

the **STOIC**

Stowe School 2010/2011

Outstanding Art School is opened

*Unique Lynn Chadwick
Exhibition at Stowe*

Individual Sporting Success for Stoics

**Our Elite Sports Men and
Women Represent Great Britain
and England**

Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy

Tattersall Wright Lectures

ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN EXTERNAL EXAMS

*Spectacular rise in GCSE results for the
second year running*

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the STOIC

Editorial

It is with a sense of great pride that I introduce the 2010/11 edition of *The Stoic*. I joined Stowe in September 2010 and during my first year I have been privileged to witness some remarkable sporting achievements, listen to some inspirational speakers and attend a range of highly professional productions of music and drama. One of the most memorable moments was watching Stoics compete in the Coldstream Cup. The competition consists of a number of testing and demanding activities, all to be performed within set time constraints and the determination and team work shown by Stoics was outstanding.

Stoics continue to embrace fully all the opportunities available to them on each and every day of the week: I have certainly not been short of material for this magazine – in fact, the greatest challenge has been to fit it all into 156 pages. It is no surprise, therefore, to find that we are now experiencing a dramatic increase in demand for places at this stunning school that provides its pupils with exceptional teaching and learning and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Academic standards at Stowe continue to rise and to reflect the impressive achievements of Stoics within the classroom this edition of *The Stoic* includes academic departmental reports. Unfortunately, our decision to include details of



Mrs Kathy Campbell

the external examination successes of Stoics, published in August 2011, has delayed the completion of this magazine, but I hope that when you read through the following pages you will feel that the wait was worthwhile.

Thank you to all the Stoics and staff who have helped to provide articles and photographs and to Angela Bartlett at Mcc Design, who has patiently ensured that the design of the magazine has equalled the high standard of the accomplishments noted within its pages.

Kathy Campbell

Kathy Campbell, Editor

Annabel Roe, Lower Sixth



the ST O I C

Stowe School 2010/2011

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Speech Day



Chairman of Governors, Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown

Chairman of Governors' Speech

My Lords, Distinguished Guests, Tony, Headmaster, Fellow Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen – A warm welcome to you all, to another Speech day at Stowe.

20 years ago we had our first Harvard Fellow – and at the Annual Harvard dinner last week we celebrated this with many of those who have shared a year of their lives with us. One of the best parts of the evening is to listen to their reflections of their year and their passion and commitment for Stowe. They are not alone.

20 years ago I attended a working party created to decide what we were going to do with Stowe, its restoration, facilities, and endowment. This in the context that we had sorted out the estate with the transfer to the National Trust, but bits were falling off the building. We didn't know if we could carry on. We concluded that we needed at least £10 million to do everything and many around the table felt this was

hopelessly optimistic and totally unrealistic. I disagreed and how wrong they were.

20 years on they have started taking the scaffolding off the Western Pavilion, and the building site should be clear by the start of next term, thus concluding the first three phases of the restoration of the Mansion, including the Marble Hall and the magnificent Library, all of which has cost about £20 million – all raised from voluntary sources.

The list of new and refurbished facilities over the last 20 years is too long to go into here – you can see all around you the accelerating rate of improvement in buildings, sports facilities, classrooms and the boarding houses.

We are on the cusp of launching the Appeal to raise the final million pounds for a new Music School. I say new, but in reality Stowe has waited 90 years for a Music School, as we have never had a dedicated building. We have already had some incredibly generous gifts to help with this



project. As indeed we have for another project to refurbish the Roxburgh Hall, where we hope to start work this summer.

We hope soon to finalise what has been an elaborate, difficult consultation to gain approval to what will be known as Stowe Stables down in Home Farm – again financed with donations.

£10 million – impossible? No, not impossible at all.

Through all of you, and those who have given who are not here today, through the work of the National Trust, through the Lottery Heritage Fund and World Monuments Fund, Stowe, in the broadest sense, has been able to raise over £50 million over the last 20 years and approaches its School centenary in a mere 12 years' time with new found energy, fuelled by success and driven by the confidence of knowing that so many people have striven so hard to save it. Save it and importantly develop it for future generations of Stoics.

Your generosity knows no bounds as we work together to make Stowe once again a centre of enlightenment – where children can be introduced to beauty which will stay with them all their lives, where they develop into individually minded, free thinking, responsible citizens of an ever increasingly complicated world.

To each of you, and to all those who cannot be with us today, I say thank you, – on behalf of everyone in the Stowe community past, present and future, thank you for the generosity of your sustained support to help make Stowe great again – this time as a place of education, rather than a hotbed of political intrigue for eighteenth century Whigs.

Let me also say thank you to the hundreds of parents who continue to entrust us with their children's education – we do appreciate very much the choice you have made.

In turn, we continue to do all we can to help you by managing the school as efficiently

as possible and holding down fee increases to the minimum, and in evidence of this we are steadily slipping down the comparative fee list for comparable schools as a measure of our relative pricing. This is one league table where we are very happy to be in the second echelon.

A school is made by its teachers and by all those who work behind the scenes – coping as you do with power failures, snow, sickness and all manner of other trials and tribulations. To everyone who works at Stowe, I offer the warmest thanks for your continued effort and commitment, giving so often as you do above and beyond the call of duty and out of your own time.

To my Governor colleagues – my grateful thanks for your support and hard work, all given so freely and without complaint, volunteering as you do for jobs that have to be done.

This year we have seen Sir Edmund Verney retire and we welcome some new faces – Lady Stringer, Jennifer will be helping with our Campaign work; Juliet Colman, Juliet has joined the Development, Building & Works committee and has taken on Health & Safety oversight; and David Hudson. In the gaps inbetween being Headmaster at the Royal Latin in Buckingham, David has joined the Education Committee.

We all face change in our everyday lives of one form or another. Sometimes change is imposed on us, sometimes it is through our own choice. Let me tell you about one change we are planning for the Stowe community.

Over the last two years, like many of our competitors, we have been looking at ways to generate additional revenue, to help with the final and less attractive parts of the restoration, and to help us establish a significant endowment fund for scholarship and bursary – something which we have never had and neither of which can be tackled from our operating surpluses – effectively through fees.

We have decided to establish Stowe overseas – if you like to export best practice, using modern technology to share experiences and create communities across year, activity and subject groups, and exchanges of staff and students with a thread of global learning running through all year groups.

Through this interconnectivity we will enable pupils to develop a real

appreciation of our developing, but increasingly complex world.

This will arm Old Stoics everywhere not just with the independence of mind, individuality, sense of fair play and responsibility so typical of our alumni, but it will also help them to become more effective global citizens and leaders.

Our strategy is simple – through hand-picked partnerships with wealthy philanthropists, sovereign funds and community developers around the world to develop schools for which we will provide our educational process and our values and principles while our partners provide finance, land and buildings.

We believe that, over the long-term, this strategy will generate the level of revenue likely to help us deal once and for all with the restoration of the Eastern and Western Courtyards, and to create an Endowment Fund sufficiently large to make a real difference in the way we contribute to our society closer at home.

This and other operational changes will all add to that sense of confidence I mentioned earlier. But this sort of change needs energy, vision, a can-do attitude, steadfast commitment and a refusal to be beaten. That all needs leadership of the highest calibre, and we are very fortunate at Stowe to have a leader who embraces all these characteristics and more. It's time for him to tell you a little more about the detail of the last year in the life of Stowe.

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown



The Headmaster's Speech

The following is an edited version of the Headmaster's Speech:

Chairman, Governors, My Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen and Stoics

A warm welcome on the only cold, overcast day this summer. This is a happy and important occasion for Stowe when we rejoice in the academic and sporting prowess of Stoics as well as their contribution to the musical, dramatic and artistic life of the School.

Knowing my interest in history and art history, a parent recently asked me to give an opinion on two expensive purchases from a Bond Street auction house – a Stradivarius and a Rembrandt. I carefully unwrapped two parcels to inspect the items. Taking my time – I did not want to give a false attribution – I checked the violin's texture, varnish and stains. I then moved on to the painting to inspect the layering of paint and quality of brushwork. "There is good and bad news...The good news is that you definitely have a Stradivarius and a Rembrandt. The bad news is that Stradivarius was a hopeless painter and Rembrandt couldn't make violins for toffee".

The good news today is that there is much to celebrate in the achievements of Stoics over the last year; the bad news is that it would take hours to list all the highlights and I do not want to cause offence by not acclaiming a winning team, a virtuoso concert or a spellbinding play. Mindful, however, that we have a guest speaker of extraordinary eloquence and distinction and that every minute of oration is time borrowed from half-term, I will try to keep things brief and there will be no culinary jokes about carrot and coriander

superinjunctions, gagging hors d'oeuvres or just desserts for errant footballers. I might even resist jokes about the Lib Dems in the driving seat of the coalition – or scoring points from their wives.

May I take this opportunity to commend the exhibitions of Art, Textiles and DT which demonstrate the vitality and originality of the work emanating from these departments, as well as the sculpture trail of works by David Wynne, one of Stowe's greatest living artists who celebrated his 85th birthday earlier this week. DT is also offering tea and coffee in StoweBucks, so you can warm up while viewing the exhibits. There is also a fabulous display of classic cars on the North Front – including a unique Bristol Teardrop, a selection of Bentleys, Ferraris and Aston Martins.

Children are our greatest natural resource, produced with few, if any, carbon emissions and are the seed-corn for the future. They join schools full of bright optimism and creativity, happy to write a poem or paint a picture, not afraid to try out something new or acquire knowledge for knowledge's sake. Yet all too often they leave school as docile automatons, their intellectual appetites killed, minds saturated with bite-sized lumps of information downloaded from the internet and with little of sense of who they are, why they are here and where they are going. Our education system is being dragged down by a deadening utilitarianism, which tells everyone that they need to do something "useful", whatever that means.

Stowe is a relative newcomer among independent schools, not even 90 years old and there is less pressure to conform and fewer archaic rules to constrain creativity and innovation. It is like no other school – set apart by the magnificence of

its buildings and grounds with a liberal, humane philosophy rooted in the Enlightenment. This is a dynamic community, in the literal sense that it changes and evolves as each generation arrives with new energy, promise, hope and possibilities. The School is built on a belief that the task of education is to inspire a thirst for knowledge and teach fundamental truths underpinned by values such as tolerance, integrity and respect for others.

Stoics are prepared for the world outside the Elysian Fields, they are encouraged to cultivate deep thought and analysis, to broaden their horizons, ask pertinent questions, accommodate different points of view and learn when to speak and when to be silent. We want them to become creative, critical, collaborative and caring citizens of the world. I cannot think of a time when there was a greater need to seek intercultural understanding and respect. The Arab Spring once again demonstrates the interconnectedness of societies as people from Tunisia to Syria strive to rid themselves of decades of corruption and despotic misrule. A school unable to produce independent learners willing to work things out for themselves, challenge the straitjacket of conventional orthodoxies is not worth bothering with. As St Augustine wrote, "I learned best not from those who taught me, but from those who talked with me."

A school can only be as good as the quality of its teachers. I don't want to over-analyse what happens in the classroom when a teacher passes on expertise, enthusiasm and subject knowledge. There can be paralysis by analysis and one should never cut the throat of the nightingale to look for the song. A field of influence radiates from a teacher to a Stoic, rippling through academic departments, boarding houses, playing fields, theatre and concert hall – unleashing the potential, talent and intellectual energy of each and every Stoic as they prepare for adult life. As we approach the end of another academic year our particular thanks go to all the leavers among the staff: Reverend Robert Jackson, Chaplain and Contingent Commander of the CCF, Dr David Smith, Head of History, Matthew Pitteway, Business Studies, Dr Elizabeth Chare, Biology, Emma Watson and Tony Webster, both in the Maths Department, Martyn Croston, Daniel Bhattacharya and Jeremy Young, Music, Nick Rendall, English, Ana Sofia Gomez and Alex Eve, both in the DT Department and

Darius Weil, Harvard Fellow. No one forgets a good teacher and anyone who ever doubts their influence should reflect on the words of Cardinal Williams: "an inspirational teacher flies with every pilot, builds with every architect, diagnoses with every doctor, creates with every artist, fashions with every craftsman and teaches with every teacher".

Schools bring together the sum of knowledge from times past and present as an investment in time future. Knowledge begets knowledge and money begets interest (or at least it used to before the banking crisis). Inspiring teaching encourages curiosity in science, technology and the arts: teachers can keep correcting children until they get a grammatically perfect silence in the classroom, but the only way of finding the limits of the possible is to take a risk and venture past what is already known. I visited the CERN laboratory in Geneva over Easter and was told by a prominent particle physicist that when a scientist tells you that something is possible, he is probably right; when he tells you that something is impossible he will almost certainly be proved wrong. By analysing the properties of the quark-gluon plasma in the first micro-seconds after Big Bang searching for the elusive Higgs boson particle, scientists at CERN are pushing the paradigms of particle physics and presenting us with hidden dimensions of time and space which may subvert our understanding of the laws of Nature. None of us can predict the twenty-first century counterpart to quantum theory, nuclear fission, the double helix and the computer – but we can be sure that there will be no major discoveries if schools stifle creativity, insist on rote learning and teaching to the test.

We are particularly proud of our results this year: press reports that A Levels and GCSEs have been devalued are, as usual, much exaggerated and diminish the achievements of the pupils who have worked so hard to achieve their academic goals. We were delighted last August to receive news of our best ever GCSE results with 41% of Stoics achieving A*/A grades (6 percentage points higher than the previous year). Furthermore, 58 Stoics achieved A*s at A2 – awarded for securing over 90% in both modules – and 11 Stoics achieved more than two A*s in their A Levels. It was extremely gratifying to see that 130 of last year's leavers were accepted by their first choice university, with Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, LSE, UCL, Imperial, Nottingham and Exeter featuring prominently among the most favoured destinations.

Only two things in life are certain – death and taxes. None of us has direct experience of the former, but the Coalition government is giving us plenty of experience of the latter. But there is another certainty and it is this: unless we support and nurture an education system that is the envy of the world, we will face a steady decline in prosperity. Our national wealth depends on the skills and knowledge of our workforce. The UK will never be able to compete with labour costs or raw materials in countries like China and India, but we can lead the race in intellectual capital and entrepreneurial flair, preparing pupils, directly and indirectly, for work in international finance, legal and other services that have replaced our declining manufacturing industry.

Without creativity there will be no progress and we will be condemned to repeat old patterns. Never before has innovation





offered the promise of so much to so many in such a short space of time. Stowe has produced great men and women – including last year’s Speech Day guest of honour, Michael Grade, now Lord Grade of Yarmouth, Lord Sainsbury our guest in 2009, financiers and entrepreneurs like Richard Branson, Anthony Bolton and Sir Jack Hayward; intellectuals and philosophers such as Lord Quinton and Michael Ventris (the Old Stoic who deciphered Linear B); inventors such as Marc Koska, the designer of the K1 non-reusable syringe who has been credited with saving over one million lives; musicians like the composer, Harry Gregson-Williams who wrote the scores for Shrek and the Narnia films, and Roger Hodgson who on Wednesday night in front of a packed Royal Albert Hall paid tribute to the education he received at Stowe more than forty years ago; humanitarians such as Leonard Cheshire, winner of the VC and founder of Cheshire Homes and Sir Nicholas Winton, at 102 the oldest living Old Stoic and saviour of 669 Jewish children from death in the Holocaust. It is not wishful thinking to say that the twenty-first century is likely to be shaped and influenced by Stoics sitting in this marquee today – the entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, musicians, artists and humanitarians of the future whose achievements will be celebrated by headmasters in years to come.

Stoics continue to display an immense range of talents – not just in academic achievement, but in music, drama and sport. No fewer than nine Stoics represent England or Great Britain in sport: Ben Duckett toured South Africa with the England Development Cricket Squad, James Rudkin won a gold medal for Britain and championship title when he recently rowed at the Ghent International Rowing Championship, Will Jackson broke school

records for the 100m individual medley and 50m butterfly during the inter-house swimming finals and has been selected to train with the GB squad, Hannah Campbell, current East Midlands Sabre Champion, has fenced for the British team, José Brake and Danni Allard joined the England U19 Lacrosse World Cup squad, Henry Plant continues to shoot for Britain, Will Berner played polo for England in South Africa and Claire Gallimore was awarded the Lucan Trophy at the British Dressage National Convention.

Results for team sports have been consistently outstanding: the 1st XV, captained by Tom Baldwin, enjoyed its strongest season in many years – losing only two games and reaching the eighth round of the Daily Mail Cup and we were thrilled to see two Old Stoics, Tom Stanton (Bruce 07) and Greg Cushing (Cobham 02), playing for Cambridge at the 129th Varsity Match at Twickenham, while George Hunter (Cobham 09) also wore the light-blue shirt for the Cambridge U21 team. The Lacrosse 1st Team did not lose a match over two terms, won the Midlands Regional Tournament and came 4th in the National Schools’ Final, establishing Stowe as the top co-educational Lacrosse team in the country. Our Senior and Intermediate Boys are Cross-Country County Champions with Caspar and Josh Dickinson (Grafton and Walpole) collecting Silver and Bronze Medals in the Intermediates and the U14 Girls’ Hockey team, coached by the GB goalkeeper James Fair, won the Buckinghamshire County Championships. The 1st XI Cricket team returned with the Dubai Arch Cup having won all six of their matches in Dubai over the Easter break and then in the first half of this term beat another six school sides which included Malvern, Uppingham, Abingdon and Oundle. Even the cricket square won acclaim when The Spectator nominated

Stowe as having the finest school cricket ground in England, ahead of Cheltenham, Wellington and Tonbridge – a great tribute to the hard work of Steve Curley and his team of grounds staff.

To maintain the fabric of Stowe, the twelve boarding houses, classrooms, Mansion and grounds, is expensive and the programme for maintaining and improving our buildings is never-ending. Today’s Stoics live in considerably better conditions than their predecessors and each summer two boarding houses are refurbished to a high standard. Last summer, Grenville and Walpole received a thorough make-over and Grafton and Bruce will have been completely modernised and refurbished when the boys return in September. Stowe’s facilities have been considerably augmented by the opening of a fabulous Art School, a masterful transformation of a neglected building into a symphony of light and space. The World Monuments Fund and Stowe House Preservation Trust masterminded the superb refurbishment of the Library – resplendent with its newly restored ceiling of gilded plasterwork and furnished with light oak desks and chairs upholstered in burgundy leather. We are the privileged custodians of magnificent buildings, but despite their historical importance, they don’t always meet our aspirations to provide the best facilities for music, drama and sport. Over the summer we will be lifting the asbestos roof off the Roxburgh Hall as we start a three-phased £2.5m modernisation programme of this key building which is intended to become the new home of Drama by 2013. We are also drawing up plans for the revitalisation of the Design Technology classrooms, the Drayson Sports Hall and a pavilion on the Bourbon Playing Fields. Your support is particularly appreciated at a time when the cost of living is rising and the threat of a double-dip recession has not abated.

Shortly after half-term we will launch our major appeal to close the gap on the funding for the new Music School, a superb building designed by the architect Nick Cox which demonstrates our commitment to making Stowe the leading school for music in the United Kingdom. The facilities include a 250 seat recital hall equipped with a Steinway D grand piano, 24 fully soundproofed practice and ensemble rooms, recording studios with the latest audio sequencing and score-writing software, a music library and ample storage space for instruments. Music has been an important part of life at Stowe since the

great Magistro Optimo, Dr Leslie Huggins, was Director of Music. The Music Department's work touches the whole community in Chapel, concerts, plays and musicals in the Roxburgh Hall, recitals in the Music Room and Queen's Temple, house Unison and Part Song competitions, outdoor performances in Stowe's sublime landscaped gardens and pupil-led events to showcase new and emerging singer/songwriters. As the chairman reported, we have raised over £4.4m in private donations and our Appeal to all Old Stoics and parents seeks to close the gap with the final £1 million. We're nearly there and would be enormously grateful to receive – and delighted to acknowledge – any support that you may be able to give.

One of the highlights of the dramatic year was this year's Senior Congreve production of *The Hired Man*, with music by Old Stoic Howard Goodall and based on the book by Melvyn Bragg. Nick Bayley's emotionally charged direction drew mature performances from the cast as the narrative moved from the farming and mining communities of Cumbria in the 1890s to the horrors of trench warfare and the rebuilding of shattered lives and families in the years after the First World War. Composed when Goodall was only 26 and drawing on English choral and folk music, the cast acted and sang with vitality, grace and conviction.

The Music School will be accessible to all Stoics – so that Stowe can be as renowned for its music-making as it is for sport, drama and academic success. Disraeli once observed that “were it not for music, we might in these days say the beautiful is dead”. At Stowe music of the highest order is both expected and appreciated and if Disraeli's ghost made an appearance in

Chapel for the performance of Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*, a joyously life-affirming meditation on the mystery of faith, he would, I am sure, agree that the beautiful remains very much alive at Stowe.

Every year at Speech Day I allow myself one political observation. While the government wasted no time in promoting Free Schools and Academies, cutting the Building Schools for the Future programme and allowing universities to charge up to £9,000 a year on tuition fees, it is disappointing that virtually nothing has been said to celebrate the excellence of the independent sector. Government cuts have been likened to lightening an overloaded plane by removing its engine...it may make you feel like you're flying high at first but it won't take long before you feel the impact. Those of us with children in independent education paying fees out of taxed income have been feeling the impact for quite some time. This government views schools as engines of social mobility which are there to help children overcome accidents of birth and background. I find this strange as virtually everyone I know sees schools as places of teaching and learning. Fairness and access are the new buzzwords for politicians – but I've yet to hear a politician say anything about the phenomenon of downward social mobility – Harrovians becoming road-sweepers or parents impoverishing themselves by doing everything they can to advance the interests of their children.

