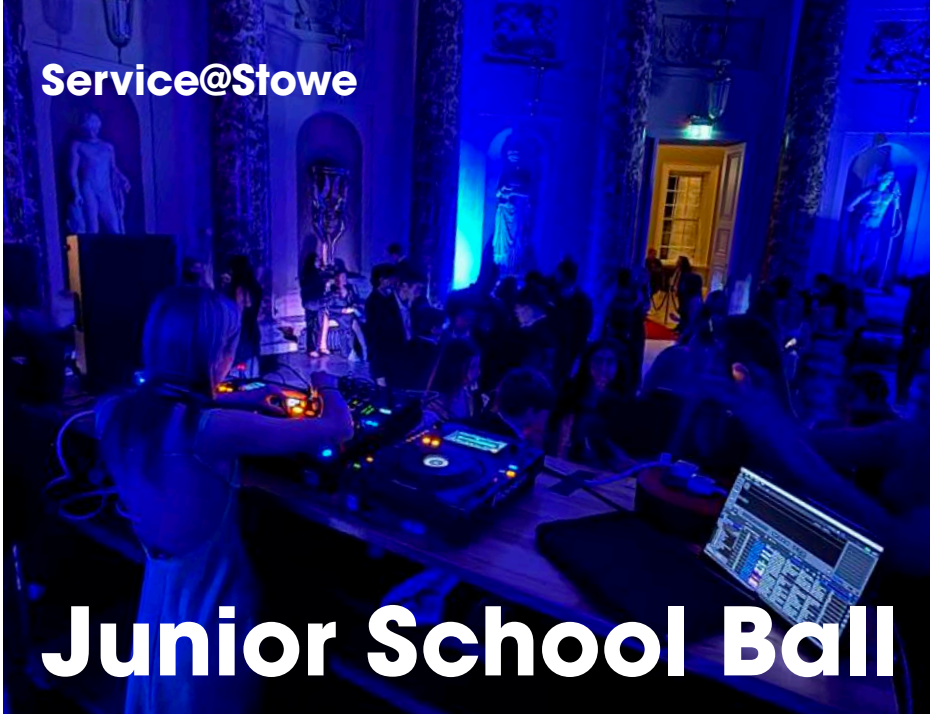
Three of our talented netball players were selected to represent their respective countries in the U19 Europe Netball Cup at Loughborough University Sports Campus on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December, at the start of the Christmas break.

Phoebe Haynes (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Izzy Kaye (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Lottie Moffat (Upper Sixth, Nugent) represented Scotland, England and Wales, respectively, in this prestigious tournament. Their selection reflects their hard work, dedication and exceptional talent.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all three of them for this remarkable achievement. Their selection to represent their countries is not only a testament to their individual skills but also a reflection of the high standard of netball being played at Stowe. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments.

Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball





Junior School Ball

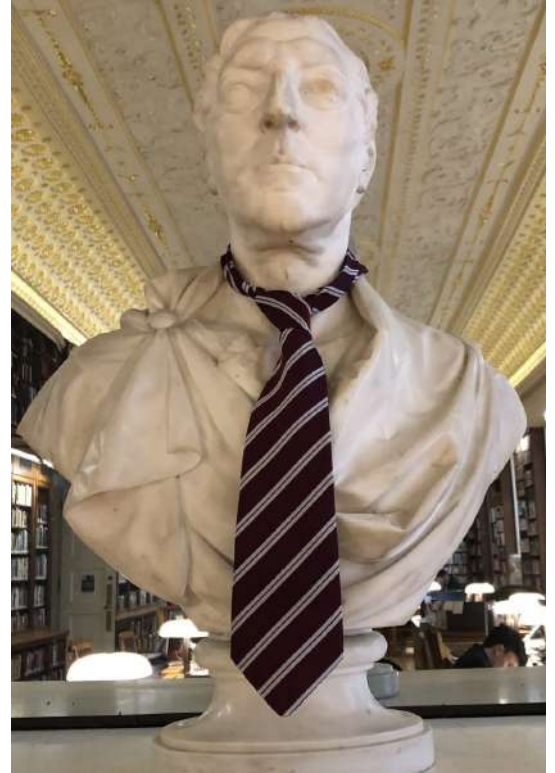


On Saturday 13 January the Conservation group ran a charity ball for the Junior Stoics (Third, Fourth and Fifth Form). It had a fantastic turnout of 386 pupils in attendance.

