

**HANDBOOK FOR  
PARENTS  
2024-25**

*Stowe*

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide Parents and Guardians with information about the organisation and ethos of Stowe, so that we can work together to do the best for those in our care. It is sent to the Parents of all pupils and we hope that in conjunction with other, more detailed and specific information that will be sent out from time to time or published on our website and Parent Portal, it will provide a useful reference for you whilst your child is in the School.

There will inevitably be very occasional changes to this booklet and you will be told about these as they happen. The most recent versions can always be found on the School's website ([www.stowe.co.uk](http://www.stowe.co.uk)) and Parent Portal.

## **Aims of the School**

It is our ambition to create Change Makers: future-proofing pupils so that they are agile, ambitious and ready to face the challenges presented by a volatile, unstable, complex and challenging world.

We hope Stoics will be furnished with a tool-kit which prepares them not just for a life of tests, but the tests of life. The School aims to encourage all pupils to adopt the highest standards of behaviour and principles and to respect the ethos of the School. The emotional well-being of all our pupils is key to their development. We aim to teach trust and mutual respect for everyone. We believe that good relations, good manners and a secure learning environment play a crucial part in the development of intellectually curious pupils, who are motivated to become life-long learners. We aim to develop qualities of teamwork and leadership through our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities. Stowe welcomes pupils from a wide variety of ethnic and social backgrounds and faiths.

Stowe aims to provide an all-round education of the highest standard, supporting Stoics in their passage to adulthood. Confidence and tolerance of others flourish in a close community. Our supportive family atmosphere and Christian ethos encourages pupils to develop a lasting sense of moral, social and spiritual responsibility and our House system provides a caring pastoral environment in which Stoics learn to consider the rights and needs of others. The School promotes academic excellence, sporting prowess and artistic and musical creativity. Through teaching of the highest calibre, Stoics are encouraged to think for themselves, challenge conventional orthodoxies and pursue their own enthusiasms. Stoics acquire skills that enable them to live happily, work successfully and thrive in their future lives.

## CONTENTS

Absence from School .....	4
Academic Programme .....	4
Academic Progress Grades (APGs) .....	5
Alcohol.....	5
Awards and Prizes .....	5
Bicycles.....	6
Bullying.....	6
Calendar .....	6
Careers and Higher Education Guidance.....	6
Change of Address.....	7
Chapel .....	7
Communication.....	7
Complaints .....	7
Computers and ICT.....	8
Confidentiality .....	9
Contacting the School .....	10
Therapy Service.....	10
Damage .....	10
Data Protection.....	11
Day Pupils .....	11
Discipline .....	11
Drama .....	11
Driving by Pupils.....	12
Drugs.....	12
Education Guardians .....	12
Electrical Testing .....	13
Email .....	13
English as an Additional Language (EAL) .....	13
Equality & Inclusion .....	13
Equal Opportunities .....	13
Exeats.....	13
Executive Leadership Team (ELT) .....	14
Extras .....	14
Fees.....	15
Games Programme .....	15
Gardens .....	16
Houseparents .....	16
Insurance.....	16
Library .....	16
Matron.....	17
Meals.....	17
Medical Centre.....	17

Mobile Telephones .....	19
Music .....	19
Name Tapes.....	19
Out Weekends.....	19
Parents' Meetings .....	19
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) .....	20
Pocket Money.....	21
Policies.....	21
Prefects .....	21
Prep.....	22
Pupil Welfare; Safeguarding & Child Protection .....	22
Reporting .....	23
Rewards for Academic Work.....	23
School Shop .....	24
Searches .....	24
Sixth Form Club at StoweBucks .....	24
Smoking/Nicotine/Vaping .....	25
Societies .....	25
Sport - Conduct and Ethos.....	25
Sports Equipment .....	25
Stoic Councils .....	25
Stowe Parents .....	25
Term Dates .....	25
The Stoic.....	26
Timetables .....	26
Travel Arrangements.....	26
Tuck Shop.....	29
Tutorial Programme .....	29
Uniform.....	29
Valuables .....	30
Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) .....	30
Website.....	31
Weekend Leave .....	31

## **Absence from School**

All pupils are expected to take a full part in the activities of the School and to be punctual. Day pupils are registered electronically in House each morning between 8:00am and 8:10am and again in the afternoon. Parents of Day pupils should telephone or email the Houseparents if their child is ill and unable to attend School and the School will contact Parents to request this information if it has not been received by midday. Day pupils should let their Houseparent know if they intend to be in School at times when they are not normally expected, for example on a Sunday.

Boarders must obtain permission to be absent from School by seeing the Head with a completed Nihil Obstat form (obtainable from the Houseparents) at least 48 hours before departure.

## **Academic Programme**

The full curriculum for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms, complete with notes on each subject, is published separately each year in the **GCSE Courses Guide**. Details of the Sixth Form curriculum are published separately in the **Sixth Form Courses Guide**.

## **Third Form**

Pupils entering Stowe at age 13 are placed in the Third Form, where the curriculum exposes pupils to a wide range of subjects, seeks to prepare pupils to choose and begin any of the GCSE subjects offered from January of the Third Form and continued in the Fourth and Fifth Forms and to develop inquiring minds, work habits and academic enthusiasm that will equip them to become independent and effective learners.

Initially Third Formers are taught 17 or 18 different subjects, normally by as many different specialist teachers. Pupils are placed in forms for the first term which are generally not set by previous attainment, as we wish to gauge the relative strengths and weaknesses of all pupils first hand and to give everyone an equal chance to impress. The exceptions to this are with Science and Languages, which have a more linear progression and pupils are set according to attainment on the entrance tests and on previous experience respectively. Sets in most subjects are then reorganised in January when they choose their GCSE options and individual departments then decide how best to organise the pupils to enhance learning. Science, Maths and English sets remain unchanged until the end of the first year, when pupils make their choice between Dual and Triple Award Sciences.

All departments provide opportunities for academic enrichment and extension work, in addition to the extension opportunities available in lessons. A formal programme of academic extension beyond the classroom is provided by the Lower School Academic Scholars' Group which is made up of those pupils on Academic Scholarships plus those who have entered through an optional aptitude test. There is also a series of Open Scholars' lectures, events and seminars which are open to all interested pupils, as well as opportunities for extension through departmental societies and activities such as Junior Debating.

In the Michaelmas Term the Third Form follow a curriculum that includes two Modern Languages. It is assumed that some pupils may not have had the opportunity to study one or more of these subjects before, so provision will be made via our setting arrangements to cater for their different needs. In addition to Modern Languages, pupils are given the option of studying Latin (two lessons a week) or to opt for a course in English Grammar entitled 'WriteRight'. Greek is also available within the timetable on request. Russian, Italian and Mandarin are available by private arrangement and are taught in extra-curricular time.

## **GCSEs**

For study from January in the Third Form and in the Fourth and Fifth Forms, Pupils make four choices to supplement the core curriculum and build a programme leading to nine or ten GCSEs, plus an HPQ. All Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers also have one period a week of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) which is a non-examined course.

## **Sixth Form**

Most Stoics study three A Levels or BTEch in the Sixth Form, although there is an option to study four A Levels if appropriate. Those studying three subjects are expected to choose a course from our programme of 'electives' from September which they will follow for one or two years, depending on the course chosen. Electives are selected to provide additional support for their other A Levels.

## **Academic Progress Grades (APGs)**

Each Stoic has their work graded once each Half Term for **attainment (Att)**, **attitudes to learning in the classroom (AtL)** and **commitment and attitude to prep (AtP)**. The first APG session will usually take place in the penultimate week before Half Term. The second set of APGs will be included in end of term subject reports. (Dates are published in the Calendar each term).

## **Attainment Grades (Att)**

These reflect the equivalent GCSE or A Level grade at which a pupil is currently working. They are based on one or more formal summative assessments completed during the preceding four-five week period, marked according to exam board assessment criteria. In the Sixth Form, attainment grades vary from A - E although a U grade may be given if the assessed work falls below the standard required for a pass grade. Attainment grades for the Lower School will use the numerical levels (8 - 1).

N.B. Attainment grades are not given in the Michaelmas Term in the Third Form as they have not yet formally started GCSE schemes of work. The Third Form will receive their first attainment grades in the Lent Term following their start in their chosen GCSE subjects from January.

**Attainment grades show the standard at which the pupils are currently working** and are not intended to be predictions. It is expected that attainment grades will show gradual improvement throughout the GCSE or A Level course, so that they accurately reflect the most likely outcomes by the time the pupils' approach public examinations. If pupils have not completed any work in an APG period that has been assessed according to exam board marking criteria, (e.g. because they have been working on a controlled assessment or practical which is graded subsequently) then an attainment grade will not be awarded.

