

Stowe

**We are
Change
Makers**

Vision & Strategy



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**“We think
it’s a winner!”**
Good Schools Guide



Stowe

Stowe stands in the most sublime setting of any school in the world. Historic buildings, landscaped gardens and the very spirit of the Enlightenment sit at the heart of its founding. But, as this remarkable landmark enters its second century as a leading public school, we believe that beauty and tradition are not enough: our future vision for the School embraces change, uncertainty and the challenges that will face our pupils not just during their academic careers, but throughout the rest of their lives in a world which is increasingly complex and ambiguous. Within that volatile environment we see our pupils as Change Makers. They will make a lasting impact not only while they are here at Stowe, but perhaps more importantly when they go out to pursue their lives and careers in the wider world.

The history of this place, both as a stately home and as a pioneering school remains important to our mission of education, and at the heart of a Stowe education remains intellectual enquiry, academic curiosity and a love of learning. We strive for a balance of rights and responsibilities, equality and inclusion and to treat each pupil as an individual. Our vision is inspired by a history of progressive thinking, and has been developed through collaboration with our pupils, parents, teachers, support staff, governors and alumni.

Yes, we teach pupils how to excel in exams, but we also teach them how to collaborate, how to solve problems and how to think critically. Stowe is educating a generation of Change Makers ready to transform the world.



“A Stoic should be useful at a dance and invaluable in a shipwreck.”

J.F. Roxburgh
(Headmaster 1923 - 1949)

Our History

Our founding Headmaster, J.F. Roxburgh, envisioned a modern, humane and liberal independent school. We believe those qualities are even more relevant in today's complex, challenging and changing society. For over 100 years, Stowe has provided a rich and diverse educational experience rooted in the belief that each pupil has unique qualities and talents waiting to be discovered. Stowe celebrates the excitement of learning and embraces intellectual discovery, art and science, sport and outdoor education, service and leadership.

Old Stoics have re-imagined the way we do business (Richard Branson) and saved millions of lives through medical innovation (Marc Koska). Nicholas Winton, one of the very first Stoics, stood up against tyranny at considerable personal risk, while Leonard Cheshire inspired philanthropy on a global scale. A newer generation of Stoics continue these traditions of service; Liberty King works for the Education Endowment Fund – improving attainment by inspiring young people to push beyond their perceived limitations, while Dr Mila Miranova is an Associate of the Royal College of Physicians working with the World Health Organization (WHO). Meanwhile, our very own Hollywood 'Superman' (Henry Cavill) is an ambassador for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust which strives to save rare species from extinction.

“For me being a Stoic means being open to exploring different options. Stowe highlights your individuality.”

Nikita (Stoic)







Our Purpose

Every pupil at Stowe should go out into the world to create new opportunities and build a better future for all. By promoting equality and inclusion we aim to realise our dream, to educate contented, compassionate, and responsible young adults who will contribute to the common good of society by being agents of positive change. At Stowe, we practice a modern educational philosophy which incorporates much of what the Ancient Greeks called *phronesis* - practical wisdom which encouraged the building of healthy relationships, developing sound judgement, learning from mistakes, understanding cause and effect and realising that an obsession with material wealth will not ensure happiness. Alongside our core academic disciplines, we offer music, art and drama to allow Change Makers to express themselves in a multitude of ways and aim to give them a wider understanding of the creative experience.



I'd like to think Stowe gives people a sense of responsibility. We want them to be comfortable taking risks and asking questions. Yes, we have traditions and we expect certain standards of behaviour. But we also encourage them to find different ways of expressing their ideas.

Dr Fitzpatrick Smith
(Houseparent & English Teacher)

Our Pupils

Change Makers should be able to think analytically, use their initiative and innovate, be active learners and strive to interpret and solve problems. They should use creativity and think originally, they should improve their technological, design, programming and leadership skills. We want Change Makers to develop emotional intelligence that will allow them to collaborate with others and work well as part of a team whenever necessary.



**Boyhood, girlhood,
and genius - all of them
drink from the same
refreshing springs.**

G. Wilson Knight



The Stowe Award

We encourage pupils to engage fully in all areas of School life. The Stowe Award operates at different levels throughout a pupil's journey through Stowe, encouraging them to engage in key areas of School life: pupils accrue points in different areas - from their attitude and attainment inside and outside the classroom, from their participation in the Arts, drama, music, sport, volunteering, extracurricular activities and from their commitments outside School during the holidays.

The Stowe Award is one of the routes to acquiring Change Maker skills: it encourages pupils to participate and gain useful qualifications, skills and experiences while engaging fully in all aspects of School life and learning through positive experience. The Award equips pupils with the skills and character virtues to adapt and thrive in a competitive world.

The Award is a powerful way for pupils to gain Change Maker skills and to positively contribute to our community.



