

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



Topping Out!

We were delighted to celebrate the 'Topping Out' of the new Design, Technology and Engineering Centre on Friday 26 April. As custom has it, this traditional Nordic ceremony happens when the last beam is placed atop a building during its construction and involves, rather quaintly, nailing a branch to the highest point.

We were very pleased to be joined by Mr and Mrs Howden, our leading donors to the project, who entered the spirit of the occasion and were hoisted high above the entrance lobby-to-be and attached a branch of Norwegian spruce to the roof's apex.

The Chairman of Governors expressed his sincere thanks not just to the Howden's but to all the 150 individuals so far involved with the construction team from Beard Construction and their sub-contractors; Kirsty Lever from Beard talked of their pleasure in being involved with the project and David Howden expressed his delight that the building, which will bear the Howden name, will provide such important and significant opportunities for the designers and engineers of the future.

Those present for the ceremony, which included all the team from the DT Department and Lower Sixth Stoics, then had the opportunity to explore the spaces inside of the Centre, soon to become the magnificent workshops on the ground floor, the striking and spacious gallery and entrance hall, and the design studios and classrooms on the upper floor.

As things stand, with fingers crossed, we look forward excitedly to the building being complete and ready for use towards the end of the Michaelmas Term this year!

Colin Dudgeon, Director of Development





Crispin Robinson

It is with great sadness that the death of Crispin Robinson on 6 April was announced. Crispin joined Stowe in September 1993 after completing an MPhil at the Courtauld Institute, followed by doctoral research into Fra Bartolomeo at the Dominican Convent of San Marco while working as a Special Assistant at the British Museum.

Crispin created the History of Art Department at Stowe, now a flagship department with stellar results, and rose to become Senior Deputy Head.

A civilised, humane and compassionate scholar, known affectionately by former tutees as 'Robbo', Crispin was the consummate schoolmaster who taught his charges "to assume at a moment's notice a new intellectual position, to acquire taste, discrimination, mental courage, soberness and, above all, to gain self-knowledge" (William Johnson).

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

The Robbo Bursary Fund has been established to honour Crispin and there will be a Memorial Service in the Stowe Chapel on Friday 21 June at 3.30pm for Crispin's many friends and colleagues.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



LIBRARY

Lower School Inter-House Literary Challenge

The Lower School Finals were held on Thursday 25 April, in the Library. One Stoic of the Third and Fourth Form from each House competed in the Finals. The scores then would be added to the Fifth Form scores from Michaelmas Term to get the overall winners. Each team was offered a Joker, which they could use to double their points from a menu of round titles at the beginning of the competition. The scores were very close, neck and neck throughout, but Cheshire stayed consistent and won the Third and Fourth Form event.

In the end, once all the scores from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms were added together, the overall Winners were Cheshire with 85 points, Croft came Second with 82 and Third place on 79 points were Chatham. Congratulations to Cheshire who have won both the Senior and Junior Inter-House Competition this year which is extremely impressive and the first time in the competition's history. Congratulations to all the Houses, we are already looking forward to next year's Inter-House competition.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Head Librarian



International Dinner

The final international celebration of the year took place on Friday 26 April. The evening was a coming together of Junior International Stoics, and a chance to celebrate the variety of cultures they bring to the School.

The evening saw a wonderful meal of mushroom risotto, sweet chilli chicken and panzella, followed by a dessert of chocolate brownies and Eton mess. The dinner was wonderfully hosted by the International Prefects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Prefects Arin Chatsuwon (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Molly Muhoho (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Natalie Nylaende (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Daniel Flames (Upper Sixth, Cobham) for their incredible efforts this year in supporting the international community at School. They have truly embodied what it means to be both a Prefect and a Change Maker.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



Cricket

Despite some horrific weather causing cancellations there have still been 24 fixtures in the first two weeks of the Summer Term. The 1st XI have recorded wins over Charterhouse and Northants EPP (Emerging Player Pathway). The Junior Colts A have won both of their matches, including a win against Royal Grammar School High Wycombe (RGS HY) who they lost to as Yearlings.

The Yearlings A XI have won both of their matches with Azlan Kumar (Third Form, Grafton) the star, scoring 95* against Uppingham and 110 against Dr Challoner's Grammar School in their cup match.

Other performances of note:

Toby Sutliff (Fourth Form, Bruce)
- 60* vs RGS HW

Daniel Bosman (Lower Sixth, Bruce)
- 60 vs RGS HW

Aadi Sharma (Upper Sixth, Winton)
- 122 vs Uppingham

Noah Cloete (Fifth Form, Bruce)
- 65 vs Uppingham

Zac Julyan (Fifth Form, Winton)
- 54 vs Uppingham

Hugo Jackson (Fifth Form, Chandos)
- 7 for 5 vs Uppingham

Finley Cloete (Fourth Form, Bruce)
- 56 vs Uppingham

Sebastian Dare (Fourth Form, Grafton)
- 60 vs Uppingham

Daniel Calland (Fourth Form, Chatham)
- 41 vs Uppingham

Zorawar Sidhu (Third Form, Bruce)
- 51 vs Uppingham

On Saturday 20 April three girls' teams took to the field for the first time in Stowe's history! There was a great win for the U14As with Mimi Pilcher (Third Form, Nugent) hitting the winning runs with 42*.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

Swimming

Congratulations to Isobel Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Sam Gray (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Frederick Youngman Sullivan (Fourth Form, Grafton) who have qualified for the Swim England South East Regional Championships in May. We wish them the best of luck in their swimming events.

Cheryl Davis, Head of Swimming

Tennis

Our top tennis players led from the front in the block against Uppingham on Saturday 27 April, with our Senior girls first pair of Annie Flint and Ruby Colebrook (both Upper Sixth, Queen's) winning all their sets again, as did the boys first pair of Arin Chatsuwann (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Beltran Ortega Goldaracena (Lower Sixth, Grafton). Both Senior teams went on to record overall wins, as did eight other teams as we shared the honours in the 22 matches against Uppingham.

Daniel Voyce, Head of Tennis



Triathlon

Charlotte Hall (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and Lauren and Katie Webb (both Fourth Form, Cheshire) all got their triathlon seasons under way at the British Triathlon Super Series with the Performance Assessment weekend over 20-21 April in Leicestershire.

Charlotte came an excellent 11th in a time of 27:59.7 in this first race, qualifying for the next round of the Championships in Llanelli on Saturday 11 May. Despite being a little off on her swim and run, Charlotte dominated in the front pack of the bike section.

Well done to Katie Webb (31:31.8) and Lauren Webb (31:35.4) who both finished in the top 50 in the same age group.

Cheryl Davies, Cheshire Houseparent



OS Cricket

James Cronie (Cobham 21) completed a first-class Century on Sunday 31 March against Kent for Loughborough University Centre of Cricket Excellence and followed this up with 60 against Durham University. This is in addition to 60 not out he made against Nottinghamshire 1st XI in 2023. Well played James!

James Knott, Head of Cricket



Service@Stowe



Sixth Form Charity Ball

On Saturday 20 April the Conservation Group ran a charity ball for the Sixth Form pupils. It was a beautiful evening, which was enjoyed by 280 Stoics. The James Bond themed ball had a range of entertainment including food vans, a 360-video booth, professional magician, glitter bar and our pupils DJ'ing the event.

The event raised £4,900 to support the group's latest project. We are working with the National Trust to create an interactive nature trail, which incorporates an app with Augmented Reality characters. On the trail, children will follow the story of different woodland animals that live around Stowe and learn more about them. Stoics are designing the route, the story, the characters, and with the support of a professional designer, the animated animals that appear on the app.

The Ickle Owl Trail will launch on Sunday 26 May 2024.

Shelley Rowley, Conservation Group





The Stowe Challenge

On a dry but bitterly cold afternoon on Sunday 21 April over 300 Stoics took part, on behalf of their Houses in a series of 10 'challenging' events at the Bourbon, Swimming Pool and Athletics Track. The events ranged from pulling a Tractor 50m, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Tyre Flipping, Assault Course and CCF styled Command Tasks. The events do exactly what the event name says: they challenge the Stoics and push them out of their comfort zone, and everyone was incredibly proud of all the Stoics who took part and supported.

Mike Rickner,
Deputy Head Pastoral





Change 100 Ambassadors

It is time to say an enormous thank you to our Upper Sixth Change 100 Ambassadors, who will soon be leaving us. Part of their legacy to Stowe is to have created tremendous awareness around our Change 100 bursary programme, which is now in its fourth year and provides fully funded places to 23 pupils across The Stowe Group.

Having done an outstanding job of spreading the word, to allow an understanding of Change 100 across the School, these Ambassadors, amongst our first, now hand over to an excellent team spread across Houses and Year Groups, to be led by the many new volunteers in Lower Sixth.

Catherine Trotman, Change 100



Change Makers of the Month - March

Teaching - Stowe - Jess Nichols

Jess received a fantastic five nominations for the Change Maker of the Month. Jess's colleagues were exceedingly impressed by her excellent leadership of the Fourth Form, especially noted were Jess's phenomenal efforts on the Change Maker Day on Thursday 29 February.

