

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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NEWS FROM STOWE



Stowe Sports Awards 2024

On Friday 17 May, 130 Stoics and Staff came together to celebrate Sport at Stowe.

Our Guest of honour was Graeme White (Bruce 2005) who had an amazing five years at Stowe - debuting for the 1st XI in the Third Form and a permanent fixture thereafter. He was a top all round cricketer scoring two centuries for the 1st XI and taking an incredible 8 five-wicket hauls. He was a fine tactician as well and Captained the 1st XI for two years. During this time, he also represented England from U15 level up to U19 level. He was signed by Northants immediately upon leaving Stowe in 2005 and this was the beginning of an 18-year professional career for Northants and Nottinghamshire, which also included further England representation with the England Lions. In total Graeme took 283 first team wickets and just under 2,000 career runs. Graeme gave an exceptional after dinner speech, reliving some of his memories of his time at Stowe and encouraging the Stoics to make the most of the extraordinary opportunities to play and develop in their Sports at Stowe.

The Dinner culminated in the awarding of sporting colours and then the top prizes to the Player of the Season in each sport by our special guest.

The Stowe Heads of Sports and coaches want to thank all the Stoics for their dedication and commitment in representing their School, we are immensely proud of them all.

Cheryl Davis, Assistant Director of Sport



Player of the Season Awards

- Lucy Willmott (Upper Sixth, Nugent)
Equestrian - Rider of the Year
 - Arin Chatsuan (Upper Sixth, Grenville)
Badminton - Player of the Season
 - Madya Liu (Fifth Form, Stanhope)
Badminton - Player of the Season
 - Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Upper Sixth, Chatham)
Basketball - Player of the Season
 - Katie Webb (Fourth Form, Cheshire)
Cross Country - Runner of the Season
 - Henry Clare (Upper Sixth, Winton)
Cycling - Cyclist of the Year
 - Giovanni Way (Lower Sixth, Bruce)
Football - Player of the Season
 - Tristan Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville)
Golf - Golfer of the Season
 - Anna Maria Collinge (Lower Sixth, Nugent)
Hockey - Player of the Season
 - James Bristow (Lower Sixth, Bruce)
Hockey - Player of the Season
 - Emily Watson (Upper Sixth, West)
Lacrosse - Player of the Season
 - Izzy Kaye (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)
Netball - Player of the Season
 - Lucas Stern (Upper Sixth, Grenville)
Polo - Player of the Season
 - Max Cowper-Hart (Upper Sixth, Winton)
Rowing - Rower of the Year
 - Rafe Witheat (Upper Sixth, Temple)
Rugby - Player of the Season
 - Eitan O'Grady (Lower Sixth, Temple)
Squash - Player of the Season
 - Sam Gray (Lower Sixth, Winton)
Swimming - Swimmer of the Year & Colours
 - Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Upper Sixth, Chandos)
Water Polo - Player of the Season
- Players of the Season for Athletics, Cricket, Tennis and Sailing will be announced at the end of the Summer Term.



Celebrating the Legacy of Bruce House

On Sunday 11 May, we gathered to honour the enduring legacy of Bruce House. Boys from Bruce, accompanied by their parents, grandparents, guardians, the Bruce House team, the Head, and former Staff members, came together to celebrate the House's illustrious history since the School's founding in 1923. Blessed with a rare day of sunshine, the celebration unfolded on the Bursar's Lawn on the South Front, where guests convened to commemorate Bruce's remarkable 101 years.

The event commenced with speeches delivered from the South Front Portico, followed by a delightful luncheon on the lawn. The Head recounted the stories past of Bruce House, paying tribute to the extraordinary Old Brucites who have been part of its history. He praised the maturity and resilience of the current Brucites, who were informed before Christmas that the House would close for refurbishment at the end of the Summer Term and is set to reopen as a girls' House in 2025. He also extended heartfelt thanks to Houseparent Phil Arnold, who will be departing Stowe this Summer to embark on a new chapter with his family in the Isles of Scilly.

Phil Arnold then addressed the gathering, reflecting on his tenure as Houseparent and the privilege of guiding the boys in his care. He expressed profound gratitude to the boys, their parents and guardians for their unwavering support during his time in Bruce. He also commended his exceptional House team, for their dedication and hard work. Special thanks were reserved for his wife Jo, whose support has enabled him to devote himself fully to his role. Phil concluded his speech by urging the Bruce boys to embody the House motto, "Fuimus," meaning "We Endure," to show resilience and perseverance.

Following the speeches, tokens of appreciation in the form of Bruce House cufflinks and ties were presented to the boys. Fifth Former Woody Hamilton Hurst then graciously presented Phil and Joelene Beardon (Matron) with flowers and cards on behalf of the boys.

We extend our best wishes to all the Bruce boys who will join new Houses in September, and we look forward to carrying on the proud legacy of Bruce House as the first girls join it in September 2025.

Tori Roddy, Group Director of Admissions & Marketing



Old Stoics Events



OS Corkscrew - Wine Pairing Dinner

19 June 2024

Stowe parents are invited to attend an OS Corkscrew Wine Pairing Dinner at Hawthorn Restaurant, Kew on 19 June 2024.

Hawthorn is owned and run by OS Chef, Joshua Hunter (Cobham 08) and specialises in modern European fine dining. Joshua has very kindly offered us exclusive use of the restaurant and designed a four-course menu for the evening. His in-house Sommelier, Michal, has chosen and paired four exceptional wines to complement each course.

We are also delighted to announce that OS Clem Yates (Lyttelton 94), Master of Wine will be joining us as a guest speaker.

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



OS Racing Club - Royal Ascot Preview Evening

4 June 2024

All Old Stoics, parents and friends of Stowe with a keen interest in horse racing are warmly invited to attend our first Royal Ascot Festival Preview on Tuesday 4 June at Aragon House, Parsons Green.

Following on from our successful Cheltenham Festival Previews, which have become a firm fixture in the OS social calendar, this is now the time to come and hear about the top performers, and some under the radar selections, for one of the leading weeks in the flat racing sports' calendar as well as an update on our Stowe racing syndicates.

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



The Stowe Putter

On Sunday 19 May, Stowe was proud to hold the 56th Stowe Putter. The third to be held on the new 6,400 yard (when played as an 18-hole course) golf course, carefully designed to nestle into the historic landscape gardens.

With a start sheet of 57 golfers, we had an exciting day ahead of us. It was an early, chilly start for some, but eventually the sun came through and it was perfect golfing weather. After the first nine holes we knew the competition was fierce, with around ten boys all in contention for the top prizes.

After a break for lunch in the Mansion, the golfers set out for the second 9 holes and we waited with baited breath to see the scores come in. It was one of the tightest finishes we have seen in the history of the Putter and the standard of golf was exceptional.

We would like to thank all the golfers and families for making the day such fun and a wonderful success.

