

# Stowe mail

V16 ISSUE 5  
24 JANUARY 2025  
NEWS FROM STOWE



## Lower School Charity New Year's Eve Ball

The Lower School Charity New Year's Eve Ball, organised by the Conservation Society, was held on Saturday 11 January in the Marble Hall.

The live band was centre-stage with many formidable singers taking to the floor. Featuring Ben Bailey (Upper Sixth, Chandos) who dazzled the crowd with his Michael Bublé cover and Sixth Form girls, including Claudia Kilonback (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Flora Peppiatt (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Lucie Whiteoak (Lower Sixth, West), Holly Bateman (Lower Sixth, West), Maria Shenton (Lower Sixth, West) and myself, who all showcased some amazing talent.

The food was in the true style of New York, including pizza, bagels, pretzels and cheesecake. We also set up a 'Pick & Mix' sweet corner which was very

popular! The 360 camera was a hit and many pupils were filmed dancing to Alicia Keys' famous 'Empire State of Mind'.

At "midnight" the after party began and the pupils enjoyed celebrating in The Temple Room with UV lights, glow sticks and a number of our Fifth Form pupils DJing.

Funds raised from the event will be used to expand our Augmented Reality (AR) Nature Trail, by providing merchandise and hopefully producing a new children's book, and allowing us to take Ickle Owl to new locations. To learn about the Ickle Owl project, [click here](#).

Thank you to all the pupils who attended the ball!

**Grace Reilly (Upper Sixth, West)**





# HOW TO *Flourish* in 2025

*“At the start of this term, I spoke to Stoics about how schools are very lucky in having the chance to make new beginnings twice a year. Once at the start of the academic year in September and then again when the calendar year changes on 1 January. As a guide to help Stoics flourish at the start of 2025, I have outline ten precepts to help them succeed.”*

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head

## 01 YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN DESTINY

You are the person responsible for managing your life. Too often we fall into a state of learned helplessness, but you control much more than you realise. It doesn't matter how brilliant or talented your teachers are - in the end you have to want to learn, and you must do it yourself.

## 04 DEVELOP SOME GOOD HABITS

Eat the right things; get eight hours sleep; physical activity keeps the brain healthy, reduces stress, improves memory, resilience, social connectedness, creativity and productivity. The World Health Organisation recommends one hour of exercise each day for pupils at secondary school.

## 07 EMBRACE FAILURE

Successful people realise that mistakes take them one step closer to success. They don't fear failure and see it as deferred success. Own your mistakes and use them to accelerate the learning experience. Success or failure is too binary. You don't need to excel at something for it to be worthwhile: we all start somewhere - writing bad poetry, playing the violin tunelessly, missing most of the shots you take at goal. This is not a zero-sum goal as there is always someone smarter, richer, faster, and more competent than you. If you don't succeed, try again, and fail better. When you say that you can't do something, add the three-letter word, yet.

## 02 SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DON'T PROCRASTINATE

They find the time to get things done. There is seldom a perfect time to do something, but procrastination is the thief of time as you put off until tomorrow what should have been done yesterday.

## 05 READ BOOKS

They will introduce you to the best that has been known, said, and thought throughout the ages. They provide entertainment, allow you to defy the bounds of your own mortality, expand your knowledge, and help you to think differently.

## 08 SPEND TIME WITH INSPIRING PEOPLE

Successful people spend time with people who are motivated and positive, limiting their exposure to people who are negative, cynical, and toxic. Surround yourself with enthusiastic friends: you will find that their positivity and energy will rub off onto you. Friendships at school can often last a lifetime, giving support and help when we need it most. Strong social relationships are linked to higher levels of self-esteem and even give a boost to your immune system.

## 10 FIND TRUTH, MEANING AND VALUE IN EVERYTHING YOU DO

Life is inordinately precious, finite and beautiful. Revel in the sheer good fortune of being here. You don't have to be a successful Oxbridge candidate, Head of School or Captain of hockey, netball, cricket, rugby or lacrosse. Just being yourself can make a huge difference. You can get a sense of accomplishment from the smallest things - a word of encouragement here, a smile to the person serving you food, a compliment to someone you usually ignore. Don't compare upwards, compare yourself downwards. Think of how lucky you are to live and study in the most beautiful School in the country.

## 03 ON THE SUBJECT OF TIME, BE ON TIME

There really is no excuse for being late. You are telling another person that you consider your time to be more precious than theirs. Develop good routines such as sorting out your files and bags before you go to bed. Stay off social media except for designated times as a reward for accomplishing other tasks. Remember that no one knew that they had to have Tik Tok, WhatsApp or social media until Apple invented the smart phone.

## 06 PRACTICE MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

We spend too much time worrying about things that will never happen, catastrophising about things that we cannot control... it's important to put things in perspective and decompress.

## 09 MUSIC, ART AND DRAMA

The Arts offer opportunities to make meaningful connections and develop empathy and understanding for others. Collaborating with other Stoics to reflect different cultures, values and societies improves tolerance and understanding as well as bringing mental and physical health benefits.





# DTE

## The Howden Design, Technology and Engineering Centre

What a joy it has been to step into the New Year and the exceptional newly opened Howden Design, Technology, and Engineering Centre.

While our previous department served us well over the years - and we still hold fond memories of the portacabins and traditional workshops - the move to our state-of-the-art facility has been long-awaited and truly transformational.

Gone are the days of battling leaky ceilings during rainy spells - our new centre offers an inspiring environment where creativity and innovation can flourish. The design studios now provide Stoics with the perfect space to embrace iterative design processes, from initial sketches to advanced rapid prototyping, thanks to the cutting-edge CAD/CAM equipment available in every room. The inclusion of teaching walls and breakout spaces has empowered Staff to explore a far greater range of teaching and learning opportunities, which simply weren't possible in our previous home.

Situated beneath the design studios, our three ground-floor workshops are a hub of hands-on innovation. These fully equipped spaces allow our design and

engineering pupils to bring their ideas to life, manufacturing their concepts to a professional, and often commercially viable standard. The integration of these workshops with the design studios above creates a seamless flow from concept to creation, encouraging collaboration and fostering a professional ethos among the Stoics.

The centre has been met with enthusiastic praise from Staff and Stoics alike. Its success would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated Technicians, Victoria Cox and Tony Cox, who went above and beyond in collaboration with House Staff, the Estates Team and ICT. Their hard work has ensured that the space is not only functional but also safe and welcoming for all who use it.

As we settle into this extraordinary new chapter, the Howden Centre promises to become a cornerstone of our School's Design, Technology and Engineering journey. It is a space where innovation meets tradition, and where the Stoics of today can shape the ideas of tomorrow.