Support Services - Stowe - Lucy Hughes-Martin

Lucy received three nominations for the Change Maker of the Month. Lucy has done an amazing job managing a huge volume of recruitment during the Lent Term across all three Stowe Group Schools, ensuring hiring managers and candidates get a service that is above and beyond, all whilst being unwaveringly professional and kind.

Swanbourne House - Hannah Atkinson

Hannah received nominations for Change Maker of the Month not only for her dedicated support to the children, but her continuous kind and calming nature.

Winchester House - Viv Williams

Viv received nominations for Change Maker of the Month recognising her commitment to developing the Music Department and for all they have achieved so far this year. Congratulations to all our winners!

Netball

The final round of the Youth Netball Premier League (YNPL) took place on Sunday 28 April at The Misbourne School in Great Missenden, showcasing some of the top young netball talent in the region. The highlight of the event was MK Dons' U14s finishing Second overall, after an eight-game campaign which started in October.

A standout player for MK Dons was Stoic Zara Kalu (Third Form, Cheshire), who showcased her talent and contributed significantly to the team's success. Her stellar performance and teamwork were instrumental in MK Dons' impressive finish in the league.

The atmosphere at The Misbourne School was electric, with supporters cheering on their teams and celebrating the passion and sportsmanship displayed by all the young athletes.

Congratulations to MK Dons' U14s on their outstanding performance and a shoutout to Zara for receiving three MVP awards throughout the duration of the competition and being named as an upcoming player to watch.

The team now progress to the YNPL Grand Final

on Sunday 12 May where they will play-off against teams from the Northern Conference. We wish Zara the best of luck at the Finals.

The day before the Final, on Saturday 27 April, Zara played in an Inter-County Tournament representing North Bucks alongside fellow Third Form Cheshire Stoic, Abi Snow.

Both girls proudly represented North Bucks in this competitive tournament, facing off against teams from Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Essex and Cambridgeshire to name but a few.

Their participation in the tournament highlighted the dedication and hard work they have put into honing their netball skills.

Throughout the matches, the North Bucks' team displayed exceptional performance and resilience, showcasing their ability to compete at a high level. The games were intense and exciting, with each team giving their best to secure victory.

Congratulations to them both on their selection and participation in such a prestigious event.

Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball

MUSIC

Lunchtime Concert

On Thursday 25 April, the Ugland Auditorium played host to a fantastic lunchtime concert which provided opportunity for some of our advanced Stoic drummers to perform their grade pieces with a live band.

A diverse range of songs, from Aretha Franklin to Nirvana, were expertly displayed on the kit and highlighted how percussive rhythms have evolved from the 1950s to today. The pupils (Flora Baxter (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Poppy Lawson Johnston (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Tara Fox (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Theo da Costa (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Jasper Hayes (Upper Sixth, Bruce)) were accompanied by Music Staff members Nick McNulty (guitar), Gary McFarlin (bass), Ben Andrew (keys) and Ben Weston (vocals), with a special mention going to Matt Turner (percussion) for organising the concert. Many of the percussion pupils who performed went on to take their graded exams last week, warranting a further congratulations to them, as they all passed.

Ben Weston, Head of Popular Music Performance and Music Technology



Summer Showcase Concert

On Wednesday 24 April the Music Department hosted a Summer Showcase Concert in the Ugland Auditorium to a full audience. The Department were delighted to have delegates from the G30 Conference, a meeting of Head Teachers from leading Independent Schools from around the world, as guests to the event.

The concert began with a piano ensemble performing intricate arrangements of pieces by our Head of Keyboard Studies, Ben Andrew. 12 Pianists performed 'Yellow' by Coldplay and a James Bond Medley on four pianos, setting the scene for a varied programme of musical items.

Over the course of the evening, several Stoics performed solos which were of an incredibly high standard. Our thanks go to Julia Likierman (Voice) (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Coco Bartoszewski (Harp) (Fifth Form, Nugent), Freddie Youngman Sullivan (Piano) (Fourth Form, Grafton), Jasper Hagger (Trombone) (Third Form, Walpole), Satis Johnson-Greene (Percussion) (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Emily Garwood (Piano) (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Nikki Atife (Piano) (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) for their inspiring performances.

Other ensembles which were featured on the evening were the Saxophone Ensemble who performed 'Cantaloupe Island' and 'Autumn leaves', displaying the improvisatory skills of those involved. The string ensemble presented two items from William Walton's 'Henry V' and gave a rhythmically invigorating performance of 'Palladio' by Karl Jenkins.

The Stowe Choir members were in fine voice for their performances, a stylistic and playful Duke Ellington's 'I'm Beginning to See the light' and a sensitive and uplifting rendition of 'Let it Be' by Lennon and McCartney. A select group of pupils then performed 'Do You Hear the People Sing' from Les Misérables with Gilbert Xu (Lower Sixth, Chandos) providing a captivating solo to begin the item.

The evening concluded with two items from the choir, both accompanied by the Staff band. The first was a rousing rendition of John Farnham's classic rock song 'You're the Voice' with Liz Miller, a professional musical theatre performer and one of the Department's visiting vocal teachers, and Richard Jasper our bagpipe teacher, elevating the choir's fine performance with their solo's. The final item was 'Sing' by Gary Barlow which saw four Stoics providing solos, Claudia Kilonback (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Ben Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Ned Goodrich (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos).

The Music Department is incredibly proud of all the Stoics involved in the evenings concert for performing to such a high standard and providing a showcase of the exceptional range of musical styles which are supported within the Music Department at Stowe. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Staff who support and develop the musicians at Stowe and the parents and families who support our events.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music



G30 Conference

The 2024 G30 Conference was co-hosted by Stowe, alongside Shrewsbury School, Wellington College and Winchester College, from Sunday 21 to Sunday 28 April.

The G30 brings together Heads from leading schools around the world on an annual basis. All participants are encouraged to share their best practice, thoughts, ideas and challenges within a strictly confidential environment. Outside these annual G30 conferences, G30 Heads are encouraged to exchange ideas and arrange visits for their staff to other G30 schools. The conference programme is organised by the current Head of the G30 school. Guest speakers are invited, not just in the field of education but from a broad range of backgrounds and sectors. G30 Heads and partners gain just as much from the cultural immersion in the country and the informal conversations as they do from the formal conference programme.

This year the conference opened at Shrewsbury School, before delegates arrived at Stowe for Dinner on Tuesday 23 April. Lectures on Teaching and Learning and Science in Action took place on Wednesday, before Lunch with Prefects and Learning Walks around the campus; followed by a showcase concert by Stoics in the Ugland Auditorium, featuring a range of talented musicians and Staff. Thank you to all the Stowe team for making our visitors feel so welcome, and to Claudia Copthorne in the Head's office for planning the visit.



BUSINESS



Bright Young Things Project

The most recent Bright Young Things programme offered an educational experience which encouraged local Junior and Prep School pupils to explore marketing, innovation and health consciousness. In this recent project, pupils were tasked with creating a new breakfast cereal brand, which served as a platform for fostering creativity by creating a healthy cereal for young people.

Throughout the programme, pupils delved into the realms of business and marketing, while also prioritising the importance of health in product development. They engaged in hands-on activities aimed at conceptualising the brand; considering factors such as nutritional value, flavour profiles and packaging design. Many of the groups created professional looking boxes using a wide variety of IT software packages. Other pupils created musical jingles, 3D gift suggestions and activity cards to place inside the boxes.

The collaborative nature of the project encouraged teamwork and provided opportunities for pupils to explore diverse perspectives. Through this process, they honed their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, gaining a comprehensive understanding of product development and marketing.

The most successful products, such as the wonderfully named 'Honey Bears' cereal, combined knowledge of current consumer preferences with their own imagination, to create products to fill the market gaps that brands such as Kellogg's cannot.

Thank you to all the Junior and Prep School pupils for working so hard and to the teachers who continue to support the programme.

Will Freeman, Head of Business

A Journey into Entrepreneurship

A Sixth Form Business Enterprise Trip to Buckingham University on Thursday 14 March provided an occasion for pupils to delve into the world of entrepreneurship through a talk by Nick Wheeler, the founder and former CEO of Charles Tyrwhitt.

During the hour-long Q&A session, Wheeler's anecdotes painted a vivid picture of the entrepreneurial rollercoaster, highlighting the importance of resilience, adaptability and unwavering determination in the face of adversity; such as Covid, changes in the economy and changes in consumer tastes. From the inception of Charles Tyrwhitt in 1986 to its evolution into a globally recognised shirt brand; Wheeler's journey epitomised the essence of entrepreneurial spirit. He spoke honestly about his early bankruptcy and the significant challenges he faced during Covid. Another interesting topic were his travels to Hong Kong and the difficulties of negotiating in a foreign language.

One of the most compelling aspects of Wheeler's story was his emphasis on the value of passion in entrepreneurship. He underscored the significance of pursuing ventures driven by genuine interest and enthusiasm, citing it as a cornerstone of proper fulfilment. His advice resonated with the Stoics in the audience, reaffirming the notion that genuine passion fuels achievements. Moreover, Wheeler shed light on the pivotal role of innovation in business success. He urged pupils to embrace creativity and forward-thinking, emphasising the importance of staying ahead of market trends and continuously innovating to meet evolving consumer demands. He talked about his early adoption of web-based commerce but combining it with traditional mail order.

