

Welcome from the Head

Character Education

We started the Michaelmas Term by celebrating the achievements of this Summer's Leavers many of whom are now heading off to leading university destinations in the UK and around the world. More than 70% (137 Stoics) were accepted at QS Top 200 courses. Favourite destinations this year include Durham (16), Exeter (16), Newcastle (16) and Bristol (12). Nine of the ten most popular university destinations belong to the prestigious Russell Group and an unprecedented four Stoics were accepted by The Courtauld Institute of Art this year. Our Leavers are taking a wide range of courses and we are very proud of Amelia Hine (West 2023) who has secured a JLR (Jaguar Land Rover) Engineering Degree Apprenticeship.

This year's School theme is character education: Aristotle said that the aim of our studies is not just to know what virtue is, but to become good. The Greeks had a word for practical wisdom or good sense called phronesis - knowing what to want and what not to want; showing good judgement; learning from mistakes; being clear-sighted about how actions have consequences. If we look at schooling from ancient times until very recently, cultivation of character was given pride of place. We usually describe someone's character before commenting on their intellect or listing their achievements. Character education only disappeared towards the end of the 20th Century when schools became obsessed with exam results and league tables.

Pupils at Stowe are not called Stoweans but Stoics because the founding Headmaster, JF Roxburgh, wanted them to emulate Stoicism, a Greek school of philosophy, which holds that the wise person is led by reason to live virtuously, accepting calmly whatever happens. The more recent framework of Change Maker skills was developed to complement Stoicism and to enable our pupils to make a lasting and positive impact on the School and society. Change Makers are creative and think analytically; they use their initiative to innovate; they become active learners with the ability to solve complex problems. Change Makers communicate well, master new technology, display emotional intelligence and social literacy, they collaborate and work in teams.

A school culture should be contagious and caught through role-modelling by teachers, support colleagues and pupils. Character education is not a bolted-on extra which happens in Chapel, CCF, DoFE, team sports or community service - it is something that can be sought, caught and taught in classrooms, on the games fields, in the Day and Boarding Houses, at home with our families, and in our daily interactions with pupils, teachers and support teams.

Character isn't just about inculcating moral virtues - becoming a good person - there are enabling virtues such as confidence, perseverance, resilience, determination, and teamwork. Leadership and social literacy require character virtues such as empathy, and the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and to change your viewpoint if the other person has a persuasive argument. A good leader will also demonstrate ethical standards such as compassion, courage, gratitude, humility, integrity, respect and justice.

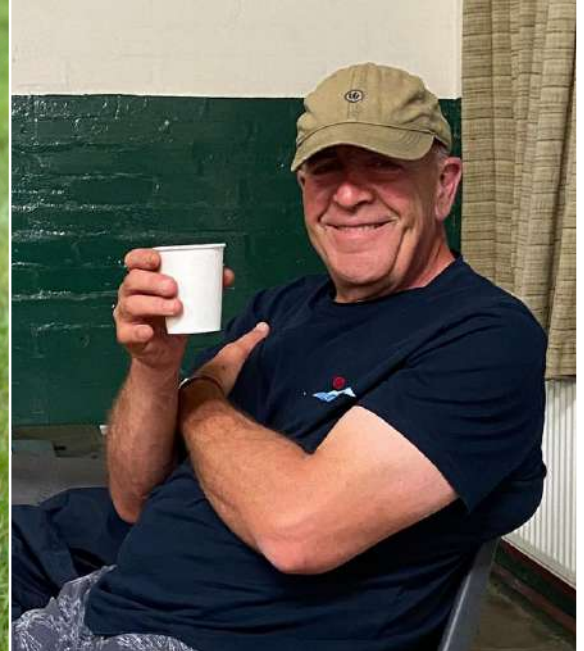


There are intellectual virtues which pupils can display in the classroom and in prep: autonomy, critical thinking, and active learning when they are completely engaged in the learning process and take responsibility for their progress; analytical thinking should guide the quest for knowledge and information and enable pupils to examine and evaluate information critically. Creativity and innovation are needed to find creative solutions to problems without relying on AI, Wikipedia or Google.

We should create good citizens who show community awareness by volunteering and helping others. We want to develop confident, well-rounded, compassionate and responsible Stoics who contribute to society and serve others. Stoics should choose the right course of action in difficult situations, create positive relationships, contribute to the common good, adhere to absolute values, know the difference between right and wrong, good and bad, distinguishing between fake news and fact.

Some form of character education will always be taking place in the School - what we want for 2024-25 is to make it planned, organised, and reflective instead of assumed, reactive and unconscious. The goal is to equip Stoics with the tools to make wise choices within the framework of what the School provides. We are not expecting perfection and no two Stoics will progress in the same way or at the same speed... but all Stoics can flourish as individuals and make an extraordinary impact on the School.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head



Geoff Abbey: A Life of Service and Dedication

It is with profound sadness that during the Summer Term we announced the passing of our School Staff Instructor, Warrant Officer Second Class, Geoff Abbey. Geoff was a beloved member of the Stowe community and a truly exceptional SSI. He passed away unexpectedly in the early hours of Monday 29 July, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering service, leadership, and cheerfulness in adversity.

Geoff's life was marked by his commitment to duty and his deep care for others. A proud veteran of the Royal Marines, he served with distinction in the Falklands War and Northern Ireland, embodying the values of courage, determination, and resilience.

Joining Stowe in 2019, Geoff quickly became an integral part of the CCF, guiding Cadets with professionalism and fostering an environment of esprit de corps. His gruff exterior belied a warm heart and a genuine concern for the wellbeing of those under his care. He inspired self-respect, grit, and a drive for excellence in every Cadet he encountered.

Geoff's colleagues remember him as a loyal friend and a pillar of support. He exemplified the Commando Values, approaching every challenge with integrity, self-discipline, and humility. Even in the face of personal tragedy with the loss of his son Chon, aged just 18, Geoff's strength and resilience shone through as he went on selflessly to motivate and inspire our Stoic Cadets, so similar in age to his son.

Always willing to go above and beyond, Geoff was instrumental in ensuring the CCF's smooth operation. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes, fully supporting his Contingent Commanders, Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, and myself, and all our CCF Staff team, with unwavering dedication, loyalty, steadfastness and a good supply of humour. His presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, not just within CCF but across many areas of our Stowe Community. A truly valued member, Geoff's engaging spirit touched the lives of many.

Geoff leaves behind his beloved wife, Jo, his family, and countless friends. His memory will forever be etched in the hearts of the Stowe community. We extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Rest in peace Geoff. Your service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander



GRIMM TALES

The Summer 2024 Junior Congreve was a mischievous and comedic interpretation of Four Grimm Tales. Adapted by Carol Ann Duffy and Tim Supple, these were often gruesome tellings of the tales, much closer in tone to the original folk versions than the audience might have been familiar with. Upon entering the Roxburgh Theatre, the audience was greeted with the earthy woodland aromas as the space had been transformed into a tangled forest.

The ensemble cast worked with focus and gusto to produce a memorable night's entertainment. 'Hansel and Gretel' opened the show, establishing the narrative theatrical style of the evening. There was a distinctly Bavarian flavour to the tale, skilfully interpreted by Patrick Kingsman (Fourth Form, Winton) (Hansel) and Emily Hampson (Fourth Form, Cheshire) (Gretel) and convincingly supported by the brow-beaten, guilt-ridden father, played by Michael Aleksandar Ibru-Stankov (Fifth Form, Chandos) and his malevolent wife played by Honor Leslie (Fifth Form, Nugent). A modern twist was given to Little RedCap, with a fur-coated Alex Wyvill (Fourth Form, Temple) oozing faux charm and as the Wolf and Talya-Sara Akar (Fourth Form, Stanhope)'s Little Red strutting street-wise sass, and sadly failing to learn the error of her ways.

The whole cast took to the stage to convey the magic of 'Ashputtel', with a lighting design that supported the glowing highlights and the gloomy moments of despair experienced by the eponymous heroine (Tia Sibanda (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)). Victoria Lee (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Tia Sualp (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Julia Likierman (Fifth Form, Stanhope) were suitably evil, but their terrible fates still had a dramatic impact on the audience, reminding us of the brutal origins of the Grimm Tales. The mood lightened for the final tale, a lesser-known story of three brothers (Jonathan Dickinson (Fourth Form, Temple), Harry Blackwood (Fourth Form, Grafton) and Harry Smith (Fourth Form, Croft)) who set off into the world to seek their fortunes with comedic consequences. Fast-paced and funny, the tale was a fitting finale to the evening and highlighted once again the hard work of all members of the ensemble. Huge congratulations to everyone who worked onstage and behind the scenes to create the show!

Simon Miller, Head of Drama





Olympic Success - James Rudkin

Old Stoic James Rudkin (Walpole 12) was a member of the Great Britain Men's Eight which won the Olympic bronze medal in Tokyo. Since Tokyo, Team Coach Steve Trapmore, Olympic Champion himself in the Sydney 2000 Great Britain Men's Eight (then watched on television by a six-year-old James), has continued his ambition - to pass on his dream to the next generation.

He formed the crew he had always wanted, with James as a cornerstone. Greg Searle, World Rowing Commentator and Olympic Champion, spoke about the crew after they won their first world title in Prague in 2022. He said that he had rowed in many international Eights himself, but he had never seen a team that was "As One" as this crew.

From Coach and Olympic Champion Steve Trapmore to Olympic Medallist James, to crew members who have never been to an Olympics - no one is

more important than anyone else. They are there for each other, and the result is a crew that has won every championship since - World Champions in 2022 and 2023, European Champions in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

On Saturday 3 August, the GB Men's and Women's Eights, both Winners in their heats, went into the last day of the Regatta, where they faced their greatest challenge - the Olympic Final.

The Women's Eight took the Bronze medal, and after a very tense and close race with The Netherlands and the USA, the GB Men's Eight succeeded in taking home the Gold Medal.