## **Alcohol**

Stowe is very aware of the problems caused by alcohol abuse, particularly in relation to young people. Nonetheless, the School recognises that alcohol is an element of social interaction which Stoics will encounter. It therefore has a commitment to educate its pupils to manage their alcohol consumption appropriately and, via the School's PSHE programme, to understand the effects of alcohol and its potential dangers.

Possession of alcohol by pupils is not allowed under any circumstances and consumption is only allowed with the School's permission. Alcohol is given to pupils only under staff supervision and only with the authorisation of the Houseparents. No alcohol is given to pupils below the Sixth Form. Spirits are never served to pupils and non-alcoholic drinks are always offered as an alternative to alcohol.

Houseparents use their discretion to ensure that Stoics are not served with more than a reasonable amount of alcohol within a 24-hour period.

Only Upper Sixth Form pupils (over 18) are allowed to drink alcohol off the School premises without adult supervision whilst in the care of the School. They may only do so with the authorisation of the Houseparents and on the understanding that on their return to School they report into the Houseparent. In these circumstances, in order to comply with both the licensing laws and School policy, pupils are not allowed to drink alcohol other than with a meal (see the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook for the full School Alcohol Policy and punishments for unauthorised drinking).

## **Awards and Prizes**

Stowe's annual Speech Day is held in late May/early June and is the occasion where the School celebrates the academic successes of its pupils. Prizes are awarded in all subjects in addition to other more general awards for outstanding contributions to the Stowe community as a whole, as well as significant achievements in extra-curricular activities.

There are other occasions throughout the School year which formally acknowledge and applaud pupils' achievements and an awards ceremony is integral to most end of term assemblies.

## **Bicycles**

Bicycles are allowed at Stowe, though they are not essential. They must be clearly marked with the owner's School number in paint and must also have a padlock. Bicycles must not be ridden at or after dusk.

## **Bullying**

Stowe does not tolerate bullying and its Anti-Bullying Policy is a central part of the School's pastoral provision (see the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook). All members of the School community are expected to base their behaviour on respect for others, regardless of differences of age, status, physical ability, belief, race, gender or sexual orientation. Bullying, including cyber-bullying (by mobile phone, text or internet) whether physical or mental, always constitutes an assault, is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Demanding or taking items of any kind (including food), belonging to other pupils using age, status or any other form of threat, stated or implicit, is regarded as bullying. In extreme cases, it may be punished by suspension, or ultimately, expulsion.

A pupil who is being bullied or who sees another pupil being bullied, is urged to approach any member of Staff or other responsible person. Parents of children who may be being bullied should contact the Houseparent or Tutor as soon as they feel they need to. In all cases pupils, Parents and staff can expect that they will be taken seriously and that the information they give will be dealt with as confidentially as possible.

***Bullying behaviour can only be stopped if information is shared.***

## **Calendar**

A Calendar of School events is available to Parents from their child's Houseparent at the start of each term and can also be viewed on the School website. The website Calendar is updated as changes occur.

## **Careers and Higher Education Guidance**

Careers education and guidance forms a continuous thread throughout a pupil's time at Stowe. It aims to provide a framework for developing the self-awareness and experience necessary to make balanced decisions at each stage, at school and beyond.

Careers education is delivered by the Careers Department through the Tutorial system and is fully supported by Cambridge Occupational Analysts (COA).

The present programme of investigation and research takes pupils through *Morrisby* in the Fourth Form and the *COA Profile* in the Fifth Form, a careers selection programme and aptitude profile. In the Sixth Form, *Morrisby* is used to give clear guidelines on choosing a Higher Education pathway. Further advice is provided through our Higher Education Conference in the Lower Sixth and there is a clear focus throughout the Sixth Form on preparing pupils for applications to universities. Stowe regards work experience as vital to a balanced education and we expect pupils to have a variety of such experiences by the time they leave school.

The Careers Centre is open to all pupils during the working day and has full internet access as well as a comprehensive stock of material for research. In addition, there are various computer programs which can be used to determine Higher Education courses to suit a pupil's interests and abilities. Gap Year advice is available to those deferring their university education and pupils are encouraged to apply for Scholarships to assist with Gap Year funding.

The Careers Team welcomes both pupils and parents to make full use of the Careers Centre.

## **Change of Address**

Any change of address by a Parent or Guardian must be notified immediately to the Houseparent and to the Finance Department. Any change of email address needs to be sent to [email@stowe.co.uk](mailto:email@stowe.co.uk) and must contain the pupil's name and School number in the body of the email.

## **Chapel**

The School has an Anglican Evangelical foundation and as such it offers much in the pastoral and spiritual areas of life. In addition to the regular Sunday Services (at which all Parents and guests are very welcome) and midweek Services, there are Year Group Bible Studies, a regular Christian meeting (Crossfire), annual Lenten Addresses and the opportunity to be prepared for Confirmation. The atmosphere fosters friendly and open discussion and the Chaplain always seeks to be available to the pupils when needed.

Pupils attend Chapel at 8.15am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and on Sundays for a full Service of either Morning Prayer at 10.30am or Evensong at 6.00pm (the timing of the Sunday Service can be found in the Calendar). On 'out weekends' the service is held on Friday evenings at 17:30. Day pupils are welcome to attend Sunday Chapel if they wish and those in the School Choir must attend on a Sunday. All Day pupils are expected to attend weekday Chapel.

## **Communication**

The School believes that it is vitally important to keep Parents fully informed about their child's progress and about what is going on in the School. Houseparents and Tutors are in constant communication over the progress of all pupils and they will be very happy to discuss any matters concerning your child should you have any concerns. Similarly, they will contact you if they have worries about your child's welfare or progress. All contact names, telephone and email addresses can be found in the Staff directory in the Academic Life section on the School website. There are also many informal opportunities for communication with Staff at the various functions including House and School events.

We recognise the benefits to children of ensuring that both Parents, whatever their marital position, are fully involved in the education of their children and we do everything possible to encourage participation by both Parents in the life of the School, treating both with equal respect and courtesy. Where relationships are difficult, we aim to handle this sensitively, for example, by making arrangements to see Parents separately if necessary.

Parents receive Academic Progress Grades twice a term in addition to end of term reports and there is at least one Parents' Meeting during each year of a pupil's time at the School (see the section on Parents' Meetings). The electronic newsletter Stowemail informs Parents of achievements, news and forthcoming events, the Calendar gives a detailed programme of events in the School and further information is available from the School website ([www.stowe.co.uk](http://www.stowe.co.uk)) which is continually updated.

## **Complaints**

The School's complaints procedure is set out in the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook. Additionally, Parents or pupils may contact ISI or Ofsted, which inspects the School under the provision of the 1989 Children Act and can be contacted as follows:



Independent Schools Inspectorate, CAP House, 9- 12 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HA

t: [02076000100](tel:02076000100)

e: [info@isi.net](mailto:info@isi.net)

Ofsted National Business Unit, Royal Exchange Buildings, St Ann's Square, Manchester M2 7LA  
Telephone: +44 (0)300 123 3153

Parents may request information from the School on the number of complaints registered in the past year.

## **Computers and ICT**

**All Stoics are expected to attend School with a laptop. A school laptop scheme has been introduced for Third Form pupils from September 2023**

**For other years, laptops must meet minimum criteria as below:**

Pupils should have a minimum 10 inch screen, a keyboard, a minimum of five hours battery life and be able to start the device and open a browser (Chrome and Edge) within two minutes for use within classrooms. Ideally all laptops should have the ability to write digitally using an electronic pen (stylus). *Laptops should have an Ethernet port, or if devices have USB ports only, be supplemented with a USB adapter.*

Pupils must have Anti-Virus software and will have to update it on the day they wish to access the School network. This includes Apple (iOS laptops). An example of a suitable and free virus checker is the Sophos (home version) available on the Internet.

An English version of: MS Windows 10 is recommended. Windows 7 and 8 will function on the network or Apple OSX v10.7 and above.

Pupils are given access to a School account with MS Office 2016 One Drive (with 1T of storage), MS Word, Excel etc. and work will be set using this format.

### **When Laptops Fail (not applicable for those on the laptop scheme)**

Pupils need to have arrangements in place to fix the device within two weeks, during which time School computers or smart devices may be used to submit and receive digital work.

### **Tablets**

In addition to a laptop, pupils sometimes choose to utilise iPads for mobile access to resources, though the School also enables the use of Android tablets.

### **Smart Phones**

Parents providing access to voice or data communications technology must complete and sign the ICT Parent Acceptable Use Policy on the Parent Portal and provide and enable suitable filtering to protect pupils from inappropriate access to services over the Internet. For example by using the restrictions available in the iPhone settings.

Please note the School will restrict access to phones and services in line with its Electronic Devices Policy and for the benefit of the community.