Beyond the formal talk, the trip provided some networking opportunities for Stoics aspiring to embark on entrepreneurial endeavours. They spent time chatting in person with Nick; discussing their past enterprises and gleaned some insight from a man with a proven track record of retail success.

The event proved to be an enlightening experience for all participants. Wheeler's journey from Eton to entrepreneurial success served as a beacon of inspiration, instilling invaluable lessons in resilience, passion and innovation.

Will Freeman, Head of Business



Service@Stowe

Each Friday, Stoics visit Hamilton House Care Home in Buckingham, to provide the residents with some company. In recent weeks they have enjoyed playing board games and bingo, and despite not winning many sweets, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves! It has proven a great way to encourage inter-generational relationships and we are very grateful to Hamilton House for allowing us to spend time there.

Fran Shah, Service@Stowe



Equestrian



Congratulations to Lola Price (Third Form, Cheshire) who qualified her young pony, Cosmo, for the British Showjumping Bluechip Championship, held at Addington Equestrian Centre from Wednesday 3 to Sunday 7 April. This is a highly prestigious event with competitors from all over the country as well as International Senior level riders. There were 94 riders in the Eskadron Championship with 21, including Lola, jumping a clear round to enter the jump off. Lola and Cosmo had one pole down and finished 13th, which is a fantastic achievement for this young pairing. They continued a busy Easter competing in the British Showjumping classes at Cherwell coming Second in the Discovery class and moving up to Newcomers, placing First in this class. Lola is now looking to qualify in the upcoming second rounds for British Novice and Discovery and we wish them both good luck.

The Equestrian Team travelled to Bury Farm on Saturday 6 April for the NSEA Showjumping and Dressage event. Jonty Gordon (Lower Sixth, Croft) competed with his new horse in

the Prelim Dressage, 90cm Showjumping and in the Team 1m, alongside Cecily Holland (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Rupert King (Lower Sixth, Grenville). Congratulations to the Team for representing Stowe.

As the Eventing season is underway, despite the terrible weather conditions threatening to cancel many events, Olive de Courcy-Ireland (Fifth Form, Nugent) did compete at the Swalcliffe Hunter Trials on Saturday 13 April and won the 80cm class with her horse, Blue.

The Team were back out on Saturday 20 April to take part in the Beachborough NSEA Eventer Challenge. Daisy Bilderbeck (Third Form, Stanhope), Gracie Cowley (Third Form, Queen's), Lola Soto (Third Form, Cheshire) and Jonty Gordon all represented Stowe.

Well done to all our riders and we wish everyone the best of luck with their upcoming competitions this term.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



HOCKEY

Girls' U17 v Towcester Ladies

The Stowe U17 squad played against Towcester Ladies on Thursday 25 April at Towcestrians Sports Club. It was the first girls' match since the OS day last term and the first for some since December.

The girls played very well and it was great to see four different Year Groups playing together on the same pitch. In an evenly contested match, Stowe ran out 2-0 winners with goals from Alessandra Jahina (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Flora McCullough (Lower Sixth, West).

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



DofE Expeditions

During the Easter break, a number of Stoics and Staff travelled to Yorkshire for the DofE practice expeditions.

Beginning with hiking, 32 Lower Sixth pupils and 15 Fifth Form pupils successfully completed their Gold and Silver practice expeditions.

For those undertaking Gold, many groups summited the Yorkshire Three Peaks: Wharfedale (736m), Ingleborough (723m) and Pen-y-Ghent (694m), as well as completing a low-level valley section along the Pennine Way on the fourth day.

Those groups which did not reach the summits of all three were purposefully re-routed to avoid the summits on days when the wind speeds were deemed to be too high at that altitude. Nevertheless, they successfully completed four challenging days of hiking, whilst carrying full expedition kit over mountainous terrain.

The Silver hiking groups meanwhile completed three days of walking along a selection of the same routes as the Gold participants (usually achieving

two of the summits over the three days).

My thanks go to Jess Nichols, Paul Thompson, Fern Parker, Fran Shah, Will Freeman, Vanesa Perea, Emily Pickering, Amanda Ayres, Pauline Thévenet, Luke Radley, Abbey Blatchford, Pete Shepherd and our external Mountain Leaders, Rich Pickersgill, Martyn Willows and Laura Morle. Each of them worked exceptionally hard to ensure that the Stoics had an enjoyable expedition and were kept safe in the mountains. I am most grateful to have such a committed team, without whom it would not be possible to run these trips.

Meanwhile, Gwilym Jones, Max Vendrig and Fitz Smith were on the other side of Yorkshire, leading the canoeing expedition along the River Ouse. We were reunited at our base camp in Horton-in-Ribblesdale on the penultimate night, once the four Gold and four Silver canoeists had completed their practice expeditions. It was excellent to hear from the pupils how much they enjoyed the inaugural Silver and Gold canoeing expeditions.

Alec Stanworth, Head of DofE



History trip to Berlin



The Fourth Form GCSE History pupils thoroughly enjoyed their recent trip to Berlin during the Easter break. Having studied both Nazi Germany and Superpower relations during the Cold War in recent months, they were well-prepared to see a wide variety of sites.

A major focus was considering how we might remember some of the troubled aspects of Germany history, reflecting on efforts to memorialise the Holocaust in particular. The 'Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe', designed by Peter Eisenman, was especially interesting, with pupils encouraged to discuss the way in which the memorial intentionally provokes an emotional response.

Visits to the site of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Jewish Museum and the memorial to Roma and Sinti victims of atrocities allowed us to develop this theme, with pupils engaging with tough content in mature and respectful ways. Examining the changing use and look of Neue Wache, which previously glorified German victories and now features the far starker image of Käthe Kollwitz's statue, 'Mother with her dead son' encouraged still further discussion. We also visited the Soviet Memorial in Tiergarten, reflecting on the controversy of remembering the Soviet military in the heart of the city. Even the Brandenburg Gate, now the most famous photo opportunity in the city, has had a changing meaning over the course of the last 200 years, moving from a symbol of Prussian military might to one of unity across previous divides.

The contrast between these deeply considered memorials with the site of the Führerbunker, a modern-day car park, which has been left intentionally blank, was instructive about how Berliners want to consider their past. However, the group did get to visit another Second World War bunker,

which was not demolished and has been turned into a museum. This was packed with information that stretched them beyond that covered on their course.

Berlin is also rich with Cold War-era history, with visits to Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall memorial essential viewing for every GCSE level traveller. The 'Die Mauer' installation by Yadegar Asisi was especially compelling and seemed to transport us back in time, peering over the wall from West Berlin into the East. We also thoroughly enjoyed a sunset visit to the Soviet-era TV tower, which gave panoramic views across Berlin on our first evening.

The trip finished with a visit to the glass dome of the Bundestag Building, designed by Norman Foster. Though German democracy in the modern era is not without its challenges, it was fascinating to consider the journey that the city has taken in the course of the past Century, with pupils making links with modern politics and international relations.

With 48 pupils, the Berlin trip is one of the largest international visits we run and it was a delight to spend more time with such an enthusiastic and thoughtful group. I was also indebted to the expertise and willingness of Mr Geyton, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Miss Stafford-Smith, Mrs Stockley-Battams and Miss Strath, who gave up some of their Easter break to make the trip run exceptionally smoothly. Although it is possible to get 100% in the exam from classroom teaching alone, there is something special and important about spending time in places where history-defining events took place. I am sure that all our pupils gained a great deal from the experience.

Paul Griffin, Head of History





ROWING

Over the Easter holiday, a few of the rowers completed a mini training camp on the lake at Hollowell, near Althorpe, in Northamptonshire. On a sunny day, in perfect conditions, Ben Cousins (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple) covered 20km. Conditions were slightly less kind for the girls: Tallulah Havard (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Bella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Agnès Edwards (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and her sister Olivia. Mrs Edwards joined them in singles and Mrs Bawden also took her first tentative steps in double sculling. They stayed at the Pytchley Inn in West Haddon, where we had a very enjoyable team supper.

I was very pleased with the efforts of our crews at the Eastern Region trails last term, with three Bronze medal finishes. As a result Bella Bawden was offered a trial in the region's composite eight and a crew from St Ives, Sudbury, Cantabrigdian, City of Cambridge, St Mary's School and Stowe was selected for British Rowing's Inter-Regional Championships at Nottingham on Saturday 20 April.

With Team Scotland joining Wales and the English regions, the event is getting better and better. We knew the Team East crew was good, but so were all of 12 eights taking part. In the morning time trial Bella's team did well, achieving Fourth place and qualifying for the 6-boat A Final. In the Final the two Thames and London crews went clear for the Gold and Silver medals but a fierce three way fight developed for the Bronze medal, with less than three seconds covering the three crews. North West took the Bronze, with Scotland edging Bella's Team East crew by 1/10th second. We are very pleased that Bella took this opportunity. The Inter-Regional team is for 14 to 16-year olds, so several of our rowers could try again next time; let's hope they do.

On Saturday 27 April, we made entries for most of our rowers at the Birmingham Regatta. The intention was to give those, who have been learning to row last term, a reward for their efforts. It was an enjoyable day for the Stowe team of 31

rowers, who took part in 26 races.