**Martin Quinn, Head of Design**

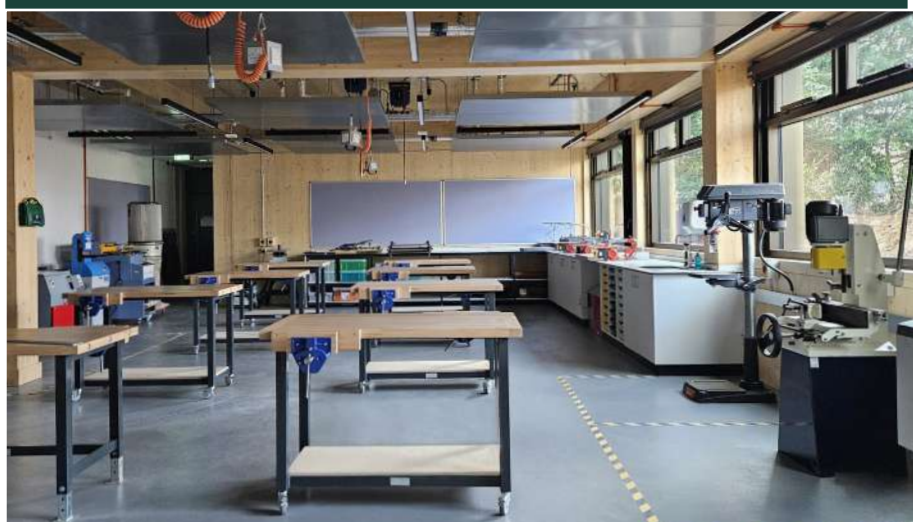


The thrilling opening of the Howden Centre allows us to reflect upon the transformation of Stowe's infrastructure and facilities over the last couple of decades and the gratitude that we owe to the many parents and Old Stoics whose incredible generosity has made these facilities possible. We think most immediately of the principal buildings at the heart of the School that have been created or substantially remodelled during this time - the Chung Music School, the Watson Art School, the Roxburgh Theatre and the Worsley Science Centre. But there are many other projects too which would not have been realised without the charitable support of our community: the Sixth Form Centre, the Equestrian Centre, the Boathouse and the athletics track amongst them.

We are especially indebted to Mr and Mrs Howden, who so enthusiastically shared our vision for what the new Design, Technology and Engineering Centre will represent and the opportunities that it will provide. There are many others too who we will have the opportunity to honour and thank when the new Howden Centre is formally opened on the morning of Speech Day, on 24 May. More details about this occasion will follow in due course.

In the meantime, we wish the entire faculty team and all the Stoics who are fortunate to use these new facilities the very best of luck as they settle into their splendid new surroundings!

**Colin Dudgeon, Director of Development**



# Year Group Leaders

The introduction of Year Group Leaders last year aimed to instil a sense of responsibility and cultivate future leaders. It offers an opportunity for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities early in their educational journey. This initiative endeavours to foster collaboration, accountability and mentorship while upholding our Stowe Change Maker philosophy.

## What is a Year Group Leader?

The Year Group Leader role is designed for pupils to actively support their peers, Staff, and the wider School community. As a Year Group Leader, pupils act as a vital link between their Year Group and the Leadership Team, providing guidance, support and direction. They collaborate closely with Rhea Stafford-Smith (Head of Lower School), as well as Houseparents and House Prefects.

This unique position emphasises holistic development, with Year Group Leaders fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment that supports academic, social and personal growth.

## Key Responsibilities

- **Guidance and Mentorship:** Act as a point of contact and support for peers, providing guidance on School life, academics, and personal challenges.
- **Collaboration:** Work alongside Staff, Prefects, and House teams to ensure seamless communication and coordination within the Year Group.
- **Leadership:** Embody Stowe's values and lead by example, inspiring peers to uphold the School's standards and ethos.
- **Community Building:** Assist in creating a positive and inclusive environment, promoting teamwork and respect among pupils.

## The Selection Process

Year Group Leaders are chosen through an application and interview process. Candidates must demonstrate excellence across several key areas:

1. **Exemplary Record:** A strong history of positive behaviour and contribution.
2. **Commitment to the Change Maker Philosophy:** An understanding of and dedication to Stowe's vision of inspiring change and making a difference.
3. **Alignment with Stowe's Values:** An appreciation for the School's core values and a commitment to upholding them.
4. **Leadership Attributes:** Passion, energy, optimism, and the ability to take initiative and drive positive change.
5. **Team Collaboration:** Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to foster collaborative relationships with Staff and peers.
6. **Relationship Building:** The capacity to develop and maintain meaningful connections within the School community.
7. **Strength of Character:** The moral courage to stand up for what is right and to serve as a role model for others.

## Why Year Group Leaders Matter

The introduction of Year Group Leaders allows pupils to develop leadership skills at an earlier stage, with the guidance and mentorship of Senior Prefects and Staff. This role encourages pupils to step into positions of responsibility, empowering them to make meaningful contributions to the School community while preparing them for future challenges.

The initiative aligns with Stowe's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically accomplished, but also socially responsible and equipped to make a difference in the world.

**Liam Copley, Senior Deputy Head**



### Chandos

Lewis Wilson, Third Form  
Ronnie Wilson, Fourth Form  
Alex Fan, Fifth Form



### Chatham

Freddy Morgan, Third Form  
Naran Sundavadra, Fourth Form  
Ben Lloyd, Fifth Form



### Cheshire

Lucy Taylor, Third Form  
Amber Kular, Fourth Form  
Mary Jones, Fifth Form



### Cobham

Jackson Tuohy, Third Form  
Ed Berry, Fourth Form  
Benjamin Cousins/  
Archie Denison-Pender, Fifth Form



### Croft

Ed Roscoe, Third Form  
Harry Smith, Fourth Form  
Luca Grimble, Fifth Form



### Grafton

Jolyon Tew, Third Form  
Angus Cockerill/  
Harry Blackwood, Fourth Form  
Sultan Saigol, Fifth Form



### Grenville

Gajjan Johal, Third Form  
Thomas Comino, Fourth Form  
Joshua Williams, Fifth Form



### Lyttelton

Lyla Buttery, Third Form  
Ella Mahoney, Fourth Form  
Avá Taylor, Fifth Form



### Nugent

Whistley Rogers, Third Form  
Cassie Golifer, Fourth Form  
Flora McDougall, Fifth Form



### Queen's

Fay Karrar-Lewsley, Third Form  
Clover Longsdon, Fourth Form  
Emilia Rivett, Fifth Form



### Stanhope

Darcey Turner-Perrott, Third Form  
Mary Taylor, Fourth Form  
Julia Likierman, Fifth Form



### Temple

Spencer O'Boyle, Third Form  
Rin Konishi, Fourth Form  
Hecco Harrison, Fifth Form



### Walpole

Max Pearce, Third Form  
Jasper Hagger, Fourth Form  
George Seward, Fifth Form



### Winton

Aston Wade, Third Form  
Patrick Kingsman, Fourth Form  
James Barnett, Fifth Form





# DRAMA

## LAMDA Exam Results

London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) pupils at Stowe were richly rewarded for their hard work in November, when they received excellent results for their exams.

Each pupil was required to perform either two or three monologues or duologues for our visiting LAMDA examiner, across differing styles of theatre, with their performances were graded out of a maximum of 100 marks.

Edward Mercer (Upper Sixth, Grafton) achieved a very high Distinction for his Grade 8 Acting exam with a mark of 96, while James Barnett (Fifth Form, Winton) achieved a high Distinction for Grade 7, with a mark of 92. Upper Sixth performers Daria Kulbayeva (West) and Isabelle Hunponu-Wusu (Stanhope) also achieved a Distinction for Grade 8 in their duologue exam with marks of 86 and 87 respectively.

Fifth Former Tia Sualp (Lyttelton) received an excellent Distinction for her solo Grade 6 exam, with a mark of 93, while duologue performers Camilla Allan (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Clemmy King (Fourth Form, Queen's) received high merits for their Grade 6, with marks of 77 and 78. Harrison Teodorani-Fabbri (Fifth Form, Temple) achieved a Distinction for his Grade 5 solo exam and Victoria Lee (Fifth Form, Cheshire) who took a Grade 5 solo Musical Theatre exam and received a Distinction with a mark of 89.