## **Computers and ICT Policy**

All parts of the School have wi-fi access. All pupils also have their own network socket in House so *laptops should have an Ethernet port, or if devices have USB only, be supplemented with a USB adapter to guarantee access at all times.*

Our Virtual Learning Environment is called StoweNet and is an important part of the teaching delivery to pupils. Content rich resources are delivered via a browser and can be accessed from pupil owned devices.

There are also 100 computers available for pupils to use in computer rooms, Academic Departments and Boarding Houses, should they have need for specialist software.

All pupils sign the School's Acceptable Use Policy on an annual basis to remind them of the need to use the School's network and computer systems in a responsible way. Pupils should reference the Boarding House Regulations, posted in Houses, for further guidance.

## **Confidentiality**

### ***Disclosures to a Therapist or Health Professional operating a confidential service in the School and disclosures made (under the seal of confession) to the Chaplain.***

Health professionals such as School nurses can give absolute confidential medical advice to pupils, provided the pupil is competent in the terms of the Gillick/Fraser Guidelines. The School's Medical Centre team are skilled in discussing issues and possible actions with young people and will always have in mind the need to encourage pupils to discuss issues with their Parents or Guardians. However, the needs of the pupil will be paramount and Therapists and Health Professionals working at Stowe will not insist that a pupil's Parents or Guardians are informed about advice or treatment given.

The Department of Health has issued guidance (July 2004) which clarifies and confirms that health professionals owe young people under 16 the same duty of care and confidentiality on contraceptive advice and pregnancy as that which they owe to older patients. The guidance sets out principles of good practice in providing contraception and sexual health advice to those under sixteen. Whether a young person is competent to consent to treatment or is in serious danger is judged by the Health Professional on the circumstances of each individual case.

Under Canon 113 of 1603, the Chaplain, as a Priest in Holy Orders, is required to keep secret whatever is confessed to him in a sacramental context. The Chaplain's duty of absolute confidentiality is thus a very specific one and does not extend to things he is told in the context of non-sacramental pastoral work.

### **Discussion with Parents/Guardians**

Stowe School believes that it is essential to work in partnership with Parents/Guardians and will endeavour to keep parents/guardians abreast of their child's development at school, including any concerns about their progress or behaviour. However, the School also needs to maintain a balance so that its pupils can share any concerns and ask for help when they need it.

Where a pupil does discuss a difficult personal matter with members of Staff at Stowe, they will be encouraged to also discuss the matter with their Parents or Guardians themselves. However, the safety, well-being and protection of pupils is the paramount consideration in all decisions Staff at this School make about confidentiality and under certain circumstances the School will respect the confidence of a pupil and not share information with Parents or Guardians.

On occasions, it may be necessary for the Medical Centre Staff or the Therapy Service to pass on information to Parents, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or other Staff where the safety of a pupil or of other pupils might be compromised, or where there is a statutory duty to report. Wherever possible, however, information is passed on with the pupil's consent.

## **Contacting the School**

Contact details for Houseparents and other members of Staff can be found in the Staff Directory in the Academic Life section of the School website.

The School switchboard (+44 (0)1280 818000) is staffed from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm on Saturday in term time and from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 12:30pm to 5:00pm Monday to Friday in School holidays.

The central fax number is: +44 (0)1280 818181.

The School's postal address is: Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham MK18 5EH.

Email: [enquiries@stowe.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stowe.co.uk)

## **Therapy Service**

Therapy offers an opportunity to explore any issues which may be causing a child distress or concern.

A range of issues may be discussed including, but not limited to:

Anxiety, life at home, stress, bereavement, depression, eating issues, lack of self-esteem, homesickness, anger, self-harm and bullying.

The Therapy Service is available Monday to Friday (8:40am-5:00pm). The four School Therapists are members of the British Association for Therapy and Psychotherapy:

- Louise Springall (Senior Counsellor) who is also the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Kate Sutcliffe
- Georgina Whitlock
- Rob Young

All therapy is confidential. However, if a safeguarding matter is raised, it may be necessary for this information to be passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The pupil will always be informed of such a circumstance at the start of a disclosure and where possible their consent obtained.

Where consent is obtained, the Therapists work with the Medical Centre, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Houseparents and Matrons, amongst others, to assist the pupil as much as possible. The Therapists are a vital part of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Team and pupil 'Circle of Care' at Stowe and all four Therapists are members of the School's Safeguarding and Pastoral Committee which meets to encourage and ensure that mental health and well-being issues in the School are managed holistically.

The Therapists see pupils by appointment. Appointments are arranged with the Therapy Service by email. Pupils may request an appointment themselves or discuss therapy with a member of Staff and ask to be referred. If the pupil consents and feels it would be helpful, the Therapists are willing to talk to Parents on the phone or in person.

## **Damage**

Damage to School property is chargeable to the pupil who is found to have caused it. The scale of payments chargeable is published by the Maintenance Department and held by each Houseparent.

## **Data Protection**

The School is registered with the Data Protection Notification Department and complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

## **Day Pupils**

We recommend that Day pupils arrive in good time every morning and in any case no later than 8:00am for registration in the Boarding House. Day pupils normally arrive by transport as arranged by their Parents. Stoics are allowed to drive themselves only after their Parents have obtained written permission from the Head (see **Driving by Pupils**).

As a guide, Day pupils are expected to stay until after first prep, but Parents may negotiate separate times with the Houseparent to suit their convenience. Day pupils are welcome to attend Chapel on Sundays, but are not obliged to do so unless they are in the Choir. They are, however, expected to take part in whole School events which take place at weekends from time to time e.g. House At Home, Inter-House swimming and football, House singing competition, Speech Day etc. During public exams normal daily arrangements apply except after negotiations with the Houseparents.

Day pupils are encouraged to play a full and active part in School life, via academic society meetings, concerts, plays and so on. Where such events necessitate staying at Stowe after the usual going home time, or on a Sunday, the pupil must let their Houseparent know what arrangements have been made for collection by car or taxi. Day pupils who are put on Sanctions should, as far as possible, be brought into School to carry out their punishment at the appropriate time. The Deputy Head should be consulted if this is not possible and an alternative punishment, day or time arranged.

From time to time, Day pupils invite other Stoics to parties, perhaps to celebrate a birthday. The School strongly recommends that these take place during Exeats or in holiday time, but in exceptional cases the Head may allow Stoics to attend such events in term time. On these occasions, we ask parents to let their Houseparent know well in advance, the date, time and place of the party, the names of all Stoics involved, as well as the transport arrangements to and from the party. We only allow attendance at parties at weekends and we would always recommend that there is a parental presence.

There is sometimes the temptation for Boarders to ask Day pupils to bring alcohol, cigarettes or other contraband into School on their behalf. This is, of course, against all School Rules and the Head would view such an action very gravely.

## **Discipline**

It is the School's policy to encourage good behaviour at all times and to promote mutual respect and good manners amongst all those who live and work on the School site. Teaching Staff are expected to make standards of behaviour, both in and out of the classroom, clear to pupils at all time and to be consistent in their expectations. Punishments should be related to the offence and as far as possible should aim to encourage the pupil to understand why their behaviour was unacceptable.

Any pupil not abiding by the rules laid down will be sanctioned through the School disciplinary system. The Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook provides details of the School disciplinary system. Houseparents are always kept informed of punishments given to pupils via records that are kept on the School's central electronic database. A separate record is kept by the Houseparent of punishments given within the Boarding House.

## **Drama**

The School has one main theatre: the Roxburgh Hall, with a seating capacity of 430. It also has a rehearsal theatre with a seating capacity of about one hundred and adjacent classrooms and rehearsal

rooms. There are two major productions each year, the Senior Congreve and the Junior Congreve. In addition, there are regular House plays and year group plays.

## **Driving by Pupils**

Except under the direction of a driving instructor authorised by the School, no pupil is allowed to drive a car unless accompanied by Parent or Guardian. No pupil may be driven by anyone under 21. No pupil may possess or ride a motorcycle or moped at School unless it is needed for Stowe Motorcycle Club.

A Day pupil whose Parents complete the necessary request form, may be given permission by the Houseparent concerned, if the Stoic is considered to be responsible, to drive to and from School. While the Stoic is at School, the car must be left for the whole day in a place designated by the Houseparent. The Stoic may **not** drive after consuming alcohol in StoweBucks, or after any late-night function such as a House Dance or to or from the Leavers' Ball.

Any request by a Stoic or a Stoic's Parent for the use of a car at Stowe, or for permission to drive another Stoic must be referred to the Head. Driving lessons during school time must be arranged through and monitored by the School. Please contact your child's Houseparent for details.

## **Drugs**

The purpose of the School's Drugs Policy is to prevent pupils using controlled drugs at any time. It reflects a clear recognition that drugs are widely available and widely used by some teenagers and that this is a problem which must be faced squarely, both at School and at home.