The Jigger

First Place - Edward Perry, RGS The Grange (41)

Second Place - Jack Greenwood, Bedford School (37)

Third Place - Arthur Lindsay, Summerfields (36)

The Putter

First Place - Nicholas Ellinghorst, King's College School (52)

Second Place - Harry Timmis, Packwood Haugh (51)

Third Place - Miguel Rona Baselga, Sunningdale (51)

Fourth Place - George Hampel, Caldicott (51)

(Places allocated on count back)

Team Prize - Caldicott (combined two highest scores of 91)

Nearest the Pin - Krit Nonthasoot, Cothill School

Longest Drive - Philip Ellinghorst, Whitgift

Dusan Gavrilovic, Director of Golf



Prep School Cricket Festival

On Wednesday 15 May Stowe hosted 11 Prep Schools for the annual Prep School Cricket Festival. In the T10 format, teams were split into three groups for a round robin stage before the final matches were decided on points scored and run rate. Some teams also enjoyed a fielding masterclass during the day.

The closest match of the round robin stage was between Caldicott and Lambrook who tied on 65 runs each and had an equal number of wickets lost. A quick look at the regulations meant Lambrook ended up winning; by the most runs in the first four overs.

This ensured Lambrook topped their group with three wins. Summerfields and Papplewick also recorded three wins with Papplewick edging into the Final with a better run rate. The Final was very tightly played with Lambrook posting 59 for 4 in their 10 overs. Papplewick looked like they might fall short, but a good power play over saw them home in the last over.

The day was played in sunshine throughout and the grounds looked incredible thanks to the work from Steve Curley and his team. Thanks also to the 'Gentleman & Players' for providing the match shirts - these went down very well with all the players. Lastly a big thank you to all the Staff who worked a long day to ensure everything ran smoothly.

James Knott, Director of Cricket



Community Learning Programme

As part of the Community Learning Programme at Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT), four local secondary schools were invited to bring a small group of their pupils to participate in a day of creative workshops responding to three key themes: portraits and identity, architecture, and restoration. The workshops focused on the historical background of Stowe House with opportunities to explore and respond using different materials, as well as a brief look at examples of contemporary artistic interpretations specific to each theme. The pupils who visited will get around six weeks to consider their own artistic responses to Stowe House and develop an artwork which will be featured in an exhibition to be held in the Library throughout the Summer holidays. If you are around between 16 July-31 August, do pop into the Library to see the pupils' work!

Amy Walsh, Community Learning Officer SHPT

Buckingham Literary Festival

Stowe's Teacher of Skills, Rhian Tracey, tells us all about secrets and spies at 3pm on Saturday 15 June at the Vison Centre, Buckingham, with her bestselling series about Bletchley Park.

Find out what really went on at Bletchley Park during WW2 and discover the inspiration behind her team of spies (both human and animal!) in the Bletchley Park mystery series.

Rhian will talk about her books 'I, Spy', and 'Hide and Seek' - and might even drop some clues about the third book in the series!

The stories are inspired by true events and Rhian's great-aunt, Audrey, who was one of the codebreakers. You will also get the chance to learn how to create a Codebreaking Character when you put your own spying skills to the test.

Book your tickets [here](#).



The Winton Cup 2024

It's a wonderful sight to behold - 130 Prep School children clambering out of their respective minibuses, the air laden with excitement and good cheer. The children wandering through William Kent's glorious North Hall, Mars looking down from above, a portent of the competition about to start. Mars looking down was also befitting the theme of this year's Winton Cup: 'Is there such a thing as a just war?'

The day began, as has become traditional, with pastries and soft drinks as the pupils posed for 'selfies' in front of the frescoes and statues of our State Rooms. Our very own Major Andrew Arnold opened official proceedings with a talk about his military experiences with the Royal Engineers and a delve into the reasons for military intervention in Iraq. The pupils then competed against each other in a series of activities; ranging from analysing artistic interpretations of warfare, from Paolo Uccello to Picasso, to looking at the Geographical motivators behind many wars. My thanks to the Staff who provided the activities; the children I spoke to afterwards really loved them and found them interesting and inspiring in equal measure.

As our Head read out the results on the South Front, silhouetted against the English Arcadia that we are lucky enough to call our School and home, the looks of excitement and enjoyment on the pupils' faces were wonderful to see. Winchester House were the worthy winners, but this was one of the closest competitions we've had; the top four teams all within only a few points of one another.

And so, another Winton Cup came to a close. As the children boarded their minibuses, I realised that for many, they were not saying goodbye to Stowe but instead au revoir, as many will return in a year's time as fully-fledged Stoics.

Simon Cole, Head of Politics

National Poetry by Heart and Stowe Poetry By Heart Competition

This year's GCSE Third Form drama sets were challenged with the task of learning and performing a poem by heart. Learning a poem by heart helps to develop a pupil's oracy and performance skills which are two important traits that our drama pupils need. There were several impressive performances across all the sets which made picking the top six to progress to the next stage of the competition extremely difficult. This year, Harry Blackwood (Grafton), Emily Hampson (Cheshire), Luca Sautter (Queen's), Patrick Kingsman (Winton), Sofia Garvin (Cheshire) and Edie Anderson (Queen's) impressed their teachers with their performances and were picked to go through to the next round of the competition and also try for the Stowe Poetry by Heart competition.

During the next stage, the top six Third Form pupils were challenged to learn two poems by heart for the classic competition whilst Fourth Formers Emily Gauvain (Queen's) and Julia Likierman (Stanhope) took part in the freestyle programme, learning one poem each.

All the pupils gave heart-warming performances of their chosen poems which included works such as, 'War Photographer' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'How to Kill' by Keith Douglas. Only three pupils each in the Third Form and Fourth Form could progress towards the National competition, and congratulations go to Harry Blackwood, Emily Hampson, Sofia Garvin, Emily Gauvain and Julia Likierman who were chosen to represent Stowe. Sadly, they did not make it through to the Final in this highly competitive competition, but we are extremely proud of their performances.

This year's Stowe Poetry by Heart Winners were Harry Blackwood and Emily Gauvain and runners-up were Sofia Garvin and Julia Likierman. Congratulations to everyone who took part, it was incredibly tough to pick the winners and we are looking forward to next year's competition.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Head Librarian





StOscars

On Friday 10 May, Film and Media pupils celebrated their coursework films and radio shows at our annual StOscars event.

The coursework demonstrated excellent creativity and technical prowess. While making their pieces, pupils learned to wrestle with new technology, solve all sorts of logistical and technological problems, hone their collaborative skills and ensure they met deadlines. The finished coursework pieces were a credit to the pupils and a testament to the individuality that a Stowe education encourages.

Oscar Winners were:

Best Film: Oliver Bicknell (Lower Sixth, Croft)

Best Radio Show: Connie Goodrich (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

Best Editing: Gracie Lavery (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

Best Sound Design: Ty Harris (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

Best Cinematography and best Mise-en-scene: Lilia Møller (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

Best Film Script: Kizzy Portlock (Upper Sixth, West)

Best Radio Script: Louis Haley (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

Best Portfolio: Mimi Price (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media



German Exchange

During the last week of the Easter holidays and the first week of the Summer Term, I was fortunate enough to go on the German Exchange to Landheim, a boarding school just outside Munich, with four other girls from the Fourth Form - Alisa Baser and Emilia Combastet (both Lyttelton) and Emilia and Isabella Rivett (both Queen's).