The circus themed evening had a range of entertainment including a photo booth, professional magicians, fire breather and a glitter bar, which was run by Lower Sixth volunteers. Three pupils were DJs at the event - Edward Mercer (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Oscar Beumer (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Flora McDougall (Fourth Form, Nugent).

The event raised £6,300 to support the group's latest project, creating an interactive nature trail around Stowe. Working with the National Trust we will create the trail which incorporates an app with augmented reality characters. On the trail, visitors will follow the story of different woodland animals who live around Stowe and learn more about them. Stoics are designing the route, the story, the characters, and with the support of a professional designer, the animated animals which will appear on the app. The pupils will also help design the outdoor signs and support the marketing and communications in the lead up to the launch of the trail in May 2024.

Ava Taylor & Alisa Baser (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)



Library

Reading Colours

Every pupil at Stowe is enrolled on the Reading Colours Award. It is a programme designed to foster reading for pleasure and to encourage reading a range of genres.

The Bronze Level is awarded after five books have been read. Each book is followed by a task, which could include rewriting the ending of the book or drawing and annotating one of the characters from the book. Each award involves reading an increasing number of books, so for Silver it is eight books and Gold is twelve, each having different tasks to choose from.

The awards also count towards the overall Stowe Award.

At the end of Michaelmas Term, several Stoics were awarded their reading colours and presented with their ties or pins in assembly. Congratulations to the pupils listed below, you are well on your way to completing the Reading Colours Awards:

BRONZE AWARD

Third Form: Cassie Gollifer (Nugent), Patrick Kingsman (Winton) and Cayla Saunyama (Queen's).

Fourth Form: James Barnett (Winton), Niamh Byrne (Cheshire), Emilia Combastet (Lyttelton), Alex Fan (Chandos), Minnie Hutton (Nugent), Yasmeen Khan (Cheshire), Honor Leslie (Nugent), Tia Sibanda (Lyttelton) and Avá Taylor (Lyttelton).

SILVER AWARD

Fourth Form: Niamh Byrne, Michael-Aleksandar Ibru-Stankov (Chandos), Tia Sibanda and Anastasia Sidorova (Lyttelton).

Fifth Form: Théa Gross (Cheshire) and Oliver Lamberton (Grenville).

Samantha Keiller, Assistant Librarian





ROWING

Lent 2024

The Stowe rowers took part in their first competition at the Northampton Regatta on Saturday 20 January. The team was led by the boys' and girls' 1st VIII's. On the fringes of Storm Isha, conditions were challenging and although some of our crews had difficulties, all of them raced. The two eights were joined by three boys singles (Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple), Oliver Bicknell (Upper Sixth, Croft) and Ari Lewis (Fifth Form, Walpole)) and the three doubles of Alice Watson and India Gordon (both Lower Sixth, Nugent), Omar Curtis-Bennett (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Max Poliza (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Jasper Farhadi and Ben Cousins (both Fourth Form, Bruce). The girls' quad of Coco Bartoszewski (Fifth Form, Nugent), Bella Bawden, Tallulah Havard and Lorraine Yan (all Fourth Form, Stanhope) is perhaps the best crew boat we have ever seen from Stowe. We are grateful to the many parents who supported the team, with India's family travelling from Aberdeen and Siri Zamir's (Fourth Form, Stanhope) from New York. We are fortunate to have super photos, once again, from Ari's parents.

