

# Stowe mail

TATLER  
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



## House Singing Competition 2024

There are few whole School events that can capture the spirit and ethos of Stowe as well as the annual House Singing Competition and this year's competition produced exceptional performances.

The process began with the Houses performing a House Song in one of three heats held in the Uglend Auditorium at the start of March. The performances were judged by two members of the Music Department using a bespoke marking criteria which is shared with Houseparents at the start of the Lent Term. The top six Houses from across all three heats progressed into the Final. The same process is repeated for the Part Song competition where again, the top six scoring Houses qualified for the Final.

The Final was held in the School Chapel on March 16 and adjudicated by Mr Huw Jones, Director of Music and Assistant Head at John Lyon School and Mr Jonathan Kingston, Head of Vocal Studies at Stowe.

### The Houses and songs through to the Final were:

#### House Song:

Cheshire - 'Superstar'  
Cobham - 'Uptown Girl'  
Grafton - 'Moana'  
Lyttelton - 'Umbrella'  
Queen's - 'Rumour Has it'  
Stanhope - '9 to 5'

#### Part Song:

Chandos - 'Somewhere Only We Know'  
Cheshire - 'Can't Catch Me Now'  
Lyttelton - 'City of Stars'  
Queen's - 'The Bella's Finale'  
Stanhope - 'Mash Up'  
West - 'Stay'

Mr Jones provided each House Song and Part Song group with supportive and insightful feedback at the end of the competition and commented on the excellent standard of performances and the outstanding conduct of all involved. It was particularly moving to see Stoics support peers in other Houses following their performances, especially those Stoics who attended the Final despite their own House not having progressed.

### The competition was closely fought, and the Winners were as follows:

**Part Song Winners** - Chandos

**House Song Winners** - Queen's and Cobham

**Overall Winners** - Queen's

Thank you to all the Houseparents and Music Department Staff who supported the Stoics to produce such an outstanding event. We look forward to next year's competition in the Lent Term!

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music**





# Netball

## U19 National Schools' Netball Finals

The National Schools Netball Finals held at Oundle School on Saturday 16 March witnessed an intense competition with Stowe's U19 team showcasing their skills and determination. The event featured eight group games, each lasting 15 minutes, leading to thrilling encounters and impressive performances.

In one of the standout matches, the team delivered a dominant display as they secured a resounding 17-1 victory against Repton. This commanding win showcased the team's exceptional teamwork and skill on the court.

Advancing to the Semi-Finals, the team faced a tough challenge against Sir John Deanes, who had also displayed strong form in the group stage. In a closely contested match, the team emerged victorious with a narrow 9-8 win, showcasing their resilience and ability to perform under pressure, the team were in the Final!

The Final saw the team go up against Hartpury for the second time in the day, putting on a strong performance in a highly competitive match. Despite a valiant effort, the team finished as Runners-Up in the country, an outstanding achievement considering the competition from over 650 schools.

The success of the team can be attributed to the amazing squad effort, resilience, and commitment shown by every member involved. Their dedication and hard work since the start of the year and throughout the tournament culminated in a remarkable performance, earning them a well-deserved Second place finish in England Netball National Schools Finals.

Overall, the team's performance at the Nationals was a testament to their talent, teamwork, and determination, showcasing themselves as one of the top netball teams in the country. Congratulations to the squad:

Phoebe Haynes, Captain (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Lottie Moffat, Vice-Captain (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Ruby Colebrook (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Ella Hadden-Wight (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Isabelle Kaye (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Emelia Brett (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Anna Collinge (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Claudia Kilonback (Lower Sixth, West), N'dea Lambert (Lower Sixth, West), Maisie Slack (Lower Sixth, West).

**Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball**



## Sports Participation

At the half-way point in the academic year, the Sports Department have been looking at the level of participation in competitive Sports.

Overall, the statistics show a wonderful level of engagement with half of all Stoics representing the School each week in Inter-School matches in a very wide variety of sports. Some particular highlights are:

- 100% of Third Form girls have represented the School in at least one Inter-School fixture.
- The overall level of girls' participation is extremely high, with over 90% of Fourth and Fifth Form girls continuing to represent the School.
- We have over 500 pupils representing the School in sports teams on most Saturdays.
- The Stoics who have participated in the highest number of sports fixtures for each year group are:
  - Third Form boys - Oscar Chiang (Walpole) and girls - Mollie Davis (Cheshire)
  - Fourth Form boys - Callum McIntosh (Croft) and girls - Penny-Belle White (Nugent)
  - Fifth Form boys - Harvey Hughes (Grafton) and girls - Hannah Cambell (Nugent) with 41 which is the highest in the School
  - Lower Sixth Form boys - Ben Sutton (Winton) and girls - Anna Maria Collinge (Nugent)
  - Upper Sixth Form boys - Arthur Clayton (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and girls - Grace Noble (Stanhope)

Thank you for all your continuing efforts and commitment, which makes sport such a positive aspect of life at Stowe.

**Craig Sutton, Director of Sport**

## Football

The Senior 1st and 2nd teams both maintained their unbeaten records with wins over Uppingham on Saturday 4 March. The U16 boys' and the U18 girls' sides found the going rather tougher against Uppingham on the same day.

## Table Tennis

Well done to Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Upper Sixth, Chatham) for initiating a table tennis match away against Bromsgrove on Thursday 29 February which the Stowe team went on to win.



# Romania

For the past five years, Stowe has had a partnership with a Scottish Charity called Blythswood. This charity operates a number of projects throughout Scotland and Europe. The Talita Kum Project in Jimbolia, Romania, is one of the charity's longest running programmes. Stowe has been partnering with Talita Kum since 2018 and over the course of the last few years we have welcomed the team who run the programme to Stowe. Stoics have been fundraising for Talita Kum, and teachers and Staff have been sharing knowledge. For the last two years, we have offered Stoics the opportunities to volunteer at Talita Kum. The Stoics deliver a number of workshops for the children in Jimbolia over the course of a week-long visit and get involved in this amazing charity which has helped generations of children to stay longer in education, and has provided them with stability and a safe place to be. The Talita Kum project is a community which supports children through school and in their life beyond. The children who benefit come from some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in this part of Europe and Talita Kum makes a significant impact on their futures.

You can read more about the Talita Kum project [here](#).

When the schools close at midday, many young people have to fend for themselves. Talita Kum provides a six-hour programme, five days a week for 40 poorest children in Jimbolia, Romania. The children receive clean clothing and showers, as well as nourishing meals. The main purpose is to give them help with their homework, preparation for exams, and to encourage them to finish their education.

Ten of us from the Lower Sixth, along with Mrs Roddy, Mrs Bryden and Mr Copley, embarked upon a memorable journey, during which we dedicated ourselves to a week of volunteering. Talita Kum is sponsored by Blythswood, a charity that Stowe works closely with. Throughout the week, we engaged with the children in various activities, including rugby, music and English lessons, sharing valuable skills and knowledge we've acquired at Stowe.

We all took part in teaching the children how to play rugby. We started developing their understanding of the game by teaching them the basics and rules. We then developed this by moving on to skills, such as passing whilst also emphasising the importance of teamwork, and of course, having fun. It was great to see the enjoyment the children got out of the team building exercises we ran and the friendships that were made. It was an eye-opening experience which we all learnt a lot from.

During the English lessons, we watched clips from famous movies and music videos and focused on allowing all the

children to have a go at trying to describe what they could see and how it made them feel; with the main focus on saying what they felt, to improve their verbal skills. We explored English Literature and helped the children get a better understanding of the English language. Through these classes we gained the opportunity to understand them and their feelings. Eventually, this led us to deep and open conversations with the pupils.

We encouraged confidence and understanding of both English and emotions through music. Learning different songs and poems for each group as well as discussing the feelings and images that may be created through music. All ten of us and (even Mr Copley!) shared our own performances and sang to the pupils, however not always in tune! During the few days of music. The idea was to begin conversations around descriptive English language, where we then helped the pupils to produce a poem. Actions and sounds were then given to specific words within these poems. The music we used with the pupils was from a collection of pieces from the 'Carnival of Animals' - Camille Saint Saëns and Dance Macabre. It was really exciting seeing their responses to the music played and their interpretations of the music - overall a really fun and memorable experience.

Over the course of the week we were introduced to the youngest children at Talita Kum 1 who are ages 5-11. We visited Talita Kum 1 each day, interacting through play, songs and dance to help the children build on their English skills. On the last day, the children had given us their own drawings of us with them, which made it even harder to say goodbye.

We also spent a lot of time with the older children at Talita Kum 2 (ages 11-15). We connected with them especially well and helped them write their very own school song! This improved their English and music skills; whilst also improving their sense of community and self-pride.

Our trip to Romania was a valuable, eye-opening experience, which involved immersing ourselves in a different environment and exchanging our knowledge and skills with the children. Talita Kum, Blythswood is a charity which Stowe will continue to support and which the Stoics who visit will never forget.

Benjamin Bailey (Chandos), Tudor Berciu (Cobham), Alessia Capella (Stanhope), Lulu Goaman (Lyttelton), Archie Heseltine (Cobham), Claudia Kilonback (West), Eva-Grace Ng (Stanhope), Henry Roberts (Chatham), George Turner (Cobham) and Milo Xing (Chandos).





# Stowe are the National Polo Champions!

Five Stowe polo teams travelled to Rugby Polo Club on Sunday 3 March to compete in the Winter Schools Polo Championships.

Our A team Captained by Lucas Stern (Upper Sixth, Grenville) with Luca Natella and Archie Hestletine (both Lower Sixth, Cobham) had four very strong games, firstly winning against Harrow 4-1, then Cheltenham, with a score of 8-1. We were triumphant 3-1 winners over a team called La Mariposa (made up of the strongest players from non-playing schools), and finally we took a win over Rugby School 8-2 to become National Champions! Luca was also given the prestigious award for being 'Most Promising Player'. Incredible team performances as they seamlessly read every play and scored fantastic goals.

Our B team, Captained by Leander Sautter (Fifth Form, Cobham) with Charlie Hodges (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Jemima Hammond (Upper Sixth, Nugent) had some incredibly tough matches but were victorious against Harrow (2-1) and Monkton (1-0) before finally losing to Radley (3-1), meaning Second Place in the Intermediate division. Wonderful plays by the whole team who fought hard against tough oppositions!

Our Novice Top Division team, Captained by Ed Berry (Third Form, Cobham) with Jasper Hagger (Third Form, Walpole) and Freddie Leyland (Third Form, Chandos) drew 2-2 against Cheltenham, lost 1-0 to Marlborough and then drew 1-1 to Sherborne. They came a very respectable Third in their division.

Our Lower Novice Division team Captained by Bilal Rabiou (Lower Sixth, Cobham) with Aggie White (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Pia Glynn-Smith (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) had some great matches too. They beat Radley 2-1, drew 2-2 with Bryanston and lost to Shrewsbury 2-0. They came Second in their division after a nail-biting penalty shoot-out which was won by a great goal from Aggie!

Our final team was a combination team Captained by Flora McDougal (Fourth Form, Nugent) in her first ever Nationals match. The team was made up of an Eton player and a girl from a non-playing school. They had some exciting matches beating Shrewsbury 2-1, sadly losing to Rugby 2-1 and SUPA team 1-0. They came Third in their Novice Section.

A fantastic was day had by all!

**Fiona Corthine, Head of Polo**

# History of Art visit Florence

The Stowe History of Art trip to Florence in the February Half Term gave Stoics the opportunity to experience first-hand the city's inimitable charms.

The group left very early on Friday 16 February with History of Art Teachers, Rhiannon Hope and myself, with Dr Wallersteiner meeting us later in the day.

On arrival we went to meet our guide, Jeremy Boudreau, of the British Institute of Florence, who was leading our cultural itinerary. A whistle-stop tour of the palaces, bridges and sites of events, involving the most memorable personalities in its history was in store for the Stoics. The group then had chance to amble, snapping photos and taking in the sights before an Italian language workshop and tour of the Brancacci Chapel.

Jeremy generously offered to take the tour of San Lorenzo, and the group was introduced in-person to more artworks by Donatello, Brunelleschi and Della Robbia.