Over the course of the two weeks in Bavaria, I vastly improved my German and was able to experience lots of authentic German culture. The school is located on the Ammersee Lake, which provides a wonderful setting for the exchange. We were lucky enough to go into Munich several times and explore the wonderful city. I particularly enjoyed going to the Opera to see a ballet performance of Tchaikovsky's music and visit the infamous beer hall 'Höbräuhaus'. We also went to the Viktor & Wolf fashion statements show which was simply outstanding. It was really wonderful to see so many famous and beautiful dresses that have been created over the years.

On the last evening of our exchange, we were lucky to attend the Landheim Ball, which was a fantastic way to end our wonderful time in Germany and say goodbye to all the amazing friends we met. I look forward to going back soon and meeting up with friends I made and of course, to continue to improve my German.

Charlotte Hemstock (Fourth Form, Nugent)

Rowing



With full teams at Birmingham and Worcester Regattas, we only took a small team to the Ball Cup Regatta at Dorney on Sunday 12 May. As we drove towards London, with the dawn breaking on a glorious Summer day, everything seemed to be right.

The day started with Bella Bawden and Aggie Edwards (both Fourth Form, Stanhope) racing in a heat of the singles. Bella started well and was in touch for much of the race. With a little bit more practice and confidence I'm sure she'll be challenging all the way. The Burway sculler beside Aggie made a very determined start, but Aggie would not let her go, piling on the pressure towards the finish, to win the five-boat race. In the Final she was better still, taking the Bronze medal, from an event with a field of 15 girls - all very good. It's the best I've ever seen from her.

Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple) and Oscar Beumer (Fourth Form, Chatham) went next in the boys' singles. Oscar put in a determined effort, which set him up for the doubles racing later. Watching Hecco's heat, we assumed he'd not made the Final, but he'd drawn the fastest opponents -

and did make the Final! He again put in big effort, against some very strong competitors. If we can improve his efficiency, I'm sure he can close up.

Alice Watson and India Gordon (Lower Sixth, Nugent) had a good race in doubles, beating two of their four opponents. Hecco and Oscar also did well, beating two of their opponents. Aggie and Bella achieved Fifth place in their Doubles Final.

In the last race of the day the four girls went in the top quadruple sculls event. With 250 metres to go, they were lying Fourth, half a length down on the Bronze position. It looked like the medal had slipped away, but they weren't done, as Bella wound her crew up for a great sprint finish which took them through for the Bronze medal.

It was great to see all the Stowe parents again. We are also very grateful to Phil Clements and his team, who always put on a wonderful event at Dorney and for the Henley Charitable Trust led by Sarah Winckless and Steve Redgrave, who make the event possible for so many young rowers.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



RUGBY

Saints Academy

On Saturday Rafe Witheat (Upper Sixth, Temple) and Louis Haley (Upper Sixth, Bruce) signed their professional rugby contracts with Northampton Saints. This means Stowe have produced six full time professional rugby players over the last two years!

It was a lovely occasion as the boys had the opportunity to spend time with their families and take photos before the Saints v Gloucester match, which saw the Saints win by a record 90-0!

Six of our Fourth Form Stoics represent Northampton Saints Academy at U15 level and the boys have been busy playing Inter-Academy matches this season. From left to right: Ollie Jones (Bruce) Eddie Hartigan (Grafton), Will Evans (Croft), Will Catley (Chatham), Charlie King (Croft) and Seb Dare (Grafton).

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby

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) and Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope) won three events. Other winners were Jonelle Famutimi (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce), Ross Priestley (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

Tennis

Both the boys' and girls' teams were on excellent form on Saturday 11 May. The boys played Bedford School away and Stowe dominated the afternoon, winning every age group. The 1st team remain unbeaten this season, with the School's top pair, Arin Chatsuwon (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Bear Hewlett (Lower Sixth, Cobham) having won every set they have played. The U16 and U15 teams also look very strong this season.

The girls' teams played Tudor Hall and also had a successful afternoon winning all but one match, with the 1st and 2nd teams also maintaining their unbeaten runs. Our number one pair of Annie Flint and Ruby Colebrook (both Upper Sixth, Queen's) again won all their sets this season to match the boys' record.

Daniel Voyce, Head of Tennis



On Thursday 16 May, seven eager Royal Air Force (RAF) Cadets from the Stowe Combined Cadet Force (CCF) had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take to the skies at RAF Benson. The Cadets participated in air experience flights in the Grob Tutor, a primary trainer aircraft used by the RAF.

The day began with comprehensive ground training, where the Cadets were meticulously briefed on all safety procedures and flight preparations. With their newfound knowledge, the Cadets were ready to embark on their airborne adventure.

Each Cadet had the chance to fly for up to 30 minutes, taking control of the Grob Tutor and experiencing the thrill of flight first-hand. Under the guidance of experienced RAF pilots, the Cadets were even able to perform exhilarating aerobatic manoeuvres, including loop-the-loops and barrel rolls.

The experience left a lasting impression on the Cadets, who returned to the ground with beaming smiles and stories to share. The air experience flights not only provided an unforgettable adventure but also offered valuable insights into the world of aviation and the RAF.

The Stowe CCF Cadets' day at RAF Benson was a testament to the exciting opportunities available to young people interested in aviation. The RAF's air experience programme continues to inspire and motivate the next generation of pilots and aviation enthusiasts.

Major Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander



On Sunday 26 May, we are excited to be launching our interactive Augmented Reality (AR) nature trail. The Ickle Owl AR Trail will be hosted by Stowe National Trust for 16 weeks, running until the end of the Summer holidays. This is a free family friendly activity aimed at children aged 3-10 years (but all ages are very welcome), encouraging them to explore the Stowe grounds and learn more about our native British wildlife. At the start of the trail, visitors will be given a paddle and using the App downloaded on their phones, they will be able to generate an interactive 3D baby owl which they carry around the trail. At different points on the one-hour trail, visitors will interact with five other AR animals.

Storyline

When Ickle, the baby Owl, falls out of the nest and finds herself all alone in the wood. She flaps and flaps her wings, but she isn't quite ready to fly and get back to her nice warm nest. With her mum and dad out hunting for food, she goes in search of help. On the journey Ickle meets other baby animals and learns all about their world, discovering how different their lives are. She learns about what they eat, where they sleep and how they move around. Each animal gives Ickle some of their superpowers to help her find the way home. The baby animals, which will feature as the AR characters include stoat, otter, grass snake, toad and fox.