Equality of opportunity is one of the hallmarks of a civilised society, but this will not be achieved by Nick Clegg's heavy-handed call for universities to end what he calls “social segregation”. Mr Clegg argues that “access to the most selective

universities is too restricted to those from the most privileged backgrounds”. Why should it be surprising that pupils from good state and independent schools go to the best universities when they get the best A Level results? The Deputy Prime Minister sees himself as the Martin Luther King of higher education; Lex Luther might be closer to the mark as threats of quotas and positive discrimination threaten to replace the autonomy of university admissions. Mr Clegg asks for a society in which success is based on what you know, not who you know (I think he meant to say whom you know, but that's my elitist, privileged education coming through). He accuses the well off – most of you, in other words – of arranging internships for their offspring while forgetting the fact that his first internship came from his father's connection with a Finnish bank: an example of *hyva veli-verkosto* – Finnish for the Old Boy Network. When will all this hypocrisy end?

One unintended consequence of interference in university Admissions has been a surge of interest among Stoics in studying overseas with a record number of Stoics being accepted to American universities this year. Destinations include Northeastern, Chicago, Fordham, Boston, Tisch School of the Arts, High Point, Cornell and Stanford (and incidentally Stanford's acceptance rate of 7% is far more competitive than Oxford or Cambridge).

The guest speaker was Tony Fitzjohn who for 20 years was the assistant of George Adamson at the famous *Kampi ya Simba* – “camp of the lions” at Kora National Reserve in Kenya where they introduced leopards and more than 30 lions into the wild – including Christian who came to Kenya via Harrods and a Chelsea bedsit. After George Adamson's brutal murder by Somali raiders in 1989, Tony left Kenya for Mkomazi in Tanzania which had become an overgrazed, overhunted and burnt out wasteland. As Field Director of the Mkomazi Project in Tanzania, part of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust, Tony has created a new National Park where endangered species such as black rhinos and African wild dogs are bred and re-introduced into the wild. Tony has recently written an acclaimed best-seller, *Born Wild*, which chronicles his emergence as one of the leading field experts in the conservation of African wildlife. A film clip will give us an insight into the range of Tony's work in the 1970s and 80s.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Tony Fitzjohn

Valete



Alex Eve

Alex Eve first arrived at Stowe in September 1963. He joined Grenville House following in the footsteps of

his father Adrian, his late brother Simon and Uncles Julian and Hilary Eve.

He enjoyed his time at Stowe and went on to read English and Philosophy at Sussex University. Alex then did youth work in London and gained professional teaching qualifications in English, CDT and Geography. This led to a Masters in Technology Education at Middlesex University. He returned to Stowe as a member of staff in September 1983, appointed to teach CDT, having previously taught the subject at Lord Williams's School in Thame.

As well as teaching Design, Alex began running the Photography Department in 1989 and built this up very successfully. It was noted in the 2002 Good Schools' Guide as being 'outstanding'. Whilst he was an expert practitioner in traditional Photography, he also led the way with digital photography and was an early user of digital imagery and computer based 3D modelling. Alex always has a camera around his neck, capturing an astonishing array of images and has a poetic approach to photography. He even won a national photography competition run by Nikon.

Alex's interests were wide-ranging, for as well as running workshops in CDT during activity time and additional classes for staff, he was also involved with Duke of Edinburgh and sailing. He was a keen windsurfer himself, encouraging Stoics to take up the sport. Running the School's Go Club was another of his passions and for a while he was the British Go Association youth co-ordinator.

A talented whistle player, Alex was a member of a Welsh acoustic folk band called Pencerdd, having been taught clarinet and saxophone at Stowe as a boy.

Alex was creative on the broader front too, enjoying working in 3D and running a popular sticker art activity at the annual Cropredy Festival.

Alex was valued colleague, always true to himself, who could enthusiastically converse on many topics, combining his fascination in Science, Technology, Art, Literature, Design, Philosophy and Poetry. The examination results of his classes contributed to Stowe Design Department's recent recognition as being the best in the country by the Good Schools' Guide. He will be greatly missed as a member of staff, having spent a very productive 28 years teaching at Stowe.

Mr Myles Nash



Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson and I go back a very long way indeed – right back to his first Curacy at a suburban church in Bromley, which was my home church.

Our friendship began then and has been firm ever since. I left Bromley to go to Cambridge and then India and Robert went on to take up his first post at Stowe as Assistant Chaplain. Our paths then crossed again as Robert moved to Lord Wandsworth College in Hampshire to become Chaplain. Coincidentally, I was teaching Geography at the school and my wife, Debs, was a Housemistress. We worked together there for a number of years until Robert returned to Stowe in 2002 as Chaplain. We were clearly destined to remain colleagues as well as friends, as I then followed Robert to Stowe in 2005! What has always impressed me about Robert is his pastoral concern for everyone here at Stowe. This extends far beyond the students and reaches out to the staff (both teaching and support) and I cannot think of any other member of Stowe's staff who knew everybody's name and a huge amount about what was going on in their lives. The public face of the Chaplain is highly visible and everyone saw Robert in action in Chapel and in the important public services throughout the year. But it

was as a Pastor that I think he truly excelled and this work went largely un-noticed by others, which is how Robert would have wanted it to be.

Unusually for a school Chaplain, Robert also led Stowe's CCF and many Stoics will have fond memories of field trips, expeditions, competitions and camps organised by Robert. An impressive number of Stoics have been inspired by Robert's leadership to join the Armed Forces and the annual CCF dinners to celebrate the Coldstream Cup were memorable occasions which strengthened Stowe's ties with all three services. In the classroom Robert is a gifted teacher of Religious Studies. He also pioneered the memorably titled, SpamEd Course (Spiritual and Moral Education) which introduced Stoics to a wide range of philosophical and ethical issues. Among the resources that Robert used in the classroom were interviews with famous sportsmen and sportswomen who talked about the centrality of gamesmanship and playing by the rules. He leaves Stowe to embark on a new and exciting venture at the University of Buckingham where he is attempting to set up a new course for training Chaplains. He will be greatly missed by many Stoics and staff.

Mr Peter Last



Liz Chare

Liz arrived at Stowe in 2006 after completing a Biological Sciences degree at St Hilda's College, Oxford, followed by a D.Phil in Viral Evolution at Linacre.

Despite having no teaching experience, Liz quickly got into the routine of preparing and delivering effective lessons to all year groups and successfully completed her PGCE /QTS in 2008. Over the last five years Liz has become one of the cornerstones of the Biology Department and has contributed significantly in terms of strong results with exam classes and extensive resource development. Liz's teaching is meticulously planned and structured in such a way that the Stoics know exactly

what they have to do to succeed. Away from the classroom Liz has been a very successful Assistant Housemistress and Sixth Form Tutor in Nugent and has been behind many successful Oxbridge and Russell Group applications for Medicine, Biochemistry and the like. She has also run the RAF section of the CCF and coached rowing and sailing. In her spare time Liz likes to do things that involve high levels of risk; she has skydived over 400 times and has recently taken up scuba diving and motorcycling! At a time when Stowe has gone through the transition to full co-educational Liz has been an excellent role model for many of the pupils: a fine teacher with a dynamic personality and a life beyond the confines of the School. We wish her every success as she moves on to be Head of Biology at Cheltenham College; a role that should allow Liz to exert her considerable academic, organisational and innovative powers and we thank her for the tremendous contribution she has made to Stowe.

Mr Rory Akam



David Smith

After leading a thriving History Department for four years, Dr David Smith leaves Stowe to take up the post of Deputy Head at Sherborne School.

It was clear upon first meeting David that Stowe had recruited a weighty academic. In our first tour of the School he was entertaining the whole group with anecdotal stories of Plug Street during the First World War, drawing interesting parallels with our very own version in the bowels of the mansion. David has continued to inform and entertain audiences throughout his time at the School. Whether it is examining the political genius of Bismarck or the charismatic appeal of Garibaldi, David has the gift of bringing history to life. He has endeavoured to enliven history through various trips. The most memorable moments include listening to the Last Post being played at the Menin Gate in Ypres as well as an intimate visit to the White House. He leaves a thriving

History Department with large numbers choosing to continue the subject at both GCSE and A Level.

Outside Stowe, David has a passion for photography and walking. Those of you who bought the set of Stowe Christmas cards might recognise his picture of a winter scene with the Mansion in the background. On the sporting front, David has inspired rugby players in the 3rd XV and 4th XV teams with his particular brand of front row forward play. On occasion he has also been known to don a white umpiring coat and observe cricket matches from the middle of the pitch.

Mr James Hayden



Jenny Nelson

Jenny and her husband, Howard, came to Stowe in 2006 as teachers of the clarinet, oboe and flute respectively, and Jenny as Head of Woodwind.

Jenny's professional record was already impressive, playing in the Orchestra at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with many notable musical ensembles. In the weekly Music Room concerts or in our special concerts, Jenny's musicianship has brought great pleasure to the audiences and she has led, encouraged and accompanied the Clarinet Ensemble, in the process recruiting more talented clarinetists and musicians to the School.

We will also remember Jenny as the first Housemistress of the new Stanhope House, opened in 2009 by Sir Nicholas Winton (Grenville 27). In typical manner, she and I decided to break with Stowe tradition by devising a House motto in English rather than Latin: INDEPENDENCE. PERSEVERANCE. I think that these qualities along with the values of selflessness and integrity, represented by Sir Nicholas Winton, form the basis of the Stanhope ethos. But the tone of the house was also set through Jenny leading by example and setting high standards in terms of work and behaviour. She has used (quite fittingly!) the metaphor of an orchestra to encapsulate what Stanhopians should be trying to achieve

as a house: the idea of effective team work with each individual member of the house playing their part and striving to perform/work to the best of their ability. Another striking feature of Stanhope is the sense of community. Jenny has worked hard to ensure that the year groups mix, that no girl feels left out and that every member of the house understands the importance of honesty and concern for others. In Stanhope, Jenny has encouraged each girl to develop her individual talents and interests as well as motivating each girl to undertake new challenges and pursuits.

Dixon Boardman (Grenville 64) opened the main Common Room in Stanhope. He made a short speech which is framed in the room and which also sums up part of the ethos that Jenny established:

'Try and do what you have a passion for, follow your dream always, but never compromise integrity. You only have one reputation. It can take 20 years to build and five minutes to lose it. Remember that in life there are no shortcuts. As we say in investing, perform your due diligence and do your homework, do your research, dig deep, look at the upside, the downside, the wrong side and the right side. Be decent in everything you do. Most importantly, have many outside interests other than work that will stimulate you and make you more stimulating to others.'

Jenny leaves Stanhope with girls whom she has moulded with firm and fair discipline. Above all, and matching her own independence and perseverance, she showed a care and willingness to listen at all hours of the day and night. We wish her every success in her new post – Housemistress at Sherborne Girls' School.

Mr Crispin Robinson and Mrs Julie Johnson

Daniel Bhattacharya

Daniel Bhattacharya joined the Music Department in September 2007 as a formidable violinist and teacher.

He introduced professional players and teachers of the highest quality and style

including Mark Messenger, Head of Strings at the Royal College of Music, who has been a regular visitor to Stowe. When Daniel arrived there were a handful of players, and as he leaves we will have nearly 20 fine strings players at Stowe. My lasting impression of Daniel was early in my first year when he had the idea that we should take part in a small festival in southern Spain. I was so run off my feet, that I thought that it would never happen, but Daniel was tenacious and I was amazed to find myself sitting in a minibus with eight strings players on our way to Luton Airport to board a flight to Gibraltar on the last day of the Lent term. The tour was a tremendous success. The following year the strings players went to Bangkok and this year, Los Angeles. Daniel has worked tirelessly hard for his pupils and his energy and dynamism will be greatly missed in the department.

Mr Simon Dearsley



Darius Weil

This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Stowe Harvard Fellowship and this year's Fellow,

Darius Weil, has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the School.

His teaching responsibilities have included Greek to Lower School sets and he has also used his interest and expertise in philosophy with the Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation set. In Third Form History he covered a wide range of topics and themes including a healthy amount of American history. He has a very good rapport with his sets, always demanding high standards and I'm sure his students will remember the experience of an American perspective on the world. Darius's main contribution to the extra-curricular programme revolved primarily around tennis. In the winter terms he ran the Elite Tennis Squad sessions enabling our more gifted and talented tennis players to have the opportunity to practise during the winter months. In the Summer term he teamed up with Craig Sutton to run the Senior 1st and 2nd VIs. He is a competent coach with

a very calming effect on his players. In addition to his role as the Harvard Fellow, Darius Weil, has been the residence Under Housemaster of Chatham House. Apart from getting to know all of the boys and specifically looking after the Third Form intake, one of Darius' first tasks was to mastermind the Chatham House entry for the singing competition. A talented musician himself, he inspired us to a wonderful rendition of Twist and Shout by the Beatles. Darius quickly established himself as a very friendly and fiercely capable Under Housemaster. Universally liked and admired by the boys and their parents in Chatham, his openness and willingness to give counsel at any stage means that he will be sorely missed by the Chatham community. As a person Darius combines gentleness with great resources of inner strength. He has all the personality, integrity, motivation, imagination and commitment needed to make a fine teacher and we wish him every success for his new post at Phillips Academy Andover near Boston.

Mrs Carol Miller



Emma Watson

Emma Watson joined Stowe in September 2009 straight from the army where she had seen active service flying Chinook helicopters through hostile environments.

Emma took to teaching in a flash and with a firm, organised attitude and a charismatic persona, she quickly involved herself in the many facets of Stowe life. She was a supportive and effective member of the department and was heavily involved in CCF, boarding house life and on the sports field she took an active part in netball, cross-country running and athletics. She helped organise a number of charity events and Stowe's Got Talent was her most recent and successful venture. Alongside all this she still had time to run some half marathons. Emma leaves us to join Harrow School and we wish her a fond farewell.

Mr Damian Blewitt



Matthew Pitteway

Matthew studied Business Studies at Edinburgh University and then joined Stowe in September 2001 in his first teaching post.

During his time at Stowe, Matthew was an Under Housemaster in Chandos House – a role he embraced with enthusiasm, energy and loyalty. Matthew was always willing to give his time freely to support a host of activities and events and to assist with the pastoral welfare of the boys in his House. Walking is one of Matthew's passions and throughout his tenure at Stowe he was involved with the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. He was Master-in-Charge for over six years and during this time he led and frog-marched his students over the Brecon Beacons, Yorkshire Dales and Cairngorms and through the Shropshire and Derbyshire countryside. He also transformed the fortunes of Polo at Stowe by creating a successful winning mentality and developing strong Junior and Senior teams. He has successfully organised Polo trips to Argentina and Kenya and his enthusiasm and energy has put Stowe Polo firmly on the map. Matthew has umpired and refereed a host of sports, and taken part in friendly staff matches – always with an abundance of passion and enthusiasm. However, it is in his teaching where Matthew has excelled the most and in this environment he is a natural performer who has an innate ability to engage and to enthuse students. I always believe that a generous helping of wit, passion and charm are probably the most important ingredients for success in teaching or perhaps in any walk of life. Matthew can cajole and draw in pupils who may at times be disengaged. He is also a caring, sensitive person who has enjoyed the pastoral side of his job and it is in this field that he now wishes to develop his career. Matthew has moved on to Seaford College where he will become a Housemaster and we wish him every success in his new post.

Mr Panos John

Tony Webster

Tony Webster joined Stowe in September 2009 from the distant shores of Malaysia.

His classes (Maths and Physics) were a mixture of the traditional, with his no nonsense approach to learning, and the modern, as he embraced the technology at Stowe. He was heavily involved in boarding house life as well as outdoor pursuits, setting up an orienteering club and accompanying many Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. In his spare time, Tony liked nothing more than to travel on his motorbike or his narrowboat. Tony leaves Stowe to join a school on the sleepy(!) island of Ibiza where he will be able to enjoy the sunshine whilst walking. Tony quickly became an integral member of the Maths Department and it is with regret that we see him disappear off into the sunset. However he departs with our very best wishes and a slightly envious farewell.

Mr Damian Blewitt



Nick Rendall

Throughout his time at Stowe, Nick Rendall has managed to achieve that fine balancing act that most

English teachers strive toward: preparing pupils effectively for examinations, while not forgetting the importance of a broad exposure to literature and learning for its own sake.

One lesson, I would walk past Nick's classroom to see a room full of pupils feverishly writing timed essays; the next, there would be a group of boys and girls in full battle cry as they descended on the ramparts of Macbeth's castle, to bring down vengeance on that 'dead butcher and his fiend-like queen'.

In my short time here at Stowe, I have come to know Nick as a consummate professional, who has thrown himself into not only the academic life of the School, but so many extra-curricular areas as well. He is a true polymath, who has led the intellectual charge with the *Ars Longa, Vita Brevis Society*, and the military one in his exceptional and significant

contributions to the CCF. He has also found time to act as the Assistant Housemaster in Chandos, supporting the pupils there from the Third Form upwards. As the Head of English, I am enormously grateful for Nick's enthusiasm, support and thoughtful advice, which has helped considerably in the smooth running of the Department. He will be much missed by us all, and we wish him and Vicky every success in their new life at Truro High School for Girls.

Mr James Peppiatt

Keith Oatley

Keith joined us from Scotch College in Australia on exchange for one year commencing January 2010.

Keith was well prepared and he hit the ground running when he joined the Physics Department mid season. He had plenty to get to grips with, not only new syllabuses and the complexities of dual and triple award science but also the mechanics of the School. Keith showed great independence from day one where he was determined to find things out for himself before asking for assistance. When challenges arose, they did not phase him or deter him from his professional approach to the classroom and the work of a good teacher. His expectations and standards were high and he worked his students hard to ensure that they achieved their potential. Keith's excellent use of ICT in lessons was very good indeed and he fitted in well with the department.

Keith's family accompanied him to England; his two daughters settled into school and his wife found temporary veterinary work. They managed to find time to tour Europe during the summer and even moved up to Scandinavia for a short time. Keith's first experience of Stowe involved travelling through thick snow, however he was soon able to cycle to work as the weather improved.

Keith has made an excellent contribution to the department and the School. His pupils produced some fine results and he will be missed by many. We all wish Keith

and his family every success as they move back to Melbourne.

Mr Steve Malling



Martyn Croston

Martyn Croston came to Stowe in September 2009 and all the Stoics immediately enjoyed working with him.

He was often asked if he and Huw Jones (Assistant Director of Music) were twins. Martyn and Huw thought this might be because they are both tall, but I knew it was because they both created an environment of learning that was safe, enjoyable and challenging, backed up by a tremendously warm and kind sense of humour. Martyn's classes were always delivered with a style that allowed the students to flourish. He was also a driving force for Jazz at Stowe, setting up the Junior Jazz Band and being a very impassioned member of the Stowe Big Band – helping Debbie Borthwick and the Stowe Senior Jazz Combo led by Dave Richmond. We shall miss him a great deal – his calm, smiling and caring presence was valued by all in the Music Department. We wish him and his wife, Lisa, every success at Whitgift School, Croydon.

Mr Simon Dearsley

Valete: Language Assistants

Fanny Baudet

Fanny, like her sister Emily four years ago, has been an assistante extraordinaire. Always willing to help, she has made herself very popular very quickly.

All of us in the Modern Foreign Languages Department are hugely grateful to her for her endless patience with Stoics (and sometimes with us), her dedication and not least of all, her perpetual smile. She has coached the Lower Sixth through their daunting oral exam with gusto, and has also helped out in the Lower School. You could also spot her occasionally supervising some Third Form French Video Club sessions. Nothing is ever too much work for Fanny, this girl has an endless amount of energy! The Common Room will also fondly remember her crêpes evenings, a rare treat at the end of a long day. She leaves us to go to Paris to study journalism, a brilliant choice of career for someone as dynamic and outgoing as her. She will be greatly missed by us all and we wish her the best of luck for the future.

Mrs Alice Tearle

Soraya Rodriguez

Soraya has been an exemplary Spanish Assistant, very hard-working and willing to turn her hand to any task in the Department; she has produced some fantastic teaching resources over the year and has shown a keen understanding of her students' differing needs and levels of Spanish.

She has been supportive when required, but has also stretched and challenged more able and bilingual pupils of all ages. Soraya fitted into life at Stowe well and quickly developed close and positive working relationships with both her students and colleagues, being valued by all for her commitment and

professional approach, her love of literature and also her flexibility – essential to life in a busy boarding school. Her calm, unflappable approach and quiet good humour stood her in good stead and she took each new challenge in her stride, whether conducting mock oral exams, using her IT skills to organise departmental resources or producing lesson plans and teaching materials for the Sixth Form. She will be greatly missed next year and we wish her all the very best for a happy and successful career in education.

Mrs Kate Dickson

Lina Valencia-Lopez

It would take several pages to do justice to Lina and all that she has achieved as Spanish Assistant at Stowe this year; her energy and enthusiasm are second to none and she quickly built excellent and positive working relationships with all of her students, being both extremely supportive and challenging in her approach.

