



Stowe mail



Blue Stockings

The Stowe Senior Congreve performance of 'Blue Stockings' was nothing short of wonderful. A whirlwind of emotions, with a thought-provoking storyline filled with friendship, romance and empowerment, which has left me grateful for all aspects of my education and the opportunities I take to be second nature.

The play is set in 1896, in Girton College, Cambridge University. The storyline follows four female undergraduates, who are campaigning towards their right to graduate from the university. They are referred to as 'Blue Stockings', a derogatory term for female intellectuals. They are ostracised by most at Cambridge, including fellow male peers and professors. As they navigate their passions for science, astrophysics and poetry, the lead female, Tess, gets intertwined into a fruitful romance with one of the male undergraduates, leading to moments of doubt on her purpose as a woman and putting in jeopardy her academic pursuits at times. Throughout the story, a proposal was made to the senate to legalise granting degrees to women.

Due to the spectacular exhibition of acting from the cast on Friday 6 December, a few moments stood out to me, truly framing the pivotal issues faced by women aspiring for an education in the 19th Century.

Maeve Sullivan, played by Lola Morgan (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), may have not come from a more 'proper' background compared to the other girls, however this did not diminish her depth of knowledge and her keenness to learn and be educated. Her character feels different to the other Girton girls at the beginning of the show, which Morgan successfully depicted by keeping a suitable proximity from the other characters in the first scene. She avoided eye contact with the actors, and diverted her eyes around the audience, with a worried expression on her face. The use of frantic eye movement allowed for symbolism of Maeve trying to find her place in society, and in the university, as if she was searching the audience for a sense of 'belonging'. Morgan was able to break the fourth wall with the audience with this technique, and for me personally, allowed me to put myself in the position of the Girton girls, and tune into their passion and feeling towards having the right to graduate.

Another scene where Lola's acting presence resonated with me was the scene where Mr Sullivan, played by Otto Ankarcona (Fifth Form, Walpole), came to Cambridge from the Sullivan's home, urging Maeve to return home and look after their siblings, following the death of their mother. Maeve is reluctant



to go as she is deeply enjoying her studies, with the thought of becoming a mother far from her mind. As she tries to reason with her brother, Maeve becomes increasingly more frustrated, which Morgan depicted wonderfully with use of wavering volume in her voice, including shouting at one moment, to almost whispering in another. I believe this symbolised the loss of control Maeve had in this situation.

Another of my favourite moments was when Tess Moffatt, played by Grace Reilly (Upper Sixth, West), confided in Celia Willbond, played by Tori Lee (Fifth Form, Cheshire), about her struggles to juggle being in love while striving in her academic pursuits. This scene was an emotional one, with Reilly truly encompassing her character's raw feelings to the audience.

At the end of the play, the Girton girls unfortunately lose the vote, with riots kicking off in the streets against them, and men campaigning against them even being able to study at all. This scene was so poignant, and truly made the audience realise the hardships of being an intellectual woman in the 19th Century. The girls however did not stop campaigning after this downfall and continued to fight. 50 years later, the senate approved women the right to graduate from Cambridge. This was in 1948.

To conclude, this inspiring and eye-opening play left me in awe and I would gladly say it is the best production I've watched at Stowe.

Nikki Atife (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)



This year's Senior Congreve production (Wednesday 4 to Saturday 7 December) brought Jessica Swale's thought-provoking play *Blue Stockings* to life with energy, sensitivity, and depth. In a year that sees the celebration of fifty years of female education at Stowe, the play seemed a fitting choice, telling the story of the first female students at Girton College, Cambridge, as they fight for the right to graduate in a society entrenched in patriarchal values. From Dr Maudsley's (Michael Ibru-Stankov (Fifth Form, Chandos)) opening speech warning that 'the higher education of women may be detrimental to the very future of society', it was clear that the female students would face stiff opposition in their fight to be recognised.

For the full review, [click here](#).

Simon Miller, Director of Drama



CAST LIST

Tess Moffatt

Lucie Whiteoak (Lower Sixth, West)
Grace Reilly (Upper Sixth, West)

Celia Willbond

Tori Lee (Fifth Form, Cheshire)
Flora Peppiatt (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

Carolyn Addison

Julia Likierman (Fifth Form, Stanhope)
Skye Quie (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

Maeve Sullivan

Emilie Seward (Lower Sixth, West)
Lola Morgan (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

Mrs Welsh

Claudia Kilonback (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)
Imogen Embley (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

Mrs Blake

Bel Williams (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

Professor Radleigh

Romayo Seaton (Upper Sixth, Cobham)

Professor Anderson

Arturo Van der Auwera (Fifth Form, Winton)

Professor Collins

Michael-Aleksandar Ibru-Stankov (Fifth Form, Chandos)

Mr Banks

George Smith (Upper Sixth, Winton)

Ralph Mayhew

Tomisin Ibitoye (Lower Sixth, Chandos)

Will Bennett

Daniel Goje (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

Lloyd

Stepan Volkov (Upper Sixth, Temple)

Edwards

Jack Riley (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

Holmes

James Barnett (Fifth Form, Winton)

Dr Maudsley

Michael-Aleksandar Ibru-Stankov

Minnie

Florence Blake (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

Miss Bott

Neve Ntumba (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)
Annabel Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

Mr Peck/Ensemble

Arturo Vander Auwera (Fifth Form, Winton)

Mrs Lindley

Annabel Lloyd

Waiter/Librarian

Arturo Vander Auwera

Billy Sullivan

Otto Ankarcona (Fifth Form, Walpole)

Technical Team Co-ordinator

Seren Powell (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

Technical Support

Kasper Calvert (Fourth Form, Chandos)
Raven Bryden (Fourth Form, Cheshire)
Martin Zhang (Lower Sixth, Grenville)
Orsino Gollance (Third Form, Chatham)
Archie Charles (Fifth Form, Cobham)
Owen Fletcher (Lower Sixth, Winton)
Henry Williams (Lower Sixth, Grafton)
Archie MacGowan (Lower Sixth, Cobham)
Greta Brogden, Alice Fell
& Willa Bailey (all Fifth Form, Queen's)



DTE



What a memorable day it was for Stowe as our talented Stoics excelled at the Rotary Technology Tournament on Thursday 28 November, claiming victory in both the Intermediate and Advanced categories!

Facing fierce competition from some of the top schools in the country, including Eton and St Edward's, our pupils demonstrated remarkable creativity, determination, and teamwork to solve the 'Crossing the River' challenge.

Two teams made the journey to St Edward's, Oxford; one who would compete in the 'Intermediate Category' and consisted of Ned Curry (Fifth Form, Croft), William Jones (Fifth Form, Grenville), Hecco Harrison (Fifth Form, Temple) and Ralph Wessel (Fourth Form, Chatham); along with the Senior team made up of Lower Sixth pupils Harrison Newman (Croft), Thomas Hampson (Croft), Hamish Dewar (Chandos) and Bertie Scott (Chatham) entering the 'Advanced Category'.

The task was simple in concept yet intricate in execution. Pupils were required to design, build, and test a vehicle capable of traversing a suspended cable to transport a relief package across a 'crocodile-infested' river. The project not only required technical precision but also a keen understanding of engineering principles, and also teamwork.

Under time constraints, the pupils approached the challenge with enthusiasm and discipline. Guided by the competition's specifications, they designed vehicles equipped with drive systems powered by motors and pulleys, using careful calculations to balance speed and stability.

From constructing reversible circuits to devising ejection mechanisms for the relief package, their attention to detail was evident at every stage.

As JF Roxburgh once said, the goal of a Stoic education is to create individuals who would be "acceptable at a dance and invaluable in a shipwreck". Our Stoics embodied this spirit, remaining calm under pressure and producing innovative, functional solutions. Their ability to adapt to challenges, think critically and collaborate effectively was evident in their outstanding results.

In addition to technical success, the boys' portfolios were equally impressive. These detailed documents included design sketches, justifications for chosen methods and reflections on overcoming obstacles. Each portfolio showcased the Stoics' ability to combine engineering knowledge with strategic thinking - a key factor in their triumph.

The day concluded with an awards ceremony, where our teams celebrated their hard-earned victories. The Rotary Technology Tournament not only provided an exciting platform for creative problem-solving but also highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation - Change Maker skills that are indispensable in today's world.

We couldn't be prouder of our Stoics for their hard work, resilience and ingenuity. Congratulations to all involved, the future of engineering and design looks bright in their capable hands!

Click [here](#) to watch the highlight video.

Martin Quinn, Head of Design

Monologue Slam

On Wednesday 13 November, Stowe hosted pupils from Winchester House and Swanbourne House Schools for the third annual Monologue Slam. In what is now a tried and tested format, the first half of the programme was given over to a varied and entertaining selection of pieces from the prep schools, whilst the latter part of the evening saw work from Drama Scholars and other Senior pupils.

James Barnett (Fifth Form, Winton) opened the second half of the evening with a sensitive interpretation of 'Raleigh' from Journey's End. Some of the evening's work was edgy and almost confrontational: Alice Crack's (Fourth Form, Cheshire) 'Chatroom', Patrick Kingsman's (Fourth Form, Winton) 'That Face' and Bel Williams' (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) 'Tusk Tusk' all dealing with uncomfortable contemporary issues. Victoria Lee's (Fifth Form, Cheshire) scene from 'DNA' made lovely use of observational humour - there was more brittle humour in Tia Sualp's (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) 'Herding Cats', whilst a darker tone still was struck in Archie MacGowan's (Lower Sixth, Cobham) 'Whiplash' and Sofia Garvin's (Fourth Form, Cheshire) 'Agnes of God'. Annabel Lloyd's (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) portrayal of Rosie from 'Things I know To Be True' took us on one of the more complex emotional journeys of the evening, effectively balancing humour and pathos.