The lead boats were: boys' quad and eight, two girls' eights and the Third Form double of Emily Hampson (Cheshire) and Joshua Hall (Winton).

There was competitive racing from the girls' quad, boys' and girls' doubles and boys' quads, with them winning several of their races against very strong opposition from Henley Royal Regatta crews, including King's Chester and Hereford Cathedral School.

Will Crabb (Upper Sixth, Croft) won in the Singles, and there was a very competitive race from India Gordon's (Lower Sixth, Nugent) crew in the girls' eights. Lorraine Yan's (Fourth Form, Stanhope) crew made Stowe history however with the School's first ever regatta win in the eights.

Congratulations to the 12 new rowers who raced in their first regatta and thank you to the Houseparents and Staff including Leah Abbott and Odhran Donaghy, who were involved in making the team possible. It was a pleasure to meet all the parents at Birmingham.

Our next regattas are Worcester on Saturday 18 May and St Ives on Saturday 22 June, aiming for Henley Qualifiers on Friday 28 June. For these regattas, crews will be more selective, based on attendance at training, particularly on Thursdays. Thursdays are the one day when we have time to travel off-site to the much bigger lake at Great Moor. The School is investing in a new safety boat for rowing at this lake, which we really appreciate, so we are keen for the rowers to take advantage of this commitment.

This week, Olympic medalist, Gillian Lindsay has visited Stowe to meet the pupils and Staff to talk about her holiday training camps in Italy and Portugal. She has chosen two superb locations so we hope some of our pupils and indeed parents will take advantage of **Gillian's camps** this Summer, and that we can arrange a Stowe team camp for Easter 2025.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



Athletics

The opening fixture of the Summer Term was a multi-schools event at Oundle on Saturday 20 April. A large Stowe team travelled up to take on our competitor schools in the Midlands League. Well done to all those who took part, and in particular to the following who won their events:

Boys: Josh Parker (Upper Sixth, Croft), Tom Mayo (Upper Sixth, Croft), Ed Ellison (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Julian Smith (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Jack Davies (Third Form, Winton), Dipo Akib (Third Form, Winton), Nathan Goje (Third Form, Chatham) and the Senior boys' relay team.

Girls: Zara Kalu (Third Form, Cheshire), Elsie Jacobs (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Izzy Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Betty McDougall (Third Form, Nugent).

Stowe hosted a busy and well organised afternoon of athletics on Saturday 27 April where we welcomed six of the Midlands League schools.

Stowe has some excellent athletes, and podium places were won in 38 events. The overall standard of competition is very high in these events and the following Stoics excelled by winning their events:

Tife Atere (Third Form, Bruce), Katie Webb (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope) won three events, Jonelle Famutimi (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce), Ross Priestly (Fourth Form, Winton), Izzy Russell (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Julian Smith, Izzy Kaye (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), and Tom Mayo (who won the Senior 100 and 200 metres). Our Inter girls also won the team competition.

Congratulations to all who competed.

Grant Seely, Athletics Coach

Stowe SPORT

Golf

Five Stoics competed at the notoriously difficult JCB Golf Club in Derbyshire over the weekend. Tristan Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) was the best placed Stowe golfer, with Ernest Ma (Lower Sixth, Temple) shooting the best score on day two.

Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf





The Fray

(or How I made my Return): an Evening with Dr Andrew Webber and the (new) Hyacinth Girls

Over 100 pupils, guests and Staff were present at what I can only describe as a 'creative rebirth' when I was privileged to perform songs I have written recently for my new album 'The Fray (or How I made my Return)'; alongside a number of extremely gifted pupils, in The Uglend Auditorium on Thursday 7 March.

Regular readers and attendees at lunchtime concerts will recall that over the last year, against all odds, I have restarted writing songs after a 30-year hiatus. This was my first full concert since I was in my late 20s. A lot of water under the bridge!

The new songs cover topics as diverse as Brexit, growing old, the Orpheus myth, climate change and nature, and were performed beautifully by Upper Sixth Form pupils Jemima Pearson-Gee and Connie Goodrich (both Nugent) on vocals; the charismatic Sunny He (Lower Sixth, Chatham) on

piano and drum, and the talented Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) on violin.

The Head, who attended the concert, was kind enough to tell me afterwards that he detected "some early Squeeze, John Otway, Bruce, Lou Reed and even a bit of Dylan," which gives you a rough idea of what the music sounds like. It's certainly melancholy and 'folky' but hopefully there's some humour buried amongst the sadness. Titles like 'The Dying Light', 'The Modern Hell of Dating' and 'Ancient Land of Rain' may give you some idea of what to expect.

Highlights can be watched [here](#).

I will be back again next year, hopefully with a new album's worth of songs, if they keep pouring forth; I've already written two more...

Dr Andrew Webber,
Teacher of Film and Media



MUSIC

Mozart Trio Prize

On Sunday 28 April, the Uglend Auditorium came alive to the sound of our top musicians competing for the coveted Mozart Trio Prize. This year's participants delivered an exciting programme of pieces ranging from Bach to Brazilian Choro music and delighted the audience with their technical skill and emotive performances.

Congratulations go to Emily Garwood (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) (Piano), Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos) (Saxophone), Nikki Atife (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) (Piano), Satis Johnson-Greene (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) (Percussion), Benji Salter (Fourth Form, Walpole) (Voice), Benjamin Bailey (Lower Sixth, Chandos) (Voice) and Milo Xing (Lower Sixth, Chandos) (Violin) for their excellent performances.

Our guest adjudicator for this year was Mrs Susan Freestone OBE DL, who complimented those involved for their commitment to their instruments and dedication to developing their musical skills. Mrs Freestone awarded joint Second place to Satis Johnson-Green and Benji Salter and awarded First place to Milo Xing.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard

FUTURES Old Stoic Society - Developing Opportunities Through Personal Experiences

For many pupils, such as Darcey Moran (Lower Sixth, West), the journey towards a career in medicine can appear immensely daunting. Facing the dual challenges of securing relevant work experience and gaining deeper insights into the healthcare profession, Darcey discovered a crucial ally at Stowe - the Old Stoic network.

The Old Stoic Society comprises a dynamic group of professionals, all alumni of Stowe, who are eager to mentor and support current pupils. Despite the vast potential of this network, Darcey was surprised that more of her peers did not tap into this resource. For her, the Old Stoic network has been nothing less than transformational, providing tailored advice and opening doors to opportunities that have been pivotal for her application to medical school.

Darcey's engagement with the network has included invaluable interactions with accomplished Old Stoics. Professionals like Kirsty Lane née Stewart (Stanhope 91), Stuart Miller MBE (Chatham 77), Nigel Rossiter (Cobham 81), Julian Nesbitt (Chandos 07), and Mike Rossiter (Cobham 85) generously shared their expertise through discussions over phone calls and Microsoft Teams meetings. These individuals, who have carved successful careers within both the NHS and private sectors, offered Darcey bespoke guidance on how to strengthen her medical school applications and insights into the nuances of working in various medical settings.

An equally inspiring encounter was with Kiera Haines (Lyttelton 22), a student at Newcastle University studying Medicinal Chemistry. Kiera offered Darcey unique insights into university life and the healthcare sector, further enriching Darcey's understanding of the field.

A particularly notable experience for Darcey was her meeting with Liz McEvoy née Kerford-Byrnes (Stanhope 93), who visited her at Stowe. Over supper in the dining room, Liz shared her extensive medical experiences, helping Darcey gain a better understanding of the profession's challenges and rewards. This meeting stands out as one of Darcey's most productive and enlightening experiences, highlighting the Old Stoic network's personal and professional benefits.

Before her involvement with the Old Stoic Society, Darcey encountered significant hurdles in securing work experience; a crucial requirement for any medical school application. Despite her efforts to reach out to over 45 different hospitals and practices across Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, she was met with long waiting lists and outright rejections. The support from the Old Stoic network proved to be a game-changer, providing her with unique and exciting work experience opportunities that were previously unattainable.

Led by Anna Semler (Nugent 05) and her dedicated team, the Old Stoic Society has played a critical role in bridging the gap between Old Stoics and current pupils, facilitating meaningful connections that extend well beyond the confines of the School.

Darcey's experience underscores the immense value of engaging with alumni networks such as the Old Stoic Society. For any pupil eyeing a career in medicine, or any field, for that matter, the Old Stoic network represents a vital resource that offers guidance, mentorship and the kind of real-world exposure that textbooks simply cannot provide.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Unlock your Brilliance

During the Lent Term on Thursday 14 March, our Lower School and Senior Academic Scholars were fortunate to attend the Unlock Your Brilliance Conference in Oxford, organised by Academy Learning. Over 30 of our pupils attended and it was a memorable day with a number of outstanding talks.

In 'Top Gun: Soaring To Success' Major Alexander Fogassy, an F16 fighter pilot in the US air Force, reflected on what it takes to "ace" whatever field you pursue. This talk gave us insights into making decisions under pressure, and how to set ambitious goals and be inspired to achieve them, even when the odds seem stacked against you. Some of his footage of training and refuelling was genuinely breathtaking.