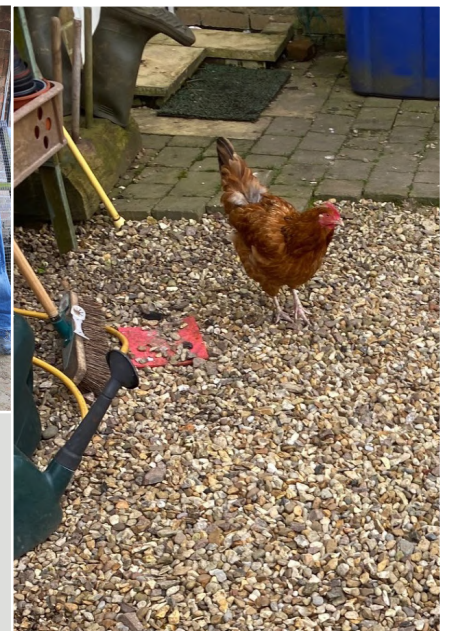
Pupil-led project

Over the last year, the Stowe Conservation Group has been working with developers to create the AR enhanced App. This has all been funded by pupil-run fundraising events, such as the Junior School Ball and the recent Sixth Form James Bond themed Ball. Our pupils have created the storyline, devised the character's appearance and traits from scratch, designed the trail route and are currently supporting the online and print marketing and promotion of the trail through filming a promotional video, engaging local social media influencers and advertising the opportunity to local primary schools.

Get involved!

The trail starts at the New Inn at the Stowe National Trust entrance. We encourage you to come along and visit Ickle Owl and his friends. To download the App, please visit www.stowe.co.uk/ickleowl from Sunday 26 May.

Shelley Rowley, Service@Stowe



Allotment Group

As the weather has steadily improved, the first part of Summer Term has proven to be a busy time on the allotments.

Our beans, peas, cauliflower, potatoes, parsnips, carrots, raspberries, courgette, squashes and rhubarb have all seen plenty of new growth and the Stoics have been busily preparing the raised beds for even more planting to come. We have also launched our annual sunflower competition and put in the pumpkins ready for Halloween!

We were very lucky to have sourced a wonderful greenhouse for the allotments which will really help all year round but especially during the growing season for tomatoes and strawberries. This term has also been successful as we have collected and assembled our wonderful new chicken coop from a local family, whose own family had flown the nest, and were happy to see the coop going to such good use here at Stowe. The coop is now having some final refurbishment, with the Stoics preparing and painting the exterior woodwork to make it more durable. The hens (all ex-battery rescue hens) have packed their bags and are looking forward to moving in at the start of the Michaelmas Term when they are feeling a little better and are more used to the open-air environment.

With special thanks to David Wicks, Rowland & Yvonne Shuttleworth (and their friend Keith!), Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe and Charlie & Paul Calland for all their hard work.

Kate Wicks, Service@Stowe



Sailing

This year's Inter-House Sailing Regatta took place on Saturday 11 May at Great Moor Sailing Club in near-perfect conditions.

The competition was split into boys' House and girls' House fleets - each fleet had four Houses competing to win; eight boats on the water - our biggest entry yet.

The boys' competition saw Walpole take an early lead with two straight wins, but Chatham came back with two wins of their own to level the score, so it was all down to the final race. Temple won the last race, with Walpole Second, but after each team's worst race result was discarded, the overall win went to Chatham, over Walpole, by just one point. Chandos had the most consistent results and started each race in pole position but faded round the course.

In the girls' competition, Nugent took an early lead with wins in the first three races, but Stanhope were hard on their heels and then with Stanhope wins in the final two races, the result was close, but Nugent held on to win overall - again by a margin of only one point. West and Cheshire were in a battle of their own, but simply could not match the experience of the Stanhope and Nugent boats.

It was a fantastic day to watch the sailors develop and see the racing get closer and closer with every race - every competitor gave their all, so their Houses can all be proud of them.

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing



Athletics

The main team competition of the year is the National Track and Field Cup where a team of 14 athletes at U15 age group compete to earn points by doing two events each, one track and one field... hence the name! The Stowe U15 boys' and girls' teams competed in the North Bucks meeting on Wednesday 8 May and both beat the other nine schools comfortably. Elsie Jacobs (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope), Katie and Lauren Webb (both Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) were the top point scorers for the girls and Charlie King (Fourth Form, Croft), Ross Priestley (Fourth Form, Winton) and Josh Williams (Fourth Form, Grenville) brought the most points for the boys. We hope both teams will have qualified for the Regional rounds, but we need to wait for the other counties to complete their competitions.

In the weekly Midlands League Fixture at Rugby the following Stowe athletes won their events on Saturday 11 May:

Izzy Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Olive de-Courcy-Ireland (Fifth Form, Nugent), Marina Goje (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Tom Mayo (Upper Sixth, Croft), Tarka Goodwin-Hudson (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Josh Williams (Fourth Form, Grenville), Alisa Baser (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Jonelle Famutimi (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Josh Kingston (Lower Sixth, Winton), Johnson Sun (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Nathan Goje (Third Form, Chatham).

Some of our top athletes were busy competing for their clubs at the County Championships over Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May. Well done to Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce), Ross Priestley (Fourth Form, Winton) and Mary Taylor (Third Form, Stanhope) who all won Gold and Josh Williams (Fourth Form, Grenville) and Katie Webb (Fourth Form, Cheshire) who won Silver.

Grant Seeley, Head of Athletics



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week's focus for 2024 was on movement. Three talks were arranged to discuss the relationship between movement and mental health.

On Monday 13 May we kicked off the Week with a talk from Jonathan Bentley (Chief Marketing Officer) from GOVOX; the wellbeing platform used by Stowe to check in on the Stoics every half term, and Victoria Monk, who is a passionate advocate for raising girls' participation in sport and who recently rowed across the Atlantic as part of a four person all female crew. The talk was a mix on informative insight into the biochemistry around why exercise is so good for your mental health and also the awe-inspiring story of Victoria's row across the Atlantic. Her average sleep length of two hours a day for 39 days was the standout insight along with the utter grit and resilience showed by Victoria and her crew to navigate some of the worst storms in the race's history.

We welcomed Kearnan Myall on Tuesday 14 May. A professional rugby player for 17 years, playing at Leeds Tykes, Sale Sharks and London Wasps and who was capped six times by England Saxons and earned a Senior England call up.

Kearnan's talk was deeply personal and moving as he detailed his own battles with mental health and how he overcame them. Offering insightful and tangible advice to the Stoics on how to look after their own mental health. It was a real privilege to welcome Kearnan to Stowe and for him to take time out of his busy schedule being the Performance Director for all GB snow sports.

The week ended with a talk from Brian Maloney who is a Ballet Rehabilitation Specialist and Class Teacher of The Royal Ballet. After training at the Kirov Academy of Ballet he later joined The Royal Ballet in 2000 - a dream and ultimate goal he aspired to. In his 13-year dance career as a soloist at The Royal Ballet, Brian performed in many of the classic and modern ballets.