She was always full of innovative and insightful ideas on how to improve her students' spoken Spanish, including the use of images as discussion prompts, wall displays, debating techniques and vocabulary-building exercises. She has made an enormous contribution to departmental resources and lesson plans over the year as well as launching herself with enthusiasm into the cultural topics. In addition, she has successfully conducted mock oral exams and has been greatly valued by everyone, students and colleagues alike, for her consistent cheerfulness, willingness to give up her time and her innate ability to get the best from students whilst also inspiring respect. She is a natural teacher and has clearly enjoyed her time at Stowe, taking a keen and intelligent interest in all

aspects of community life and activities. It was an extremely sad day for us when we learnt of her husband's posting to Munich but we wish her all the very best for a happy life in Germany and for a successful future career in teaching.

Mrs Kate Dickson

Audrey Lefebvre

When you appoint Modern Foreign Language (MFL) assistants from abroad, you never quite know how they will turn out to be and how well they will adapt to Stowe.

Well, in Audrey's case I needn't have worried, she surpassed even my high expectations. As soon as she arrived, she threw herself into the department, teaching the Upper Sixth French Students the art of debating and helping the Lower School with their oral Controlled Assessments. She set high standards for herself and expected students to follow suit. Her professionalism and enthusiasm for French carried even the most reluctant student along; she made learning a language not only a linguistic exercise, but also a cultural experience. Not one to shy away from responsibility, she volunteered to accompany me on the Munich trip in June, for which I shall be forever grateful. She will be remembered amongst all of us in the MFL Department for her hard-work and dedication and we wish her all the best in her future career as a teacher.

Mrs Alice Tearle



Caroline Thompson, Lower Sixth

1938 - 2010

The Rt Hon the Lord Lyell of Markyate QC (Grafton 57)

Nicholas Walter Lyell attended Stowe in Grafton House from 1952-1957 followed by two years National Service, then Christ Church, Oxford where he read Modern History. After working for two years in Newcastle in shipbuilding, he was called to the Bar in 1965 and developed a good commercial practice, alongside his interest and involvement in politics. He was the Conservative MP for three different constituencies: Hemel Hempstead, Mid-Bedfordshire and North East Bedfordshire between 1979 and 2001. In 1987 Margaret Thatcher appointed him Solicitor General and following the 1992 election John Major

“All those who knew Lord Lyell well, will remember him with affection for his intelligence, wit and connoisseurship of fine wine and paintings.”

made him Attorney-General for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the longest continuous service of any law officer for more than a century. He was created a life peer in 2005, chaired the Society of Conservative Lawyers and was a former vice-chairman of the British Field Sports Society and chairman of the Federation of British Artists at the Mall Galleries.

He was appointed a Governor of Stowe in 1990 and Chairman of the Governors from June 2001 to 2007. He was a Trustee of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, as

well as the Stowe School Foundation. As Chairman, he was instrumental in appointing the current Headmaster, Stowe going fully co-educational and expanding the size of the school – building two new boarding houses. In addition to this, he used all his diplomatic skills to broker an asset exchange with the National Trust which will leave Stowe on a much more secure footing for future generations.

Lord Lyell was a valued Trustee of the SHPT when it was successful in securing two lots of Heritage Lottery Funding which enabled the restoration of the North Front, South Front and Marble Saloon. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the renaissance Stowe is currently enjoying owes its inspiration to Lord Lyell's imaginative and creative leadership as Chairman of the Governors. None of this captures his warmth, humanity and generosity of spirit.

All those who knew Lord Lyell well, will remember him with affection for his intelligence, wit and connoisseurship of fine wine and paintings. He enjoyed drawing, capturing likenesses with a single line, often sketching little portraits and caricatures during meetings – even in Cabinet. He also wrote poetry, starting while a boy at Stowe and he has donated a copy of his book of Poems to the Stowe Library. He will be much missed by so many and everyone in the Stowe community. He is survived by his wife, Susanna and their four children (two of whom are Old Stoics) and eight grandchildren.

With a late Easter, a Royal Wedding and several other Bank Holidays through which we work, the public exam season took over much of our time as this year it began two weeks into the Summer term and lasted until the very end of term. As I have expressed before, with GCSE modules in November and March, AS and A2 exams in January and May/June, even more teaching time has been eroded. Stoics proclaim to staff, hard-pressed to complete specifications (newspeak for syllabuses), that they are working for ‘the real thing’ as opposed to mere classroom work, internal exams or even essential preps. The latest threat comes from the pernicious ‘Controlled Assessment’ (CA) whereby even more teaching time is sacrificed to Stoics researching and writing coursework in hours of invigilated classrooms, in varying degrees of security. Geography alone has had to find 20 hours in evenings and weekends for this latest Government initiative. The imposition of CAs has made great demands on our heroic IT Department (regular changes of passwords for each pupil; maintenance; security etc) and to them and the supervising staff who gave up much of their free time, many thanks. Two copies of a letter of concern about CAs to Mr Gove have, unsurprisingly, been unacknowledged and unanswered. Hot off the press, however, is the news that Mr Gove has just announced that from 2012 GCSEs will revert to a linear form, i.e. the exams at age 16 will again be taken at the end of two year's study. In the spirit of Mr Gove's reforms, we shall also examine how to bring the Fifth Form back after the end of their GCSE exams in order to prepare them better for the Sixth Form, to give them a taste of A Level study and also to take them on some interesting visits and experiences with both an academic and fun flavour. It is all the more laudable, therefore, that despite hurdles and the inevitable government changes, both Stoics and staff alike have continued to seek and achieve improvement in their exam results.

Improved results were registered in the two most important sets of public exams: A Level saw 66.9% (A*-B) with 57 A* Grades (10 in English alone), while GCSE saw a spectacular 6% rise to 41.2% (A*-A). At the beginning of the new academic year, it was a great pleasure to award Academic Colours to 16 Upper Sixth Stoics who had achieved four A grades at AS Level and also to 23 Lower Sixth Stoics who achieved five A* grades or more at GCSE. They proudly wear their academic ties or silver pins as a sign of their academic excellence. Among so many, one significant achievement to record was that of Inca Curwen (Queen's) who, for the first time in decades, achieved 100% in all aspects of her entire GCSE Chemistry.

Academic Report

Last year, I wrote in *The Stoic* that I would report back on the curriculum discussions amongst the staff. We continue to emphasise the importance of Modern Languages in a multi-cultural world and a global economy, and so we try to offer as many options to our Third Form (French, Spanish, German, Latin and Greek) as we can. In addition, we are asked by Stoics and their parents to arrange for coaching and exams in other languages: Arabic; Chinese; Portuguese; Italian; Modern Greek; Turkish; Russian etc. We have also tried to allow more equal access for the Third Form to the creative subjects of Art, Drama, Music and Design. It is inevitable, though, that the cramming of academic specifications into shorter teaching time, also filled with sport, music, drama etc, has led to some tensions and even a new timetable for the day in September 2011. So, during the next academic year, Senior staff will also be looking at hour long lessons, adopted by many other senior schools and perhaps, also, a re-shaping of the curriculum to ensure Stoics are best prepared for a fast-changing and challenging world of work at, after or instead of university.

This year, we have also reformed the pastoral and Tutor role. Sixth Form Stoics are returning to the idea of Sides, by choosing a Tutor with whom they share a subject and sympathy. Sixth Form Tutors will offer extension work in the early evenings, such as more talks and lectures, visiting speakers and trips. Lower School Tutors who are House based and who will help with Prep and House duties, will, as far as possible, accompany their tutees through the School for their first three years, getting to know them and their families much better and to enable there to be greater understanding and communication.

To ensure Tutors are better informed in their Higher Education advice, at the beginning of the Summer term, Professor Chris Grovenor, Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford and former Admissions Tutor, addressed the staff about admissions to Oxford and one or two other Russell Group universities with which he was familiar. Amongst many useful insights and also in answering questions, he confirmed how

increasingly difficult it is to be offered a place at Oxbridge, with ratios of 5:1 in the Humanities and Law and 3:1 in some Sciences. Our congratulations, therefore, to Stoics who have received conditional offers of Oxbridge places: Rebecca Elliott for Biology at Jesus College, Oxford; John Harvey for Law at Girton College, Cambridge; and Daniella Allard for English at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Thanks, too, are due to those many staff who give so much of their time to enable excellence at this level to flourish.

Because of a significant increase in numbers successfully applying to North American Universities we have developed close contacts with Greene's in Oxford who coach Stoics in their SATs and this year's Harvard Fellow, Darius Weil, who has given invaluable advice with the much more complex application forms. This year the following have obtained places: José Brake: High Point University (North Carolina); Nicolas Du Bois De Montule: Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts); Laszlo Etro: Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts); Anton Melnikov: University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois); and Emilie Stordalen: Cornell University School of Hotel Administration (Cornell, New York). Amongst the 2010 leavers: David Carter: Boston University (Boston, Massachusetts); Charlie Kim: Fordham University (New York, New York); Jack Ryan: Stanford University (Palo Alto, California); Nicholas Issa: Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University (New York, New York).

With the prospect of imminent university fees of £9,000 per annum, we have noted that more Stoics applied to university without a gap year. Applications to the top twenty Russell Group universities were still significant and the majority of Stoics received offers from their first-choice institutions. We continue to watch and advise whether Stoics should continue to take advantage of a university education or, rather, to train through experience and skills while employed (but still partying at the weekends...).

In Stowe's classroom and laboratory spaces, physical improvements continue: the gloriously restored Library is open and used for teaching, Sixth Form study and all school evening Prep; the gutted and refurbished Watson Art School is again filled with the highest quality art; the annual refurbishment of a Physics laboratory and the upper floors and dilapidated classrooms of the Vanbrugh Block show our commitment to improving the academic areas of the school. ICT continues to play a major role in the delivery of academic excellence as well as provide stimulating teaching and learning.

Next year we turn our attentions to the beginning of the three year refurbishment of the Roxburgh Hall which, when finished, will allow the Drama Department to be based solely on that site and which will free up more classrooms in the Academic Area to enable the Religious Studies Department to move to a more modern site. We shall continue with improvement works in the Science Centre and the remainder of the Vanbrugh Block, as well as the classrooms in the Adams and Gibbons buildings. Planning and site preparation for the new Music School is exciting and the new building will be a noble enhancement to Stowe's landscape and more recent architecture.

There is no doubt that the hard work, the higher academic expectations and the increase in academic activities beyond the classroom and taught curriculum for both Stoics and staff have increased dividends. I would like to thank all my colleagues (academic and support) for their hard work throughout the year, to wish our leaving staff good luck, and congratulations on their success.

Mr Crispin Robinson
Deputy Headmaster (Academic)





Third Form Maths Puzzle Day

Maths Report

The Mathematics Department has continued to reap success with all pupils who pass through the door of the Gibbons Building. As the largest department in the School, the building is a heaving metropolis between lessons. During the afternoons, students can be seen wandering in and out seeking help with their work.

The focus is, not surprisingly, on the public exams. A majority of the GCSE candidates follow the modular scheme which has produced some excellent results with pass rates following an upward trend, currently sitting at 99%. In the Sixth Form, there have been abundant numbers choosing to take Mathematics through to A Level with 94% passing in the Lower Sixth and 100% in the Upper Sixth.

While all Stoics continue to be stretched and involved within the classroom, at all levels they have widened their mathematical understanding through a variety of events and activities. The Third Form enjoyed their Puzzle Day, which encouraged group work and developed cognitive, problem solving skills. Members of the Fourth and Fifth Form have attended lectures in London providing them with alternative views about the applications of Mathematics. Many of the stronger students also took part in the UK Maths Challenge at both Intermediate and Senior level achieving a range of bronze, silver and gold certificates. The top four scorers in the Senior competition who all achieved gold awards, Hazel Shepherd, Sharon She, Mike Illingworth and Ye Shi, also formed the Stowe team, which competed in the

regional round in Oxford, finishing a creditable 12th out of 24 Schools. In the Intermediate section the top gold certificate achievers, Caspar Whitehead and William Pepera, went on to compete in the European Kangaroo competition for Year 9 (Third Form) pupils.

At the end of the academic year the Maths Department has said goodbye to two successful teachers but warmly welcomes a superb replacement in Val Green. It looks to be another busy year full of questions and answers sprinkled with some challenges and activities. The expectations for next year only ever increase!

Mr Damian Blewitt, Head of Mathematics

English Report

As with most subjects these days, there is a balancing act within English to ensure that we prepare Stoics to the highest level possible for public examinations, whilst continuing to instil a love of literature for its own sake. Happily, I am delighted to report that the Department is undertaking this balancing act with admirable equilibrium, and that Stoics are being both prepared thoroughly for their GCSE, AS and A2 papers, while taking part in several extra-curricular activities and trips throughout the year.

and effort that he put in with his Fifth Form set this year, who were entered for the English Language Examination in November 2010 (all other pupils sat this examination in June 2011). It certainly paid off – of the 23 pupils entered, 18 gained an A*, with four A grades and 1 B.

It is not, of course, all about the examinations, and there have been several opportunities for Stoics to broaden their intellectual and literary horizons this year. In November, those A2 pupils studying *The Duchess of Malfi*, together

For the sake of brevity, I shall mention Dr Miller's excellent leadership of the Literary Society only briefly, as more details can be found elsewhere in this addition of *The Stoic* – suffice to say that he has, as ever, done a superb job in providing our pupils with an array of though-provoking and stimulating speakers. Finally, Stoics have been hard at work on the creative writing front during the course of this year, and I do hope you enjoy the contributions that are scattered throughout these pages.



In terms of examination results, the achievements of our first A2 pupils to enter for exams whereby the new A* grade is awarded was commendable. In order to gain the A*, pupils have to be awarded a grade A overall, with at least 90% in both their A2 units – no mean feat. It is all credit to the 2009-10 pupils, therefore, that over 30% of them achieved the A* grade, while 85% of pupils achieved an A* - B grade. At GCSE, while our English Literature results were pleasing (96% of pupils achieved an A*-B grade), it was apparent that we had some work to do with our English grades, especially in terms of A* - A grades. My heartfelt thanks to Mr Roberts, then, for all the hard work

with several AS Drama pupils, were treated to an excellent performance of this dark Revenge Tragedy at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton. The following term, our dramatic excursions continued with a trip to see *Dr Faustus* (another A2 set text) at Blackwell's Bookshop in Oxford. Both performances effectively assisted pupils with their understanding of these texts and their themes, characters and contexts, and helped them to formulate their own independent interpretations. Closer to home we welcomed the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, who gave both humorous and moving readings of her poems to members of the Fifth Form and Sixth Form.

Looking forward to next year, we have a number of innovative projects planned, including a Junior Literary and Debating Society for the Lower School, more outings at all year levels, and a comprehensive, school-wide literacy strategy to ensure writing standards. My thanks go to all members of the English Department for their continued support and professionalism – it is impossible to single out any one individual, as all of them contribute so much to the academic and extra-curricular life of the Stoics. I very much look forward to the challenges and triumphs that await us in the year 2011-12!

Mr James Peppiatt, Head of English



Science Report

This year has seen the formation of the Quantum Society, a Sixth Form society for Stoics interested in finding out more about the physical sciences and engineering. It complements the already well established and popular Biomedical Society for aspiring medics, vets, dentists and biochemists. The term ended with a BBQ and Croquet match between the two societies – a wonderful occasion that drew together all of our top Sixth Form scientists to do battle with mallet and ball. The weekly meetings of the two societies allows Stoics to explore Science beyond the curriculum, to exchange ideas and discuss areas that they have found interesting and investigated for themselves. As the Quantum Society has discovered there are many strange and interesting ideas like the possibility of particles being in more than one place and the fact that cats can be theoretically dead and alive at the same time. These were some of the topics covered during the Society's book review and Chinese meal organised in the Physics labs – food for thought in all ways!

The number studying the Sciences at A Level is our highest ever and this looks set to rise even further next year, bucking the national trend. This reflects the keen interest shown by many Stoics in the Lower School. We believe that Science should be an exciting voyage of discovery and we try to reflect this in lessons. Interactive technology helps foster interaction in the classroom and practical experiments give our pupils the chance to find out things for themselves. The Third Form Chemistry Club, which started this year, has been popular and has given our youngest pupils an opportunity to do extra practical work outside their lesson time. Many of our Fourth Form have achieved excellent results in their first external modules and special congratulations should go to the 17 Stoics in this year group who scored 100% in their first GCSE Chemistry module.

We have had some distinguished scientists to the school and they have delivered some fascinating lectures. In March, Professor Alexander Martynov from



Main: In class... Left to Right: Dr Steve Pearce; Quantum Society Chinese Meal; Professor Alexander Martynov; Mr Jeffreys in action

the Russian Space agency gave us a great insight into life in Space. Professor Sarah Gurr thoroughly engaged her audience when explaining the great potential and problems of fungi and how this links with the problems of feeding the world. Dr Steve Pearce spent a day at Stowe teaching numerous groups about food flavouring and smells. He even managed to create strawberry yoghurt flavoured on the spot and introduced us to the world of the food industry.

There have also been trips to lectures given by the Open University and the Institute of Physics as part of our programme to broaden Science education and give pupils a chance to find out which branches of Science they might want to look into further or pursue in the longer term.

Congratulations too for this year's successful Oxford candidates – Poppy Mills (Chemistry) and Rebecca Elliott (Biological Sciences) and also to our medical and veterinary candidates and others going on to read Science subjects at top universities.

Last year, the first of our Physics Laboratories was completely refurbished – the start of a rolling annual programme of refurbishment in the Science Block.

We have been thrilled to have plenty of opportunity to spread the joy of Science beyond Stowe. In the Easter holidays we hosted two courses of Extreme Physics which drew teams from schools around the country to compete in challenges and discover more about Physics. The event also provided training opportunities for teachers and we are very grateful for the support of the Ogden Trust and the Institute of Physics for helping this event to happen. Children from Beachborough School and Swanbourne House School have attended Science days at Stowe. We love the open enthusiasm that these Prep School pupils bring with them and have been very impressed with the way in which they have tackled the experiments and problem solving challenges that we have prepared for them.

As you can see, it has been a very busy year in the Science Department and the staff have been delighted with the way in which Stoics have embraced the opportunities they have been given. We look forward to next year when we will be teaching more pupils than ever before.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

Visit from Professor Alexander Martynov

The Physics Department was fortunate to have Professor Alexander Martynov visit the School in March. As Head of Foreign Relations for the city of Korolev, Russia's high-tech space city, the Professor has produced over 120 articles and written six books about space craft motion control in planetary atmospheres. He has met many Russian and American astronauts and is involved with the current space station and the future planned journey to Mars. He gave two presentations to our Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form Stoics showing unique video footage of the space station. We saw images of chickens trying to stabilise themselves in weightless conditions and other oddities of life in space which were both humorous and fascinating. He also gave us an insight into the planned journey to Mars providing information on the journey and the ship that would take astronauts there. The Professor's vast experience enabled him to answer questions freely at the end concerning all aspects of the space station and life aboard it. He even extended an open invitation to visit Korolev, something we may well do next year!

Extreme Physics

Last year we hosted 'Extreme Physics' over the Easter holiday. Twenty teams of four Fourth Form pupils plus a member of staff with each team and a host of graduate helpers attended two three day courses in the department. The courses were organised externally by Mike Pollard with generous funding from the Ogden Trust. The students were kept very busy with demanding challenges, activities and lectures. A visit to Airkix in Milton Keynes provided a hands on sky diving experience of terminal velocity. A journal of the three days was kept by each person as they completed physics related tasks within their teams. From launching chemical rockets in the Bursar's Field to finding the mass of an alien, the school teams were in competition with each other. Rosettes were issued for each challenge and school mascots provided team identities. An evening lecture on Low Temperature Physics was given by James Tearle our Head of Science. The team presentations were the highlight of the week. They were creatively delivered and the use of unusual props made for a very interesting and very funny series of four minute presentations. My thanks go to all who supported the event and made it run so successfully.

Mr Steve Malling

Geography Report

Stowe's Geography Department has had a very successful and busy year with tremendous results. In January, David Akam and Miles Bailey both gained full marks in one of their A Level exam modules and for the first time, the Fourth Form sat one of their modules a year early and the results were exceptional. In the summer exam results, 23% of the students gained an A*, 29% gained an A grade and 79% of Stoics achieved between A*-B. William Chatamra, Harry Pettifer and Katkin Farr both scored full marks in this Physical GCSE module – their hard work and dedication to the subject certainly paid off. Our Fifth Form GCSE results were also fantastic, with 69% gaining A*-A. Special mention must go to Chloe Last who scored full marks in her controlled assessment coursework and both of the GCSE modules. This is the first time the Geography Department has ever had a student score full marks in their Geography GCSE – no mean feat! The summer AS and A2 results were also very pleasing with a 100% pass rate and 30% of our A2 students gaining either an A* or A grade. Sebastian Clarke, Hannah Campbell, Pippa Farr and Kasipeh Adu all scored 100% in their Physical AS Module and Daniella Allard also gained full marks in her A2 Global Issues Module. We wish all of our Upper Sixth Form pupils the best of luck at university.

We have hosted lots of very interesting Geography Society guest speakers, notably Professor Parker who gave a lecture to our Sixth Form about studying Geography at university and representatives from two charities who spoke to our Third and Fourth Form pupils about the work they do in the UK and around the world. In total, the department raised over £1,000 for the charities 'Action Against Hunger' and 'CARE International' and continue to sponsor a child in Malawi, through the charity World Vision.

In addition to our classroom lessons, we also went on lots of different field trips. Our Third Form sets conducted river studies in Water Stratford, the Fourth Form visited a deciduous woodland in the school grounds, the Fifth Form completed their GCSE coursework in Buckingham, the Upper Sixth attended a four day residential field trip in

North Wales and finally the Lower Sixth studied varying environmental quality in Northampton and visited the London 2012 Olympic site.