They all deserve much applause, as results like these require a huge amount of preparation. The Stoics worked hard at line-learning, character development and studying the theatrical eras from which the pieces were taken. Well done to all!

**Deborah Coldstream, LAMDA Teacher**



## Twelfth Night Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 15 January our A Level Theatre Studies pupils travelled to Stratford to watch the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of 'Twelfth Night'.

Directed by Prasanna Puwananarajah, and featuring Samuel West as Malvolio and Freema Agyeman as Olivia, this was a visually stunning production which beautifully balanced moments of slapstick comedy with pathos to create a memorable exploration of the timeless themes of love and loss.

**Simon Miller, Director of Drama**





# Grenville Refurbishment

The transformation of Grenville, our Boarding House with such a rich history, has been very well received. After three months of residing in the old Bruce House, our building now stands as a beautiful testament to the perfect balance between preserving heritage and embracing modern comfort.

Grenville, known for its stately exterior and inviting atmosphere, whilst still beautiful was showing its age. Now, as the doors reopen, the boys and parents are welcomed by a stunning fusion of old-world elegance and contemporary design. Fresh coats of warm colours now coat the walls, creating a sense of home.

Stepping inside the Lower Sixth area reveals an even more remarkable transformation. The three large rooms which previously housed the Fourth Form, have been uniquely redesigned, offering modern amenities while retaining classic features including wooden beams and new blinds that allow the rooms to be flooded with natural light.

The Fourth Form now has a room with an en-suite (what luxury)! The Fifth Form rooms have calming decor to help focus on work and rest. They also have a new quiet study space to use if required. The Upper Sixth have a new bathroom that is light and bright. The Third Formers now occupy the ground floor of the Colonnade, placing them close to our Matron, Nicola and myself. With all new furniture

throughout the House, including mattresses, which make for a comfortable night's sleep and purposeful working environment.

The Aurelian Room (the original private Chapel), which is un-arguably the most beautiful Common Room in the School, has been laid out to encourage greater use with new Chesterfield sofas and the addition of a pool table. We now have two in the House, to go with the table tennis table, dart board, PlayStations and Xboxes! There is now plenty of space to relax after a hard day's work.

One of the major highlights of the refurbishment is the addition of a gym space. There is a Cable Smith machine, Watt Bike Atom X and dumbbells to allow a range of fitness activities to take place. We must thank the generous parent benefactors for this.

Beyond the visual and structural improvements, Grenville now also boasts a new heating infrastructure to keep us all warm in our stately home!

The reopening of Grenville marks not just the revival of a building, but the renewal of its spirit. Grenville has now been restored to its rightful place as a flagship for boarding in a converted 450-year-old mansion. I would be very happy to show you around!

**Stephen Whitby, Grenville Houseparent**



## Film Debut at London's International Short Film Festival

Sunny He (Upper Sixth, Chatham) made Stowe history in January when his short film 'The Bathroom', a surreal ten-minute drama about sibling rivalry and time travel, was short-listed for the 2025 International Short Film Festival and screened at the prestigious Genesis Cinema in London's Mile End.

Sunny, who has been making films since childhood, and whose influences include John Woo and Christopher Nolan, wrote and directed the film which was shot over a two-and-a-half-month period, whilst he was home in China in the Summer.

"It was a great privilege to be given the chance to screen my film to a huge audience and to see it on the big screen," he says.

Sunny hopes to realise his dream of becoming a film director and is planning to study Film Making at the University of London upon completion of his A Level studies here at Stowe.

We wish him every success.

**Dr Andrew Webber, Acting Head of Film and Media**



# WELCOME



## Head of Keyboard

The Music Department are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Chloé Hulewicz as Head of Keyboard, following the departure of Ben Andrew.

Chloé is a performer, conductor and composer who has performed at venues in Sydney, such as the Sydney Opera House, Parramatta Riverside Theatre and the Joan Sutherland Theatre, and internationally in New Zealand and the United States of America.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Music First Class Honours Degree with a double major in Composition and Performance, Chloé undertook a Doctorate of Creative Arts with a composition focus which she completed in 2022. Chloé has had original works performed by some of the top leading musicians in Australia, such as Michael Kieran Harvey (pianist), Sydney Youth Orchestra, Western Sydney Youth Orchestra, and community ensembles such as the City of Holroyd Brass Band and Penrith Symphony Orchestra.

Recently returning to the United Kingdom, Chloé is very excited to contribute her musical versatility with the vibrant and dynamic music culture here at Stowe and we wish her a warm welcome.

The Music Department would like to thank Ben Andrew for his many years of service to Stowe which benefitted countless Stoics. We wish him the very best for his work as a film and media composer in America.

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music**

## WO2 Steven Ross MC joins the CCF



I am delighted to introduce Warrant Officer (WO2) Steven Ross MC, the new School Staff Instructor (SSI) for the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). WO2 Ross brings a wealth of experience and a truly remarkable record of service to the contingent.

Joining the Grenadier Guards in 1988, WO2 Ross has dedicated his career to serving his country. His impressive service history includes an incredible eleven operational tours spanning the globe, from Northern Ireland and Bosnia, to Iraq and Afghanistan. This extensive experience will undoubtedly be invaluable in shaping and mentoring our Cadets.

Among the many highlights of his distinguished career, two stand out as particularly noteworthy. In 2011, WO2 Ross had the honour of bringing the Queen's Colours onto parade for Her Majesty's birthday - a prestigious and memorable occasion. This achievement is however surpassed by his winning of the Military Cross (MC) in 2005. This prestigious award is granted in recognition of 'exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy'. It is a testament to WO2 Ross's courage, leadership, and dedication to duty.

We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of WO2 Ross calibre join the CCF. His experience, leadership and personal qualities will be a huge asset to our Cadets, inspiring them to develop their skills, confidence and sense of service. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to WO2 Steven Ross MC!

**Major Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander**



## New Group Director of Finance Appointed

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Simon Cope as The Stowe Group's Director of Finance.

Simon will join The Stowe Group from the start of the Summer Term 2025. He will be a member of the Executive Leadership Team and take over responsibility for all aspects of the Group's Financial affairs from Mark Greaves who retires at the end of April 2025.

Simon qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG and, during a twenty-five-year career, has held a number of Senior finance roles both in practice and in industry. He joins Stowe from the TUI Group where he has been a Finance Director since 2018 and currently has responsibility for running TUI's Global Finance Business Services division.

Simon lives locally with his family and is an Ashfold School parent.

We welcome Simon to The Stowe Group and congratulate him on his appointment. While there will be an opportunity to mark his retirement later this term, I would like to thank Mark for all he has done for The Stowe Group over the past seven years.

**Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head of The Stowe Group**





# German Baking



In the last week of the Michaelmas Term, a small group of Germanists practised the all-important art of 'Weihnachtsplätzchenbacken' - Christmas cookie baking. Most households in Germany will spend an afternoon each December baking their own Christmas cookies, and it has also become a tradition here at Stowe.

Being able to bake, share and eat what you have produced is always a bonus, especially when it tastes of Christmas. I feel I ought to mention here how tidy this year's Stoics were. The kitchen was left spotless, smelling of cinnamon and (non-alcoholic) Glühwein and I was even left with some of the home-baked produce that the Languages Faculty enjoyed on the last day of term!