We heard about the beginnings and the journey of discipline, the bullying, the issues around body image, through to a Swan Lake performance where he thought he may not be able to dance again. It was the support from friends and family, the routine and structure of the training and the dream that kept him going - coming back to the barre, back to basics everyday was like an old familiar friend, it was a reset button and still is. Today, as well as been a class teacher, Brian currently manages the ballet specific rehabilitation pathways for dancers of the Royal Ballet, a career that came about after the recovery work with coaches following his own injury. At the end of the talk Brian taught some basic ballet movements which every dancer has to learn, and does every day as part of their warm up - at whatever level they are performing at.

Mike Rickner, Designated Safeguarding Lead



Street Child Committee Fundraising Auction

The Stowe Street Child Committee have been planning an online auction since January. It has required organisation and problem-solving skills, finding ways to raise money and awareness of the charity. The aim of the auction is to raise as much money as possible to build a school in Liberia. In September 2023, the Stowe Street Child Committee set a goal of raising funds to build the school to allow children who are living in one of the most deprived parts of the world access to education, a safe space and an opportunity to form friendships.

We are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic selection of items including a one week stay on Necker Island, Woburn Golf Club experience and a Ben Duckett signed cricket bat; used in his One-Day International Test debut: England vs Bangladesh. The items are tailored to all interests and are being auctioned for an amazing cause.

On Monday 6 May 2024, Nick Hewer, star of The Apprentice and Countdown, came to visit the Street Child Committee at Stowe. Mr Hewer is a patron of the charity and spoke to the Committee about his experiences when visiting Street Child's implemented programmes, all over the world. Mr Hewer re-stated the importance of education for children and how giving an opportunity for a child to learn is life changing. Mr Hewer has also donated one of our auction lots - A dinner for two hosted by Mr Hewer at the Reform Club, Pall Mall.

The lots have been generously donated by Stoics, Stowe Parents, Old Stoics and supporters of Street Child's incredible work to give hope to children living in the most challenging conditions. We are incredibly grateful to all those who have made this auction possible including: Mark and Katie Cecil for their donations of the music memorabilia auction lots, Sir Richard Branson (Lyttelton 68), Henry Tavistock (Chatham 23) and Felix Parker (Cobham 09).

You can access the catalogue of auction lots by scanning the QR code or clicking the web link below.

Please make bids and donations via the [website](#).

Alessia Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)





On Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May Stowe were invited to take part in the invitational and prestigious Copenhagen Cup held at Guards Polo Club in Windsor. This annual event sees the best schools in the country competing for the Cup title.

A beautiful weekend of polo saw our A team Captained by Lucas Stern (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Archie Heseltine (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Luca Natella (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Leander Sautter (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Jemima Hammond (Upper Sixth, Nugent) taking on the opposition.

On the Saturday Jemima took the fourth spot in place of Lucas Stern, who as Captain of the Stowe Beagles was on duty at the Puppy Show! Stowe played against Harrow, beating them in an excitingly fast game which secured them a place in the Sunday Final.

Sunday brought even more sunshine and our biggest challenge to date, the mighty Wellington. Our team (this time with Lucas Stern) faced a Wellington team which included a 5-goal professional polo player. The speed and skills of this match are very rarely seen at school level but the Stoics showed great tenacity with phenomenal goals scored by Archie and Luca, supported by the impressive skills of Lucas and Leander. Sadly, Stowe lost in a very closely fought match 6-4.5. They played flawlessly as a team!

Luca Natella was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament which was a fantastic accolade.

Fiona Corthine, Head of Polo

Equestrian

Over the early May Bank holiday weekend, Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) competed at Osberton International Horse Trials in the 2* class. Araminta and her horse, Ned's Legacy, fondly known as Lily, led from start to finish in a class with over 113 competitors. Leading after the dressage phase on a fantastic score of 26.7, put them in the lead on day one. Jumping clear in the show jumping phase kept them ahead, which they followed up with an amazing clear cross country round on a tough track to be eight seconds within the allotted time.

This meant they finished Champions of the 2*, winning by three marks and standing on the podium alongside Olympic medallist Tom McEwen! Huge congratulations to this pair, and we look forward to seeing more from them this season.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



SPORTS REPORT

The sunshine has brought that magical Stowe Summer Term atmosphere and Stoics have been enjoying a huge range of sporting activities at various levels.

External Sporting Success

It is great to hear about all the sporting success that Stoics are achieving at their clubs or representative teams outside of Stowe. Some notable achievements include:

Charlie King (Fourth Form, Croft) played in the National Clubs Final for Newport Pagnell Football Club U15s. The closely fought match finished in a draw and went to penalties - Charlie scored his penalty to help his team win the National title.

Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) is busy with triathlon competitions and won her first race of the season. **Charlotte Hall** (Fifth Form, Cheshire) competes in the British Triathlon Super Series and finished eighth out of the 60 girls who qualified to race in Llandudno on Sunday 12 May.

Tennis star **Oscar Chiang** (Third Form, Walpole), who plays for the Stowe 1st team, played in a recent LTA tennis tournament, winning all his matches lifting the trophy.

Ben Cousins (Fourth Form, Bruce) is a promising cyclist who competed in a 40km Time Trial. He recorded an amazing time of 54 minutes to win his age group.

Izzy Cox (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and **Freddie Youngman Sullivan** (Fourth Form, Grafton) represented Bucks in the Regional Swimming Finals at High Wycombe. Well done to these two who spend many hours a week training to reach this level.

Cricket

Well done to Bruce who lifted the Senior boys' Inter-House trophy in fine style, including a century for Daniel Bosman (Lower Sixth). Cobham won the Plate with a century from Wilf Pickard (Upper Sixth). Nugent won the Senior girls' Inter-House trophy, with Cheshire winning the Plate.

The boys' School teams have also found the winning formula, with four wins out of six against Abingdon on Thursday 9 May and seven wins out of ten against St Edward's on Saturday 11 May. This is outstanding as these two schools are traditionally very strong.

The U14 girls had a win against St Edward's and have now won their first three matches.

The top performers with the bat were:

Wyatt Fell (Upper Sixth, Chatham) 64 runs; Fin Cloete (Fourth Form, Bruce) 57; Seb Dare (Fourth Form, Grafton) 55 and Daniel Bosman 54;

Top bowlers were: Wilf Pickard with five wickets for the 1st team; Freddie Youngman Sullivan five wickets for the U15As and Archie Palin (Fifth Form, Chatham) four wickets for the 3rd team.

James Knott, Director of Cricket



Oddballs Fundraising

Walpole House enjoyed a charity day on Sunday, with the boys, friends and families running a combined 670km throughout the Stowe Grounds in order to raise money for The OddBalls Foundation, a charity that supports men with Testicular Cancer.

The boys exceeded their target, which was to run 650km and we raised £3,380 for OddBalls. We ended the day with a BBQ on the Walpole Lawn and great fun was had by all.

If anyone would like to donate towards this fantastic charity, please click [here](#).

Paula Montgomery, Senior Matron



Paella on the South Front

On Friday 17 May the Spanish Department organised an authentic Paella dinner which immersed us in Spanish culture. The highlight of the evening was the well-known Paella from Valencia, which was prepared to perfection and received excellent reviews from everyone in attendance, including myself, who even took some back to the House!