Huge congratulations to James who is the first Old Stoic in history to Win Gold at the Olympics!

Charlie Evans, Event Organiser OS Society

Character Education

James Rudkin, Paris Olympic rowing Eights gold medallist, has written about the character virtues that helped him to achieve his ultimate goal:



1. Responsibility

One of the themes of our crew and my approach has been to take personal responsibility for my piece of the puzzle and do it to the best of my ability. Not to absolve myself of blame if I get my bit right and others don't, but to demonstrate to my teammates that I will do anything for them to ensure that **we** succeed as a collective, not as individuals. I owe it to my teammates to give more than I think I can to the whole.

2. Empathy

Working as part of a large team of diverse individuals requires you to learn from and understand your teammates. They will have wildly different experiences and backgrounds and you must learn to understand them and sometimes adapt to others to achieve a group goal. You must have your own principles and fight for these, but understand others viewpoints before deciding a red line. Pick your battles.

3. Determination

An innate sense of drive and passion to achieve a goal must survive constant buffeting by the winds of fortune. You will be knocked off course, you will stumble, but determination is the drive that keeps you going to your destination. This is born out of love for what you do, and a deep desire to do it well. Your drive will take hits at times but always remember why you started out on this path in the first place, rather than the hurdles you currently face.

4. Obsession

Obsession is sometimes seen as a negative but I do not think this is always the case. In sport or work you must embrace obsession and never waver from trying to fulfil your dreams. If something is worth doing, it's worth doing well and it becoming your obsessive passion will rarely dampen this dream.

Public Examinations Success

Stowe pupils once again achieved an excellent set of GCSE results this year. There are three pupils who really shone, having achieved all grades at 8 and 9 (the equivalent of an A*). 13 Stoics scored at least eight grades at 8-9 and nearly a quarter of all pupils achieved at least six grades at 8/A* or eight grades at grades 7-9. The top 50 pupils in the cohort all achieved at least seven grade 7/A or above.

Pupils have done extremely well in the sciences, with over 80% of grades in biology, chemistry and physics awarded at grades 7-9. There were a number of other departments where results were particularly strong this year. In design & technology, French, geography, German, maths, further maths and philosophy & religion, over half of all grades awarded were at grade 7 or above. Stowe also offers pupils the chance to study a broad range of languages and we are very proud to announce that 100% of those pupils taking Ancient Greek, Chinese, Italian, Polish and Russian achieved grades 8 or 9.

Congratulations to all our pupils on their achievements and to Stowe's teachers for the support of our pupils through their GCSE courses.

We also celebrated another set of excellent A Level and BTEC results, with the majority of our pupils' securing places at their first-choice universities. Among the results, three pupils attained three or more A*s, while five others earned at least two A*s and an A. An impressive total of 22 pupils secured all A and A* grades.

Stowe continues to excel across a diverse range of subjects. Our BTEC offerings in Engineering, Creative Digital Media, Business, and Sport have also achieved remarkable outcomes, with the majority of grades being Distinction or starred Distinction.

We have seen exceptional results from many departments, with 100% of pupils in Computer Science, German, Italian, Japanese, and Russian achieving A*/A grades. Similarly, French, Chinese, and Philosophy of Religion recorded over 80% A*/A grades, with Chinese and French also boasting 100% A*-B grades. Other departments, including Art, Chemistry, Mathematics, Design and Technology, Spanish, Drama, Sports Science, Politics, Psychology, and the Extended Project Qualification, saw over 70% of pupils achieving A*/B grades.

We are proud to report that our pupils have accepted places at a number of the UK's top universities, including Durham, Exeter, Imperial, KCL, UCL, Edinburgh, St Andrews, Bristol, Newcastle, Warwick, York, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Sheffield, Bath, Liverpool, and QMUL, among others.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our pupils and dedicated teachers for their achievements and wish all the best of luck with their futures.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

Stowe mail

Concert For Bangladesh – A Feast for Music Lovers (and Foodies)



In 1971 the idea of a 'benefit concert' was unheard of, until ex-Beatle George Harrison re-encountered Bengali musician Ravi Shankar, who told him of the privations in the country of Bangladesh caused by war and famine. Harrison was moved by Shankar's pleas and speedily mounted a mega-concert in New York's vast Madison Square Garden's centre and invited his friends to play.

Among the guests were former Beatle Ringo Starr on drums, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Leon Russell, Ravi Shankar and Bobby Preston (who had been a fifth Beatle at the time of their last appearance on top of the Apple buildings in the early 70s).

Harrison took centre stage in a dashing white suit and the lineup was augmented by a horn section, backing singers, John Lennon's bassist and a second drummer Jim Keltner.

Like a number of big concerts of that time (Woodstock, Altamont and Monterey) the event was filmed for posterity and given a worldwide release in 1972. All proceeds from the concert went to the Bangladesh crisis and it would be fair to say that it certainly

raised the profile of Bangladesh in Western eyes and has gone down in history as a key event of the 1970s musical landscape and a concert that consolidated Harrison's solo career post-Beatles.

In the Roxburgh Hall on Friday 13 September, over 70 Film and Media Sixth Form pupils and guests were given a chance to see a rare screening of the film on the big screen, accompanied by a short talk by music expert Tom Connor.

In addition, they were able to taste the foods of Bangladesh, thanks to a veritable banquet of delicious foodstuffs prepared for them by Stowe Parent, Jesmin Dhali, to whom the evening was dedicated. Originally from Bangladesh, Jesmin has seen the hardship and difficulties of her country. It would be fair to say that the meal she prepared was second to none and the smells and tastes overwhelmed the pupils.

A huge thank you to all for making the event happen - it was a fulfilling evening in every sense of the word.

Dr Andrew Webber,
Teacher of Film & Media Studies

Stowe in partnership with MIND presents:

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY CONCERT

Thursday 10th October 2024 | 7:45pm Roxburgh Theatre
Any profit from tickets goes to Mind charity 219830.

Concert to feature:

Excerpts from the West End hit show 'Matilda' performed by 'Miss Trunchbull' actor, Simon Shorten plus Stowe Group pupils and other soloists.



Scan here to book tickets





Five Fourth Form Cadets from the RAF section rose to a variety of challenges during their adventure training trip to the Lake District from Monday 24 - Thursday 27 June.

Having put their mountain biking skills to the test over a variety of different types of terrain, they suited up for ghyll scrambling. Under the guidance of their instructor from Big Adventure, they built up their teamwork, communication and leadership skills by learning to act as anchors, spotting one another as they climbed waterfalls. Their progress as a team was such that they were allowed to progress to the next stage: canyoning. This involved jumping down waterfalls - the highest of which was around five metres. Each Cadet chose to commit to doing this, and they all ended up with a great sense of achievement.

A huge well done to all the Cadets for manifesting grit, determination, creativity, kindness, politeness and team spirit.

Dr Imogen Adkins, CCF Officer in Charge of RAF Section



Stoic Chemistry Success in the C3L6

On Thursday 20 June, ten of our Lower Sixth chemists took part in the annual Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This National competition aims to stretch and challenge pupils interested in Chemistry. Although it is designed to be accessible to first year A Level pupils, it deliberately takes them significantly beyond their syllabus, encouraging a way of thinking more likely to be found at university.

Across the country, there were over 13,000 entries into this year's competition and awards were given to pupils in the top two thirds of the National cohort.

Congratulations go to: Alessia Capella (Stanhope), Grace Huang (Lyttelton), Kira Kernes (Lyttelton), Freddie Palmer (Cheshire) and Josephine Parker (Cheshire) who received Copper certificates. Sirmour Bala (Grenville) and Eitan O'Grady (Temple) who received Silver certificates.

Calon Heaven (Grenville) and Gilbert Xu (Chandos) marks earned themselves Gold certificates, with their scores placing them within the top 10% of all entries received.

Dr Alix Waive, Head of Chemistry



Senior Music Award Holders' Concert

On Wednesday 18 September, the Music Department presented their first concert of performances by the Senior Music Award Holders at Stowe. The evening was also the mock recital for the A Level musicians.

The guest adjudicator for the evening was Mr Robert Douglas, Head of Keyboard at Oundle School, who provided the pupils with invaluable feedback on their performances, enabling them to refine their programmes before their final performance exam next March. The 14 performers presented a varied programme ranging from Bach to blues music, to a supportive and appreciative audience of pupils, family and Staff.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music



Inter-House Football

During the first 'In Weekend' of the year, the annual Inter-House football competition took place on Sunday 8 September with the usual energy and enthusiasm from Stoics and Staff.

Thank you to all who supported, the weather for being glorious (after a morning of rain and wind), and congratulations to all those who participated and to the Winners:

Third Form: Cheshire & Winton
 Fourth Form: Cheshire & Winton
 Fifth Form: Queen's & Croft
 Lower Sixth: Nugent & Cobham
 Upper Sixth: Queen's & Chatham



Badminton

The new badminton season started on Saturday 14 September with a trip for our boys' and girls' 1st VI and 2nd VI to Cheltenham College. In a well contested match, the boys' 1st team lost 7-2 while the 2nd team more than held their own to win 6-3. 1st pair Sam Zhang (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Jason Lu (Lower Sixth, Walpole) won all three of their matches. The girls came up against two strong Cheltenham College teams, losing both matches 8-1.

The Senior Inter-House boys' and girls' badminton tournaments took place on Sunday 15 September. The results were:

Boys' Champions

House - Grenville | Singles - Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Lower Sixth, Winton)

Girls' Champions

House - West | Singles Champion - Madya Liu (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

On Saturday 21 September, our top two boys' teams also had very close matches with Bedford School, winning one 5-4 and just losing the other 4-5. With the healthy number of Stoics playing badminton at the moment we managed to put out two further sides on the same day, with our 3rds playing Wellingborough 1st team who gave their all against more experienced players, and our 4th team beating Wellingborough 2nds.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton





Old Stoic Day

50th Anniversary of Girls at Stowe

With the arrival of the Michaelmas Term, we look forward to a busy programme of events and activities for Old Stoics to bring together the Stowe Community.

