

Stowe mail

TATLER
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

V 16 ISSUE 3
22 NOVEMBER 2024
NEWS FROM STOWE



A Century of Remembrance: Honouring Sacrifice at Stowe

On Sunday 10 and Monday 11 November, the School, led by the Combined Cadet Force in this, its Centenary year, reflected on the sacrifices of Stoics past and present throughout a series of poignant events. The weekend was a tapestry of moving tributes, culminating in a profound sense of gratitude and remembrance.

The weekend commenced with the CCF contingent, resplendent in their uniforms, leading a parade on Chapel Forecourt. Major General (Retd) Rob Thomson was impressed with all the polished boots and smart looking Cadets as he inspected the ranks prior to proceeding into the Chapel for the heart of the Remembrance weekend.

During the Service of Remembrance, the memorial board honouring Old Stoics who gave their lives in service to their country since the end of World War II was rededicated. The reading of the special Roll of Honour, including the names of seven Old Stoics who fell in conflicts other than WWII, resonated deeply. This year, we especially remembered Flying Officer Nigel Davison and Captain John Pooley, whose names were added to the memorial. We were deeply honoured to be joined by their families for this moving occasion.

As is customary, wreaths were laid by the Head, a representative from the Chair of Governors, the Chair of the Old Stoic Society, a representative from the Support Staff, the Head Boy and Head Girl,

and the Head Cadet, each accompanied by CCF escorts. It was a powerful symbol of our collective remembrance.

"As part of CCF at Stowe, we think it is important to commemorate those who fought for us for the freedom and the rights that we have today"

LCpl Charlotte Hemstock (Fifth Form, Nugent)

The service was followed by a formal lunch, where guests of the School shared memories of loved ones and found solace in shared experiences and good cheer. This gathering exemplified the strength of the Stowe community and our commitment to supporting one another.

The weekend concluded with the entire School observing a two-minute silence on Monday morning in the Grecian Valley, alongside the awe-inspiring 'Standing with Giants' installation. This poignant setting provided a powerful backdrop for quiet reflection.

The Remembrance Services were truly remarkable and fitting tributes to all Stoics and individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we cherish. It was a weekend filled with both sorrow and gratitude, reminding us of the importance of honouring their memory and upholding the values they fought to protect.

Major Andrew Arnold RE, CCF Contingent Commander

Courage, Conviction and Compassion

It was a great honour to welcome Major General (Retd) Rob Thomson to Stowe to preach at our Service of Remembrance. The General was accompanied by his wife and three of his five children, and in the interview during the service recounted his journey to faith as a teenager. When asked about the impact of his Christian faith on his leadership over 34 years, Major General Thomson spoke of the harmony between the servant leadership of Jesus and the motto of Sandhurst Military Academy, 'Serve to Lead'.

In his excellent sermon, Major General Thomson spoke of the importance of conviction, courage and compassion in every walk of life. He described three soldiers with whom he had served and how they each epitomised these characteristics in extraordinarily difficult circumstances in Afghanistan. His unique perspective of these men and women, some not much older than our Upper Sixth, provided a poignant example of sacrifice for others.

The General then spoke of how each of these examples point us to the even greater example of Jesus Christ, whose courage, conviction and compassion is seen most clearly in his sacrifice of himself for humanity.

We are grateful to Major General Thomson for coming to Stowe and for his honesty in sharing this powerful message with us.

Rev James Righetti, Chaplain





Stowe Community Pays Tribute at Poignant Armistice Service

Against the stunning backdrop of the Grecian Valley, the Stowe School community gathered to honour those who have lost their lives in conflicts. Central to the ceremony were 1,457 silhouettes of the 'For your Tomorrow' installation representing World War II service personnel who perished during the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944.

The service offered pupils, Staff, National Trust employees and the public the opportunity to come together in reflection and remembrance. Set in Stowe's serene landscaped gardens, the event was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many, including those with personal connections to the Stowe community.

Participants assembled in their designated positions, standing solemnly beside the silhouettes of the fallen. Tutors joined their tutees, and Houses stood in unison, emphasising the collective spirit of the day.

The ceremony commenced with 'The Exhortation', delivered by Tanya Brittain, National Trust General Manager, followed by a hauntingly beautiful rendition of 'The Last Post' by Isabel Cox (Upper Sixth, Cheshire). At precisely 11:00, the community observed a two-minute silence, echoing the national tradition observed since 1919 to mark the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

The silence was broken by the clear, resonant notes of 'The Reveille', again performed by Isabel Cox, before Darcey Moran (Upper Sixth, West) recited the 'Kohima Epitaph':

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today."*

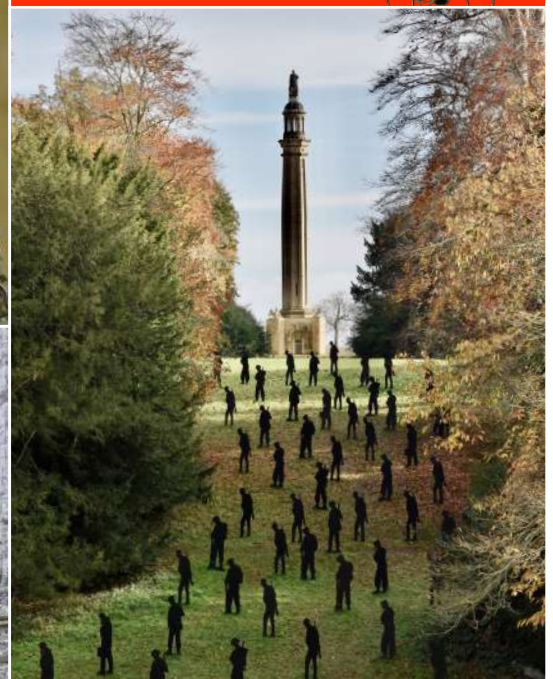
The service concluded with a prayer led by the Reverend James Righetti, whose words encapsulated the solemnity and significance of the occasion.

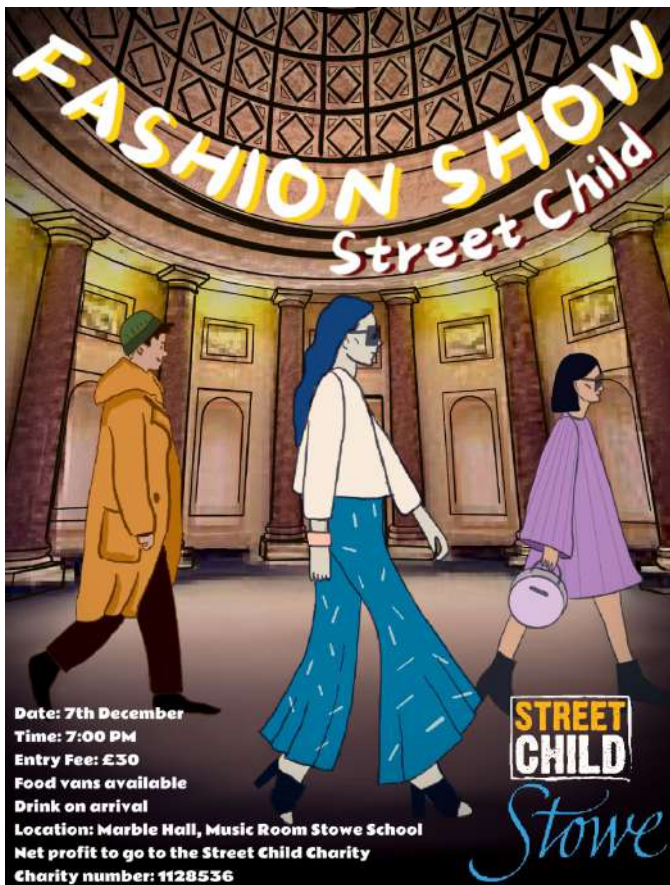


Reflections and Gratitude

Senior Deputy Head Liam Copley commended the impeccable behaviour and respect shown by the pupils throughout the service. "It was a truly moving experience, witnessing the unity and reverence displayed in such a sublime setting made me immensely proud. Members of the public approached me afterward to commend the School's conduct, which is the highest compliment we could receive."

This year's Armistice Service served as a powerful reflection of Stowe's values - respect, remembrance, and unity - reinforcing the importance of honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.





Street Child Fashion Show

Street Child is a charity which takes on the challenges of helping children living in very deprived environments, and are experts in providing education and community support. Through access to schooling, Street Child provides safer environments for children. The Stowe Street Child Committee, made up of Stoics and Staff, helps to fundraise and spread awareness for this very worthy cause.

This year we are fundraising for a programme called EFECT (Education for Every Child Today). The programme has been implemented in Nigeria and aims to challenge the education crisis across West Africa, improving children's lives by giving them access to an education.

Join us for a spectacular evening at the Street Child Committee Charity Fashion Show, where the latest trends and brands will showcased. This special event features many Stowe pupils who will model eye-catching brands from Stoics and Old Stoics, as well as external retailers.

By attending, you will not only enjoy a glamorous runway experience, but you are also supporting an amazing cause. All net funds raised will go towards EFECT

Guests are welcome to arrive from 7pm, where a range food vans will be available. Complimentary fizz will be served in The Music Room before the show commences at 8pm in the Marble Hall.