“If you just want to be ordinary and fit in, Stowe is probably not for you.”

Isabella (Stoic)







School Life

At Stowe we are committed to academic excellence in teaching and learning, and pupils routinely exceed initial expectations. Everyone understands that it is what we are able to do for ourselves that determines our levels of success: we abhor a culture of learned dependency while ensuring that pupils and staff have the support they need to thrive. To help everyone develop their self-awareness and improve their emotional health, we have enhanced our counselling services by creating a Wellbeing Centre based at the Queen's Temple.

Stowe's talented and dedicated workforce is one of our greatest strengths: we are committed to fostering team engagement, attracting, mentoring and retaining our best teachers and support staff. Teachers inspire their pupils to love learning by providing expert subject knowledge and guidance in a safe, nurturing environment which prioritises pastoral development and wellbeing. The Stowe Group recruits, retains and develops outstanding teachers and support staff who work to deliver the Change Maker ethos: we change ourselves, then change others and together we can change the world.

“One of our strengths is that we don't select pupils purely on academic ability. I love the challenge of making sure they all get the best grade they are capable of, and by the time our pupils reach Sixth Form there is not much fear of failure among them. They remain individuals, but they are very accepting of others - it's a genuinely collegiate culture.”

Paul Griffin (Faculty Chair)





We are an inclusive community in which the rights of all our pupils are respected. There are no barriers to participation in any aspect of School life, and Change Makers have the opportunity to voice their opinions on whole School issues through various councils, giving feedback without fear of repercussions. Through teaching, coaching and counselling, we will do our utmost to support pupils to be their best, do their best and feel their best.

The Stoic Charter is updated each year by the pupils to reflect the pluralism, promise, and potential of the School community. The document represents their wish to be considered as equal members of a community in which their rights are upheld. Pupils expect to receive outstanding levels of pastoral, academic and coaching support and the right to enjoy a well-balanced life at Stowe. In return, our pupils pledge to aspire to academic excellence, abide by School rules, respect the rights of everyone who works in our community and contribute constructively to School life by becoming Change Makers.

At Stowe we have a strong tradition of social responsibility and service. Pupils develop a lasting sense of moral and spiritual responsibility within a caring pastoral environment: Change Makers consider the rights and needs of others and strive to make the world a better place.



Our Facilities

We are custodians of three historically significant buildings: Stowe House, Swanbourne House and Manor House (Winchester House School) and are committed to maintaining and enhancing the fabric of all three schools.

In 1997, Stowe School formed a new partnership with Stowe House Preservation Trust which took on a 99-year lease of the Stowe Mansion and has preserved and restored the fabric of the building to a magnificent standard. More than 10,000 visitors a year come to enjoy the most finely realised neo-classical building still in private ownership. The State Dining Room, State Drawing Room, Marble Hall, Music Room, Library and North Hall have been restored to the grandeur and majesty which left Queen Victoria quite overwhelmed when she was a house guest in 1845.



Investment

Stowe has recently invested more than £40m to enhance its educational and boarding facilities. Recent additions to the School have included the Henry Worsley Science Centre which takes its place alongside the award-winning Chung Music School and recently refurbished Watson Art School and Roxburgh Theatre. New Boarding Houses include Queen's, Stanhope, West and Cobham. The recent opening of three bespoke Day Houses, Cheshire, Winton and Croft, has greatly enhanced the integration of Day pupils into the social fabric of the School.

Future developments include a state-of-the-art Design, Technology and Engineering Centre, as well as significantly enhanced indoor and outdoor sport facilities to complement the 75 acres of playing fields, all-weather pitches, athletics track, golf course and Equestrian Centre.

I've had five big years here, and I can't quite believe the stuff I've done. In Lower School your timetable is so full, but we got to try out so many activities that I know friends at other schools don't have a chance to do. I mean, we have stables, and I'm doing a EPQ in equine anatomy, but I've also loved being in Cadets, and I'm head of the Navy section. That gave me the chance to learn to sail. We have amazing facilities, I have a friend who comes here from his school to play golf because he can't do that where he is.

Bo (Stoic)





Social & Environmental Responsibility

The Group's aim is to build a transformative endowment of £100 million which will promote social mobility by allowing unprecedented access to schools in The Stowe Group, regardless of financial means or circumstances. Through Change 100, our ambition is to enable many talented and deserving children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from our Schools - children who have the potential based on their talents, character and ambition to become Change Makers in the future.

At a defining moment in the history of our planet, Stowe is committed to protecting the environment and becoming one of the world's most sustainable schools. We are committed to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2040. We pledge to find ways to become more adaptive, more responsible and greener, using the framework of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

Our pupils are encouraged to be active partners in the local community and are given opportunities to contribute fully to improving their local environment. They go beyond the curriculum to promote awareness and understanding of global issues and respond and contribute as citizens of the world.