Our biggest event of the year, Old Stoic Day, took place last Saturday (21 September), when we welcomed 230 Old Stoics and their families back to Stowe for our annual reunion day.

This year, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Girls at Stowe, marking the milestone since the first five girls joined in September 1974.

The day began with coffee in the Marble Hall, followed by an important Chapel service led by Revd James Righetti. The OS President, The Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie (née Struthers, Stanhope 86), herself an early Stowe girl, delivered readings and shared inspiring and eyebrow raising stories about her time at Stowe in the 1980s and reflected on how it helped to shape her career. We were proud to see so many Old Stoics coming together in Chapel to mark this occasion and were pleased to see Stoics in our congregation. Mrs Joanna Goodwin (née Bell, Stanhope 76) one of Stowe's first five girls, and Natasha Crosby (Third Form, Lyttelton) one of our newest arrivals at Stowe, delivered readings in Chapel. Both read beautifully and we would like to thank Natasha particularly for her fantastic contribution. Olympic Bronze Medallist, Marilyn Okoro (Lyttelton 02), led the prayers to draw our service to a close.

After the Chapel, Stoics proudly led tours of their Houses, where Old Stoics shared tales from across the decades. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Stoics, Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl for their time and assistance throughout the day, making the Old Stoics feel so welcome.

Pre-lunch drinks featured a panel discussion led by the Head, including eight female Old Stoics who shared their experiences at Stowe and how it has shaped their lives. Our panel included: Joanna Goodwin (née Bell, Stanhope 76) and Vivien Johnston-Smith (née Slyfield, Stanhope 76), two of Stowe's first five girls. Joanna has enjoyed a long and successful career in journalism whereas Vivien's career led her giving back to her community with a fulfilling career in social care. The Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie (née Struthers, Stanhope 86) joined the panel and explained how her career after Stowe led her to the House of Lords. Clem Yates (née Bennett, Stanhope/Lyttelton 94), who is one of only 38 female Masters of Wine in the world shared how her biology, chemistry and physics A Levels have been instrumental to her work as a vintner. Our Olympian, Marilyn Okoro (Lyttelton 02), who is an Account Executive at Equinix (a Global data infrastructure Company) explained the work she has done to support

Change 100 at Stowe. The Head then introduced Dr Milla Marinova (Lyttelton 03), who is a medical doctor by background, and has founded R8ER; a digital evaluation platform for disruptive healthcare that connects technology with investment. Our discussion drew to a close with Annika Ormerod (Nugent 17), who studied Politics and Philosophy at LSE and now works for KPMG, and British Event Rider Bubby Upton (Queen's 17), recalling their time at fully co-ed Stowe. It was heartwarming and inspiring to hear how Stowe's Change Maker values have resonated with each of our speakers. The discussion was recorded and will be available to watch back soon.

Lunch was a nostalgic affair, with Old Stoics and their families queuing with trays through the Servedy and dining with friends and old classmates in the State Dining Room, Temple Room, and Music Room. The only difference was the addition of wine with lunch! On that note, we would like to thank Holyrood Howe for the excellent service they provided throughout the day for our guests.

The afternoon provided further opportunities to celebrate the contributions of girls at Stowe, with House and Landscape Garden experts leading tours themed around the history of Women at Stowe and an exhibition of Stowe archive material relating to 50 Years of Girls at Stowe available to watch in the Marble Hall throughout the day. The film can be watched [here](#).

Once again, Old Stoic Day was a wonderfully enjoyable day for our members and provided everyone with the perfect excuse to return to Stowe. When we reflect on changes within our School since 1974, coupled with strength of our community in 2024, we can be proud of the distance travelled now fifty years have passed since girls arrived at Stowe. It was very special indeed to come together as a community to celebrate this milestone.

Charlie Evans, Event Organiser OS Society





HOCKEY Senior Girls' Hockey Trip to Antwerp & Amsterdam

DAY ONE - Another fantastic Hockey Tour started with the annual Stowe 6s festival on Sunday 25 August. Ipswich School, Kirkham Grammar, Kimbolton School, Rugby and East Warwickshire HC, Northampton Saints HC and Buckingham HC joined Stowe in a frenetic and fast-paced hockey tournament to kick off the girls' preparation for tour. Stowe mixed up their teams and ended with one team making the Cup Semi-Finals and another winning the shoot-out competition.

DAY TWO - Monday saw the girls train in the morning, before lunch in Buckingham and returning for fixtures that evening. The U15s and U16s played out a hotly contested practice match while the Seniors took on Towcester Ladies. Stowe played well and ran out 4-0 winners with Captain Ari Hay (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and striker Flora McCullough (Upper Sixth, West) scoring twice each. The girls ate together on the North Front before staying in Nugent House for a second night ready for a very early departure on Tuesday.

DAY THREE started at 4am when the girls met on the North Front to load the coach. We made good time arriving at Dover ready for our ferry crossing to Dunkirk. Travelling straight to HC

Braxgata we were met with blazing sunshine and 30-degree heat. The Seniors had a training session before watching both the U16 and U15 girls take on Braxgata U16s. 1-0 and 3-0 losses respectively were encouraging considering the travelling that day and the U15s playing up an age group. After eating at the Club, we checked into our hotel in Antwerp that evening for a two-night stay.

On **DAY FOUR** we visited KHC Dragons, one of the top clubs in Europe for training in the morning and a series of back-to-back matches in the afternoon. The U15s narrowly lost 2-1 in a brilliant game before the U16s edged a tight encounter 1-0. The Seniors then matched the U16 result and won 1-0. We all ate at the Hockey Club before returning to the hotel for some well-earned dessert!

DAY FIVE - We transferred to Amsterdam via Duinrell Theme Park where most of the girls enjoyed the indoor water park and some Seniors used the time to study. After checking into the StayOk hostel, the girls were able to enjoy some sightseeing in the city.

Another full-on hockey day at HC Hilversum was in store for **DAY SIX**. We trained in the morning before heading into town for lunch and arrived

back at the Club for three matches, one per team. The U15 girls won well, the U16s lost 5-2 but played very well given they were depleted, and the Seniors won a one-sided match.

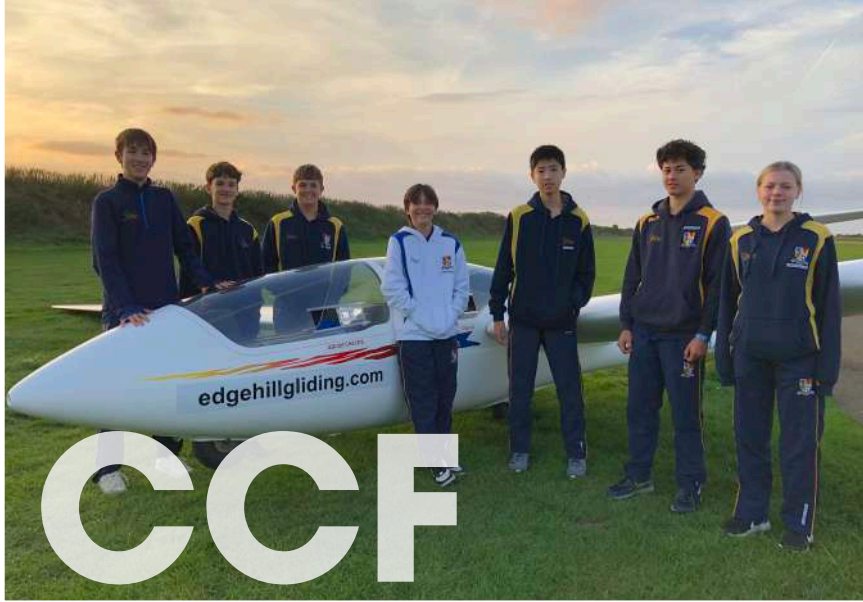
On **DAY SEVEN** the girls travelled to HC Cartouche and took part in a festival during the morning. The U15s won matches against HC Cartouche and HC Leiden, the U16s were edged out against HC Cartouche and the Seniors battled hard in their four-team tournament to take the win after 2-0, 2-1 and 1-0 victories.

The girls and Staff then enjoyed some time in Amsterdam before we met for our end of tour meal and Awards. Senior Captain Ari and Vice-Captain Anna Maria Collinge (Upper Sixth, Nugent) performed an incredible rap (which did include some references to the Staff!) before a bumper fun session where we highlighted some of the funnier parts of the tour!

A smooth journey home on Sunday and back to School on the Tuesday (or Monday if you were a Staff member!). A huge thank you to the girls for their efforts throughout the tour and to the Staff who made the trip so enjoyable, we look forward to next year.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey





Gliding with Edgehill Gliding Club

Seven Fourth Form RAF Cadets took advantage of a trip to a civilian gliding club on Monday 9 September.

Emily Hampson (Cheshire) took to the skies first and recorded the longest flight overall. Harrison Deeth (Cobham), Kelvin Liao (Cobham), Humphrey Burge (Grafton), Jasper Hagger (Walpole), Lucien Godin (Chandos) and Finley Cummins (Grenville) also flew, practicing winch-launched take-offs up to 1,200ft, banked turns - some of them very steep, and landings on the grass strip airfield.

They all helped by enthusiastically retrieving the gliders after each landing and setting them up ready for the next launch. Having logged these flights, the Stoics are now on the path to gaining their first set of Wings. Our thanks to the volunteers at Edgehill Gliding Club who made the afternoon possible.