Please click [here](#) to purchase tickets for the event to raise money for a fantastic charity.

Alessia Capella, Street Child Committee
(Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

Stowe mail

Senior Congreve

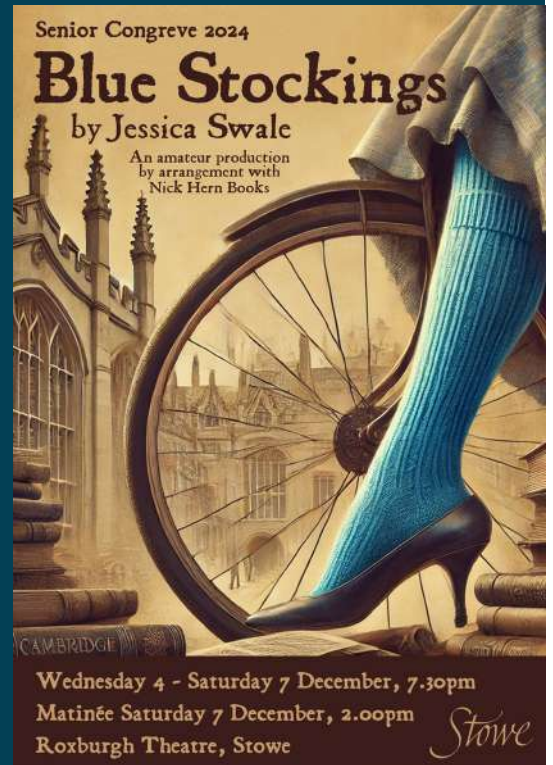
Imagine being told that your dreams don't matter just because you're a girl. Blue Stockings takes us back to 1896, where young women at Cambridge University face exactly that. It is a gripping, inspiring, and at times hilarious story of four trailblazing students who dare to stand up for their right to graduate - fighting against a society that thinks education is wasted on women. Packed with

passion, protest, and unforgettable characters, Blue Stockings will make you laugh, cheer and question how far we have really come.

As Stowe celebrates the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first six girls at Stowe in 1974, and the Governors' decision twenty years ago to embrace full co-education, we hope you can join us for what promises to be an exciting evening of theatre.

Click [here](#) for tickets.

Simon Miller,
Director of Drama



Service@Stowe

Learning Differently at Bruern Abbey

Neurodiversity is the recognition that neurological differences, such as Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, and other cognitive variations, are part of human diversity rather than disorders to be cured. Embracing neurodiversity promotes inclusion and understanding, emphasising that people with these differences may have unique strengths and perspectives.

At Bruern Abbey, an inclusive prep school, children with diverse neurodivergent profiles are welcomed and supported through tailored approaches. The school provides smaller class sizes, allows the use of laptops and offers extra support to meet pupils' needs. With many facing challenges in English and maths, Bruern Abbey doubles the amount of instruction in these areas compared to typical prep schools. As volunteers, Stoics help in these classes as well as in history, science and creative subjects. At the end of each day, we also read with the Year 6 class, providing focused, one-to-one support.

Set in the Oxfordshire countryside, Bruern Abbey offers its pupils ample outdoor space and a calm, supportive atmosphere. On our first visit, we noticed the expansive, park-like playground with climbing and swinging facilities that encourage physical activity and play. This supportive setting allows us to connect with pupils at their own pace, offering encouragement and the extra help they need in order to thrive.

Learning Differently Group

Kelly Hu (Lower Sixth, West), Elizabeth Cheng (Lower Sixth, West), Kelly Ng (Lower Sixth, West), Holly Bateman (Lower Sixth, West), Issy Gardiner (Lower Sixth, West), Benjamin Bailey (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Sienna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Cross Country



Stowe Hosts Thrilling Regional Cross-Country Championships

On Friday 8 November, Stowe provided the picturesque backdrop for the English Schools Athletics Association Southern Region Cross-Country Running Championships. Almost 400 runners from across the region braved the Buckinghamshire hills in a fantastic display of athleticism.

Races ranged from 1.6km to 5.6km, catering to five different age groups across both boys and girls. The atmosphere was electric, with parents, Staff and fellow pupils cheering on the runners as they pushed themselves to the limit.

The competition saw our pupils achieve impressive results:

Boys' Team: A fantastic Seventh place in a highly competitive field.

Girls' Team: Huge congratulations to the girls who secured Third place, qualifying them for the National Finals! They will be heading to Leeds Grammar School on Saturday 7 December, for a thrilling weekend of competition.

Well done to all our runners for their hard work and dedication!

Andrew Arnold, Head of Cross Country

Inter-House Cross Country

On Friday 18 October, the South Front was the backdrop as we held our annual Inter-House Cross Country race.

Over 700 Stoics completed the 5km race in an attempt to set new records and beat personal bests.

Fantastic efforts were seen across the board from all pupils, inspired by the support from visiting parents and Staff, as well as a strong showing from Stoic pupils who gathered around the course to urge the competitors to leave the last of their efforts on the course, and they were not disappointed.

Nugent girls were extremely strong, so massive congratulations to them.

The boys' competition was slightly more even but the overall champions were once again the ever-dominant Grafton.

The fastest pupils for each of the Year Groups were:

Boys

Third Form: William Connelly (Chatham)

Fourth Form: Finley Cummins (Grenville)

Fifth Form: Benjamin Cousins (Cobham)

Lower Sixth: Paul Ostroverhy (Chandos)

Upper Sixth: Lleyton Moss (Grafton)

Girls

Third Form: Veronica Owings (Stanhope)

Fourth Form: Lila Rigg (Stanhope)

Fifth Form: Katie Webb (Cheshire)

Lower Sixth: Dominique Dunn (West)

Upper Sixth: Araminta Orchard (Nugent)

The fastest Stoics were Benjamin Cousins (16:59) and Katie Webb (19:15).

Well done to all who tackled the course with typical Change Maker spirit, resilience and determination!

Andrew Arnold, Head of Cross Country





Inter-House Literary Challenge

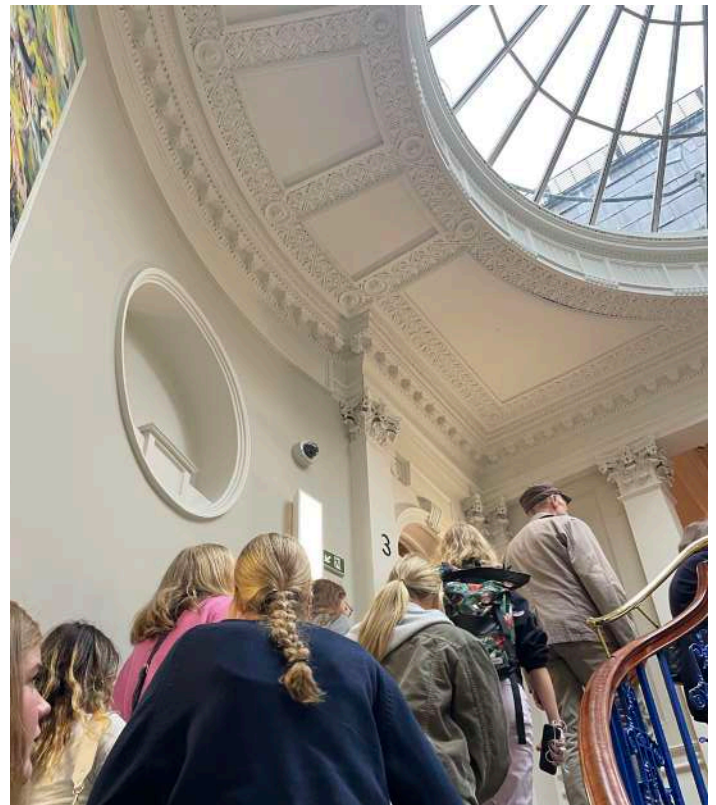
This year's Upper School Inter-House Literary Challenge was once again fiercely competitive. It featured two distinct events, one for each Year Group, with the scores from the Upper and Lower Sixth combined to determine the overall winner. All Houses participated, sending two pupils from each Year Group. At the start of the challenge, teams needed to select when to play their Joker, which would award double points for the chosen round.

The Upper Sixth were first to compete on Thursday 3 October, participating in six rounds, including a picture round. The competition was very close, with Cobham emerging as the Winners, followed by Grenville in Second and Cheshire taking Third. This set the bar for the

Lower Sixth challenge on Thursday 10 October, which followed the same format. The atmosphere was both competitive and fun. Once more, Cobham shone, taking First place, Grenville were a close Second, and Queen's came Third. The scores from all the Houses were combined, leading to Cobham being crowned the overall Winners, followed by Grenville and Queen's. The winning House received a box of chocolates and a trophy to keep for the year.

A big thank you to Mrs Keiller and the Library Prefects James Bristow (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and India Gordon (Upper Sixth, Nugent) for their support.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams, Librarian



London Galleries

On Wednesday 2 October, the Upper Sixth Art Historians embarked on a trip to London for some insightful gallery visits exploring our new topics of 'Identities and Modernism'.

Upon our arrival we promptly headed to The Courtauld Gallery to see the 'Monet and London' exhibition. This featured several of Claude Monet's impressionist paintings of England's Capital City. Depicting sites such as Charing Cross Bridge, The Houses of Parliament and Waterloo Bridge from a view over the River Thames, these eye-catching works were full of radiant colour and yet masked in a mysterious light, reminiscent of the smog seen in mid 19th Century London. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to see so many works from this series exhibited together.