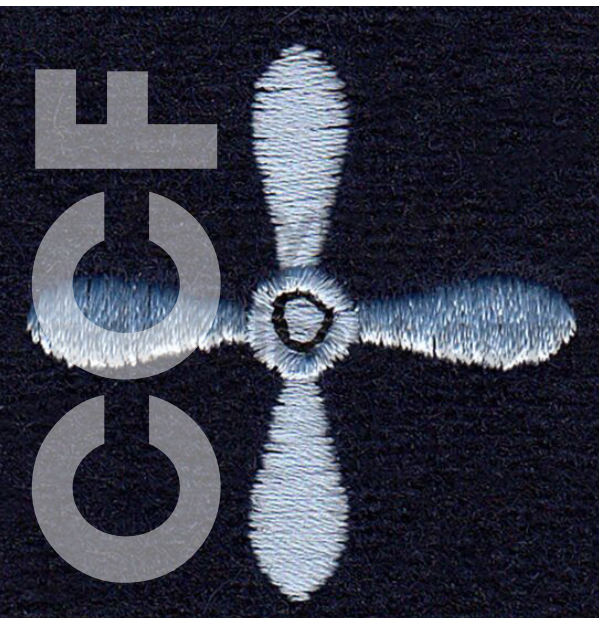
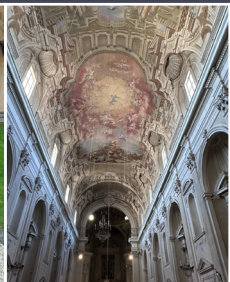
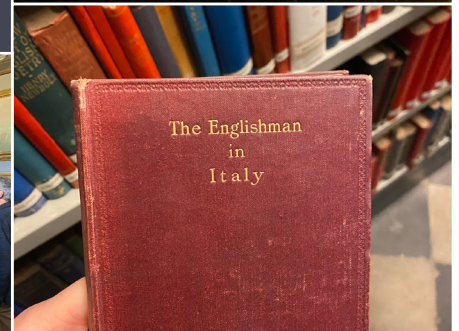
Sunday was the day to light a candle to the art masterpieces of Florence's museums. This was also the busiest day of our itinerary: Bargello, Palazzo Medici and Uffizi.

A visit to see the pantheon of Florence's favourite sons was on Monday's agenda. Before getting there, we took the long and arduous journey to the Cathedral's lantern. The city view from the Dome gave us surely the most miraculous of all our moments. The Art Historians had looked forward to this view for months, and it was finally ours - in the cool blue hues of Leonardo's mountains. This was a pause for the group to catch its breath, to be reminded how precious and permanent beauty is.

With a promise to the pupils that the final evening would be spent admiring Florence's sunset from the Southern hills, followed by the best gelato in the city, time was of the essence. Most keen to make this hasty pilgrimage to San Miniato, Stoics mustered all remaining energy to run up the mile-long hill, making it just in time to see the wonderful colours play in Fiorenza's skies. This special trip could not have ended in any other way.

**Elliott Christie, Head of History of Art**

You can read the full report [here](#).



## Leading Cadet Badge

Well done to Isaac Butler (Fifth Form, Winton) for gaining his Leading Cadet Badge, which is one of the many engaging challenges in the CCF RAF section. This process of classroom-based tasks provides one of the most rewarding opportunities to learn about RAF-related topics. It involves completing the Cadet logbook with teaching about, for example, the forces of the aircraft (lift, thrust, drag, weight) and factors that increase and decrease flight. The most interesting topic in my opinion is the principles of flight. This covers acceleration and deceleration, how to change altitude and my personal favourite - manoeuvrability, as this makes flying a thrilling experience.

The Leading Cadet Badge is a symbol of dedication and proactive commitment to the CCF. It takes several weeks to achieve the qualification but is well worth the respect and pride gained once completed. It also opens doors to other amazing experiences that are unique to the RAF section. In May, eight Cadets are visiting RAF Benson for a powered air flight. This will involve extensive pre-flight training from the RAF and wearing a parachute and helmet during the flight itself.

Overall, the Leading Cadet Badge takes effort, but it leads to experiences that you might otherwise not get to have here at Stowe or anywhere else.

**Dr Imogen Adkins, Acting Pilot Officer CCF**



# Old Stoics' Sports Festival



The Old Stoics' Sports Festival is our friendly competition day for matches between Stoics and Old Stoics. Held at Stowe, this event brings together Old Stoics of a wide age range from all across the country to return to the pitches at Stowe. The Festival showcases a diverse range of eight different sports. From the adrenaline-pumping clash of lacrosse sticks to the precision of clay pigeon shooting, the Sports Festival has something for everyone. This year we were delighted to welcome over 100 Old Stoics on the morning of Sunday 17 March.

All matches reported close competitions with Stoics showing off their youth and energy and the Old Stoics playing their trump card of experience. Happily, the Old Stoics won most of the games and a particularly muddy cross-country finishing in a draw!

Our Old Stoics guests then enjoyed an informal lunch in the Marble Hall and Music Room, allowing them the opportunity to catch with old friends and meet new ones.

We would like to thank the Sports Staff for running the matches, along with everyone who helped with the arrangements for the day.

The OS Sports Festival is an annual event and we hope to host additional sports next year, including netball and squash. Please get in touch if you would like to take part or Captain a team on behalf of the Old Stoics, [email](mailto:email), or telephone: 01280 818349.

**Charlotte Evans, OSS Events Manager**



The day kicked off with a dramatic twist - the weather. We faced torrential rain in the morning and feared some of our matches may not go ahead but, happily, the rain cleared as the droves arrived to commence play. This year's lineup included hockey, football, tennis, cross country, clay pigeon shooting, lacrosse and Fives.



## 1st X Lacrosse v Old Stoics

On Sunday 17 March, the 1st X hosted the Old Stoics for the last weekend fixture of the season.

Despite some early rain, the match went ahead as scheduled. The game got off to a slow start, with both teams making attempts towards goal, however Stowe struck first with a goal from Maddie Baker (Lower Sixth, Queen's) assisted by Jessie Frost (Upper Sixth, Nugent). This was dealt back double, with Imi White (Nugent 17) and Amber Frost (Nugent 19) both scoring for the Old Stoics.

Q2 was a big quarter for the Stowe side, with four unanswered goals - a hat trick from Jessie, and a second for Maddie, this time assisted by Tati Riviere (Fifth Form, Nugent). The score was 5-2 at the half.

After the break, goals were traded in a high scoring affair. The OS scored one each from Jemima Hammond (Upper Sixth, Nugent), who is a current Stoic but kindly made up the numbers

for the Old Stoics, Amber Frost and Amber Capurro (Nugent 20), while the hosts put four away; two more from Jessie Frost, one for Alice Bryant (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and a first career goal for Erin Perez Quane (Lower Sixth, Nugent).

Into the final stretch, three were scored for the OS side (Amber Frost, Millie Colebrook and Georgie Skinner (Nugent 17)), but a final score from Ruadh McCarthy-Wyper (Fifth Form, Cheshire) meant the game finished 10-8.

A special shout-out must go to the 2nd X players supporting the game both on and off the field, as well as Fourth Former Orlaith Massie (Queen's) who got her first game for the 1st X and did brilliantly, with plenty of saves, interceptions and perfect clears.

The game was played in fantastic spirits by both sides, cheered on by a good group of supporters. Thanks must go to the OS for travelling, and we look forward to hosting you again next season!

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**





# The Curwen Archives Exhibition and the Rugby Group Meeting

On Thursday 7 March The Watson Art School hosted the annual Rugby Group meeting, a group formed of the major public schools from across the South of England; from Wellington to Winchester, Cheltenham to Charterhouse, Radley to Rugby. Every year a different school hosts and this year it was our opportunity to chair the discussion and provide stimulus and inspiration to those collective Heads of Department, relishing the opportunity to share notes with their opposite numbers.

We started by workshopping three different issues which are prevalent in art education today: the use of AI, feedback guidelines and gender imbalance. As ever with these meetings the discussion is passionate and honest, with all schools having a slightly different take on the topics, but all having the common goal to share and collaborate for the betterment of their pupils.

Our keynote speakers, Adam Scott and Charlotte Boyens from Freestate Architecture Studio, enthralled us with new pathways open to young artists in a fast-moving industry. The key message, once again, was that of collaboration and how the modern creative companies thrive on partnership. Adam spoke passionately about working with 'Nike' and 'Google' and how cross-curricular skills (dare I say Change Maker skills) are the foundation of the modern creative mindset.

We then went on to formally open our feature exhibition of the year 'The Curwen Archives: Celebrating a legacy of collaboration'.

The Curwen Print Study Centre was established as an educational Fine Art Printmaking charity in the 1990s by Master Printer Stanley Jones MBE and local entrepreneur and art lover Sam Alper OBE. Simon Alper (Grafton 77), Sam's son, went to Stowe in the late 1970s where his own love of Art was fostered and nurtured. Not long after, the then Head of Art Guy Scott (himself a skilled printmaker) and the Alper's initiated The Curwen Print Scholarship. This awards, to this day, places for two exceptional Sixth Form pupils to study and work for a week under the tutorage of the Curwen master printmakers, developing their portfolios for A Level and Art School applications.

During the last 40 years of partnership between Stowe and the Curwen over 80 pupils have been fortunate enough to study with the late Stanley Jones, current Director Lorraine Chitson and their exceptional Technicians.



Stowe alumni exhibited here include our current Head of Art, Daniel Scott (Chandos 94) and Upper Sixth pupils Amelia Storer (Queen's) and Yi Lin Wan (Bruce).

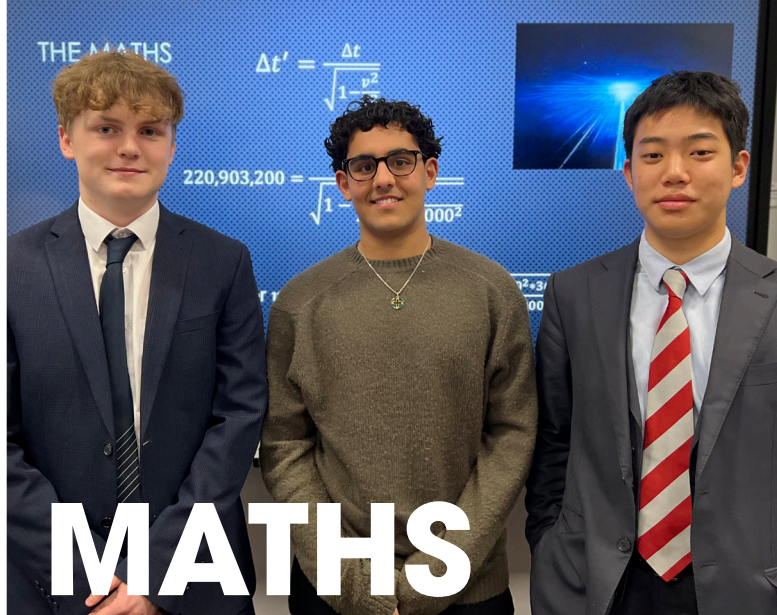
We were delighted during the opening to hear from Lorraine who spoke of the Curwen's developments over the years into its wonderful new premises in Cambridgeshire. Dr Wallersteiner also spoke about how his interest in Art began when he collected prints, drawings and affordable art works which eventually led to his doctoral thesis on the St Ives artist, Peter Lanyon. This led him to join the Council of the Tate St Ives which considerably strengthened his application to Stowe!

We are indebted to all members of the Rugby Group, The Curwen Print Study Centre, all members of the Art Department and the Catering Team for helping put together this special event.

## Exhibiting Artists:

Stanley Jones, Henry Moore, Paula Rego, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, Ceri Richards, Lyn Chadwick, David Gentleman, Elisabeth Frink, Susan Aldworth, Edward Bawden, Guy Scott, Daniel Scott, Yi Lin Wan and Amelia Storer.