The academic year 2010-2011 has been full of departmental achievements, enjoyable lessons and a positive working relationship between staff and pupils. I look forward to the challenges of 2011-2012.

Mrs Zoe Cass, Head of Geography



Upper Sixth Geography trip

Upper Sixth Geography trip, North Wales 2010

In late October, the A2 Geographers set out for an adventure to North Wales to carry out geographical investigations, the aim of which was to prepare us for our January Skills module.

We stayed in an amazing stately home, which had recently been converted into a hotel and was really close to our study sites. Although the weather in North Wales was not quite as 'tropical' as we would have liked, at least it didn't rain! Because the trip had a purpose (an A2 module worth 40% of our final grade), it meant we all had a clear focus – work hard and learn lots, which everyone responded to really positively. Each of the studies we completed was very different and involved varying geographical skills, for example from recording vegetation types and wind speed at a sand-dune ecosystem to environmental qualities in a town. From the primary data we collected, we were able to analyse the results and present them in lots of different graphs. We all thoroughly enjoyed spending time together. I hope that next year's A2 Geography set have as much fun as we did!

George Low, Upper Sixth
Geography Prize Winner 2011

Lower Sixth trip to the London Olympic site

The Lower Sixth geographers went on an amazing field trip to the 2012 London Olympics site in October.

The purpose of this trip was to conduct research on urban changes in relation to the recent developments in the area in preparation for the Olympic Games. We visited an FSC site, where a member of their staff showed us what this inner city part of London looked like pre-Olympic building and why this area was chosen. The area had undergone a major transformation from farmland to a highly industrialised area. The view from the study room was amazing; being able to see the main Olympic Stadium, the Aquatic Centre, the Olympic Village and the Basketball Stadium – it made me want to start to bid for tickets straight away!

We then walked around the area and completed environmental quality surveys. It will be fascinating to see how it changes – the new apartment blocks and cleaned canals were lovely. This case study was used as part of our January module. The experience proved to be very beneficial and definitely gave us an insight into what to expect from the London 2012 Olympics.

We were all so fortunate to have been taken on this trip as it allowed us to see the area during the construction and I am looking forward to seeing yet more changes when I go to the games with my family in 2012.

Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo, Friends of Stowe
Geography Prize Winner 2010



Lower Sixth olympic site trip



Professor Christopher Andrew,
Official Historian of MI5



Lord Hurd speaking

History Report

Stowe's History Department continues to go from strength to strength. A record number of 90 students studied A Level History last year which demonstrates the popularity of the subject amongst the Stoic community. The Department was delighted that five candidates secured A* grades. This marks an increase on last year and was richly deserved by the pupils (Augusta Anthony, Stefano Capella, James MacDonald, Poppy Mills and Thomas Wallace) who had all worked very hard over the two year course and displayed a real passion and excitement for the subject. The Pitt Society, our academic extension group, welcomed a number of leading academics to Stowe including the eminent Tudor historian, Professor Eric Ives. In the coming year we look forward to the visit of Dr Andrew Preston, Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge and Dr Susan Doran, Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. Uptake for History in 2011/12 is strong with Sixth Formers having the opportunity to choose to follow either a modern or early modern course for the first time.

We wish the previous Head of History, Dr David Smith, well in his new position at Sherborne. As his replacement, I look forward to the challenges ahead.

Mr James Hayden, Head of History
(from September 2011)

A visit from MI5

The History and Politics students were taken into the world of British Intelligence with a fascinating lecture by Professor Christopher Andrew, Official Historian of MI5. Professor Andrew, recently retired President of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and former Head of the Cambridge History Faculty, presented an overview of the activities of MI5 ranging from double agents during the Second World War through to the nature of intelligence gathering since 9/11. Drawing on extensive research in MI5 archives, Professor Andrew highlighted the nature of espionage work and the challenges facing the security services in investigating the many threats facing the country. Professor Andrew said he was unaware if Stoics had featured in the world of James Bond but I have a suspicion there must have been one or two!

Dr David Smith, former Head of History

Lord Hurd visits Stowe

The Rt Hon Lord Hurd of Westwell came to Stowe on Thursday 11 November and gave a fascinating talk to Stoics studying Politics and History. First elected to Parliament in 1974 as MP for Mid Oxfordshire, he went on to become Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Home Secretary and finally Foreign Secretary in 1989, working under three Conservative Prime Ministers: Ted Heath, Margaret Thatcher and John Major. In a wide-ranging question and answer session, Lord Hurd dealt with Britain's relationship with Europe, the need for a global 'effort' to define a new structure for international institutions, the argument for an elected House of Lords, and his differing experiences of working under three Prime Ministers. He gave his thoughts on the decision to go to war with Iraq and described how he felt Margaret Thatcher, 'handbag in hand', would have addressed the matter with President Bush. He provided a fascinating and very personal perspective on the country's most recent leaders – Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron. Lord Hurd clearly enjoyed his visit to Stowe and looked forward, as he said, to seeing future Stoics in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Dr David Smith, former Head of History

Religious Studies Report



This year has been another busy one for the Religious Studies Department. We had record numbers taking GCSE and we had our first full year of the Short Course.

The GCSE, AS and A2 results were very encouraging with 60% of our candidates at GCSE attaining an A*/A. Chima Ngerem scored 100% UMS in both of his modules at AS which is a remarkable achievement.

We had a number of visiting speakers and events over the year as well. Jon Bonfiglio from the Clipperton Project spoke to the A Level students about business and environmental ethics and the School had a visit from the visionary inventor and philanthropist Marc Koska and his wife Anna. The Department also made visits to Beachborough and Brockhurst and Marlston Prep Schools.

The Fourth Form took time out of the syllabus to learn about more about the debt which the Western world owes to the Islamic scientists of the 14th and 15th Centuries. Using ancient techniques they built tents and gliders and were surprised at how well they worked. Mr Rickner took a small group of Stoics on the Holocaust Education Foundation's annual trip to Auschwitz which was an experience which will never be forgotten.

Mr Dominic Mocan, Head of Religious Studies

Lessons from Auschwitz

As part of the LFA project (Lessons from Auschwitz of the Holocaust Educational Trust which aims to educate Sixth Form students through a series of seminars and a unique opportunity for a day trip to Auschwitz itself), Katie Wellington, Gareth Browne and Mr Rickner attended two seminars in London and a one day trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former Nazi extermination and labour camps.

Katie and Gareth, together with two pupils from the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, gave presentations at both schools outlining what they saw on their trips. The presentations were to year groups who were studying the Holocaust – GCSE years at Stowe and Third Form and Lower Sixth at the Royal Latin.

From Katie Wellington (Upper Sixth) and Gareth Browne (Lower Sixth):

The first seminar re-capped the background of the Holocaust and we had an emotional talk from an Auschwitz survivor, Martin Bennett, who was just 14 when he entered the labour camps. Being able to hear the personal memories of the experience really brought home the harrowing events to people who find it difficult to fully comprehend what it must have been like.

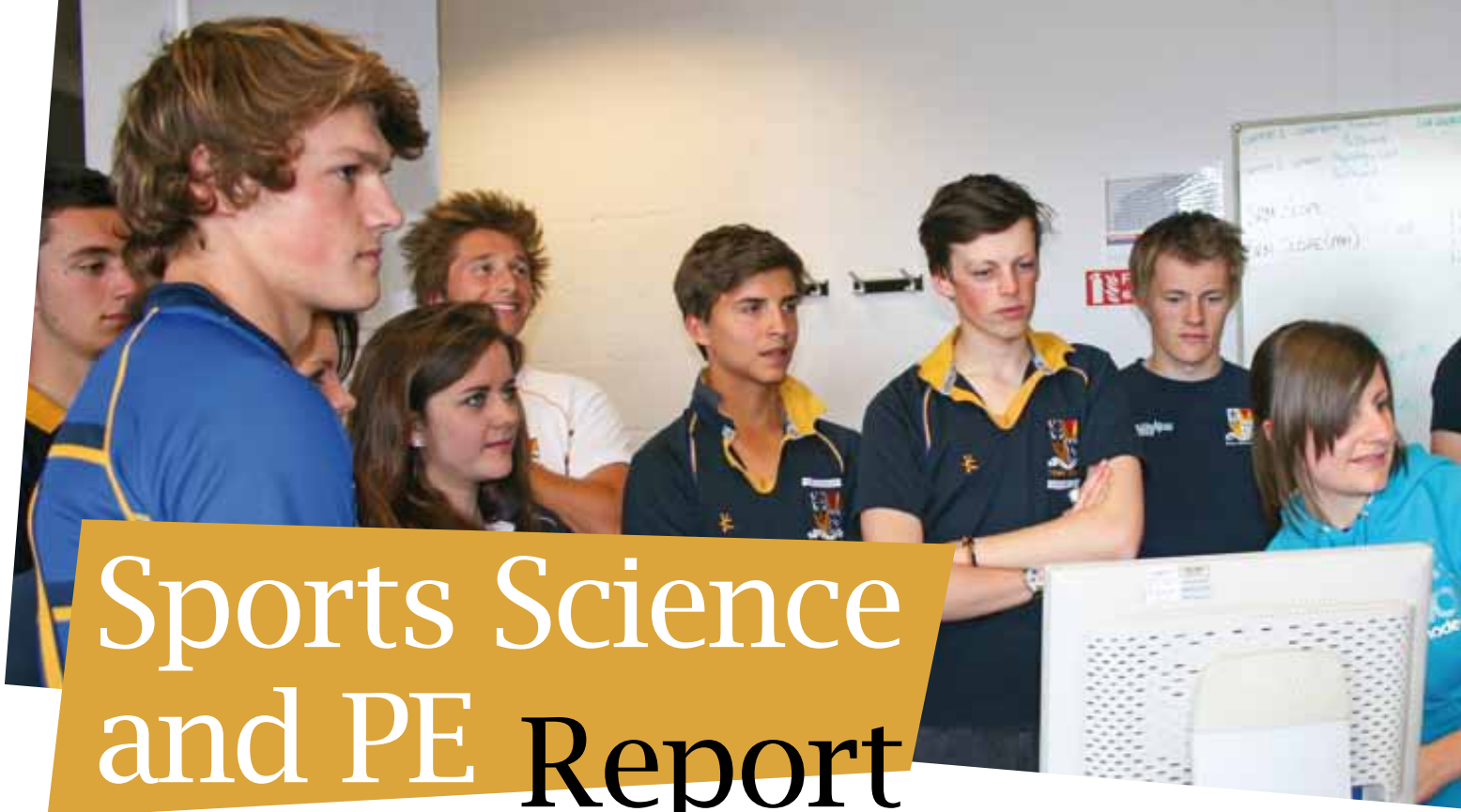
A week later we travelled to Poland to visit the old Jewish town of Oswiecim. Before the war this town was predominantly Jewish in contrast to today where there are no Jewish inhabitants. Visiting this town allowed us to picture how people would have lived prior to the German invasion. We also attended a Synagogue, immersing ourselves in Jewish culture. The first camp we visited was Auschwitz I, where the exhibitions showed the mass extermination of a community of people and how the Nazis found more and more ways to dehumanise effectively the Jewish religion and its people. There was little left

for the imagination and the extent of the operation was clear from the pictures and the items on display: suitcases, childrens toys, everyday pots and pans (showing that people did not know what to expect) and a vast amount of shoes left by the victims. There were also the remains of one of the first gas and extermination chambers, a spine-tingling sight.

The other camp we visited was Auschwitz-Birkenau. This vast camp spread across 400 acres was incomprehensible, however, the size was not apparent until we viewed it from the watch tower used by SS guards and the remains of the camp spanned as far as we could see. Walking into the barracks and around the derelict camp was a very sobering experience and we could only imagine the horror and torment that was inflicted in the buildings that once stood on the very same spot. We encountered temperatures of around -14°C and despite most of us having pretty warm jackets we really felt the cold. This exacerbated our experience as we knew that the prisoners of Auschwitz wore nothing more than pyjamas

The visit was extremely moving and had a profound effect on us all. The most shocking part for me was when the Rabbi on the trip with us gave a simple service on the site of one of the extermination chambers. To emphasise how many Jews perished in the Holocaust, we were told if we wanted to give a one minute remembrance for all the people who died where we were standing, we would have to be silent for three years.

In our final seminar we reflected on the experience we had gained and we planned a follow up project. The aim of the project is for participants to pass on the lessons learnt to their schools and communities so that more people benefit. This was especially poignant for Stowe due to the heroic exploits of Sir Nicholas Winton during the Second World War.



Sports Science and PE Report

We have the privilege of teaching Physical Education to every new Stoic who joins in the Third Form and as a result, we form a strong relationship with all pupils. In their initial introduction to physical activity and sport at Stowe, the Stoics experience such pursuits as badminton, basketball, swimming, life-saving, water polo, gymnastics, health-related exercise, squash, athletics, tennis and girls' cricket. This gives every Stoic the understanding and opportunity to take up a 'Lifetime Sport' – one of our major aims as a department. We also see just under half of these stoics again in the Fourth Form, when they choose to study Sports Science at GCSE. This academic side of our department continues all the way up to A Level, where we have a healthy number of pupils carrying on all the way to A2 Level. Throughout their studies, the pupils will have explored topics such as the anatomy and physiology of human performance, the psychology behind success and the historical and sociological background to Sport. The Stoics' experience of Sports Science does not stop once they leave Stowe, as a large number of Leavers go on to pursue a sport related degree. In recent years, these have included courses such as Sport and Exercise Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology at universities such as Birmingham, Exeter, Bath, Durham, Loughborough and Manchester. This year, we are extremely pleased to report that two of our A2 students got into their first

choice universities to continue their studies in Sport and Exercise Science. These two boys, Ali Birkby and Tom Jenkins, along with José Brake and James MacDonald all achieved A* grades in their A Levels – a highlight of the year for me. Tom broke all previous records in our department, by achieving 100% in both his written exam papers. James is applying for Oxbridge this year and José is going to University in America combining her studies with a scholarship to play lacrosse. Joshua Sutton and Robert Hill were our stars at AS Level, both achieving very high A grades. Henry Woodward gained 100% in his GCSE theory paper and was only four marks short of full marks overall. He was joined by a further 13 students who all achieved A or A*s at GCSE.

This year we also welcomed some excellent guest speakers, including our very own Olympian, Mr Fair. He spoke candidly about his experiences at Beijing and how he is preparing for the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics. On the topic of elite athletes, our department also successfully runs the Stowe Elite Sports Squad, where we help to mentor and guide our very own sports men and women at school. The performance highlights from this particular group include James Rudkin's two gold medals in the European Junior Rowing Championships, Ben Duckett being selected for the England U17 Cricket team, Claudia Button captaining the England U17 Lacrosse team and Ben Robinson

narrowly missing out on qualifying for the Men's British Open Golf Championships.

Our annual trip to Loughborough University to see their state of the art facilities and make use of their Sports Science Laboratories concluded the year. All our Lower Sixth students attended and were lucky enough to rub shoulders with Olympic hopefuls as they trained. We listened to talks given by current students who were also training to compete on the International stage and a number of Stoics had the chance to take part in some experiments in the laboratories. This included the VO2 max test on the same treadmill that Paula Radcliffe had been tested on just days before. This test requires the subject to run continuously, as the intensity gets progressively harder, until they physically cannot continue. Throughout this test, gas analysis takes place, allowing the scientists and students to monitor the subjects' progress and to compare this against elite performers. Our students did very well but for some the challenge was a little too overwhelming for their stomachs!

This was a fantastic year for the department and one which certainly could not have taken place without the professional and dedicated support of all our staff.

Mr Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE



Languages Report

The Languages Department has had a successful year. At A Level an impressive 73% of Stoics gained A/B and 100% gained A-C grades. At AS Level, three students, Claire Langer, Daisy Ussher and Kierat Sambhi scored full marks (100%) in their speaking exams. At GCSE, eight Stoics scored full marks (100%) in one of their papers (Liza Kolesnikova, Hugo Brooks, Alice Speakman, Laeticia Spooner, Jordan Cleary, Genevieve Bacon, Christophe Carrelet and Sebastian Young). Three students (Eliza Harman Lea, Isabelle Elliott and Orlando Whitehead) scored full marks (100%) in two modules. The following Stoics achieved A* grades at GCSE in two languages; Billy Lawrance-Thorne, Liza Kolesnikova, Isabelle Elliott, Laeticia Spooner and Orlando Whitehead.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of Modern Languages

French trip to Vichy

In the last week of the Summer term, Mr Staples, Mrs Browne and six Lower Sixth Stoics went out to spend a few days at the Cavilam School of Languages in Vichy, a delightful town in central, southern France. It was blisteringly hot. On the Monday, Vichy was actually mentioned by name on the French TV weather forecast as being the hottest place in France, with a stunning 38°C.

The Stoics spent the morning in language classes and the afternoon being shown around Vichy on guided tours before going back to their host families in the evening. The raison d'être of the trip was two-fold: one, to get our Stoics speaking as much French as possible, and two, to learn something of the occupation of France in World War II, which they will be studying after Christmas.

We hope to return to Vichy next year with a larger group.

Mr Peter Staples

Upper Sixth trip to Madrid, Easter 2011

Thursday 31 March

In the early hours most of the Spanish Upper Sixth set off for Madrid. By the time we arrived in Madrid it was around 11am and we took the first of our many Metro trips to our Spanish families, with whom we would be staying for the week. We went in pairs and after dropping our stuff off at their houses we all met back at the Metro station, Barrio del Pilar, to go to central Madrid to explore.

Our first visit was to the Reina Sofia museum to look at Picasso's famous painting, Guernica. As we have been studying the Civil War and the bombing of Guernica, seeing the painting gave us an insight into what it might have been like for the innocent civilians. We then walked up the Calle de Atocha to find the 'Chocolate con Churros' restaurant where we indulged ourselves before returning to our hosts' homes for supper and a well-earned sleep.

Friday 1 April

On the second day of our trip we went to a small historical town close to Madrid called Toledo. As we arrived, we were astonished by its beauty. Inside the army museum we saw many historical weapons before Mrs Lawrance-Thorne gave us a lesson in the Civil War section of the museum. She was almost jumping up and down with excitement! When we emerged, we all went to the main square to soak up some rays of sunshine during our lunch break.

In the afternoon we took a tour around the city on the 'Zocotren' which was a bumpy ride but rounded stunning views and made it worth the discomfort. We then went on to the Torture Museum – the highlight of Mr Dobson's trip! We got an insight into the cruelty of the Spanish Inquisition. On display, with detailed descriptions, were various items including a human-sized metal box which forced spikes into the body in specific places when the door was closed. This ensured that the death of the victim was painful and slow.

Saturday 2 April

After another early start, the girls – accompanied by Mr Dobson – went to the Prado Museum whilst the boys and Mrs Lawrance-Thorne went to the Bernabéu National Football Stadium to see if they could get some match tickets. Sadly, the tickets were sold out, so we took a tour of the Stadium instead. We learnt about the history of the club, its past players and were reminded of some of the indomitable teams that Real Madrid had to offer in the past. We also saw Ronaldo's boots, Casillas' keeping gloves and endless corridors of trophies, medals, cups and other awards. The highlights of the tour included sitting in the managers' area, watching Barty and Ivo taking turns to pose as José Mourinho in the conference room and having our photo taken with the Champions League trophy.

In the afternoon, we all took cable cars over the city to see the beautiful views of Madrid. We then headed back to the centre for a refreshing drink.

In the early evening we went to 'La Vaguada' shopping centre, which was conveniently located near where we were staying. After looking around the vast number of shops, we decided to go to the

cinema there to see the comedy film ‘¿Para que sirve un oso?’ which in English is: ‘What is a bear for?’. The film was about two scientists who dedicate their lives to studying bears in the Asturias region in Spain, but one of them is having second thoughts and has lost all faith in it. It was a great challenge to watch a film in Spanish with no subtitles.

Sunday 3 April

For the final day of the trip we visited the Rastro Market. It is Europe’s largest outdoor market, which sells everything imaginable from quirky accessories to vibrant artwork. After a quick break to compare our purchases, we headed to the Royal Palace, ‘El Palacio Real’ where we were overwhelmed by the vast spaces and the luxurious furnishings in each room. A tour gave us an insight into architecture and decor of the palace as well as a bit of history of the many Kings and Queens who have reigned in Spain over the centuries.

German Department

The German Department has enjoyed another very successful year with 100% A-C grades at GCSE and A Level.

At GCSE, 96.6% of students got A*-B, with three students achieving an outstanding 100% in their GCSE writing paper (Hugh Hillier, Will Jackson and Chloe Last).