After this we explored the permanent collection which comprises a range of impressionist and post-impressionist paintings. We compared the styles, techniques, aims and innovations of artists including Edouard Manet, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas and Vincent Van Gogh, and considered their role in the creation of modern art. The 'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear' by Van Gogh is one of our selected case studies for this term, and it was extremely beneficial for the group to view this work up close and examine the thoughtful use of colour and the expressive brushwork.

After a quick lunch break in London's historic Borough Market, we headed off to our next gallery.

The Tate Modern's exhibition on 'Expressionists Kandinsky, Munch and the Blue Rider' gave us another angle from which to study the early 20th Century. This was an exhibition on the 'The Blue Rider' artistic group who in their own words created 'a union of various countries - to preserve one purpose' - to transform modern art. We learned that these pioneering artists intended their art to express emotion rather than their subject's physical reality. Viewing this exhibition showed us the boundaries these artists broke, looking at and focusing on abstraction rather than realism. A prominent example of this abstraction is in Wassily Kandinsky's 'Cossacks' (1910-11). It also helped to shed a light on the contribution of female artists to the movement, such as Gabriele Munch whose works were both arresting and eerie.

Frederica Hodges (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

Third Form Library Challenge

Over the Summer, the Library set an exciting challenge for our new Third Formers before they joined us. They were asked to design a postcard inspired by a book from the recommended reading list.

They needed to select a character from the book, write a description of the character, explain why they chose them, and share whether they would recommend the book to a friend. We were delighted to receive entries from all over the world, and the best postcards are now on display in the Library.

Congratulations to Fayrouz Karrar-Lewsley (Queen's), the Winner of the challenge, with Oscar Minish (Walpole) taking Second place and Charlotte Norgett (Queen's) awarded Third place.

Well done to all pupils who participated. The entries also count towards the Stowe Reading Colours Programme, encouraging Stoics to engage with and enjoy reading throughout the year.

Lucinda Stockley-Battams & Samantha Keiller (Librarians)



Badminton

On Saturday 9 November the boys' 1st team played Abingdon. Last year Abingdon won the equivalent fixture 11-5 but this year they were up against a more experienced and resolute Stowe team. Stowe took the initiative after the second round of matches and maintained this right to the end, to win the match 10-6. 1st pair Thomas Bicknell (Upper Sixth, Croft) and Martin Zhang (Lower Sixth, Grenville) won all four of their matches. They beat their counterparts 21-20 in the deciding game, winning five straight points to clinch the match.

The 2nd team had some very close matches against Abingdon but lost 12-4.

The Junior Inter-House competitions were held on Sunday 10 November. The results were as follows:

Junior Girls

Doubles - Lyttelton beat Nugent 2-1 in the Final (21-9; 12-21; 21-6)

Singles - Mikka Phungsunthorn (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) beat Mimi Pilcher (Fourth Form, Nugent).

Junior Boys

Doubles - Cobham beat Walpole 2-1 in the Final (6-21; 21-7; 21-19)

Singles - Oscar Chiang (Fourth Form, Walpole) beat Zorawar Sidhu (Fourth Form, Grafton).

Isaac Michael,
Head of Badminton



OS RUGBY

We are thrilled to announce that Old Stoics Henry Pollock (Grafton 23) and Archie McParland (Temple 23) were selected for the England 24-man 'A' Squad who faced Australia at the Twickenham Stoop on Sunday 17 November. Following the 38-17 victory for the England team, Pollock was awarded Player of the Match.

Henry and Archie, who currently play for Northampton Saints, are also part of the England U20 Elite Player Squad. Their dedication and hard work have earned them this prestigious opportunity, and we couldn't be prouder.

In addition, we are delighted to highlight the success of Old Stoic Ewan Baker (Chatham 23) and Rafe Witheat (Temple 24), who are also currently part of the Northampton Saints squad. Their achievements are a testament to their talent and commitment, and we look forward to seeing their continued progress.

On behalf of everyone at Stowe, we extend our best wishes to Old Stoics Henry, Archie, Ewan and Rafe - we look forward to cheering them on and celebrating their achievements.

Charlie Evans, Events Manager Old Stoic Society





CCF

A Century of Service

This year marks a significant milestone for Stowe School - the Centenary of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Founded on 17 October 1924, the CCF has played a vital role in shaping the futures of countless Stoics, instilling values of leadership, teamwork, and resilience.

Over the past century, the CCF has evolved significantly. From its early days of Enfield rifles, sailing cutters, and Tiger Moth flights, it has embraced modern technology and training methods. Today's Cadets shoot laser rifles, achieve powerboating licenses, and practice on a state-of-the-art flight simulator, culminating in the opportunity to fly Grob Tutor aircraft from operational RAF bases.

The CCF continues to provide invaluable experiences for Stoics, fostering a sense of adventure, discipline, and camaraderie. As we look ahead to the next century, the CCF will remain an integral part of the Stowe experience, equipping Stoics with the skills and values they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Major Andrew Arnold RE, CCF Contingent Commander



Buckinghamshire Lord-Lieutenant Awards

On Tuesday 22 October, Stowe proudly celebrated the achievements of two outstanding individuals at the prestigious Buckinghamshire Lord-Lieutenant Awards ceremony held at The Gateway in Aylesbury. This event recognises those who exemplify the spirit of volunteering and contribute to strengthening community bonds.

Sgt Talal Zahid (Upper Sixth, Cobham) received his appointment as Lord-Lieutenant Cadet for Buckinghamshire, a testament to his dedication to the Cadet Force and his exceptional service to both Stowe and the wider community. His exemplary leadership and commitment to upholding the values of the Cadet Force have earned him this well-deserved recognition. Sgt Zahid is excited to embark on his duties in support of the Lord-Lieutenant throughout the year.

In recognition of his dedication to service, Lt Graham Eason-Bassett, a long term officer of Stowe CCF, was awarded His Majesty Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service. Lt Eason-Bassett has served his country and community for over 50 years, beginning with 15 years in the Royal Navy, followed by 27 years as a Police Constable in Buckingham and now his commitment to youth development shines through his long-standing involvement with the Combined Cadet Force, where he has served as both a Civilian Instructor and a Commissioned Officer in the RNR(CCF). Lt Eason-Bassett's dedication to providing Cadets with invaluable training and experiences, including boat courses, camps and station visits, truly sets him apart. His unwavering commitment to service for over half a century makes him a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

The entire Stowe community extends heartfelt congratulations to Sgt Zahid and Lt Eason-Bassett on their remarkable achievements. Their dedication and service are an inspiration to us all.

Andrew Arnold, CCF Contingent Commander



FOCUS



RAF Benson

Early in the morning of Thursday 17 October, seven intrepid RAF Cadets (Sgt Lani Shah (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Sgt James Delap (Lower Sixth, Temple), Sgt Luke Letchford (Lower Sixth, Temple), L Cpl Rufus Shillington (Lower Sixth, Temple), Cadet Rosie Allchurch (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Cadet Tobi Jimoh (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Cadet Sam Zhang (Upper Sixth, Walpole) left Stowe for RAF Benson, for an Air Experience Flight (AEF) with the RAF.

Upon arrival, they were briefed on emergency drills and kitted out with parachutes and helmets. Each Cadet then took to glorious clear skies in a Grob Tutor T1, which is an all-composite aerobatic sport plane used by the RAF, the Fleet Air Arm and the Army Air Core for flying training. Having experienced some basic manoeuvres, the pilot then treated them to loops and stunts. As an unexpected bonus, the Cadets were then able to speak to an air ambulance crew and look around their helicopter. Many thanks to Plt Officer Stephen Whitby and Simon Miller for making this fantastic trip possible.

Dr Imogen Adkins, Pilot Officer CCF

The Stowe 2024 Big Issue Conference: Age UK

Every year, Stoics take part in the Big Issue Conference, which sees the School partner with a charity group to look at a local, national or international social issue and then come up with a meaningful, specific and practical response.

This year Stowe partnered with Age UK, the leading charity in the UK for older people. The entire School gathered in the Chapel on Saturday 19 October to listen to two representatives, from Age UK Buckinghamshire, explain the aims of the charity and the issues facing the growing older population, such as loneliness, the cost of living and ageism.

The presentation was well-pitched and interactive, detailing important statistics, with several questions directed to the audience. Work carried out by Age UK Buckinghamshire and their 240 volunteers, aids 6000 local older people in the county every year, and the need to support older people is growing. Several videos were played, which gave us insight into the lives of the elderly and how the charity assists both individuals and the wider community.

Following the presentation we broke out into 75 different groups, of around 10 to 12 pupils, each led by a Sixth Former and assisted by a member of Staff. The groups were to identify one of the key issues raised by the charity (health and wellbeing, loneliness and isolation, digital exclusion, making ends meet, and stigma and stereotypes) and then to collaborate and design an activity which could be chosen by a Fourth Form Tutor Group to use for their volunteering Change Maker Day on Friday 27 February 2025.