**Daniel Scott, Head of Art**



### Gaussian Society Talks: Fibonacci, The Golden Ratio and The Mathematics of Interstellar

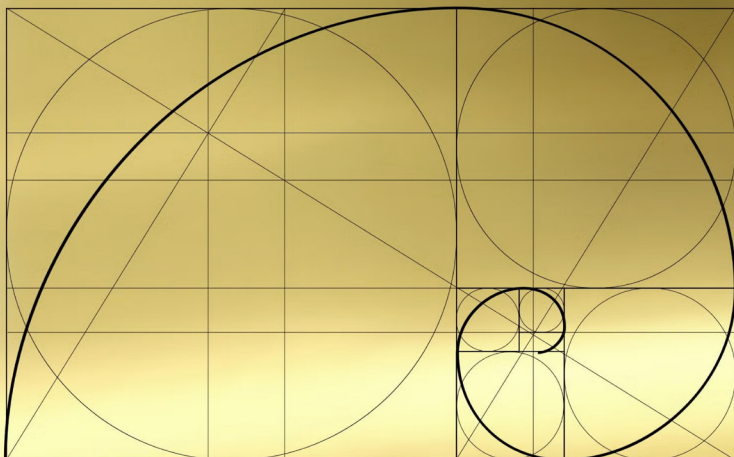
Gaussian Society met on Wednesday 14 February to hear talks from Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Talal Zahid (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Calon Heaven (Lower Sixth, Grenville).

Milo and Talal presented talks on Fibonacci and the Golden Ratio. Milo inspired us with the story of the 13th Century mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci and his major work 'Liber Abaci'. The son of a diplomat, Fibonacci travelled widely and introduced the Hindu-Arabic place-valued decimal system into Europe, as well as making his famous observations about populations of rabbits. After generating the sequence, Milo went on to show how it can be represented graphically and that the ratio of successive terms converges on the golden ratio. He finished with a fascinating example from nature, where the golden ratio is key to how sunflower seeds are efficiently packed inside the flowerhead.

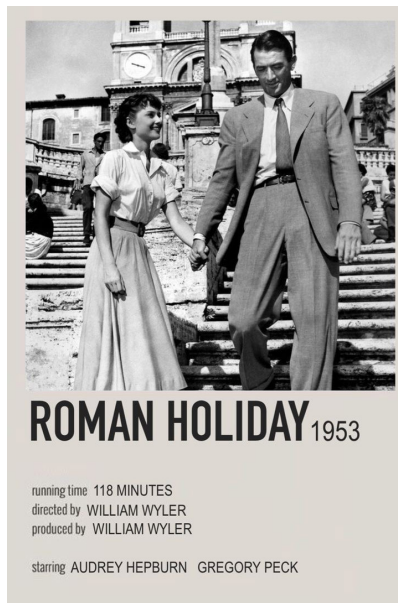
Talal expanded further on these ideas, algebraically deriving a value for the golden ratio and showing more instances of its relevance to geometry. The highlight was his clear derivation of Binet's formula which generates the Fibonacci numbers from the difference between two geometric sequences (with multiplications generating successive terms) based on the golden ratio. Talal finished with a summary of the Lucas numbers, generated by the same method as Fibonacci numbers, and showed how, fascinatingly, this is another sequence that can be generated by the golden ratio.

Calon brilliantly talked us through some aspects of Physics that appear in the film 'Interstellar'. Sensitive to the understanding of the audience, he carefully, step by step, led the audience through a calculation for time dilation based on relative velocities. The second part of his talk covered how the gravitational forces experienced by free bodies in space can be determined. The gravitational forces experienced by the endurance in the film depended as much on its mass as on the mass of the black hole, necessitating the self-sacrifice of a crew member so that the rest of the team had a chance to escape.

**Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths**



# Languages Society



As the Languages Society continues its journey through the academic year, we have had a number of culture-based interactive talks, varying from Stoics to members of the teaching departments. This term we have engaged our attention, on the Italian, French, Greek and Asian cultures. Additionally, we have organised a movie night, where we screened an old romantic classic 'Roman Holiday' (1953), starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.

We were very lucky to listen to a talk from Mr Sheppe and Mr Gupta, who explained the various languages of India, and how the latter helped shape over 300 dialects across the country. The most widely spoken languages are Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi and Kashmiri. Most of the languages spoken in India fall into one of four language families: Indo-European - worldwide today, but originating in Eurasia and some of Northern Africa. Many Indian languages are specifically of the Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan branch.

Looking ahead, the Society will be having one of its key events on Wednesday 20 March - the Open Mic Night! We have been delighted to receive a good number of volunteers which will be performing songs, acts, poems and much more in their respective or second languages.

A big thank you to everyone who is currently participating in the Society, and we are all very much looking forward to the excitement of the Summer Term, when we will be hosting our main event of the School year!

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

## Poetry Live

On Tuesday 6 February Fifth Form pupils went to the 'Poetry Live' performance in Northampton to enhance their poetry skills. The day consisted of talks from various poets from our set poetry anthology, including Simon Armitage (Poet Laureate since 10 May 2019), Carol Ann Duffy and John Agard, amongst others.

Each poet read a few of their most famous pieces and described in depth what their inspiration was and how symbolic these poems are for them. This allowed us to build upon our annotations to develop our understanding of the context and language of these poems.

In addition to this, we had the opportunity to hear from Peter Buckroyd, an examiner from the AQA exam board. He went through multiple model answers throughout the day in response to possible questions that could come up in the English Literature GCSE exam. This was extremely helpful as he identified the features and techniques we need to incorporate into our answers to get top marks. When we are revising from now on, we can refer to the advice given to us by Peter.

The day was enjoyable, memorable and useful for teachers and pupils. Hopefully the insights will aid us when we are sitting in the Drayson taking our exams during the Summer.

**Annabel Hussey (Fifth Form, Nugent)**





# ROWING

Over Exeat on Sunday 10 March, seven of our Fourth Form rowers took part in Regional trials in Peterborough. They were taken by an enthusiastic parent group, who booked everyone into a hotel on the rowing course on Saturday night! Conditions on Sunday were unpleasant, with continuous rain all day long. The rowers had an arduous programme of races but completed everything as planned.

Ben Cousins (Bruce) and Hecco Harrison (Temple) went first in the J15 singles, Ben achieving fifth fastest time, while Hecco's third fastest time qualified him for the A Final. In the Final he repeated this performance giving him a Bronze medal finish. The first two scullers qualified for the Inter-Regional Championships next term, so Hecco was very close.

In girls' singles Bella Bawden (Stanhope) found the going tough and Aggie Edwards (Stanhope) had to settle for Seventh place, outside the A Final. It later transpired that Bella was seriously unwell but completed two further races, determined not to let her friends down - a heroic effort from a brave young person.

Ben and Hecco came Sixth in doubles, narrowly missing the A Final. Bella and Tallulah Havard (Stanhope) also achieved a very creditable Sixth place. Lorraine Yan (Stanhope) raced herself to exhaustion in the doubles with Aggie, and had to be lifted out of the boat - but they qualified for the A Final.

The girls raced a straight final in sweep fours, coxed by Aizere Brekesh (Stanhope). They split the two Norwich School crews and achieved another Bronze medal finish. Lorraine and Aggie then jumped out and raced to the start for the doubles Final. They faced last year's National winners from Cantabrigdian Rowing Club, together with City of Cambridge, and Bedford - the fastest crew from the morning. They turned over the fast Bedford crew, while the two Cambridge crews fought tooth-and-nail for the Team East selection (last year's champions missing out). A third Bronze medal finish for Stowe.

Although the rowers were a little down-beat, having spent a day soaking wet, cold and against tough opposition, I hope they will realise that three Bronze medals, from the most competitive event any of them have done, is an excellent result. Thank you to the parents, organised by Nadine and Rob Edwards, for making this event possible for the team.

Disappointingly we've had to take the decision to withdraw from the Schools' Head, due to the extreme river conditions. With so many cancellations of river events, we are pleased that our boys' and girls' eights competed at two events this term - Northampton and Hampton. Our next event is Birmingham Regatta on Saturday 27 April, where we hope most of our rowers can take part.

**Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing**



## Comic Relief Fancy Dress Netball Tournament

The Fancy Dress Netball Tournament held on Saturday 16 March to raise money for Comic Relief was a delightful and spirited event that brought together players in a fun and charitable setting.

The tournament successfully raised over £200 for the charity, highlighting the generosity and support of the girls playing.

The tournament was not just about netball skills but also creativity and enthusiasm as players adorned themselves in a variety of whimsical costumes.

From playful minions to comical whoopee cushions and fierce dinosaurs, the court was transformed into a colourful and vibrant spectacle, adding an extra element of joy and excitement to the games.

Amidst the laughter and camaraderie, the girls who participated in the tournament showcased their competitive spirit and sportspersonship, engaging in friendly yet spirited matches. The unique blend of fancy dress and netball created an entertaining and lively atmosphere, with each player adding their own flair and character to the event.

As the games unfolded, it was evident that the focus was not just on winning but on enjoying the experience and supporting a worthy cause. The fun and laughter resonated throughout the tournament, creating a memorable and heartwarming event that left a lasting impact on all involved.

Overall, the Fancy Dress Netball Tournament for Comic Relief was a resounding success, with lots of fun had by the girls who played. The combination of creative costumes, competitive matches and charitable fundraising efforts made it a truly special and meaningful occasion, demonstrating the power of sport to bring people together for a good cause. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations.

**Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball**





## Confirmation Service

Stowe's annual Confirmation service took place at the end of the Lent Term on Sunday 17 March, with 47 Stoics being confirmed. Over 400 Parents, Godparents and friends attended the service in the Chapel, which was conducted by the Rt Revd Dr Timothy Wambunya, an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford.

Confirmation candidates attended classes each Wednesday of the Lent Term where they learnt about some of the core tenets of the Christian faith. I am grateful to Isaiah Rugasira (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Jemima Pearson-Gee (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Michael Oduguwa (Upper Sixth, Bruce) for volunteering to assist with the confirmation course. These Senior pupils each led a group of confirmation candidates and facilitated discussion time during our classes. Having older Christian pupils answering their questions allowed the candidates to think more deeply about what it means to be a Christian and how to live out their faith.

The service began with myself baptising three pupils in the Chapel Font. After the sermon, where the Bishop spoke about God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ, the candidates were asked to publicly confirm their faith. The Bishop then welcomed them to the Anglican Church through a ceremony called 'the laying on of hands'. Communion was celebrated before a final rousing hymn.

On behalf of those who were confirmed, thank you to Jonathan Kingston, Emma Bryden, Thomas Hawkes and the Chapel Choir for the wonderful music and anthems during the service, and to all who contributed to this special occasion.

**Reverend James Righetti, Chaplain**



## Lent Addresses

From Monday 4 to Wednesday 6 March, we welcomed the Reverend Vaughan Roberts to Stowe to deliver the annual Lent Addresses on the topic 'True Friendship in a Digital Age'. Vaughan is Rector of St Ebbe's Church in Oxford, an internationally renowned speaker and the author of many books. His book 'True Friendship' engagingly applies biblical wisdom on the topic of friendship to our busy, modern world.

Vaughan's deep thinking on the theme was obvious in the three talks he delivered in The State Music Room across consecutive nights. Around 75 pupils attended each talk and heard that good friendships are crucial to living life well. Vaughan showed us that the best friendships are candid, careful, and sacrificial; and that Jesus' offer of friendship is both the model for, and the ultimate example of, true friendship.

It was encouraging to see so many pupils keen to think deeply about this important topic, and we are grateful to Reverend Vaughan for the time he gave to prepare and deliver the Lent Addresses this year.

**Reverend James Righetti, Chaplain**



## SPANISH

### SPANISH PLAY IN LONDON 'LA CASA de BERNADA ALBA'

The Spanish Department embarked on a day trip to London and The National Theatre on Wednesday 14 February. After taking the train to Euston and navigating the Tube, we had an enjoyable two hours of free time when we arrived. This was great, as we were able to savour delicious food in Southwark market, as well as getting to know the area better. I was shocked at how large the queue for Paella was in the market, with over 60 people queuing up every 20 minutes!

Thanks to our Google maps navigation skills (and to those who did Gold DofE!) we arrived at the theatre in perfect English timing, unlike Spaniard timing which usually tends to be 25% later than usual!