Schools who row on the Thames have been unable to get on the water since October, but the lake at Stowe is much better. Our crews were on the water all of last term and the first week of this term. A second girls eight has started training; novice Sixth formers aiming to join the existing experienced crew. When the lake froze, we took the opportunity to take the rowers to see George Clooney's movie *The Boys in the Boat* at the Northampton Filmhouse. The true story of the Great Depression is inspiring and was a special experience for them.

Our next competition is the big event at Hampton on Saturday 3 February, aiming for Schools' Head on Wednesday 20 March, on the tough 4 1/4 mile Boat Race Championship Course at Putney.

At the end of the year Jasmine Zheng is moving to USA, applying to Deerfield Academy, whose girls contested the Henley Final. Their Head Coach is obviously very interested in the rowing skills Jasmine has learned, and the huge advantage she has gained at Stowe, rowing in the Henley Qualifiers at only 14 years old. We wish her success and look forward to seeing her race in a Henley Final one day.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



Basketball

On Saturday 13 January at the Wellington College Invitational Tournament the 1st team topped their group, beating Wellington College (16-11), Royal Hospital School (18-11) and Charterhouse (11-10). With injuries to key players in the Semi-Final against Bradfield, the team just fell short, losing 17-13. Although disappointed at not going all the way this year, the team should be proud of their achievements especially as Charterhouse went on to win the tournament.

On Saturday 20 January the 1st team hosted Rugby School. Rugby proved stubborn opposition and although the 1st team took an early 10-point lead Rugby managed to stay in contention throughout the match. The 1st team held on to win 50-42. The U15 and U16 teams travelled to Wellington College where the U16s lost 40-34 and the classy U15s won 48-20.

In the Senior Inter-House Basketball Competition held on Sunday 21 January, Nugent won their matches beating West, Lyttelton and Queen's to be crowned Champions. In the Semi-Finals of the boys' competition Chandos won against Grenville and Bruce defeated Chatham. In the Final Chandos were victorious over Bruce to be crowned Champions.

Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball



Hockey

On Thursday 11 January, our boys' U16 team played a National Cup match away against Bedford. With 12 minutes to go, Bedford were 3-0 up, but the Stowe team displayed a wonderful 'never say die' attitude and incredibly managed to get three goals in ten minutes to end the game in a draw. As it was a cup match it went to penalty flicks. Layth Elmrbati (Fifth Form, Croft) was in goal and emerged as the hero as Stowe went on to win the contest.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

Cricket Success

Congratulations to Freya Embley (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who has been selected for the Northants U18 Cricket squad this season. We wish her all the best for the season ahead.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

Badminton

On Saturday 13 January the boys' 1st team produced another strong performance to defeat St Edward's 7-2. The girls' 1st team played against a very strong St Edward's team, losing 8-1. Ten girls were given the opportunity to have match experience. The boys' 2nd team had a resounding 9-0 victory over Wellingborough 1st team and the boys' 3rd team had an outstanding 9-0 win against Wellingborough 2nd team.

On Saturday 20 January the boys' teams continued their fine form against Rugby School with the boys' 1st team winning 16-2 and the boys' 2nd team winning 14-6. The girls' 1st team continue to work hard in training sessions and show signs of progress even with a 4-14 loss against Rugby School.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton

Careers in IT, FinTech and Artificial Intelligence

On Monday 16 January, Old Stoic Matt Lockyer, (Chandos 2010) a distinguished professional in the technology and finance industry, shared his journey from being a part of Chandos in 2010 through to achieving a first-class degree in Computer Science and leading teams to tackle complex problems within limited timeframes.

During the engaging discussion, Matt emphasised the importance of side projects during a pupils time at Stowe, university and throughout ones career path, not only playing a role in skill development but also generating an additional stream of income. One example he gave was his website 'optiontracker.io', which serves as a trading journal and insight provider for equities and options traders, averaging 10,000-15,000 website visitors per month. Matt also mentioned that he would drive from business to business, offering a website creation and maintenance service, which led to consistent income through retainers, with hosting fees and referrals to other businesses.