Shakespeare was well represented on the programme, with Daria Kulbayeva (Upper Sixth, West) and Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) demonstrating good comic timing in an extract from 'As You Like It', Tomisin Ibitoye (Lower Sixth, Chandos) offering a powerful rendition of 'Othello', and Ed Mercer (Upper Sixth, Grafton) closing the evening with a technically adept and wholly engaging interpretation of 'Henry V'. Thanks to everyone who participated and supported the performers - we eagerly anticipate the next slam!

Simon Miller, Director of Drama



Carols at Stowe

On Monday 9 December, more than 700 people gathered for Carols at Stowe, a traditional service of lessons and carols held in the Stowe Chapel. Carols at Stowe has grown to involve everyone from across our Stowe community.

The congregation included teaching and support staff, parents and governors from schools in the Stowe Group (Stowe, Swanbourne House and Winchester House), as well as Old Stoics, National Trust volunteers, friends and family, and members of the public for whom Stowe is a special place. It was lovely to gather together to sing favourite carols and hear traditional Christmas readings from Scripture.

Guests enjoyed mulled wine and minced pies in the Chapel before the 110 singers from the four choirs (one from each School, plus the Stowe Choral Society) took their place at the front of the Chapel. As is traditional, soloists from each prep school combined to perform the haunting first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Between the congregational carols and scripture readings delivered by pupils and the Heads of each School, each choir performed a choral item. The congregational carols were sung with gusto, with the backing of the Stowe Chapel organ in full flight.

This year's Christmas message focused on the incarnation of Jesus, which is described in our readings and carols as the true light breaking into our dark world. The lights on the Christmas tree and candles adorning the Chapel pillars provided an appropriate visual illustration.

The Christmas story is one of good news and great joy for all people. Carols at Stowe provided a wonderful occasion for all to gather and celebrate this together. The smiling faces of all who filed out of the chapel were testament to the hard work of the Choral Directors (Emma Bryden, Jonathan Kingston and Beth Hodgson from Stowe, Matt Phillips from Swanbourne House and Vivienne Williams from Winchester House), and the great performances by the choirs.

Rev James Righetti, Stowe Chaplain

THE *Stowe*
GROUP





HOCKEY

OLYMPIAN VISIT

The girls' first eleven hockey team had the privilege of being coached by Olympic Bronze medallist, Sarah Jones. Sarah played hockey for both Wales and Great Britain, managing to accumulate nearly a century of caps for Wales. Her team GB debut came in 2018, and she then went on to play a key part in helping team GB take the Bronze medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Sarah came to Stowe to coach our team through an attacking session. The main focus of the session was first touch. We started with a drill that worked on cushioning the ball to then set ourselves up for a better shot on goal. The girls and I found this drill extremely helpful, as it helped us to work on our first touch in a game like situation. Sarah added shooting into the drill to allow us to picture ourselves performing this skill in a game. We then progressed on to a drill with multiple shooting stations inside and around the D. This drill was one of the highlights of the session as we all got to shoot at Mr Scott who was in goal!

As a team we loved being coached by Sarah - her passion for the game and her love for hockey really shone through when she was explaining the drills to us. She kept the session fun and light-hearted while also teaching us vital skills for hockey. We also found it extremely interesting to hear about her experiences playing for GB and Wales, and her pathway into both National teams. We all felt extremely lucky and inspired to have Sarah Jones coach us for a session and would love for her to return to Stowe.

Ari Hay (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Rainbow Laces

Rainbow Laces - a brilliant way to show your support for LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport.

Wearing rainbow laces is one of the most impactful and immediate ways you can show your support for LGBTQ+ people in sport. Sport should be safe and welcoming for everyone. Rainbow Laces is run by the charity Stonewall, who started the initiative back in 2013. Since then, over a million people have laced up in support of LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport, fitness and physical activity.

On Thursday 28 November the Stowe sport 1st teams were lucky to have a presentation from Olympic Bronze medal winner Sarah Jones. Sarah is a Welsh International hockey player who plays as a mid-fielder for Wales and Great Britain.

Sarah spoke about the importance of belonging in sport and emphasised the significance of teamwork and understanding, ensuring that every athlete feels welcome no matter what their identity. She shared personal stories, including that she didn't participate in any sport for three years as she felt uncomfortable being a lesbian in sport, but how she has now raised awareness for LGBTQ+ athletes. Sarah encouraged the pupils to write down everything that defines them. For her, this list includes "being a daughter, tea drinker, owner of a Vizsla dog and being gay".

Not only did we take away valuable advice, but also a pair of rainbow laces, which were worn by the first teams during their Saturday fixtures. You can purchase a pair [here](#).

Alessia Capella (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) & George Turner (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Heads of School & EDI Prefects





FASHION SHOW



The Street Child Committee worked extremely hard in preparation for the much-anticipated Street Child Fashion Show. Held on Saturday 7 December, 2024, the event was the result of a careful six months of planning and collaboration, involving countless individuals who made the evening a success.



Special thanks go to Mr Elwell for supervising and over-seeing the committee and Emily Echezarreta Aurrecoechea (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) with her help on organising a talented team of make-up artists as well as inviting the inspiring designer Josh Birch-Jones to display his designs. Sophie Cecil's (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) impressive organisational skills ensured that the fashion show lived up to its grand expectations, delivering a memorable experience for all involved.

The event not only brought the Stowe community together (whether through Stoics modelling, photographers capturing the action, or committee members helping behind the scenes) but also raised essential funds for a cause that will have a lasting impact. Proceeds from the fashion show will support EFACT (Education for Every Child Today), a programme dedicated to providing children in Nigeria with the opportunity for education and a safe, supportive learning environment.

Alessia Capella (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)





The Community Christmas Party A Heart-warming Success

The Community Christmas Party was once again held in the glorious State Dining Room. The party has grown in popularity and members of our local elderly community add it to their diary's weeks in advance. We were delighted to have 140 guests along with their families and carers join us for the party this year.

The party takes place during an 'in-weekend' when almost all pupils are on site. The atmosphere was lively from the start; Stoics have come to enjoy the opportunity to contribute to the local community and to serve our guests as part of the Service@Stowe programme, so it was no surprise that we had more than 70 volunteers involved with the event. The State rooms had to be cleared, and the tables rearranged and decorated, all within a short time following breakfast. Special thanks must go to House Staff for their assistance - the Stoics rose to the challenge with energy and enthusiasm, also working alongside Wioletta and her catering team, to add festive tablecloths, Christmas crackers, bingo cards, raffle tickets and decorations. The hard work of this group truly brought the festive spirit to life.

Outside, Security Staff, Mr Jones and Mr Sharp were directing and keeping control of multiple cars and drivers, with the assistance of intrepid Stoics, all of whom braved the rain and wind, helping all our visitors into the Mansion. Many of our guests require the use of a lift, so another team of volunteers, under the direction of Visitor Experience Manager, Sadie Bull, worked efficiently to get them through Plug Street and upstairs via the lift.

Once our guests had arrived, they were welcomed into the Music Room where they were served tea and biscuits before heading to the Dining Room. This soon filled up, with every

one of our 15 large tables occupied, creating a buzzing atmosphere full of joy and excitement. The event began with a warm welcome from Rev Righetti, followed by Christmas carols. The singers were accompanied by Jonathan Kingston on piano, and both our guests and pupils joined in with great gusto, filling the room with festive cheer.

Next came the much-anticipated Afternoon Tea, served by a team of Stoics who were professional and full of energy, under the expert guidance of the Holroyd Howe team. The guests enjoyed a delicious spread, with every morsel disappearing in no time! Following this, it was time for bingo. Dr Wallersteiner kindly agreed to call the numbers, keeping everyone entertained with his amusing and somewhat unconventional calls.

Next up was the raffle, with Stoic Olivia Hillier (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) taking the lead in drawing the tickets, supported by an army of runners who ensured the prizes were delivered to the lucky Winners.

To finish the day, Father Christmas (Dr Webber) entered the room with a burst of energy, ringing his bell and distributing gifts to all our guests, ably supported by a team of Stoic elves. The afternoon concluded with a rendition of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' creating a truly cheerful finale.

It is important to acknowledge that every single volunteer played an integral part in making the event such a success. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by all the pupils, with excellent guidance from Staff, some of whom kindly gave up their Sunday, was truly inspiring and we have already received heartfelt letters of thanks from our guests.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



Visiting Primary Schools

Every Thursday, three groups of Sixth Form pupils make their way to primary schools across Buckingham to help young learners improve their literacy and maths skills. This initiative involves three dedicated groups of Stoics volunteering their time to work closely with primary pupils, fostering both academic growth and confidence.

The programme, which has been running throughout the term, pairs Sixth Formers with pupils in need of extra support. Activities include guided reading, helping children tackle tricky maths problems, and providing one-on-one attention that enhances understanding.

For the Stowe pupils, the programme is a chance to give back to the local community and develop valuable leadership and mentoring skills. One Sixth Former described the experience as "hugely rewarding," adding, "It's amazing to see how much the children improve with just a little extra help."

The initiative continues to strengthen ties between Stowe and its Buckinghamshire neighbours, proving that teamwork across age groups can yield positive results.