Dr Imogen Adkins, Officer in Charge of RAF Section, & Steven Whitby, CCF

National Air and Space Camp

Over the Summer, I had the opportunity to attend the National Air and Space Camp from Saturday 17 to Saturday 24 August, where I was able to learn more about careers in the RAF and develop my skills as a Cadet which will help me in the future.

We were based at RAF Syerston, near Newark, for many of the activities, and I was able to achieve my Blue Wings, for gliding and controlling the glider, in addition to using flight simulators, as well as my Blue Space award. To gain this we were taught about astrophysics and the RAF's involvement in space discovery.

Also held at RAF Syerston was an industry day and air show where we were able to talk to companies, such as Rolls Royce and BAE Systems, about future career paths. At the air show we saw some impressive aircrafts including a Spitfire, an Apache, a Chinook and a Typhoon.

Some days were spent at the National Space Centre, Leicester and the Air and Space Institute, Newark where we had the opportunity to fly more advanced flight simulators.

The highlight of this camp for me was our visit to RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, a training station for Typhoon pilots. We had the opportunity to be shown around the jet by a Typhoon engineer who explained many features of the aircraft, as well as allowing us to sit in the cockpit. We were also able to go to the control tower to see eight Typhoons take off and see the internal work of people in air traffic control.

This camp gave me opportunities, experience and knowledge that I otherwise would not have been able to gain.

Lani Shah (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

CCF RN – Activities at Lake Moor

The Royal Navy Cadets were sailing at the Great Moor Sailing Club from Monday 24 - Wednesday 26 June, it was a fun few days and everybody learnt a lot!

For our training exercises we used Argos, which can fit up to four people at a time. Monday was a busy day, learning how to safely tack and jibe, how to capsize properly then how to 'right' the boat.

Tuesday was all about the five rules of sailing - the course, trimming, balancing, the centre board and the sail setting. On Wednesday, we finally had a nice breeze and could put into practice all the things learnt during the previous two days.

We finished off playing some competitive games, which ended up with a draw between the two teams. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the glorious weather was an added bonus.

We would like to thank the Navy Section and the CCF Officer in Charge of Boats, Mr Syme, for organising everything.

**Sofia Skjøtt & Chloe Pearce
(both Fifth Form, Queen's)**





Change Makers Challenge (DTE)

The new Third Form pupils took part in a Change Makers Challenge for their first lesson in Design, Technology and Engineering (DTE), this gets them thinking empathetically about an everyday design problem. With challenges such as how can you fasten a button when you have arthritis or limited finger mobility; to how can you turn pages in a book, or do the washing up if you have been a recent amputee, it is a chance for the Third Form to get stuck in and test their ability to innovate whilst gaining an understanding of the exciting and varied subject of DTE.

We had some excellent groups this year who designed products in a thoughtful and insightful way, such as Felicity McIntosh (Queen's) and Alice Coleman Reaston Brown (Lyttelton) who integrated their project into a jewellery item, and Penelope Trubshaw (Cheshire) who, alongside Millie Brown (Queen's), in an homage to the design approach of James Dyson, created numerous iterations of their device that enabled their client to put their sock on, and they persevered with this until they had a product that perfectly performed the task.

The groups that stood out with their creative problem-solving were named our Design Change Makers 2024 and awarded with a certificate and Bene.

Victoria Cox, Design, Technology & Engineering Technician



MOTORSPORT GROUP

Ferrari Challenge Cup Day

Sunday 15 September saw the Motorsport group visit Silverstone circuit for the Ferrari Challenge Cup.

The day consisted of watching two Ferrari challenge races and the parade of Ferraris. The parade consisted of over 100 Ferraris, from classics to new, all driving a lap of the circuit. From where we stood, we could see all the cars line up and start their lap. Once the lap was complete, we saw them pulling into the pitlane. After the parade, all the cars parked behind the pit lane on display for everyone to walk through, which was a great chance for us to see the Ferraris up close. Despite the cold weather the day was enjoyed by all.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Upper Sixth, West)





Concord & Victory Interview

On Wednesday 18 September, we had the incredible opportunity to host an inspiring interview with renowned screenwriter, playwright, and producer Arvind Ethan David (Chatham 93), who joined us live from Los Angeles.

Arvind, a British film producer and founder of Slingshot Productions, is celebrated for his work on Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency and the Broadway hit Jagged Little Pill. His contributions to film, theatre, and television made for a fascinating discussion. Led by Drama Scholar Harry Smith (Fourth Form, Croft), Music Scholar Jaypaul Sehmi (Third Form, Croft), and Tabi Acher (Joint Head of Concord & Victory), the interview offered valuable insights into Arvind's career trajectory and the entertainment industry as a whole.

Interview With Arvind Ethan David

In front of an audience of Fourth Form drama pupils Harry and I held an exclusive interview with Arvind Ethan David. The interview started off with Tabby giving a comprehensive introduction to the interview. Arvind gave a brief follow up about himself and explained how he was very involved with drama productions at Stowe and how his work life is very similar to how it was at the School. It was in the Lower Sixth at Stowe that he realised that he wanted to make a career out of drama. Arvind has since, and continues to, write and make plays, movies and tv shows.

Harry and I asked a series of questions about his time at Stowe and how this influenced his career path. Arvind explained how drama and performances helps people in all aspects of their life. He also mentioned the many different areas of production which people can get involved in, all you need to do is read the credits at the end of a film to get a flavour of the number of people involved.

Arvind explained some of the obstacles in his life, one of which was how he needed to complete a degree in law to overcome an immigration problem. Having become a lawyer has helped Arvind in his business and also knowing the job roles of the people he works with. He advised students to try different things and explore different opportunities.

It was a very informative interview and it gave all of the pupils an insight into the world of drama. Watch Arvind's interview [here](#).

Jaypaul Sehmi (Third Form, Croft)



Cricket

The 1st XI travelled to Haileybury for their last match of the season on Sunday 15 September. An excellent performance saw a comfortable win for Stowe. The top batting performances were by Noah Cloete (Lower Sixth, Chatham) with 65 and Connor Lawford (Lower Sixth, Walpole) with 45, the star of the bowling attack was Azlan Kumar (Fourth Form, Grafton) who picked five wickets.

James Knott, Director of Cricket



Aadi Sharma

Aadi Sharma (Winton 24) has signed a two-year professional contract with Northants County Cricket Club.

Aadi has scored two centuries for Northants 2nd XI: one against Nottinghamshire, the other against Somerset; both sides had very strong bowling attacks. Originally through the Bucks system, Aadi has also played for Bucks 1st XI when not on Northants duty and has two centuries for them in the National Counties Championship.

Aadi has also secured a place at Loughborough University studying Business Management, so will combine his studies with his cricketing commitments as well as being a part of the University Centre of Cricketing Excellence (UCCE) squad.

We wish Aadi the very best of luck with both his cricket and his studies.

James Knott, Director of Cricket





ROWING

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA



Another great Henley - despite the weather!

The main event in School rowing is Henley Royal Regatta, and at the Qualifying Race, on Friday 28 June, the last day of Summer Term, Stowe was represented by both boys' and girls' quads. Both crews did everything they've worked towards in the two years they have been at our School - the fastest crews we've seen from Stowe for a while, possibly ever.

Only exceptional crews go to Henley, and this is the entry level. Our crews are the youngest, with three years still ahead of them. Last year, as Third Formers, the girls were one minute adrift of the Sixth Form crews from other schools, and the boys two minutes. This year, the boys had this down to a few seconds and the girls climbed ahead of two crews from China. Like the boys, they were just a few seconds behind their accomplished rivals from Cambridge.

At Henley, our young Stoics were greeted by Old Stoics who have followed the same pathway - Josh Green (Chandos 22), rowing for York University; Hugh Gallie (Bruce 08), qualifying in sculling for Manchester; and Charlie Chick (Grafton 21) for Oxford Brookes. Charlie achieved every rower's dream, to win a Henley title (only the second Stoic ever to achieve this). He is now coaching our young rowers at Stowe.

We hope the Stoics will be inspired to continue to aim high, as they enter the Fifth and Sixth Forms. One Stoic was in Paris to see Team GB's rowers winning medals in the Olympic Finals. Many thanks to everyone at Stowe, who has made our crews possible.

At School, the Michaelmas Term has got off to a good start, with 45 Stowe and Winchester House rowers attending our sessions on the 11 Acre Lake, and some good rowing on the big lake at Great Moor too. It's encouraging to see significant numbers of Third Form and older beginners, enjoying the fine weather on the water at the start of the year.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



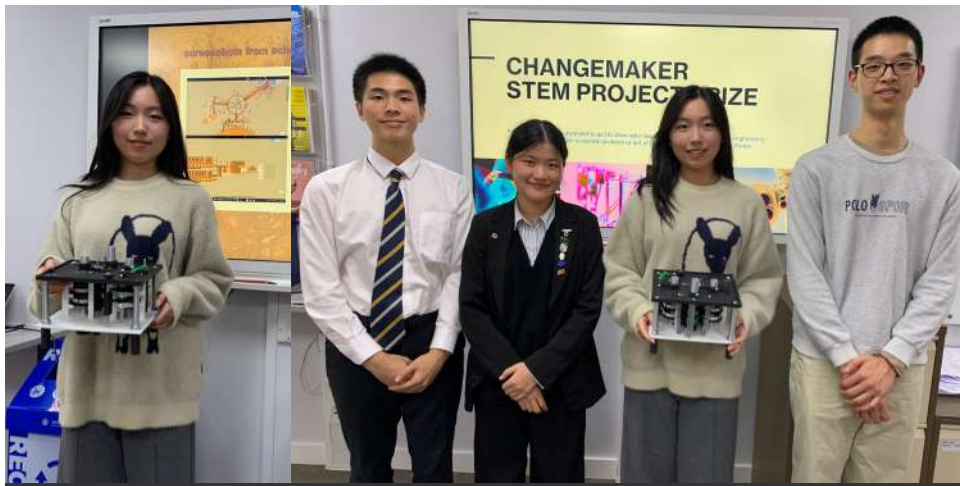
OS Success at Henley

Charlie Chick (Grafton 21) was part of the foursome who won the Prince Albert Cup Final at Royal Henley Regatta on Monday 8 July. To watch the race click [here](#).