While the implementation of the policy will be based upon trust, openness and understanding between pupils, Staff and Parents and external agencies such as the Police and Health Authorities, its primary purpose is to act as a positive and effective deterrent against drug abuse. Full details of the Stowe School Drugs Policy can be found in the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook.

## **Educational Guardians**

A pupil of any age whose Parents are resident outside the United Kingdom must have an Educational Guardian in the United Kingdom, who has been given legal authority to act on behalf of the Parents in all respects and to whom the School can apply for authorities when necessary. The School can accept no responsibility during Exeats, Half term or the holidays for pupils whose Parents are resident abroad and the Parents and Guardians of such pupils must make holiday arrangements, including travel to and from the School, well in advance. An Educational Guardianship form, which is available to all new Parents who reside outside the UK, **must** be completed and submitted to the School via the Parent Portal before a child commences their education at Stowe.

The responsibility for choosing an appropriate Educational Guardian rests solely with the Parents. Parents are responsible in each case for satisfying themselves as to the suitability of an Educational Guardian.

The role of the Educational Guardian is to provide or arrange appropriate accommodation when the child is unable to stay with the Parents:

- during School holidays, Half Terms or Exeats;
- if the School has to close temporarily because of an emergency, e.g. epidemic;
- if the pupil has to be away from the School on the advice of the School Doctor;
- if the pupil is temporarily suspended.

In addition, the Educational Guardian is accessible in an emergency and takes decisions in an emergency on behalf of the Parents in circumstances when the School is not empowered to do so. In short, the Educational Guardian provides support for the pupil when Parents are unable so to do.

## **Electrical Testing**

In order to meet legal obligations under Health and Safety legislation regarding electrical equipment and appliances, it is **essential** that Parents ensure that any electrical appliances and equipment to be brought to the School by pupils, have been tested by a competent electrician and labelled as having passed a portable appliance test. All electrical musical instruments **must** be fitted with a residual circuit breaking device, usually abbreviated to RCD, which provides protection better than 30mA sensitivity.

## **Email**

Email is used throughout the School for communication between Staff and pupils. Staff email addresses are available in the Staff directory in the Academic Life section of the School website. All pupils are allocated an email address on arrival at Stowe. Remote access to School email for pupils when they are away from Stowe is available via the remote access internet portal at <https://mail.stowe.co.uk>, which can also be accessed via the School's website by following the link at the bottom of the homepage (Staff & Stoic Email).

## **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

There is provision for pupils who do not have English as their first language. In the Lower School, extra help can be given to those not taking a Modern Language or, in exceptionally weak cases, in English lessons. Sixth Formers who do not have English Language qualifications are entered for IELTS.

Many UK universities insist on an IELTS qualification for all non-UK nationals wishing to apply to undergraduate courses. There is a charge for ESL qualifications.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The School is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all and aims to treat all Staff and pupils on the basis of their merits and abilities alone.

## **Equality & Inclusion**

At Stowe, we believe that everyone should be treated equally. We want our community to be safe, caring and inclusive, without prejudice or discrimination of any kind. We believe that to be Change Makers we must have a culture of continuous improvement, striving always to be our best.

## **Exeats**

Normally two weekends in each term, one either side of Half Term, are designated 'Exeat weekends' when all pupils are away from School for two or three nights. Full details of timings are given in the list of term dates. In the Summer Term there is only one Exeat weekend which is normally in the first half of term. In the second half of this term, public exams make an Exeat weekend difficult. Each term, Upper Sixth Stoics may take an additional floating Exeat, leaving after their last School commitment and returning by 8:00pm on Sunday. Notice should be given to the Houseparent in writing by the Thursday preceding the chosen weekend.

Exeats are designed to enable pupils to spend time with their family and therefore Exeat travel to destinations other than a pupil's home address must be confirmed to the Houseparent by Parents. Additional overnight leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as a wedding or special anniversary within the immediate family and any request of this nature must be made to the Houseparent well in advance.

## **Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**

The Executive Leadership Team is made up of the Head, Senior Deputy Head, Deputy Head (Pastoral), Deputy Head (Academic), Development Director, Director of Finance, Group People Director, Group Director of ICT and Director of Admissions & Marketing. ELT deals with strategic issues within the School and with the working groups which assist with the day to day running of the School.

## **Extras**

Some charges are incurred by pupils which are extra to the boarding and tuition fees and it is our aim to keep these charges to a minimum and to ensure that Parents have control over pupils' expenditure while they are at School. Full details of charges for extras are provided to Parents every year.

The School only permits items which it considers to be essential to the pupil's education or personal welfare to be charged to the pupils' termly accounts.

Legitimate extras fall into the following categories:

### **Curricular Items**

Text books are purchased by or on behalf of pupils through the School Shop and the cost charged to the pupils' termly accounts. Academic periodicals augmenting syllabus material in some examination courses may also be charged in this way.

Residential Field Courses in Geography and Biology, which are an integral part of the A Level examination syllabus, are subsidised by the School. Parents receive a letter from the Head of Department concerned giving full details and requesting authorisation. Costs incurred in local studies fieldwork (e.g. transport) are covered by the School.

Theatre and other academic visits are charged to the pupils' termly accounts as 'curricular maintenance' items. Although parental authorisation for individual visits is not usually sought, advance notice of the likelihood of such visits is given in the School's Courses Guides.

Fees charged by Examination Boards vary according to subject and are charged to the pupils' termly accounts. University application fees are treated in the same way as examination fees.

Occasional expenses incurred through the Careers Department such as specialist visits, publications and degree selection programmes can be charged to the pupils' termly accounts. Pupils are asked to confirm that Parents are willing for these items to be charged.

Foreign visits, Confirmation Retreat and representative sports teams on tour in holiday periods are all optional activities. Parental authorisation is sought before any sums are charged to accounts.

The School also charges for the following curriculum items:

- Instrumental music tuition
- Materials for design & technology and art
- CCF and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

### **Personal Items**

These are items which are essential for personal welfare, which include small items such as toothpaste, newspapers, magazines, sports equipment, School dress, essential travel, shoe repairs, dry cleaning and haircuts. Houseparents exert discretionary control over items in this category, assisted by an identification card for credit purchases and authorisation chits for items over £25.00. Warnings of high pupil spending in the School Shop may be requested and lists of purchases and total spending on credit for each pupil are available from the Finance Department.

## **Optional Activities, Events and Subscriptions**

Pupils at Stowe may take part in a number of activities over and above the formal games/activities curriculum. Pupil participation in these activities is entirely at Parents' discretion, although regrettably no guarantee can be given that all requests will be met, as some activities may be over-subscribed and others not financially viable. Parents are asked to pay a subscription towards their child's membership of the Old Stoic Society, collected over the second to sixth terms at Stowe. This subscription entitles a child, on leaving Stowe, to lifelong membership of the Old Stoic Society which provides a range of events, communications, sports clubs and other benefits. Further details are given in the Old Stoic Society information leaflet that is available on the Parent Portal and is sent to all new parents as part of the New Joiner information pack.

## **Fees**

Payment of fees is by Direct Debit. Full details of the School's scheme, approved by Barclays Bank, are sent out to Parents by the Finance Department, together with a request for details of the bank account from which fees are to be paid. Please ensure that the form is returned to the School as soon as possible. If Direct Debit option is not chosen, fees are due on the first day of the term. Late payment charges accrue thereafter at 1.5% per month. Unforeseen financial difficulties do sometimes arise; should they do so, you are requested to discuss the matter with the Director of Finance as early as possible.

The School cannot undertake to rebate fees in the event of a pupil being absent due to accident or illness during term time. However, for an additional termly charge, Parents may participate in the Fees Refund Scheme, operated by the School, full details of which are sent to Parents. Application forms should be completed and submitted on the Parent Portal. Charges are incorporated into the fee account, termly in advance, with the first two terms charged together at Christmas.

## **Games Programme**

The aims of the Stowe games programme are:

- to promote physical fitness and enjoyment of sport;
- to develop physical and social skills and good habits;
- to encourage team and community spirit and sportspersonship;
- to enhance the reputation of the School.

The School has three 'key' sports for boys:

- Rugby (Michaelmas)
- Hockey (Lent)
- Cricket (Summer)

The School has five 'key' sports for girls:

- Hockey (Michaelmas)
- Lacrosse (Lent)
- Tennis (Summer)
- Netball (Michaelmas & Lent)
- Cricket (Summer)

The School complements the 'key' sport programme with a variety of 'main' sports which enables some pupils to specialise in a sport other than the 'key' sport. Fixtures for key and main sports usually take place on Saturdays and Wednesday afternoons.