Will Freeman, Head of Business

Pupil Perspective: For the past term, a group of pupils have been busy visiting local Buckingham Primary schools on a weekly basis. This activity has been a rewarding aspect of our school's engagement within our local community. We work with the pupils in a multitude of ways through improving their English and maths skills. The Stowe pupils who visit Lace Hill Primary School focus on developing the children's reading abilities. By working with the same Year Groups, we have found that we have been able to form a strong relationship with the children, and therefore can successfully monitor their improvement from the readings logs which are kept. We have gained an understanding of the benefits of being a positive role model, especially to those younger than us, and the responsibilities that come with this. This activity ensures that all pupils get one on one attention that is not always received in a classroom environment. We feel that since spending time with the primary school pupils their confidence has grown, for us, this is the most rewarding aspect of this activity.

**Isabella Fuller &
Amélie Chue Nevertton
(both Upper Sixth, Cheshire)**



Skiing

Stowe skiing has been in full swing this year, with more Stoics than ever learning to race, growing in confidence on the slopes.

Our mixed teams competed this term in the English Schools' Ski Association (ESSKIA) British Championships first in Welwyn on Sunday 22 September and then in Norwich on 12-13 October. Against fierce competition, our A team, consisting of Brooks Stevens (Lower Sixth, Walpole), James Wilson (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Lucia Candal O'Flanagan and Tabby Noton (both Lower Sixth, West) secured a place at the British Finals in Llandudno, Wales, on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November.

In the midst of Storm Burt, on the icy Welsh coast, our Stoics battled tooth and nail against the very best teams in the country, and came away with Fourth place, just missing out on the podium.

Meanwhile, our girls A team comprising of Martha Bond (Upper Sixth, West), Anastasia Sidorova (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Clover Longsdon (Fourth Form, Queen's) competed at the British Schoolgirls' Indoor Races in Milton Keynes, and again secured strong positions on the leaderboard, all the more impressive given that it was the first time competitively racing for some.

Looking ahead, Stowe skiing prepares to compete at the British Schoolboys' International Races in Wengen, Switzerland and the British Schoolgirls' International Races in Flaine, France. With a strong history of Gold medals, cups and podium positions behind us, our Stoics are gearing up for what should be a fantastic pair of competitions. Next term will also see the start of our new Snowboard Development Programme at Stowe, so the future is bright for snow sports.

Massive thanks go out to Gwilym Jones, Max Vendrig and Paul Prouse, all of whom have given a tremendous amount of time and effort in helping to ensure that our Stoics have access to every opportunity while here.

James Bonomi, Head of Skiing



ROWING

In the second half of term, the Stowe rowing team have had two memorable days, one at the Cambridge Winter Head on Saturday 9 November, and the other a match with Oundle and Winchester House Schools here at Stowe on Saturday 16 November.

At Cambridge the girls' eight were precise and technical, beating about 60 crews. The boys' J16 quad, led by Ben Cousins (Fifth Form, Cobham) was our fastest boat of the day, beating 127 crews. Our boys' J15 quad, included new-comers, Caspar Westley-Smith (Third Form, Chatham) and Chris Hamblett (Third Form, Croft). First time out they beat five eights from Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, St George's Hospital, Royal Free and University College Medical School. In the afternoon the boys raced in eights, beating 100 crews. Our girls' J16 quad was our fastest girls' boat of the day.

A great day was had by all on the River Cam, mixing with all the Cambridge College crews. It was super to see so many parents, and again Mark and Amina Lewis did us proud, with some amazing drone footage, which you can see on [YouTube](#).

The following weekend Stowe and Winchester House hosted Oundle on the Eleven Acre Lake. Oundle brought a large team and when they won the first few races, things were starting to look a little ominous. Our experienced J16 rowers then got started, and both our boys' and girls' beat their opponents convincingly, both in quads and doubles, against the strongest Oundle crews. The Winchester House Year 7 and 8 boys' and girls' teams, who we have taught at Stowe, put up brave fights. Oundle's Third and Fourth Form boys and

girls were all successful however, so the overall result was nine wins for Oundle, five for Stowe and one for Winchester House.

The most encouraging win for Stowe was the Sixth Form quad of Upper Sixth girls Alice Watson (Nugent), India Gordon (Nugent), Izzy Hunponu-Wusu (Stanhope) and Lower Sixth Coco Bartoszewski (Nugent). Most of these girls did not row in their first three years at Stowe, but have been working really hard to catch up. Alice and India have been training up to nine sessions per week and they won a hard-fought race against a good Oundle crew. Steering a racing coxless quad is a daunting and skilled task. Coco was superb, and Ari Lewis (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Bella Bawden (Fifth Form, Stanhope) did the same for their crews.

We are very grateful to Daniel Janes (Oundle Rowing Coach) and his coaches and the Winchester House parents for bringing their teams to Stowe. We are looking forwards to a re-match next term.

Earlier in the term Ted Bainbridge (Walpole 69), gave our rowers a talk about scholarship opportunities on USA university rowing programmes. He picked out the University of Iowa Women's Programme, and this week four of our girls met the coaching team from Iowa, who were on a flying visit to the UK. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Stoics who have a surprising amount to offer. In Iowa the high school pupils do little or no rowing, and certainly no Henley Royal Regatta!

Good luck to our rowers, who are joining Gillian Lindsay's training days at Dorney during the Christmas break.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing





Conservation@Stowe

This term the Nature Conservation Group have worked on various projects within Stowe and the National Trust. We have helped construct dead hedges near the Oxford Water bridge. These are upright structures made of woody cuttings woven between vertical stakes. The stakes are typically sturdier branches cut from trees or shrubs. These dead hedges provide a tangled maze and serve as perfect hideaways for birds, along with other animals and insects.

In addition to building dead hedges, we also worked on the ha-ha near Bell's Gate. Inside the ha-ha, there were many small to medium saplings growing near the stone wall, which could potentially damage the structure of the wall. The Stoics focused on removing the saplings to minimise the damage to the surrounding walls.

Other activities included identifying trees around the grounds, as well as learning how and where to place wildlife camera traps. One of the most exciting findings of this half term was revealing the footage of the otters captured by one of the cameras at the small island on the Eleven Acre Lake.

Once again, we are looking forward to the end of Winter and the start of Spring, and we can't wait to see what the next activities will bring.

Julio Morales-Shearer, Conservation@Stowe



An Evening with Kafka

To commemorate the centenary of Franz Kafka's death, Ian Ellison, a post-doctorate researcher from the University of Oxford, came to Stowe on the Thursday 21 November to give a talk on this enigmatic writer and his relevance as a writer in the 21st Century.

Ian's presentation was not only educational but also deeply engaging, capturing the attention of all attendees. His ability to weave together Kafka's complex themes of alienation, existentialism and absurdity resonated with the Stoics, prompting lively discussions and reflections among pupils after the talk.

Ian's passion for Kafka's literature was evident, as he invited pupils to explore the meaning of short stories such as 'A Little Fable' and ignited a new-found enthusiasm for reading among those who attended; inspiring pupils to delve deeper into literature and broaden their understanding of this fascinating writer.

Ian followed his talk by a translation workshop for Germanists, bringing to life 'Odradek', one of Kafka's many creations, in a unique feat of creativity and language prowess. We feel incredibly lucky to have had such a wonderful speaker whose infectious passion for Franz Kafka will leave a lasting impression on us.

Alice Tearle, Faculty Chair for Languages



CCF

RAF Section: Synthetic flight

This term has seen the successful launch of a new RAF afternoon activity, Synthetic Flight Training.

Cadets Humphrey Burge (Fourth Form, Grafton), Finley Cummins (Fourth Form, Grenville) and Nicolas Bacho (Fifth Form, Grenville) have followed a progressive programme of training, tracked with their own logbooks, and have now completed their initial training on a Cessna 152. This involved basic handling, take-off and landing, Visual Flight Rules (VFR) navigation and - more challengingly - Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) navigation.

Next term, we will additionally replicate the teaching and understanding required for a Private Pilots' Licence (PPL), leading to a subsequent in-house IFR rating.

We are very grateful to our CCF predecessors who worked hard to secure MOD funding for the flight simulator - it is an astonishing piece of kit that will hopefully inspire and support Cadets for years to come.

Pilot Officer Imogen Adkins, CCF RAF





Stowe Science Review

One of the flagships of the Science Department is the Stowe Science Review (SSR). A group of interested scientists, mathematicians and engineers amongst others, get together to produce and publish a magazine, to showcase the wonderful scientific things happening at Stowe. This is an activity solely run by pupils, and the committee aims to produce a magazine that's inspiring to like-minded Stoics to develop an interest towards science.

It has been my pleasure to relaunch the SSR this year. The committee is full of very enthusiastic Stoics, who were all keen to go above and beyond their curriculum. As a result, we have managed to produce the largest issue of the SSR yet: with 14 articles over 28 pages. Topics range from the relationship between mathematics and chemistry, to the Psychology behind human behaviours. With the help of our amazing page designer Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), the first issue has been successfully put together in time, to meet our goal of publishing a minimum of three issues this year.

We plan to distribute both hard and digital copies of our magazines to the Stowe community and to its feeder prep schools. A special thank you to Head of Science, James Tearle, the Group Director of Marketing and Admissions, Tori Roddy, and to the General Office for printing the hard copies.

The latest issue can be downloaded [here](#).

**Gilbert Xu (Upper Sixth, Chandos),
Senior Editor of Stowe Science Review**



ROBOTICS

As part of the International VEX Robotics Competition on Wednesday 27 November, Stowe played host to 24 Robotics teams competing for qualification places to the National Finals. We had four Stoic teams involved from the Third Form to the Sixth Form. While the day did not go our way for most, the Third Form team did make it into a Quarter Final match before sadly being eliminated, and our Fifth Form team made the Final, which they narrowly lost 19-24. The Fifth Form team have already won a place at the National Finals from a previous tournament win this year.