The sessions were split in two, one before break for planning and research, and the second to think more practically and logistically, to come

up with a genuine activity that could make a real difference and provide an enjoyable day for the elderly. In the second session, groups created PowerPoint presentations to summarise their ideas, using a prompt sheet of questions to help focus on the details.

There were some excellent ideas, such as running an inter-care home singing competition, hosting a day of activities and technology help workshops at Stowe, or organising a mobility scooter derby to raise money and awareness for Age UK. The winning groups will be given prizes, and all the ideas generated will also be available for the Fourth Form Tutor Groups to select for their day in February.

We would like to thank the representatives from Age UK Buckinghamshire, as well as the entire Stowe team, who helped to make this such an enjoyable and informative day for all.

Anton Poon (Lower Sixth, Croft)



Sports Scientists visit Loughborough University

The Sports Science Department organised a trip to Loughborough University as part of this year's Change Maker Day on Monday 7 October.

Fifteen Stoics and three Staff members took part in a range of sports science related activities including VO2max testing and max power efforts on a static bike in their physiology laboratory; a group activity on Performance Lifestyle and a chance to ask questions to a current elite Loughborough athlete. The pupils engaged superbly with all these activities and gained vast amounts of practical experience to take back to the Stowe classrooms to help them with their learning.

The day finished with a tour of Loughborough's impressive facilities, finishing in their 'Powerbase' elite gym for a guided Strength & Conditioning session. During this session we were very lucky to bump into GB Olympic Triathlon Champion Alex Yee.

A great day was had by all.

Andrew Jackson,
Acting Head of Sports Science



ROWING

On Tuesday 12 November, Olympic medallist, James Rudkin (Walpole 12) returned to Stowe to meet Staff and pupils. James met many of his previous teachers and others he has come to know since his schooldays.

He also met Stowe's enthusiastic rowing Captains, Alice Watson and India Gordon (both Upper Sixth, Nugent) and some of the School's aspiring runners.

During the afternoon James helped with the rowing training session on the 11 Acre Lake. This started with unloading and rigging all the boats that had raced well at Cambridge on Saturday 9 November. Normally a job which takes the entire session, this time the Stoics had an incentive to show their visitor what they could do. They had the job done in no time and were soon on the water.

The boys boated in sculling boats and showed the pace they have been consistently producing at competitions this term. The girls rowed in an eight, including the promising new starters from West.

After the session James told them all how impressed he is with the progress they have made, in participation and quality of rowing. He hopes to see more from both the boys and girls as they aim for the Schools' Head at Putney in March.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing



BIG BOAT SAILING TRIP

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

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

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

The cost of the trip will be £500 and covers transport to and from School, plus all meals whilst on the boat. Deadline for expressions of interest is Saturday 30 November and payment is required by the end of Michaelmas Term to secure the place.

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

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing



Maths Challenge Competitions

At Stowe our top mathematicians have the opportunity to participate in the UKMT Maths Challenge competitions which run nationally each academic year. We have an increasing number of participants and we would like to celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

On Wednesday 25 September, five of our Lower Sixth Further Mathematicians completed The Mathematical Olympiad for Girls. This national competition is aimed at girls and young women across the UK and consists of five challenging problems. Over 750 schools across the country took part this year, with the aim to encourage more young people to engage with interesting mathematics.

Elizabeth Cheng (West), Katherine Liu (Queen's), Kelly Hu (West), Arabella Fraser (Queen's), and Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Lyttelton) took part, submitting written solutions that were sent away to be marked by UKMT mathematicians. During Half Term the results were announced, and I am pleased to share that Elizabeth, Arabella and Gaia were awarded Certificates of Merit for their solutions, while Kelly put in a fantastic performance to score 80%, earning her a Certificate of Distinction.

Well done to all the girls for taking part!

On Friday 1 October, 97 Stoics sat the Senior Maths Challenge paper. This national annual competition is aimed at pupils in both the Lower and Upper Sixth, however we also had some Lower School mathematicians entering too. This was a record number of participants for Stowe and it was brilliant to see so many pupils showcasing their analytical thinking skills to solve some tricky non-calculator problems. The Stoics who participated went on to achieve 35 Bronze awards and 17 Silver awards. Nine Stoics achieved Gold awards and have qualified for further competitions.

Congratulations to Ari Lewis (Lower Sixth, Walpole), James Zheng (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Ethel Zhu (Upper Sixth, West) on their Gold awards.

Special mentions go to: Niamh Byrne (Fifth Form, Cheshire) who achieved a Gold award 'Best in Fifth Form', Jason Lu (Lower Sixth, Walpole) whose Gold award placed him as 'Best in Lower Sixth', and Upper Sixth pupils Calon Heaven (Grenville), Gilbert Xu (Chandos) and Ryan Zheng (Grenville) for the achievement of receiving Gold awards two years in a row.

Finally, Sam Zhang (Upper Sixth, Walpole) achieved the coveted title of 'Best in School'. This means Sam has qualified for the 'British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1', which is an extremely prestigious competition.

The competition took place on Wednesday 20 November, so at the time of writing we await news of how he got on. Well done Sam!

Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Faculty Chair Mathematics



US Politics Talk

On Friday 8 November, our political scientists were treated to a talk by Mrs Monica Lee Morrill about the history of previous US elections and contemporary American politics.

Mrs Morrill has plenty of experience in US politics, previously having been a member of the American Psychological Association (APA) advisory council for the Trump campaign in 2016, and being a part of the campaign team for Newt Gingrich's presidential campaign in 2012. She also holds two degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. What a timely lecture this was, being only a few days after the presidential election of 2024!

Mrs Morrill was both a knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker; whilst her opinions were somewhat partisan, they were also expressed politely and eloquently to the pupils. Monica is a clear antidote to our current polarised and often toxic political climate.

As one would expect, the Stoics' questions were both interesting and profound. Including one rather cheeky question which asked, 'To what extent do you think Federalism in the US still exists?' - the very essay question our pupils were about to answer in class!

My thanks must go to Monica for giving up her time to come to Stowe - it was an experience I know the pupils really appreciated.

Simon Cole, Head of Politics



Sports Science Society

It has been a busy start for Stowe's Sports Scientists this term. The first Sports Science Society event took place on Wednesday 25 September, when Society Presidents Anna Maria Collinge (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Bear Hewlett (Upper Sixth, Cobham) welcomed guest speaker Nathan Koo-Boothe. Nathan is an ex-professional footballer, who has played for several clubs and therefore has seen a lot of different professional and semi-professional set ups. Since retiring he has moved into the role of supporting elite athletes to be at their prime, specifically from a nutrition, injury and specified training perspective. He passed on some of his knowledge to the Stoics about topics that are very current and therefore not on their learning curriculum, which provided some alternative thinking. Nathan also delved into the importance of lower limb stability and strength in the journey of a young athlete.

The evening was topped off with pizzas and discussions in the Worsley Science Centre. A fantastic event to start the year, with 25 Stoics in attendance. Well done to those who organised and attended.

Andrew Jackson, Acting Head of Sports Science



MOTORSPORT CLUB



AE Racing VR Simulators

On Sunday 10 November, the Motorsport Club held a virtual reality simulator racing event. With the help of AE Racing and their two simulators, Stoics had the opportunity to compete against each other in a fastest lap competition. It was a busy day all day with the simulators never being empty. The event was attended by Stoics from the Third Form all the way up to the Upper Sixth. The fastest laps for the day were as follows:

Claudia Bushby (Lower Sixth, West) - 57.305s

Gwilym Dickinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville) - 57.424s

Jamie Wilson (Lower Sixth, Cobham) - 57.717s

Claudia's fastest lap makes her AE Racing's first female champion which is a huge achievement for herself and the company. Huge congratulations to Claudia, Gwilym and Jamie for their results.

In the Staff and family competition the Winner was Lyttelton Houseparent Ross Deyzel with an outstanding time of 55.576s which is only one second slower than AE Racing's all-time record so a huge congratulations to Ross.

Aimi Arroyo, Motorsport Group



Noah Cosby & TeamBRIT Visit

On Wednesday 13 November, the Motorsport Group were lucky to have a visit from Old Stoic, Noah Cosby (Temple 22). Noah races for a team called TeamBRIT which is the only racing team where all the drivers have a disability.

On the day that Noah was supposed to start his Lower Sixth year, he decided to get back on his motocross bike, having been off it for months due to the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately, whilst attempting a jump, he had a bad accident that left him paralysed from the waist down. After a long road of recovery, Noah had to change his entire career plan and rather than racing on two wheels he changed to racing cars with TeamBRIT.

During his visit, Noah and team boss Mike brought Noah's McLaren to the North Front for Stoics to see, and ask any questions they may have. Noah then gave a talk to the Upper Sixth and the Motorsport Group all about his accident, his recovery and his most recent racing season. The talk was enjoyed by everyone that attended. A huge thank you to Noah and TeamBRIT for coming to visit.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Upper Sixth, West)

Photos taken by Anton Poon (Lower Sixth, Croft)



An Evening with Guenther Steiner

On Thursday 14 November, the Motorsport Group went on a trip to Warwick Arts Theatre for an evening with Guenther Steiner. Guenther built Haas F1 from scratch and was with the team until the end of the 2023 season.