All pupils are expected to represent the School in key and/or main sports if selected. No pupil may miss a School fixture without permission from the Director of Sport. Such permission will only be granted or



withheld after consultation with the teacher in charge of the relevant tea and the Houseparent of the pupil concerned.

Saturday key sport fixtures take priority over all other School fixtures and regular activities. In the event of a clash with a County fixture, National competition or other representative selection, the pupil may choose, after consultation with Parents, the Director of Sport, the teacher in charge of the activity and the Houseparent.

The Director of Sport has overall responsibility for the physical development of all Stowe pupils. He will therefore liaise very closely with Houseparents and others, endeavouring to maximise the full sporting potential of each pupil **and** the School. The activities programme, which runs alongside the games programme, is co-ordinated by the Director of Sport.

## **Gardens**

Parents visiting their children are of course very welcome to walk in the gardens. Dogs should be kept on a lead and be cleaned up after.

Parents are very welcome to play golf during term time and in the holidays, but we would be grateful if they would always check the availability of the course with Stowe Enterprises Ltd (Telephone +44 (0)1280 818282).

## **Houseparents**

The Houseparents of the School Houses have overall responsibility for the welfare and progress of the pupils in their care. In conjunction with Tutors and the rest of the House team, they monitor and guide pupils and are normally the first point of call for a Parent seeking information, needing to express a concern, or simply wanting to make arrangements for a visit home.

Although all Houseparents have a teaching commitment during the day, they can be contacted by email, fax or phone and will respond as rapidly as they can to queries from Parents.

## **Insurance**

### **Personal Accident**

The School has arranged a Group Policy to provide Personal Accident cover for pupils on a 24 hour, worldwide basis. The premium will be automatically debited to the pupils' termly accounts as a compulsory charge.

### **Medical Expenses**

The School can enrol your child in the Private Medical Healthcare Scheme (AXA PPP), full details of which are available on the Parent Portal. Should you wish to arrange cover for your child, please complete the application form and return it to the Finance Department within the deadline specified.

### **Personal Effects**

The School does not accept liability for loss or damage to the private property of pupils, nor does it arrange insurance for pupils' property. Parents are therefore advised to ensure that they make adequate arrangements for the insurance of their children's belongings. The School does not normally allow pupils to leave personal effects at Stowe during the holidays. Exceptions may be made by arrangement for overseas pupils.

## **Library**

The Library is staffed by a qualified Librarian who teaches lessons in Library skills to the Third Form and in later years works with individuals and small groups to help them use the Library in an effective way. A fully automated Library management system enables pupils to search the Library catalogue from any networked computer in the School.

The School Library is a major educational resource for the Staff and pupils and is also integral to the life and learning of the School. Besides selecting, acquiring and organising materials to support the School curriculum and providing work space for whole classes, small groups and individuals engaged in study and resource work, the Library encourages independent learning by enabling pupils to develop research skills related to the retrieval, evaluation and use of data. Equally importantly, the Library provides opportunities to stimulate reading by means of displays, reading clubs, book reviews, its website and occasional events.

## **Matron**

Each Boarding House has a Matron who plays an active role in the life of both the House and the School. Matrons work closely with their Houseparent and their aim is to provide pastoral care and guidance to pupils and to ensure a warm, purposeful and pleasant atmosphere within the House. Matrons play a key pastoral role within each House and they also provide medical care following guidelines issued by the School Medical Centre.

## **Meals**

Breakfast, lunch and supper are provided in the central School Dining Rooms and pupils are expected to attend these meals. There is always a choice of dishes, including a vegetarian option. In addition, bread, spreads and fruit are provided in the Boarding Houses, together with facilities for preparing snacks outside mealtimes. The Caterer visits Boarding Houses regularly to consult pupils over menus and there is a Food Committee run by the pupils.

## **Medical Centre**

The School Medical Centre is permanently staffed during term time by a team of qualified nurses and the School Doctor (Dr Victoria Morrell) holds a morning surgery every weekday between 8:00am and 10:30am. The doctor can be contacted at other times at The Brackley Medical Centre, Wellington Road, Brackley NN13 6QZ on +44 (0)1280 702436 and further information can be found at <https://www.brackleymedicalcentre.co.uk/> If you wish to contact the medical staff by email please use: [medical@stowe.co.uk](mailto:medical@stowe.co.uk). It is a general address and will therefore be picked up by whichever nurse is on duty. The best time to ring is after 10:00am on +44 (0)1280 818210 and the nurses are always pleased to discuss any worries or concerns.

Boarding pupils will be registered with Dr Victoria Morrell as NHS patients based at The Brackley Medical Centre. During holidays and Exeats pupils can be seen as a Temporary Resident with the home GP if necessary. Day pupils can be seen as emergencies at the Medical Centre as a Temporary Resident.

For pupils new to the School, the Health History Form **MUST** be completed and submitted via the Parent Portal with a complete immunisation history as soon as possible after it is received. The Health History form is the only medical record we will have until the NHS record arrives; often this takes 3-4 months. It will be the only record we have for overseas pupils. The NHS number is entered on the birth certificate of every British Citizen. Pupils from abroad will be given a new number if they have never used the NHS before.

## **Overseas Pupils**

Overseas pupils are asked to supply a summary of medical history and vaccination history from their current family doctor.

### **Parents are asked to note the following:**

1. If a family Doctor or a Consultant is seen when your child is away from School, details should be sent to the School Doctor at the Medical Centre for entry into their medical records.
2. If, during the holidays, your child is exposed to an infectious illness, tropical disease or malaria, please

inform Medical Centre staff before they return to School.

3. Pupils must **not** bring medication or drugs into School for their personal use unless prescribed by a doctor or with the knowledge of the Medical Centre. All medicines must be handed immediately to the House Matron.
4. All Houses have access to the following 'over the counter' remedies which are administered by appropriately trained staff following a protocol:
  - Paracetamol for pain and fever
  - Ibuprofen for pain and fever
  - Zirtek for allergy
5. Pupils **do not** hold supply of their own medication without an assessment of safety by the School Doctor and House Matron.
6. Parents should be aware that some medications prescribed overseas may not be licensed for use in the UK. In this case, the School Doctor will make an individual case assessment and offer UK licensed medicines where appropriate. It is very important in such cases that as much medical information as possible is available to the School Doctor.
7. Private physiotherapy and podiatry can be arranged through the Medical Centre with a Chartered Physiotherapist or Podiatrist.
8. Parents will be informed at the time of referral of any specialist appointments or other medical investigations arranged for pupils. An accompanying adult will provide escort for any appointments arranged off site unless Parents are available.
9. Whilst every endeavour will be made to contact Parents in an emergency, the Head acting *in loco parentis* or a member of the School Staff has the authority to give permission for urgent medical and/or surgical procedures to be carried out including the administration of a general anaesthetic. **It is important that Parents leave an emergency contact number with House Staff if they are away from home for any reason.** If you have any concerns about the health of your child, please discuss it with the nurses or the Medical Officer, we welcome communication with Parents.
10. If your child is treated for asthma, epilepsy, anaphylaxis, diabetes or has a history of significant allergy, we feel it is important that teaching and sports staff are alerted to this. The diagnosis will appear on your child's School electronic record, any further details are given only with your consent or that of your child.

### **Immunisations**

The nurses provide immunisations in line with the Department of Health Immunisation Schedule. The local CCG (Commissioning Clinical Group) provide the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio booster and the Meningitis C booster at age 14 (Fourth Form). An annual influenza vaccine is recommended and offered in the Michaelmas term to all pupils. The nurses also provide travel advice and recommended travel vaccinations. If these are required, we ask that a Travel Risk Assessment form is completed (available from the School website). You will be contacted to obtain consent at the time of any planned immunisation. For further information this website is helpful: [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk)

### **Teeth and Eyes**

Glasses should **not** be worn to play contact sports. It is recommended that pupils who wear glasses or contact lenses bring a spare pair of glasses to School and that if glasses have to be worn for games, these should have unbreakable lenses. Protective eye wear for squash is strongly recommended for all Junior players by the British Association of Squash Players and the Medical Officers of Schools Association. These can be purchased from sports shops and should carry British Standard BS 7930:1.

It is helpful if your own dentist or orthodontist can deal with dental problems during the holidays, as far as possible. However, in emergencies we have access to excellent dentists in the area but there is a major problem with a lack of NHS dental provision. It is a policy of the School that, wherever possible, routine dental and orthodontic appointments do not encroach on School working hours.

## Mobile Telephones

Full details of the School's rules on mobile telephone usage and the School Mobile Telephone Protocol are listed in the School Rules and Policies section of the School website and on the Parent Portal.