The Fifth Form team also won the Design Award for the best Engineering Logbook and judges' interview. Stowe will play host to a second regional event in January and we will be attending a few more competitions leading up to the National Finals at the end of February in the hopes of qualifying more of our teams.

Paul Thompson, MIC Robotics

The Cricketer

We are delighted to be included in The Cricketer's Schools Guide 2025 as one of the Top 100 schools for cricket in the UK.

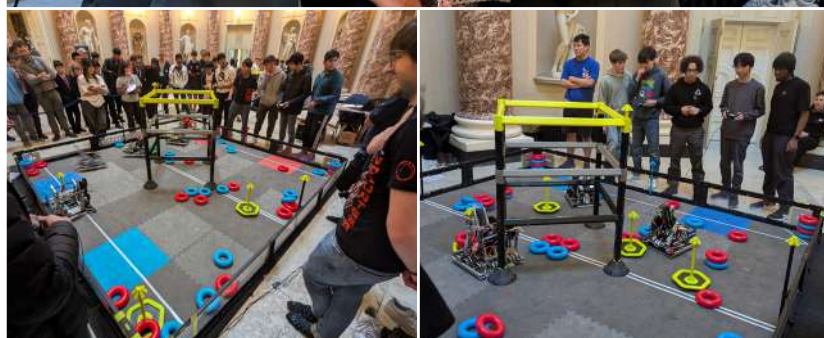
This year's guide is a special tenth anniversary edition and features the top 100 senior, top 50 prep/junior, top 20 all-girls schools for cricket and for the first time, the top 25 state schools.



The roll call of schools emerged from a large number of entrants who were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

A huge thanks to our Coaches for the hard work they put into our year-round cricket programme, as well as to our Ground Staff team for their hard work in producing top quality surfaces for the pupils to train and practice on.

James Knott, Director of Cricket





OS Cricket Success

Congratulations to Old Stoics Aadi Sharma (Winton 24) and Ewan Hughes Rowlands (Walpole 23), who have both achieved remarkable milestones in their cricketing careers. Aadi and Ewan have been selected for Loughborough UCCE and Durham UCCE respectively, marking an impressive start to their university journeys.

Aadi's success follows his recent signing with Northants, meanwhile Ewan, who took a gap year, spent his Summer playing against county second teams for the London Schools Academy.

Their achievements highlight their exceptional talent and hard work, setting a promising tone for their future endeavours.

Well done, Aadi and Ewan!

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager



RUGBY

Stowe rugby had a good day on Saturday 16 November as we took on Oundle in a block of nine matches. Stowe won five of the matches which included all the A team games. The highlight must be the stunning 1st XV result, where Stowe scored 66 points against Oundle away from home. Well done to all the players and particularly to Giovanni Way (Upper Sixth, Chatham) who scored a hat-trick. Another notable victory was the Junior Colts A team 33-0 victory over Moulton School in the Cup competition on Wednesday 13 November.

The Colts A team beat Bromsgrove in the Cup match on Wednesday 27 November, and will be continuing their National Cup campaign next term. Well done to this outstanding group of players, and to Captain Seb Dare (Fifth Form, Grafton), and coaches Paul Calland and Paddy Dias. Stowe had the better of Uppingham in the block of fixtures on Saturday 30 November with seven wins to five. The teams bringing home victories were the 2nds, the 4ths (who finished their final match signing 'Jerusalem' whilst their kicker went for the conversion!) and also the U16A, U16B, U14C and U16Ds, with a draw for the U14As.

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby

Racquets

Stowe Tennis Shines in the LTA Winter Youth League Series

The Stowe Tennis team is making waves this season in the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Winter Youth League Series. Competing against some of the region's top young talents, our players have displayed exceptional skill, determination and sportsmanship. **Match Highlights:**

Standout Performer: Gustav Franzén (Fifth Form, Cobham) is unbeaten in both his singles and doubles matches. He has been involved in some thrilling rallies and strategic gameplay, earning victories and valuable points for the team.

Team Spirit: The camaraderie among players was evident, as they supported each other through every match.

Current Standing: Stowe won against John Hampden Grammar 8-4 and then narrowly lost a deciding match tie breaker 6-7 to Aylesbury Grammar School. A win in the final match came against RGS High Wycombe, 4-2.

What's Next?

The team will now have to wait until the outcome of the final match to see if they finish top of the group and progress to the knockout stages in January. Training sessions are focused on refining tactics and boosting confidence for the high stake matches ahead.



Padel

A weekly padel training session will be held during the Lent Term. Padel is on the rise, and we don't want Stoics to miss out on this exciting racquet sport.

Support Stowe Tennis @stoweschool_racquets

Stay tuned to Instagram for match updates and highlights, and don't forget to cheer on our players as they continue their journey in the LTA Winter Youth League Series.

Daniel Voyce, Head of Racquets

OLD STOICS



Atlantic Rowing Challenge

On Thursday 12 December, Imy O'Brien (Nugent 13) and the team who make up Force Atlantic will set off on a historic journey to row across the Atlantic Ocean. This remarkable endeavour marks the first time an all-female team from the Army, and potentially the entire military, has attempted such a feat.

The team's campaign is driven by three core aims: PROMOTE, INSPIRE, BELONG. They are dedicated to raising awareness and funds for The Girls Network, a charity committed to empowering young women from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Supporters can follow their journey on Instagram and can sponsor the team through their [just giving page](#) where every contribution helps support The Girls Network and its mission to create a future where all girls can thrive.

We wish Imy and team Force Atlantic every success.

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager



Newcastle Recent Leavers Drinks and Edinburgh Pub Night

On Wednesday 20 November over 40 Old Stoics gathered in Newcastle for an evening of drinks and food. The event was a perfect blend of laughter, reconnecting with old friends and making new connections. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing about their school days, sharing personal and university updates, alongside knowledge and advice for future years. The atmosphere was fun and vibrant, and we will certainly be back next year!

The following night, Thursday 21 November, saw the fun continue in Edinburgh with a lively pub night at The Wally Dug for all Old Stoics in the region. The event provided another fantastic opportunity to catch up, share stories and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and friendly setting. The pub was filled with the sounds of laughter and conversation, as old friends reconnected, and new friendships were formed.

It was great to see so many Old Stoics of all ages over the course of two days and truly witness the benefits of the Old Stoic Society.

We look forward to returning next year!

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager



Safeguarding at Stowe

'So you got naked online...' is a **resource** that helps and advises young people who may find themselves in a situation where they (or a friend) have put a sexting image or video online and have lost control over that content and who it is being shared with.

Whilst there is a lot of advice around preventing these situations in the first place, it is very important to recognise that this does happen and those affected really need support and guidance.

'So you got naked online' aims to do just that - it offers children, young people and parents' advice and provides strategies to support the issues resulting from sexting incidents.

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



Hockey

Senior & U16 Boys' Hockey Tour Antwerp 28 - 31 October 2024

On Monday 28 October, the boys met in the early hours to depart for Belgium for the Senior and U16 Hockey tour. Despite the 3.45am departure, emotions and moods were high as we travelled by coach and ferry to Antwerpen, finally arriving at 2pm.

The first fixture was against HC Royal Victory (HCRV), and although the boys had had a long day of travel they were super keen to play their first match. The U16 team had a tough time against the quality Belgium opposition, however Coach Dominic Blackmore-Beales reminded the boys that there were a lot of positive takeaways especially considering the match was played after a long day of travel. Man of the Match: David Richards (Fourth Form, Winton).

The Senior side lost 5-1 to a great outfit, however the boys set a good base to work from for the rest of tour. After the matches, the teams enjoyed a sit-down meal in the club's pavilion with some awards presented by HCRV's Chairman. An awesome end, in a picturesque setting with top-level hockey being played, to the first day of tour.

The boys enjoyed a good night's rest and after breakfast were fueled for another big day of hockey ahead. A training session in the morning, at the world class facilities of one of the largest and most successful European Hockey clubs, the boys worked hard in slightly drizzly and overcast weather; perfect conditions for a high paced session.

An afternoon in Mechelen was spent enjoying time around the town, getting some much-needed lunch on board and preparing ourselves for the evening matches. The U16 boys learnt from their previous game and enjoyed scoring early on against KMTCH Mechelen. Whilst Mechelen came out on top in the end, the boys felt there was growth from their previous games and they enjoyed building from their positive training session.

The Senior boys played on a muddy turf, with a cow patch as the backdrop. They started well, but unfortunately lacked structure at the back and leaked a few soft goals. End score: 6-1 loss. Not their best performance but a Harvey Hughes (Lower Sixth, Grafton) goal kept spirits high! The boys enjoyed another great sit-down meal in Mechelen's clubhouse where a few scarfs were shared and many more memories were made.

On Day 3 we drove to KHC Dragons, for our second training session of the tour. Despite some tired legs, things were starting to click for the boys;



simple fundamentals were the main takeaways. After walking around Antwerp town for lunch, and a few Belgium waffles later, the boys were eager for their final game of tour - keen to end on a high.

The U16 boys saved their best performance for last with a well-deserved 1-1 draw against the Dragons! Top class hockey was played and real character shown by the boys. The Senior side has the privilege of playing on the 1st team pitch in front of the prestigious Dragons clubhouse. Whilst we scored early on through a Beltran Ortega Goldaracena (Upper Sixth, Grafton) goal, unfortunately the game ended 4-1.

Considering the quality of our opposition, the lads really grew throughout tour and were up for the challenge. We all enjoyed our end of tour dinner at the club with coaches presentations. Ben Cook (Fifth Form, Chatham) and David Richards received players of tour for the U16s. Zeb Hodgson (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Freddie Youngman Sullivan (Fifth Form, Grafton) impressed the Senior side.