For the last year, we have been learning about the play 'La Casa de Bernada Alba', which forms 10% of the A Level. After thoroughly analysing the play and studying it, there was no better way to refine our knowledge than by physically going to the theatre and watching this play live.

It was incredibly useful to get to know the characters up close, as not only did it improve our knowledge, but it also enabled us to really relate to the play, especially after having studied it for so long. After the play, we had a great opportunity to talk with the actors, as well as getting a group picture, which was much appreciated.

I want to say a special thank you to Mr Morales-Shearer and Dr Ferrero for organising this amazing trip.

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



## Third Form Film School



Change Maker Day this year marked a significant event as Stowe welcomed the **One Day Film School**, continuing our tradition of nurturing talent in the realm of acting and directing, with notable alumni including David Niven, Cressida Bonas and Matthew Vaughn. The day served as a collaborative endeavour aimed at honing pupils' Change Maker skills such as initiative and collaboration, propelling them towards their Stowe Award goals.

In a series of engaging workshops, Third Formers delved into the intricacies of film production and history. A highlight was the enthralling fight choreography session, where pupils learned the art of safe yet realistic combat from seasoned actors, some of whom had worked alongside luminaries like Tom Cruise. Following sessions on camera angles, screenwriting and editing, Stoics embarked on the task of creating their own three-shot masterpieces, yielding some remarkable early takes.

After an intensive critique session, pupils were tasked with crafting ten-shot films, drawing upon the skills acquired throughout the day. Stoics scoured the School for props, enlisted Staff for cameo roles and utilised every corner of the campus, from iconic buildings to School buses and even the beloved beagle pack, to bring their visions to life.

In a whirlwind two hours, Stoics filmed and edited their creations, culminating in the eagerly awaited Stowe Film Festival Oscars. Judged by a panel including the Head and esteemed representatives from the One Day Film School, the competition showcased two-minute silent films set to music, with Nugent House clinching victory with their captivating production, **'The Queen & The Crown'**.

'The Queen & The Crown' will now represent Stowe in the prestigious 10-Shot Award, an accolade celebrating filmmaking excellence across leading UK schools. Headed by Robin Kinsey, Vice-President of Marketing at Walt Disney Studios EMEA and UK, overseeing Marvel, Lucasfilm, and 20th Century Studios, this opportunity is a testament to Stowe's commitment to fostering Change Makers and showcasing their talents on a national stage.

**Jessica Reinhold, Head of Projects**



## Careers Fair

As part of Change Maker Day, Sixth Form Stoics were guided through the maze that is the UK and International Higher Education Institution (HEI) system.

A special thank you goes to Luci Guntner for arranging what must have been our best-ever HE fair. Every year I learn something new from the careers fair and this year was full of new and familiar faces.

The day started with a talk from Ellie Freshwater from the University of Warwick, who set the tone with a motivating keynote. Pupils engaged in workshops, explored university courses and received guidance on action planning, target setting and crafting personal statements. The Uglard, The Library, The Marble Hall and The Dining Room buzzed with future possibilities.

This year was the first year we invited parents and Lower School pupils. It was nice to see families and some of Fifth Form who popped in between mocks and lunch.

Now the real work starts in Tutor groups as we continue to support our Tutees develop their competitive applications for UCAS, international universities and degree apprenticeships.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures**





# England Lacrosse National Schools' Championships 2024

Stowe sent five teams to the England Lacrosse National Schools' Championships 2024, at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre on Saturday 9 to Tuesday 12 March, an annual open competition which falls in early March. This has been a banner year for the programme, with excellent finishes from a number of sides

## 1st X

The premier squad led by Captains Emily Watson (Upper Sixth, West) and Maddie Baker (Lower Sixth, Queen's) had the best finish for a number of years. The results on day one put Stowe into Division two for the second day of competition. The girls then reached the Final by winning two out of their three games in the division and then progressing positively through the knockout games. In the Final against Fettes College from Scotland, despite a 2-2 scoreline at half time, Fettes took the win.

The team played their best lacrosse of the year and should be extremely proud of their podium finish and there were some excellent performances across the board. The player of the tournament was Captain Emily Watson, who did not leave the field all weekend, didn't put a foot (or a stick) wrong, and led the defence masterfully every game.

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**

## 2nd X

The 2nd X squad led by Tilly Sherwin (Lower Sixth, West) gave an outstanding performance. With just two subs on the Saturday, and one on the Sunday, every player contributed massively to the success of the squad. Special mention to Izzy Blount (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) with 19 saves and only 24 opposition goals over the weekend, and Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) with an incredible 20 wins on the centre draw.

On Saturday, the 2nd team results (2 wins and 3 losses) meant the girls still made it through to the final 16 in Division one of the U19B tournament. The Sunday brought a very tough pool of opposition, however their fantastic results (two wins, one draw and a loss) put them in the final eight in the country.

An amazing end to a great season, with only two losses in this season's Saturday Fixtures. The players of the tournament were Izzy Blount (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Bella Timmis (Fifth Form, Stanhope).

**Joni Randall, Lacrosse Coach**

## 3rd X

The 3rd team had their biggest fixture of the season taking on a number of tough opponents in the Tournament. Strong performances against defensive teams, tactical talks to strengthen our defence, some amazing saves and determined mindsets, the 3rd X improved game on game finding their rhythm. Despite the fact that the girls did not make the Quarter Finals, they should all be proud of their performances and sportsmanship throughout the day.

## U15A

The U15As were drawn a tough group which included the perennial power houses Berkhamsted and Caterham. The focus of the day for the U15s was hard work and making sure that if they all did the little things well in the games, they would have a positive impact. The girls played better each game with impressive work rate and effort, and they grew in confidence. Overall, the U15s had a successful day and managed to play knockout lacrosse, work hard and make sure they did the little things well. I look forward to seeing them play in Senior lacrosse next year.

**Peter Shepherd, Lacrosse Coach**

## U14A

The U14A team played a great morning of lacrosse at the Championships, improving every single game. The team from top to bottom worked hard and improved, with notable mentions going to Betty McDougall (Nugent) and Frankie Mackenzie (Nugent) in midfield, Lottie Rose (Queen's) in goal and Ruby Sturgis (Stanhope) in attack. The team is deeply looking forward to next season!

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**

Please click [here](#) for the full match reports for the Competition.



## FOURTH FORM CHANGE MAKER DAY



### Willen Hospice

Chandos Fourth Form volunteered for Willen Hospice. During the day we went to one to their shops in Milton Keynes, where we helped to clean and stack shelves then set up a display. This helped us to see how a business is run and allowed us to use active learning to perform the tasks more efficiently. After this we went to the Hospice where we learnt about what they offered and what it meant. We then went on to wrap toys and sweet bags for one of the many fundraising events that Willen Hospice undertakes each year. We used our Change Maker skills of analytical thinking to save as much material as possible. As a Tutor Group we saved the team at the shop, not only time but also money as they could now perform tasks sooner or move onto the next product. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day's activities and the learning experiences that came with them.

**Ben Bowers (Chandos)**

### Willen Hospice Gardens

For our Change Maker Day activity, we went to Willian Hospice Gardens in Milton Keynes. It was a pleasure working there and it was an experience we will not forget in a hurry.

During the short amount of time we had, we helped to clear a large open area that was full of weeds and rocks. We then planted lots of poppy seeds over the area and with any luck, in years to come the area will be full of lovely poppies. Whilst we were busy working a resident at the Hospice came to congratulate us on our hard work. We were rewarded with hot chocolate before saying our goodbyes to the very grateful groundsmen.

Overall, we had a great time and loved working there and hope we made a significant impact to Willen Hospice.

**Ben Lloyd (Chatham)**



### Christmas Gorse

The Bruce House Fourth Formers rolled up their sleeves and embraced a challenge with both hard work and infectious cheer. Their mission for the day was to clear undergrowth at the Christmas Gorse nature reserve near Winslow, fostering a welcoming habitat for the majestic Purple Emperor butterfly. This once-thriving species has seen a decline in recent years, and the boys were determined to make a difference.

Armed with a variety of tools and plenty of elbow-grease, the group tackled the overgrown landscape with remarkable enthusiasm. The sounds of laughter, friendly banter and rousing renditions of Jerusalem filled the air as they pruned back stubborn branches, cleared encroaching brambles, and opened sunlit patches in the undergrowth.

The physical nature of the work was a welcome change from the classroom setting, and the boys revelled in the

opportunity to expend their energy for a worthy cause. Their teamwork was a sight to behold - they assisted each other with difficult tasks, offered encouragement when fatigue set in, and celebrated each small victory together.

As the day progressed, a deeper understanding of the project unfolded. The pupils learned about the delicate balance of the local ecosystem, and how the Purple Emperor butterfly plays a crucial role in pollination and the overall health of the environment. Seeing the transformation they were making first-hand ignited their sense of purpose and environmental responsibility.

By the end of the day, a significant portion of Christmas Gorse was visibly transformed. The overgrown landscape had given way to open spaces, ready to welcome the delicate wings of the Purple Emperor. The boys, tired but exhilarated, knew they had contributed to something truly special.

**Andrew Arnold, Fourth Form Tutor**

### Visit to Swanbourne House School

As part of The Stowe Group Change Maker Day on Thursday 29 February, Queen's House pupils visited Swanbourne House Prep School. Here we practiced lots of our key Change Maker skills, for example using emotional intelligence when adapting our attitude to speak to the younger children. We also used communication and social literacy to effectively interact with the children to help them with their work. We engaged in several different activities throughout the day. In the morning, we went over to the Manor House to help the Year Two children create stories. We had a great morning with the children and learned lots about patience and communication.

After a delicious lunch, we helped with the Year Three pupils from both Swanbourne House and Winchester House Schools. We had an amazing time making robots out of unused materials. The children had such fun and came up with creative functions for their robots, all of which were designed to help people. For example, cooking robots and medical robots, which were designed to help people with impairments.

Throughout the day we learned a lot about leadership, when helping teachers and leading groups with their lessons. We also gained a lot of respect for the Swanbourne Staff who evidently care deeply for their children and we wish them the best in the future. We had a great time and hope to be back soon!

**Alice Fell & Isabella Rivett (Queen's)**



### Lace Hill Academy

Nugent House Fourth Formers went to Lace Hill Primary School in Buckingham. Everyone had a wonderful day helping the children in lessons and supporting teachers. Over the course of the day we learnt how to support children with learning difficulties and those who struggle in class.

We hope that we will be able to go back to Lace Hill soon and work with the children again.

**Charlotte Hemstock (Nugent)**

### Buckingham Primary School

The Cheshire Fourth Form took a trip to Buckingham Primary School. We were split into groups to do many different activities and tasks such as reading with the children, assisting with PE lessons, helping to organise the library and making a Willy Wonka themed Escape Room for the pupils to enjoy. We enjoyed spending time with the primary school children very much and had lots of fun doing the variety of lessons with them.

Through the course of the day, we experienced many different challenges which required some thought to solve. Furthermore, we learnt how to treat and communicate with children who are younger than us, we picked up some very useful skills from the teachers, such as how to express ideas and concepts in simple accessible ways, with someone who is younger. These skills will be crucial in enhancing our ability to communicate effectively and efficiently. Working with young children required a different viewpoint and a lot of patience; the children looked up to us, and often we were expected to lead the activities.

We all greatly enjoyed our Change Maker Day and while it had its challenges, we benefited from the experience. We were able to enhance Change Maker skills which we might not otherwise have a chance to work on.

**Yasmeen Khan & Niamh Byrne (Cheshire)**



# Music

## Lunchtime Concert

On Thursday 15 February a number of Stowe musicians gave a fantastic, memorable lunchtime concert. Performing to a packed audience in the State Music Room, the Stoics acquitted themselves admirably with their performances of works spanning many genres. From a Stowe string quartet performance of 'Death and the Maiden' by Schubert, to a stylish performance of 'New York State of Mind' by Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos), the variety and quality of these performances always makes for an enjoyable concert.