Charlie first raced in the Regatta when he was in the Fourth Form at Stowe. To make this final, Charlie had to see off the best that Harvard, Cornell, La Salle, London, Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge had to offer.

Congratulations Charlie!

Charlie Evans, Event Organiser OS Society



Change Maker STEM Project Prize

The finalists for this year's Change Maker STEM Project Prize were Grace Huang (Lyttelton), Gilbert Xu (Chandos), Ryan Zheng (Grenville) and Ethel Zhu (West). The prize of £100 is to be awarded to an Upper Sixth Stowe who has applied science, technology, engineering or mathematics to tackle a real-life problem or set of problems during their time at Stowe.

Grace collected hundreds of hours of observations of the bathing behaviour of birds at Stowe in Autumn and Winter. Having scoured the literature, Grace knew some of the species and behaviour that she might observe, but was frustrated by the limited information available for Stowe in particular. From observations between September 2023 and July 2024, Grace observed seven different species and, by collating an immense amount of data, was able to track such things as how day length affected bathing behaviour.

Gilbert developed a mathematical computer simulation of how stars and planets interact and move under the influence of gravitational forces. Inspired by the NASA online 3D model of the solar system, Gilbert incorporated into his model, the sun, all eight planets, Pluto and the Earth's moon. Gilbert overcame some difficulties with modelling the moon's orbits and with getting the graphical interface to work, and finished with an excellent simulation that could be used to analyse launch windows for missions to the other planets.

Interested in large language models (LLM), such as ChatGPT, Ryan wanted to see if these powerful tools could be trained to produce musical scores, in response to a worded prompt; for example, "A soothing and meditative piano piece, set in the key of C major with a slow Adagio tempo." After completing a course on machine learning, Ryan selected Qwen2-Yb-Instruct as an open

source base LLM, and trained it on a dataset of 100,000 labelled music files. Once Ryan had overcome a few technical challenges, his model produced music of an obviously higher quality than ChatGPT.

Ethel's project and presentation was imaginatively titled "Fantasies Bubbling on the Gears of Reality" and involved looking back to a time of mechanical computers to recreate a difference engine with a Steampunk theme. Having looked carefully at images of working examples, Ethel developed her designs, overcame technical and production challenges and made her own difference engine, capable of working with three-digit numbers and calculating the output of linear functions.

The finalists were assessed against five criteria - independence, technical skill, perseverance, communication and initiative. Ideally, we would have liked to have awarded the prize to all the finalists and, indeed, adding up the scores for these criteria showed just how close the competition was. Congratulations to this year's Winner, Ryan Zheng.

**Dr Charles Adkins,
Teacher of Mathematics**



A Year of Incredible Impact

We are thrilled to share the outstanding Street Child fundraising accomplishments of the Stowe community during the 2023-2024 academic year. Efforts have exceeded expectations, raising an incredible £58,603.80 in total! This impressive figure includes £49,503.80 raised directly through fundraising initiatives, with a further boost from UK Aid Match during the Christmas Times Newspaper Appeal. Stowe's contributions are making a tangible difference in some of the world's most challenging places.

Thanks to Stowe's generosity, Street Child has been able to respond rapidly to emergencies, including the Morocco earthquake and Libya flood, where funds were swiftly directed to local partners on the ground.

The fundraising team, who worked tirelessly throughout the year, and whose events culminated in an exciting auction on Speech Day, has helped construct a new school in Tienpo Woloken, Liberia, where out of school children will access education for the very first time. This initiative, in partnership with Street Child, is a remarkable step toward providing a brighter future for the community's children.

You can read the full article about Stowe's Street Child Fundraising and the impact it has had [here](#).





Sports Performance Programme

September is an exciting time for the Performance Programme as we welcome back current pupils and invited a large number of new pupils from Lower Sixth and Third Form especially, to join this Sports Performance group.

Each week we have hundreds of pupils pass through the gym, each with their own goals and aspirations. Our athletic development team supports all these pupils to understand more about how to use training to improve their sports performance, minimise chances of injury and develop competent, confident young athletes.

The Third, Fourth and Fifth Form learn about the techniques and principles of training, setting the foundation for future strength and conditioning training. This educational environment teaches them consistency, accountability and how to use different training modalities to best improve their performance.

The Sixth Form often train in small groups or individually, following bespoke programmes tailored to their own sports needs or personal requirements. Over the course of five years some pupils may participate in as many as 400 strength and conditioning sessions which provides an incredible foundation to enter university or even professional sport.

A variety of presentations accompany this programme, often from external speakers to further develop the pupils understanding of sports psychology, nutrition and elite performance.

George Coote, Head of Athletic Development & Performance Programme



ATHLETICS

National 300m Champion

Mary Taylor (Fourth Form, Stanhope) had a wonderful Summer on the athletics track, competing for Stowe and her Club, Rugby and Nuneaton.

Mary came Third in the Final of the 300m at the National Schools' Athletics Finals in early July, and then ran her best race of the season to become the National Champion for 300m at the England Athletics Open Championships achieving her aim of breaking 40 seconds with a time of 39.77s.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport

Golf

On Thursday 12 September the Final of a new, whole School competition called the 'Davis Cup', which is a match play competition, took place between two brothers, Miles and Tristan Dickinson. It was the younger Dickinson who emerged victorious, so congratulations to Tristan (Lower Sixth, Grenville) who is the first winner of the handsome new Davis Cup.

Squash

Captain Eitan O'Grady's (Upper Sixth, Temple) 1st team made a winning start in their match away at Stamford on Saturday 7 September, and on Thursday 19 September the 1st and 2nd teams both won again in their matches against Cheltenham College.

Lacrosse

The 1st and 2nd X entered the Bath 8s tournament on Saturday 7 September. The 1st X finished Fifth out of 25 teams after pool play, eventually getting knocked out in the quarter finals; Stowe was the highest placed school in the competition. Well done to the two squads and in particular Emelia Brett and Maddie Baker (both Upper Sixth, Queen's) who both scored 12 goals.

On a beautiful afternoon on the South Front on Saturday 14 September, the Stowe 1st team enjoyed a match against an Old Stoic team, whilst the Stowe 2nd team proved to be far more experienced and stronger than Oakham; they had plenty of shooting practice with a high conversion rate, which was a great start to the term for the team.

The two Senior lacrosse teams, with matches against Bedford Girls School (on Tuesday 17 September) and Haileybury (Saturday 21 September), had a busy but positive week. The 1st X, Captained by Maddie Baker (Upper Sixth, Queen's), had very tight contests losing one match by just one goal and then winning the next by just one goal. The seconds were too strong for Haileybury, but had a similarly tight match with a one goal win over Bedford.

Pete Shepherd, Head of Lacrosse

May/June Change Makers of the Month

The Stowe Group has a wonderful recognition programme for colleagues with the "Change Maker of the Month" awards. This initiative helps to highlight employees who actively embody the Change Maker Values and go above and beyond in their roles.

Stowe Teaching - Simon Miller

Simon received a phenomenal five nominations for his outstanding commitment to our pupils, which was particularly noticed in his involvement in RAF Cadets and his work on Junior Congreve.

Stowe Support Services Stowe - Bethan Parry & Molly Merrison

Beth and Molly both received multiple nominations for going the extra mile in their communication, organisation and professionalism as part of Stowe's Speech Day and an outstanding concert on Speech Day eve.

Swanbourne House - Laura Coupe

Laura received the Change Maker of the Month for her noteworthy flexibility in giving up her free lessons to help with the Pre Senior Baccaulaureate (PSB) evening, alongside her feedback and support with the display boards which was extremely helpful.

Winchester House - Nick Shaw

Nick was awarded Change Maker of the Month, for his quick and calm response to challenges he faced at WHS.



Gallery Visits in London

On Sunday 15 September, 11 keen Art Historians travelled to London for a day out in the galleries. After a short walk we arrived on a lovely autumnal day to the grand entrance of the British Museum, home to over eight million objects from all over the world. We all felt completely overwhelmed by the great amount for us to see.

We managed to join a guided tour led by the in-house Art Historian, who took us through the history of Greek art. We learned about colourful vases, each one containing clever motifs showing stories with gods such as Achilles. The historian then showed us a comparison of Greek and Egyptian sculpture. The kouros was much more animated, and it was interesting to see this crucial phase in the development of representing the figure pointed out so clearly. We were then led to see the vast Parthenon sculptures of the Acropolis temple dedicated to Athena. We also saw the exceptional metopes sculptures - fantastic examples of the Greek interest in combining realism and idealism; this aspect particularly struck us as we had previously learnt about it in lessons. The Hellenistic section, which contained extraordinary jewels and even more marble statues of figures all with refined poses and flowing drapery, was fantastic. This was a very exciting taster of what we are about to learn on the course.

After some much-needed refuelling, we were keen to move onto our next destination, the National Gallery, which is home to 2,300 pieces of art. Of the permanent collection, we focussed on some of the most important works of different centuries. We visited phenomenal artworks by artists such as Titian, Peter Paul Rubens, Jan van Eyck, George Seurat, Albert Cuyp, J.W. Turner and Michelangelo. We were all amazed by the beautiful pictures, as well as the vastness of some of the pieces. 'Bacchus and Ariadne' (1520) was a colossal piece which filled the wall. This painting specifically fascinated us, because of its vibrant colours which drew our eyes in, the extraordinary attention to detail, and the genius re-telling of the myth and the central place of love by Titian. Another piece we were particularly intrigued by was 'Samson and Delilah' (1609-10) by Rubens, as the artist was able to tell a complex story of betrayal with his masterful painting technique and clever adaption of iconography. We learned how the procuress behind the figure of Delilah was meant to allude to the young woman's future and her wickedness. This made us consider the picture for all its possible meanings. We thoroughly enjoyed 'Bathers at Asnières' (1884) by Seurat, due its vibrancy and capturing of light. This was down to the artist's technique and his aims for turning the lessons of Impressionism into a scientific system.