We had a wonderful time savouring Spanish food, including exquisite cheeses that paired beautifully with the meal. The evening was filled with joy as we danced to lively Spanish music and engaged in various fun games; creating a festival atmosphere that allowed us to truly appreciate the richness of Spanish culture. It provided a much-needed opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company outside of the classroom.

With huge thanks to Ms Peña and Mr Morales for organising the event.

Daniel Flames (Upper Sixth, Cobham)



Beagle Puppy Show

The Beaglers held their annual Puppy Show on Saturday 11 May on the Bursar's Lawn.

We were very pleased to welcome back two Old Stoic Beaglers who have gone on since Stowe, to be Masters of Hounds to judge the puppies this year. Charlie Shirley-Beavan (Grenville 03) Master and Huntsman of the Tynedale Foxhounds in Northumberland, who was Master of the Beagles in his final two years at Stowe, and Jonathan McKinnis-Skinner (Grenville 07) who has completed ten seasons as Master of the Dunston Harriers in Norfolk. Although not Master of the Beagles, he was a very able Whip and ever present at the kennels during his time here.

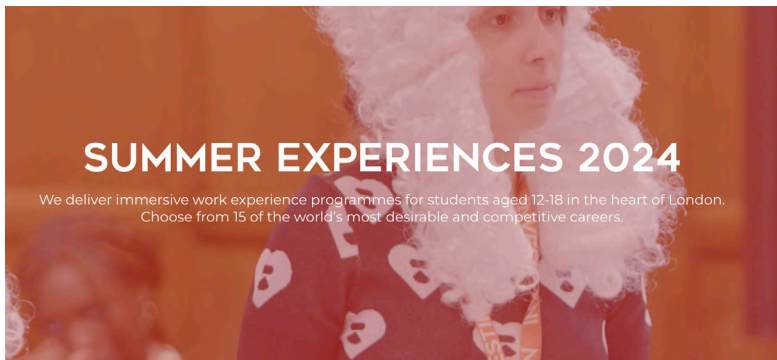
Lunch was held beforehand at the West Boycott for the judges, puppy walkers, Stoics and parents, as well as prominent local supporters of the pack. The show itself was attended by around 150 people, including some very early Stoic Beaglers. We were very lucky with the weather and huge thanks to Steve Curley and his team for preparing the lawn and the ring for us.

The Winner of the show was Blossom, walked at the kennels by the Kennedy boys and beagling Stoics. The retiring Masters, Lucas Stern (Upper Sixth, Grenville), William Hanson (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Patrick Wilmot-Smith (Upper Sixth, Croft) spoke on the South Front Portico following tea, and paid tribute to the Head, Governors, local supporters and landowners for their continued support of the pack. They finished by presenting the Masters Cup (a gift from Guy Trevor-Jones when he left Stowe in 2006) to the new Masters for the 2024-25 season, Rupert King (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Charlie Hodges (Fifth Form, Chatham).

Phil Kennedy, Kennel Huntsman



FUTURES



SUMMER EXPERIENCES 2024

We deliver immersive work experience programmes for students aged 12-18 in the heart of London. Choose from 15 of the world's most desirable and competitive careers.

InvestIN Summer Schools for Career Exploration

InvestIN offers an enriching Summer School experience specifically designed for pupils in the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth who are interested in exploring various career opportunities. Their programmes provide a deep dive into a range of professions, helping pupils gain a better understanding of what it's like to work in fields such as medicine, engineering and law, amongst others.

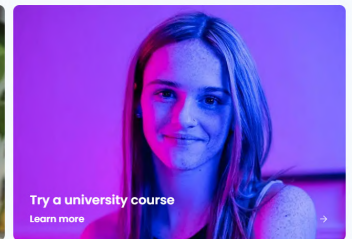
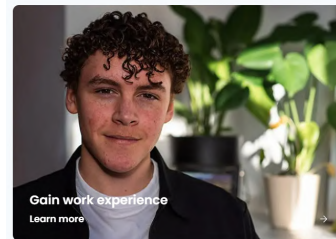
This practical exposure is ideal for pupils at a critical decision-making point in their education, offering them a clearer path forward as they consider their future university and career choices.

InvestIN has recorded a video that offers additional insights into what pupils can expect from their Summer programmes. This resource is an excellent way for pupils and parents to get a sense of the immersive experience and professional-level instruction that InvestIN prides itself on.

For those looking to make the most of their Summer holidays by gaining valuable career insights, InvestIN's programmes are a possible choice.

The video can be accessed through this [link](#).

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Empowering Futures

Thursday 9 May saw Jo Bishop from Springpod present the extensive offerings of virtual work experience, taster courses, and super-curricular activities available through their platform. Dr West and Will Rendell (Fourth Form, Croft) facilitated this insightful presentation, underlining Springpod's commitment to providing valuable career exploration opportunities for pupils.

Springpod's virtual work experience programmes are designed to introduce pupils to various professional environments without the geographical constraints of traditional work placements. These experiences are rich with activities and projects that simulate real-world tasks, allowing pupils to gain practical skills and insights into different industries. From architecture to business management, Springpod collaborates with leading employers and educational institutions to craft these immersive experiences.

The platform also offers degree taster courses which enable pupil to explore university-level content and get a feel for different academic disciplines before making their higher education choices. This can significantly help pupils in deciding their future academic paths and careers.

The presentation highlighted how integrating Springpod's offerings into their curriculum could assist pupils in making informed decisions about their futures by providing them with direct exposure to various professional and academic areas.

To watch the presentation click [here](#).

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Empowering Creative Futures

On Thursday 9 May, Stowe had the privilege of welcoming Samantha Burkholder, the Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), who delivered an inspiring talk to raise awareness about SCAD's diverse creative programmes.

Samantha oversees recruitment in the UK, Switzerland and for student-athletes. Her rich background in higher education is complemented by her own academic journey at SCAD, where she earned a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) in Interior Design and an MA (Master of Arts) in Design Management.

During her visit, Samantha described SCAD's position as a premier, nonprofit, accredited university that spans multiple global locations, including Atlanta and Savannah in Georgia, Lacoste in France, and an online platform through SCADnow. With over 100 graduate and undergraduate degree programmes, SCAD attracts a vibrant student body of more than 17,500 individuals from over 120 countries.

Samantha mentioned SCAD's future-oriented curriculum, which integrates professional-level technology and extensive learning resources. She emphasised the opportunities SCAD offers through internships, professional certifications and real-world assignments, in collaboration with corporate partners via SCADpro, the University's acclaimed research lab and prototype generator.

The University is well-ranked in interior design, architecture, film, fashion and digital media. She shared impressive statistics regarding SCAD alumni's career success, noting that 99% of graduates were employed or pursuing further education within ten months of graduation, a testament to the university's robust career support system.

A special thank you to Helena Shen (Lower Sixth, West) who helped with the talk and the Q&A session.