The concerts regularly feature young musicians from local primary schools and on this occasion we were joined by Reuben, from

Helmdon Primary School, who gave a sparkling performance of music from the film 'Interstellar' by Hans Zimmer.

A huge thanks must go to the following Stoics who took part in this event: Lily Torigai (Upper Sixth, West), Owen Gunn, Emily Gauvain (Fourth Form, Queen's), Alice Fell (Fourth Form, Queen's), Patrick Kingsman (Third Form, Winton), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), William Heaven (Fifth Form, Chatham), Euan Davies (Fourth Form, Winton), Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Olivia Ng (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Emily Garwood (Lower Sixth, Cheshire).

## Keyboard Festival Day

On Wednesday 13 March, around 30 children visited Stowe from Winchester House School, Spratton Hall, Beachborough, Caroline Chisholm School and Northampton School for Boys to take part in the annual Keyboard Festival Day. Also in attendance were pupils of local piano teachers Carol Evans and Rachel Fountain.

The day featured a multitude of activities to get involved with, including a scales and improvisation workshop, a masterclass, an inspirational organ demonstration given by Chapel Organist Thomas Hawkes and a lunchtime concert given by Stoics Emily Garwood and Nikki Atife (both Lower Sixth, Cheshire).

At the heart of the day, was a multi-piano ensemble featuring music especially arranged for the Keyboard Festival Day. The fun-packed day concluded with a ten-piano ensemble concert to visiting parents and Head teachers. Well done to all those involved and a special thanks to Thomas Hawkes and Jane Horwood for their unwavering support throughout the day.

## Keyboard Showcase Concert

In the evening of Wednesday 13 March, 52 Stoic pianists took part in a Keyboard Showcase concert. Performing to a full house of parents, Staff and pupils, the Stoics gave some outstanding performances as soloists, piano duos and as part of a ten-piano ensemble, which featured three Stoics performing individual parts at each of the ten pianos. The sound of ten pianos being played at the same time is a unique auditory experience to behold, and each of the Stoics involved rose to the challenge admirably. From Jemima Pearson-Gee's (Upper Sixth, Nugent) stunning

performance of Eva Cassidy's 'I Wandered By A Brookside', to Freddie Youngman Sullivan's (Fourth Form, Grafton) rendition of Billy Strayhorn's 'Take The A Train', each of the pupils brought something really unique to the event and helped to make the evening a really special one.

A big thank you must go to the performers themselves, Stowe's fantastic team of piano teachers, Kasper Calvert for his technical support with lighting, and finally to Jane Horwood (Music Administrator) and Thomas Hawkes (Chapel Organist) for their support of the event.

## James Kirby Masterclass and Recital

On Wednesday 7 February, International concert pianist and educator James Kirby visited Stowe to give a piano Masterclass to Stoic pianists. James is a highly experienced, educator and performer, who himself studied at the Moscow Conservatory, and was a Semi-Finalist at the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition. Charlotte Hemstock (Fourth Form, Nugent), Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Jasmine Zheng (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Emily Garwood (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Nikki Atife (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) all took part in the Masterclass, and it was fantastic to see how James worked with them during the course of the afternoon, imparting words of wisdom and constructive feedback on their repertoire.

In the evening, James returned to the Ugland auditorium give a piano recital. From the serene 'Nocturne in D-flat Op.27 no.2' by Chopin, to the monumental 'Sonata in A D959 by Schubert', James delighted the audience with his highly expressive and nuanced performance.

## Eva-Grace Ng Diploma Piano Recital

On Thursday 14 March Music Scholar Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) gave an outstanding solo recital of music by Bach, Schubert, Ravel and Taktakishvili. The three levels of diploma each represent a level of playing significantly above grade 8. The Associate level is commensurate with the level of an undergraduate 1st year recital at a music conservatoire. The Licentiate level diploma represents the level of a final recital at the end of an undergraduate course, and the Fellow represents a level equivalent to a recital at the end of a Master's degree.

Eva has already completed her Associate Diploma and the music she performed in this concert was from the Licentiate syllabus. This is a notable accolade given Eva has yet to embark on an undergraduate degree and is still in the Lower Sixth. To play at this level requires many, many hours of dedication and hard work and Eva's performance was fluent, sensitive and highly accomplished. Congratulations to Eva and her teacher Maia Griffin for this significant achievement.

**Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard**



# Badminton

On Saturday 2 March the boys' and girls' 1st team hosted Uppingham, with the boys winning 14-6 and the girls losing 14-6.

The boys' 2nd and 3rd teams travelled to Wellingborough School on Saturday 16 March. The 2nd team beat Wellingborough 1st team 9-0 and the 3rd team beat Wellingborough 2nd team 8-1. Also on Saturday 16 March the 1st Mixed team hosted Bradfield College with 19 Stoics taking part. It was a fitting end to the season with the match finishing all square 16-16.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton**

# Swimming

Our Senior swimmers had a wonderful opportunity to race in the London Aquatics Centre (the 2012 Olympic pool) in annual The Bath Cup on Friday 1 March.

Well done to Sam Gray (Lower Sixth, Winton), Julian Smith (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Charles Smith (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Sasha Bodnaruk (Upper Sixth, Temple) and the girls' team of Izzy Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Charlotte Hall (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) and Bella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope).

**Cheryl Davis, Head of Swimming**

# Basketball

The Senior basketball team showed signs of rust after their two weeks without playing due to the Half Term break and suffered a rare loss against Uppingham on Saturday 4 March, well done to the U16s who got a win at the same fixture.

On Thursday 14 March the 1st team hosted Abingdon, having lost to them 32-36 in February. The 1st team put in their best performance of the season to win 65-32. On Saturday 16 March the U16 team ended their season on a high with an excellent 79-24 win against Bradfield College.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball**



# EQUESTRIAN

The Equestrian Team has been busy this Half Term! February started with a bang when the team took on the Bloxham Eventer Challenge Championships on Sunday 18 February. Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent), Flora Edwards (Third Form, Queen's) and Daisy Edwards (Fourth Form, Cheshire) became Team Champions in the 80cm class and Bunny, Daisy, Anabelle Robbins (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Lucy Willmott (Upper Sixth, Nugent) then took Team Champions in the 90cm class. Lucy Willmott finished the series with a brilliant clear round to take Individual Champion in the 90cm as well. Huge congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's series!

Bunny Hales travelled to Eland Lodge on Saturday 2 March to compete in the Eventer Challenge. She took Fifth in the 80cm and Second in the 90cm, qualifying her second horse for the Championships at Hickstead in May. The team then went to Bury Farm on Sunday 3 March for NSEA Showjumping. They were Third in the 80cm class (Lola Soto (Third Form, Cheshire), Flora Edwards, Isabella Rivett (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Ruby Wetherall (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton).

The team of Flora Edwards, Daisy Edwards, Lola Price (Third Form, Cheshire) and Ruby Wetherall took Second in the 90cm. The 1m class was contested by Lola Price, taking Fourth place and Daisy Edwards, competing in her first 1m class, coming Fifth.

On Saturday 16 March, Gracie Cowley (Third Form, Queen's) and Bunny Hales went to Bury Farm to compete in the NSEA Dressage. Gracie rode two horses in both the Prelim Open and Novice classes and took First and Seventh in these classes. A fantastic result, especially for her first Novice test. Bunny Hales was First in her Prelim class. Well done girls.

Sunday 17 March saw the team travel back to Eland Lodge for NSEA Showjumping and the opportunity to qualify for further classes at Hickstead, however it was a difficult day for all members of the team and it wasn't meant to be. Well done to everyone for doing their very best on a challenging day.

Good luck to Lola Price who will be competing at the BSJA Blue Chip Winter Show Jumping Championships on Sunday 7 April!

**Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian**



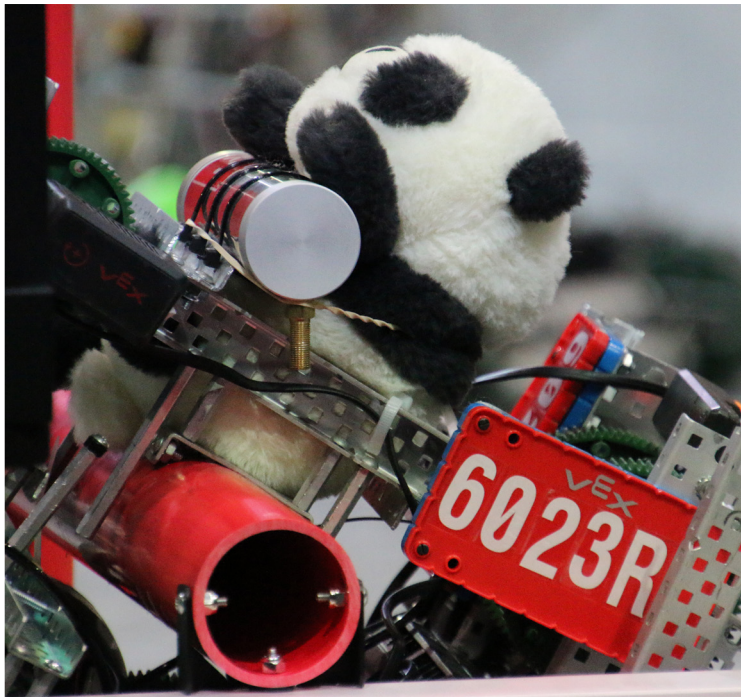
# Hockey

The U16s team continued their fantastic form with another Win in the Plate competition against Merchant Taylor's on Thursday 29 February. It was another game that went to shuffles and again Stowe came out on top.

The U16 side then beat Uppingham on Saturday 2 March. This is a team that clearly demonstrate the very strong 'value added' benefit that Stoics get during their time. The team did not actually win a Saturday match in the first two years, but through an excellent attitude and good coaching this team have now won all their Saturday matches during this, their third season against those same schools.

In other matches in the block against Uppingham on Saturday 2 March, the 1st team won a thriller 4-3 in the last few minutes, with Captain Arthur Clayton (Upper Sixth, Grafton) scoring two goals. The U16A and U16Bs, the U15Bs and the U14Bs also won to give Stowe the better overall results of five wins to four against Uppingham.

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**



# ROBOTICS

Stowe's Robotics teams travelled to Birmingham on Tuesday 13 February for a Regional qualifying round, hoping for a place at the National Finals. After some great battles and remaining undefeated all day, they sadly lost the Final.

The Fifth Form team were ranked Third in the Skills category at the event so qualified for the National Finals, meaning that all four teams have now qualified. This is the first time Stowe have managed to get Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form teams through to the Nationals, so a great achievement by them all!

The Finals took place in Telford on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 March, against 60 other teams from across the country. The competition splits teams randomly into two divisions, so we had two teams in each. Over the two days the teams played 14 matches to determine their ranking.

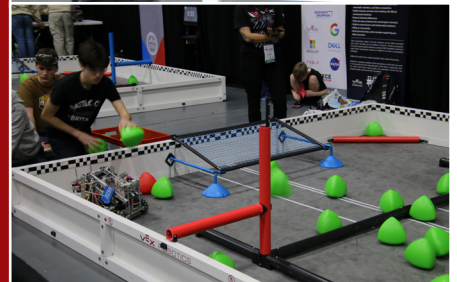
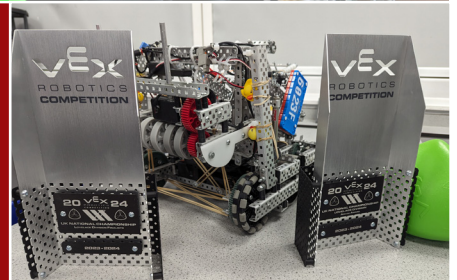
After day one, our Fourth Form team was sitting in First place in the rankings in their divisions, while the Third, Fifth and Sixth Form teams were further down the rankings. Day two saw a couple of unfortunate moments, which dropped the Fourth Form team to Second. At the end of qualification matches all the teams entered the playoffs, starting with a round of 16. The Fourth Form team and their alliance with a team from King Henry VIII in Coventry managed

to progress into the Quarter Finals. They then progressed to their Division Final but sadly did not win and missed the Grand Final. They were however awarded the Amaze Award for a well-documented and executed robot design, matched by excellent performance. They also ranked Fourth in the Skills Competition, a solo attempt competition with both programming and driver skill. Sadly though this meant they finished just outside of the automatic entry places to the World finals in Texas. We are on the waiting list and will be considered if other teams do not take up their spots, so we are still hopeful of making the World Finals at the end of April.