The whole group had a wonderful day, and we look forward to further gallery visits this year.

Tatiana Riviere (Lower Sixth, Nugent) & Millie Colebrook (Lower Sixth, Queen's)





Myles Henry Award: OUR TANZANIA EXPERIENCE

After stepping off the plane at Arusha airport we immediately took notice of the completely different environment we found ourselves in. Feeling nervous and excited in equal measures, we were not sure what to expect from the next two weeks in the middle of Africa.

When we arrived at the 'Plan My Gap Year' accommodation and saw our room we were to share with 16 others, we knew we were in for the trip of our lives. On the first day we were lucky enough to have a tour around the city and learn about all the key places we would want to visit throughout the next few weeks. We drove around in Tuk-Tuks and saw just how run down this developing country is, however we were also able to see how positive the people were with so little, by which we were extremely inspired. When we arrived back at the accommodation, we were able to spend time getting to know the amazing people we would be living with, all from different backgrounds, countries and of different ages. We went on a small hike to get to know one another and when we stopped, we played music and games. We also met some locals who taught us traditional dances to Swahili songs.

On Wednesday 10 July, we experienced our first day in placement at Good Hope School. We were taken around the classrooms to meet all the different age groups of children. This was a huge moment for us as we felt so much love right away. As we walked in and introduced ourselves the children would greet us with screams of joy and many hugs. We started teaching in the baby classes. We noticed how run down the classrooms were and how little equipment the school had, with pencils being snapped in half so that there were enough for each child, and the sharpeners so broken that young children used just the blade to sharpen their pencils. Luckily, we had thought about this before leaving England and were able to supply the classroom with new equipment, which they were extremely grateful for. We worked five days a week, from 9am-1pm, where we would assist teachers by giving children one to one help, as well as occasionally leading sessions. We also took part in their PE lessons, which included going outside and singing in a circle and then one short running race.

Every night, back at the accommodation we were greeted by the women who cooked and cleaned for us, known as 'the Mamas'. They would cook us traditional Tanzanian food including banana stew and chapatis. We made an effort to try all of the food that came our way to fully embrace the culture. We also took trips to the Maasai market, and we were taught how to haggle; we bought many local and handmade gifts! Along with this we spent an afternoon at SHANGA, which is an association for local disabled people who cannot get jobs, so they make money through bracelet making and selling. They taught us how to make the bracelets and we were able to keep them. During our visit we found out about their lives and how they were affected by their disabilities and made sure to give donations.

In addition to volunteering in the school, we had the chance to experience some other amazing opportunities. During our first weekend we went on a safari. Tanzania is known for its incredible safaris and the trip lived up to our expectations. We were lucky to see animals such as lions, elephants and giraffe up close and meet many of the local Maasai tribe people. We also spent an evening bringing hot cooked meals and cold snacks to the street boys in Arusha city. There are over 50 street boys, some as young as 11 years old. We spent a couple of hours connecting and getting to know them. This was extremely emotional for all of the volunteers who went along, as it was incredible to see their positive spirits despite their horrible circumstances. The youngest boy we met was 11-year-old Joshua, who suffers from asthma and often struggles to breathe at night. We took him to a pharmacy where we bought him a new inhaler.

Overall, our time in Tanzania was incredibly inspiring, giving us an entirely new perspective on life and educating us on new cultures, lifestyles and practices, willing us to be more opened minded and keep a positive attitude towards life.

Amadea Baxter (Upper Sixth, Nugent)
& Sandrine Van Grembergen (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



RUGBY



South Africa Rugby Tour

On Monday 8 July, 26 Stoics from the 1st XI Rugby squad were accompanied by Liam Copley, Peter White and myself, on a 13-day tour to South Africa.

We flew to Johannesburg where the Stoics spent three days enjoying training sessions, a moving visit to the Apartheid Museum and our first victory over Hans Moor School.

The tour party thoroughly enjoyed two safari game drives before flying south to Cape Town, where the city was hosting the U20s' World Cup. We managed to see Old Stoic Henry Pollock (Grafton 22) play in England's qualifying match over Ireland. Despite flooding in the area, we were able to play our three remaining fixtures.

A narrow victory over Hamilton RFC (the oldest club in South Africa) was followed by a physical encounter against Paarl Boys' School, who were magnificent hosts. Despite carrying many knocks and injuries the Stoics performed superbly in their final match of the tour to draw against DF Malan to return home unbeaten.

The Stoics behaved impeccably throughout the tour, and we all brought back memories that will last a lifetime.

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby



RUGBY PRE-SEASON

Pre-season rugby during the week before Michaelmas Term began, saw all four sides involved beat Warwick School, leading everyone to eagerly await the start of the proper season.

On Saturday 7 September, the 1st XI had a nail-biting match away at Stamford. Stowe were ahead with just a couple of minutes to go, but Stamford kicked a penalty to edge the close contest. The 2nds had a very encouraging win, showing a pleasing mix of rugged toughness in defense and creativity in attack. The North Front crowd watched the Colts A team run in several tries, with Josh Williams (Fifth Form, Grenville) scoring three and Charlie King (Fifth Form, Croft) scoring two. Other wins were recorded by the Junior Colts Bs (JCBS) and the Yearlings Bs.

The 1st XV then beat Samuel Whitbread Academy 42-22 in the National Cup on Tuesday 10 September and then won convincingly against Oakham on Saturday 14 September on the North Front. The Fifth Form A and B teams both had impressive wins, and it was particularly pleasing to see the Fourth Form A and B teams both run in multiple tries as they chalked up two significant victories. The Third Form won three out of four games, so it was a good day for Stowe Rugby winning 8 out of 12 matches against Oakham.

Stowe won eight out of the nine matches on Saturday 21 September, well done in particular to the four Yearlings teams as 70 Third Form boys represented the School in rugby matches and enjoyed victories against Solihull and Bedford. The first XV, 2nd XV and U16 teams all proved to be too powerful for their opposing sides at Solihull and another standout result was the U15B team who have won their first three matches.

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby



HOCKEY

After a wonderful pre-season trip to the continent where the Senior girls team won all their games, the 1st XI started the new season in dramatic style on Friday 6 September scoring eight goals in the first half against a shell-shocked Stamford side. Well done to Captain Ari Hay (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and her team.

The U16As also played on the Stowe astro on Friday evening and got their season off to a winning start. Both teams appreciated the large number of Stoics who went to support the matches.

On Saturday 7 September the 2nds and 3rds also made encouraging starts as did the Junior sides. It looks like girls' hockey at Stowe is again looking forward to a very strong season ahead.

Saturday 14 September saw the 1st XI beat Oakham, who are

a Tier 1 team, and the 2nds also gained their second win of the season. The Senior hockey teams really are a force to be reckoned with this year.

The U15B and C teams returned the most notable results with high scoring wins. On the whole we shared the block with five wins each, although Stowe scored 28 goals in total against Oakham's 23.

In the block against St Edward's on Saturday 21 September, Stowe won or drew nine out of ten matches. The stand out performances were by the 2nd XI who bounced back from a tough cup match against Oundle 1st team on Thursday 19 September to win 4-0 and the U14 B team who beat Teddies A team 4-0.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Science Technician Day

On the Tuesday 2 July, the Worsley Science Centre held the 'Timstar Supertech Meet' for the second year in a row. This was a great opportunity to welcome science technicians from all over the country, providing an unparalleled opportunity to enhance skills, connect with like-minded professionals and explore the latest advancements in science technology for education.

The day started with a loud bang, eye-opening demonstrations and a warm welcome from Head of Science, James Tearle. The day then followed with insightful biology, chemistry and physics workshops led by industry experts, as well as several exhibitions from educational suppliers and access to product experts.

Feedback from the event was very positive from both delegates and exhibitors, cementing Stowe's place in providing a collaborative learning environment for the wider technician community, including independent and state schools, with the inevitability of events like this being held at Stowe in the future.

Jade Chapman, Senior Science Technician



Service@Stowe

Third and Fourth Form Year Group Leaders volunteering at Christmas Gorse

On Friday 28 June, 27 Stoics and four members of Staff volunteered at Christmas Gorse near Winslow for the final Service@Stowe activity of the academic year. Christmas Gorse has two old and undeveloped habitats; a grassland and a woodland, neither of which have been worked for about 100 years. The site is now being improved for wildlife.

This was both a learning and volunteering opportunity and a chance for the Year Group Leaders to enhance their Change Maker Skills - especially Active Learning and Leadership.

The group did a mixture of volunteering work interspersed with talks on local fauna and flora and conservation.

The working parts of the day involved clearing fallen and cut wood to allow light to fall on the ground. This is necessary to encourage the growth of both low growing plants, on which caterpillars feed, and nectar plants, for the butterflies. The work is especially important to encourage the rare Black Hairstreak butterfly into this area.

The educational activity included learning about butterflies from our host, Mr Ellerton (Treasurer of Butterfly UK), and dragonflies from woodland volunteer Mr Bruce Hyde, as well as snakes and other small mammals.

Everyone had a most enjoyable day and a huge amount of work was achieved. We have volunteered at the site before, but Mr Ellerton was most impressed with this group and commented how they had achieved more than any group before them.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Head of Service@Stowe





Alan the Line Marking Robot

Over the Summer, the Grounds Department purchased a Turf Tank Line marking robot to help in match day pitch preparation.