**Alice Tearle, Faculty Chair of Languages & Head of German**

## Spanish Celebrations

On Wednesday 11 December, the Spanish Department organised a gastronomical event to celebrate the end of the Michaelmas Term and embrace the Christmas spirit in the 'Olé' restaurant in Milton Keynes.

This event truly captured the essence of Spanish gastronomy with croquetas, sangria, and paella y tortilla española. The Stoics enjoyed Spanish tapas, and the highlight of the lunch was the pleasure of listening to Ben Bailey's (Upper Sixth, Chandos) guitar rendition of 'Feliz Navidad' which created a vibrant Spanish Christmas atmosphere.

We had a wonderful time eating delicious Spanish food, including exquisite churros that paired beautifully with our meal, and a remarkable Spanish quiz prepared by Liliana Peña. The afternoon was filled with joy, featuring more music from Ben and engaging in various fun games, all contributing to a festive environment that allowed us to celebrate the hard work and our achievements from the term. It was a much-needed opportunity to relax outside the classroom before we broke up for Christmas.

**Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish**



# SPORTS REPORT

We were due to field a record number of sports teams on Saturday 11 January, with 48 teams selected across seven sports, ready to play against nine different schools. The freezing conditions meant we had to make alternative plans, and as usual, Stoics and Staff were positive and made the best of the situation. The only matches to be played were a handful of netball, basketball and badminton matches.

In contrast, it was wonderful to see the weather allowing over half the School to compete in sports teams on Saturday 18 January. Special mention must go to the Senior girls who showed their all-round sporting ability as a cohort by beating Marlborough at hockey, then beating Rugby School at netball and then had excellent lacrosse matches with schools who only specialise in that one sport. Of particular note was Hannah Campbell's (Lower Sixth, Nugent) achievement. She competed for the 1st team in three different sports on three consecutive days, so earned the coveted Triple Crown. Well done to Hannah and all our Senior girls!

## Badminton

The Stowe badminton teams have had a fine start to the Lent Term. On Saturday 11 January the boys' and girls' 1st teams hosted St Edward's, Oxford. The boys' had a comfortable 8-1 victory with the girls' losing narrowly 4-5. The boys' 2nd and 3rd teams travelled to Wellingborough. The 2nd team beat Wellingborough 1st team 6-3 and the 3rd team beat Wellingborough 2nd team 8-1.

On Saturday 18 January the boys' and girls' 1st and 2nd teams travelled to Oundle. Both boys teams were very dominant winning their matches 14-4. The girls' 1st team played a strong Oundle side losing 15-3 and the girls' 2nd team turned round a 7-2 defeat in the Michaelmas Term to win their match on points 324-308 with games tied at nine each.

**Isaac Michael,  
Head of Badminton**





# Netball Season Begins

We are delighted to announce that the netball term is well underway. While circumstances beyond our control led to the cancellation of most fixtures from the first block against Oakham on Saturday 11 January due to freezing weather conditions, our U15A and U14A teams commenced their seasons with great success in the comfort of the Winchester House sports hall. The U15A team triumphed with a remarkable score of 21-15, while the U14A secured an impressive victory of 37-26, both commendable performances to kick off the term.

Adding to the excitement, the U15A team debuted their new Flyhawk netball dresses, which not only enhanced their performance but also made a striking impression on and off the court. The players looked fantastic and their enthusiasm was palpable.

On Friday 17 January, the 1st VII began their season campaign against Rugby School. We extend our gratitude to Beachborough School for accommodating us in their excellent sports

hall, which provided the perfect backdrop for the match. Returning Old Beachburians Hannah Campbell (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Théa Gross (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), and Claudia Kilonback (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) returned to their esteemed Prep School as they took to the court. The atmosphere was electric, with vocal supporters creating an encouraging environment for our players.

The match showcased a brilliant exhibition of elite school netball, with our defensive unit, comprising N'dea Lambert (Upper Sixth, West) and Zara Kalu (Fourth Form, Cheshire), demonstrating an impenetrable barrier that significantly reduced Rugby's circle attacks. The match concluded with Stowe achieving a convincing victory of 39-26, and we extend our congratulations to N'dea, who was selected as the Player of the Match for her outstanding efforts.

We eagerly anticipate further competitive fixtures ahead in this promising term.

**Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball**



# Basketball

On Saturday 11 January the 1st Basketball team took part in the Wellington College Public Schools' Tournament. The team started well with a 16-11 win against Royal Hospital School, Ipswich. In the 2nd group match, the team did not recover from a slow start and eventually lost 22-9 against Wellington College. The team put in a spirited performance in the final group match, losing narrowly 16-14 to Charterhouse after overtime. Charterhouse went on to win the tournament.

The 1st team travelled to Abingdon on Thursday 16 January. With the scores very close throughout the match, the 1st team clinched an exciting win against a determined Abingdon side. With two seconds remaining on the

clock, Abingdon looked to win the game with a 3-pointer. A foul was called on the shooter, so Abingdon went to the foul line needing to sink all three foul shots to win the game. The pressure took its toll, and all three foul shots were missed to give Stowe a well-deserved 46-44 win, with seven of the ten players getting on the score sheet. Top scorer Harry Langford (Upper Sixth Chandos) amassed 14 points which included three 3-pointers.

The Senior Inter-House Competition was held on Sunday 19 January. Lyttelton beat Stanhope in the girls' Final to be crowned 2025 Champions and the boys' 2025 Champions were Chandos who beat Winton in the Final.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball**







# Motorsport

## Behind the Wheel: An Unforgettable Driving Experience

On Sunday 12 January, nine Stoics from the Motorsport Group visited Bicester Heritage, where they had the amazing opportunity to drive real cars as part of the Young Drivers' scheme. This experience gave pupils the chance to drive manual cars with experienced instructors, and some brave Stoics reached speeds of up to 60 mph! Not only that, but they also had the opportunity to practise essential driving skills, including weaving through cones, parking, and driving alongside other cars in a safe, controlled environment.

At the start, many pupils were holding their breath, nervous about making a mistake, as if they were taking a driving exam. The pressure to get everything just right made it feel intense. Timing the gear shifts and braking correctly was a real challenge, especially since some had never driven a manual before. However, as the session progressed, everyone gradually built their confidence. With each turn, gear change, and brake, driving began to feel more natural. By the end of the session, pupils were driving as if they had been behind the wheel for years. This experience was truly unforgettable, giving them a taste of adulthood and the self-reliance that comes with it.

The instructors were exceptional, offering valuable guidance and support throughout the day. It was incredible to watch the pupils' skills improve at such a rapid pace - and their driving abilities were unrecognisable in just 30 minutes. One of the highlights for many Stoics was driving down a straight stretch at 60 mph, trusting their instructor's guidance on braking as they approached a car ahead. The rush of excitement as they got closer to the car was matched only by the thrill of knowing they were in control. It was a moment of true empowerment and excitement, not going to be forgotten for a long time.

**George Bilhovskiy (Fourth Form, Grafton)**



# Sölden Ski Trip

A group of 40 Stoics and five members of Staff embarked on a memorable ski trip to Sölden, Austria from Saturday 14-21 December. The trip was an incredible success, filled with great skiing, learning opportunities and unforgettable moments.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Perfect Conditions and Bluebird Days:

The group enjoyed ideal skiing conditions, with blue skies and fresh snow providing the perfect backdrop for their alpine adventures.