During the event Guenther spoke about how he got into the world of motorsport and how he created many racing teams within his career. Guenther spoke about his time in F1 and kept his bad language to a minimum! The evening was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Emily-Paige Rowson (Upper Sixth, West)



Basketball

On Thursday 7 November the 1st team travelled to Abingdon. After a very slow start, the team trailed by 17 points at the end of the first half. The team clawed their way back into the game in the second half but fell 10 points short and eventually lost 42-32. Harry Langford (Upper Sixth, Chandos) top scored with 14 points and scored four 3-pointers in the process.

Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball

NETBALL

Stowe Netballers Success on Selection for the Birmingham Panthers

We are thrilled to announce that several Stowe netballers have been selected for the prestigious Birmingham Panthers Netball Education Programme. This remarkable achievement highlights their dedication, skill, sportsmanship and talent. The players from Stowe include Tallulah Havard (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Emilia and Isabella Rivett (Fifth Form, Queen's), Lois Camerling (Third Form, Queen's), Jenna Coetzer (Third Form, Lyttelton), India Melville-Ross (Third Form, Queen's), Veronica Owings (Third Form, Stanhope) and Annabel Webb (Third Form, Cheshire). Their hard work and commitment have undoubtedly paid off, and we celebrate this notable recognition.

We are equally pleased to acknowledge the achievements of Winchester House pupils. Sienna Warland has also earned her place in this esteemed programme.

Congratulations to all selected players! Your accomplishments inspire your peers and reflect the excellence in netball at our Schools. We wish them the very best as they embark on this exciting journey with the Birmingham Panthers Superleague Franchise.

Charlotte Calland, Head of Netball



EQUESTRIAN

The NSEA Championships were held at Addington Equestrian Centre on Saturday 19 - Monday 21 October. The Stowe Equestrian Team qualified in earlier competitions to represent the School in the 80cm, 90cm, 1m and 1m10 showjumping classes. The weekend was very exciting and nerve wracking for the riders, parents and supporters as the best equestrian riders from schools across the UK rode to be crowned overall school champion in each class.

The 80cm Team, Daisy Bilderbeck, Ruby Sturgis (both Fourth Form, Stanhope), Lola Price and Lola Soto (both Fourth Form, Cheshire) started the competition strongly, flying around the twisting course in the fastest time out of 43 teams in the first round. With the jump off then moving indoors to the International Arena, unfortunately the girls were unable to hold their position and the team finished in Seventh place overall.

The 90cm Team, Asta Eaton (Third Form,

Queen's), Lola Price, Ruby Sturgis and Bella Timmis (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) matched the impressive success of the 80cm Team by also finishing in top position out of 34 teams after the first round. The girls then produced an amazing performance in the International Arena jump off with the fastest team time, however with one pole down, they finished in Second place overall.

The 1m Team, of Gracie Cowley (Fourth Form, Queen's), Lola Price, Ruby Sturgis and Bella Timmis, finished in the top eight out of 22 teams in the first round which put them through to the jump off. The riders all gave it their best, however with a couple of eliminations, the team finished in Seventh place. Lola Price and Ruby also competed in this class as individuals, with Ruby finishing Ninth and missing out on the jump off by 0.3 seconds and Lola finishing 20th and 22nd with both her ponies, out of a huge class of 78 individuals.

Lola Price also represented Stowe in the 1m10 class with her new pony. After a couple of unlucky poles down she finished in 10th place.

The Stoics should all be very proud of their performances at this year's Championships. Qualification alone is very difficult, as all teams wish to represent their schools at this event. It was a long weekend for our riders and their supportive parents, with horses to travel, settle and care for across the whole weekend; to gain such fantastic results is a testament to their commitment and dedication. Well done to all involved!

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



FOG

Stowe A and Stowe B teams both played their first-round knockout matches in the Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) Matchplay. They both had comfortable wins, winning 3-0 in both matches. The A team played Berkhamsted School, at Stowe, showcasing a strong performance throughout the match. Each player executed their strategy effectively, demonstrating great teamwork and skill on the course. Stowe A team was represented by Aroa Herran Berraondo (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Tristan Dickinson (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Captain Miki Khursheed (Upper Sixth, Grafton).

Stowe B faced St Columba's College away at Verulam Golf Club (the home of the first Ryder Cup) and mirrored the success of their A team. The players displayed remarkable consistency, with each member contributing to the overall score. Stowe B team was represented by Hayden Sarfo-Agyare (Fourth Form, Cobham), Harvey Hughes (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Benjamin Bailey (Upper Sixth, Chandos). Overall, both teams exhibited excellent form, setting a positive tone for the upcoming rounds.

Dusan Gavrilovic, Head of Golf



McElwee Award Presentations

The McElwee Award seeks to offer Stoics the opportunity to travel with a cultural or academic purpose and then report back on their findings. Pupils travel in pairs, usually during the Summer before their Upper Sixth year.

The fund from which awards are made was initially established by former pupils of the long-serving Bill McElwee, who taught at Stowe either side of the Second World War. He was well known for taking pupils on trips during the Summer, so it is fitting that pairs of Stoics undertake these exciting adventures in his memory.

On Tuesday 1 October last year's winners of the awards fed back on their trips to a packed audience of Lower Sixth, parents and members of the McElwee Committee in the Roxburgh Theatre.

We heard from James Bristow and Tarka Goodwin-Hudson (both Upper Sixth, Grafton) on their trek through the Alps, walking in the footsteps of Hannibal; whilst Gwen Grovit (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Maddie Baker (Upper Sixth, Queen's) regaled us with what they'd gleaned of the development of fashion from their trip to Paris.

Archie Trotman (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Ed Saunders (Upper Sixth Grafton) recounted their Etna-disrupted journey through Sicily, bringing to light Archie's fascinating family link to the development of penicillin.

The eventual Winners, Kira Kernes and Leyla Baser (both Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), exploited the sweet-tooth of the average Stoic, using the incentive of Swiss chocolate to focus attentions on their enlightening visit to the Large Hadron Collider at Cern.

The presentations highlighted that the intrepid spirit which the award encourages is still very much alive and kicking and precipitated a flurry of interest from Lower Sixth Stoics eager to undertake their own journey of adventure and discovery.

The winners were keen to thank the Committee for making their trips possible and were full of gratitude for the expert presentation training they received from Louise Goodman. Louise is an experience television presenter (who works mainly in Formula One) who came in to talk to them about the structure of their presentations and the best way to maintain the audience's attention.

We look forward to next year's submissions, which are already mounting before January's deadline.

Dominic Green, Head of History

LSAS Visit the 'Fragile Beauty' Exhibition at the V&A

On Wednesday 9 October, the Lower School Academic Scholar (LSAS) pupils plus a number of Sixth Form Media pupils were lucky to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to see the Elton John photography collection entitled 'Fragile Beauty'.

The LSAS pupils had been studying war and war photography in their lessons (notably the works of Don McCullin) so this was a chance to see an exhibition of some of the greatest photographs of the 20th Century.

Notable inclusions were a room devoted to Nan Goldin's powerful work; Sam Taylor Johnson's 'men crying' images (which she discussed in person when she spoke at last year's 'and...ACTION!' media conference here at Stowe) and a number of photographs of famous stars, including Marilyn Monroe.

All in all, this was an excellent introduction to the art of photography, and afterwards the pupils presented on images that they had found particularly moving or provocative (and, given that this is a collection owned by Elton John there were, indeed, a great many provocative photos on display).

The idea that somehow beauty is something fragile that photography can capture and make permanent was well developed in the exhibition, which also forced its visitors to reflect on the nature of beauty.

Dr Andrew Webber, LSAS Co-ordinator

Benugo at Stowe



When Benugo was founded 26 years ago it was with a vision of not just creating superb, natural food, but of giving something that was a real experience. This vision is still true today. The Benugo brand stretches from award-winning high street stores, to cafés and restaurants within some of the world's best-loved public spaces and visitor attractions.

The Benugo brand was born on the high street in 1998 and is still there today; it is this retail discipline coupled with our independent and entrepreneurial spirit that underpins everything we do. It is unique because it combines the flexibility of a contract caterer with the consistency and commercial focus of a high street brand. Benugo is operated within some of

the highest volume and most demanding public spaces such as the V&A, The Royal Parks, Barbican and The British Museum.

The team are very excited to now be part of Stowe, bringing the high street offering to Stoics, Staff and parents alike.