The robot (nicknamed Alan), using GPS mapping, can mark a rugby pitch in 35 minutes using less than six litres of paint and requiring only one person to operate it; instead of the five people that usually mark the pitches weekly. Alan will not only save the School money on paint but will

increase productivity with the grounds team having more time to improve other sporting facilities to enhance the everyday sports experience for the Stoics.

It can also paint logos, which you may have already seen with the Stowe script outside the Cricket Pavilion and the South Front for the celebration of 50 years of girls at Stowe!

Kevin Beasley,
Deputy Grounds Manager

Stowe 100 Racing Club Update

It's been a busy Summer for the Stowe Racing team although frustratingly a win in 2024 still eludes us.

Sweet Reward, trained by Jonny Portman (Chatham 83) who has been an ever present for our team, is now in his fourth season in our colours. He has finished in the places on numerous occasions this Summer taking his owners to the likes of Epsom, Newbury and Sandown and a return to the wonderful Glorious Goodwood Festival for a fourth successive year, in which he finished an honourable fifth. He will have one more run this year before having a well-earned break.

Nice Try is our second horse in the Stowe flat syndicate, and she is only a two year old who is learning. She finished down the field in her first race for us at Lingfield in early September however we hope in time she will prove to be an able number two to Sweet Reward.

An exciting acquisition to our team has been the recent purchase of Belcamo, trained by Alex Hales (Chandos 92). He was purchased from the powerful Andrew Balding yard to be a dual-purpose horse (flat and jumps) and it is our hope that we can get him, and the Stowe colours, to one of the four year old handicap hurdles at the famous Cheltenham Festival in March.

Belcamo will be ready to make his debut in our colours at the beginning of October... there is one share left in him so if you are interested, please contact **Henry Kimbell** (Chandos 04).

Finally, we are always keen for more parents and pupils to learn more about our racing syndicates. On Saturday 26 October, we will be holding our annual Stowe Racing stable tour at Alex Hales yard. Tickets are free (**book here**) and it is a wonderful chance to bring the family, meet some of our horses in training with Alex and see how a racing yard operates.

Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04), Stowe Racing





Equestrians at Stowe

Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) travelled to Strzegom, Poland to represent Great Britain in the Junior European Championships on Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 August. Araminta and her horse, Ned's Legacy, not only helped GB secure a Bronze medal but also came 12th individually.

Araminta said "Riding in this team was such an incredible opportunity and I truly am so grateful to have completed our first Europeans, and on a horse I wouldn't change for the world." - huge congratulations!

Gracie Cowley (Fourth Form, Queen's), Bunny Hales (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Jonty Gordon (Upper Sixth, Croft) all qualified for the Pony Club Championships held over the Summer, competing for their Pony Club Teams. Congratulations to Gracie, with her pony George, who won the Novice Dressage Championship and also came Third in the Intermediate Final.

Gracie has also been busy competing in British Eventing competitions over the Summer and completed her first International 1* Three-Day-Event at Blair Castle, a huge achievement competing against International Event riders.

Lola Price (Fourth Form, Cheshire) has been gaining fantastic results on her pony, Cosmo, in both Discovery and Newcomer classes, as well as taking on a new pony, Freddie, with whom she has stepped up to Foxhunter classes. With placings in huge British Showjumping classes as well as strategic planning for points, we wish Lola the very best for her ambitions to get both ponies qualified for the Horse of the Year Show in October.

The Stowe Equestrian Team have kicked off the competitions for this year with a very successful trip to Rectory Farm on Sunday 15 September. The 80cm Team of Fourth Formers, Alejandra Tafur (Lyttelton), Lola Soto (Cheshire) and Ruby Sturgis (Stanhope) all jumped clear rounds to take Team Second.

The 90cm Team, Lola Price, Ruby Sturgis and Bella Timmis (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) all jumped clear rounds to win Team First place, with Lola winning Individually and Ruby taking Second. The same team went on to take Team Second in the 1m class, this time with Ruby winning individually and Lola coming Second. Lola finished an excellent day with Individual Third in the 110cm class.

All these girls have qualified for the NSEA National Championships in October and we are very proud of the whole team.

Congratulations to our Equestrian Team members who competed at Blenheim Pony Club Eventer Challenge Championships on Friday 20 September.

Our Team travelled to Eland Lodge on Sunday 22 September to compete in the NSEA Showjumping. In terribly wet conditions, the girls showed brilliant Team spirit and resilience. Special mention to Daisy Bilderbeck (Fourth Form, Stanhope) for two excellent clear rounds, Bella Timmis who won Third place and Lola Soto who won First place both in the 90cm class. Lola Price finished a long wet day by winning the 110cm class.

The Equestrian Team is now underway with our programme of competitions, so if you would like to be involved or have any questions, please [email me](mailto:becky@stowe-sport.com).

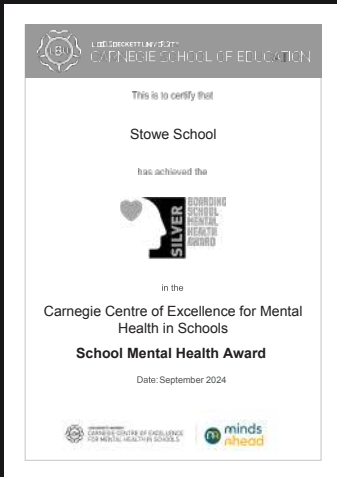
Becky Coote, Head of Equestrianism





Silver Award for Stowe

Over the course of last academic year, Stowe worked with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools to self-reflect on our approach to mental health and wellbeing. The Carnegie Centre is the UK's first university centre for mental health in schools and the reflection covered eight key areas:



- Leadership and strategy
- Organisational structure and culture - Staff
- Organisational structure and culture - pupils
- Support for Staff
- Support for pupils
- Staff professional development and learning
- Working with parents and carers
- Working with external services

This process gave us a framework to evidence the policies and initiatives that Stowe use in our on-going work towards improving emotional health and wellbeing for both pupils and Staff. It also gave us an opportunity to develop and strengthen any areas needing improvement, and to keep working towards building an emotionally healthier environment for everyone.

We then submitted a portfolio of evidence set against the eight key areas and were awarded the Boarding School Mental Health Award - Silver Status. The silver level of this award recognises not only the work which Stowe does for its own community but also the fact that Stowe is a leader in its region, sharing its mental health practices with other schools.

Aidan Harvey-Craig, Head of Psychology

OS Leia West

Leaving Stowe and heading to the University of Exeter was definitely a big change. Moving from a familiar environment to something completely new can be intimidating, and it was for me at first. But I quickly realised that change is where the real growth happens. The experiences I had at Stowe gave me the confidence to dive into new challenges and make the most of what university has to offer.

At Stowe, I was one of the first pupil photographers, and it was amazing to see that role grow into something much bigger, with more pupils following that path. What started as just me behind the camera evolved into a movement, and seeing so many photographers now covering School events is incredible. It's also been exciting to watch Concord & Victory, the newsletter I started, turn into a multimedia publication known across the School - a project that continues to inspire Stoics today.

At Exeter, I've built upon those experiences and started new ones. I recently co-founded the Exeter Global Visionaries Society (GVS), which brings together pupils to tackle global challenges, from sustainability to leadership. Working alongside my friends and inspirational peers has been

a rewarding experience, and it's great to see how GVS is making an impact already.

Sports have been another big part of my time at university. At Stowe I focused on Rowing and had the fantastic opportunity to be stroke of our Henley VIII for Stowe's Centenary Row Past. This year, at Exeter I wanted to try something new, and I've had the chance to captain a hockey team and develop my netball skills, and experiences have taught me the importance of teamwork and resilience. I've also continued my photography journey as the 1st team rugby photographer at Exeter, capturing some amazing moments on and off the field.

Most recently, I've been appointed as the Exeter Movember ambassador for this year. While I'm just getting started, I'm excited to lead the campaign to raise awareness for men's health and work on important fundraising initiatives. It's a cause I'm passionate about, and I'm looking forward to making a difference alongside my team.

For any Stoics thinking about university, or if you're already at Exeter, do not hesitate to reach out! University is a big change, but it is also the time where you can really make things happen. My advice is to work hard, look ahead, and think beyond what you're told to do. Create something, start a movement, and push the boundaries of what's possible.

Leia West (West 2023)



Old Stoic Michaelmas Events

We welcome all Old Stoics to take part in our 2024 Michaelmas Events programme:

- 10 October** - OS Dinner, Churchill War Rooms
- 13 October** - South-West Sunday Lunch, The Cotley Inn
- 14 October** - South-West Recent Leavers' Drinks, The Black Horse Exeter
- 26 October** - OS Horse Racing Stable Tour

20 November - Newcastle and Durham Recent Leavers Drinks, 97 & Social, Newcastle

21 November - Edinburgh Pub Night, The Wally Dug, Edinburgh

30 November - Stowe 10 Years Out, Stowe School

5 December - Christmas by Candlelight, St Martin-in-the-Fields (including the OSS AGM)

Please book [here](#)

Charlie Evans,
Event Organiser OS Society

SEXTORTION EMAILS

PHISHING EMAILS THAT USE FEAR & SHAME AS A WEAPON



Sextortion is a cybercrime that occurs when organised criminals and predators threaten to expose a sexual image / video, or pornography usage often stolen from a computer / mobile or by hacking into a webcam to blackmail for money, or force victims to engage in some form of sexual activity. Offenders target multiple victims, a majority of whom are children under the age of 18.

THE PROBLEM IS GROWING
330,000,000+

Number of Unique Compromised Accounts



Cofense Labs has been monitoring the largest confirmed dump of email addresses used for sextortion to date. The stats below are based on an analysis from January 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019

Data source: Cofense Labs



7,854,099

Number of Sextortion Emails Analysed

Data source: Cofense Labs

HOW ARE VICTIMS TARGETED?



SOCIAL MEDIA MANIPULATION IS USED IN 91% OF CASES INVOLVING YOUNG VICTIMS



COMPUTER HACKING IS USED IN 43% OF CASES INVOLVING ADULT VICTIMS

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

71% of cases involve victims under the age of 18.