**Skill Development for All:** Both skiers and snowboarders made great progress during the trip. For some Stoics, it was their first time skiing, making their achievements on the slopes even more impressive.

**Skiing on a Glacier:** One of the standout experiences was skiing on a glacier for the first time. This unique opportunity offered breathtaking views and an unforgettable alpine experience.

**A Taste of Austrian Culture:** The group sampled authentic Austrian cuisine, such as schnitzel, apfelstrudel, and spätzle, immersing themselves in local flavours.

**A Cinematic Moment:** A highlight off the slopes was sipping hot chocolate at the iconic Ice Q restaurant, a filming location for the James Bond movie 'Spectre'.

**Safety and Success:** The trip was injury-free, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The success of this year's trip has already sparked excitement for next year's event. With no accidents, enthusiastic participants and an atmosphere of learning and fun, the group is eager to return to the slopes again.

Sölden provided the perfect environment for adventure, camaraderie and growth - truly a trip to remember!

**Georgina Black,**  
**Assistant Head of Sixth Form**

# MOUNTAIN BIKING

Plans are in progress for mountain bike trips and the completion of Stowe's mountain bike course. Existing features on the Bourbon course include jumps and ramps, as well as a new and impressive construction which we began to build during the Summer and is nearly complete and ready to ride.

If you are keen to be involved in the trips or building the bike course, whatever your ability, please **email me** or pop into the Art Department for a chat.

**Chris Grimble, Head of Cycling**





# DRAMA

## GCSE Metamorphosis Workshop

On Tuesday 14 January our Fifth Form GCSE pupils were lucky enough to take part in a Physical Theatre workshop focusing on Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Kafka's 'Metamorphosis'.

The workshop was led by Actor-practitioner Kat Mary, who skilfully introduced the group to a wide range of Berkoff's techniques. They explored Berkoff's use of the Mie (drawn from the Kabuki theatre tradition of Japan), as well as the importance of breath and precision in his approach to storytelling.

The Stoics explored how to create each of the play's characters using keywords as inspiration, and the workshop ended with the creation of some Gregor Samsa 'insects'. This was an intense and physically demanding workshop that was an excellent springboard for the pupils' own ideas and we look forward to seeing the results of their creativity in March.

**Simon Miller, Director of Drama**



## Fern Parker in the Montane Spine Race

At 8am on the morning of Saturday 11 January, Fern Parker (Cheshire Matron) started the Montane Winter Challenger South race. Billed as one of Britain's most brutal endurance races, the Challenger South (part of the Montane Spine Race series) is a non-stop, 108 mile race along the Pennine Way.

Beginning from Edale in Derbyshire, runners have a time limit of 60 hours to get to the finish at Hawes, taking in the Kinder Plateau, numerous National Parks, Malham Cove and Pen-y-ghent. A daunting route at the best of times, however even more so, given the extreme temperatures and wintry conditions that Fern faced! At midday on Sunday, Fern was over halfway and approaching Skipton - with Pen-y-ghent and the Yorkshire moors still ahead of her. Fern finally crossed the finish line at 11.17am on Monday 13 January, completing the 108 Miles in 51.17 hours.

161 competitors started out, with only 71 crossing the finish line. Fern was the 9th female to finish and a very impressive 40th overall.

This is by no means Fern's first endurance race. Last year, amongst other 100 mile events, she completed the Challenger North event - the next 160 miles of the route to the Scottish border; which she finished as the second fastest female competitor! In 2026 Fern hopes to link the two sections together and complete the full Spine Race of 268 miles, which is considered the most brutal endurance event in the UK.

Congratulations to Fern, an amazing achievement!

**Cheryl Davis, Cheshire Houseparent**



# World First Record-Breaking Pacific Ocean Rowing Expedition



Lottie Hopkinson-Woolley (Stanhope 18) is setting out with her two crewmates, Miriam Payne and Jess Rowe, to become the first team to row the entire Pacific Ocean, 8,000 miles, non-stop and unsupported. Facing 30ft+ waves, severe sleep deprivation, encounters with marine wildlife, and much more, they are gearing up for a true test of endurance and resilience.

But beyond the physical challenge, the team is committed to pushing their own boundaries and making children around the world realise that they are capable of more than they think. This journey is about proving that anything is possible if you put your mind to something.

Departing in April 2025 from Peru, South America, the crew will row continuously west for 8,000 miles until they reach the shores of Australia, finishing their journey in Sydney Harbour. The expedition is expected to take 150+ days without a support boat or any stops along the way, making them completely self-sufficient throughout the challenge.

The team is still actively seeking corporate sponsors and crowdfunding support for this incredible journey. Their 9.2m ocean rowing boat Velocity is on her way to Peru, along with all the equipment and food they'll need to survive and thrive on the open sea. There is still time to sponsor the boat and have your logo put on her please get in touch! Velocity is currently a blank canvas, with sponsor logos set to be added when the team arrives in Peru at the beginning of March.

It has been inspiring to see the incredible support the team has already received from Old Stoics. Their shipping costs have been generously covered by the OEC Group, thanks to Anthony Fullbrook (Walpole 88). The team is benefiting greatly from the invaluable guidance of Jonathan Sucksmith (Walpole 92), who is their operations guru and liaison in Peru.

If you would like to support this historic expedition, please consider donating to their CrowdFunder [here](#). Once they have the funds secured for the journey, the team will begin raising money for The Outward Bound Trust, a charity dedicated to providing life-changing outdoor experiences for young people who do not have access to such opportunities due to financial barriers. The Outward Bound Trust aims to instil essential life skills, resilience, and confidence through adventure and challenge.

Join Lottie and her team as they push the boundaries of possibility, inspire the next generation, and champion the power of adventure for all. You can follow their journey on a live tracker via their [website](#) or contact them by [email](#).



## StoweSPORT

### Hockey

Congratulations to the Stowe girls' 1st team who beat Marlborough College 1-0 on Thursday 16 January in the England Hockey National Cup Tier 1 match.

The boys' 1st team had three matches in four days last week. On Wednesday 15 January they faced Magdalen College School, before a nail-biting match against Kimbolton on Friday went to flicks which we just lost 7-8. We were level with Rugby 2-2 at half time on Saturday, but fatigue got the better of us in the second half.

Well done to the U14Bs for their 2-1-win against Rugby, with Spencer O'Boyle (Temple, Third Form) and Jeremy George (Third Form, Chandos) scoring.

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**

### Lacrosse

Five lacrosse teams travelled to a triangular against Heathfield and Haberdasher's Elstree on Saturday 18 January. Most matches were very close and highlights included Bella Timmis (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) scoring seven of Stowes eight goals against Haberdashers. Tilly Sherwin (Upper Sixth, West) and Millie Brown (Third Form, Queen's) also had excellent afternoons.

**Pete Shepherd, Head of Lacrosse**

### Football

The boys' A Team from every Year Group had a match last week and the Seniors put our three teams against Rugby on Saturday 18 January. The 1st and 2nds now play in the Mercian League and got off to a good start with a 2-2 draw for the 1st and a 4-1 win for the 2nds.

### Squash

Our 1st team is enjoying one its best ever seasons. We beat Oundle 4-1 on Saturday 18 January.

Stowe competed in the Regional Finals on Monday 19 January against two of the top squash playing schools in the country: Wycliffe and King Edward's. A great experience at the amazing Priory Club facility in Birmingham.