## Music

The opportunities for pupils to become involved with Music whilst they are at Stowe are enormous, whether they play an instrument, sing or just want to listen. Further, if you are a Parent who wants to sing with us, there is always the Stowe Choral Society: we are always grateful for as much parental encouragement and involvement as possible.

Pupils will have the opportunity to join in with whatever music they enjoy, whether it be Classical, Rock, Pop or Jazz. There are a considerable number of instrumental and vocal groups and tuition is available on all instruments including Voice, as well as music production (the techniques you need to develop in order to become a record producer or commercial composer), with the cost charged to the pupils' termly accounts. On the second Thursday of the Michaelmas Term, we do a presentation to all the Third Form and they then have the opportunity to sign up for a free trial lesson on any instrument they wish. If the pupil would like to continue with lessons after the free trial, the Music Department will contact Parents to obtain permission.

The majority of School concerts at Stowe are free to guests. The Stowe Music Department holds many concerts outside of School and Parents are always welcome to these events, although sometimes there is a nominal charge at the door as we are often raising money for Charity. All the details of these events are published in the Blue Book.

Also in the Music Department, Stowe Presents hold regular professional concerts given by performers from around the world. Often these international concert artists are working with Stoics in the afternoon giving them masterclasses before presenting a dazzling event in the evening. Full details can be found on the Stowe Presents pages of the website.

## Name Tapes

Name tapes and a personalised permanent ink stamp for new pupils are automatically ordered by the School Shop. One set of name tapes are sent to Parents and one is kept at the School. The cost is put on the first term's account. A name-taping service is also offered.

## Out/in weekends

The first and last weekend of term and special celebrations in-between will form 'in weekends' where all boarding pupils will remain in school. Other weekends will be classified on the calendar as 'out weekends' where pupils may go home after games on Saturday (no earlier than 4pm and should return for stance on Sunday evening at 7:30pm).

## Parents' Meetings

The pattern of Parents' Meetings during the academic year is shown below.

### Third Form

Michaelmas Term (Meet the Tutor)	September
Michaelmas Term (GCSE choices)	November

### Fourth Form

Summer Term	May
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### **Fifth Form**

Lent Term (GCSE Trial Exams and AS choices)      March

### **Lower Sixth**

Lent Term      February

### **Upper Sixth**

Michaelmas Term (Meet the Tutor)      September

Lent Term (Formal)      January

## **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

The PSHE education programme makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, their behaviour and safety and the School's statutory responsibility to promote pupils' well-being.

A critical component of PSHE education is providing opportunities for children and young people to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes and explore the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they encounter now and in the future.

PSHE education contributes to personal development by helping pupils to build their confidence, resilience and self-esteem and to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions. It enables them to recognise, accept and shape their identities, to understand and accommodate difference and change, to manage emotions and to communicate constructively in a variety of settings. Developing an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others will help pupils to form and maintain healthy relationships and better enjoy and manage their lives.

The overarching aim for PSHE education is to provide pupils with:

- accurate and relevant knowledge
- opportunities to turn that knowledge into personal understanding
- opportunities to explore, clarify and if necessary challenge, their own and others' values, attitudes, beliefs, rights and responsibilities, the skills and strategies they need in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives.

The entire programme is also based on two fundamental safeguarding principles:

1. Every Stoic has the right to feel safe at School
2. There is nothing so awful that it cannot be spoken about with someone

The PSHE programme is delivered across all five years and attempts to offer Stoics an extensive and flexible safety network within the School. It also aims to turn out self-confident and compassionate young people, who have the information and the ethical framework required to make good calls on difficult decisions.

The PSHE curriculum is coordinated by the Head of PSHE and is supported and augmented by academic teaching and disciplines including the Biology, Philosophy and Religion departments and the School Therapy Service. The House Nurses, who work in the Medical Centre, also deliver sessions called TLC (Teaching Life Choices) to House year groups twice a year.

PSHE delivery at Stowe uses lectures and seminars, as well as a weekly timetabled session with Tutors for Lower School pupils. Teaching materials are sourced, collated and provided for Tutors to follow up on issues raised in the programme of study and maintained by the Head of Department. This material is constantly being updated.

External speakers are also employed and the Head of PSHE is always looking to expand a team of

reliable, appropriate speakers, giving engaging talks from their own life experiences. PSHE themes (Relationship and Sex Education; Drugs and Alcohol) are built into the curriculum. The PSHE curriculum framework is available on the School website.

## **Pocket Money**

Pupils will require pocket money for items which cannot be charged to the pupils' termly accounts. Each House runs its own pocket money account and £25.00 to £30.00 is the approximate sum of money which is banked by Junior pupils for each half of term, rising to approximately £50.00 for pupils in the Sixth Form. For security reasons, pupils are asked to bank any cash they bring back to School with their Houseparent.

## **Policies**

The following policies are included in the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Alcohol Policy
- Smoking/Nicotine Policy
- Disciplinary Procedures for Serious Offences
- Laptop Requirements
- Acceptable ICT Usage Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Pupil/Parent Data Protection Policy
- Complaints Procedure

School policies covering the following are available on request from the School and on the Stowe website:

- Curriculum Policy
- Health and Safety on School Trips
- PSHE Delivery Matrix for the current academic year
- Gifted and Talented Policy
- Child Protection Policy

## **Prefects**

The Head appoints a number of School Prefects to help him with the running of the School and they are expected to contribute fully and be ambassadors for the School. Each House has a Head of House and perhaps one or two more School Prefects and several House officials, whom Houseparents appoint. The House Prefects deal with day-to-day routine matters such as roll calls before meals, supervision of evening Junior Houseroom prep, dormitory lights-out and so on.

### **Prefect Selection**

- In the Lent Term, the Lower Sixth are invited to write a letter of application.
- Staff are circulated with a full list of applicants and endorse those pupils they would like to see on the shortlist.
- Current Prefects are circulated the full list of Lower Sixth and endorse those pupils they would like to see on the shortlist.
- Houseparents confirm the shortlist and any additional names.

- Houseparents submit a brief reference in support of shortlisted candidates which includes:
  - i) Their letter of application
  - ii) Staff/Prefect recommendations and comments
  - iii) Summaries for academic and discipline
- The selection committee meets to finalise the Prefect list.

## Prep

All prep is set using the School's virtual learning system on Office 365 SharePoint/Teams solution. The duration of prep for Third and Fourth Formers is 30 minutes per subject; for Fifth Formers, duration of each prep is 40 minutes. Duration of prep for Sixth Formers is not formally timetabled, but the expectation is that at least four hours of prep per week per A Level subject will be completed. Prep may also include a variety of other tasks, over a period of time, such as reading and research.

## Pupil Welfare; Safeguarding & Child Protection

As a Boarding School, Stowe recognises that its Staff have an especially important role in providing a safe and secure environment in which all its pupils can flourish and learn.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr Mike Rickner (DSL) takes overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection matters in the School.

There are **four** elements within the government's definition of safeguarding. The **first**; "ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care" and **second**, "taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes" refer to the general activity of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every single one of our pupils. Safeguarding includes ensuring effective early help for pupils who may disclose mental health concerns such as: self-harm, depression, suicidal thoughts/intention, anxiety and eating disorders. Pupil welfare and wellbeing is always sought and promoted; the DSL takes pupil views, wishes and feelings into account where early help interventions are necessary in order to ensure the best outcomes.

Where a pupil does disclose a difficult personal matter with a member of staff, these will be referred to the DSL and pupils will be encouraged to share the matter with their parents and guardians. However, the needs of the pupil will be held paramount by the School and staff will not automatically share information about a pupil with parents/guardians unless it is considered to be in the child's best interests. Where a disclosure relates to the mental health of a pupil who is a significant risk to themselves rather than a third party, the DSL will follow the procedures outlined in the Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing policy. In such cases, parental consent is sought and referrals may be made to CAMHS or private healthcare professionals.

The **third** of the four parts within the definition of safeguarding are; "protecting children from maltreatment" and **fourth**, "preventing impairment of children's health and development". These relate to the more specific activity of child protection, which means working to protect children from abuse and neglect. The School will therefore respond quickly and effectively to the needs of children who have been identified as suffering peer on peer, sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect. The School works with external agencies including contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans and allowing necessary access for children's social services. If required, the School will also supply information to Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board so that it can perform its function as required under the Children Act 2004.

Parents are welcome to approach the DSL if they have any concerns about the welfare of any child in the School, whether these concerns relate to their own child or any other. If preferred, parents may discuss concerns in private with the child's Houseparent or the Head who will notify the DSL in accordance with the Schools' procedures. If your concerns relate to the actions or behaviour of a member of Staff (which could suggest that they are unsuitable to work with children) then you should report this in confidence to the Head or DSL (or to the Chair of Governors if the concern relates to the Head who will

consider what action to take).

Parents are encouraged to read the School's policies for Safeguarding and Child Protection and Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing, available on the School's website.