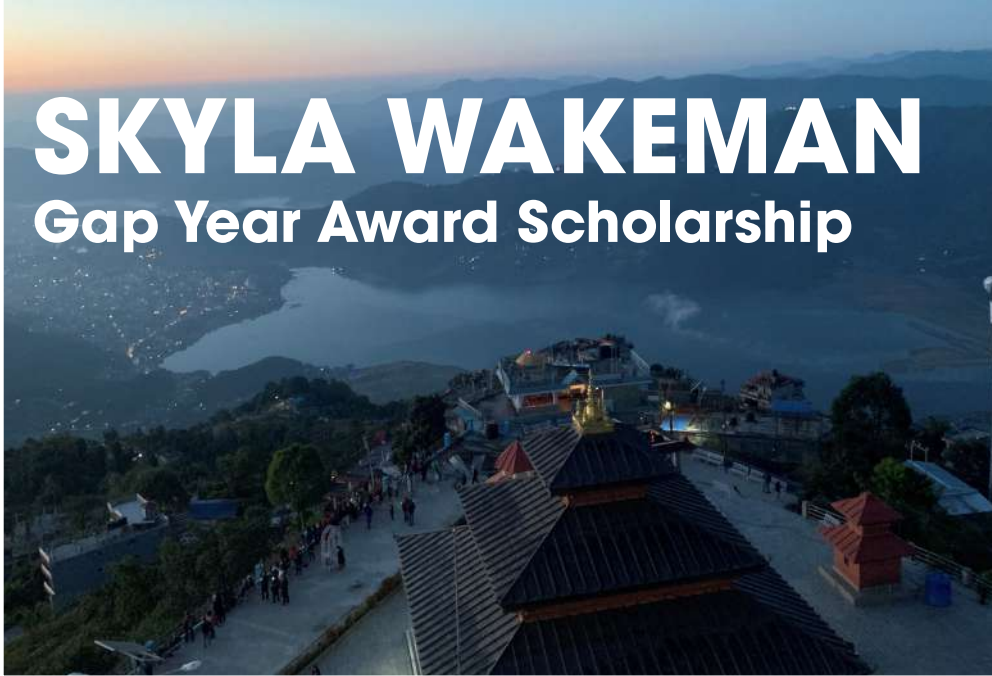
Benugo is open six days a week; Monday to Friday 9am-3pm and on Saturdays from 9am-2pm. It is open to parents between 12 and 2pm on Saturdays.

With a wide-ranging array of products, from muffins to blondies, paninis to pastries, and matcha lattes to iced mochas, all whilst maintaining the highest standards of service, delivery and allergen management for all our clientele, we look forward to welcoming you into Benugo.

Chris Hall, Director of Catering

SKYLA WAKEMAN

Gap Year Award Scholarship



Each year the Parents' Gap Scholarships offer Gap Year Awards to Sixth Formers of between £1,000-£2,000, depending on the nature of the voluntary work to be undertaken. The allocation of these awards is competitive, and applicants are given after a searching interview. Applications are usually due shortly after the Christmas break, with interviews taking place in early February. Advice and help is offered with preparation for the applications over the course of the Michaelmas Term.

Thanks to the Parent's Gap Year Award, after my A Levels, I had the opportunity to visit Nepal and Cambodia, where I volunteered teaching and caring for children. I worked with Projects Abroad, who helped with the planning and organisation. They provided language resources, tips for adjusting to the local culture and contact details for fellow volunteers, making the volunteer experience a smooth one.

Nepal

Landing in Kathmandu on November 1, 2023, was overwhelming despite all my preparations. After meeting my Projects Abroad driver, I was taken to a hotel in central Kathmandu. The next day, I was introduced to the Nepal program leader, who gave me a quick tour of the city before driving me to my accommodation. I stayed with Camille, Yadev, their daughter, and their two dogs. I also met my fellow volunteers, with whom I walked to Sunrise English Boarding School each day, to teach English and Nepali to children aged 3-7. During my stay, I got to experience the vibrant celebrations of Tihar, dress in a saree and participate in dances with my students.

We also visited temples and took a bumpy bus ride to Pokhara, where we kayaked, hiked and enjoyed sunsets together. My favourite moments were watching the sun set over the Himalayas with my new friends. When it was time to leave, I said heartfelt goodbyes to the people I'd grown close to and prepared for the next adventure in Cambodia.

Cambodia

My arrival in Cambodia was less stressful than Nepal, and I quickly adjusted to life in Phnom Penh. I stayed in a flat with other volunteers and took Khmer lessons to help with communication. Each day, I was driven in a tuk-tuk, took a ferry to Silk Island and then biked to my preschool. Unlike in Nepal, most teachers and children spoke little to no English, so my language skills were essential. I worked mostly with a quiet boy named Elle, helping him build social skills and confidence.

Weekends were spent exploring the city, trying street food, and visiting temples. The most rewarding part of my time in Cambodia was watching Elle grow in confidence and improve his language skills. After a month, I said goodbye to my new friends and continued exploring Cambodia on my own.

Reflection

Volunteering before traveling solo made me feel more comfortable in new places, boosting my confidence. I learned not to stress about small things, whether exams or daily challenges. It was liberating to let go of insecurities, and I realized that treating everyone with kindness often leads to meaningful connections. Traveling also taught me to budget wisely, be patient and appreciate the small moments in life. I returned home more confident, grateful and eager to meet new people.

I highly recommend volunteering abroad to anyone seeking new experiences. It's a life-changing opportunity that brings lasting friendships and invaluable memories.

Skylla Wakeman (Lyttelton 23)

For more information on the Parents Gap Year Award, visit this [link](#).

If you are interested in applying, contact [Ms Guntner](#).





Safeguarding at Stowe

CHATBOTS

Over the last couple of weeks you may have read in the media about new concerns around an AI platform called Character.ai. If you have never heard of this platform, it is essentially a chatbot service where users (13+) can create and/or chat with existing characters where the chatbot will give human-like responses.

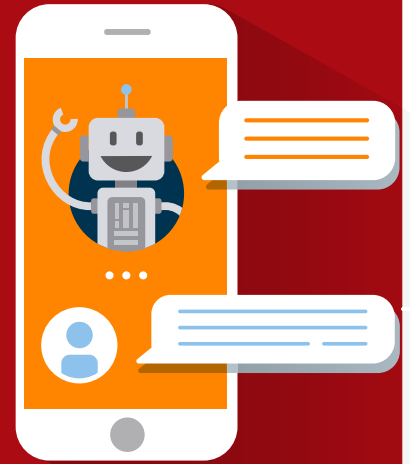
Children from Year 3 upwards have been using and conversing with chatbots (mainly Snap MyAI which is embedded within Snapchat), but Character.ai takes this to a whole new dimension as people are creating chatbots based on real people such as Jimmy Saville, Molly Russell (who sadly took her own life) and

Brianna Ghey (who was murdered) to name a few.

It is already known that some children and young people are becoming obsessed with chatbots, such as giving them names and referring to them as real people. The concerns around this is growing weekly which emphasises the fact that when we are talking to children and young people we need to be aware of these emerging areas so that we can adequately engage with them.

Internet Matters have put together a 'What Parents Need to Know' article which can be read [here](#).

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



Old Stoic Society

October saw Old Stoics enjoy a series of memorable events, fostering connections and camaraderie among the society. On Thursday 10 October, over 80 Old Stoics gathered for a remarkable dinner at the historic Churchill War Rooms in London. The evening was filled with nostalgia and lively conversations, making it a night to remember.

Following this, a regional lunch in the South, near Axminster, Devon, brought together 20 Old Stoics at The Cotley Inn. The attendees enjoyed a delicious Sunday lunch and were delighted to discover that some of them lived near each other without realising it. This event not only offered a culinary treat but also strengthened local bonds within the OS community.

Next up, an evening of drinks and food was hosted for OS studying at Exeter University. This gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for recent leavers to connect with fellow Old Stoics, share experiences, and receive support as they embark on their academic journeys.

These events highlight the enduring spirit and strong connections within the Old Stoic community. With more gatherings planned in November and December, the tradition of fostering lifelong friendships and support continues to thrive.

Charlie Evans, Old Stoic Society Events Manager





Robots in Surgery: Breaking Boundaries in Healthcare Innovation

Exclusive Interview with CMR Surgical's Chief Technologist

Wednesday 13 November saw Luke Hares, Chief Technologist at **CMR Surgical** visit Stowe for a Concord and Victory interview delving into the pioneering world of robots in keyhole surgery.

Luke's visit brought together an excited audience of pupils from across disciplines - aspiring medics, engineers, physicists, and even business and ethics enthusiasts, all eager to gain insight into the future of surgical innovation. CMR Surgical, headquartered in Cambridge, is at the forefront of healthcare transformation with its flagship product, Versius®. This advanced robotic system is designed to make minimal-access surgery accessible worldwide, redefining how complex procedures are approached and broadening the scope of robotic surgery.

Versius®, celebrated for its adaptability and precision, is capable of assisting surgeons with challenging procedures while reducing patient recovery times. Through this revolutionary platform, CMR Surgical is not only pushing the boundaries of healthcare technology but also making strides towards creating a more sustainable, patient-centred future in surgery. During the discussion, Luke shared fascinating insights from his career in medical device research and development, spanning the development of sophisticated medical implants to surgical robotics.

Luke discussed the intricate process of transforming complex technical concepts into globally distributed products, emphasising the challenges and rewards of driving impactful innovation in a high-stakes industry like healthcare. Nikki Atife (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Darcey Moran (Upper Sixth, West), both aspiring medical students, led the interview, asking questions that covered everything from the ethical implications of robotic assistance, to the future of automation in medicine. The discussion was engaging, insightful, and undoubtedly inspiring for all those considering a career in healthcare technology.

For anyone wanting background reading, Luke suggested two foundational articles; one on the topic of **Laparoscopic Surgery** and the other on **Robot-assisted Surgery**.

Click here to watch the **video** of the interview.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures

Exciting First Meeting with Platinum Partner Sponsor

The Concord and Victory team had an incredibly insightful first meeting with **Chris Bell**, Commercial Director at Luton Town Football Club. The football club are our Platinum Partner Sponsor and Chris' advice was invaluable as we prepare to launch our sponsorship offer for Concord & Victory.