14% of cases involve a mix of young and adult victims.

12% of cases involve adult victims.

WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?

EVERY PROSECUTED PERPETRATOR IS MALE
They include college students, friends, and family of the victim.

SEXTORTIONISTS TEND TO BE PROLIFIC REPEAT OFFENDERS

Among the cases studied:

25 cases involved at least	13 cases involved at least	13 cases involved more than
10 VICTIMS	20 VICTIMS	100 VICTIMS

HOW SEXTORTION WORKS?

Typically, sextortion emails claim to have taken control of your webcam and filmed you in a compromising situation. Other times the email might threaten to reveal browsing history on adult sites.

17,090

Number of Bitcoin wallets identified across analysed emails

1,265

Total transactions (Victims)

155.907840

Total Bitcoin Paid

\$1.8 million

Dollars paid by victims

CRIMINALS WANT PAYMENT IN BITCOIN

To add credibility, the email will often include personally identifiable information (PII) like your username or an old password. Payment is requested (Usually via Bitcoin) and the scammer threatens to send the video to your contacts unless you pay up.

TIPS TO HANDLE AND AVOID SEXTORTION

Education is the best defense. Here are some things to know.

How did the scammer know your information?

Many popular sites you use every day have encountered a data breach. Data breaches publicize PII like usernames, passwords, addresses, and other sensitive information.

Extortionists use these breach repositories to find material, then craft convincing phishing emails. They often use an automated script to send out thousands of personalized emails.

If you receive one of these phishing emails:



We Recommend You DON'T Respond.
Replying verifies to the scammers that they have found a valid email address and this may make you a target in future phishing attacks.



We Recommend You DON'T Pay.
It's almost impossible to track cryptocurrency transactions or recover funds. Paying with a credit card or PayPal account is not any safer and may result in further compromises and charges.



We Recommend You DON'T Engage.
Typically, sextortion emails do not have common phishing elements - a link or attachment. If however, they do include these - don't click on links or attachments.

REMEMBER

DON'T USE THE SAME PASSWORD ACROSS DIFFERENT SITES.

Attackers will use passwords found on one breached site to launch attacks on others.

USE COMPLEX PASSWORDS AND CHANGE THEM REGULARLY.

A password manager application can help you securely manage credentials and can quickly generate complex passwords. When you're able, create a unique login for each website, with a unique password.

THINK TWICE.

Read emails thoroughly and be wary of emails that use emotional triggers like fear, embarrassment, or threats.

USE A COVER ON YOUR WEBCAM WHEN NOT IN USE.

Purchase a cover that clips on, or slides closed when you're not using the camera. If they can't see you, you know the threat is false.

SOME ADDITIONAL HELPFUL TIPS:

RESTRICT ACCESS TO ONLINE PROFILES.

Set limits on who can view your profile.

KEEP YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION PRIVATE.

Avoid revealing sensitive information in public forums.

BE SUSPICIOUS.

Don't take any information you receive from a new online contact at face value. Be smart and protect yourself.

FOR ADULTS ONLY USE WORK EMAIL ADDRESS FOR WORK PURPOSES.

Especially with platforms like LinkedIn.

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED A SEXTORTION EMAIL AT WORK, REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY!

CALL FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE OR IF YOU JUST WANT TO TALK

Prevent^{ed}
ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION

IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE CALL NSPCC HELPLINE

0800 800 5000

IF YOU'RE A CHILD & WANT HELP CALL CHILDLINE

0800 1111

NNECA
NATIONAL NETWORK TO END CHILD ABUSE

WWW.NNECA.ORG.UK
WWW.CHILDABUSEHELP.ORG.UK





STOWE HOUSE



Summer Discovery

During the Summer holidays, the Lincoln Conservation team spent another eight weeks uncovering the early 18th Century wall paintings on the Grenville Landing, following on from the two weeks they did during the Easter holidays. The main aim of this part of the project was to focus on the north-west corner of the landing, as this afforded the greatest impact when visitors come up the stairs. The conservators worked in teams of four every two weeks in order to minimise RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury), as the work involves painstakingly picking off the six layers of paint by hand.

Rhiannon Clarricoates, who heads up the team and is currently researching the wall paintings for her PhD, is more convinced that this is a William Kent design, if not done by the architect himself, as there are many little details that can be seen in other Kent schemes, such as the tying of a knot. Rhiannon's work over the past eight years has included visiting other Kent wall paintings and those by Frederick Sleter, who painted the Concord and Victory composition over the grand staircase, in order to make comparisons.

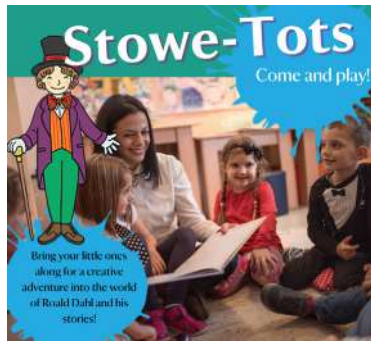
The team will be back again over the October Half Term to look at consolidating any historic or modern cracks and looking at how to remove the modern pink cement plaster that can be seen in the photos.

I think you will agree that the difference in spending two months on this project has made a huge difference.

Anna McEvoy, SHPT House Custodian



Events at Stowe House



Stowe Tots

Tuesday 22 October, Monday 18 November, Monday 16 December, 10-10.45am

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

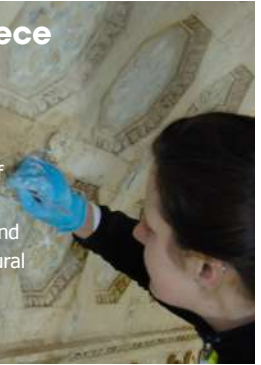
Booking is essential. One child and one Adult £5

Restoring an 18th Century Masterpiece

Thursday 24 October, 6pm

Join us for our final event in the series celebrating 25 years of restoring Stowe House! Anna McEvoy, Co-Director of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, will take you on a Restoration Tour of the House, where you will get the chance to see the beautifully restored State Rooms and learn about the research, planning and meticulous craftsmanship that went into bringing this architectural masterpiece back to its 18th Century glory.

Take the tour £10



Stars at Stowe

**Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November
6.00-8.00pm**

Prepare to embark on a mesmerising journey through the cosmos beneath a breathtaking starlit canopy! Our evening commences with an enthralling talk that unravels the enigmatic tales of our solar system. Discover the captivating stories behind the planets that have fascinated humanity for centuries, setting the stage for a night of unparalleled stargazing.

As twilight descends upon us, we'll venture outdoors to the South Front, where telescopes to be shared amongst the group, await your eager gaze. Amidst a group of fellow stargazers, you'll navigate the vastness of the night sky, guided by seasoned experts from UK Astronomy. They will help you track distant planets and constellations, bringing you closer to space than ever before. This family-friendly event is the perfect opportunity to learn and bond together.

Booking essential. Adult £18, Child (Under 16) £12



Lino Print Workshop

Saturday 23 November, 10am-4pm

In the run-up to the festive season, create your own multi-layered winter lino print in a one-day artist-led workshop with expert printmaker Alexandra Buckle.

Secure your space in the workshop. £80

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



WILLEN LAKE MILTON KEYNES

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2024

Medical
Detection Dogs

Willen Lake, V10 Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes MK15 0DS

Stowe has been involved with local charity, Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) since 2016, sponsoring three dogs over the past few years - Stowe, Bea and Billy. They have all made wonderful life-changing differences to people's lives.

MDD 'Welly Walks' are an excuse to get out in the fresh air, take in the beauty that Autumn in the UK has to offer, and spend time supporting a Charity whose dogs save the lives of their clients every day.

At Medical Detection Dogs, they train dogs to detect human diseases using their incredible sense of smell. Medical Alert Assistance Dogs support people with life threatening conditions by alerting them to a medical event that could lead to collapse. Bio Detection Dogs use the same skill to detect diseases on samples, furthering our research in to earlier and more effective diagnosis of diseases. Events like The Welly Walk help to raise vital funds to train more dogs and raise the profile of the charity; plus, they are also great fun!

Choose to complete a short route or a long route. On the day registrations will be taken and walkers will be gathering from 10am. The walk aims to start around 10.30am. To find out more and sign up for the Welly Walk, please click [here](#). Please share this event with friends and family too!

The Charity hopes to see you there and thanks the Stowe community for their wonderful support.



Stowe Parents' Association

The first Stowe Parents' Association event of the 2024 Michaelmas Term launched the season in the most memorable way.

Breakfast with the beagles (not literally!) heralded the start of the new School year, with a full complement of parents, grandparents and friends enjoying a walk in the Stowe grounds accompanied by Phil Kennedy and his beagle hounds. Phil and his wife Lucy have looked after the Stowe beagles for the last 20 years and are resident on the Stowe site.

Whilst to the untrained eye, the 48 beagles were largely individually indistinguishable, Phil immediately impressed the group with his recall of each and every individual beagle's name. He likened it to recalling a class of pupil's names, some quiet, some lively, some more adventurous

and some rather cheeky! However he managed to remember them, it was certainly remarkable.

Managing to dodge the threat of showers, the group walked to the lake where a few treats from Phil kept the beagles interested as they enjoyed the significant amount of affection that they were getting. One last visit to the kennels to see the four newest puppies rounded off the visit, with smitten looks on many faces!

A full English breakfast, pastries and plentiful tea and coffee in the State Music Room drew the very sociable morning to a close, with much merriment at the tables and new friendships made.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

**Gillian Hodgetts, Chair,
Stowe Parents' Association**

STOWE HOUSE

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER

10AM - 5PM

STOWE SCHOOL,
BUCKINGHAM, MK18 5EH

TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS [CLICK HERE](#)

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