The lads will cherish the memories, laughs and growth they all made, for years to come, and we arrived back at Stowe full of energy and eager for the Lent Term and boy's hockey. Many thanks to Dominic Blackmore-Beales and Ben Scott for overseeing the tour, but most of all, thanks to the lads for being awesome boys and making the trip really enjoyable. Onwards and upwards for Stowe boys' hockey!

Josh Honey, Graduate Sports Coach



BIG BOAT SAILING TRIP

The dates for the big boat sailing trip are confirmed as Monday 31 March - Monday 5 April, which is during the Easter break. During this six-day voyage on a 72ft yacht from Southampton, we will cruise along the South Coast and may even cross the Channel to visit Alderney if the weather is suitable.

This trip is open to any pupil, regardless of previous sailing experience - we are simply looking for pupils who are up for a challenge and want to be fully involved in sailing a boat throughout the trip.

Over the five days, the crew will be able to work towards achieving their Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Competent Crew Certificate. A strong performance on this trip also opens the opportunity to sail in the tall ships race with the sailing charity hosting us for this trip.

The cost of the trip will be £500 and covers transport to and from School, plus all meals whilst on the boat. Deadline for expressions of interest is Friday 10 January and payment is required by the end of Michaelmas Term to secure the place.

Please do **contact me** if you have any questions regarding the trip and note that places are limited to 12 pupils, so please act swiftly to register interest in the place for your child.

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing



From Stowe to the LSE: Adaora's Journey into Law

In an interview with Concord and Victory and the Law Society, Adaora Okoye (West 23) shared her experiences transitioning from Stowe to her second year of studying Law at the prestigious London School of Economics (LSE).

Known for its rigorous academics and global student body, LSE ranks among the top ten universities worldwide for law (QS World Rankings 2024) and is currently ranked No. 1 as a university in the Times HE Rankings. Its graduates are highly sought after in both the corporate and public sectors.

Adaora provided an insightful glimpse into life at LSE, highlighting the dynamic teaching environment where many professors are leading experts, who author the very textbooks they teach. She shared how her favourite module, 'Feminist Legal Theory', allows her to delve into contemporary legal issues with a critical lens.

Reflecting on her time at Stowe, she credited her involvement in extracurriculars such as the Law Society and her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on technology and law for shaping a standout university application. One of Adaora's key takeaways for aspiring law students is the importance of demonstrating genuine intellectual curiosity. She emphasised how engaging with advanced concepts outside the curriculum, combined with practical experiences such as internships, can create a compelling application.

While the jump in workload from school to university was significant, Adaora praised the vibrant LSE community, filled with driven and intellectually curious peers, for keeping her motivated. The discussion also covered practical advice for succeeding in law applications, such as starting early with preparation for the Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) and leveraging resources like YouTube for free practice materials. Adaora candidly discussed her challenges and triumphs, showing that resilience and strategic effort are crucial to navigating the academic and social opportunities at a world-class institution like LSE.

Thank you to Tia Sualp and Emilia Combastet (both Fifth Form, Lyttelton) for leading the interview.

To watch the interview, click [here](#).

Gordon West, Head of Futures

Law Society Hosts Mock Trial



The Stowe Law Society held its second mock trial of the year, Regina v James Matthews, bringing the courtroom to life once again. The case revolved around James Matthews, accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend, with the prosecution building their argument on damning CCTV evidence and a motive of jealousy.

We were honoured to have Professor James Slater join us as the foreperson for the jury, providing valuable feedback on how we could have developed our case.

The prosecution team, led by Romayo Seaton (Upper Sixth, Cobham) with Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) as Junior Prosecutor, presented a strong case. Their use of evidence and persuasive arguments captured the attention of the jury. Meanwhile, the defence team, led by Daria Kulbayeva (Upper Sixth, West) with Neve Ntumba (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) as Junior Defence, worked tirelessly to challenge the prosecution's claims. They questioned the reliability of the CCTV footage and emphasized the lack of concrete evidence tying Matthews to the crime.

After careful consideration, the jury delivered a guilty verdict, handing victory to the prosecution. The trial was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their advocacy skills and experience the complexities of legal practice in a realistic setting.

Looking ahead, the Law Society is planning another mock trial in February, with an external professional joining to enrich the experience further. These events demonstrate the Society's commitment to fostering interest in the legal profession and providing hands-on learning opportunities.

Romayo Seaton, Head of Stowe Law Society



Hodder Hazards Conference

On Wednesday 4 December, the Upper Sixth Geography pupils travelled to The Shaftesbury Theatre in London for a fantastic day of lectures on tectonic hazards. This was an amazing opportunity for Stoics to hear from leading academics and to expand their knowledge of contemporary case studies from around the world.

The day began with a fascinating discussion of how two earthquakes with similar physical characteristics can have dramatically different impacts, before a lively analysis of whether tsunamis are the most deadly tectonic hazard. After exploring Iceland's volcanic past and the unravelling impacts of current eruptions, pupils were able to head into the local area for lunch. A final session on the role of earthquakes in predicting and monitoring volcanic hazards was an enriching end to the day.

Becky Stanworth, Head of Geography



Badminton

On Saturday 16 November in the five matches played against Oundle, there were victories for the boys' 1st (7-2) and the boys' 2nd (5-4) teams, but losses for the girls' 1st and 2nd teams and the boys' 3rd team matches. The boys continued their impressive form against Radley on Thursday 21 November with wins for the 1st (7-2) and the 2nd teams (9-0).

In their first mixed doubles match of the season on Thursday 28 November the 1st team had a very enjoyable match against The Royal Latin, winning a very close encounter 9-7.

In the matches against Uppingham on Saturday 30 November the boys' 1st team won 6-3 to make it four wins in succession. Having only lost one match all season the boys' 2nd team dominated once again to win 8-1. Our boys' U16 showed their strength in depth with an impressive 9-0 win. Our ever-improving girls' teams had two nail-biting matches where the honours were shared with the girls' 1st team losing 5-4 and the girls' 2nd team winning 5-4.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton



LACROSSE

Tatiana Riviere (Lower Sixth, Nugent) was named 'Player of the Day' for the Stowe A team as they took on Heathfield, St Albans and Haileybury during a tournament at Heathfield on Saturday 16 November. Stowe won against Haileybury and the 2nd team had a solid day with one win and two draws, ending the tournament in Fourth Place.

Our 2nd team continued their excellent season with their seventh win in nine games, away at Haileybury on Saturday 30 November. The 1st team had a narrow loss, but they did beat the Radley boys' team just before the November Exeat.

Three Stoics travelled to Surrey Sports Park to trial for the South East counties - good luck to Martha Bond (Upper Sixth, West), Bea Pinner (Fourth Form, Stanhope), and Sofia Comino (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) who now await the selection information.

Pete Shepherd, Head of Lacrosse



BASKETBALL

Having lost 17-47 earlier in the term, a full strength U16 team stunned Abingdon to win the return match 52-49 on Thursday 14 November. Abingdon led 14-10 after the first quarter and 26-20 at half time. Stowe had a strong third quarter with just one point the deficit at the end and the team continued to stamp its authority on the game, eventually running out 52-49 winners. Top scorers were Will Catley (Fifth Form, Chatham) 20 points, Tristan Prabaharan (Fifth Form, Winton) 14 points, and Ziggy Shannon (Fifth Form, Walpole) 9 points.

On Saturday 16 November the 2nd team travelled to Oundle and gained a comfortable win.

Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball

HOCKEY

The U16 boys' indoor squad had a good day at the regional rounds at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth on Thursday 14 November.

The U15As had a draw against Oundle on Saturday 16 November, and well done to the U14As who won 2-1.

Stowe won the block against Uppingham on Saturday 30 November with seven wins in total. Other teams enjoying victories were the Senior 2nds, 3rds, U15As, U15Bs, U14Bs and the U14Cs.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Stowe Chapel Choir and Choral Society at Smith Square, London

A very healthy chorus of Stoics, parents, colleagues, Old Stoics and friends of the School headed to St John's Smith Square, a concert hall of international reputation, in order to deliver a wonderfully dramatic and colourful choral programme to a large and appreciative audience on Sunday 17 November.

Two of Handel's Coronation Anthems featured, including 'Zadok the Priest', followed by the 'Te Deum of Charles Villiers Stanford'. Karl Jenkins' justifiably famous 'Armed Man, A Mass for Peace' accompanied by organ, brass and percussion was the centrepiece. Moments of prayerfulness, triumph, anguish and peace were conveyed wonderfully by some 130 singers who graced the stage with great presence and conviction.

The Stowe Group Choral Society project features in the Michaelmas Term and all singers, irrespective of previous experience, are warmly welcomed - please **get in touch** if you are interested.

My thanks to all involved for their commitment, musicianship and good humour, as well as to Jane Horwood and Emma Simkins for their considerable steer in masterminding the logistics.

Jonathan Kingston, Choral Director



Brass Band Primary School Visit

As preparations for the festive season began in Northamptonshire, a group of Stoics made their way to Boughton Primary School for their Christmas Fayre on Friday 29 November. Bringing joy and holiday spirit through music, our talented Stoics who form the brass band performed a variety of beloved Christmas carols, captivating an audience of eager young learners. The event was a heart-warming example of Stowe's commitment to outreach and community engagement as part of our charitable status.

Our ensemble, featuring Dhilan Collin (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Isobel Cox (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Euan Davies (Fifth Form, Winton), Jonty Gordon (Upper Sixth, Croft), Jasper Hagger (Fourth Form, Walpole), and Annabel Hodgetts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), showcased their musical talents, and along with the conducting from Richard Lewis (Visiting Music Teacher), performed renditions of holiday classics, including 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Silent Night'. The delight on the faces of Boughton's pupils and the wider community were matched by their enthusiastic clapping and singing along.