Conference coordinator Julie Arliss delivered two sessions 'Oxbridge Interview Questions - Does A Snail Have Consciousness?' and 'Unlocking The Secrets Of Social Physics'. The former challenged us with one of the most difficult questions in the Universe! What is consciousness, how do we identify it and how did it evolve? The latter unravelled the threads of Social Physics and the 'Big Data' revolution that's shaping our future.

As well as a fascinating investigation into 'What Makes Us Happy?' the day ended with a debate: 'Exploring The Ethical Implications Of Artificial Intelligence In The Modern World' between Dr Mark Lewney and Liam Bekirsky. AI represents one of the most rapidly advancing fields of technology. New breakthroughs and applications continually emerge, pushing the boundaries of what is possible. The prospect of revolutionary change and disruption generates excitement ,but, what are the risks? There is a wide-ranging, ongoing, discussion of the implications of artificial intelligence and this debate examined the ethical, societal, economic and technical implications of AI technologies.

The conclusion was really interesting when the pupils were asked to vote on the outcome of the debate - with the vast majority supporting the ideas of Dr Lewney, who had argued that AI was a major threat to our lives.

The day certainly stretched and challenged everyone who attended and the LSAS pupils were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend.

Dr Andrew Webber, LSAS Co-ordinator



Engineering Trip to Lunaz

On Thursday 14 March, the Lower Sixth Engineering BTEC pupils visited Lunaz at Silverstone, for a tour of their factory. Lunaz specialise in restoring classic cars and converting them to electric powertrains.

The trip consisted of a tour around the factory and seeing how the company operates. The factory has everything all in one building and we were lucky to have access to the metal workshop, paint booth and final assembly workshop. It was amazing to see the difference between a car first arriving at the company and what it looks like when it leaves.

We also saw the engineering office with the computer-aided design work, which links to what we are currently doing on our BTEC Engineering course; as well as the customer design suite where paint colours and upholstery are chosen. The company puts many hours into restoring these cars and turning them into reliable, zero emissions vehicles.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Lower Sixth, West)





CCF



Army and RAF Field Day

After the Easter break, on Monday 22 April, Fourth Form Army and RAF Cadets were granted the opportunity to further expand their CCF skills by partaking in several activities on an exciting field day with all activities chosen to focus on different Change Maker and Army skills.

Once all kit and uniform had been checked on the North Front, each Platoon headed to their respective activities. Despite the rainy weather making some activities difficult, each Platoon showed patience and perseverance throughout the day and Staff helped all the activities run smoothly despite having to make some adjustments to adapt to the weather conditions.

We started the day practicing our gun handling skills and the safety precautions of handling an air rifle, which is a vital skill to acquire if you are to be part of the CCF. This then brought us to a blank firing exercise which helped us learn communication skills as we had to cooperate with another team on the field before being able to start firing.

Later in the afternoon, we were tower building which also required some strong communication skills as this was a team building exercise where everyone's contribution was needed to achieve a solid structure which could also withstand the length of the tower. This exercise required logical and cohesive thinking. All platoons also took part in two separate command tasks which required leadership skills to lead their team in victory and achieve the challenge while still respecting all instructions. We also participated in an assault course later in the afternoon. We did multiple versions of the assault course, first going as a whole Platoon, which helped us develop communication and teamwork skills. We also raced in pairs which added some fun competition to the activity. At the end of the day, all Cadets were ready to go back to House for some well-deserved rest.

Thank you to Command Sergeant Major Geoffrey Abbey and all the Staff involved in CCF for making this day possible, despite the challenging weather conditions.

Emilia Combastet and Peri Sardan (both Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

During the field day, several activities were chosen for us to challenge our Change Maker skills. These included command tasks, tower building, blank firing exercise and the assault course.

The command tasks were aimed at improving our leadership and teamwork skills by encouraging any ideas on how to complete the problems we were faced with. We were tasked to do the infamous maths puzzle 'The Tower of Hanoi' as well as a bridge-related puzzle - both were incredibly fun.

As well as the command tasks we did a tower building activity which again encouraged teamwork and leadership. We were instructed to build the tallest tower we could during the allotted time. This activity greatly helped us develop as people as well as improving our friendships.

For the blank firing exercise, we were able to fire rifles using blank



ammunition to introduce us into rifle-firing and this activity was extremely helpful for all of us as it gave us a feel for not only formation attacks but what to do under effective fire.

The final activity we partook in was the assault course which was a fun activity but also had many learning objectives as it helped prepare us for any environment by turning it into a playful place.

The day felt like a great success for everyone as it really helped all of us improve and gave us potential opportunities for the future and we thank the CCF Staff for their time with us.

Thomas Langford (Fourth Form, Chandos)





CCF

CCF Navy Portsmouth Day

On Monday 22 April the Fourth Form Naval section went to Portsmouth to learn about firefighting at sea.

To start the day, we changed into firefighting overalls and jackets to protect us from getting too wet or being burnt. We were shown how to use fire hoses, which were extremely powerful and you would get quite wet using the more modern ones!

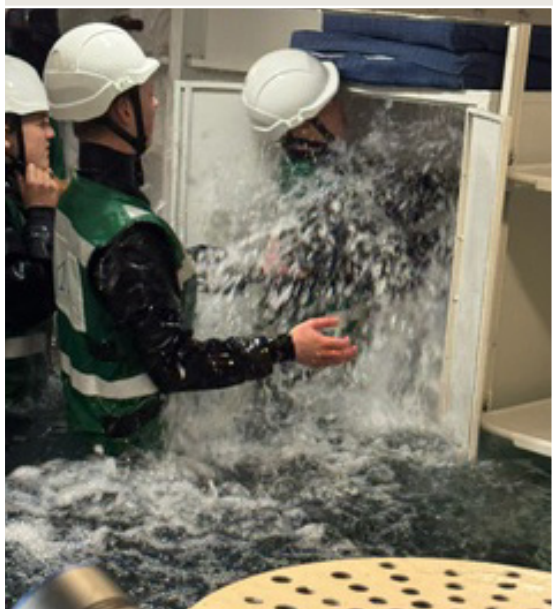
We then went to an engine room simulator, where a fire was started. We were given thermal imaging sensors, which we then pointed to the fire to see just how hot it would be inside.

We moved into another room, with a box filled with concentrated amounts of oxygen and propane. A flame was lit inside and under the concentration of 10.1% of propane, the inside of the box ignited. After this we had a demonstration on how three different types of fire extinguishers work and we had the opportunity to try them all. The different types available are CO2, foam and water, which are used for different situations.

After lunch, we changed into wetsuits and went to the Driu, a large metal container which simulates the inside of a boat, filling with water through holes in the walls and floor. It is controlled and we were given wooden blocks and a hammer to try and stop the water flowing in. It was a lot harder than it looked, as the water was extremely powerful - it was a real challenge and used our Change Maker skills, holding our breath when hammering the pieces into the floor.

Overall, it was an extremely enjoyable day and we learnt so much. We want to thank Mr Zammit for arranging and taking us on this fascinating trip.

Sofia Skjøtt (Fourth Form, Queen's)



Safeguarding at Stowe



What is sextortion?

The meaning of sextortion comes from the combination of 'sex' and 'extortion'. It refers to someone threatening to share or distribute intimate images unless the victim takes a certain action. Victims of the blackmail threats might know the perpetrator. However, they can also be a stranger. The perpetrator might demand that the victim share more images or send money.

Sextortion scams usually fall into these two categories:

- Image sextortion: the purpose of the extortion is to obtain indecent images of an individual.
- Financial sextortion: the purpose is to gain financially. With financial sextortion, victims pay money to stop the perpetrator from sharing images more widely.

How does it impact victims?

Sextortion is illegal and very distressing for the victim. Those behind it (often criminal gangs) prey on these feelings; perpetrators know that victims will feel this way. In some cases, victims also worry about having their intimate images or videos shared more widely. As a result, they feel scared and might do things they do not want to do. Additionally, many children and young people feel embarrassed and ashamed if they fall victim to sextortion so they will often keep the abuse to themselves. This can lead to further impacts on their wellbeing.

What are the warning signs?

Remember that in some sextortion scams, children and young people believe the perpetrator is someone their own age. They will genuinely believe they are talking to someone who is interested in them and who wants to get into a relationship with them. Parents need to think back to when they were this age. Did they tell their parents everything that they did with their partner at the time, particularly sexual things?

The following changes in your child could suggest they have experienced online sexual coercion or extortion. It is important however, to recognise that some of these signs could relate to other changes.

- Your child might appear withdrawn, worried or unhappy compared to their normal.
- They might stop using their phone or mobile device, or they might seem worried when a message appears.

Apps that they love might become sources of anxiety, as such, they might stop using those platforms. Sextortion can happen on any platform where users communicate with others.

Why a young person might share nudes

Not all children who share nudes do so because they feel coerced, in some cases they might want to, however this is often because they believe they might get something in return. This may include getting a modelling job, money, gift cards, a new mobile phone or other 'gifts'.

Additionally, sextortion can actually come from someone your child is in a relationship with. They might share an image with the recipient who then pressures them for more. Research shows that this can happen to anyone from any background and at any age (the FBI have interviewed victims as young as eight). Recently there has been a significant spike in sextortion cases globally. This includes the UK with many of the scams targeting teenage boys.