Reflection is Key: Chris emphasised the importance of reflecting on both successes and failures. Successes build our strengths, while failures offer learning opportunities. Staying resilient and continuously trying is vital.

Focus on Process: By focusing on each step, rather than looking too far ahead, we can stay on track with immediate tasks, ensuring a smoother journey to success.

Storytelling over Numbers: Chris highlighted that emotional connections are more powerful than statistics. By telling a compelling story, we can create lasting value for our sponsors.

Targeting Matters: Chris stressed the importance of precise targeting for sponsors, focusing on meeting their specific needs, whether that's greater exposure or higher conversions.

We are excited to offer Bronze, Silver and Gold sponsorship packages for brands looking to connect with our vibrant community. Sponsors will benefit from visibility in both our print and digital editions, exclusive events and much more.

If you are a potential sponsor and want to learn more, we'd love to hear from you!

[Click here.](#)

Concord and Victory Team



Ponies & Playbooks: The Polo Passion of Stowe's Co-Captains

Poppy Wates (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and myself led a Concord and Victory podcast in which we interviewed the Co-Captains of the Stowe Polo Team, Luca Natella and Archie Heseltine (both Upper Sixth, Cobham), who offered insight into the exhilarating world of polo.

Luca and Archie shared their journey from off-side backhands to riding off, their experience balancing polo with academic life, and advice for newcomers. From insider tips to the unique thrill of playing beyond School grounds, this episode is perfect for both polo enthusiasts and curious newcomers.

Click [here](#) for the podcast.

Jack Dawson (Lower Sixth, Grafton)



US Colleges and Athletic Recruitment

In this insightful presentation, **Grace Allen**, a 2024 Harvard Graduate and Sprague-Stowe Harvard Teaching Fellow, shared her personal journey through the athletic recruitment process in US colleges.

As a former Captain of Harvard's Division 1 Women's Volleyball Team, Grace provides valuable advice on navigating the US college system, understanding athletic recruitment timelines and choosing the right school for your academic and athletic future. Whether you are an aspiring student-athlete or interested in studying abroad, this session covers crucial tips on scholarships, application processes and creating standout recruitment videos. Join Grace as she breaks down the differences between NCAA divisions and shares her own story of success.

Key Topics:

- Overview of US college and athletic recruitment
- SAT/ACT preparation
- NCAA divisions and scholarship opportunities
- Personal insights from Grace's journey as a recruited athlete

Watch Grace's presentation [here](#).

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Applying to Medicine, UCAT, MMI's, and Professional Rugby

On Wednesday 6 November, the Concord and Victory team interviewed **Nigel Rossiter**, a Consultant Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgeon and advocate for global trauma care, and his son **Finlay Rossiter**, a fifth-year medical student at Barts and The London Medical School and former professional rugby player with London Irish and England.

Led by our Upper Sixth pupils, Darcey Moran (West) and Nikki Atife (Cheshire), with an introduction from Tom Bicknell (Croft), this conversation offers invaluable insights for anyone interested in a career in healthcare. Pupils from all Year Groups, including aspiring medics, veterinary students and nurses attended to learn about the latest NHS developments, medical education and competitive application strategies.

Key Topics:

- Tips on UCAS, UCAT, and MMI preparation
- Work experience and guidance on building a strong application for medical school
- Balancing the demands of medical studies with professional sport, as shared by Fin's unique journey from rugby to medicine
- Insights into nursing and other allied health professions
- Importance of mental health in medicine and sports

Gain insights from two incredible individuals who have successfully navigated both the medical and athletic worlds, by watching the full interview [here](#).

Gordon West, Head of Futures

SMU Dallas Talk

On Wednesday 13 November Jack Dawson (Lower Sixth, Grafton) had the opportunity to interview Sean from Southern Methodist University (SMU), capturing a genuine look into what makes this university a vibrant choice for students around the world.

SMU is more than just a top-tier academic institution; it's home to the Mustangs, a strong campus spirit that fuels a dynamic community right in the heart of Dallas, Texas. As a private university with about 12,000 students, SMU provides an intimate, close-knit environment while still offering all the resources and excitement of a large, city-based university.

The Mustangs' energy truly embodies the spirit of SMU, and the school's dedication to tradition and community shines through in everything from athletics to student life. Jack's interview covered a lot of ground - from international admissions and scholarship opportunities, to the ways SMU supports students globally. Sean shared key insights about life in Dallas, a vibrant city known for its culture, energy and opportunities, and how SMU is an integral part of this thriving community.

MUSTANGS MAKE THE MOST OF COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS

See how SMU students take advantage of opportunities beyond the classroom.

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



For pupils considering studying in the USA, SMU provides a wealth of resources, like the International Student and Scholar Services, to help with everything from campus engagement to visa support. There's also a strong focus on spiritual life, cultural events and dedicated support systems that make international students feel at home.

Jack's engaging interview is packed with information. To watch the interview [click here](#).

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures





MUSIC

Ivan Yanakov Masterclass & Recital

On the afternoon of Wednesday 16 October, Stowe Music Department welcomed the internationally renowned pianist Ivan Yanakov to give the first of this year's Leslie Huggins' Masterclass and Recital Series.

Four Stoic pianists, Eva-Grace Ng (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Gifford Barker (Third Form, Temple), Annie Chen (Third Form, Stanhope) and Nikki Atife (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), performed to Ivan and an audience of parents and peers before receiving nuanced feedback on their piece. Each Stoic performed to an

incredibly high standard and Ivan commented on how quickly they responded to his advice and the excellent progress they each made during the masterclass.

The evening recital included items by Bach and Rachmaninoff and also included transcriptions of pieces by Franck. The audience were captivated by Ivan's technical mastery and lyrical performance, and we look forward to welcoming him back to Stowe in the near future.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music

Halloween Flash Fiction Winners

This year's entries to the Halloween Flash Fiction did not disappoint us. They were definitely not to be read after dark!

Pupils rose to the challenge and created some nightmare inducing tales which we read with goosebumps and the feeling that someone or something was watching us. The judging was very difficult indeed.

After much deliberation the results were:

First place: Sebastian Chipperfield-Twiddy (Fourth Form, Temple)

Runners Up: Lucy Taylor (Third Form, Cheshire) and Fiamma Natella (Third Form, Queen's)

Congratulations to everyone who took part. We look forwards to seeing your names on the spines of horror books soon.

The Plunge by Sebastian Chipperfield-Twiddy

The cold damp emptiness emerges as the pale grey lid heaved off the ancient well, greeting me with the smell of musty flesh

from below. I attach the clip to my harness, and I descend down into the chamber. The slippery green moss slides quickly against my boots. As I approach the water, I feel my feet wobble as the rocks give way beneath me causing me to plunge into the water.

For a few seconds I see nothing, only darkness, unable to breathe. As I stare up at the entrance of the well, I scream and bellow to the others telling them to hoist me up, to get me out of this damp hell. But they seem to not hear me. I feel my body chill as I hear the clip of the harness above me fall into the water and the heavy stone slide back into place.

I feel myself surrounded by the tall walls, alone and cold. I feel myself running out of oxygen. My body sinks into the water. My mouth fills with water and I descend into the water...

Lucinda Stockley-Battams (Librarian) & Sam Keiller (Assistant Librarian)



Stowe Racing

We are thrilled to reveal our new 'Sir Bob, Stowe Racing & Friends Syndicate' with shares available.

This is being spearheaded by our Ambassador Robert Cooper (Cobham 68), who recently retired as a racing presenter on 'At The Races' after a thirty year career. Many will remember his infamous quote "it's a man actually Derek!" after his co-presenter mistakenly got the gender of Robert's interviewee wrong!

Sir Bob (as he is affectionately known) will ensure our owners receive behind the scenes access when on the course with trips to the commentator's box planned too, observing how his former colleagues put a racing broadcast together, plus all the usual owner perks such as badges when your horse is racing and trips to the parade ring, as well as numerous invitations to events and stable visits - there is a strong social side too!

The Stowe link continues with both horses (Grasshopper Time and Fable) trained by Alex Hales (Chandos 92) who is based locally at Trafford Bridge Stables, Edgcote, near Banbury. We will have our first runner later this month.

With Christmas fast approaching, what an excellent present idea to give a family member or friend the chance of being an owner of two horses for two seasons, at just £205 per month. Gift vouchers can be arranged too!

Contact Henry Kimbell (Chandos 04) 07979 522744

Old Stoics Michaelmas Events Programme

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

30 November - Stowe 10 Years Out, Stowe School

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

16 December - 2024 Leavers Drinks

Please **book here**.

Charlie Evans, Event Organiser OS Society



Anton Poon Triumphs in TAFU Teen Photography Competition

Talented Photographer Anton Poon (Lower Sixth, Croft) showcased exceptional skill in the recent Teens and Friends United (TAFU) competition, capturing both the First and Second Place in the Teen category. This prestigious contest celebrates the artistic abilities of young photographers who demonstrate an eye for nature's intricate details and dynamic compositions.

Anton's winning photograph, a striking image of a Coreus Marginatus, commonly known as the Dock Bug, captured the intricate texture and colours of this unique insect with precision. His keen attention to detail and composition helped his work stand out among other talented competitors. In the same category, Anton also earned the runner-up spot with a mesmerising photo of a hoverfly, further solidifying his reputation for his ability to capture the subtle beauty of insects.