“Change 100 has brought extraordinary benefits for my son and our family. Like the light across the lake that ripples out across the landscape, so our world has been forever lit by unbelievable kindness. We appreciate it more than you can ever possibly imagine.”

Change 100 Parent





AMELIAE SOPHIAE AVGV

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Our Partnerships

In 2021, Stowe merged with Winchester House School and Swanbourne House School to become one organisation, forming The Stowe Group. Stowe Governors and Staff are working to fulfil the vision of all three schools to ensure they excel through our partnership.

Stowe has also formed transformational partnerships with a growing network of organisations. Since 2013, we have supported and worked with the University Technology College (UTC) at Silverstone. We fully endorse the UTC's mission to educate high-performing, vocationally skilled, work-ready young people seeking career paths in High Performance Engineering and Technical Events Management. UTC pupils come to Stowe to be taught Maths, Chemistry and Languages, while Stoics taking BTEC Engineering complete the practical elements of their course at Silverstone. There is also high-level engagement and partnership between the Boards and Executive Leadership of both schools.

Stowe partnerships are based on collaboration, trust, respect, shared values and mutual goals: in 1989, the School gifted more than 500 acres of landscaped gardens to the National Trust, including around 40 temples and historically significant monuments. This partnership has brought about the restoration of one of the largest and most important English landscaped gardens demonstrating the genius of Charles Bridgeman, John Vanbrugh, William Kent, James Gibbs and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. While the School retains the under-leases and has full access to the whole estate, the partnership with The National Trust enables us to welcome more than 225,000 members of the public each year.



Winchester House

Winchester House School is a fully co-educational nursery, pre-prep and preparatory school offering an outstanding education to children aged 3-13 with day, occasional and weekly boarding for 320 pupils.

Winchester House was founded in 1875 and moved to its present 18-acre site in the centre of Brackley in 1922. The heart of the School is situated in Manor House, an attractive building dating from the early 1800s. Facilities are excellent and include a new Astro-Turf which can be used as a full-size hockey pitch, nine tennis courts or two seven-a-side hockey pitches. The aim of Winchester House School is to develop life-long learners with a spirit of resourcefulness and self-reliance within a warm and purposeful community. The School creates opportunities for children to develop their self-esteem to ensure that they are resilient and able to tackle and overcome any obstacles they face.







Swanbourne House

Swanbourne House School is a co-educational day, weekly and full boarding preparatory school which offers wrap-around care for 300 children aged 3-13 years, 11 miles from Milton Keynes and 9 miles from Aylesbury.

Founded in 1920 in 55 acres of parkland and woodland, the house was built in the 1860s for Sir Thomas Fremantle, later the 1st Lord Cottesloe. The School's buildings have been developed to provide outstanding facilities: Swanbourne House boasts a 20m indoor swimming pool, an athletics track, grass and artificial cricket nets, ten tennis courts, a cricket pavilion, dance studio, six-hole golf course, and an indoor sports hall for badminton, basketball and cricket. In 2019, Swanbourne replaced Common Entrance with the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB), an assessment model that seeks fairly and accurately to quantify a pupil's all-round achievements in Year 7 and 8. A final summative Baccalaureate Certificate accompanies the transfer to senior schools and offers a 360° assessment of a pupil's progress, knowledge, skills and attitudes.





School Plans

To guarantee that Stowe provides the most innovative learning environment, firmly aligned with our strategic priorities, we have embarked on a thorough audit to complete a Masterplan for our estate.

This comprehensive plan guides the evolution of the physical infrastructure of our schools so that they remain exceptional places for Change Makers to learn and grow.

The Masterplan is a holistic consideration of the educational, social, economic and environmental needs of Stowe, Swanbourne House and Winchester House. Sustainability is not a stand-alone strategy or discipline, but is embedded in every aspect of the plan.

We will modernise outdated facilities, improve boarding accommodation and seek to adapt and develop part of the estate (at the old Home Farm). All this will be done while protecting and preserving the historic character of the campus and working with our partners on the Stowe estate, The National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust.



“There is so much to do here, so many activities to try out. Art and drama, or sport - we’ve got great facilities. At my last school you could only do rounders or athletics. At Stowe, it’s impossible to put people in boxes, because you never know what someone might be good at.”

Poppy (Stoic)

Parental Engagement & Shared Purpose

We never take it for granted when parents choose Stowe for the education of their children as we know there are many competing alternatives. From the moment a parent selects Stowe, we treat them as valued customers. Our core values are based on expectations parents have for their children, expectations we have for Change Makers and our personal expectations as educators. If we jointly commit to a culture of continuous improvement, we can support and serve each other to achieve desirable goals.