At A Level, results were equally strong with 83.3% getting A*-A grades.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Munich Trip

Tuesday 28 June – Saturday 2 July

On Tuesday 28 June, five Stoics, Audrey Lefebvre (French Assistant) and I embarked on a five day visit of Munich. On the first day, we awoke to glorious sunshine and decided to start our day with an open-bus tour of the city. From there we saw all the major sites and the Stoics were immediately impressed by the sheer scale of Munich, its huge buildings and wide avenues. Determined to show them the beauty of Bavarian churches, we went to visit the Dom, Munich’s Cathedral, where the devil is said to have left a footprint cast in stone near the entrance, so pleased was he to discover that the architect had obviously forgotten to build windows. Had he stepped a little closer into the church, he would have discovered that there were indeed lots of windows, cleverly

concealed behind monumental columns and the high altar. The Asam Kirche built by the Asam brothers as a private chapel, a jewel of Rococo art, became a firm favourite of everyone in the group, as something so ornate is truly unique. We carried on to see the Glockenspiel and some more churches before the Stoics were let loose in Munich’s main food market, the Viktualienmarkt, where they had to buy their own food for a typically Bavarian picnic held in the aptly named Englischer Garten. With temperatures of 30 degrees in the shade, we were all thankful to dip our feet in the Eisbach, even though I did not let anyone go in for a swim, as there were signs saying “swimming strictly forbidden – mortal danger”, which did not deter lots of German youngsters from jumping in. We finished our first day with a visit to the Munich museum before enjoying a delicious Bavarian meal at the Schneider Weisse. We returned to the hotel just before a massive thunderstorm struck, flooding many places, including the BMW museum and keeping many of us awake at night. The next day we went to visit the Dachau concentration camp. We were all immediately struck by the enormity of the place as our guide Nikola took us around the camp, telling us what atrocities the prisoners had to endure on a daily basis. This camp was designed to hold 7,000 people and housed over 21,000 when the Americans liberated it in 1945, and the word infernal isn’t strong enough to describe what this place must have felt like for those who were imprisoned there. Both Nikola and I were very proud of the Stoics for showing such respect and interest during our visit. We then spent the afternoon visiting Nymphenburg Castle, with all its beautiful gilded carriages used by various Kings and baroque follies built for their Queens, showing an altogether more positive side of the history of Bavaria. On our third day, we went up the 290 meter high Olympic Tower from which we had the most superb view of Munich right down to the Alps.

Having had a look at the Rock museum up there, we also explored the Olympic park where the 1972 Olympic Games were held, finishing our visit with a 30 minute pedalo ride around the Olympic lake. In the afternoon, Audrey took the boys to Mr Tearle’s favourite museum in the world, the Deutsches Museum, Europe’s biggest Science museum, while Livi and I went to the Alte Pinakothek, where we looked at German, Dutch and Italian Renaissance paintings: a truly magical experience. On our last day, the long awaited BMW-World visit was upon us. Needless to say the boys were in their element, sitting in every car there was, including the latest M3 and M1 and enjoying every interactive attraction that was on offer. We also saw the most amazing motor show where a biker drove his motorbike through the museum and up the stairs. Germans clearly have a more relaxed approach to Health and Safety than we have in England. We all returned to England feeling tired and ready for the holiday, but I think I can speak for us all when I say that it was an inspiring trip. I certainly have many fond memories: Ben’s phenomenal knowledge of BMW cars (I shall not mention his slight reluctance to embrace Bavarian food), Livi’s awe when visiting Dachau, Drew’s perpetual energy, Hugh’s perseverance at speaking German, even when people replied in English and Charlie’s amazing sense of direction. Their behaviour was exemplary and I hope they enjoyed the trip as much as Audrey and I did.

Alice Tearle, Head of German

Main: Spanish trip.

Bottom: French trip; Munich trip



The Opening of the Restored Library



After a year of restoration work, the doors of Stowe's 18th Century School Library opened again last September.

Despite the upheaval of moving out and the uncertainty attached to the idea of trying to create a Library in a classroom, everyone had rather enjoyed the cosy haven we managed to create in two of the Classics rooms overlooking the Nugent rose garden. When the area was full we were rather cramped for space but with the sun streaming in through the windows and the ability to open the double doors to listen to the calming sound of the fountain trickling in the background, our temporary home had many good points. I made weekly visits to see the progress of the dedicated team of workers trusted with the realisation of the aim of returning Stowe's library to its original form and as the year went on and their work began to come to fruition I was eagerly anticipating

our return. When our excellent removal company had packed up the first consignment of books to come back to the Mansion I was waiting to instruct them where to unload and one look at their faces as they entered the State Library doors confirmed the reaction that everyone would experience when they saw the gilded glory of the room.

The ceiling's paint had been stripped in order to fully repair and replace the cracked and failed plasterwork and the time-consuming gilding process which used approximately 15,000 gold leaves had resulted in a glorious ceiling which as Jonathan Foyle, Chief Executive of the World Monuments Fund said 'has revolutionised the impression of the space'. Elsewhere the beautiful windows, doors and magnificent mahogany shelving had also been restored, the floor strengthened and new electrics and heating installed as well as new lighting which was a cause of great debate as the room had to function as a school library as well as a heritage room. To complete the

look, new study desks and a counter had been commissioned. Made in oak, with patinated brass detailing and burgundy leather, the new furniture has contemporary lines and is designed for modern day use whilst harmonising with the historical setting and existing architectural features.

The newly restored Library has been popular this year as a venue for Careers Stoics who belong to the XX Group met our American visitors for a discussion. Other Library events included a visit from the celebrated teenage author and champion of libraries, Alan Gibbons, and Lyttelton retained the silver trophy after an exciting finish in our annual House Literary quiz held to celebrate World Book Day.

Stoics and staff alike have responded positively to their magnificent new surroundings. After all, who could ask for a more splendid environment in which to study? As for me, I must be the luckiest School Librarian in the world!

Mrs Carol Miller, Librarian



Sofia Subotina, Upper Sixth



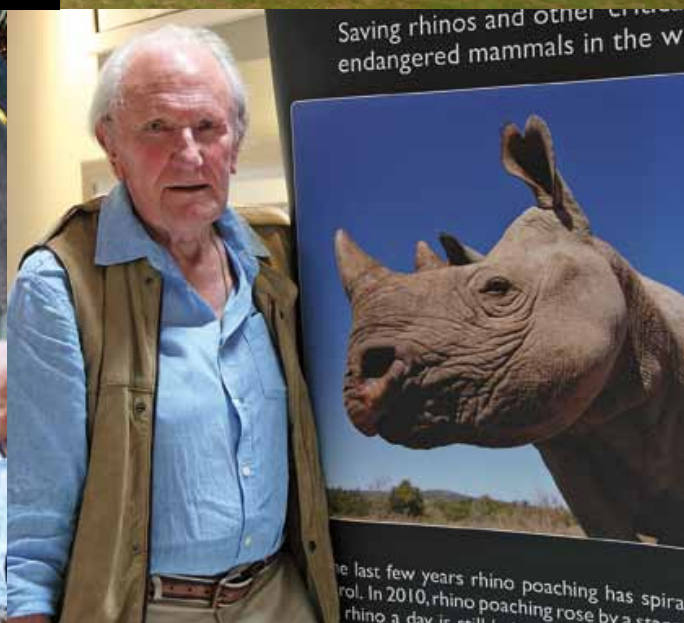
Dham Srifuengfung, Upper Sixth



OS Events go from Strength to Strength



Left to right: OS Society at Green's, ECS; 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner; Speech Day 2011; OS Summer Party at Kensington Roof Gardens; David Shepherd (Chatham 49)



The OS Society has organised a lively series of events so far this year. Proceedings kicked off with over 200 Old Stoics and current parents attending a networking drinks reception in the City. Green's Restaurant and Oyster Bar in EC3 was a hive of networking individuals from all vintages. Feedback from the evening was excellent:

Of the many Old Stoics whom I have contacted since, all have said, without exception, how much they enjoyed it and would definitely be attending more events.

Charles Birtles (Temple 83)

What an incredibly successful event you put on, on 1 March for the Parents and Old Stoics. Congratulations. Thank you so much. I loved it and stayed 'till nearly the end. Yours Camilla.

(current parent)

The next event was at 'home' with 85 Old Stoics and their guests returning to Stowe for their 40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner. An afternoon of touring the School and gardens followed by drinks in the Marble Hall and dinner in the Music Room for Old Stoics who left in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Thank you and everyone concerned for organising an exceptional day at Stowe on Saturday. I enjoyed seeing the school and also catching up with so many old friends. I have not visited Stowe for 40 years and it was wonderful to see how the school has moved on. When I was a pupil I felt that it was different from other schools, freer and not bound by tradition, and it was clear that that ethos is alive and well today. A memorable day and I appreciate everyone's efforts to make it so.

Mark Harrison (Lyttelton 72)

Just a quick line to thank you and Tim and all others involved in arranging a very enjoyable evening and yes I did catch up with friends I had not seen in about 39/40 years! The Dinner was particularly tasty and much enjoyed, and the Chefs should be highly commended!

Alan Hodge (Grafton 72)

Then came Speech Day, where the Society, for the second year running, organised a Classic Car meeting on the North Front for Old Stoics and current parents. From around 35 cars last year, this year saw 54 cars on the North Front between the steps and George. The Headmaster concluded that it was an excellent addition to the day's programme and that many visitors found themselves wandering amongst the plethora of exquisite cars on display from the very rare 1959 Bristol Teardrop Special to the 1953 Aston Martin DB2/4 which recently appeared on TV in 'Midsomer Murders'. Lunch was kindly provided by OS Marcus Atkinson (Chatham 90) and his company Hagerty Classic Car Insurance.

Thank you both for organising another Classic Car event at Stowe on 28 May especially the excellent lunch. Cars are strange, especially old ones. They do have a curiosity factor for many people and I hope that the sight of our cars on the North Front is a worthwhile spectacle for Speech Day guests. Having been a regular visitor to Speech Day since about 1963 or so after my gap year, I always used to come in some exotic piece of machinery, similar to some of the cars on display last month!

John Blayney (Chandos 61)

Just a word of heartfelt thanks for a splendid and most enjoyable day last Saturday. We think Stowe is really looking magnificent and apparently enormously successful in this difficult era and we enjoyed the lunch very much.

David Elliot (Cobham 47)

After half-term it was back to London for the first ever OS Summer Party, a relaxed, informal affair in the beautiful surroundings of the Kensington Roof Gardens. OSs from all vintages were invited to come along with up to two guests and enjoy a Prosecco in the Spanish Garden, followed by a BBQ in the Tudor Gardens and live music from 3 OS bands in the club afterwards. The evening was a great success with over 300 in attendance and the Society has already booked the same venue for next year.

That was the most superb party last night! Well done. As an OS event, I think it's by far the best thing that's been done for many years and I think it could easily

become a 'must attend' annual event. It being so much more relaxed than the OS Dinner, and one being able to bring wives/guests along, made for a tremendously happy and convivial atmosphere. The location greatly helped – everyone loves the Kensington Roof Gardens.

Colin La Fontaine Jackson (Walpole 84)

A fantastic evening! I thought it was a resounding success. The venue was brilliant for such an occasion and we were so lucky with the weather. It was fantastic to catch up with some familiar faces and meet and compare stories with OSs from other years. I hope this will become an annual event!

Anna Narizzano (Nugent 04)

Many people on the night commented to me how much they enjoyed the event; the timing, format and location. So I wanted to drop you a note to congratulate you and your colleagues on all your hard work in making the night such a success and to show my support for holding the same next year!

Ian Bendell (Walpole 87)

Many thanks again indeed to you both for a fantastic evening with quite a few of us 1991-ers! We have to do this again! Very impressed, huge success!

James Snyder (Bruce 91)

Finally, on the weekend of Saturday 18 and 19 June the Marble Hall was brought to life with the beautiful work of Old Stoic, artist and wildlife conservationist, David Shepherd (Chatham 49). The exhibition was to celebrate his 80th birthday and featured a mixture of his original paintings alongside the work of his granddaughter, Emily Lamb. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the weekend which was capped by a formal dinner and private viewing on Saturday evening.

A very elegant and civilised evening which, by the look of it, David and all of the guests enjoyed immensely. The exhibition certainly looked really good!

Nigel Milne (Chandos 68)

Bruce

Housemaster: Craig Sutton

Matron: Ann Lake

Assistant Housemaster:
Charlie Barker

Under Housemaster: James Knott

Head of House: Tom Baldwin

Prefects: Tom Baldwin, Isi Madojemu, James Saunders, James Bailey, Miles Bailey, Will Cowley, Dham Srifuengfung, Anton Melnikov, Tom Wallace, Alex Worth, Ben Hackett, Andrey Albu, Rob Higham, Riley Curtis

Bruce has been very lucky to have an excellent Upper Sixth group this year. They have led the House with an 'I'll do it' attitude and managed to help create a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The range of talents throughout the House has meant that Bruce has had another fine year with plenty of achievements as individuals, as year groups and as a full House. It is particularly pleasing to see success in such a wide range of activities. In Drama, 7 Senior Bruce boys threw themselves into 'The Hired Man' and another 7 Juniors trod the boards in 'Johnny and the Dead'. We also put on a House Play with Lyttelton which proved to be great fun with Jamie Bailey very much to the fore as director whilst also taking a starring role. In Music, Liam Forster won the 'Mozart Trio Prize' and did a fine job in

arranging the part song for the House Singing competition. Tom Wallace won the 'Director of Music prize' and joined Liam, Isi Madojemu, Imran Momen, Alex Miarli and Louis Hitchcock in earning their Music colours. Our charismatic and talented Forth Form band 'The Basket Tribe' (Louis Hitchcock, Hugo Ellison, Kemal Eyi and Myles Coe) is going from strength to strength. The Bruce Senior Debating Team (Anton Melnikov, Imran Momen, Gareth Stockdale, Henry Stockdale) won the Inter House trophy this year. On the sports fields, Tom Baldwin picked up the award for 'Outstanding Sporting Achievement' and captained the 1st XV to another fantastic season. All five performance rugby teams have been captained at some point by Bruce boys this year (1st XV – Tom Baldwin, 2nd XV – Isi Madojemu, Colts XV – Tristan Phipps, Junior Colts XV – Max Marston, Yearlings XV – Murray Aitchison), our Third and Forth Form year groups won their Inter House rugby competitions. We were finalists in basketball in every year group, were Intermediate Swimming Champions (thanks mainly to Will Jackson!) and we topped our year off by becoming the Overall House Champions on Sports Day. On the academic front, Bruce continues to fight for the top spots in the TWO averages, with Tom Wallace, Alec Pultr, Guillermo Ordorica, Morris Chen and Billy Lawrance-Thorne consistently recording excellent grades for effort and attainment.

The Bruce Tutor team has been as valuable as ever in guiding and encouraging the boys and many thanks go to them. Our wonderful Matron, Ann Lake, continues to be at the heart of the House and is a constant reassuring presence for us all.

Before Tom sums up his chums in the Upper Sixth, I will add a line or two about him:-

Tom Baldwin 'Sarge' – Captain Fantastic of the 1st XV, Senior Prefect and Head of House. Has won a contract to play for Bath RFC (watch this space!). Scored two tries at Twickenham to help Dorset & Wilts Senior County team win the National trophy. An all round star!

Mr Craig Sutton

Andrey Albu 'Wolfman' – Andrey has been a quiet yet successful student at Stowe. Nicknamed Wolfman, due to the extraordinary amount of hair on his body. Studying Maths, Economics and further Maths he is certainly a smart character and destined for seriously high things in the future.

Jamie Bailey 'Bucket Hands' – Jamie has been a particularly loyal servant to his wild hair. Jamie is a School Prefect and has had many weird but wonderful experiences including attempting a 360° on his bike, resulting in a very large hole in his leg! He has taught himself the piano to an amazing standard. Jamie loves his Drama and directed and starred in the Bruce/Lyttelton House Play.

Miles Bailey 'Afro man' – Miles certainly has seriously wild hair. Miles only agreed to a trim after being threatened to be kicked out of Stowe if he didn't 'tame' it. Miles enjoys playing guitar and is particularly keen on riding his bike at every opportunity possible. He enjoys DT and is considered to be the 'handy man' in Bruce.

William Cowley 'Shamu' – Will has many favourite sayings, 'Just Chilling!' being shouted at the top of his voice is his favourite. In Will's spare time he enjoys listening to heavy metal and head banging until head aches set in. Another fine School Prefect.

Riley Curtis 'Riz man' – Riley talks like a gangster. After watching 'kidulthood' in the Lower Sixth, Riley insists on speaking, and I quote, 'like a bad man'. Riley plays the bass in a band within Stowe, regularly found having a jam with his band mates.



Ben Hackett 'Bennoo' – Ben 'lounges' around, but is a great character to be with, he enjoys long bike rides and loud Dubstep. Walking past Ben's room is always an occasion, he could be listening to anything from hardcore Dubstep to cheesy French pop tunes, oh, and he is really fast...

Rob Higham 'The Egyptian' – Rob is a kind lad and will always be present if you ever need a helping hand. He has a very unique fashion sense, no one quite understands what direction he is going with it, but all in all we love Rob for who he is and get on with him very well.

Isi Madojemu 'Hey Maddy' – Isi enjoys sleeping. However, he also won the prize on Speech Day for the amazing amount of things he has done for the Stowe Community including; rugby, athletics, every drama production, all sorts of music, choir, Senior Prefect... In my time at Stowe, Isi has really helped me, from showing me the ropes when I first arrived at Stowe to being a very helpful and great Deputy Head of House.

Anton Melnikov 'Anton' – Anton has been involved in many activities, from being part of the very successful public speaking team to House and school Drama to the literacy quiz. When talking to Anton you realise how sharp and observant he is, the problem is you soon realise you are way out of your depth...

James Saunders 'Jimbo' – James enjoys any sport where he can use a racket. James was captain of squash, but also plays a mean game of tennis and badminton. James is one of the few Stoics who grew plants in his room that actually lived for the whole year...

Dham Srfuengfung – Dham is amazing at Art, no, really amazing.... He also takes incredible photos. He was always near the top of the TWO effort averages. Another cracking School Prefect.

Thomas Wallace 'King Kong' – No man can really be as nice as Tom... can they? Tom is ultra polite, considerate and helpful...to everyone. He is a seriously cool saxophone player and another king of TWOs, and School Prefect.

Alex Worth – A 1st XV second row who also plays polo! Poor pony... Alex's dancing in the House play was a highlight of the year. A gentle giant who was always around to make a 'normal' day a little bit more fun.

Tom Baldwin, Head of House



Chandos

Housemaster: Mr Barney Durrant

Matron: Claire Hill-Hall

Assistant Housemaster:

Nick Rendall (Christmas and Lent term),
Roland Johnson (Summer term)

Under Housemistress: Gabby Peel
(Summer term)

Head of House: Andrew Welford

Prefects: Ali Birkby, Cameron Cox

Chandos has grown from strength to strength since I have been here, the atmosphere in the House is one of the best I have experienced and with this comes success. Over the last year we have had some commendable accolades achieved by Chandosians, the first being the Academic Salver in the Christmas and Lent terms, this is for the House that achieves the best grades and merits over the course of the term, taking into account

every pupils' grades in the House. It really is a whole House effort and everybody successfully pulled together to achieve this.

Chandosians feel pretty confident when it comes to debating, winning the debating last year and frequently getting into the finals. This year was no different, with the team being led from the front by Daniel Capurro and ably supported by Ed Robinson, Ali Birkby and James Blackham. We progressed through to the final and were only narrowly beaten by a very strong Bruce team.

Sport is also the backbone of our success. This year we won the Third Form football with key performances coming from George Silk and James Scott in the first weekend of the year. They went on to win the House hockey, which really was a whole team effort and they should all be

proud with the team spirit that was present during the competition. The Third Form also dominated the basketball with Mark Kozyritskiy towering over the other Third Formers and leading the team to win the trophy. It's not just the Third Form who have succeeded on the sports pitches, as the Fifth Form found themselves in the final of the Inter House Rugby Competition with strong performances from Louis Forsyth, Jake Olley and Freddie Dixon but in a hard fought final they unfortunately fell short of the trophy. The Sixth Form House hockey also saw Chandos have a podium finish in 3rd place with tough matches at every round, the team pulled together to gain this position with notable performances coming from Ali Birkby and Cameron Cox. We also had the Sixth Form relay team consisting of James Blackham, Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke, Andrew Welford and Ben Barter winning the Senior Relay Race, having had the same team compete for five years. Ed Robinson also ran extremely well in his 1500m to win, as he was up against some stiff competition. Sports Day also ended with Chandos coming 3rd in both the Senior and Junior competitions.

Leavers 2011



The Summer term saw Chandos playing in the finals of the Senior House cricket. It was a whole team effort and we were very proud of our 2nd place, although a little disappointed not to have won the cup.

Speech Day was a memorable one, with Tony Fitzjohn (a Chandos parent) delivering an enthralling speech about his work in wildlife conservation. It was also great to see the following being awarded prizes:

James Blackham: Basil Williamson Prize and Gilling-Lax Prize for Strings

David Akam: Peter Bates Prize for Geography

Harry Martin: Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science

James Scott: Brian Stephan Prize for Visual Education

Phongprabha Vadanyakul: Ian Jenkins Prize for Drawing and Observation

Miles Clark: Patricia Roxburgh Prize for Singing

Cameron Cox: Headmaster's Special Prize

Guy Turner: Stormont Prize for Percussion



Chandos boys

Bene Prizes were also awarded to: David Akam, Daniel Capurro, James Macdonald-Buchanan (x2), Harry Martin, Phongprabha Vadanyakul

In the penultimate weekend, we were treated to a South African special with the Branson scholars giving us a taste of South Africa. This included a Chapel Service in the morning explaining how the Apartheid system worked, in which people were moved by the stories about what life in South Africa was like. Cameron Rajah, one of Chandos' finest, spoke with passion and detail as he explained his

experiences in South Africa. He was a true credit to his country and House and we wish him the best of luck on his return to the Dominican Convent School.

Overall Chandos is the best and we know that, everyone in it will tell you! It has come a long way in the 5 years that I have been here and I hope that it continues to mature and progress at in the future. I hope everyone has a great summer, good luck on results day, and make Chandos proud when you return in September!