The robotics competition remains an excellent program for STEM pupils interested in physics, engineering, design and computer science. We have seen it assist many pupils into university places and it is backed by top level organisations like NASA, Tesla, Google and Northrop Grumman. As such it provides avenues to future careers in the industry.

Our top performing team has produced a 180-page design and engineering log over the year, which won them the Amaze Award. I am looking forward to next season and hope to welcome more robotics members in September into our successful teams.

**Paul Thompson, Head of Robotics**



## Forever Stowe

The Forever Stowe Group have continued to work with pupils at Bruern Abbey, an independent school in Buckinghamshire for boys aged 8-16 years old with dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.

Stoics shared their knowledge of both humanities and core subjects, preparing them for their exams as well as listening to the younger pupils developing their reading skills with one to one sessions. More Stoics are always welcome to join us as we build relations and help the younger pupils at Bruern. To get involved [email Roland Shuttleworth](mailto:email Roland Shuttleworth), Head of Service@Stowe.

**Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos)**







Welcome to  
Mercedes-Benz World



## Mercedes-Benz World

On Sunday 3 March, the Motorsport Club went on a trip to Mercedes-Benz World in Weybridge.

There were three floors of cars, simulator racing, various experiences and watching professional stunt drivers. There were lots of Mercedes cars on display as well as past Formula 1 cars. Whilst there, we were lucky to have a go on the simulators which were not only Formula 1, but also GT. We then had the opportunity to have a go on the Scalextric track, which was great fun.

After lunch we watched two stunt cars drive around the track however, due to the amount of standing water on the track, they were only able to do a few laps before having to stop - the laps they did were very impressive and enjoyable to watch. Bertie Scott (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Felix Carnegie (Fifth Form, Walpole) both had the opportunity to participate in a 'driver experience' where they were able to drive a G Wagon on the offroad track. They also had the experience of being passengers, along with Lola Richardson (Fifth Form, Stanhope), as a professional driver sped them around the track.

Bertie and Felix's experience took place on the 4x4 offroad course, in which they drove a Mercedes G class over obstacles and through puddles, which went all the way up to the bumper. They also went up and down hills with gradients as steep as 65% which made them glad that they had seatbelts! With the help from their driving instructor, they were able to navigate all obstacles without a problem and returned safely with the car in one piece.

Lola's experience was an 'on-track passenger experience'. She was in the Mercedes-Benz AMG and said it was an incredible as the driver was so experienced and handling was seamless around every turn.

A great time was had by all!

**Emily-Paige Rowson (Lower Sixth, West)**

# World Book Day

World Book Day is a global celebration of literature and reading which occurs annually on the first Thursday in March. It is a day dedicated to promoting the joy of books and the importance of literacy in society. The World Literary Foundation conducted a study proving that by reading for just 20 minutes a day throughout a school year you will read for 3600 minutes and learn over 1,800,000 words in that year. We are extremely lucky to have a beautiful Library at Stowe which holds over 16,000 resources across the School and allows our pupils to discover a love of reading.

On World Book Day we were joined by resident author Rhian Tracey, who gave a talk to Third Form Stoics and visiting pupils from Winchester House and Swanbourne House Schools. Rhian talked to our pupils about her new book 'Hide and Seek' which was released on Thursday 29 February. 'Hide and Seek' is the latest book in Rhian's Bletchley Park series set during the Second World War. Rhian captivated the audience, discussing how she created content by using family stories and combining them with national events and how she brainstorms and brings characters to life. Stoics asked some fantastic questions and were given the chance to buy a signed copy of her new book.

To celebrate World Book Day there were competitions which ran throughout the week. Staff and pupils were challenged to find the 12 missing 'Where's Wally' characters across the School, guess the mystery readers, and any pupils or Staff who loaned a book from the Library were entered into a prize draw.

Library Loan Winner: Alexander Chipperfield-Twiddy (Third Form, Walpole) who borrowed 'Fahrenheit 451'.

Mystery Reader Winner: Edward Berry (Third Form, Cobham) getting 7/8 names correct.

'Where's Wally' competition Winner: Millie Colebrook (Fifth Form, Queen's).

Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to the Winners.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the final Inter-House Literary Competition of the academic year with the Third and Fourth Form. This will then decide which House will be the Winner of the Junior Inter-House Literary Competition.

Thank you to the English Department for their help with the mystery reader and to the Stowe Staff who got involved in the competitions and discussed reading for pleasure on World Book Day. We are already looking forward to next year.

**Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Head Librarian**





# NETBALL

The Stowe netball teams have concluded a busy term filled with exciting fixtures and remarkable achievements. The teams faced tough opponents in Saturday fixtures against Oakham, Rugby, Oundle, Bromsgrove, Uppingham and Kimbolton, as well as midweek matches against Bedford Modern, Tudor Hall, Gordon's School, MK Dons and Netters.

Throughout the term, the quality of netball played by the Stowe teams has been outstanding. Despite not always securing victories, the teams demonstrated significant progress in skill and ability, showing improvement across all players over the past two terms.

The season's highlights include:

- The introduction of a Netball Strength and Conditioning Programme, with thanks to George Coote.
- All three age group teams qualifying for the Regional Schools' Finals.
- The U15C team, under the leadership of Paddy Dias, experienced a highly successful campaign by winning all bar one match, a remarkable turnaround from the previous season.

- The Senior 2nd and 3rd VII teams achieving victories against strong opponents like Oakham, Rugby, Uppingham and Bedford Modern.
- Raising over £200 for Comic Relief with a fancy dress tournament.
- Supporting and sharing in the success of our International athletes: Phoebe Haynes (Scotland), Lottie Moffat (Wales) and Izzy Kaye (England).
- The U19 team advancing to the prestigious National Schools' Finals and finishing second in the country out of over 650 entrants, achieving a first for Stowe!

These successes and others would not be possible without the support of the Academic Staff and Jessica Bell, so huge thanks to them for everything this season.

The season's accomplishments, combined with numerous individual highlights, provide a solid foundation for the next season. The progress and achievements attained this season set the stage for another thrilling and competitive campaign ahead for Stowe Netball.

**Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball**



# Rugby

We are delighted to announce Rafe Witheat (Temple) and Louis Haley (Bruce) have been awarded full-time professional rugby contracts with Northampton Saints. Both boys came to Stowe in the Sixth Form having been spotted by Director of Rugby; Grant Seely.

The boys have worked incredibly hard over the last two years and thoroughly deserve their contracts. Louis was selected as 1st XV Captain for Stowe this year and Rafe played for England U18s in their Six Nations match against France on Saturday 9 March in Chalonaise.

This means Stowe has produced no fewer than six boys to receive a professional contract (with four last season) and with the U15s having narrowly lost in the Semi-Final of the National Schools' Cup last weekend, the future looks bright for Stowe Rugby!

**Grant Seely, Director of Rugby**



# Cricket

Connor Lawford (Fifth Form, Walpole) recently had two pieces of good news, making the Northants U16 squad for the 2024 season, as well as the Scotland U16 squad; where he is due to play in their upcoming cup games against Holland and Ireland.

Connor has been working very hard - he has made the pre-season 1st XI squad and is also training with Kislingbury Temperance Cricket Club, who play in the Northants Premier League, whom he played for last Summer.

Congratulations Connor and best of luck for the upcoming season!

**James Knott, Director of Cricket**

# ALLOTMENT

The allotment is waking up ready for the growing season. We have an enthusiastic group of Staff and pupils preparing beds, sowing seeds, tidying up and planting crops to harvest in the Summer Term.

So far, we have managed to grow some dwarf peas and broad beans, but we want to have as wide a range of fruit and vegetables as possible. We have recently built some compost bins and have acquired a second-hand greenhouse. It is a very exciting time!

As always, if parents, guardians or friends of Stowe have any garden tools they are getting rid of, we would welcome any spares for our growing collection.

A special thank you to Matron Sue Zundel, who moved on to pastures new at February Half Term. Sue was instrumental in creating the Stowe allotment and we are very grateful for all her advice and support.

**Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Service@Stowe**



# Conservation Society

On Monday 4 March, Dr Leena Rana invited distinguished guest, Robert Manasse, a local resident and highly educated specialist in moths, to lecture the Stoics on collecting and identifying the species. Robert taught the pupils how to assemble a moth trap - a beginner's guide to identifying moths.

The UK is home to more than 2,500 moth species and moths outnumber butterflies 43 to 1. Moths are often more prominent and colourful than butterflies. During Robert's presentation, he showed Stoics how to set up the moth trap and understand how long the light bulb would stay lit with two batteries. Pupils learned about the output voltage and capacity for the light bulb in the moth trap. The moth trap was then assembled at St Mary's Church, Stowe, on the National Trust grounds. We were sceptical about getting any moths during the night as it is not the best time of the year for this activity.

A very early start the next day helped us discover that we had more than expected inside the moth trap. To our surprise, we had 15 species and also some micro-moths; even our expert was impressed that we were able to collect such an array of species at this time of year. We had the opportunity to identify these moths with the help of Robert and a big, illustrated moth book. We identified most of the moths from Small Quakers, Hebrus Characters, Common Quakers and Clouded Drabs. The Conservation Team would like to commend our Stoics, Robin Rattray (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Kit Lesser (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Archibald Vernon Miller (Fifth Form, Chatham), as they have taken this activity to heart. It has been an absolute pleasure to have had Robert Manasse's expertise and we thank him for all his time and dedication. Now that we have kickstarted the moth adventure, we are all looking forward to Spring so we can continue identifying our local moth population around Stowe to help the national butterfly and moth database.

**Julio Morales-Shearer, Service@Stowe**



# Fundraising Group

**Service@Stowe**

During Michaelmas Term, Kelly Errington from Willen Hospice revisited us and gave the fundraising Stoic group a presentation about fundraising in general and ideas they might pursue to raise funds for any cause. During the presentation Kelly also told the group about the work Willen Hospice does and the services the Hospice provides for those in the process of end-of-life care and the support they give to families who have relatives at the Hospice. The Group were astonished to find that the Hospice does not only care for people at their in-patient unit alongside Willen Lake but also that for many people the Hospice medical Staff travel to provide in-home care. These services cost about £5 million a year to run, for which the Hospice receives only a tiny amount of government support; around 17% of their annual expenses. Willen Hospice must therefore do continuous fundraising to cover their costs and offer their support to extremely ill patients. The Fundraising team decided to offer their support to the hospice and to raise funds.

So far, we have donated just under £1,000, that being half of the proceeds from Novembers Home Clothes Day. On Wednesday 12 March, the fundraising group raised a further £780 through a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale.

The Sixth Form Valentine's Ball on Saturday 10 February was also run for the benefit of the Hospice. In total, we hope to have raised near to £10,000 for the Hospice between the three activities.

This really crowns a lot of work we have been doing with Willen Hospice who also provide us with items for their online shops, for which we then write up all the descriptive details and price estimates so they can simply upload the information to their online shops with sites such as eBay and Depop. This is useful for us and for them because, it provides the opportunity for our Fourth Form Bronze DofE entrants to choose this as their activity to cover the 12 weeks of DofE volunteering which they have to commit to, whilst saving time for the Hospice volunteers. The Hospice also worked with us to provide Change Maker Day volunteering activities, with around 30 pupils attending both the Hospice site and the retail outlet on Thursday 29 February where they did a variety of retail work, such as gardening and preparing items to be used for Tombola prizes at future Willen Hospice fundraising activities.

**Rowland Shuttleworth, Head of Service@Stowe**



# Service@Stowe

## Street Child

This term the Street Child Committee have continued with our challenge of raising £20,000 to build a school in Liberia. We held a successful Krispy Kreme doughnut sale at the start of January, and raised another £800 towards the target.