## **Reporting**

Every pupil receives two reports a term; one at the end of each Half Term period. The types of report are:

**Mid Term reports** including Academic Progress Grades, short one-line subject reports and Tutor report.

**Short End of Term reports** including Academic Progress Grades, short one-line subject reports and Houseparent reports, pupils' Personal Reports and other individual one-line reports e.g. peripatetic teachers

**Twice termly Interim reports** for pupils flagged as on-going concern including Academic Progress Grades, short one-line subject reports and a Tutor report.

**One FULL End of Term report** per year consisting of full subject reports (5 – 6 lines), a Tutor, Houseparent and Personal report.

Pupils that have not been flagged as Red alert but whose work is inconsistent or falling behind are picked up through central tracking and our Alerts system. These pupils may have a period on Lead Tutor reports. Lead Tutor reports are currently used for internal monitoring and copied to Houseparents, Tutors and the pupils themselves. It is hoped that this intervention will support pupils in getting back up to speed; persistent underperformance and on-going concern will result in pupils being raised to the status of red flagged and regular PMM reporting.

## **Rewards for Academic Work**

### **Merits**

Merits are awarded for excellent classroom performance or for a routine piece of classwork or prep that shows a significant effort or improvement by an individual. Merits have a broader remit than other academic awards and can be used to reward excellent participation in a lesson, a particularly fine music lesson or performance, good contributions in drama, as well as for pair or group work. Pupils receiving Merits are congratulated in House Meetings and all Houses provide reward schemes for those who accumulate merits during the term/year.

### **Commendations/Commendation Prizes**

Commendations are awarded for pieces of work which are excellent when judged by the standard of the teaching group or a particular individual. Commendation Prizes arise from the accumulation of six Commendations awarded throughout the time of a Stoic's career and are awarded in end of term Assemblies. Commendation Prize winners are listed in the Speech Day Programme.

### **Benes/Bene Prizes**

Benes are awarded for outstanding pieces of academic work which indicate a significant achievement by any standard. Bene Prizes arise from the accumulation of three Benes awarded throughout the time of a Stoic's career and are awarded at the end of term Assemblies. Bene Prize winners are listed in the Speech Day Programme.

### **Academic Prizes**

Academic Prizes are awarded by the Head on the recommendation of Heads of Department. Whilst most Prizes are presented at Speech Day in the Summer Term, others are presented at appropriate occasions throughout the year, mainly in end of term Assemblies. Each Academic Department awards a Prize for



the most outstanding Lower School pupil of the year (usually, but not always, presented to a Fifth Form pupil in recognition of GCSE success), a Lower Sixth Prize for outstanding effort and achievement and an Upper Sixth Prize for effort and achievement.

### **Special Prizes**

In addition, Special Prizes, recognise contributions to a broader range of extra-curricular activities and the Stowe community as a whole.

### **School Shop**

The School Shop is situated in the Menagerie near to the tennis courts and is open to pupils, parents and friends during term time (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm). The shop is open throughout the Summer holidays (Monday to Thursday for pre booked appointments only. (Tel: +44 (0)1280 818219 or 818211). Telephone orders can be accepted after an initial fitting. Purchase of uniform etc. during the school holidays prior to the pupil joining the School should be paid for at the time of purchase. We can accept cash, cheque, credit cards.

The School Shop stocks all the items required in the School clothing list and also sports goods, toiletries and accessories. As well as stocking stationery required for School use, the School shop has a wide selection of stationery, greeting cards, posters, pictures and souvenirs. Pupils are also able to order newspapers and magazines of a suitable nature.

### **Searches**

If a pupil is suspected of carrying an unauthorized item, they will be asked to turn out their pockets/bag. Pupils may be asked to search their own property for missing or misplaced items in the presence of Staff. The School will ask for a pupil's consent before searching School property used to store their belongings. This includes locked areas. If consent is refused, or if it is not possible to obtain consent within a reasonable time frame, the School reserves the right to conduct a search proportionate to the value or risk of the items sought.

The pupil will normally be present during a search of School property in which their belongings are stored, but if this is not possible, a second adult will witness the search. Illegal confiscated items will be handed to the police and other confiscated items will be disposed of.

The School reserves the right, where there is reasonable suspicion of a disciplinary offence, to inspect and monitor the use of computers and mobile phones and may confiscate these if they have been used inappropriately.

The full Search Policy is available on our website.

### **Sixth Form Club at StoweBucks**

The Sixth Form Club is open to all those in the Sixth Form (subscription charges apply) and operates on Saturdays from 9:00pm to 10:30pm. Pupils are allowed two cans of beer or two glasses of wine on a Saturday evening only. It is also open for soft drinks after prep on Wednesdays.

### **Smoking/Nicotine/Vaping**

Smoking by pupils is forbidden. See the Stowe School Rules and Policies Handbook for the Stowe Smoking/Nicotine Policy.

### **Societies**

There is a wide range of societies at Stowe. Many of these are organised by Academic Departments and have a regular programme of speakers from inside and outside School.

Societies are overseen by a member of Staff and meet at various times during the week, as shown in the School Calendar.

## **Sport - Conduct and Ethos**

All sports are played to win, but respect and courtesy to the opposition are expected at all times. Open criticism of or dissent from umpiring or refereeing decisions are completely unacceptable, as is foul or abusive language on the field. No opponent should be verbally or physically intimidated and pupils should learn how to lose graciously. Crowd behaviour at matches should not give offence.

Pupils who transgress the above code will be formally warned and in the case of more serious or repeated breaches, they will be suspended from future matches. The Director of Sport, the Teacher in Charge of the sport and the pupil's Houseparent will be informed. The code of conduct applies at all age levels and in House as well as School matches.

## **Sports Equipment**

Pupils are expected to purchase all regulation games kit for domestic and recreational use. Key sport 'A' teams will normally be supplied with team strips. Goalkeepers are supplied with appropriate protective equipment.

Pupils will not be allowed to play contact sports unless they are wearing a mouth guard. These may be fitted by a dentist or professional organization. Self-mould OPRO mouth guards are available for purchase in the School Shop and OPRO guidance is available on the Parent Portal. Cricket helmets and shin pads must also be worn. Other protective equipment (e.g. shoulder pads, goggles) is highly recommended, though not obligatory.

## **Stoic Councils**

These are chaired by the Head and the Deputy Head and meet each term. The meetings provide Stoics with a forum to present their views and discuss issues which they believe should be brought before the School Management. Discussions can be lively - but the tone is always positive and constructive. The School also has a Food Council to provide feedback and ideas for menus and an Academic Council to do the same for teaching and learning.

## **Stowe Parents**

'Stowe Parents' exists to enhance your experience as a Stowe parent, by providing a social community and practical information resource through events and other activities. They have a number of activities planned for the School year and hold 'Journey Breakers' in the Marble Hall at each Exeat and some half terms and term ends where Parents can relax while awaiting their children. All Stowe Parents are automatically members of 'Stowe Parents', but if you would like to be a committee member and be involved with organising events or activities please email [stoweparents@stowe.co.uk](mailto:stoweparents@stowe.co.uk)

## **Term Dates**

Term dates are published in the Calendar one year in advance, with provisional term dates shown for the subsequent year. Term dates are also available on the School website.

## **The Stoic**

The Stoic is the annual School magazine. It reports on School events, societies, expeditions and sport over the preceding academic year and also includes art, photography and creative writing by pupils.

## **Timetables**

Please see overleaf.

## **Travel Arrangements**

Travel arrangements for pupils are organized through the School Transport System [pupiltransport@stowe.co.uk](mailto:pupiltransport@stowe.co.uk). Please refer to the 'Extras Booklet' for more information.

Essential travel during Term time (e.g. university interview, dental appointment) is charged to the pupils' termly accounts.

Parents need to be aware that they are responsible for pupils once they have been handed over to, either:

- a Parent or Guardian or Educational Guardian; or
- another agreed adult; or
- a local or national public transport service/taxi service;

and that if none of the above are possible, the School will inform Parents/Guardians, who will then be expected to make and notify the School of alternative arrangements, adhering as closely as possible to the published dates and times of School closure.

Similarly, the School is responsible for pupils on their return, when:

- they check in with their Houseparent or other adult in the Boarding House;
- they check in with School Staff on transport provided by the School.

Pupils may not return to School earlier than the published date and time of School opening unless this has been previously agreed with the Houseparent or other responsible adult in the Boarding House.

## **Tuck Shop**

The Tuck shop is open every afternoon Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday, during term time only. It is situated next to the School Shop, and sells cold drinks, snacks, chocolate etc. plus ice cream during the warmer months. Pupils can pay with Cash or card.