# OLD STOICS



## 2024 Leavers Reunion - A Night to Remember!

On Monday 16 December, the Stowe Leavers of 2024 came together for their inaugural reunion as Old Stoics at The Sun, in Clapham. The evening was a resounding success, brimming with laughter, nostalgia, and the sheer joy of reconnecting.

The atmosphere was electric as friends caught up, sharing stories and news of what life has been since leaving School. The drinks were flowing, and the conversations were lively, and full of warmth and enthusiasm.

Everyone agreed the reunion was a much-needed opportunity to reconnect for the first time as Old Stoics, and they left The Sun with plans to make this gathering an annual tradition, ensuring that their friendships continue to thrive.

Here is to many more reunions and the enduring spirit of the Old Stoics!

**Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager**

## OS Calendar of Events

We are thrilled to announce a busy and vibrant calendar of Old Stoic events planned for the first half of 2025. From engaging networking events to fun-filled social gatherings, there's something for everyone. These events are just one of the many benefits of being part of the Old Stoic Society. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, network with like-minded individuals, or simply catch up with fellow OS, our events offer something for everyone of all ages.



For further information, please visit our [website](#) or [email us](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

### OLD STOIC EVENTS

<b>30 January</b>	<b>20th Anniversary Drinks, Alfred Tennyson - London</b>
<b>6 February</b>	<b>Oxford University Drinks, The Bear - Oxford</b>
<b>8 February</b>	<b>Six Nations 'Car Park Drinks', Twickenham - London</b>
<b>27 February</b>	<b>Law Networking Drinks, Inner Temple Hall - London</b>
<b>23 March</b>	<b>OS Sports Festival - Stowe</b>
<b>3 April</b>	<b>Live Bands Night, Half Moon Putney - London</b>
<b>30 April</b>	<b>SOS Lunch, Oriental Club - London</b>
<b>14 May</b>	<b>Property Networking Drinks, Baker Street - London</b>
<b>23 May</b>	<b>Eve of Speech Day Concert - Stowe</b>
<b>24 May</b>	<b>Speech Day &amp; Classic Car Display - Stowe</b>
<b>13 June</b>	<b>Clay Shooting, Holland &amp; Holland - London</b>

## News from the Old Stoic Society



Toby Gauvain (Temple 89) was elected as Chair of the Old Stoic Society at our AGM in December. Toby will serve for the coming three years and has some exciting plans to lead the Society forward and improve our careers services for our members:

"I feel very privileged and honoured to be taking over as Chair of the Old Stoic Society for the next three years. I have been a frequent visitor to Stowe since 2013, watching our two sons (Henry and George) and now our daughter (Emily) follow in my footsteps, creating their own memories and experiences.

There are many strands to the work done by the Old Stoic Society, led by the OS Committee across multiple work streams, but my centrepiece will be Careers: we will work tirelessly with the School, Stowe Parents and our broad network to make a real difference. Young school leavers, recent graduates and mid-lifers are facing the greatest challenge in a generation. We are grappling with a societal levelling up which was widely predicted, endless AI powered filters for job applications and a job market that is more and more opposed to the private sector. I believe it is incumbent on all of us to ensure Stoics are ably supported by a well-honed and purposeful preparation for the world beyond the gates of Stowe."

For those who are relatively new to Stowe, I felt it would be useful to explain what the Old Stoic Society is and how it supports Stoics and Old Stoics.

The Old Stoic Society connects Old Stoics to the School and each other as a life-long community. We support Old Stoics throughout their lives by means of careers advice, activities, connections and members' services. We also aim to encourage Stoics to flourish during their time at Stowe. Once you leave Stowe, the Old Stoic Society takes over to offer support for the rest of your life.

There are 11,500 Old Stoics around the globe, ranging in age from 18 to over 100. The Old Stoic Society is run by an elected committee of Old Stoics who work hard to serve our members, alongside two members of Staff who work in the Old Stoic Office at Stowe: Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Society Director, and Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Events Manager.

The Old Stoic Society is a separate organisation to Stowe and is funded by members' subscriptions. Life membership of the Old Stoic Society is paid by the parents of Stoics whilst they are at Stowe.

The members' services and opportunities we provide aim to inspire members to have the courage to stand out from the crowd, think on their feet and to be creative, so they can make a real impact in life. We feed the knowledge of older generations to young Old Stoics through a varied careers programme and run a mentoring programme to provide advice and progression for all. We are working on exciting plans to improve our careers services for members of all ages.

The Society has a myriad of sports teams and clubs for members to take part in and we actively encourage new groups to start up. A varied calendar of members' events take place across the country and the world each year, to allow everyone to meet up or return to Stowe.

Full details about Life Membership, members' services and our forthcoming events can be found on our [website](#). If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the Old Stoic Office or drop in to speak to a member of the team - our office is on Plug Street.

**Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Society Director**





## Arvind Ethan David Inspires Lower Sixth Stoics

On Monday 9 December, Film Producer Arvind Ethan David (Chatham 93) brought his wit, wisdom and creative insight to the Lower Sixth in the Ugland Auditorium. Despite a transatlantic journey from LA and navigating the quintessentially British train delays, Arvind arrived punctually, following an energetic introduction from Mr Elwell.

In his engaging talk, Arvind explored the unlikely but fascinating parallels between two literary giants, PG Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler, both alumni of Dulwich College. He shared how their shared classical education under renowned teachers shaped their masterful command of language, from Chandler's evocative noir prose to Wodehouse's sparkling comedies of manners.

Arvind recounted how his own career, zigzagging across books, theatre, TV and film, often brought him into collaboration with greats such as Douglas Adams and David Baddiel. Yet, he noted with humour and humility, his current projects - adapting Wodehouse and Chandler - pose a unique challenge; crafting dialogue that can stand alongside their iconic lines.

Through anecdotes and analysis, he highlighted the deep commonalities in Wodehouse and Chandler's styles: their shared love for musicality in language, heroic metaphors and unexpected similes. Arvind's vivid descriptions brought their brilliance to life, weaving a narrative that celebrated their creativity, the formative power of education, and the enduring importance of teachers.

Closing with a Q&A, Arvind invited the Stoics to reflect on their own inspirations and the value of mentorship in creative and academic pursuits. His parting message was a simple yet profound reminder, "greatness often begins in the classroom, where teachers and peers plant the seeds of future success".

A special thank you goes to Harrison Newman (Lower Sixth, Croft) for his expert videography skills.

To watch this inspirational talk click [here](#).

**Concord & Victory Team**



EXPERIENCE  
A CAREER IN  
**LAW**  
**THIS SUMMER**

## From Dreams to Decisions: How Work Experience Shapes Futures

On Wednesday 4 December, Tia Sualp and Emilia Combastet (both Fifth Form, Lyttelton) from the Concord and Victory team had the pleasure of interviewing Orla from InvestIN, a London-based organisation dedicated to empowering students aged 15-18 through immersive career experience programmes.

Orla shared inspiring insights into how InvestIN's initiatives provide a unique opportunity for students to explore careers across diverse fields such as law, medicine, engineering and investment banking.

During the discussion, Orla highlighted the hands-on activities and professional site visits that are integral to the Summer Experiences, giving students a glimpse into real-world working environments. She shared success stories of past participants and explained how the programmes help individuals make informed career decisions, develop critical skills and boost their university applications.

Orla's advice to Stoics was clear; seize the opportunity to explore career paths, ask questions, and embrace the learning process. Her passion for supporting young people in discovering their potential shone through, making it an inspiring conversation for all future Change Makers.