Having graduated with top honours from university, Matt ventured into the corporate world; initially working for Hewlett Packard helping deliver a complete network overhaul for the NHS. From there, he navigated his way through reputable organisations such as Barclays, Visa, and eSynergy where he currently holds the role of Practice Lead. Stoics were thoroughly intrigued by his insights into the world of banking, programming, and working in a leadership position.

Matt's journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring technologists, emphasising the importance of a strong educational background, the significance of side projects, and the limitless possibilities that exist in an ever-growing tech industry.

A helpful and insightful talk for all those who attended.

Josh Parker (Upper Sixth, Croft)

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

The Fray

(or How I made my Return)

An Early Evening with Dr Andrew C Webber and the (new) Hyacinth Girls.

Regular readers and attendees at lunchtime concerts will have noted that over the last year, against all odds, I have been working steadily on writing and recording songs for a new album I will be promoting with a one-off concert in The Uglund at 7.45pm on Thursday 7 March. Tickets can be reserved [here](#).

The album is to be titled 'The Fray (or How I made my Return)' and will feature 12 new songs which cover topics as diverse as Brexit, growing old, the Orpheus myth, climate change and nature.

As a young man, in the late 80s, I made two albums with a band we called 'The Hyacinth Girls' (named after a character in TS Eliot's epic poem 'The Waste Land') called 'Happy Now?' and 'Old Men Ought to be Explorers'.

As is often the case as we grow older, life got in the way and eventually the band, which I had first formed whilst in the Third Year at school, dissolved as we went our separate ways and I remember selling off all my guitars somewhere in the early 1990s when I had young mouths to feed and a mortgage to pay. I carried on listening to music, but for many years never attended a live concert - knowing I would be ridden with jealousy and envy (not one's best traits).

However, my love of live music began to return as my children grew up and circumstances changed, and over the last 20 years or so, I have been lucky enough to see some of the most spectacular gigs. What I did not realise was that all of this was being internalised and that beneath the surface, new songs were beginning to bubble and take shape.

Around a year ago I decided to do my first live music here at Stowe and performed an old song I had not played for over 30 years. Picking up a guitar and singing (with the aid of two superb Stoics, Jemima Pearson-Gee and Connie Goodrich (both Upper Sixth, Nugent)) was surprisingly enough to get those songs that I'd sub-consciously been thinking about for three decades to burst out and, over a weekend, I wrote three or four new numbers - surprised at how the themes and concepts had altered as I had grown older.

You will have a chance to judge for yourself the results of this creative rebirth when we perform in March, and I hope you will enjoy what we have been working on.

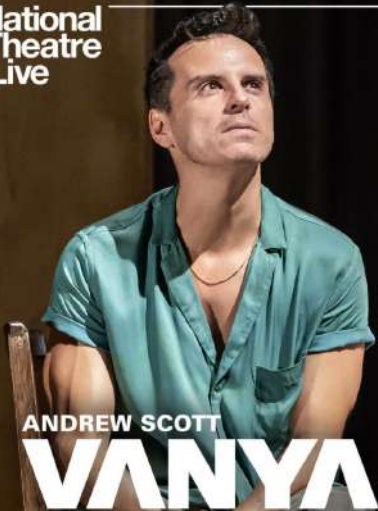
Who would ever have thought I'd be promoting a new record - at 60? Another of Stowe's influence upon those fortunate enough to join its community.

Dr Andrew Webber, Teacher of Film & Media Studies



National Theatre Live Screenings in the Roxburgh Theatre

National Theatre Live



ANDREW SCOTT
VANYA

We continue our partnership with the National Theatre, screening their latest cinema releases in the Roxburgh Theatre now using our brand-new state of the art projector. Forthcoming shows are Andrew Scott in 'Vanya' (Thursday 22 February), acclaimed play 'The Motive and the Cue' (Thursday 21 March) and NHS play 'NYE' (Thursday 23 April) featuring Martin Sheen.