How to help

Parents and carers need to recognise just how embarrassing and shaming sextortion can feel for young people. As such, they will often struggle to admit they have shared nude images with someone who took advantage of them. If a child or young person tells you about an incident of coercion, remember they are a victim of a crime. Often, victims don't report sextortion crimes. Additionally, extreme cases have led to children and young people taking their own lives, so reassure them that you are there to help.

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

MUSIC

Please come and join members of the Music Department at 7:45pm on Wednesday 8 May in the State Music Room, for a recital of pieces from the Baroque and Classical period. The State Music Room's origins lie in the 1780s, during the height of this musical genre and therefore lends itself ideally to a performance on instruments typical of the time.

Performers include Emma Bryden (cello), Leena Rana (flute), Emily Bradshaw-Gibson (Soprano), Marinela Mahoney (flute), Paul Badley (Tenor) as well as pianists Jonathan Kingston, Ben Andrew and Thomas Hawkes.

Please reserve your seats by clicking the following [link](#).

The Music Department



Croft House Embraces Yoga

On Monday 22 April, Croft House Fourth and Sixth Formers, along with Matron and I, took a break from exam preparations to engage in a yoga relaxation session led by renowned yoga instructor Eva Paoli, known for her expertise through Yoga with Eva (evayoga.co.uk).

The session aimed to provide the pupils with techniques to foster relaxation and enhance their sleep quality, especially critical as they navigate the demanding exam season.

Eva, a seasoned yoga practitioner, guided us through various relaxation exercises designed specifically to calm the mind and prepare the body for rest. With exams looming, such practices are invaluable. The pupils learned important skills, including mindfulness and controlled breathing, which are instrumental in managing stress and anxiety.

The focus of the session was not only on immediate relaxation but also on teaching the boys how to wind down before bedtime to ensure a restorative night's sleep. Good sleep is crucial for everyone, but it is especially vital for teenagers, whose bodies and minds are still developing. Studies have shown that adequate sleep can significantly enhance memory retention, problem-solving skills and concentration, all essential for academic success.

For teenagers, managing stress is particularly important during exam periods, when anxiety can peak and disrupt normal sleep patterns. By incorporating yoga into their routine, pupils are equipped with tools to maintain their mental well-being in potentially stressful times. This proactive approach to stress management through yoga underscores the School's commitment to supporting the holistic wellbeing of the pupils.

As exam season continues, the lessons learned in this evening's session will undoubtedly be a cornerstone of the pupils' stay calm and focused strategies. Eva's guidance through yoga presents an effective method for stress relief and reminds us of the powerful impact of taking time to care for the mind and body amidst the pressures of academic achievements.

A recording of the session can be viewed [here](#).

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent



Open Mic Night

On Wednesday 20 March, the Languages Society held its highlight event of the year, The Languages Open Mic Night. With 17 acts in ten different languages, this was our biggest open mic night ever, showing that languages are alive and kicking at Stowe. We were treated to songs in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Russian and Spanish, tongue twisters in Turkish and German, poems in French, German, Japanese and Thai and even the Kenyan National Anthem.

It was a joy to see Stoics of all ages take to the stage and perform in such a variety of

languages, supported by their friends in the audience.

My special thanks go to all the teachers who helped make this event a success, and especially Egle Formichetti (Upper Sixth, West) for being the event organiser, Kasper Calvert (Third Form, Chandos) for being such a superstar with the sound system and Mr Tyrie for videoing the whole event.

To watch a taster of the evening itself, please click [here](#).

Alice Tearle, Head of Languages



Brize Norton Visit

On Wednesday 20 March, Charlie Evans (Fourth Form, Temple), Tom de Glanville (Fifth Form, Bruce) and James Stratford (Fourth Form, Walpole) from the RAF Contingent, along with CCF Contingent Commander Andrew Arnold, were lucky enough to visit the UK's largest RAF base - Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Home to the RAF's Air Mobility Force, encompassing Strategic and Tactical Air Transport, and Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) forces, as well as being host to many reserve units, the extent of the operation was extraordinary.

The C17 (pictured) - which can carry three Apache attack helicopters - was a highlight of the tour. Not only did the Cadets see this immense aircraft taking off and landing, but they also had the opportunity to explore inside one of them.

Seeing aircraft up close was exciting, but the trip was also inspirational in the way that it enriched the knowledge and understanding of our Cadets. Our thanks to all the RAF personnel who generously shared their valuable expertise and time with us. It was a memorable experience and we look forward to further collaborations with them.

Imogen Adkins, Acting Pilot Officer CCF



MOTORSPORT

Trip to Young Drivers

Just before the end of Lent Term on Sunday 17 March, the Motorsport Group attended a Young Driver driving lesson at Bicester Heritage. Young Driver offers driving lessons for 10-17 year olds at various private tracks and airfields. Ten intrepid Stoics ranging from Third to Fifth Form had a driving lesson with a professional instructor in a dual controlled car. Beginners mastered clutch control, steering and moving through the gears, whilst others attempted manoeuvres, weaving round cones and even a set of traffic lights! The Stoics were all impressed with how far they progressed during the session and the advice and positivity of the instructors. Lessons are regularly held at Bicester Heritage and so the unanimous decision is we will be back!

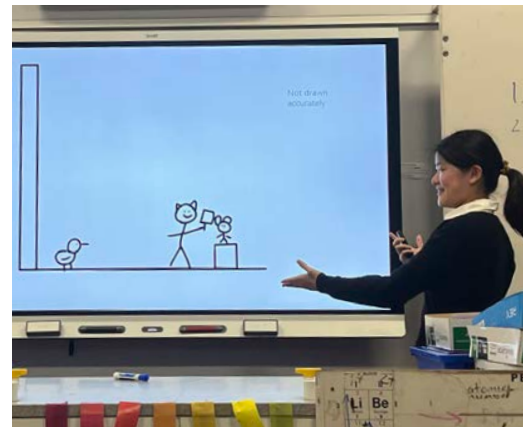
Motorsport visit to Formula Fast

On the first day of the Summer Term we headed off to Formula Fast Karting in Milton Keynes to put into practice all our previous driving skills learned through our SIM racing. Excitement was high as to who would top the time sheets and who might end up in the tyre wall. The Group looked very professional in their race suits, balaclavas and helmets, and after the safety briefing to learn the rules and flags, they were into their karts and away! In Group One Jamie Wilson (Fifth Form, Cobham) made a speedy start which caught the marshals' eye and Oliver Lambertson (Fifth Form, Grenville) was 'King of the Spin'. However, Bertie Scott (Fifth Form, Chatham) proved to be 'Mr Consistent' and topped the podium, with Felix Carnegie (Fifth

Form, Walpole) in Second and Oliver Lambertson finishing Third. An honourable mention goes to Sofia Comino and Lola Richardson (both Fifth Form, Stanhope) who improved their lap times massively by the end of the session.

Group Two were taking things very seriously from the off and George Seward (Fourth Form, Walpole) had packed his special racing boots; which may have contributed to his dominant win! With an excellent smooth drive Nikita Solovyev (Upper Sixth, Temple) finished Second, with Austin Burgoine (Fourth Form, Winton) in Third, swiftly followed by Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple). A special mention also for Misha Peganov (Fifth Form, Temple) who improved his lap time by 10 seconds by the end of the session!

Aimi Arroyo, Motorsport Group



Mathematics Talks

Paradoxes, Gravitational Slingshots, and Tom & Jerry

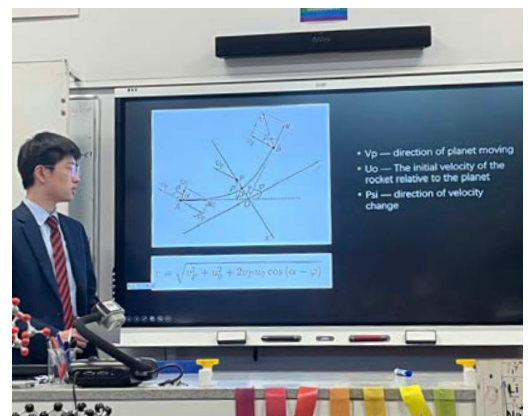
Gaussian Society met on Wednesday 20 March to hear talks from Lower Sixth Stoics George Smith (Winton), William Wu (Grafton), Sam Zhang (Walpole) and Grace Huang (Lyttelton).

George opened his talk with the paradox of parliamentary sovereignty, where a sovereign parliament can make or repeal any law, including a law that forbids it from repealing that law; meaning that it can never in fact be truly sovereign. George then told us the story of Cantor's sets and how Bertrand Russell tried to build on these ideas to firmly derive all of mathematics, before writing to Frege in 1902 about the analogous tricky paradox of the set of the sets that contain themselves.

William and Sam were inspired by the film 'Interstellar' to learn more about gravitational slingshots and how NASA uses them for deep space probes such as New Horizons, which utilised a gravity assist manoeuvre to increase velocity by about 9,000mph. After illustrating the interactions of large and small bodies using a basketball and tennis ball, William and Sam explained how gravitational forces can be determined and how they affect the trajectory and velocity of spacecraft as they pass by planets.