The TAFU competition encourages young photographers to explore their creativity and technical skills, and Anton's achievement highlights his exceptional ability to excel under such competitive standards.

Anton also recently took Third Prize in the 15-18 age group of Haddenham and District Rotary Young Photographer Competition.

Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent



Wildlife at Stowe: A New Perspective in Photography

Introducing a remarkable series of greeting cards that celebrate the natural beauty and wildlife at Stowe, captured by award-winning young photographer, Anton Poon (Lower Sixth, Croft). Anton has skilfully documented the School's lesser-seen residents - the wildlife that flourishes on its historic grounds. While most photography at Stowe highlights the grandeur of its architecture, temples and gardens, Anton's work brings a fresh focus, revealing the vibrant ecosystems within this cherished National Trust site.

Each pack, priced at £4.99, includes five cards and is available in either portrait or landscape format. Every penny from each sale will be donated to two charities Anton is passionate about supporting, 'Mermaids' and 'Young Minds'. Mermaids advocates for transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse youth in the UK, offering essential support to young people, their families, and the professionals involved in their care. Young Minds fights for better mental health support for all young people, aiming to create a world where no one has to face mental health challenges alone.

Anton, who has generously covered the production costs himself, chose to include a quote from Old Stoic, Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68) inside each card: "You have one life. Spend it with the people you love, doing what you love." This message, paired with Anton's love for wildlife and his commitment to supporting young people, makes each card not only a piece of art but also a meaningful contribution to causes that make a difference.

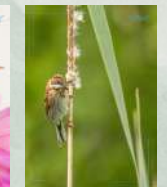
The cards are available to purchase at Stowe via **Dr West**, with an additional small charge for postage if they are mailed.

WILDLIFE AT STOWE: GREETING CARDS FOR CHARITY

£4.99 - Pack of 5 A6 Greeting Cards Available in Landscape or Portrait Sets.

In Partnership with Stowe, the profits of these cards will be split between Mermaids and Young Minds.

The cards are available for purchase at Stowe School or via Dr West.



October Colleague Change Makers of the Month

Stowe Teaching - Dr Charles Adkins (Maths) was awarded the CMOM in recognition of a fantastic session on problem solving for the Year 7 and Year 8 Winchester House School pupils. It was brilliant to see the pupils working together to solve some tricky problems.

Stowe Support Services - Charlie Edwards (Maintenance) received three amazing nominations for his outstanding display of our Change Maker values, and particularly for supporting our colleagues in the Stowe School Art Department.

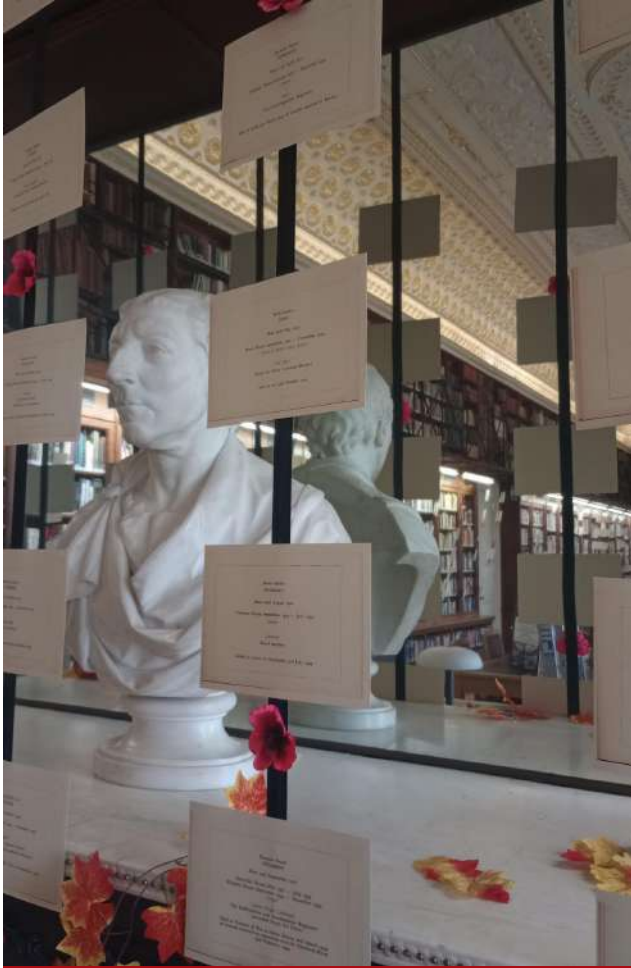
Swanbourne House - Janice Mehra has been chosen for helping to cover Year 1 whilst delivering sessions to the Main House pupils. Janice's flexibility has not gone unnoticed.

Winchester House - Lawrence Brody was awarded CMOM for going above and beyond in many areas of the School including music, boarding, care of the children and personal development.

Congratulations and thank you for the hard work of our Winners!

The People Team

STOWE HOUSE



Old Stoics Remembered

To tie in with the 'For Your Tomorrow' memorial installation of the 1,475 soldiers killed in the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944, displayed in the Grecian Valley by the National Trust, we created a display in the School Library remembering the Old Stoics who lost their lives in active service in WWII.

Nearly 2,000 Old Stoics served in the Armed Forces during the war, with 242 honoured with decorations, including two Victoria Crosses. Tragically, 270 Old Stoics, approximately one in seven, lost their lives in active service.

Reflecting on the end of the war, the then-Headmaster JF Roxburgh expressed a profound pride in their sacrifice, stating - "In considering these figures, it is impossible not to feel pride in the distinguished service which men from this School have rendered in war." Given that Stowe School had opened only in 1923, its loss rate was among the highest of any public school in England, a fact that deeply affected Roxburgh, who knew each boy by name. The toll of these losses was said to have broken him.

Using the Stowe Remembrance book, we displayed individual cards in memory of each of the 270 Old Stoics who gave their lives. These individuals are honoured each year by the entire School community on Remembrance Sunday, a tradition that ensures their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

We hope that those who visited found a moment of reflection as they viewed the display.

**Susy Pullen, Stowe House Preservation Trust
Co-Director & Head of Visitor Experience**



Winter Cleaning

As part of our annual conservation clean, we started with the Marble Hall, which was restored 20 years ago, and most recently had a deep clean about 10 years ago. Our annual work involves the cleaning of the plaster military trophies (the reliefs under the ledge) with a conservation vacuum cleaner from a scaffolding tower, the tops of the lanterns, and the tops of the statues.

From the ground, the statues and torchieres were brushed with a hoghair brush, delicately sweeping the accumulated dust into the conservation vacuum cleaner, and the walls were spot-cleaned for marks. Surprisingly, the dust accumulation wasn't as bad as we thought it might be, but it still took us a day and a half to complete. On the first day, while the Prep School Art Festival pupils were waiting for their first session with the Art Department, we showed them different artefacts involved with restoring and cleaning The State Rooms. We talked to them about the link between science and art that could lead to a career in art and architecture conservation.

During the Winter months, we will conservation clean The Music Room and The Blue Room, with the help of our willing volunteers.

Anna McEvoy, SHPT Co-Director & House Custodian



Events at Stowe House

Stowe-Tots

Come and play!

Stowe Tots

Monday 16 December 10-10.45am

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

Booking is essential. 1 Child and 1 Adult £5



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

Carols at Stowe

Monday 9 December 2024
Stowe Chapel

Stowe welcomes you all to join us from 6.15pm for a drink and a mince pie, followed by a traditional Christmas carol service from 7-8pm, including readings, performances from our school choirs, and communal carol singing.

Please book your free tickets at www.stowe.co.uk/stoweprints

Everyone is welcome!



Join us for a festive evening of Christmas Carols in London

On the evening of Thursday 5 December, for the lighting of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, we warmly invite Old Stoics, Stowe Parents and Friends of Stowe to St Martin-in-the-Fields for an enchanting evening of Christmas Carols from the UK and around the world.

Carols for all to sing include 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear', 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', and 'Joy to the World', alongside beautiful works for choir and strings by John Rutter, Lucy Walker and Ola Gjeilo.

The Old Stoic Society has reserved an area in The Gallery to gather before the concert, and their AGM will be held there at 6pm. Pre-concert drinks and festive nibbles will follow, for everyone to enjoy, from 6.30pm. We will then make the most of a reserved seating area within the Church for the concert, which begins at 7.30pm, together with interval drinks.

Please purchase your tickets [here](#).

Charlie Evans, OS Society Events Manager

STOWE HOUSE

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 23 & SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER
10AM - 5PM

STOWE SCHOOL,
BUCKINGHAM, MK18 5EH

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EVENT IS ONLINE BOOKING ONLY, TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

@stowevenuehire

Take a walk through our elegant State Rooms with over 60 stall holders. Make a start on your Christmas shopping or treat yourself to some delicious treats, homeware or handmade crafts, or start that letter to Santa with fun children's activities; there is something for everyone!

Grab a festive bite from our food vans and indulge with a mulled wine or hot chocolate.

Please note: This event is **online booking only**, tickets will not be available on the door.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000
e | stowemail@stowe.co.uk
w | www.stowe.co.uk

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