On Thursday 25 January, some members of the group accompanied Dr Wallersteiner to a Street Child Programme's evening, where we got the opportunity to hear from the CEO of Street Child and multiple other members of the team. The speakers elaborated on their role at Street Child and what the current situations are in their country of focus, followed by how they are improving children's lives.

Our efforts over the last six months have seen us raise £13,336, therefore we still need to raise £8,664 to achieve our main objective.

Our next big event will be a Silent Auction held on Speech Day, which will see us offer a variety of interesting lots for parents and other visitors to bid on. Any donations, such as experiences, wine, art or personalised memorabilia would be greatly appreciated and would enable the Committee to get one step closer to building a school in Liberia. If you and parents wish to make any donations please contact Mr Shuttleworth, Head of Service, via [email](#). All leads will then be passed to the Street Child committee to action. Thank you in advance for your support with the project.

**Alessia Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Street Child Committee**



## International Society

The Senior International Dinner was held on Wednesday 6 March, and provided an opportunity for all International Sixth Form pupils to come together and celebrate the diversity and range of cultures they bring to life at Stowe. The evening saw a wonderful meal laid on by the Catering Department, with a menu of chicken, a range of salads and moussaka, followed by a dessert of waffles, fresh fruit and yoghurt.

We were also joined by Luci Guntner, who works closely with the Sixth Form within her capacity in the Futures Department, and Reverend James Righetti, who is also a new International member of the Stowe community. Australian Reverend Righetti gave a wonderful talk upon his own experience of joining the UK and the unique challenges international pupils may face. He also gave some wonderful advice about how to face such challenges; remain proud of your own culture and share it with those around you!

The International Prefects did a wonderful job of ensuring all felt welcome and had a lovely evening, and we are already looking forward to the Junior International Dinner in the Summer Term.

**Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils**



## Army Field Day

The recent Cadet Force Field Day on Tuesday 5 March provided Fifth Form Cadets with an opportunity to consolidate and develop our field craft skills through a series of deliberate attacks, close target patrols and training in built up areas.

Armed with lasers, we engaged in deliberate attacks within our platoons. Due to there being fewer Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) this allowed many Cadets to step into leadership roles and learn how to command their section, preparing us for what it would be like to become NCOs in the coming year. A significant highlight for us all was the introduction of radios for the first time, proving an asset in commanding separate platoons. This addition of radios made it easier for to create a plan of attack between the chosen leaders of the platoons.

The day's activities took us to the Equestrian Centre, where we engaged in training exercises in built-up areas, navigating buildings with our groups and eliminating enemies. This hands-on experience emphasized the importance of teamwork and adaptability in challenging situations. At midday, we gave in our laser rifles were given GP rifles for blank firing which as always, was the highlight of the day.

Despite suboptimal weather conditions, the field day proved to be a resounding success, providing an opportunity for Cadets to learn new leadership qualities and actively participate in exercises. The Field Day allowed many of us to learn how to step up and take a more hands on leadership role, which will be vital for many of us who are to become NCOs in the coming year.

**Romulus Flanagan (Fifth Form, Cobham)**





# Lacrosse

## Lacrosse Home Block Fixture

On Saturday 10 February, Stowe hosted Haileybury and Abbott's Hill to make up a full block for our lacrosse teams.

The 1st X played some exceptional team lacrosse against Haileybury, with both outstanding individual performances from players like Emelia Brett (Lower Sixth, Queen's) scoring seven goals, Jessie Frost (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Hannah Campbell (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Erin Perez Quane (Lower Sixth, Nugent), but top to bottom the team were able to defeat the hosts 14-8. Special mention must go to Izzy Blount (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) making her lacrosse debut in net!

The 2nd X had a masterful performance against Abbott's Hill 1st X, scoring six goals in six minutes at the start of the game. The score ended up 16-2 to Stowe.

The 3rd X found similar success in a 9-6 victory against Haileybury 2nd X. Olive De Courcy-Ireland (Fifth Form, Nugent) won the 'Golden Stick' in this match with six goals.

The U15As had a hotly contested game against Haileybury. Despite Mary Jones (Fourth Form, Cheshire) scoring six goals herself, the score ended up 7-7 with both teams working really hard and playing some great lacrosse.

The U15Bs had a brilliant game with plenty of goals scored, finishing 16-2 over Haileybury 15Bs.

The U14As played Abbott's Hill, with standout performances from Betty McDougall (Third Form, Nugent), Lottie Rose (Third Form, Queen's), Ruby Sturgis (Third Form, Stanhope) and Liv Eaton (Third Form, Nugent). Final score 9-6 to the visitors.

Last but by no means least, the 14Bs played against Abbott's Hill U13A. Edie Anderson (Third Form, Queen's), Maddie Harris (Third Form, Nugent) and Camilla Rickmers (Third Form, Stanhope) had great performances, and the final score was 9-3 to Abbott's Hill.

Both U14 teams have only just started playing lacrosse, and these results against teams with three seasons under their belts is a testament to the hard work and passion of both the U14s players and their coaches.

Thanks to all the supporters who came out, including Dr Wallersteiner!

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**



# RUGBY

## Semi-Final of the Schools National Rugby Cup

Stowe 34 - 36 Northampton School for Boys

It was a colossal effort and one that just got away. On Sunday 3 March at Aylesbury Rugby Club, Stowe's U15As faced Northampton School for Boys in the Semi Final of the Schools Cup.

Every single member of the 22-man squad gave everything. The team really felt they had the whole School behind them and were sorry that they couldn't quite deliver a final ticket for everybody. The hurt will be used as motivation for the next three years and they will take the School with them on their journey through to the Upper Sixth.

Thank you so much to Staff, parents and Stoics who supported them along the way. Until next time.

**Liam Copley & Paddy Dias, Rugby Coaches**



# Golf

## The Micklem Trophy

Stowe played in this year's Micklem Trophy at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 March.

The golf course was in great condition considering the recent weather.

As the current holders of the trophy, we were again represented by a very strong team of Elliot Strickland (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Miles Dickinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Miki Khurshed (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Tristan Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Aroa Herran Berraondo (Third Form, Lyttelton).

This year the competition was stronger than ever, with many players scoring under par to win their matches. Stowe played their first match against Charterhouse and won comfortably. They played Winchester in the Semi-Final who also had a very strong team and provided a stern test for Stowe. We won 3-2 showing great resilience and team spirit.

The Final was played against Wellington. Again, this was an extremely close match as it was tied 2-2 and the last match finished even after 18 holes. The match went into a play-off which Wellington won on the second extra hole with a birdie two on a 220-yard par three.

As a team, Stowe were a credit to the School. The way they played, conducted themselves and were gracious in defeat was exemplary. We will be using this opportunity and expedience as motivation to work even harder and to come back stronger next year!

**Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf**



# Tiny Stars Shine Bright: Celebrating Swanbourne House's Pre-Reception

*Nick Holloway, Head of Swanbourne House, looks back on a new chapter in its rich history with the recent launch of its Pre-Reception class in September 2023:*

"Looking back at the first terms of our Pre-Reception class for three year old children, we have seen our youngest Swanbournians achieve so much. They have started music lessons and begun PE lessons with our specialist games Staff and Forest School. Academically they have started their reading journey, and we are seeing pupils increase their confidence across the curriculum.

When we launched our Pre-Reception, we wanted to give families more than just a traditional nursery setting for their little ones. Recognising the importance of laying a strong foundation, we go beyond conventional nursery offerings. Our young learners have access to state-of-the-art facilities across the School, providing a seamless transition into their first Reception school year.

Creativity and curiosity are at the heart of our Pre-Reception. We use the example of a simple pinecone and how it has endless possibilities. As children explore, the pinecone could transform into crucial components to fix imaginary cars or be a key ingredient in a creation within the mud kitchen. The magic lies not just in the object itself, but in the imaginative journey our youngest Swanbournians are encouraged to take.

We know the importance of a balanced day, and as such, families have a rich array of co-curricular activities including yoga, multi-skills, balance bikes, cricket, football and performing arts to choose from. Our wraparound care, from a welcoming breakfast club to the cosy 'Cabin Club' after School, ensures that children feel at home and supported beyond the School day.

Our Pre-Reception sets the stage for a special learning experience, ensuring that each child is not just prepared for School, but primed to thrive in the years ahead. We envisioned more than a nursery; we envisioned a nurturing starting point for a lifelong love of learning."

To find out more about Swanbourne House Pre-Reception class and admissions for 2024, please [email](#).



## Climate Action

### Sustainability in action at Blenheim Palace

This term the Climate Action team have been working through the School's Carbon Footprint data from the last 20 years and designing an infographic to communicate this information to Stoics, parents and visitors. The group have been exploring ways to reduce the School's Carbon Footprint further and undertook a research trip to Blenheim Palace on Tuesday 19 March to learn more about an organic waste project the estates team are piloting through a company called Tumblebug. Waste products, such as food waste and sheep wool, will be transformed for various uses such as soil fertilising, which helps towards the palace's net zero pledge. Blenheim Palace are also repurposing ground down coffee beans to create an organic mushroom farm on the Estate. In the Summer Term, the Stowe Climate Action team will undertake a feasibility study to assess whether this project could work at Stowe.

**Shelley Rowley, Teacher of Geography**

## Worldwise Quiz

On Tuesday 27 February three teams from the Fourth Form attended the Worldwise Quiz, held at Magdalen College School, Oxford.

They faced stiff competition across seven rounds including map skills, country outlines, and famous landmarks. There were 20 teams in the Senior competition (Years 9 and 10) from 13 schools, and I am pleased to report that our team of Benji Pegg (Bruce), Alice Fell (Queen's) and Grace Etrick (Nugent) finished in Third place.

Stowe's team of Willa Bailey (Queen's), Flora McDougall (Nugent) and Enzo Jacquemard (Cobham) came Fifth and Harry Ewings (Grenville), Tristan Prabakaran (Winton) and Callum McIntosh (Croft) were Nineth.

Well done to all for representing Stowe so well!

**Becky Stanworth, Teacher of Geography**





On Wednesday 6 March, The Royal Navy (RN) CCF section paid a visit to Portsmouth Historical Dock Yard. This trip was a lovely way for the Fifth Formers to gain a deeper understanding of the history behind Royal Navy Fleet from old to modern day ships, and the Navy itself. There were many interesting tour guides around the area, with intriguing stories to tell.

My personal favourite was HMS Victory. Here a group of us went on a fantastic tour around the ship. The guide told us lots of historical facts about the ship and also how to fire a cannon. This visit was not only educational but also immersive, because the volunteers working on the ship were acting from the time period (1850s).

As we explored new parts of the ship we reached the infirmary, where it was surprising to see how the old sailors used to be treated and looked after. Interestingly, there were drawings to show what diseases were caught the most and which ones affected many of the men. We were shown some small poisonous metal balls, which used to be ingested to clear out any illnesses from those that

were sick; these poisonous balls were then cleaned and passed down through generations.

Later during the tour, we were shown a large collection of weapons sailors used to own and use in battle. These ranged from small, impressive swords to large cutlasses, as well as rifles and revolvers. These weapons clearly showed the difference in status, as different rankings of sailors would have a different weapon assigned to them.

Moreover, there were some other interesting ships to visit, such as the Mary Rose, which belonged to Henry VIII. Scattered around the dockyard there were small museums, with old artifacts such as 'A cat'o 9 tails'. These museums demonstrated stories which had happened in the past using wax figures to captivate the realism of the action of the old battles.

We also saw in a dry dock a mine sweeper that was used in the Battle of Gallipoli, the only ship remaining from the battle during WW1.

It was a lovely day out and we learned lots during our visit.

**Paula Sanchez Podesta**  
(Fifth Form, Cheshire)



## RAF Section: Fifth Form Field Day

On Tuesday 5 March, as soon as we arrived at the National Space Centre in Birmingham we were inspired, the first thing we could see was a tall tower housing a genuine USAF space rocket!

Once inside, there were so many genuine items that helped the history of space exploration to come alive such as space suits from the USSR and USA, a USSR space capsule, and a 1920s prototype lunar space suit from Great Britain (that looks like an 18th Century knight). There was even a chance to drive a replica remote controlled vehicle from the Mars mission.