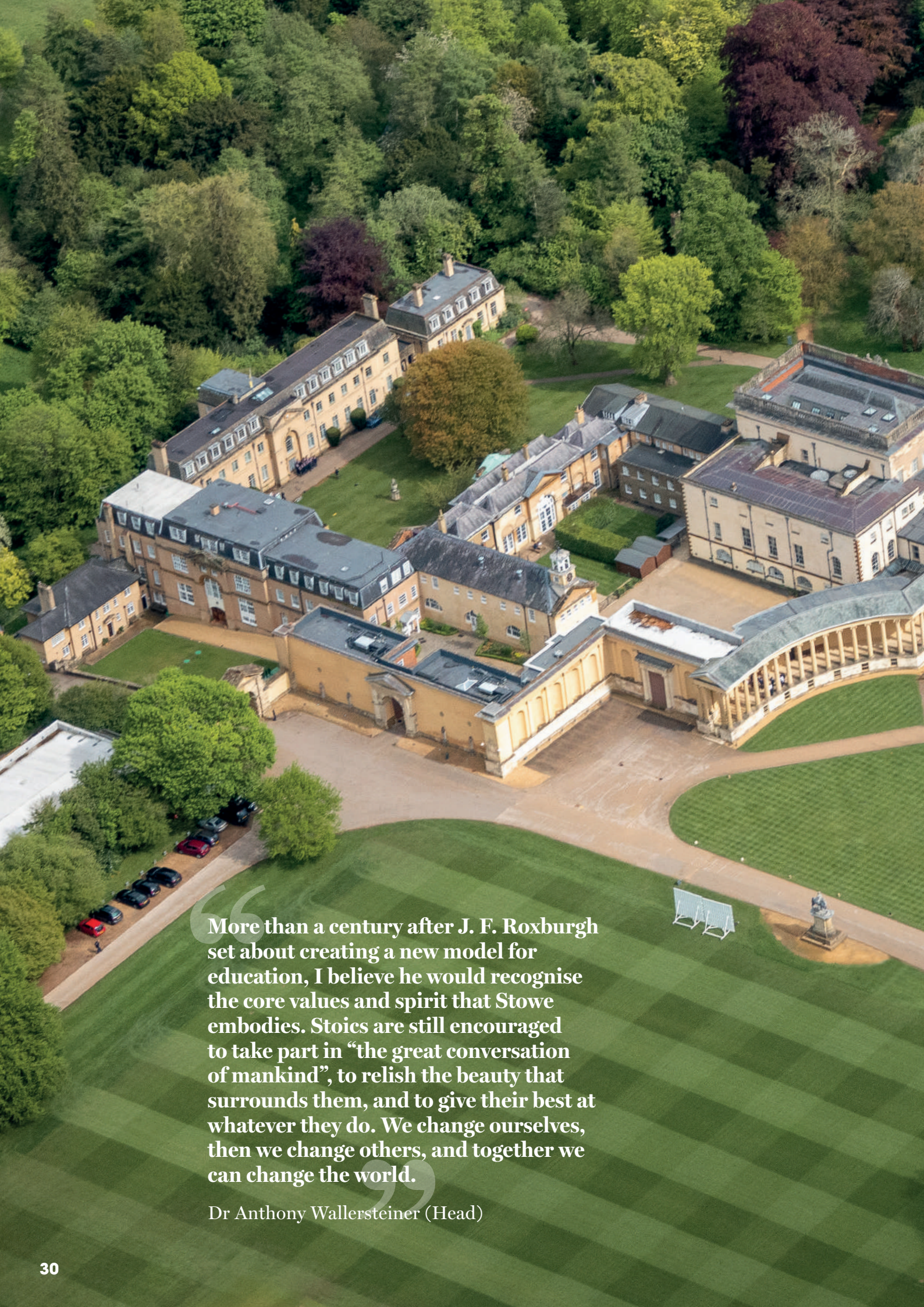
To further enhance community engagement and support, our communications are clear, timely and transparent. We value feedback from our parents, whom we recognise have experience in many wide-ranging fields.



Lots of us hadn't lived among strangers before, but I have made life-long friends at Stowe.

Precious (Stoic)





More than a century after J. F. Roxburgh set about creating a new model for education, I believe he would recognise the core values and spirit that Stowe embodies. Stoics are still encouraged to take part in “the great conversation of mankind”, to relish the beauty that surrounds them, and to give their best at whatever they do. We change ourselves, then we change others, and together we can change the world.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner (Head)

An aerial photograph of a large, historic university campus. The central focus is a grand, multi-story building with a prominent domed roof and classical architectural features like columns and arches. To the left of this main building is a large, well-maintained green lawn with visible mowing stripes. In the background, another large green field, possibly a sports field, is visible. The campus is surrounded by trees and other smaller buildings, creating a lush, green environment.

“Being a Stoic means
being happy in your skin.”
Amalie (Stoic)

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