To watch the interview and to get your 10% off voucher code click [here](#).

**Gordon West, Concord & Victory**

STOWE PRESENTS

## Genius Loci: Staging the Antique in British Interiors and Garden

- a lecture by **Adriano Aymonino**  
**Tuesday 28 January 7.30pm**

From 1715, Britain and Ireland embraced classical architecture, gardens, and sculpture, reflecting the values of ancient Rome. Despite extensive studies, the interplay of these elements remains underexplored. This lecture, focusing on Stowe, examines enduring design solutions in British interiors and gardens and their wider influence.

Dr Adriano Aymonino, Senior Lecturer at the University of Buckingham, is an acclaimed author and scholar, currently working on critical editions and books on classical art and architecture.

Tickets are free of charge.

**Booking essential.**





## PHOTOGRAPHY

### Snap to It: Donate Your Unwanted Digital SLRs to the Photography Club

Do you have a digital SLR camera gathering dust on a shelf? The newly launched Photography Club, led by Ryan Zheng (Upper Sixth, Grenville), is calling on parents, Old Stoics and the Stowe Community to help budding photographers at Stowe by donating any unwanted digital SLR cameras or lenses.

This term, the Photography Club has sparked creativity across the School, offering Stoics the chance to develop their skills behind the lens. While some pupils have their own cameras, most do not, and they would greatly benefit from the opportunity to experiment with different equipment.

Photos captured by Club members will be featured on Concord and Victory's various social media channels and in **print**, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity within our School community.

If you can help, your generosity could inspire the next great photographer and contribute to the artistic life of Stowe!

Please **email me** if you would like to donate any camera equipment.

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures**

*Photo taken by Alex Fan (Fifth Form, Chandos)*

## British Physics Olympiad Success

3,800 students from 550 UK schools participated in this year's British Physics Olympiad on Friday 8 November, including three brilliant minds from Stowe. Designed to stretch and challenge our country's very best young physicists, the competition tests a wide range of scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills. With an average mark of only 26%, you can begin to appreciate just how formidable some of these problems really are!

Undeterred, Sam Zhang (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Jason Lu (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Harris Chan (Lower Sixth, Temple) accepted the challenge. Sam earned a Silver Award for his creative solutions, placing him in the top quarter of all students nationally. Sitting the paper one year early, Jason collected a Bronze Award, while Harris's work was highly commended, both exceptional outcomes that are equally deserving of our praise. I hope others will consider joining them for next year's Physics Olympiad.

**Paul Prowse, Teacher of Physics**



## Design Museum Trip

On Thursday 5 December, Stowe's Design, Technology, and Engineering pupils embarked on an inspiring trip to the Design Museum in London, where they explored two remarkable exhibitions that brought the worlds of storytelling and innovation vividly to life.

The Tim Burton Exhibition offered a fascinating glimpse into the mind of one of the world's most iconic filmmakers. From the eerie elegance of Edward Scissorhands' costume to the sleek, villainous design of Catwoman's suit, pupils marvelled at the attention to detail and technical ingenuity involved in bringing Burton's characters to the screen. The intricately crafted Nevermore

Academy uniforms and the whimsical engineering of Willy Wonka's Oompa-Loompas further highlighted the seamless integration of design, technology, and storytelling in Burton's visionary world.

In contrast, the Barbie Exhibition showcased an entirely different but equally compelling narrative of creativity and innovation. Since her debut in 1959 as a 'Teenage Fashion Model,' Barbie has continually evolved to reflect shifting design trends and societal ideals. From her ever-changing logo to the way her wardrobe and accessories have pushed the boundaries of engineering and branding, the exhibition demonstrated how Barbie has become a timeless icon of design and cultural significance.

The day was an eye-opening experience, demonstrating to the Stoics the far-reaching impact of design, technology, and engineering across diverse industries. These exhibitions not only celebrated creativity but also reinforced the importance of attention to detail, innovative thinking, and interdisciplinary collaboration - all qualities that we aim to cultivate in our Stoics.

It was a trip filled with inspiration and insight, reminding us that the worlds of design and technology are as much about imagination and storytelling as they are about precision and skill.

**Martin Quinn, Head of Design, Technology & Engineering**





## Understanding the Right Fit

What Makes a University the Right Fit



### Personal Preferences

Teaching style, class size, campus resources.

### Academic Interests

Alignment of academic programmes and specialisations.

### Career Goals

Access to internships, networking opportunities, and alumni connections.

### Campus Culture

Size, location, social environment, and extracurricular opportunities.

**Bluebellie:**  
Yale University,  
Class of 2024

# Webinar: The American University Application

On Wednesday 8 January parents of Fifth Formers interested in American universities were invited to attend an online coffee morning to find out more about the application process and university landscape.

Rebecca Pretorius, from Crimson Education, introduced all the aspects of this multi-faceted application process including the benefits of the US university style education and the importance of starting the application process early. The US application has many parts including SATs, multiple essays, transcript and reports, teacher and counsellor recommendation, activities list and, depending on where you apply, the Com App.

However, despite all stages in the process, in the USA it often comes down to 'Best Fit' - is the applicant best suited to the university academically and personally? The US has different types of institutions including the Ivy League Schools, public and private colleges, as well as Liberal Arts Colleges and specialist universities. All of these have specific characteristics and differences. It is therefore important to start the research process into the different types of colleges and universities early to ensure the Best Fit and a successful application.

Universities are looking for the complete package - a student who is intellectually curious, impact focused, committed, an initiative taker, and someone who cares about their community and others. Therefore, not only academic grades and achievements are of importance but also extracurricular activities like volunteering, the arts, sport and academic competitions are very beneficial.

If you are interested in applying to the USA and would like further information please email [Luciane Guntner](#), or [Rebecca Pretorius](#) at Crimson Education.

**Luciane Guntner, International University Advisor**

## Make Your Application Stand Out

What are the Ivy Leagues and other top US universities are looking for?

### A student with **IMPACT and INTELLIGENCE**

#### A combination of:

- intellectual vitality
- leadership, initiative and creativity
- personal qualities, character, authenticity

40%

#### Academics

- High School Grades
- Class Ranking
- Curriculum Rigour
- Standardised Tests (SAT or ACT)

30%

#### Extracurriculars & Leadership

- Initiative
- Creativity
- Breadth
- Impact

30%

#### Application, Essays & Interviews

- Common App Essay
- Supplemental Essays
- Recommendation Letters
- Interviews

# Celebrating Excellence in Photography

We are delighted to announce that Anton Poon (Lower Sixth, Croft) has been recognised at the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards as the Winner of the 16-18-year-old category!

The award ceremony was live streamed on Thursday 19 December, where Matron and I watched Anton collect his prize. Even more impressive, the judges praised Anton's work, declaring his photo "the best Robin photograph ever seen in the competition". Such high praise is a testament to his skill, passion, and creative vision.

The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards showcase the incredible talent of young photographers across the UK, encouraging creativity and a love for nature. Learn more about the competition [here](#).

Congratulations to Anton on this phenomenal achievement. We can't wait to see what you will capture next!

**Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent**

## December Change Maker of the Month (CMOM)

Change Maker of the Month (CMOM) is a recognition programme which gives the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate colleagues that have exceeded expectations in living and breathing any of our Change Maker values. Colleagues nominate those that they feel have gone the extra mile. There are two Change Makers of the Month at Stowe (one from teaching and one from support services) and one each from Winchester House and Swanbourne House.