Andrew Welford, Head of House



Chandos 2011

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Chatham

Housemaster: Mr John Ing

Matron: Ms Caroline Firth

Under Housemaster:
Mr Darius Weil

Head of House: Will Berner

Deputy Head of House: Theo Vicat

Prefects: Sam Anderson,
Will Cullimore, Joaquin Muñoz
Ballester, Ivo Nenkov, Jack Sharp,
Tom Wood

This year has seen Chatham House reach new heights in many different aspects of a boarding house in a co-educational school. We began the year by winning the Coldstream Cup, one of the most prestigious House competitions at Stowe. Having been pipped last year by 1 point, Chatham managed to reclaim the Trophy with a very strong team – led superbly by our captain, Tom Jenkins.

In the same term Chatham managed to win both the football and rugby House league with unbeaten teams. The football team, led very well by Ivo Nenkov, managed to fend off every team on their way to finishing at the top of the league table. The rugby side led by Theo Vicat also conceded no points throughout the whole term.

Chathamites have had successes in equestrian pursuits. Examples of this include Hector Worsley – who won the Charles Owen pony racing final, Harry Bannister – who is improving as a jockey

and we have two Chathamites in the School's polo A team. The Juniors also enjoyed success in sport with the Fourth Form House rugby team reaching the semi finals and the Third Form making it to the final in the House hockey tournament.

We also had the Chatham House 'Home' which always proves to be an excellent day when the House puts on entertainment for the parents and enjoys a delicious lunch. This year's event contained lots of high quality entertainment such as the House Song, the part song, Stowe's Got Talent (Third Form), the song 'Jerk it Out' (performed by the Fourth Form), a brilliantly filmed and edited video (Fifth Form) and a very entertaining quiz organised by the Lower Sixth. Special thanks should go to Tom Wood for organising the entertainment and to the parents who supplied some particularly delicious desserts. The whole day was a huge success and was enjoyed by all.

As always the House Christmas Dinner was a very well put together event. Unlike the other Houses who have their dinner in the State Dining Rooms, Chatham prefers to have their Christmas Dinner in our House. We have always enjoyed the evening with post supper entertainments which encapsulate the spirit of the House and the enjoyment of the boys on such a festive night. Snow disruptions at the end of the term allowed us to enjoy numerous 'snowy' activities over our 750 acre garden!

The Lent term saw many Chathamites represent the school in hockey teams. Semifinals seemed to be the theme of the Lent term which saw the Junior and Senior basketball teams as well as the Junior and Senior hockey teams reach the semi finals. The Sixth Form dance was a huge success with everyone dressing up as what they want to be when they are older; outfits ranged from Hugh Stanley's Dubasourus to Theo Vicat's Somalian Pirate!

In addition to the obligatory revision and public exams for many, the Summer term has provided some exciting House cricket, where the Senior team overcame a Bruce side in the final over, chasing 180 runs off 20 overs! Although we marched on into the semifinals, Chandos were lucky to beat us and end our campaign for victory. It has been a similar story for the Juniors and Intermediates: we have made the semifinal in all the House competitions over this past year. Winning the Coldstream Cup however does compensate somewhat! The Chatham informal barbecue and golf tournament were both huge successes again this year. In fact, most Saturday evenings in the last weeks of term have seen in fact, Chathamites on the House front steps enjoying barbecues and remind us of how lucky we are to have such a wonderful front lawn.

It has been a privilege to be Chatham's Head of House. Theo and the rest of the Prefect team have been outstanding.



My thanks go to every one of them and to Matron, Mr Weil and, of course, Mr Ing who has been a very supportive and first-class Housemaster throughout my five years here at Stowe.

Will Berner, Head of House

The Coldstream Cup this year proved to be as challenging as ever. The competition kicked off with the military style assault course which involved each house working as a team to secure the quickest time possible around the gruelling course. A recovery time of five minutes was given and then the multi-terrain three mile run was undertaken. This run included the infamous lake crossing and log carry. This was followed shortly after by the shooting. The marching was replaced this year with a ferret pull. A ferret is a vehicle used in the military and weighs around three tonnes. Members of each House were required to pull it across the South Front steps in the quickest time possible. Once all the times were collected, Cobham and Chatham were tied at the top on points. The decision maker came down to which team had the best individual shot, which turned out to be Chatham's George Neville! This won the competition for the Chatham boys, leaving Cobham in second, Walpole third, Lyttelton fourth (the winning Girls' House) and Nugent fifth. Well done to everyone who competed.

Tom Jenkins



Top to bottom: Leavers 2011; Cricket; Birthday Party; Chatham Party; Chatham 2011



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Cobham

Housemaster: Mr Matthew Way

Matron: Ms Helen Drake

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr Simon Dobson

Under Housemaster:
Mr Michael Ricker

Head of House: Marco Capella

Prefects: Stefano Capella, Angus Hopewell, Joseph Stieger-White, George Wallace

It is now a Cobham tradition that the outgoing Head of House writes a few words on each of his fellow Cobham Upper Sixth formers. It has been one of the major pluses of my time at Stowe to share a house with these guys and our friendships, as is the case with many Stoics, will last beyond the end of this year.

Stefano Capella (The Brains): We have spent the last two years together at Stowe, and although it's nearly over, in this short but wonderful time I feel we have almost formed a brotherly bond and will remain close for the rest of our lives.

Jamie Cockbill (The Astronaut): Never in a world of his own, always switched on, very quick witted with a great passion for JENGA!! He could never lose!! An excellent sportsman with the brains to back it up.

Francis Drysdale (The Unit): Frank the Tank-known throughout school for his shredded abs, and hockey ball-esque biceps it would be no surprise if he proves the ladies man of the future. Step aside Hugh Heffner!

Gus Hopewell (The Cool Guy): His stone and sticker collection were very admirable!! It's

crazy to think that a 1st team rugby player had such a wonderful and novel pastime. A great imagination, he enjoyed playing air guitar in his room during the late hours of the evening and occasionally recited JLS songs using his shampoo bottle as a microphone in the morning.

George Iggulden (The Hippie!): A true environmentalist, a giver not a taker, a lover not a fighter. A great friend.

Adam Qazi (The Rebel): A confident, talented friend who has a very likeable manner. A fantastic sense of humour and an excellent athlete. Shame his table tennis wasn't quite up to par!! (ha ha)

Ben Roe (The Joker): A very talented sportsman, renowned for his ability at fly-half for the 1sts. He is the joker of this 'wolf pack' and is never seen without his cheeky grin!

Ollie Sewell (The Musician): A genuine, kind-hearted guy, who has an incredible gift for music. This coupled with his easy going personality, makes him very personable and has consequently allowed for a successful friendship.

Joe Stieger-White (The Stud): After ultimately living side by side with Joe in my final year, it has led to us forming a very close friendship. A perfectly well-rounded guy.

George Wallace (The Gentleman): After sharing a room with George in Lower Sixth, his strong work ethic immediately shone through. Together with his charming and likeable character it is fair to say that he deserves every success in the future.

Marco Capella, Head of House





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Left to right: Fifth Form football; Coldstream Cup; Lower Sixth fancy dress; Coldstream Cup; Third Form football; Cobham 2011



From the Housemaster:

I would like to add my own words of tribute to the departing Upper Sixth. Again trophies have been plentiful and I am delighted that we have won Senior Rugby and Senior Hockey for the first time in my time as Housemaster as well as winning House Singing awards and Senior Sports Day trophies again. As usual, I add the note that a House is more than a sum of its trophies. This year group seem proud that Cobham is considered a House that is 'close'. I take that to be Stoic speak for a House that gets on well together, whatever the age, and it reflects that we are a close community who share each others' successes and the trials and tribulations as well.

There are too many individual and House highlights to record here, but I would like to pick out the winning Coldstream Cup Drill Competition team. An unglamorous amount of hard work needs to be put in for success in this competition and a mixed age group of boys under the

leadership of Albadr Alhashemi came together to practise their drill, shine boots and iron uniform and produce a winning display on the day in front of the judges from the Coldstream Guards. In addition, the award to George Wallace of the Old Stoic Goblet, a prestigious Speech Day award recognising good citizenship and service to the school community, was deserved and something that made all of us proud. His integrity and selflessness defines what we strive to encourage in all the Cobham boys.

I would like to thank the Assistant Housemaster, Simon Dobson, our dedicated team of tutors, Peter Staples, Mike Dawson and James Peppiatt and the residential team of Michael Rickner and Matron, all of whom serve the Cobhamites through their care and attention, often well beyond the call of duty. Finally, a word of gratitude to my family, who enjoy house life with patience, dignity and warmth.

Mr Matthew Way



Grafton

Housemaster: Mr Gavin Moffatt

Matron: Mrs Terri Bosman

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr James Hayden

Under Housemaster:
Mr Neil Crossley

Head of House: Thomas Bishop

Prefects: Edward Reynardson,
James MacDonald

The 2010-11 year has been one of Grafton's finest, in which many Graftonians have excelled in a variety of areas, whether that be in sport, music, academia or drama. The House has been highly competitive in many competitions, but the main highlight of the year was the triumph of the Senior House cricket team. The boys showed a great deal

of vigour and determination to bring a trophy to the House which hasn't been through the doors of Grafton for many a year. The traditional Graftonian success in the swimming pool also continued, with both the Junior and Senior Water Polo teams bringing home the trophies. There was also success for the Intermediate Hockey team and the Fourth Form footballers who ensured we added these trophies to the Grafton cabinet. In the Michaelmas term, both the Junior and Senior football league teams came runners up in a very hard-fought competition.

Academia has been a big focus ever since Mr Moffatt took over in September and the results have been there for all to see, with Grafton topping the TWO league tables for effort across the boys' Houses, with notable

grades/pluses from: Henry Nelson-Lucas, Hugo Kinahan, Mike Hill, Henry Woodward, Lucas Worsdell, Ollie Plunkett, Rob Hill, Freddie Benyon and James MacDonald. In addition, the House has six Speech Day Prize Winners: Rex Roxburgh (Third Form Keyboard), Henry Woodward (Fifth Form Geography), Caspar Dickinson (Fifth Form Chemistry), Sam Tottenham (Lower Sixth Design), Freddie Benyon (Lower Sixth Business Studies), Rob Hill (Lower Sixth Sports Science), James MacDonald (Upper Sixth Politics and Sports Science), Will Gordon Cumming (Upper Sixth Design) and Rory Langman (Duke of Edinburgh Prize).

On an individual level there have been some outstanding achievements: Ben Duckett toured South Africa with England U17 cricket and was the leading run scorer, Caspar





Top, left to right: Senior House waterpolo; Musicians; House hockey champions; Northampton boys; Junior and Senior House waterpolo

Bottom, left to right: Geeks and Gangsters; Grafton 2011

Dickinson came second in the Bucks County Cross-country Championship and qualified for the World Championship Trials. Rob Hill won a 'Warriors' scholarship to South Africa and was named 1st XI Hockey player of the season. Tom Young, Arthur Newman, Henry Woodward and Ben Duckett have all been selected to represent Northants CCC this summer and Liam Gough will be representing Buckinghamshire CCC. Ollie Constantine has been training with Northampton Saints Rugby Club and Tom Hunnabell is close to the British Schools qualifying distance with his javelin throwing. Sam Strutt deserves congratulations for his outstanding contributions to swimming during his time at Stowe and finally Ollie Plunkett has been awarded an Army Scholarship to Sandhurst.

The arts also deserve a great amount of attention this year too, with Third Form newcomers Henry Nelson-Lucas and Rex Roxburgh (both of whom won Mozart Trio prizes) regularly performing with distinction along with old hand Andres Richards. Musical success also was high on the Grafton agenda with the House coming second in the House Singing full song. It was great to see a revival of House drama with a Junior House production with Queen's providing great entertainment. Will Jones played a strong lead role in 'Nothing but the truth' and was supported by some excellent cameos, in particular by Lucas Worsdell and Jack Chaplin. Lucas must also be congratulated on his lead role in the Fifth Form production of 'Sparklefish'. The Senior House Debating Team (Freddie Benyon, Tom Mason and James MacDonald) must also be congratulated on their excellent efforts to reach the semifinals of the competition.

The morale and confidence of the boys within the House has never been so high, and that can be attributed to the level of

camaraderie, teamwork and co-operation between the boys, as well as a fantastic relationship between the House staff and the boys. The ability of the boys to pull together and all work hard, such as when the House hosted a charity Question of Sport (with over £600 being raised for Comic Relief) shows that Grafton is firmly going in an upwards direction. The House Prefects have taken a hands-on role in day to day activity, but most importantly, the work ethic has been sensational and I can only hope that Grafton continues in its success for many years to come.

James MacDonald, Senior Prefect

Grafton House has certainly been a House in transition this year as an outgoing Housemaster and resident Assistant have been replaced with a new Housemaster and Resident Under Housemaster. The Graftonians have taken this change in their stride and a year down the line Grafton continues to be in rude health. For some, success is defined by the bulge of the trophy cabinet whilst for others, academic salvers and topping the TWO tables carry the most weight. Whilst all of these factors are unmistakably important, in my eyes the key ingredient to the welfare of a boarding house is the happiness of those within it. In this respect Grafton continues to blossom. The boys have proven themselves to be great company, rich in humour and

diligence. It never ceases to amaze me how much the boys can pack into a single day and how well a mass of 65 boys can live together. The Upper Sixth leavers deserve credit for their contribution to the House over their five years at Stowe. Change is always more difficult to swallow in your final year but the Upper Sixth cohort has been supportive of the new regime and set a standard for the rest of the House to follow. Tom Bishop has proven himself to be an able Head of House with a very capable Prefect Team to support him in Adda Birch-Reynardson, James MacDonald, Rory Hay, Tom Newman and Harry Bell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank a superb House Tutor team of Dominic Mochan, Iain Young, Alan Hughes and Jonathan Peverley for all getting the best out of their charges and Mr Hayden as an excellent wing man in his role as Assistant Housemaster. Neil Crossley has moved into the House and is a strong character to have around the place whilst lastly and by no means least, I thank Mrs Bosman for all her help and guidance over the year. She certainly is the jewel in the Grafton crown. My final thank you goes to my family which has been a wonderful source of continued support and has taken Grafton House to its heart.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



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Grenville

Housemaster: Andrew Murphy

Matron: Heather Jacobs

Assistant Housemaster: Mark Blew

Under Housemaster: Daniel Falvey

Head of House: Alexander Peake

Deputy Head of House:

George Leslie-Melville

House Prefects:

James Dale, Thomas Hardinge,

Nicolas Du Bois de Montule

Grenville has started the academic year looking fresh faced and raring for action. The huge investment over the summer months has really paid off and the boys have been rewarded with a plush new pad in which to base their studies and plan their assaults on a multitude of sporting trophies. The reconfiguration has created a definitive Junior area, with bright spacious living conditions in four man dorms. The Fifth Form in its important GCSE year now has twin rooms that have afforded a more conducive study arena. The Sixth Form has welcomed back the Head of House and Deputy into the Colonnade and a greater sense of togetherness is harboured with the creation of the Sixth Form common room to create a breakout from their single rooms.

Grenville started the year with a bang winning both the Junior and Senior football trophies. The Seniors went one further winning the coveted basketball trophy, finally wrestling it from the grasp of Bruce. Nicolas Du Bois de Montule, captain of the school basketball team, led from the front and dazzled with his dribbling skills. The Seniors further shone by winning the coveted racquets cup, with Christian Baldwin dominating every court with any racquet! Only the narrow defeat on penalty flicks denied Grenville success in the Seniors hockey and would have crowned an exceptional all-round year!

With every win there is always a near miss, and I'm afraid that the Juniors have come extremely close finishing runners up in the basketball, hockey, water polo and volleyball, as well as being Plate winners in the rugby 7s. Hopefully this will inspire the boys to redouble their efforts for next year and look to right some wrongs.

I experienced my first Christmas supper with the boys and was treated to the most amazing year group dance off. The Grenvillians took the competition most seriously with the Fourth Form stringing together two wins in a row and narrowly beating an exceptional Upper Sixth effort. I can't wait for next year: can the new Fifth Form make three from three?

It has been my absolute pleasure to welcome two new members of staff this year. Heather Jacobs as Matron has injected new found life into Grenville and is tireless in her duties and dedication to the boys. Matron is always seen supporting every sporting event and often found baking into the early hours so the boys can enjoy some tasty treats.

Daniel Falvey, Under Housemaster and Third Form tutor, has been a wonderful addition to Grenville. With his sporting prowess on the rugby and cricket pitch as he has been a sure fire hit with the boys and long may his continuance in Grenville reign.

Superb thanks go out to the Head of House and his prefect team. Alexander Peake has led the House with care and friendship to all those in Grenville. As a team they have pulled together and delivered strong guidance and leadership. I wish them well as they depart from Stowe into the big wide world, and offer a warm friendly welcome to all who return to visit.

The future is still bright, the future is still Grenville Orange.

Mr Andrew Murphy



Grenville 2011



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Lyttelton



Housemistress: Judy Gracie

Matron: Olive Pohlmann

Under Housemistresses:

Philippa Gleave, Ellie Donaldson

Head of House: Kate Manser

Prefects: Chessie Hutt, José Brake,

Alexa Beaty, Chessie Hutt,

Nicole Banks, Ellie Rix,

Rebecca Elliott, Poppy Mills

I am very proud of all that the Lyttelton ladies have achieved.

The new Music School will be next to Lyttelton which is entirely appropriate as the House has a history of fine musicians and at last we will not be the furthest away from everything. The girls won the House Singing Competition overall with two songs that they arranged themselves, and sang without accompaniment or adult help. The unison song was a catchy Katie Perry rendition of "Hot and Cold" and Harriet Eatwell, Hannah Maxwell, Becca Elliott,

Charlie Lechmere, Lucy Smith and Claire Langer blended together beautifully in the part song. We have a few music scholars who are singing in the Chapel and Chamber choirs and Florence Pearce went on a tour to Los Angeles with the School. Florence also sings and plays the piano for her own band "The Basket Tribe" which was well received at the recent school unplugged concert. We have representation in the string orchestra, jazz band and school orchestra.

The Coldstream Cup team comprised some of the first girls to join Stowe at the age of



Lyttelton 2011

© R & H Chapman Photography



13 and retained that trophy and our plucky team this year were Poppy Mills, Zara Nichols, Charlie Lechmere, Georgia Stone, Honor Turner, Shona Drummond, Maddy Wackett, Imo Voorspuy and Loochie Trevor.

Lyttelton put on The Godmother with Bruce and Cobham. This was entirely pupil led with no staff input so I was delighted with the joie de vivre generated on stage by Ellie Rix, Becca Elliott, José Brake, Leonie Hearson, Willa McFadden, Loochie Trevor, Lexi Beaty, Imo Voorspuy, Charlotte Cook and Annabel Duthie.

Charlotte Lechmere is captain of a regional hockey team and we won the House hockey. José Brake has been playing national lacrosse and is off to North Carolina to play and study next year. We won the Senior House lacrosse trophy. The juniors won three cups for swimming and were the overall winners with Elsa Desmond achieving a personal best in the Individual Medley. Bonnie Leheup has had an impressive year riding and has won numerous rosettes and awards. The Lyttelton girls have

plenty of brains too with most girls getting a place at their first choice of university taking up places at Oxford Rebecca Elliott and Poppy Mills. We also defended our title by retaining the literary quiz salver. One of the best things about the House is its friendly and cheerful atmosphere and the House is buzzing with activity as we prepare for socials on Saturday nights. It is homely and good natured once you get inside the grey exterior.



Nugent

Housemistress: Mrs Jayne Duckett

Matron: Mrs Di Oliver

Assistant Housemistress:
Dr Elizabeth Chare

Head of House: Eleanor Parker

Prefects: Daniella Allard, Katie Wellington, Augusta Anthony, Wendy Pjan, Sarah Gujadhur, Hetty Hill, Aimie Rusher

This year has simply flown by and yet I continue to marvel at the energy and enthusiasm that seems to emanate from every girl in Nugent month in and month out! With Elly Parker at the helm of the House Prefect group and Lucy Jackson leading the School Prefects (10 in all from Nugent this year – a staggering number), I sometimes question whether I would actually be missed! Elly’s flattering words in her speech indicate that I do still have a part to play!

Despite an exciting introduction to House competitions in September with the football, it did seem for a while as if we were destined to always be the bridesmaid and never the bride. Missing out on honours in House Singing, the Coldstream Cup, Lacrosse, Hockey, Netball and Debating is a little too upsetting for a competitive individual such as me. ‘It’s not the winning, it’s the taking part that counts’ never does sit too comfortably in my repertoire of well known lines if I’m honest! Thankfully, Music and Drama have been at the forefront of our successes this year. With support from Nick Bayley and Ellie Chadd in her first ever role as Director, we performed our House Play, ‘Be My Baby’ to packed audiences in the Dobinson over

three days. A lot of time, effort and emotion went into rehearsals and we had the last minute panics that we weren’t quite ready.....but of course we were and as usual when the performances came to an end the cast (and audience) wanted more! Following on, 10 of our Sixth Formers were involved in the Senior Congreve Production of ‘The Hired Man’ with special congratulations going to Lucy Coe for her lead role as Emily.