Click [here](#) to watch the talk.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures

Exploring the Future of Work and Universal Basic Income

On Tuesday 7 May, a select group of Lower Sixth pupils gathered in the Music Library in the Chung Music School, for a discussion led by Dr Kirk Surgener, a prominent philosopher from the University of Warwick's esteemed Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) programme. The intimate gathering included ten enthusiastic Stoics and a special guest, Henry, from the Royal Latin School.



Dr Surgener, renowned for his expertise in ancient philosophy, feminist philosophy and moral philosophy, delved into the pressing issue of automation and its impact on future employment. His talk centred around the potential threat of mass unemployment due to increasing automation and examined universal basic income (UBI) as a potential policy solution.

In his talk, Dr Surgener highlighted how advances in technology have increased the risk of job automation, posing significant challenges for future employment. He referenced a study by Osborne and Frey, which estimated that 47% of US jobs could be at risk of automation in the next 20 years. With this context, he presented UBI as a bold proposal to address the potential problem. The discussion explored UBI's potential benefits, including its ability to provide financial security, stimulate spending and address feminist concerns. Dr Surgener also examined the interdisciplinary approach of the PPE programme, illustrating how combining philosophy, politics and economics offers unique insights into complex social phenomena.

During the session, Dr Surgener outlined the structure of Warwick's PPE programme, highlighting its flexibility and the diverse career paths of its graduates. The talk also offered valuable insights into what Warwick looks for in strong candidates, emphasising the importance of academic potential and a demonstrated interest in at least two of the three disciplines. Pupils then asked lots of questions about how to differentiate their applications to world-class universities like Warwick, which is ranked No.1 for Economics.

The pupils' active participation throughout the talk was a testament to the intellectually stimulating nature of the discussion. Dr Surgener's talk explored the value of interdisciplinary education in addressing pressing social issues. It provided pupils with unique insights into the future of work and the potential of universal basic income as a solution to the challenges posed by automation. The event concluded with a lively Q&A session, where pupils had the opportunity to ask questions and further explore the topics discussed.

Click [here](#) to watch the talk.

**Dr Gordon West,
Head of Futures**



Change Makers of the Month - April

Teaching at Stowe - Imogen Adkins Imogen received a whopping eight nominations for her outstanding role in CCF. Especially noted were her recent phenomenal efforts with the RAF.

Support Services at Stowe - Patrick Bartley Patrick received two great nominations for his role at a recent wedding and the recent movement of a large number of internal files between sites, demonstrating outstanding Change Making behaviours.

Swanbourne House - Joe Sapwell Joe has been awarded Change Maker of the Month for his continuous kindness and willingness to help others; an individual with true Change Maker values.

Winchester House - Teresa Hughes Teresa has been awarded Change Maker of the Month for her commitment to Winchester House. Her colleagues are amazed at Teresa's ability to perform so highly in her multiple roles.



Working with Primary Schools

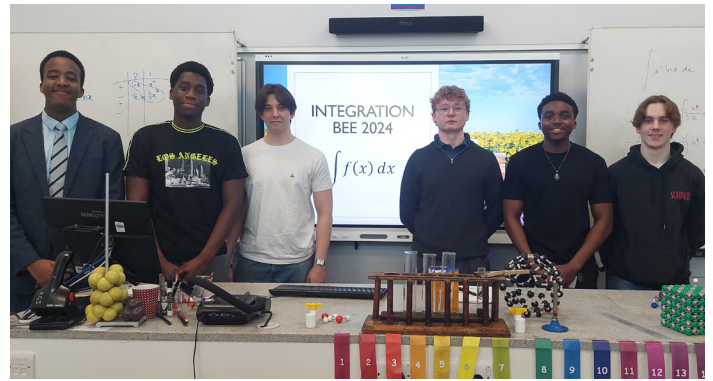
We now have two Service@Stowe groups working with Primary Schools. The original group which historically visited Buckingham Primary School has expanded and the activity now covers visits to George Grenville Academy and Lace Hill Academy too.

The pupils from this group help primary school pupils with reading, mathematics and other activities. Lace Hill Academy taught Stoics their particular approach to phonics and the Stoics have been very diligent in their attention to this detail and thorough when working with younger readers on a one-to-one basis. Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) learned how to use a specialist technique and book, to work with pupils with more profound reading challenges. Stoics in this group have shown great positivity and consistency, attending the activity regularly.

Emma Ackroyd was particularly impressed with the efforts of Naomi Matheron (Lower Sixth, West) who has a great rapport with the primary school children. Naomi has an unblemished attendance record, and so she was nominated to attend The Award barbecue dinner. A special mention goes to Amelia Taylor (Lower Sixth, West) who has kindly volunteered to go to all three schools when we have been short of pupils at each of the other schools we visit.

Shelley Rowley's Conservation Group have also been working with the same three Primary Schools. Thank you to her for the immense effort she has made. The Stoics involved run after school Nature Clubs at Buckingham Primary School and George Grenville Academy on a Wednesday afternoon, with lessons at Lace Hill Academy on a Thursday. The Primary School children really love these activities where they have learned diverse lessons about nature; from the life-cycle of butterflies; to collecting and observing worms in a wormery; breaking up regurgitated owl pellets to try and identify from the bone remains in the pellets, what the owls eat; to creating hedgehog feeding stations where they can look for hedgehog footprints in a tunnel they have built.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



Mathematics - Upper Sixth Integration Bee

Inspired by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Integration Competitions, our Upper Sixth mathematicians requested their own Stowe competition, so we duly met for a knockout tournament of integration skills. Differentiation and integration are the core skills of calculus and are essential for solving problems involving rates of change, or complex areas and volumes. Whereas differentiation is a mechanical process that follows set rules, integrations are much more challenging and require mathematical intuition and a flair for problem solving.

Our six contenders were Rocky Mongia-Couling (Temple), Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Chatham), Michael Oduguwa (Bruce), Isaiah Rugasira (Grafton), Jasper Hayes (Bruce) and Solomon Grant (Chatham). A special mention to Michael Oduguwa for teaching us a method we hadn't seen before, for rapidly completing multiple integrations by parts.

With his characteristically inspired and precise work, Jasper Hayes is Stowe's Grand Integrator of 2024.

Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths



Anthony Bolton Composition Competition

The Music Department was delighted to welcome Old Stoic Anthony Bolton (Chatham 67) to the Ugland Auditorium on the evening of Tuesday 14 May to adjudicate the Lower and Senior School Anthony Bolton Composition Competition.

The evening presented works by nine Stoic composers. Fifth Formers Leo Clare (Croft), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Lyttelton), Annabel Hodgetts (Cheshire) and Lani Shah (Cheshire) were selected from the Lower School, whilst Eva-Grace Ng (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Owen Gunn (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Holly Ford-Langstaff (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Finley Simpson (Upper Sixth, Grenville) were selected from the Senior School.