**Stowe Teaching - Sophie Rickner**, Teacher of English and Queen's Houseparent deservedly received the award for her unrelenting work supporting our teaching community.

**Stowe Support Services Stowe - Theo Tyrie**, ICT Technician was recognised as CMOM for their outstanding work supporting filming and video production across The Stowe Group.

**Swanbourne House - Lucy Sutherland**, Assistant Director of Music - Lucy received the CMOM for the positive energy she brings to the Swanbourne School community. Lucy is a super Year 5 Tutor and she took a big lead in the 'Little Mermaid' performance. Lucy was also recognised for her kindness and support during a drama audition, where her thoughtful approach made a significant difference to one pupil's experience.

**Winchester House - Paul Turvey**, Compliance Manager for always going 'above and beyond' often outside his normal working hours and prioritising others' needs above his own.

**Jaime Chahal, Group Director of People**



# STOWE HOUSE



## Adding to the Stowe Collection

Having finally achieved the change of wording we needed for Stowe House Preservation Trust to start working towards Museum Accreditation at the end of last year, we started the new year with the purchase of a Temple-Grenville cup and saucer, to match two items from the same tea set that we already have.

Exactly four years ago, the Hall Bequest Trust purchased two items from America which had the Stowe family crest on them. The milk jug and sugar bowl were part of tea set decorated with laurel and berries - which at Christmas time, seemed most apt! They were made by the Worcester Porcelain Factory around 1810, and bear the coronet and martlet of Earl Temple (along with the family motto, 'Templa Quam Dilecta'). This could imply that it was commissioned by the son of Stowe's owner at that time, the Marquess of Buckingham, who was Earl Temple, or the Marquess commissioned the set himself with an earlier family design.

A few weeks ago, we were offered a cup and saucer from the same set by a local dealer, who had purchased it from a dealer in Australia five years ago - demonstrating how far and wide the family's possessions spread.

The tea set is not mentioned specifically in the 1848 or 1922 sales catalogues which could indicate either that it was not deemed important enough to put in as a separate item, or it was not put up for sale and was passed down through the family after the sales. I suspect we will never know.

The cup and saucer join the other pieces of Stowe ceramics currently on display in the SHPT Museum, while we continue to undertake a little more research through the Museum of Royal Worcester.

**Anna McEvoy, House Custodian  
& Co-Director Stowe House Preservation Trust**



## Events at Stowe House



### Stowe Tots

**10-10.45am on the following  
Monday's: 27 January, 24  
February, 31 March, 28 April,  
19 May, 30 June**

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. In January and February, block-book sessions until May and receive a complimentary session in June.

**Booking is essential.  
One child and one adult £5**



### Cupid's Trail: Valentine's Adventure

**15-23 February  
10.30am-3.30pm**

Step into a world of mythology, creativity and love with Cupid's Trail, a family-friendly Valentine's themed adventure designed for children aged 4-14. This February Half Term, explore our awe-inspiring State Rooms to uncover fascinating stories of ancient gods, solve fun puzzles and riddles, and enjoy hands-on crafts in this historic country house.

**Free activities are included with  
normal admission. Kids go free  
with a paying adult. Book now.**

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



### Stars at Stowe Stargazing

**Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November  
6-8pm**

Be quick, only a handful of tickets remain for our popular stargazing evenings!

In collaboration with UK Astronomy, learn about the wonders of the universe before heading outdoors to use the telescopes provided.

Experts will be on hand to guide you as you search the night sky for stars and planets.

**Get your tickets to the stars.  
£18 Adult, £12 Child. Book now.**



### Zodiac Explorers: Chinese New Year at Stowe

**Wednesday 19 February  
10am-12pm and 2-4pm**

Bring the magic of Chinese New Year to life with our exciting children's workshop. Perfect for ages 5-10, this two-hour interactive experience is packed with storytelling, crafts and adventure that will spark creativity and inspire young imaginations.

#### What's in store?

- Begin with a captivating Chinese New Year story to set the scene.
- Discover your zodiac animal, lucky numbers, and more.
- Get crafty and decorate your own wooden snake, symbolising the Year of the Wood Snake.
- Embark on an exciting journey around Stowe House to find the Chinese zodiac animals hiding in plain sight.
- Let your imagination soar as you sculpt with modelling clay, creating something inspired by the House.
- Learn to write the word 'snake' in Chinese - first in pencil, then with brush and ink on beautiful paper.

**£4.50 per child, standard adult house  
admission applies. Book now.**





## Sleeping Bag Donations to Sheltersuit

During the Michaelmas Term Stowe Ubuntu Society and CCF joined forces and decided to work on the Human Rights Article 25 sub-article 1, which states;

*'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.'*

As a group, we decided to focus on our universal right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and their family, specifically the right to adequate clothing. After a discussion with Major Arnold, we discovered that CCF had many unused sleeping bags and fleeces, taking up valuable space in store cupboards. We took a group of our Ubuntu Society Members to the CCF stores in Plug Street on a cold, snowy day before the Christmas break. The weather didn't impact on our spirits and we all had fun and enjoyed the task at hand. Using our Change Maker teamwork and initiative we transported the sleeping bags from stores to Miss Barbeli's classroom and organised the fleeces into bags according to size.

After some research we found ShelterSuit, an active charity in the United Kingdom, Europe, America and South Africa, which up-cycles sleeping bags and waterproof materials to create the 'ShelterSuit' and the 'ShelterBag'. The charity employs people with a distance between themselves and the labour market, helping people who might not have a chance at being employed and earning money. The ShelterSuit is a full body waterproof device used to protect homeless people from the weather. The ShelterBag is a portable and lightweight sleeping bag that can be rolled up and carried, making it easy to transport. It has a built-in mattress and is waterproof, providing comfort to those sleeping rough. We contacted the team at ShelterSuit and they came and collected the sleeping bags, telling us that every sleeping bag we have donated could be saving a life this Winter.

During the Lent Term we are looking to donate the CCF fleeces to 'Collection4Clothes', a charity based in Milton Keynes that sorts and donates clothes and sends them to people in need all over the world. We are working towards setting up a clothes drive after the January Exeat, where we are hoping for Stoics to donate warm Winter clothes, in good condition.

Stowe Ubuntu Society is grateful for Major Arnold's support and kind gesture on behalf of Stowe CCF, to donate sleeping bags and fleeces to people who need them most.

**Annabel Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)**

# Read Around The World

*As part of our reading resolutions, we are challenging the Stowe Community to "Read Around the World."*

The mission should you wish to accept it is as follows:

- ☞ Read a book set in a different country.
- ☞ Read a book written by an author from a different country.
- ☞ Read a book written in another language.
- ☞ Read a book translated into English.
- ☞ Read a book in a different country.

When you have read your book, please come to the Library and let us know. We can then plot it on our map of the world.

We are hoping like Phileas Fogg to read "Around the World in Eighty Days."

So, pack your passport, reading glasses and book and join us in our epic adventure.

**LIBRARY**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stowe School  
Stowe  
Buckingham  
MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000  
e | [stowemail@stowe.co.uk](mailto:stowemail@stowe.co.uk)  
w | [www.stowe.co.uk](http://www.stowe.co.uk)

Editorial Team:  
**Mrs Cath Clarke**  
**Mrs Eleanor Lyttle**  
**Mrs Tori Roddy**

Stowe