All screenings start at 7pm, there is a pay bar for drinks beforehand and during the interval, and tickets for all screenings can be found [here](#).

Tickets are usually £15, but there is a discounted price for Stowemail readers of £12 (use the Stowe Staff booking option).

Simon Wales, CEO Stowe Presents

Coming Soon...



Ninebarrow folk duo at the Chung Music School

Don't miss our folk show next month, when acclaimed duo Ninebarrow return to Stowe after a five-year gap, since their successful performance in 2019.

Named after Nine Barrow Down in Dorset's Purbeck Hills, the duo have released four critically acclaimed albums including 'A Pocket Full of Acorns', which received a raft of four and five star reviews in the folk and mainstream media.

Ninebarrow are in the Ugland Auditorium on Thursday 29 February at 7.30pm, and tickets are £16. For readers of Stowemail, there is a discounted rate ticket of £12. Please use the Stowe Staff option when booking [here](#).

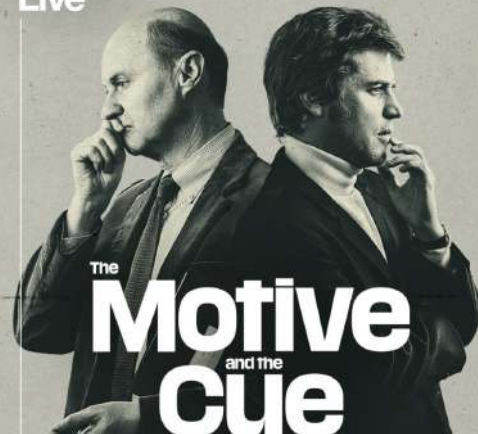
National Theatre Live



One man's dream of the NHS

Nye
a new play by Tim Price

National Theatre Live



The Motive and the Cue

Safeguarding at Stowe



Ofcom have released their latest top trends from people's online lives and, as always, it makes for an interesting read. It found that teenagers and children are leading the way in getting to grips with emerging technology like generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), as well as highlighting a range of other tendencies. There were two standout trends:

Nearly three quarters of teens said they had encountered the subject of one or more potential harms in the previous four weeks. The top three were:

- Animal cruelty
- Promotion of suicide
- Promotion of self-harm

Around 20% of children (aged 8-17) with a social media profile use a false age over 18. When asked why they are using a false age it is usually one of two reasons:

- They just use the first age (year of birth) shown when signing up - this is all about the speed of getting into the app.
- They are fully aware that if they give their true age they will not be allowed access.

Millennials are the most prolific smartphone app users. Meta-owned social media and communication apps WhatsApp, Facebook, Facebook Messenger and Instagram were the most-visited smartphone apps on an average day in May 2023.

Since Facebook announced it was rebranding to Meta it would focus its future on the 'Metaverse'. The Australian e-Safety Commissioner has released some recent research about experiences in the Metaverse: 71% of users have experienced at least one negative experience in the last 12 months.

The most common negative experiences are:

- Being left out by others (23%).
- Being called offensive names (21%).
- Repeated unwanted messages/contact (16%).

Others included provocation, being challenged about cultural identity and being sent inappropriate content.

For more information on the Metaverse: [Wired article](#). [Techtarget](#).

Mike Rickner, Deputy Head (Pastoral) & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Talk to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

Agree ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.

Learn about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.

Know how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.



ROBOTICS ROUND UP

Our Third and Fourth Form Robotics Teams attended a VEX VRC Regional Competition on Saturday 13 January in Chipping Campden, as part of their progress towards the National Finals in March. The Third Form team did well to finish Seventh in qualifying and Fourth in Skills. We will wait to find out if their National Skills ranking of 19th is enough to gain one of the remaining places at Nationals.