Finally, Grace challenged herself to match the calculations that a woodpecker used in a classic cartoon, to save Jerry from Tom. If the telegraph pole was cut too short, it would miss Tom, but too long and it would hit both Tom and Jerry. The answer lay in holding a pencil in an outstretched hand to estimate heights and get the cut just right. Grace tested this method on several objects, reminiscent of early mathematicians estimating the curvature of the earth, and Jerry escaped to fight another day.

Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths



FUTURES

Discover Virtual Work Experiences with Forage

Calling all Stoics looking to boost their CVs and personal statements over the Summer break!

Consider engaging in a virtual work experience with Forage, an innovative platform that offers real-world job simulations across various sectors. These simulations are designed to bridge the gap between education and professional success, providing insights into daily tasks at leading companies and building relevant skills for future careers.

Forage offers a range of virtual internships from global corporations in diverse industries.

Here are three compelling opportunities from different sectors:

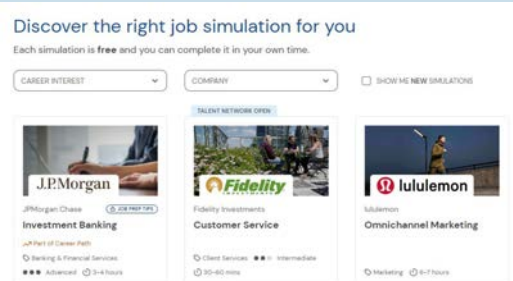
Law: Mayer Brown's Mergers & Acquisitions programme offers a deep dive into complex transactions and high-stakes litigation tailored for those interested in the legal sector. Participants get to explore the intricate world of corporate law through hands-on tasks reflective of real-life challenges. For more details on law simulations, visit Forage Law Simulations.

Consulting: Boston Consulting Group (BCG) provides a simulation that introduces strategy consulting. This programme is ideal for pupils curious about solving business problems and driving innovation within global companies. Participants gain practical insights into the methodologies and thought processes consultants use at a top firm. Explore more about this opportunity at BCG on Forage.

Cybersecurity: At JPMorgan Chase, pupils can immerse themselves in a cybersecurity simulation designed to teach about securing sensitive information and understanding real-world security systems. This programme is perfect for pupils interested in technology and cybersecurity, providing foundational skills that are critical in today's digital world. Learn more about this experience at JPMorgan Cybersecurity on Forage.

These self-paced, free simulations provide a certificate upon completion, which can be a great addition to your CV. By participating, you not only gain valuable experience but also enhance your employability, making you a more attractive candidate for future opportunities. Start your virtual work experience this Summer with Forage and take a significant step towards your career development.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Discover the right job simulation for you

Each simulation is free and you can complete it in your own time.

CAREER INTEREST: COMPANY: SHOW ME NEW SIMULATIONS

TALENT NETWORK OPEN

- J.P.Morgan**
JPMorgan Chase
Investment Banking
J.P.Morgan Chase
Banking & Financial Services
Advanced 3-4 hours
- Fidelity**
Fidelity Investments
Customer Service
Client Services Intermediate
30-45 mins
- lululemon**
lululemon
Omnichannel Marketing
Marketing 1-1.5 hours

The Value of Studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at University: Careers Talk with Australian-Based Old Stoic

Led by Jonty Gordon (Lower Sixth, Croft), we held a careers talk on Tuesday 23 April. Due to the significant time difference, the talk was scheduled for 9am to accommodate the guest speaker, Nick Johnston (Chandos 08), who is now living in Sydney, Australia. The session was conducted over Microsoft Teams, allowing Nick to share his experiences directly from Sydney, where he serves as the Asia Regional Head of Country Risk at Macquarie Group, Australia's largest investment bank.



Nick studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Durham University and later completed his Master's in the Politics of China at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. He shared why he chose his field of study and the proactive steps he took during his university years, including the importance of internships. He highlighted how internships could be pivotal in shaping careers, providing practical experience and a competitive edge in the job market.

Despite not using his A Level French to secure international work experience, Nick recognised the advantages of having language skills in a globalised labour market. He contrasted the workplace cultures in Australia and London, noting that his current employer in Sydney shows a good understanding of work-life balance, which he finds highly beneficial.

The talk, attended by Lower Sixth pupils who were not scheduled for regular classes, also covered several key areas of the PPE degree. Nick explained how the degree was helpful in his early career, the skills he acquired and the interdisciplinary nature of PPE, which opened doors to various sectors. He also discussed the challenges he faced while studying and how he overcame them, alongside the continuous learning necessary in his field.

In an engaging Q&A session, Nick answered questions on topics ranging from preparing a compelling personal statement, which included interesting research projects and work placements, to the specific sectors that value a PPE degree. He shared insights into the projects he undertook during his degree that proved crucial in his career trajectory and offered advice to those considering a PPE degree.

We are looking forward to our next careers talk later this term, featuring a representative from Warwick University, discussing their PPE programme, which is open to all Stoics interested in this multidisciplinary field.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures

Deloitte.

Deloitte Student Careers

Choose your impact - Make it matter

On Tuesday 23 April, Zion Sengulay, a Talent Engagement Advisor at Deloitte, delivered an inspiring talk about his journey to Deloitte and the strategies he used to craft a standout application. His presentation 'Zion's story' began with his early career aspirations and detailed the pathway that led him to his current role at Deloitte. He highlighted the importance of differentiating oneself in a competitive job market by embracing the company's ethos. At Deloitte, this ethos is encapsulated in their shared values - lead the way, serve with integrity, take care of each other, foster inclusion and collaborate for measurable impact. These principles are not just a guide for how Deloitte operates but serve as a beacon for all potential employees, urging them to integrate these values into their personal and professional lives.

The talk also covered a broad spectrum of opportunities available at Deloitte, emphasising the diverse career paths ranging

from Audit and Assurance to Cyber Data and Digital. Zion elaborated on how these roles are aligned with Deloitte's mission to make an impact that matters, offering a tapestry of experiences that contribute to personal and professional growth.

The session was interactive, with Zion encouraging questions from our Lower Sixth audience, supporting a dynamic exchange of ideas and advice. His candid sharing of challenges and milestones resonated with many attendees, illustrating the realistic aspects of career progression. The talk reflected Zion's commendable journey and a testament to Deloitte's commitment to nurturing talent in alignment with its core values. We extend our gratitude to Zion for sharing his valuable insights and experiences, providing Stoics with a clear vision of what it takes to thrive in a professional environment like Deloitte.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures

Stowe Presents

Coming soon to the Roxburgh Theatre

Two very different events will be presented in the Roxburgh Theatre during May, and both are a welcome addition to our programme of public activities.



'The (Not So) Big Bad Wolf'. Little Red Riding Hood

Over the bank holiday weekend, on Monday 27 May at 11am, younger audiences will enjoy 'The (Not So) Big Bad Wolf'. Little Red Riding Hood has the following to say about this new theatrical adventure:

"Stay tuned as I go undercover to reveal the truth behind fairytales' most infamous villain - The Big Bad Wolf." Meet Little Red; adventurer, heroine and world-renowned 'True Grimm' podcaster. She's on a mission to debunk the myths around her so called nemesis, with the help of a few storybook favourites, her red invisibility cloak and a basket full of music, mayhem and magic tricks! But the truth is no Fairytale...

Behold as your favourite tales are re-spun and woven together in an epic new adventure. 'The Not So Big Bad Wolf' is performed by two actor musicians, featuring original live music and puppetry.

Tickets for Stowe Group Staff are £7.50 adults and £4.50 for children. The show is just under one hour without an interval. [Book here.](#)



Foden's Band In Concert



Including a performance from
Towcester Studio Band



Foden's Band in Concert

On Saturday 18 May at 7pm, the famous Foden's Band will be performing at Stowe. Foden's Band was formed in 1902 as part of the Foden's Motor Works. The band have been based in Sandbach, Cheshire since its formation and are the current 'Double National Champions of Great Britain' as well as being ranked as one of the leading brass bands in the World.

Tickets are £15 standard and £10 concession and under 16s.

[Book here.](#)

Stowe Singers Head to London

On Saturday 20 April we were delighted to welcome over 100 members of The Stowe Group Choral Society to the Ugland Auditorium for the first rehearsal in preparation for a special concert in London on Sunday 17 November.

Performing for the first time in the renowned music venue, St John's Smith Square and conducted by Stowe Choral Director Jonathan Kingston, the programme will feature Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man' and 'A Mass For Peace', and works by Handel and Stanford (Handel 'Zadok The Priest' and 'Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened' and Stanford 'Te Deum in B flat'). The Stowe Group Choral Society comprises of pupils, teachers, parents and community singers who are local to The Stowe Group Schools. In recent years, the Choir has performed Mozart's 'Requiem' and Handel's 'Messiah' in the Stowe Chapel, and this year they are going further afield and making their London debut!

This concert is from 3-4.30pm and will run without an interval. Tickets are now on sale and we do hope that you can make a day of it and come to support our Stoic and wider community singers.