In addition to the musical performance, our Design, Technology and Engineering Department offered a badge-making activity that proved immensely popular. Together, these efforts helped contribute towards an impressive £1,100 raised for the Boughton School Association, a registered charity dedicated to supporting the School.

This event was not just about music; it was about connection, celebration, and giving back to the local community. The Stoics' impeccable performances and engagement with the children were a testament to the values we hold dear at Stowe. Reflecting on the day, it is clear that initiatives like these are a vital component of our mission. They serve not only to enrich the lives of those we visit but also to provide our pupils with invaluable experiences that nurture their sense of service and leadership. As we look ahead to more opportunities like these, it is important to take pride in the small, meaningful ways we can bring joy to others, embodying the true spirit of Christmas. It was a pleasure to facilitate the event - thank you to all who participated and made this day a success!

Martin Quinn, Head of Design

Emily Garwood - Piano Recital

On Wednesday 20 November, Upper Sixth Music Scholar Emily Garwood (Cheshire) gave an evening recital, performing the programme for her forthcoming ATCL piano recital.

Emily gave a captivating performance of items by composers such as Scarlatti, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin and Poulenc, displaying both her technical mastery of the instrument and a mature understanding of the stylistic nuances of each piece.

We wish Emily every success for her diploma exam in the New Year.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music





Checkmate: The History and Mystique of Chess

In this captivating episode of the Concord and Victory Podcast, hosts Jack Dawson (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Poppy Wates (Lower Sixth, Queen's) are joined by Stowe's premier chess player Robert Layter (Upper Sixth, Chatham), for a deep dive into the rich world of chess. Together, they explore the game's ancient beginnings in India, its evolution over thousands of years, and its unique ability to reflect cultural and societal changes.

Robert provides fascinating insights into the mental demands of competitive chess, sharing how psychology, intuition and preparation come into play at the highest levels. He candidly discusses his personal journey with chess, the challenges of balancing his passion with School life, and his admiration for his own self-improvement as a motivator.

The conversation touches on modern chess trends, including the influence of 'The Queen's Gambit' on chess's resurgence, the role of technology in training, and even the controversies that have sparked global intrigue.

Whether you are new to chess, a casual player, or a devoted enthusiast, this episode offers a wealth of inspiration, strategy and reflections on the timeless nature of the game. And for anyone at Stowe, Robert throws down the gauntlet: join the Chess Club and take on the challenge! A special mention goes to Kasper Calvert (Fourth Form, Chandos) for his amazing technical support during the making of the podcast.

Listen to the podcast on [Spotify](#).

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Unlocking the Secrets to a Winning University Application

On Wednesday 27 November, Jack Dawson (Lower Sixth, Grafton) interviewed Rutchna Bawrie, an experienced Admissions Advisor from King's College London (KCL), who shared invaluable advice on navigating the path to higher education.

With KCL offering over 180 courses and receiving over 100,000 undergraduate applications annually, Rutchna highlighted the unique appeal of one of the UK's leading universities. She explored topics such as what makes KCL stand out, strategies for crafting a competitive university application, and why authenticity is essential in your personal statement.

A key takeaway from the conversation was Rutchna's stern warning against using AI tools when writing personal statements. She emphasised the importance of demonstrating your personal journey, and reflecting genuine passion and commitment. Rutchna also explained that UCAS employs advanced plagiarism scanners that can detect AI generated content, and submitting such work could result in your application being declined.

Rutchna's insights gave Jack, and our Concord and Victory readers, practical guidance, from early planning tips, to showcasing unique skills and experiences that resonate with admission teams. We are incredibly grateful to Rutchna for her time and expertise. As an exciting follow-up, she will be visiting Stowe in February for our Lower Sixth University Fair, offering pupils a chance to engage with her directly.

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

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



From Arabic Calligraphy to Norman Sicily - Ed Shawe-Taylor's Journey into Art History

We are excited to share an interview with Ed Shawe-Taylor, a DPhil student at the University of Oxford's Khalili Research Centre, whose passion for art history began with his artist mother and a transformative gap year spent travelling through Italy with gap year specialists, [Art History Abroad](#).

In a pre-lecture [interview](#), Frederica Hodges (Upper Sixth, Queen's) explored Ed's unique academic journey, which started with the advice of a legendary Stowe teacher, Mr Sheppe, steering him towards studying Arabic over History. Though he wishes he'd studied History of Art at A Level, Ed's gap year experience ignited his love for the subject as he encountered masterpieces from the Italian Renaissance, Medieval cathedrals and Baroque palaces.

Now deep into his doctoral studies, Ed's research, 'From Decree to Ubiquity: The Dissemination of Cursive Scripts During the Fatimid Period', focuses on the cultural exchange seen in Arabic calligraphy and its journey through history. His talk following the interview took us to Norman Sicily, where Roman, Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque influences interweave into a unique and captivating chapter of art history.

Concord & Victory Team



Old Stoic Merlin Hanbury-Tenison - Author, Actor & Environmental Advocate

On Thursday 28 November, Shaynna-Allen Obaze (Lower Sixth, West) interviewed the inspiring Old Stoic Merlin Hanbury-Tenison (Temple 03), Author, Actor and Environmental Advocate, to discuss his career and his extraordinary debut book, 'Our Oaken Bones'. Merlin shared a few chapters with Shaynna before the interview.

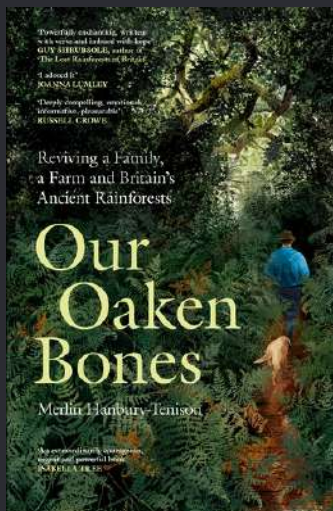
This powerful ecological memoir has captured hearts and minds, with glowing praise from notable figures like Joanna Lumley, Isabella Tree and Russell Crowe. A tale of healing, resilience, and the astonishing restorative power of nature, Merlin's story is both deeply personal and globally relevant.

Beyond his writing, Merlin's diverse career includes roles as a military advisor for major films (Rogue One, The Last Jedi), his stewardship of Cornwall's rainforests through the Thousand Year Trust, and his vision for connecting people with nature at Cabilla Cornwall.

'Our Oaken Bones' chronicles Merlin's journey from personal trauma to environmental advocacy, rooted in rediscovering one of the UK's last fragments of Atlantic temperate rainforest. It's a must-read for fans of 'The Salt Path' and 'The Lost Rainforests of Britain'. You can pre-order his book, which is due for release in March 2025.

Watch Shaynna's interview [here](#).

Dr Gordon West,
Head of Futures



A Global Perspective on Marketing Excellence

On Wednesday 27 November, the Concord and Victory team had the privilege of interviewing Mike Ferrier (Temple 74).

A former Regional Director at McCann

Erickson (1976–1996), Mike shared incredible insights from his distinguished career working with iconic global brands such as ESSO and Coca-Cola. McCann Erickson, one of the world's leading advertising agencies, is renowned for crafting innovative campaigns that have shaped the industry.

Our interviewers from the Lower Sixth Form, Imogen Reeves (West), Noah Cloete (Chatham) and Harry Dawes (Chatham), discussed Mike's career journey, his approach to differentiated marketing strategies, and his experience working with major corporate clients. With a career spanning 20 years across 17 countries and fluency in five languages, Mike is a true expert in navigating global markets and cultures.

Mike's reflections on building successful campaigns, working internationally, and embracing creativity were insightful and inspiring.

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

Concord & Victory Team



STOWE EVENTS



Stowe Events Win Industry Award

The Stowe Events Team entered The Wedding Industry Awards (TWIA) for their 2024 Stowe House Weddings and were shortlisted as Regional Finalists. TWIA bases its judging process from the wedding couples' reviews for their weddings.

As Stowe was shortlisted, the events team attended the South-Central Region Awards on Wednesday 27 November and won a 'Highly Commended Venue' award. The events team worked incredibly hard this wedding season and hope to achieve further accolades during 2025.

Leticia Curteis-Lateo, Event Co-ordinator

SQUASH

Our 1st team are quietly building a superb season of results, and they have now won all ten of their matches.

This includes winning four matches at the regional tournament, at Wycombe Squash Club on Friday 15 November, where they won all 45 individual games they played. This excellent performance takes them to the National Finals.

Congratulations to Captain Eitan O'Grady (Upper Sixth, Temple), Toby Sutcliffe (Fifth Form, Croft), Ronan Dhariwal-Mann (Upper Sixth, Temple), Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Krishnan Nair (Upper Sixth, Winton).

Dan Voyce, Head of Racquets

GOLF

We are happy to announce a rare 'ace' on the Stowe golf course - Ernest Ma (Upper Sixth, Temple) got a hole-in-one on the eighth hole on Saturday 30 November!

In other golf news, Tristan Dickinson (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Aroa Herran Berraondo (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) are competing at the highest level of competition for their age group, participating in competitions in Europe.

Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf



VYPR Independent Schools' Netball League

The U18 netball team recently had the opportunity to represent Stowe at the VYPR Independent Schools' League, held at the University of Worcester on Saturday 1 December. Competing against nine of the top school sides in the country, our team faced a challenging and exhilarating day of netball. With more than two hours of game play, the players showcased their skill, determination, and teamwork amidst a thoroughly competitive atmosphere.