Our musicians continue to play a major part in the numerous bands/quartets/choirs that rehearse on a regular basis throughout the working week. On Speech Day alone we witnessed the talents of Lucy Coe, Aimie Rusher, Alice Jackman, Daisy Ussher, Lily Newman, Rebecca Down and Katie Wellington. Earlier on in March I spent an enjoyable day at the Queen’s Temple listening to Lily, Aimie, Lucy and Alice performing in the various classes of the Mozart Trio prize – there is no doubt that when we tell prospective parents that Stoics lead a very busy life, we are certainly not mistaken!

Academically we continue to strive for excellence – the difficulty of competing for the Academic Salver without Juniors makes for a hard life. However, the recent set of TWOs put us as the top House for both attainment and effort and I have no doubt that forthcoming AS and A2 results will confirm our standing. Numerous girls received an academic award on Speech Day (12 in all) and a staggering 68% of the Upper Sixth are on target to achieve 3 As this summer and take up places at their first choice universities.

And so with the House working hard we hit the Summer term with a vengeance – having reclaimed a number of cups in the pool, Sports Day was ours for the taking with 1st place being recorded by Danni Allard (1500m and 800m), Caroline Thompson (long Jump), Sophie Murray (javelin), Claire (discus) and Rozzy Sutcliffe (shot). Daisy Ussher went on to destroy the opposition in House shooting and just in the last month the House Tennis cup was won by Danni/Chloe, Hetty/Tavy, Caroline/Sophie. Normal service resumed!



Nugent 2011

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And so finally, to our dedicated staff team I would like to say thank you and farewell...

Thank you to our new Matron, Marian Gallick who has stepped in to Di Olivier's shoes and has contrived (successfully!) to put a couple of inches on our waistlines with her marvellous cooking! Thank you to our new staff this year – Richard Knight, Hazel Browne and Molly Ford – and old timers, Nick Bayley and Sally Akam – all who work so closely with me to educate the girls and inspiring them to become motivational contributors to society in their newly chosen careers.

With thanks and farewell I would like to wish my House Prefect team the best of luck. Elly Parker, Frances Quartly, Hetty Hill, Goosie Anthony, Rose McKie, Rebecca Down and Clarissa Pugh – as usual you have all served as sound role models, been true friends and loyal supporters over the past year – and more importantly an absolute pleasure to work with!

With an emotional farewell we wish Laura Campbell the best of luck and thank her for her dedication and hard work in aspiring Nugent artists to continue their dreams in the art world. Lastly but by no means least – Liz Chare will be sadly missed by students, staff and Nugent girls. Her promotion as Head of Department at Cheltenham College was no real surprise, but I know that I will miss her support, sense of humour, understanding and ability to lose her glasses, car keys or even car on a weekly basis!!

What a year it has been in Nugent House – The arrival of the new Lower Sixth in September set the year off, both years have integrated well and seem to have caused minimal hubbub – apart from one or two cases, but they shall remain nameless and all in all Mrs Duckett has been in her element!

We kicked off the year with one of the more unusual House events: Football. Surprisingly it was well supported and due to the fantastic captaining skills of Sarah Gujadhur she led us to victory, even to beat the team who – rumour had it, had a county football player... This enthusiasm has been seen all the way through the year. The House Play 'Be My Baby' was fantastic and had plenty of people surreptitiously weeping behind their programmes and no end of compliments at the end! Later on in the term as a House we belted out 'I'm a Believer' in the singing competition, while for the Part Song 'When You Were Young' – even though we didn't win, we can all say that, to be honest, we should have! Shamefully we didn't win House Lacrosse (despite the subtle threats from Mrs Duckett) however, we won Sports Day by a mile, so hopefully this will have compensated. Sadly House Cross-country never came around (to our great disappointment...) even though I'm sure we would have done pretty well due to our keen runners!

There have been some great memories in Nugent, from Kev the Camel (who mysteriously moved from place to place of its own accord) to discovering someone had a phobia of stickers – which was abused, naturally. The power cut weekend was met with great excitement, and not just because it meant a free weekend: a game of sardines was proposed and various people set about hiding in cupboards waiting for some unsuspecting Lower Sixth to walk past. One of the most memorable days was for the Royal Wedding, when we were all squished together in the common room to 'ooh' and 'aah' at Kate Middleton, I don't think there was a dry eye.

And finally, thank you to Dr Chare, Matron and Mrs Duckett. Matron who is a fantastic baker and all round cook, the ecstatic cries of 'cake!' have echoed around the House regularly. And thank you Mrs Duckett who has been the most supportive Housemistress by far – we don't know what we would have done without you: tidying our uniform, getting us out of the house and onto a sports field and reminding us to WORK (which is a good thing, considering we have some fairly important exams)! Overall it has been a great final year in Nugent – and I don't think anyone can say they aren't going to miss it.



Queen's

Housemistress:
Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn
Matron: Mrs Anne Reading
Under Housemistresses:
Lucy Ashe, Kirsten McLintock
Head of House: Heli Carr-Smith
Deputy Head of House:
Georgia Ellison
Tutors: Nick Mellor, Lucy Ashe,
Kirsten McLintock, Zoe Cass,
James Tearle, Chris Walters
Attached staff: Gabby Peel,
Brittany Butler

The first Third Form Queenlings/ Queenies/ Queenites/Princesses that arrived in 2007 are now strident, somewhat Amazonian

Lower Sixth Formers. Ten of them have just been appointed School Prefects. We'd like to congratulate those elevated to the dizzy heights of Senior Prefect (Molly Davison, Harriet Easdale, Emily Marchant and Jess Noakes) and wish next year's Head Girl (Ellie Melville) all the best of luck. They have been set very high standards by this year's Head and Deputy Head of House (Heli and Georgia) who were awarded the Cumming Prize for Good Citizenship and a Headmaster's Special Prize respectively for their efforts. Heli has been a phenomenal Head of House – who else could have got so many girls to go to Saturday night dances in jeans, trainers and hoodies (or even dressed as bananas), shown us all how to pack our days to the brim, play 1st team hockey, netball and tennis and still

top the TWO league tables for both effort and attainment?

The Lower Sixth gained some sparkling GCSE results last summer (12 of them gained seven As or more). Topping the table were Emily Marchant and Molly Davison each with 9 A*s and one A. We await their AS results with interest. Our current Upper Sixth have applied to read: Politics; Economics and Finance; Philosophy and Economics; History and Philosophy; International Business; History, Literature and American Culture and Law at some top universities and we are keeping our fingers crossed for them on judgement day in August.

Queen's has seen successes in a huge range of activities this year – soccer,



Queen's 2011

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Queen's Picnic

hockey, netball, lacrosse, swimming, badminton, racketball, basketball, athletics, tennis, singing, drama and we've held onto the prized Academic Salver once again (awarded to the House with the highest tally per Stoic of Merits, Commendations and Benes). The girls gave their all once again in the Coldstream Cup competitions, produced an entertaining production with Grafton House of Michael Maynard's 'Nothing But the Truth', won a number of prizes in the Music Festival and the Fifth Form, who've spent three years honing their negotiating and rhetorical skills, came a close second in the Junior Debating Competition.

Jess Noakes was lucky enough to be selected for the Warriors Programme in

South Africa. She thoroughly enjoyed sky diving, hiking and the 'big swing' and was so moved by what she saw at a local daycare centre that she's returning this August to hand over the £1,500 and the children's books that she has collected. Eight of the Lower Sixth are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and to fulfil the residential community service element, Molly and Maddie are off to Nepal and Ellie and Pem to India this summer. Yemurai won a McElwee Award and is travelling to Berlin to complete her project. We look forward to hearing back from Izzy Cameron and Robyn (Queen's leavers in 2010) next term who won an OS Gap Scholarship to enable them to teach in India and work with children with cancer in Ecuador. Next year Sasha

Milne is spearheading a campaign to raise funds for Ataxia – watch this space! We've ended the year with a number of social events ranging from a Harry Potter night to House BBQs/suppers and on the last night of term the Juniors took on the Sixth Form and staff at rounders. We lost count of the score but Alice Hughes and Mr Tearle proved a point with the bat and Emily Beatty's catch at full stretch was just spectacular!

Our thanks go as always to the whole house team for their time, support and hard work – we really couldn't do it without you all.

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn



Housemistress:

Jenny Nelson

Matron: Sandra Hewlett

Assistant Housemistress:

Julie Johnson

Under Housemistress:

Emma Watson

Head of House: Sophie Carew

Prefects: Millie Binns, Helena Cox, Xara Fisher, Beth Johnson, Sophie Bird, Maud Gudmundsen, Anastasia Kozina

Creativity and imagination are at the core of the Stanhope philosophy; after all it was Einstein who said that ‘Imagination is more important than knowledge’ etc etc... and if it was good enough for him, it’s certainly good enough for us Stanhopians! Put that together with a great degree of variety and zest, and you can see what it is that defines Stanhope House. We have come a long way and have achieved much this year. We have been reminded many times that imagination, friendship, human relationships, and community are at the heart of what makes a House, our House, special.

It has been terrific to see so many Stanhopians working to their full potential with such inspiring results, and with individuals pushing back their own boundaries, setting the bar higher each term. Enterprise is a key factor in our

calendar in House, and this year we have organised, for various charities, a Fashion Show, a Valentine’s Disco, a Garden Party and a Cultural Day for the Junior school. Special thanks should go to those who put in an inordinate amount of work to ensure those events ran successfully: Ella May, Lettice, Nombuso and Lydia and the Fourth Form in general.

On the academic front, a large number of girls have performed consistently well in their modules and summer exams, with places offered at top universities and some set for UCL, Manchester, Bristol and Leeds, amongst others. Congratulations also, to those who have continued to push the boat out that bit further with their numerous Commendation and Bene Prizes: Helena Cox, Isabelle Elliott, Chloe Knibbs, Ellie Pinnock, Zizhao She, Imo Wallersteiner and Rebecca Wild have made us very proud indeed!

As a House, we have reached the ripe old age of three (!) and with a full compliment of girls these days we have enjoyed the sense of competition and House spirit throughout the year. Stanhope has a reputation for attracting great swimmers, cultivated originally in 2008 by Ellie Pinnock and the Coulson twins. and we have continued to demonstrate our prowess this year with Willa Barham, Lucy Horan, Megan Duckett, Ellie Pinnock and Olivia Wagg contributing brilliantly to the Stanhope records and trophy shelves. Our

Intermediates, again with Ellie Pinnock leading the way, won their class overall, which is a terrific testament to their competitive spirit and sense of camaraderie. With some extremely talented ‘home grown’ intermediates and juniors developing their skills all the time, we have much in store for next year ... watch this space! One particular highlight of the year was seeing our CCF girls placed second overall in the Drill competition – a huge achievement when we consider there are 8 boys’ Houses amongst the other 10 we beat! The team was brilliantly led and empowered by Tamara Rowan-Hamilton, with Sophie Merrell winning the award for Best Dressed Cadet Overall; smiles all round – Go Stanhope! Well done Sophie! There are so many girls we could name individually, but we especially recognise the year round commitment and continuous effort in Stanhope’s sports and challenges from Tamara Rowan-Hamilton, Ellie Pinnock, Lucy Horan, Clara Holden, Ella Markham, India Cornish, Valerie Madojemu, Lottie Hodson, Lucy Oswald and Willa Barham.

October saw us singing well in the House Singing Competition where Chloe Knibbs won the prize for the best arranged song, ‘Happy Ending’. At the end of March we enjoyed fine performances of the Senior Congreve production, ‘The Hired Man’. Each of the performances was hugely entertaining and it was fantastic to see Olivia Wagg, Phoebe Harris and Beth Johnson singing and acting brilliantly.



Left to right: Leavers 2011; Garden Party; Fashion Show.

We have so many artistically gifted Stanhope girls giving musical and theatrical performances these days, the future is bright and interesting; exciting to watch, work in progress that comes from being in an environment that helps you to grow. Our artists, in the broadest sense of the word, are plentiful, and the extraordinarily gifted Beth Johnson, Chloe Knibbs, Clara Holden, Theodora Briggs, Molly Suthers, Coco Anthony and Olivia Wagg are names to watch out for in the future – they have contributed so much to enrich our lives.

One of the most enterprising highlights of the year was in December with the first ever Stanhope Charity Fashion Show. A resounding success, masterminded by Ella May Sangster and Lettice Spooner, Stanhope led the way by creating the

biggest fashion show the School had seen in years. The Stanhope girls, with their favourite boys by their sides (!) raised nearly £2,000 for Buckingham Hospital and the Cambodian Children's House of Peace, and we were delighted that The Tatler magazine made it a recent feature in their back pages. This year's Stanhope Branson Scholars have been, as ever, an integral part of the house. Nombuso and Lydia have inspired us with their leadership of the South African Cultural Day, their sense of calm, their ability to be 'still', and their humility, stoicism and warm enthusiasm.

Leading Stanhope is like steering a ship with a life and mind of its own, on a terrific voyage of discovery. No two days are the same and you hang on where you can through the vicissitudes of the elements! Remembering the words of our hero, Sir Nicholas Winton, when he opened our house in 2008, it really is 'preparing for the unexpected' and terrifically exciting to be a part of. Easter saw the arrival of Stanhope's newest and possibly sweetest member, Winnie, a King Charles spaniel puppy, named after Sir Nicholas, naturally. Winnie is already trying to live up to the fine example set by his wonderful namesake!

Once again, at the end of this year, my personal and sincere thanks go to the Stanhope dream team: Julie Johnson, Emma Watson, Sandra Hewlett, Sophie Palmer, Sharon Carter, Brian Hart, Heidi Dine and our wonderful cleaning team whose collective warmth and support make Stanhope what it is today, an extremely happy House. Thanks also to Head of House, Sophie Carew, off to study Philosophy, and Deputy, Millie Binns, off to read History of Art. Without these two and our House Prefects, Helena, Xara, Sophie, Maud, Anastasiya and Beth, Stanhope

would not be nearly as successful and collegiate as it is. Millie Binns had the final say. Looking unusually glum on Tuesday this week, I offered a tentative, 'Are you alright Millie?' to which Millie replied, 'No not really'... deep sigh... 'It's just dawning on me... and I was just thinking'... (good start thinks Mrs N.) 'What am I going to do without Stanhope?' Good luck and our very best wishes to the 2011 Leavers – we know you'll be great!

I cannot close here without saying just how much of a privilege setting up Stanhope and being its inaugural Housemistress has been. Stowe will remain a huge part of me and I will miss Stanhope – the girls, the dream team, and much more besides. Thank you for everything.

Mrs Jenny Nelson and Sophie Carew

Thank you...

A huge thank you to our House staff team, Matron, Sandra Hewlett, who is amazing at making us all feel good every day, and all our dedicated tutors too. Special thanks to Mr (Papa J) and Mrs Johnson who, as Sixth Form tutors, helped everyone so much with university applications and careers advice, and Miss Watson who looks after our lovely Third Form, can run like the wind and fly helicopters! Anyone who saw her run at the Pancake Race this year will vouch for that, and reportedly, when asked by Mrs N. if she had run nationally, Miss Watson said 'No I just wanted to win so badly..!' That's the spirit Miss W! Mr Hart, or should we say, Mr Heart – we love you! Miss Palmer, we are looking forward to you living here with us, and Mrs Carter, huge thanks for all you do – the Fifth Form asked me again, to apologise for their personal reports...! Lastly, but not least of course, Mrs N, thank you for making us all work hard, for driving us forward and showing us the important things. We will be sad to see you go. Sherborne Girls are lucky, lucky, lucky, and whoever comes along next has big shoes to fill... Once again, Keep Calm and Carry On! Then, Go Stanhope go!

Sophie Carew, Stanhope Head of House



Stanhope 2011

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Main: Pancake racing. Top to bottom: Third Form Soccer Finalists; Drill Cup; Sixth Form Dance; Prep continues in powercut



Temple

Housemaster: Mr Tony Lewis

Matron: Mrs Pamela Dennison

Assistant Housemaster:

Mr Tony Chan

Under Housemaster:

Mr Gwilym Jones

Head of House: Louis Staden

Prefects: George Eatwell, Teddy Kealey, Louis Staden, George Corner, Henry South, David White

This has been yet another superb year and I have been extremely fortunate to have enjoyed it in the company of 65 excellent young men who have changed enormously (all for the better of course) across these last few months. The report below has been written by Head of House Louis Staden and really says it all and most of all epitomises the fantastic leadership given by Louis, the Senior Team and across the whole of the Upper Sixth and to them we all owe enormous thanks.

Over to you Louis:

This year has been an all round success for Temple with many notable moments,

as the 65 boys depart for the summer holidays there is a great sense of achievement and of course relief. The boarding environment is inevitably very full on, and it is great to see that all the boys always seem so happy and energetic. Even with the stresses of exams everyone has pulled through and helped each other.

There have been a host of successes for Temple this year in all aspects of Stowe life. On the Sports fields, 7 members of Temple representing the 1st XV rugby team, 3 representing the 1st XI Hockey team 1 in the 1st XI Cricket team. As a house we managed to bring home the House Swimming Cup, and ran out worthy winners in the Senior tennis, Senior rugby plate, Senior cricket plate as well as a very respectable performance in the Coldstream Cup.

Earlier in the year, the boys put on a great performance in the House singing (or is it "shout"?) competition, with a great rendition of 'Day Dream Believer'. George Eatwell and Teddy Kealey also did a fantastic job arranging the Part Song, '5 Years Time' by Noah and the Whale, which was highly commended by the judges. Individual awards for music for were also

won by Oscar Robertson, Stephen Lu, Archie Brogden and George Eatwell. Thespians amongst the House include, Nick Langridge, George Eatwell, Oscar Robertson, Oscar Page, Amir Ansari, William Dinsdale with Joss Fitch supporting back stage. They all contributed hugely to the productions this year at Senior and Junior Congreve as well as an excellent Fifth Form play. Temple also won the Junior Debating competition in great style with significant contributions from Oscars Robertson and Page, Harry Roberts and Jordan Cleary.

Keeping a whole House of boys happy and healthy requires a lot of help and support. Special thanks must go to Pamela Dennison, our matron for her continued efforts in caring for us, dishing out plasters, paracetamol, cough sweets, hair cuts and of course chocolate brownies on a Sunday evening! Also Tony Chan who is stepping from Under Housemaster, but remaining in Temple as a tutor, his constant energy and enthusiasm is a great asset to the House and to the School.

As Head of House this year I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to assist the running of the house, and I must mention my fellow House Prefects who have done a great job throughout; Henry South, Teddy Kealey, George Corner and Nick Langridge. I hope all boys continue to do well and enjoy the rest of their time at Stowe, they have really helped to make this a great end to my five years in Temple.

Mr Tony Lewis and Louis Staden

Temple 2011



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Walpole bad boyz

Walpole

Housemaster: Pete Last

Matron: Terry Sanders

Assistant Housemaster:
Kevin Ryce

Under Housemaster: Tom Higham

Head of House: Harry Hawkes

House prefects: Geordie Wilkes,
George Low, Alex Robertson,
See-Ho Leung

One of the key characteristics of Walpole House is our house spirit. Even when we come up against Houses that might have better singers, sportsmen or debaters than us, we never give up. For me one of the

most memorable things that happened this year in Walpole was seeing the senior boys get to the final of the Senior House Rugby with a team that on paper, looked average at best. However, team spirit and determination carried us through to the final after beating the joint favourites, Bruce. The Final was on North Front where a huge crowd was expected, but only 20 people turned up. The nerves felt by the team were soon demolished after Rupert Leyland's rendition of the 'Haka', but we were unable to defeat the favourites, Cobham. Another excellent senior rugby event was the campaign of the self-styled 'Walpole Bad Boyz', led by Hector Macpherson. This outfit contained Senior rugby players not good enough to make the

school 1st or 2nd XV's but who were prepared to give their all for the house. This intrepid team made it all the way to the final match against Chatham to decide who would be champions; Chatham just pipped us to the post.

Sadly, we were unable to hold on to the Coldstream Cup or the Senior cricket trophies this year, but we will be back for them next year! We have had our successes this year and were delighted to win the House clay shooting competition. The Senior boys also came up trumps in the inter-house swimming and beta the hot favourites Grafton to win the Senior boys relay trophy; a tremendous achievement, led by Head of House Harry Hawkes. Harry



Walpole 2011

© R & H Chapman Photography

also won “The Walpudlian Cup”, which is voted for by all of the boys. The Third Former judged to have made the best all-round contribution to the life of the house as voted for by the Sixth Form was William Cowley, who therefore wins “The Walpole Cup”.

One of the best moments in Walpole this year was climbing Everest (using the Walpole stairs). This required the boys to make 1,178 ascents of the House staircase which we split into chunks and got each year group to do their fair share. The event was completed by the Sixth Form with some help by Mr Pickersgill (struggling with a sore knee) and Mr Last (struggling with too much weight). It was such a good afternoon with

the spectators having fun on the lawn, the barbecue roaring and the music blazing. It gave everyone a huge sense of achievement and the House raised £3,000 which was divided between “Help for Heroes” and “The Army Benevolent Fund”.

With the Deputy Head reorganising House staff teams for next year, we say goodbye this year to Mr Steve Malling (Sixth Form tutor) and Mr Isaac Michael (Fifth Form tutor), whom we thank for their excellent contributions to the life of the House this year. Next year we welcome Miss Kirsten McIntock (Head of PSHE) as our new Third Form tutor. We look forward to an excellent year ahead for Walpole.