Our Fourth Form team of Henry Anderson (Temple) and James Stratford (Walpole) dominated the Regional competition, winning all their qualification matches and ranking First in Skills. They then won all their playoff matches, walking away as Tournament and Skills Champions. The team have also entered an online Coding Skills Challenge and are ranked First in the UK and 23rd in the World. This team and our Sixth Form team have already qualified for the National Finals in March, where they will compete for a World Finals place, which will take place in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to all the individuals involved, fantastic team results!

Paul Thompson, MiC Robotics



Powerlifting Competition 2023

On Wednesday 13 December, the last afternoon of the Michaelmas Term, we met in the gym to celebrate the physical achievements of our Senior athletes.

Pupils from the Fifth and Sixth Form were invited to come and showcase their raw strength and demonstrate their dedication to the discipline of lifting weights. This year we had some of the most impressive performances I have seen in my time at Stowe, with numbers that are unlikely to be surpassed.

In the girls' competition, 2021 Runner Up Natalie Nylaende (Upper Sixth, Queen's) increased her total from that competition by an impressive 30kg to take First. Runner Up was Isabella Reeder (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), who is relatively new to powerlifting, but put in a really impressive debut performance to take Second place.

The boys' competition was hotly anticipated with three returning challengers from 2021's inaugural Festival of Lifting. Several

Fifth Formers competed and delivered really positive performances. Noah Cloete (Bruce), Saeed Badeeb (Grenville) and Jack Buckingham (Temple) all posted totals of around 5.0 with only 0.2kg separating the three of them. I look forward to seeing their development over the next few years.

The top three placings went to Upper Sixth pupils:

First place - Aston Rigoll (Chatham)

Total weight 510kg, squat 170, bench 140, deadlift 200.

Second place - Joshua Parker (Croft)

Total weight 435kg, squat 160, bench 105 and deadlift 170.

Third place - Toby Bursnall (Grafton)

Total weight 415kg, squat 140, bench 115 and deadlift 160.

**George Coote,
Head of Strength & Conditioning**





Fostering Positive Relationships in Youth

Insights from Matron and Anton Poon

In a certificated webinar training session held on Tuesday 12 December, the dynamics of teenage relationships and the art of nurturing positivity were explored with the expert help of Professor Sue Roffey (an academic, author and education activist). This course, particularly significant for those involved in educational settings, also welcomed an unconventional attendee - Anton Poon, a Fifth Form Croft House pupil with a keen interest in psychology and wellbeing.

Despite their different backgrounds, Matron and Anton shared a mutual enthusiasm for the course's subject matter. Their joint participation underscores a vital point: understanding and fostering positive relationships is crucial for individuals across all walks of life.

The webinar's focus on the 'BrainWaves' programme,

rooted in positive psychology, resonates with one of psychology's foundational theories. The PERMA model, which stands for Positive emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Accomplishments, aligns perfectly with the course's emphasis. This model, developed by psychologist Martin Seligman, highlights the significance of these elements in cultivating a fulfilling and happy life, particularly pertinent for the teenage years.

Matron and Anton's experiences on the webinar also intersect with the guiding principles of Croft House - community, responsibility, opportunity, fun, and teamwork. These principles, especially 'community' and 'responsibility', are echoed in the course's objective to foster understanding and support among young people.

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent

STOWE SCHOOL SHOP

Opening Hours

School Shop

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

Tuck Shop:

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

OS RACING CLUB



GRASSHOPPER TIME



OL'RIVER SHINE

You are invited to a tour of OS Trainer Alex Hales' (Chandos 92) stables near Banbury - the perfect half term activity!

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY at 9.30am

Meet these two Stowe owned horses in training with Alex and watch them exercise on the gallops.

RSVP to Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04)

E: henrykimbell@hotmail.com

M: 07979 522744

Calling all Parent Cricketers

A group of Stowe parents are forming a Stowe Parents' Cricket team this year to play other schools after work during the Summer Term.

If you are interested in playing, then please contact

John Saunders.

All levels welcome!

Stowe
Parents
CRICKET



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