The event was enhanced by the live streaming provided by NXTGEN Netball, allowing supporters to enjoy the matches from home. Notably, Mr Coote lent his voice to the commentary box, providing insight and excitement during one of Stowe's games.

Our team's performance was commendable, securing convincing victories against Tiverton NC, Oakham, and Gordon's. Although there were narrow defeats in the other matches, the resilience displayed by our players was truly commendable. Noteworthy was the impressive 1st team debut of U16 player Tallulah Havard (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and U15 player Zara Kalu (Fourth Form, Cheshire), who both made significant contributions to the team in their first outing at this level.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for our players to meet England Netball legend Jade Clarke, who offered invaluable encouragement to our young athletes. Overall, the tournament not only showcased the competitive spirit of independent school netball but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and aspiration among the participating teams and players. We look forward to the next event on Wednesday 22 January to build on this experience and continue our development.

Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball



HOCKEY

1st XI go undefeated in the Midlands League

The 1st XI had a 1-1 draw against Oundle on Saturday 16 November, with Olive de Courcy-Ireland (Lower Sixth, Nugent) scoring on her debut.

On Saturday 30 November the 1st XI girls capped a fantastic season with a thrilling 3-2 win at home to Uppingham School. After going 1-0 down just before the half time break, Stowe rallied to score three goals in seven minutes through Flora McCullough (2) (Upper Sixth, West) and Hannah Campbell (Lower Sixth, Nugent). Despite conceding halfway through the second half, Stowe controlled much of the second half and saw out the game.

This result means that Stowe have finished top of the Midlands League for the second time in three seasons. Congratulations to Captain Ari Hay (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Vice-Captain Anna Maria Collinge (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and the rest of the girls.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Winter Ensemble Concert

On the evening of Saturday 30 November, the Music Department held its annual Winter Ensembles Concert to a sold out Ugland Auditorium.

After enjoying a festive welcome in the form of mulled wine and mince pies, the audience entered the auditorium to the Brass Ensemble performing a variety of Christmas Carols and other festive tunes.

The Percussion Ensemble took to the stage to perform first, giving a vibrant performance of '5 Marching Cadences'. The String Ensemble, under the direction of Chris Windass, then delivered an atmospheric performance of Vivaldi's 'Winter' from 'The Four Seasons', with soloist Eva-Grace Ng (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) displaying an impressive technical mastery of the violin.

The audience were treated to the final movement of Britten's 'Simple Symphony' before two of the schools String Quartets performed items including the first movement of Dvorak's 'American Quartet' and an arrangement of 'Steadil' by The Danish Quartet. Congratulations to both String Quartets for their characterful performances of challenging repertoire.

The concert continued with the Saxophone Ensemble, directed by Sarah Watts, who gave lively and engaging performances of arrangements of 'Cold Duck Time' by Eddie Harries and 'Alligator Boogaloo' by Lou Donaldson, both of which included excellent improvisations from several of our saxophonists. The ensemble concluded their performance with a rousing and fun filled rendition of 'Santa Clause is Coming to Town' by Fred Coots.

Our recently formed Flute Ensemble was the next to perform, directed by Dr Leena Rana, providing a change of mood with a reflective performance of 'Over the Rainbow' by Harold

Arlen and 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. The ensemble showed a mature understanding of the complex harmonies of the arrangement, using them to support some beautifully lyrical passages.

The evening concluded with the Stowe Symphony Orchestra, conducted by myself, which was comprised of pupils from the previous ensembles and also from our Prep Schools. The orchestra performed three items, beginning with a rousing rhythmical performance of 'Marvel's The Avengers' theme by Silvestri. This was followed by 'Jupiter' from Holst's 'The Planet Suite' which showed the vast dynamic range of the orchestra and highlighted the Orchestras warmth of tone and phrasing. The concert concluded with a medley of items from 'The Polar Express' by Silvestri which took the audience on a festive journey through different scenes, each with its own character before reaching its climactic ending.

Our thanks go to all the pupils for their hard work in preparing for this concert over this term and to all the Staff who were involved in the concert, both on stage and in managing logistics. The concert displayed the wealth of music talent within The Stowe Group and the diversity of provision we can offer to our pupils.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music



Harp Masterclass and Recital

On Wednesday 13 November, the Music Department welcomed former Royal Harpist Alis Huws to Stowe for the second of our Leslie Huggins' Masterclass and Recital Series this year.

Alis worked with several of our harpists in The State Music Room, assisting them to develop their solo repertoire and technique through her insightful and warm instruction. The masterclass ended with an opportunity for all our harpists to explore extended techniques on the harp which feature in more advanced repertoire and more recently composed pieces. The pupils benefitted greatly from their time with Alis, in what was an informative and supportive afternoon masterclass.

The evening recital was held in the Marble Hall, the grandeur of the room perfectly complementing the breathtaking technique and musicality which was displayed in the recital programme. Alis paired works by well known composers such as Debussy and Britten, with lesser known works by contemporary composers such as Caroline Lizotte and Welsh composer Haldon Evans. Alis ended the evening with a hauntingly beautiful encore, the Welsh lament 'Tra Bo Dau'.

We hope to welcome Alis back to Stowe again in the near future.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music





International Food & Drink Evening

The Language Society met on Thursday 14 November for its annual International Food and Drink evening. The event was well attended and saw members bring food and drink from their home countries to share.

Participants were encouraged to share some background information about the food and drink they had brought, including its cultural significance. We enjoyed a range of treats, including Spanish meats and cheeses, German pretzels, gingerbread and Spezi (a mix of Fanta and Cola), Italian pasta, Japanese biscuits and French and Spanish wines. There was also a quiz to test members' knowledge of culinary treats from across the world.

Rachel Holland, Teacher of French & German



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Access to Books Offsite

Our School is committed to providing pupils with unique learning opportunities, which is why we are pleased to introduce ePlatform, a digital library for pupils that provides free access to eBooks even when they are not at Stowe.

With ePlatform, pupils have 24/7 access to eBooks and Audiobooks for free. This is a wonderful extension of our physical School Library and allows titles to be checked out at home, over the weekend or during school breaks. Pupils of all ages can benefit from ePlatform's reading and comprehension tools. A service like this can benefit struggling or reluctant readers, learning-challenged pupils, second-language learners, as well as gifted readers.

How does it work?

Ensure your reader has the ePlatform app which can be downloaded for free from the Apple Store, Google Play Store or visit eplatform.co to begin. Pupils should use their School username and password to access the platform.

Please contact the Library directly should you have any trouble logging in.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Librarian

December ChangeMaker of the Month (CMOM)

Stowe Teaching - Frankie Holloway, Head of Philosophy & Religion, was awarded CMOM for her outstanding work on putting together a fantastic first Stowe Junior Philosothon.

Stowe Support Services Stowe - Tony Cox, DT Technician, was recognised as CMOM for his bravery in tackling a fire in the DT workshop, his quick thinking and calm head saved the day!

Swanbourne House - Lauren Sweet, Learning Support Assistant, was awarded CMOM for her amazing work support during a colleague's absence.

Winchester House - Caroline Banks, Early Years Key Person, has been recognised as CMOM for always going above and beyond even when you are dealing with challenging behaviour in class, covering duties and lessons for absent colleagues and for her constant support to her fellow workers - a real team-player.

Jaime Chahal, Group Director of People



‘Love and Limerence’ The Return of Dr Andrew C Webber and the (New) Hyacinth Girls

The Roxburgh Theatre | Wednesday 22 January 7.45pm

Those of you who enjoyed my memorable concert last March will be delighted to know that I will once again be bringing music and poetry to Stowe early next year with, a new album, ‘Love and Limerence’ with the (new) Hyacinth Girls in The Roxburgh Theatre on Wednesday 22 January at 7.45pm.

Joined by Upper Sixth Form singers Grace Reilly (West) and Emily Garwood (Cheshire) plus Sunny He (Chatham) and Peter You (Walpole), the show will consist of 12 new songs, accompanied by famous English love poetry written by the likes of Shakespeare, Hardy, Keats and Duffy and read by a stellar cast of teachers (including, amongst others, the Head, Jim Sheppe, Max Vendrig and Emma Ackroyd).

The performance will also include new illustrations by the highly talented Yeva Solop (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) who is bringing the songs to life with 12 brilliant paintings (she also designed the incredibly eye-catching poster).

The new songs chart loves journey and have all been written since the March concert. They are mainly acoustic with folky influences including Leonard Cohen, John Martyn, Prefab Sprout and Bob Dylan.

It promises to be a unique event in the Stowe calendar - tickets can be [booked here](#).

We look forward to seeing you.

Dr Andrew Webber

*There’s love and limerence,
You and Me.*

*There’s laughter and forgetting,
The people we used to be.*

*There’s no such thing as happy endings,
There’s no doubt our time is run.*

*There’s memory and desire.
But nothing new beneath the sun.*

*There’s years and years and years of longing,
And wishing your life away.*

*And daily, it just gets harder,
To find the words you want to say.*

*So, I’ve written this song for you,
Maybe you’ll like this one?*

*And sing it to the oceans.
Sing it when I’m gone.*

There’s love and limerence.

Dr Andrew C Webber



Security Prefects

Meet our Security Prefects! These roles have been established with the goal of enhancing security awareness throughout our community. I would like to emphasise that everyone has a role to play in maintaining the safety of our surroundings. Open communication is essential, and we want pupils to feel empowered to voice their thoughts on how we can protect their home and work environment.

My team and I are looking forward to collaborating with the prefects. Their youthful enthusiasm and support will be immensely valuable as we work together to promote a safer community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Stowe community a very Merry Christmas!