Mr Bolton provided each of the Stoics with thoughtful and supportive feedback, which was greatly appreciated, before announcing the two winners. Congratulations to Gaia Mesonero-Perez whose composition 'Down the Streets of Baobao' was awarded the Lower School prize and to Holly Ford-Langstaff on being awarded the Senior School prize for her work 'Return of Persephone'.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music

Stowe's Menagerie ceiling restoration



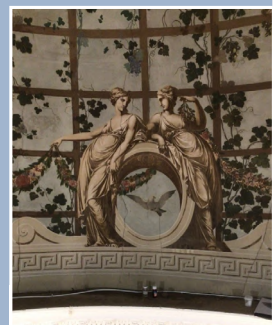
For those of you that didn't know, Stowe has a menagerie on site, and I'm not just talking about the pupils at dinner time! The School Shop is housed in the 1781 menagerie, originally built for Lady Buckingham to escape from the busy Main Mansion during the Georgian entertaining season. Although the definition of a menagerie is a collection of captured animals in one place, there is little evidence it ever held such and was more likely an aviary. By the 1820s, it had been turned into The Museum, holding one of the best collections of British geological specimens in the county, along with plenty of stuffed animals. The fame of the collection spread when Lady Buckingham's son, the 1st Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, bought a near complete plesiosaurus from fossil collector Mary Anning, apparently very cheaply. The Museum was visited by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert during their short visit in January 1845. During the infamous Stowe sale of 1848, most of this mineral collection was sold to Professor James Tennant of King's College London (later sold to the founding Western Australia Museum), and the plesiosaurus was sold to the British Museum for eight pounds and eight shillings.

The building has housed the School Shop since the 1990s, and over the years there have been several different schemes to appropriate it to another use, but a shop it remains. It is the only historic building on site that remains in the hands of Stowe School (and all the maintenance costs that go with it!).

But, following the restoration of the building's roof and glass dome last year, it is the painted ceiling of the central dome that is the focus of this piece - funds having been donated by Rodney (Walpole 48) and Beryl Tattershall-Wright to conserve it. The painting is attributed to Vincenzo Valdrè, who also

executed the State Music Room and probably the State Drawing (Temple) Room ceiling. The ceiling depicts statues of seated women amongst an ivy-clad trellis with various birds and vases. During the work, the conservators, Cliveden Conservation, discovered perhaps three additional schemes added to the original over the years. This resulted in the trellis being widened, leaves and flower garlands added, and the female faces 'refined'. Once on the scaffolding, it was clear that the garlands of flowers had been added later, perhaps by 40 years, the style of which was rather basic upon further inspection. On the ledge below the ceiling, the conservators found a signature, Joshua Phillips, and suggested that the paintbrush cleaning marks nearby could indicate that he might have been the originator of the garland (and different from the Joshua Harris signature found on the State Dining Room ledge). The level of conservation meant that later leaf and trellis additions (possibly by the School in the 1950s) were taken off to give it a lighter appearance. However, the original colours were not added back in, as we could not be sure of the depth of the colour. The result is a brighter, lighter painting that deserves the central position in the building, lit beautifully by the oculus above. Please do take the time to look up the next time you are in the School Shop.

Anna McEvoy, House Custodian



Menagerie Ceiling before restoration

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.



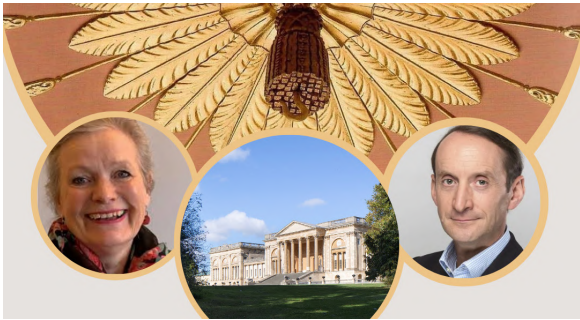
STOWE HOUSE

ART-TASTIC Tuesdays!

Tuesday 28 May, 10.30am-12pm, 1-2.30pm

Drop in for a fun-filled creative session on the Welcome Centre lawn! Taking inspiration from our spectacular South Front vista, we'll make a big mural using colourful paper and talk about the wonders that lay inside...

No need to book, free of charge.



Uncovering the past

The research and science behind the interior restoration of Stowe House

Wednesday 3 July, 6pm

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

Book here to attend the talk £5.

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.

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](#).

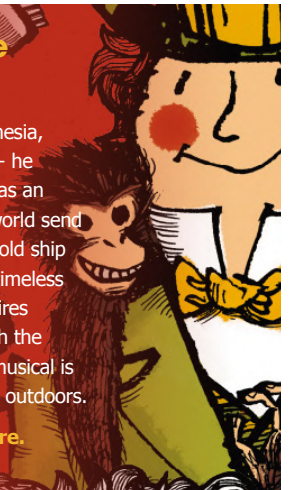


The Adventures of Dr Dolittle

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.



Old Stoic Society Upper Sixth Leavers' BBQ

On Thursday 9 May, the OSS hosted its annual farewell BBQ to the Upper Sixth who are about to embark on their exams and then leave Stowe.

A beautiful sunny evening provided the perfect backdrop for the Leavers to have a relaxed evening with their friends and a well-earned break from the relentless hard work of revising.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05), OSS Director, gave a short presentation about the Society, how to become a member if not already, and the many benefits of life membership. She talked about the networking opportunities, social occasions and reunions, as well as highlighting the variety of OS sporting clubs available to join. Anna talked about the Croft Committee, the arm of the OSS who plan events and services for Old Stoics aged 18 and 26, and mentioned there are opportunities to get involved in the Committee. Toby Gauvain (Temple 89), Vice-Chair of the OSS was also on hand and encouraged everyone to follow the [Croft Committee Instagram page](#) and make the most of the events planned for OS their age and engage and get the most out of what's available.

The Stoics learned about [Stowe Connect](#), our networking platform and encouraged to join as soon as they leave. This is our very own area to find mentors, networking opportunities, promote business' and generally keep in touch with fellow Old Stoics.

On behalf of the OSS, we wish all the Upper Sixth cohort lots of luck with their exams and we look forward to seeing you as an Old Stoic very soon!

Charlie Evans, Old Stoics Events Manager



Kilimanjaro Expedition in aid of Street Child and Neema Village

My younger brother, Kit, and I are attempting to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania this July. Recently described to us as 'brutal', this will not be a walk in the park! Helping to motivate us, putting one foot in front of the other when the going gets tough, will be the two incredible charities - Street Child and Neema Village who we are fundraising for.

I was introduced to the work Street Child does through a presentation by friends at Stowe and was inspired to raise funds for this incredible charity, which transforms the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children currently living and working on the streets.

Whilst in Tanzania, we will be visiting Neema Village, which is a place of safety for children and their families, providing a sanctuary for abandoned, orphaned and at-risk babies. This wonderful charity seeks to reunite children with their extended families and promotes in-country adoptions.

I would be so grateful if you could sponsor us to help us raise as much money as possible for these two brilliant charities. All the money we raise will be split equally between them.

Click [here](#) to visit our JustGiving page.

Tilly Kingsbury (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



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