## Timetable Juniors

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
8.15-8.40	Assembly	8.15-8.40	Chapel / HaV Assembly	8.15-8.40	Tutor Period	8.15-8.40	Chapel / HaV Assembly	8.15-8.40	Tutor Period	8.15-8.40	Free
8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1
9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2
10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break
11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3
12.10-1.05	Period 4A	12.10-1.05	Period 4A	12.10-1.05	Period 4A	12.10-1.05	Period 4A	12.10-1.05	Period 4A	12.05-1.05	Lunch
1.05-2.05	Lunch	1.05-2.05	Lunch	1.05-2.05	Lunch	1.05-2.05	Lunch	1.05-2.05	Lunch	1.05-5.00	Sport Activities S@S
2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5		
3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break		
3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S		
5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.45	Free Time
5:30-6.30	Clinic 1st Prep	5:30-6.30	Clinic 1st Prep HPQ	5:30-6.30	Clinic 1st Prep	5:30-6.30	Clinic 1st Prep Vanguard	5:30-6.30	Clinic 1st Prep		
6.00-7.30	Support Free	6.00-7.30	Support Free	6.00-7.30	Support Free	6.40-7.30	Support Free	6.00-7.30	Support Free		
7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance		
7.45-9.15	2nd Prep	7.45-9.15	2nd Prep	7.45-9.15	2nd Prep	7.45-9.15	2nd Prep	7.45-9.15	2nd Prep		
9.15-10.00	Clare Time per year group	9.15-10.00	Clare Time per year group	9.15-10.00	Clare Time per year group	9.15-10.00	Clare Time per year group	9.15-10.00	Clare Time per year group		

## Timetable Seniors

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
8.15-8.40	Assembly	8.15-8.40	Chapel / HaY Assembly	8.15-8.40	Tutor Period	8.15-8.40	Chapel / HaY Assembly	8.15-8.40	Tutor Period	8.15-8.40	Free
8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1	8.45-9.40	Period 1
9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2	9.45-10.40	Period 2
10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break	10.40-11.10	Break
11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.05	Period 3
12.05-1.05	Lunch	12.05-1.00	Lunch	12.10-1.15	Period 4	12.05-1.00	Lunch	12.05-1.00	Lunch	12.05-1.00	Lunch
1.05-2.00	Period 4B	1.05-2.00	Period 4B	1.05-2.00	Lunch	1.05-2.00	Period 4B	1.05-2.00	Period 4B	1.00-5.00	Sport Activities S@S
2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5	2.05-3.00	Period 5	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	2.05-3.00	Period 5		
3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break	3.00-3.15	Break			3.00-3.15	Break		
3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S	3.20-5.00	Sport Activities S@S				
5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time	5.00-5.30	Free Time		
5.30-6.00	Quiet Time Clinic	5.30-6.00	Quiet Time Clinic	5.30-6.00	Quiet Time Clinic	5.30-6.00	Quiet Time Clinic	5.30-6.00	Quiet Time Clinic	5.00-6.00	Free Time
6.00-6.40		6.00-6.40		6.00-6.40		6.00-6.40		6.00-6.40		6.00-6.40	6.00-6.40
6.45-7.30	Free Time	6.45-7.30	Free Time	6.45-7.30	Free Time	6.45-7.30	Free Time	6.45-7.30	Free Time	6.40-7.30	Free Time
7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance	7.30-7.45	Stance		
7.45-9.45	2nd Prep	7.45-9.45	2nd Prep	7.45-9.45	2nd Prep	7.45-9.45	2nd Prep	7.45-9.45	2nd Prep		
9.45-10.45	Free Time in Hours	9.45-10.45	Free Time in Hours	9.45-10.45	Free Time in Hours / StanceBuck (6.30-10.45)	9.45-10.45	Free Time in Hours	9.45-10.45	Free Time in Hours		

## **Tutorial Programme**

Every pupil has a Tutor who is responsible for monitoring academic progress, advising on choice of academic subjects and future career decisions and providing a link between subject teachers and parents. In addition, Tutors keep a close eye on the social and personal development of their tutees.

A happy and secure pupil is more likely to succeed academically and similarly, a pupil who is making positive progress in their work is more likely to have a fulfilling and positive social and personal life.

The tutorial system is overseen by the Heads of Section with Heads of Year for each year group. The next level is organised by House. All Tutors show a close interest in their tutees' academic and extra-curricular activities and provide guidance and support appropriately. The emphasis is on providing support on a one-to-one basis, planning the week ahead and reflecting on achievements or concerns from the previous week or, indeed, as they arise.

A Lower School Tutor is part of the House Pastoral Team and meets with their tutees on a formal basis once a week. Tutors each do an Evening House Duty which facilitates communications with tutees on a more informal basis and also support House events including sport, music and drama competitions. Tutors liaise closely with Houseparents over the welfare of their tutees.

Sixth Form Tutors are required to have a one-to-one meeting with each of their tutees during the week (at a time of their convenience and which can include the weekly Tutor period) to discuss their tutees' individual plans and progress. Sixth Form Tutors are responsible for guiding tutees through the application process for Higher Education. Preparation for university applications takes place during the Lower Sixth year with applications to UK universities made through UCAS in the Michaelmas Term of the Upper Sixth. Advice and assistance with applications to USA and European universities is also provided.

At the core of the Tutorial programme is the focus on providing a personalised curriculum. Each week a pupil is expected to reflect on their progress during the previous week (evidence may include merits, academic awards, work alerts, discipline records etc.) and to plan the week ahead with regards to providing an effective and supportive balance between academic targets and extra-curricular commitments e.g. dates for sporting fixtures, academic society meetings or other cultural events, music lessons and rehearsals as well as important academic deadlines. Academic Progress Grades (APGs) are an integral part of our monitoring and assessment systems and attendance at Clinics or Department enrichment activities may need to be included in any tutee's programme. Pupil self-assessment is an important aspect of the Tutorial programme and all Stoics are asked to complete an online questionnaire on their attitudes to learning and to set personal targets following each grading assessment period. All Stoics are required to write a personal report which is included in end of term reports.

## **Uniform**

Pupils are expected to comply with the School Uniform regulations. Uniform regulations and clothing lists for boys and girls can be found in the Stowe Dress Regulations, Clothing Lists and Name Tape Placement booklet on the Parent Portal. Dress regulations are also published in Houses.

After lunch on Saturdays, unless otherwise directed, pupils may change into casual dress for the weekend. Pupils may also change into casual dress after 3.00pm on weekdays and after lunch on Wednesdays. Casual dress must be clean, reputable and in a good state of repair.

## **Valuables**

Parents are reminded that pupils should avoid bringing valuable items to School if at all possible. Cash and other valuables should be deposited with the Houseparent for safe keeping. All Stoics have a lockable cupboard which they are expected to use for valuable items in daily use (see **Insurance**).

## Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

The School utilises Teams & Office 365 SharePoint solution which consolidates communication between teachers and pupils. It streamlines teaching resource creation and pupil tracking (by managing the setting, receipt and delivery of prep), news feeds, notices, staff information, calendars and handbooks to enable teachers and pupils to be more productive.

Everything a pupil needs from the School Network will be located and accessed through StoweNet (new) for pupils, with links to commonly used data, programs and information. It is the hub for communication within the School and can be accessed by pupils remotely through portable devices such as tablets and phones.

## Website

The School website address is [www.stowe.co.uk](http://www.stowe.co.uk)

## Weekend Leave

Weekend leave is organised in such a way that home and School form a genuine partnership in the pupil's education. Likewise, Parents are warmly encouraged to attend the many social and sporting events. On 'Out weekends' pupils are free to leave School after their games commitments on Saturday and no earlier than 16:00pm. Boarders should return for 19:30pm stance on Sunday evening.

### Timings are as follows:

#### On Saturday

After the pupil's last School commitment but not before 16:00pm.

#### On Sunday

After morning Chapel until 7:30pm. On brunch Sundays, pupils can go out with Parents as early as they wish as long as they are back for 7:30pm.

On each occasion that parents take their children out, **they should let the Houseparent know by the preceding Thursday evening** by email or voicemail. Each House has voicemail which can be used for this purpose.

Where a Stoic is representing the School or House in a match, Parents are, of course, encouraged to watch their child participate before leave begins.

Parents may invite their child's friends to go out with them at the weekend and permission will always be sought from the Parents of the pupil who has been invited out by the Houseparent concerned.

From time to time, Stoics invite other Stoics to parties. The School strongly recommends that these take place during Exeats or in holiday time, but in exceptional cases, the Head may allow Stoics to attend such events in term time. On these occasions, we ask Parents to let the Houseparent know, well in advance, the date, time and place of the party, the names of all Stoics involved and the transport arrangements to and from the party. We only allow parties at weekends and we would always recommend that a parental presence is maintained.