Adults £16 and Under 16s £10. **[Book here.](#)**





and...ACTION 2!: GENDER

The second Stowe and...ACTION! Media conference for Sixth Form Film & Media A Level and BTEC pupils took place in The Roxburgh Theatre on Friday 15 March. This year's theme was 'Gender'.

During the day, delegates watched Nina Menkes' provocative 2022 documentary film 'Brainwashed: Sex - Camera - Power', which illustrates how the camera has been used to satisfy the male gaze and how women have been objectified on screen. This thought-provoking and challenging film included interviews with critics and academics; extracts from a great many classic films and some uncomfortable truths. It was frank, hard-hitting and a wakeup call for change.

The day also included a talk from Jaspar Cumiskey, who had just completed work on Ridley Scott's new film 'Gladiator 2'. His discussion of how it works behind the scenes was fascinating (even if he concurred that the film industry remained extremely male dominated) and he provided useful tips on how to get into the movies.

We also heard from one of the few women projectionists in the country, Ultimate Picture Palace's Kit Finnie, who gave us a clear understanding of the differences between digital and 35mm, and how we need to conserve celluloid at all costs. She brought with her several artefacts including film reels, editing equipment and even some celluloid and, like Jaspar, also gave delegates an understanding of what goes on behind the scenes.

In the afternoon we were fortunate to be joined by film maker Sam Taylor-Johnson, who gave us a detailed and candid account of her career. In conversation with myself, Mrs Taylor-Johnson focused on all aspects of film making (the highs and lows); what it means to be an auteur and ended up talking about her new film 'Back to Black: the Amy Winehouse story', which was released shortly after the conference.

Following the event, Mrs Taylor-Johnson said that talking with some of the pupils was "inspiring" with a few very interesting potential future actors and film makers at Stowe.

The afternoon session was open to all Sixth Form humanities pupils and approximately 100 pupils attended. A recording of Mrs Taylor-Johnson's talk can be watched [here](#).

It was a genuine privilege to meet with one of the few women directors who has ever worked with £40 million budgets and to find her so down-to-earth and honest.

We are already planning next year's conference so if readers have any suggestions of who we might be able to invite please [email me](#).

Dr Andrew Webber, Teacher of Film & Media Studies

ROBOTICS

Congratulations to the Robotics team of Henry Anderson (Fourth Form, Temple), James Stratford (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Ray Phuchanakit (Lower Sixth, Bruce) who qualified for the World Robotics Finals in Dallas, Texas from Wednesday 25 to Tuesday 30 April.

The qualifying matches went well for the team, finishing with seven wins out of ten matches. We sadly did not however pick up enough bonus win points to get us ranked into the top 25-30 that would have secured us a playoff spot. We ended up ranked 38th of the 82 robots in our group (there are 820 teams in total at worlds).

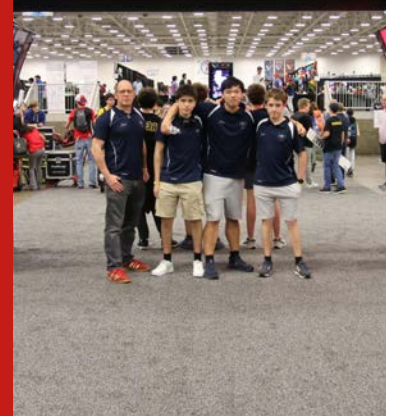
We were easily the best-performing UK team at the world finals as the next UK team managed just five wins.

The team did exceptionally well, it is always a massive challenge to compete with the American dominance of the competition, and very hard to get noticed enough by them against the established partnerships.

We look forward to next season, which starts immediately with designing robots for the brand new game revealed at the World finals.

Paul Thompson, MIC Robotics

WVEX
ROBOTICS
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Events

Spring has sprung so take advantage of the longer days and try one of the new events and activities to enjoy at Stowe House.



Stowe-Tots

Come and play!

Stowe-Tots

Monday 20 May, 10-10.45am

A fun-filled sensory play session for families with young babies and pre-school toddlers. Once a month, session themes will vary. Held in our Visitor Centre, activities will be led by our friendly learning and community team.

Booking is essential 1 Child and 1 Adult £5

Rooftop Tours

**Wednesday 29 May
& Saturday 1 June, 6pm**

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

Booking is essential £15



Photography Course - Six Weeks

Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 June. 4 & 18 July. 10am-12noon

Embark on a transformative journey through the lens with our immersive six-week photography course. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned enthusiast, this programme is designed to hone your skills and unleash your creativity through a blend of classroom learning and hands-on roaming practical activities, within the Stowe House State Rooms and building façades for beginner or intermediate photographers, using either a mobile phone or DSLR camera.

Led by Suzanne Kentish, a professional photographer with over 16 years' experience, each session will cover essential techniques, from mastering camera settings, and understanding composition principles to editing your own final framed piece, that you will get to take away.

Booking is essential £295



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.

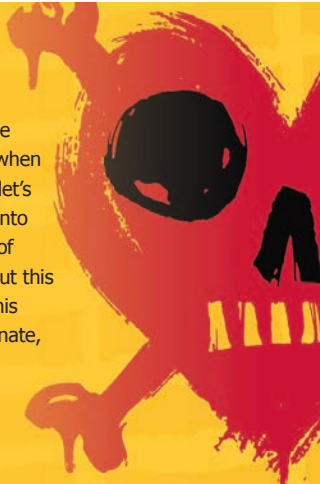
Romeo and Juliet

Thursday 25 July, 7.30pm

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

Adult £18, Child £10.

Booking essential online.

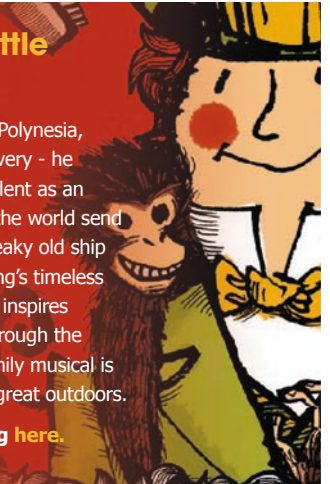


The Adventures of Dr Dolittle

Friday 23 August, 6.30pm

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

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



Lino Print Workshop

Sunday 25 August, 10am

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

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

Secure your space on the workshop. £80



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



NOW SOLD OUT
- a recording will be available
to watch after the event

*What about the women of Stowe?
Throwing light on Stowe's
eighteenth-century chatelaines.*

**with Dr Amy Boyington
Thursday 9 May, 6pm.**

On Thursday 9 May we look forward to welcoming Dr Amy Boyington - Historian, Author, Broadcaster and TikTok viral sensation, plus last year's winner of the George Clarke Prize, as she presents her fascinating research on the women at Stowe.

Stowe has long been celebrated for its pioneering gardens and its remarkable house, but it has been made even more famous by the illustrious names attached to it. The patrons and architects that created Stowe, such as Viscount Cobham, Earl Temple, Sir John Vanbrugh, William Kent, James Gibbs, Charles Bridgeman and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, have all added to the lustre of this amazing country house. But what about the women?

There are several influential women associated with 18th Century Stowe whose stories have long been overshadowed by their male relatives. For example, it is astonishing that so little is known about Anne, Viscountess Cobham, née Halsey (d.1760), especially as her substantial dowry enabled Lord Cobham to transform Stowe. And what about Anna, Lady Temple, née Chambers (1709?-1777), the wife of Earl Temple? She reputedly brought £50,000 to her marriage, thereby allowing Stowe to undergo a further transformation. She was also a published poet, and yet very little is known about her life. Finally, what about Lady Mary Elizabeth Nugent (1758-1812), the wife of George Grenville, Marquess of Buckingham? She is generally completely forgotten, and yet she was a talented artist and an active philanthropist both in the local Stowe area and elsewhere.

This talk aims to throw some much-needed light upon these women, focusing particularly on the lives of Anna, Countess Temple and her successor Mary, Marchioness of Buckingham. It seeks to highlight how they experienced and enjoyed Stowe, and whether they left a lasting legacy upon the estate.

The event will be recorded for anyone unable to attend the evening.

Mel Whitrow, Stowe House Preservation Trust



Stowe House Preservation Trust

A new Earl Temple

We have recently received a new and better copy of Earl Temple in his Garter robes, to replace the photographic copy we currently have in the Blue Room. The original full-length portrait, by Allan Ramsay in 1762, now in the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, is part of a collection donated to the gallery in the 1960s by an Australian philanthropist. About 25 years ago, the Hall Bequest Trust had a photographic copy made, but the largest the photo could be expanded to was three-quarters of the original size. It was also very shiny. Technology has since moved on and the trust has paid for a new, better full-sized copy, and to improve the quality of the photograph, paint strokes were added, making it look less flat. I'm sure you'll agree that it is a far superior version. We are currently looking for a suitable antique frame before we hang it.

Known as the Garter portrait, it shows Earl Temple's proud nature and his satisfaction with being given the Order of the Garter, despite George II disliking him. For the eagle-eyed of you, look for the Order of the Garter symbols in the State Dining Room and the Severy (originally known as the Garter Room). Earl Temple was clearly very pleased with himself! Thanks to the Hall Bequest Trust for another adornment to improve our understanding of Stowe and its original family.

Anna McEvoy, House Custodian, Stowe House Preservation Trust



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