In addition to learning about human progress in exploring space (which included a very interesting exhibit that considered the 1960s space race from the perspective of the USSR) we also learnt about how animals were used to expand our knowledge. The most famous example was Laika, a stray mongrel from the streets of Moscow who flew aboard the Sputnik 2 spacecraft, which was launched into low orbit on 3 November 1957. She was the first animal to orbit the Earth.

A planetarium show took us on a trip around the universe and tested our own knowledge about the planets, we then had a rocket design workshop. Working in groups, we had limited resources and time to build an air-powered rocket that would hit a target. We therefore had to consider designed features such as aerodynamics, stability and payload.

**Harris Chan (Fifth Form, Temple)**



# FUTURES



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### Unlocking Future Potential: InvestIN's Summer Experiences

On Thursday 8 February, Orla from InvestIN guided Dr West and I through some of the company's Summer work experience opportunities. With a mission to equip young individuals with invaluable insights into various industries, InvestIN stands out for its immersive programmes covering finance, law, medicine, engineering and entrepreneurship.

Orla's talk emphasised InvestIN's commitment to experiential learning, a core component of their educational approach. By engaging in live projects, case studies and challenges, participants not only gain a deep understanding of key concepts but also develop critical skills such as analytical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork.

During the session, I asked questions to explore the practicalities of InvestIN's Summer experiences. These inquiries sought to understand the daily structure of the camps and their relevance to actual careers in medicine, engineering and law. I also asked how these programmes prepare pupils for university applications and future careers in highly competitive areas, including investment banking and software engineering. The discussion also touched on the financial aspect of these courses, including the availability of scholarships or bursaries and the criteria for eligibility.

For those interested in partaking in one of InvestIN's enriching Summer experiences, the conversation revealed an exciting opportunity to benefit from a financial discount. By using Stowe's exclusive discount code (**Stowe10**), applicants can avail themselves of a 10% reduction in course fees, making these invaluable experiences more accessible.

**Harrison Newman (Fifth Form, Croft)**



## History Olympiad

The History Olympiad at Trinity School on Saturday 24 February was a successful one for Stowe's debut in the competition. The event pitches teams from different schools against each other on a wide range of historical questions. Our participation was led and initiated almost entirely by the pupils involved, with logistical support from the History Department.

Beginning in the Bowl (the team competition) with a win against City of London's B team, we then lost to a strong Eton team, who had particular expertise in the classics. This was followed by close matches against another City of London team and the Eton A team. Everything was on the line in the final game against Trinity. Stowe took an early lead, but the competition narrowed in the later rounds. It was then all even for the final question which was on the burial customs of elephants. Robert Lyster (Lower Sixth, Chatham) answered first to win the final game, and

therefore secure a place in the Semi-Finals for Stowe!

In the Bee (the individual competition), Oliver Rodriguez Lisburn (Lower Sixth, Chatham) qualified for the playoffs, with Micheal Shpurik-Eronat (Upper Sixth, Chandos) narrowly missing out on qualification. A late comeback in the playoffs saw Oliver tied Third, with a member of the Eton A team. Calls to cut the medal in half were rejected by the organisers, and so the competition came down to the question 'Who was the Third Persian King of Kings?' - Oliver's correct answer secured a Third place finish for Stowe in the individual competition.

After such a good first experience in this competition, we will look to enter teams for upcoming European rounds and in future Senior and Junior competitions.

**Oliver Rodriguez Lisburn**  
(Lower Sixth, Chatham)



## Stowe House Preservation Trust

Stowe House Preservation Trust has recently been awarded two grants to continue with the work to uncover the wall paintings on the Grenville Landing. Rhiannon Clarricoates, the conservator who is basing her PhD on this discovery, has been comparing the artistic style and paint analysis of these paintings with those by the two key artists that are likely to be the originator - William Kent and Francesco Sleter. While William Kent, a famous 18th Century architect, designed some of the garden buildings and North Hall, Francesco Sleter was a Venetian painter who painted the Fame and Victory ceiling above the Grenville staircase, and some of The State Dining Room ceiling, as well as the now-disappeared paintings in the Temple of Venus. Rhiannon has been looking in the Stowe archive in the Huntington Library, California, for any records of work paid to either artist and any evidence of links between the two, but unfortunately, the record-keeping for that period was quite poor and so very little was found.

Currently, only about half of the total landing wall space has been uncovered (and if we include the staircase, about a third) so Rhiannon and her team are back this Easter to uncover what they can. Up until this point, we have only been able to find money for two or three weeks each year, but rather excitedly we have been granted funds from the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Linbury Trust, to continue with a little more uncovering and research in the near future. Thank you to Colin Dudgeon in the Development Office for his help in securing the extra grant money. It is nice to know that Stowe House continues to hold secrets for us to reveal when it's ready.

**Anna McEvoy, House Custodian**



# Events

Spring has sprung and Easter is on the way. Take advantage of the longer days and try one of the new events and activities to enjoy at Stowe House.



## Secrets of Stowe Tours

**Wednesday 27 and Friday 29 March,  
Thursday 4 and Sunday 7 April, 2pm**

With only a limited number of tickets remaining, be quick to book a space on our behind-the-scenes tour. A highlight for visitors will include seeing the latest addition to the Gothic Library - the Soane table - an original piece of Stowe furniture that has now returned thanks to a generous donation by the George Clarke Foundation.

**Book your tickets here.** Adult £12, Under 16s £8.

## Art-Tastic Tuesday - Print Making

**Tuesday 2 and 9 April, 10.30am-11.30am or 12.30pm-1.30pm**

These immersive workshops for children aged 5-11 will explore their creativity to create a series of multi-coloured prints to take home. With expert guidance and different techniques to experiment with, your child will have a blast bringing their artistic vision to life.

Booking is essential via the [website](#). Children go free with a paying adult.

## Unveiling the Past - Revealing The East Staircase Wall Paintings

**Wednesday 3 April, 6.30pm**

Join our expert Conservator Rhiannon Clarricoates as she talks about the investigation carried out to date, including the study of comparative schemes and the analysis of samples taken from the paintings with those from other known schemes by William Kent and Francesco Sletter and see the paintings up close for yourself.

**Limited tickets**, booking essential £7 per person.

## 2024 Photography Competition

Don't forget about our ongoing 2024 Photography Competition. To find out more information and to get involved visit the [competition web page](#).

# Outdoor Theatre Returns for Summer

We are excited to welcome back **Illyria Theatre**, performing two critically acclaimed, 5-star productions this Summer against the backdrop of Stowe House.

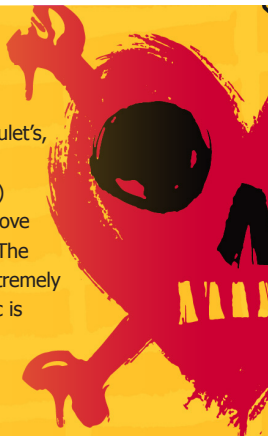
## Romeo and Juliet

**25 July, 7.30pm**

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

**Adult £18, Child £10.**

**Booking essential online.**



## Lost Treasures of Stowe Easter Trail

Step into the past and join us at Stowe House for an unforgettable journey through history. Delve into the secrets of Stowe as you unlock hidden mysteries, crack codes and piece together the puzzle of centuries past. Follow the clues and complete the quest to help find the lost treasures of Stowe and win an Easter prize. The trails and child admissions are free with a paying adult.

## Lost Treasures of Stowe

**30 March-14 April, 11am-4pm**

Unlock hidden secrets, decipher codes, and piece together puzzles of centuries past. Complete the quest and find the Lost Treasures of Stowe to win your prize.

**Kids go free\***  
(\*with paying adult, Under 16s)

## Stowe Tots

**Mondays: 29 April, 20 May, 10am-10.45am**

New to our visitor offer is a fun-filled sensory play session for families with young babies and preschool toddlers. The monthly sessions will vary from a treasure hunt to music makers to animal crafts. Held in our Visitor Centre, activities will be led by our friendly learning and community team.

Booking is essential. Adult and child ticket £5.

**Book your space here.**



## The Adventures of Dr Dolittle

**23 August, 6.30pm**

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

**Adult £18, Child £10. Box office booking here.**



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



# Stowe 100 Racing Club

The last few weeks have been a busy time Stowe Racing.

Firstly, Grasshopper Time finished an excellent Third at Plumpton at the end of February. He led most of the way before just struggling to concede top weight to his rivals, however he has come out of the race well and will be running again shortly.

Three events have been hosted recently for our syndicate members plus Old Stoics and others from the School community to learn more about the sport. The first was an Open Morning at the stables of one of our trainers, Alex Hales (Chandos 92). Conveniently Alex trains about 20 minutes from Stowe, just outside Banbury and we had over 50 people from the Stowe community for an action-packed morning on Saturday 24 February.

We saw the Stowe 100 Club horse (Grasshopper Time) work up the gallops, followed by a tour of the yard, whilst also meeting some of Alex's homebred yearlings. This group included a yearling daughter of Bourbon Beauty, who was a Grade 2 Winner over hurdles for our Old Stoic Racing Club back in 2021. The hope is that she will run in our colours in the future!

It was then a quick bacon butty stop before seeing old favourite Fagan and his new owner Pip Harvey ride around the arena and try some pole work. This was wonderful to see given that Fagan was the Stowe 100 Club first runner - over the Grand National fences at Aintree no less - and so it's brilliant to see him have a loving home after his racing career.

On Wednesday 6 March, members of the Old Stoic Racing Club went to Lambourn to see their stable star Sweet Reward (a two-time winner for us last year) and Running Deal, an exciting three-year-old. These two are in training with Jonny Portman (Chatham 83).

The syndicate then went on to have a celebratory lunch - following last year's success on the track - at the excellent Queen's Arms in Garston.

Later that day, it was then our annual Cheltenham Festival Preview which saw over 60 people attend to listen to our panel in the Music Room. Lots of debate and discussion around who can and can't win and by the time you read this article the champions will have been crowned.

My thanks again to our trainer panel of Nigel Hawke, Alex Hales and Jamie Snowden plus our compere, Robert Cooper (Grafton 68), for their time and to Anna Semler and Charlie Evans in the OS Office for their support.

We will be hosting more racing events for the School community to attend later in the year so stay tuned as all are warmly welcome.

If you don't already, please follow us on social media to keep abreast with our news.

**Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04), Stowe Racing**



## Young Leaders' Academy

On Saturday 9 March, I went to The Gambia with the YLA (Young Leaders' Academy) for a week, with 21 students and four Directors. We stayed in 'The Royal Sankofa Estate' in Sangyang which was also the area that the school we visited was in. Throughout the week that we were in Gambia, we did many different activities, such as meeting the locals and even going to a monkey and crocodile park.

My favourite part of the whole trip was visiting the 'SangYang Upper Basic School' which was the most prestigious school in that district. When we first arrived, we were greeted by the students who were extremely happy to see us. When we went into the auditorium, I gave a speech to the whole school (500+ students, one half in the morning another half in the afternoon). I talked about who YLA are and some practices that we do. For example, in YLA we have something called the 12 leadership traits and the 13 steps of success which I explained to the students.

We also helped the students learn an exercise we do at YLA called Drill. The most interesting part of the school visit was going on the tour around the school. Before the tour started, I was told that this school was a fee-paying school, but when I went around the school it didn't quite look like it was. We first visited the classrooms, which (to me) looked like they had been abandoned. There was not a single resource in the classrooms apart from a nub of chalk. The next stop on the tour was the library which was just as empty as the classrooms. There were a few books, but they were targeted to 0-3-year-olds which is strange for a school of 11-18-year-olds. Apart from about 20 of those books there were no others in their library.

I was also informed that the school had to split the day into two different parts so non exam years go into school for three hours and exam years go into school for five hours. The school also has no electricity and no money for food.

On our way out of the school, I looked back at the students and all I saw was a sea of smiling faces. Every student was incredibly happy to be there even though they have so little. YLA were able to provide some stationery for the teachers and students so that they could have some things to work with.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. I found it to be a very humbling experience and one that I will remember forever.

**Chidera Nomeh (Fourth Form, Nugent)**

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