Paul Simkins, Head of Security

Upper Sixth Prefects - Emelia Brett (Queen’s), Maxwell LaGrande (Temple), Darcey Moran (West), Louis Morgan-Smith (Chatham), Ben Sutton (Winton) and Giovanni Way (Chatham).



Stowe Parents’ Association

The Stowe Parents’ Association is an active group run by dedicated parents and representatives from the School, who generously volunteer their time to organise a variety of engaging events for parents.

Upcoming Events

The next exciting events in the Stowe Parents’ calendar are:

- Sound Bath Yoga
- Cheltenham Festival Preview Evening (in conjunction with the Old Stoic Society)
- Hidden Treasures of Stowe Tour
- Bicester Village VIP Shopping Experience

Click [here](#) to view the brochure and book tickets.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, or have an idea for an event, then please do [contact us](#).



STOWE HOUSE



The Temple Family before Stowe

On Tuesday 11 November, we welcomed Dr Rosemary O'Day, from the Open University, to talk about the family that created Stowe - before Stowe, as we see it today, was created.

Dr O'Day has spent the last twenty years researching the Stowe papers in the Huntington Library, California, exploring how the family gradually gained its fortune and influence. Her research resulted in her book, 'An Elite Family in Early Modern England' (Boydell 2018), and the talk was looking at some of the stories that didn't make it into the book.

When the Stowe Estate was up for sale in 1922, it is said that the family papers lined Plug Street in huge crates as no one knew what to do with them. They were purchased by a book seller in Buckingham who recognised them for their political importance, and these were subsequently purchased in 1926 by American philanthropist, Henry Huntington, who used them as the basis to create his new university and library in California. The archive is composed of thousands of boxes of letters, receipts, drawings, lists, records, inventories etc that are chronologically catalogued but still largely an untapped treasure-trove of information about the family and their collectives' estates, including Stowe.

The family's origins start with Peter Temple as an aspiring sheep farmer and landowner in Burton Dassett, Warwickshire, in the 1550s and later leasing land at Stowe in 1570s, about half a day's ride away. His eldest son, John, divided his time between the two estates and his son and heir, Thomas, married Hester Sandys in 1586, and bought a baronetcy in 1611, and was later the parliamentary candidate for Buckingham (as an inherited post). With thirteen children, the Temple name spread around the country and beyond. His son and heir, Sir Peter, took on the running of the Stowe estate before he inherited it in 1637. It is his son, Richard, who built the core of the house we see today but Dr O'Day's research stopped with Peter. Peter's mother, Hester, is the star of the research, running the estates and bringing up her large family after her husband fell ill. Many of the letters concern the marriages of her children, the doweries for her daughters, and the management of the household. Dr O'Day showed images of examples of these letters and inventories taken from the Huntington Library, that she had spent years transcribing and understanding.

It was a fascinating talk, and it was interesting to look at the foundation of an ambitious and social-climbing family that produced the Temple-Grenville descendants of Stowe.

Anna McEvoy, SHPT Interim Co-Director & House Custodian

Christmas Opening Hours

STOWE HOUSE

23.12 Christmas Eve	closed
24.12 Christmas Eve	closed
25.12 Christmas Day	closed
26.12 Boxing Day	closed
27.12 Friday	10.30am - 3.30pm
28.12 Saturday	10.30am - 3.30pm
29.12 Sunday	10.30am - 3.30pm
30.12 Monday	10.30am - 3.30pm
31.12 New Year's Eve	10.30am - 3.30pm
01.01 New Year's Day	10.30am - 3.30pm
02.01 Thursday	10.30am - 3.30pm
03.01 Friday	10.30am - 3.30pm
04.01 Saturday	closed
05.01 Sunday	10.30am - 3.30pm

Open weekends only from 06.01

As winter settles over Stowe House, we shift our focus to vital conservation efforts and preparations for 2025 projects. During this period, the Visitor Centre and House will open for guided tours on weekends only, from 10:30am to 3:30pm. By stopping for a hot drink after a frosty walk or picking up seasonal stocking fillers and gifts, you'll be helping to fund our ongoing tasks to care for this historic building. Every visit makes a difference.

Over the festive season between Christmas and New Year, we will open on select days, offering a peaceful escape from the holiday rush. Be sure to check our daily calendar and **social media** for the latest updates, especially if the weather takes a turn.

Thank you for supporting the Stowe House Preservation Trust throughout 2024. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

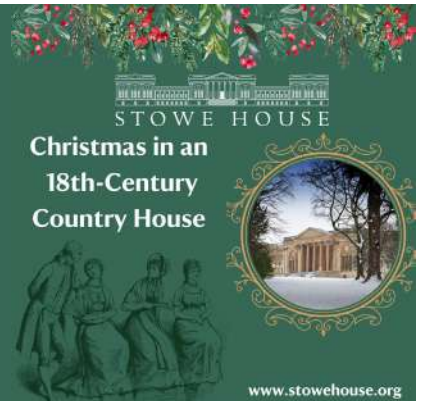
Events at Stowe House

Christmas in an 18th Century Country House

Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 December, 6.30-7.30pm. Saturday 21 December 3-4pm and 6-7pm

Take a festive tour of the State Rooms with one of our knowledgeable guides to discover how the Georgians celebrated Christmas at Stowe before enjoying a yuletide gathering for mince pies and mulled wine.

Take a tour. Adult £10, Child £8



Stowe-Tots

Come and play!



Come To Stowe House for a cracking Christmas session where we'll be adding some seasonal sparkles to our splendid state rooms!

Stowe Tots

Monday 16 December 10-10.45am

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

Booking is essential. 1 Child and 1 Adult £5

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



The Eyton/ Flawn-Thomas Stowe Print Book

Commissioned by the Head Dr Wallersteiner, Anthony Eyton and Mark Flawn-Thomas (Grenville 72) have been busy producing a celebration of the first 100 years of Stowe School.

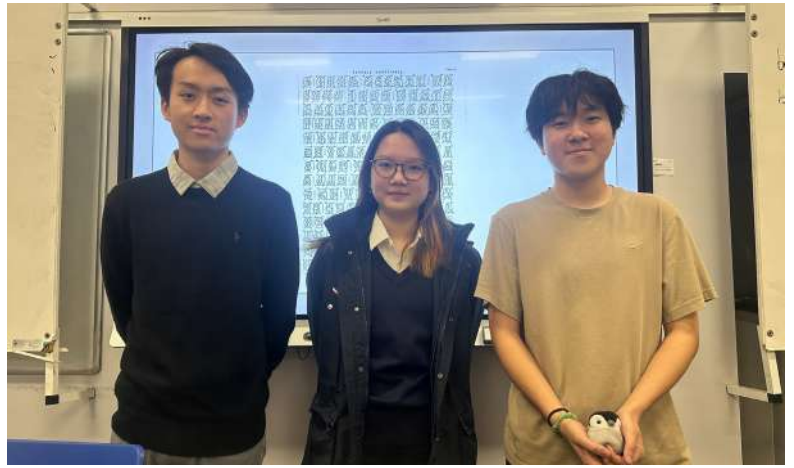
Eyton and Flawn-Thomas shared a joint artist residency at Stowe for seven years. Eyton is a Royal Academician and has been honoured with an OBE by the King. Flawn-Thomas has worked alongside Eyton for ten years and also exhibits in the Royal Academy.

Some of their 80 paintings are on permanent display in the Eyton Gallery at Stowe. The majority have not previously been seen and are being reproduced in a fine art print book. This book will be slightly larger than A3 in size and available by subscription only and limited to 100 copies. These copies will be numbered and signed by both artists and available at £300. Fifty of these copies will include a signed limited edition print from both artists and available at a premium price of £650.

There are currently 40 subscribers. The most prestigious of these is The Huntington Library in San Marino CA. As they are holders of Shakespeare's First Folio, Chaucer's original manuscript and the Gutenberg Bible, this publication will be in good company.

Whilst this publication will be a fine art volume it also has the potential as a collector's item to appreciate in value. A similar publication produced by John Piper in 1983 is now worth several times its initial price.

For further information and to receive an electronic copy of what the book will look like with images and text, please contact **Mark Flawn-Thomas**.



Mathematics Talks: Games, Confidence & Knots

The Gaussian Society met on Wednesday 27 November to hear talks from Lower Sixth pupils Kelly Hu (West), Jason Lu (Walpole) and Harris Chan (Temple).

Kelly opened her talk with the prisoner's dilemma, posing the problem of what to do when keeping silent is the best strategy for the team, but betraying each other is best for the individual. This led to the ideas of pay-off matrices and Nash equilibriums. Kelly's final example of Cournot Nash equilibriums in Economics returned us to the earlier idea; if firms collaborate, they can optimise their profits but, in the absence of collaboration, a mutually beneficial optimum exists.

Jason utilised the casino game of Roulette, to introduce the ideas of central limit theorem and how it is possible to place expected outcomes within confidence intervals. There was a wide spread of outcomes for customers betting according to Jason's carefully calculated model, with 95% being somewhere between a £2,000 loss and a £1,600 gain. The winning strategy here was however to be the House, with a $1/37$ expected win rate.

Finally, Harris introduced the ideas behind knot theory with an inspiring puzzle involving a power lead and an amazing example from chemistry; the tightest knot ever created with 20 crossings in a space of eight nanometers. Harris talked us through the foundations of knot theory from Lord Kelvin and Peter Guthrie Tait, and its more advanced analyses involving colourability, reduced forms and polynomial representations; all leading up to staggering 159,965,097,353 different knots that are now known to exist.

Dr Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths



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