Mr Pete Last, Housemaster and Geordie Wilkes

Art School

We were delighted to welcome Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover KG (Grenville 45) to Stowe in September to open the renovated Art School which he so generously funded. In his speech, before unveiling a commemorative plaque, Lord Sainsbury said: *“Congratulations are due to the Headmaster and Governors of Stowe for giving priority to the construction of this important building which represents a continuing commitment to the arts at Stowe.”* This new space provides Stoics with an outstanding facility for both making and appreciating the visual arts. Rick Mather, the architect, has masterfully transformed the former, dilapidated building into a symphony of light and space.

To mark the completion of the Art School renovation, Stowe hosted a unique Lynn Chadwick exhibition which featured a number of bronze sculptures, working sketches and photographs of the artist from the family’s private collection. The exhibition provided a rare glimpse into the working method of this self-taught sculptor with a background in design and architecture and was curated by Alice Wiggett (Nugent 06). Lynn Chadwick is one of Britain’s most important post-war sculptors whose work gained enormous recognition when he won the International Prize for Sculpture at the Venice Biennale in 1956 famously beating the favoured Alberto Giacometti. Lynn’s family generously loaned his sculpture, *Sitting Couple* (1998-90). The Couple sat serenely on the lawn outside the new Art School ‘observing’ it for the entire year. We were also pleased to host an exhibition of the work of David Tress in the restored Marble Hall at the start of the Michaelmas term. His *‘Chasing the Sublime Light’* was an exhibition of paintings and exciting large scale drawings following in the footsteps of Turner and Girtin, on their journeys in search of the sublime in landscape. And finally, the Blue Room showcased the beautiful works of David Wynne (Grenville 43).



Below, left to right: The new Art School; The opening of the Art School; Head of Art, Brian Johnson with Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG (Grenville 45); The Lynn Chadwick exhibition; The Beatles, David Wynne



Frankenstein

The pulsating and early years were nothing but breath-taking, heart warming and life changing.

I remember the first time we met: it was a scorching summer's night thirteen years ago. The sun glowed brighter than any light in the distant blue skyline, captivating us as it fell through the sky. That was the night your soft-textured lips first touched mine, in the small, eloquent village where we vowed to remain. It was the place our hearts first embraced. The journey we took from that night on drew us close, day by day, hour by hour, and minute by minute. That first, most beautiful red-lipped kiss gave me an indescribable spirit; blood flowed uncontrollably through my veins – like a snake it weaved its way – reddening my heart as the muscle grew every minute we spent together. My brain was controlled by the thoughts of us: together we were untouchable.

From then on, each day we spent compassionately together: never parted. You were there for me, as constant as the stars. I was taken by you, heart captured within your walls; my soul was yours, and yours alone. Everything about you fascinated me: your leisurely curled golden hair; the deepness of your wide, blue eyes; the feel of your sweet mouth on mine; your sweet scented perfume; the sound of your heels, tip-tapping their way to my arms. Everything, in essence, forced me to expose my uncontrollable love and utter vulnerability to your siren call. I desired to express it in so many ways yet, whatever I did, I could not match your sincerity. The mouth-watering meals you cooked me – it was as if I were eating the love you had poured into them. Your devotion to me made me beam: my days were now spent in an ecstasy of your unbeatable love.

I never questioned these emotions, until now that is... the devotion remains, yet now, as I watch the sun fall, I wonder: is our light fading with it?

Walking thought the worn front door, standing in what used to be a splendid arch, an entrance to the home of our souls; I see the chandelier drooping from the faded, decaying ceiling. The piano just stares back at me. It doesn't play in tune anymore; the legs do not even possess the strength to support it; it's gradually tipping. The

perfectly square window, just noticeable from the hallway, is cracking from the weight of the everlasting echoes of our voices: arguing. This 'home' is like our boxing ring, stuffed full with the neverending and overly dramatic, destructive fights that currently overload our presence.

Every time I look at you, a coarse realisation strikes me, slowly, painfully eating my insides; ripping destructively through me. How can I possibly be here? Anger was crashing through me as I gazed out at the heart-stopping thunder storm. My mind was overcompensating for the emptiness of my heart. You destroyed our creation, the most beautiful reality imaginable to me, in one gentle strike of lightning.

It's not complex; you're a murderer – you coward. I remember the day you did it. With nothing on your mind but to commit a complete sin, against my will, against my heart, against our so-called 'love'. How did you feel? Did it eat you inside like it has me? When you went for your 'injection', you lied. As the needle inserted itself into the womb, you lied. As the needle injected the poison, you felt the fluid seep through your veins. Any normal woman would cry, broken. They would hear their child dying, their screams as the possibility of our unification died within you. Yet you felt nothing. The person we had created together was nothing more than a demanding foetus that you couldn't bear to behold.

The light is vanishing outside and the spark of our love is vanishing with it. No longer do we share the laughter of our past. In fact, we are encased in the knowledge of sharing nothing. How did we get here? Standing among shattered hopes and dreams, locked in a world where everything is falling around us. There is no turning back from the moment we have reached; a realisation of truth in the love we no longer share. I despise you for your mistakes, and you scream at me in your guilt for the slightest of movements. Every way I turn is wrong; now I think we know this is where our eclipse begins, as we plunge into the darkness of being alone.

James MacDonald, Upper Sixth



Willa McFadden, Lower Sixth



See-Ho Leung, Upper Sixth



See-Ho Leung, Upper Sixth

The XX Group

The XX is the school's academic extension society for Junior scholars. The Fourth Form XX, under the stewardship of Mr Iain Young, have had an exciting year investigating questions from a range of disciplines, from the examination of deoxyribonucleic acid, to some deductive work on Romanticism and also to enquiries about statehood and international relations.

Meanwhile, the Third Form XX have participated in a programme centred on learning through discovery and unique insight – which have been supported by some trips, including: exploring the world's knowledge at the British Library; standing aside Big Ben as it sounds over Westminster; evaluating the needs of the world at the Oxfam Warehouse. Additionally, the group has received a series of presentations on areas as diverse as River Management, Electromagnetic Radiation and The Journey of the English Language – before having to present their own investigative research projects to the School, in the Summer term.

Next year, the direction of the Third Form XX will pass to Mr Michael Rickner – already, he has put into place an absorbing and innovative programme, including a trip to the hallowed and cavernous bullion vaults of the Bank of England.

Mr Tony Chan



Top to Bottom: Members of the XX Group at The Pitt Rivers Museum; at Westminster; at Oxfam Warehouse; at Worcester College



**SOME
COMMENTS
FROM
XX GROUP
MEMBERS**

Oxfam Warehouse

On the 27 January 2011, the XX club visited the Oxfam Warehouse in Bicester. It was an interesting trip, providing insight into the lives of others and giving us a wider view of the world in general. I believe that from that trip, we were all inspired to take it upon ourselves to give something back to the world, perhaps spend some time improving the life of someone else, to ultimately improve own life in the process.

William Pepera

British Library

Our trip to the British Library was both interesting and fun. We saw some of the books kept there such as: Alice's Adventures Under Ground, The Bible From Ethiopia, Mozart's Music Diary, a Leonardo Da Vinci selection and many more. Seeing these books and actually knowing how important they had been in the past was amazing. After we had seen some of these well known books, our tour guide took us to do some practical work. One of these included recording our voices using a microphone for people to listen to in the future to show them how we speak today. I found this trip very enjoyable and felt as if I had learnt things that I wouldn't have been able to learn anywhere else.

Fenella Barrons

Hillesden Church

Mr Rendall gave us the reasons why this historic church was so appealing to not only him but people all over the country, while we were standing on the top of a hill with the wind and rain reducing the full attention that we should have been paying. The bullet holes that littered the main door portrayed a vivid physical description of the history that this church possessed. The shadow of Mary, the original stained-glass, the remaining dyes on the skirting of angels on the ceiling, the gravestone of the family that had previously owned the main house, the secret viewing points and the direct link to church from the house all contributed to Hillesden's extravagant, unique and deep

characteristics. It all informed us as to how English churches possess more than just the simple first impressions that the standard visitor makes.

James Macdonald-Buchanan

Houses of Parliament

The trip to the Houses of Parliament on the 18 January was both interesting and exciting. Waking up on that January morning I was excited at the day ahead. Walking through the marvellous buildings of the House of Commons and the Speaker's House I felt privileged to have the opportunity of seeing where our country is run from. The tour guide taught the XX group and me a lot of historical facts about the buildings which concluded the day brilliantly.

Jamie Hardinge

Oxford

Going into Oxford to have a look around some colleges was a quick and smooth introduction into the layout of a university college. It was good to have a day out away from busy school life and be able to have a more relaxed one while still visiting some amazing gardens and buildings – the Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers Museums, as well as Worcester College. We were able to explore Oxford from a different angle to the more familiar shops and restaurants. However we did drop back at the end to the shops to try some delicious fudge.

Benjamin Boscawen

Oxfam Warehouse

Last term the XX group visited the Oxfam warehouse in the outskirts of Bicester. It is Oxfam's largest warehouse in the UK and Europe, and it constantly contains enough supplies to enable a large town to obtain water for three months. It was amazing wandering around the warehouse, aisle after aisle of tents, large collapsible water tanks and thousands of the innovative 'Oxfam Buckets'. These buckets enable people to collect, transport, and finally drink fresh water, making use of a tap and a lid. However it was interesting as the warehouse did not supply food, only water, as lots of other charities supply food, so it is better for Oxfam to concentrate on just water.

Caspar Whitehead

XX Presentations

I joined the school late in the year and was immediately thrown into the task of making a project that interested me as well as other people, and that would be worthy of presenting to the entire school – including the Headmaster. For the first week or so when I was choosing an idea, I got slightly nervous that I would have had less time than the rest of the group which would mean I would have no material when it came to the day itself. As the day approached I got increasingly anxious about my presentation and began to think I hadn't done enough. Then it came to the practice run-through. This helped a lot and pointed out some flaws in my ideas, I got working on these and when the real thing finally arrived I was at last happy with the result and I had a really rewarding afternoon. I'm told that 200 people came into the presentation room, and all of the XX group were in there from 3 o'clock until about seven fifteen, but I think the fact that it definitely didn't feel like four hours, reflects that I had a great time presenting.

Angus Tyrrell

The Anacreon Society

The Anacreon Society is Stowe's fine dining society offered to 10 lucky members of the Upper Sixth. During the course of the year, each of us took it in turns to host a dinner party (including planning the menu, cooking and washing up) at various staff houses.

This year we were invited to use the homes and kitchens of Dr and Mrs Wallersteiner, Mrs Gracie, Mr and Mrs Wellington and Mr and Mrs Tearle, all of whom were excellent guests and must be thanked for their generous hospitality. They generously allowed us into their kitchens, not quite knowing what the evening would entail nor what creations were going to be presented after many hours of frantic cooking.

We had a range of different meals this year, such as a Valentine themed meal, a Christmas themed meal and a Black-Tie BBQ held *al fresco* at the Temple of Friendship. The themes inspired an eclectic mix of costumes; Isi's Burka and Mr Dearsley's turban at our Indian themed meal were particularly memorable and we were always looking forward to Louis' interesting choice of trousers.

The Anacreon society demonstrates the variety and uniqueness that makes Stowe, allowing Anacreon members to share a dinner party with their favourite teachers and fellow pupils. Staff guests this year were Mr Dobson, Mr Nash, Mr Dearsley, Miss Ford and Miss Butler all of whom have played a key part in making all the evenings memorable and a great success.

On behalf of the 2010/2011 members of the Anacreon Society (José Brake, Heli Carr-Smith, Lucy Coe, Harry Hawkes, Chess Hutt, Isi Madojemu, Dham Srifuengfung, Louis Staden, Sonia Subbotina and Katie Wellington) I would like to thank Mr Pickersgill who makes it all possible, driving us to Tescos (or Waitrose if you are Dham!), helping to liaise with the teachers and being an excellent dinner guest. I would also like to remind Mr Pickersgill that he promised to cook us a meal so that we could sample his excellent culinary skills – we are all still waiting!

Katie Wellington, Upper Sixth



The Classical Society

The Michaelmas term was dominated by plays. In September, those studying Classical Civilisation in the Upper Sixth visited the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough to see the Actors of Dionysus perform an English version of *Lysistrata*. Aristophanes' political comedy with its anti-war sex-strike was given a contemporary flavour, using a modern building site with strategically placed No Entry signs. The following month we were off to Cambridge and its restricted one-way streets, to see Aeschylus' powerful tragedy, *Agamemnon*. This was in the original Greek and gave some of the Lower School Graecists an excellent opportunity to hear the language spoken while following on surtitle translations. The numerous plastic canisters were a stark modern representation of the human cost of warfare.

In January we welcomed back Charlotte Matthews before she starts at Cambridge next October. She gave an excellent illustrated survey of the main Greek authors, quizzing all those taking Greek in the Lower School on their classical knowledge. A meal helped round off an enjoyable and informative event. This year we have been fortunate to have Mr Darius Weil, the Harvard Fellow, teaching both Classical Greek and Greek topics in Classical Civilisation. He has taken several Greek sets, inspiring them with his love for the subject and challenging them to use accents from the start. In May he talked at a Classical Society dinner on Homer, challenging his audience on the nature of epic and reviewing key scenes from the *Iliad*. We also appreciated the visit in March of his colleague from Harvard, Mr Charley Macnamara, who kindly talked to several Latin and Greek sets in the Third and Fourth Forms on the benefits of studying Classics at university and impressed them with his fluency in Latin. His fame had preceded him across the hemisphere, since we had already admired his stunning Latin oration for the 2007 Harvard Commencement speech, courtesy of YouTube.

In the Summer term some Third Form Latin sets saw the important exhibition on Macedon and Alexander the Great at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. At the end of the term, Mr David Critchley took up other duties at Stowe and we thank him for all the scholarly input which he has contributed over the last five years and wish him very well in his extended role in the School's academic administration.

Mr Michael Bevington

The Biomedical Society

The Biomedical Society has experienced another diverse and rewarding academic year, and it is with both pride and a sense of achievement that we wish a fond farewell to our Upper Sixth Form Stoics as they go on to pursue a range of biomedical-related courses at their chosen universities.

In the academic year of 2010/2011 the Biomedical Society was very pleased to welcome its largest group of Lower Sixth Form scientists, who have researched and presented a fascinating range of discussion topics during our Friday evening sessions. It is a testament to the intellectual rigour of our Sixth Form scientists that, from its humble origins (and membership of eight) three years ago, the Biomedical Society has broadened into a thirty-strong discussion forum on medical matters ranging from synaesthesia (the 'cross-over of senses in the wiring of the brain) to robotics in medicine to the biochemistry of the Rabies virus.

This year, members of the Biomedical Society visited both the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) in London and the Oxford University Medical School. The NIMR trip in

February provided us with a fascinating insight into the world of modern professional genetic science, and the Stoics were able to get a feel for what it means to have a career in biomedical research. We were even lucky enough to see last year's Biomedical Society President (Albie Mackintosh, OS) who is on a gap year work placement at NIMR.

The Oxford University trip, taken by Dr Chare, Mr Tearle and Mr Johnson was the highlight of the Biomedical Society calendar, allowing Stoics to see what a university course in Medicine, Biochemistry or the Biological Sciences would be like.

To round off a highly productive year, the Biomedical Society is proud to announce that next year's President will be Ellice Caldwell-Dunn (Nugent).

Mr Roland Johnson



Above: Oscar Cole (Grenville), Dr Abdul Sesay (geneticist at the NIMR), Harriet Eatwell (Lyttelton) and Emma Saric (Nugent)
Right: Biomedical group in Oxford



Junior Debating winners

Debating and Public Speaking

2010-2011 has proved to be another busy, successful and enjoyable year of Debating and Public Speaking at Stowe.

From the first rounds of the Senior House competitions in the Michaelmas term, strong talent began to emerge. Competitions were closely fought as the teams debated a range of issues from the rights of parents to smack their children to the developed West losing the moral authority to police the world. James Blackham, Daniel Capurro and Edmund Robinson of Chandos and Gareth Browne, Imran Momen and Anton Melnikov of Bruce proceeded through the heats to the intensely contested final competition, where they demonstrated their high levels of skill. After six speeches, numerous rebuttals and questions, as well as points of information from the floor, Bruce managed to convince the judges that 'an unequal society is the only type that works' and the team was presented with the Senior Debating trophy for 2010/2011.

The Senior Debating team (Daniel Capurro, Imran Momen and Molly Davison) also represented Stowe with an outstanding performance at the National English Speaking Union Competition on 16 November 2010 proposing the motion that 'the United

Nations is one big talk-shop'. Congratulations to the team for their superb speeches and for presenting their arguments with such persuasiveness and confidence, winning their individual competition and gaining runner-up position overall.

Participants in the Junior competition also demonstrated an array of debating talent in the Lent term. Queen's and Temple emerged as forces to be reckoned with, proceeding through the heats to the finals where the Queen's team (Rebecca Dale, Isabella Wallersteiner and Charlotte Bradshaw) vigorously proposed the motion that 'all school pupils in England should learn a foreign language' while the Temple team (Oscar Robertson, Harry Roberts and Oscar Page) challenged the proposition with strong opposing arguments. However, it was the opposition who sneaked into the lead to claim the Junior Debating trophy and Junior House debating title for 2011. Congratulations to the winning and runner-up teams for their performances and contributions.

This year will also be remembered for the important contributions of the Junior Public Speaking team and their high-quality performance in the regional finals of the English Speaking Union competition in February. Rebecca Dale impressed the judges with her eloquent speech entitled 'American influence is regrettable in our society' while Orlando Whitehead proved to be a most effective 'Questioner' and Hugo Brooks charmed the audience in his role as 'Chairman'.

The debating season at Stowe was rounded off with a showcase debate of the highest quality. Former pupils, Phil Pitcher, Ed Abel-Smith and James Elliot (head boy 2009/10) returned to Stowe on 23 March 2011 to compete against the Senior Debating team (Molly Davison, Imran Momen and Daniel Capurro) tackling the motion that 'university degrees have lost their value'. The inspirational evening was enjoyed by participants and the floor alike.

A huge thank you to all teams, participants, judges and supporters throughout the year for making 2010-11 such a successful year of debating.

Mrs Julie Johnson

Current Affairs and International Relations

Stoics opting for this activity are actively encouraged to explore current events and issues using their research, critical thinking and debating skills. This year has seen some of the liveliest debates in the history of the group due, in part, to the Stoics who had opted for this activity. They proved themselves to be strong debaters, and with their diverse backgrounds and cultures, all of our discussions have been multi-faceted, at times very entertaining but most importantly informative, stretching the Stoics and encouraging them to research further and occasionally, rethink their stance on a particular issue. We have tackled some difficult topics such as: The Middle East with particular reference to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict; Euthanasia; the Role and Status of Women throughout the world; and the Ethics and Nature of War applying the issues raised to current world conflicts. As ever, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to facilitate their discussion and observe the emergence of some eloquent and informed debaters.

Mrs Liz Huxley Capurro



Benjamin Wild
(Fifth Form, Cobham)

Current affairs this term has been action-packed, and unsurprisingly full of controversial debates. At the start of the term we began by discussing the morals of war, also looking into the legality of war – Iraq springing to mind. We continued by debating ‘Is the West really the best?’ Dr Smith spoke to us about the numerous revolutions he had come across and relating it to a young Libyan revolution that has been in the background all term, a favourite week of mine. The tsunami in Japan also hit us with some venom as we reminisced about previous natural disasters, also discussing how the world could help the Japanese. We finished with an insight into dictatorships, comparing and contrasting some of the dictators of the 20th and 21st Centuries and rated them according to a number of criteria from very bad to least bad! Current Affairs has given me a valuable perspective through which to view things and has opened my mind to ideas previously inconceivable to me. An exciting term.



Kierat Sambhi
(Lower Sixth, Nugent)

I have always been interested in Current Affairs but have never really had the chance to learn more about it or discuss it in a group setting until I came to Stowe. This year we have looked at a variety of topics of which my favourites were: The Ethics of War; The Western World-is it all good?; the Palestine-Israeli Conflict; and Privacy-is it really ours? After many somewhat ‘heated’ discussions, I would say the most interesting topic was that of ‘The Consequences of 9/11’. Some of the more controversial points that were brought up were the decisions of some countries such as to allow hijacked planes to be shot down and the influences on leaders who may be forced to take such decisions – for example, would the decision still be the same if their family was on board? Current Affairs has given me the opportunity to hear different arguments as well as justifications of some of the more radical views. I have learnt a lot and enjoyed it too!

Literary Society

In the second half of the Summer term 2011 (too late for the last edition of *The Stoic*), there was a Literary Society field trip to Lyrical Ballads country (the Quantock Hills) for those studying the poetry of Wordsworth and Coleridge. This was such a success that it is to be repeated this summer.

In October 2011, a talk by Daniel Rosenthal (author of *Shakespeare on Screen* and former film and drama correspondent for *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Telegraph*) explored Kenneth Branagh's film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays. An impressive degree of contextual knowledge was evident throughout the lecture, supported by nine short extracts from films by Branagh and Sir Laurence Olivier.

Later that month, Mr Bashaarat organised a theatre trip to an excellent production of Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* at Northampton, including an introductory talk by Laurie Sansom (Artistic Director of Royal and Derngate Theatres).

In November, Dr John Drew of the University of Buckingham introduced us to his digital

edition of *Dickens Journals Online*. This innovation will make Dickens' weekly magazines and novels accessible electronically in time for his bicentenary in February 2012. The highlight of Dr Drew's talk was his discussion of the six different endings to *Great Expectations*, each offering a distinct version of the fate of Pip and Estella.

In early February, Paula Byrne, biographer of Jane Austen and Evelyn Waugh, spoke about the role of literary biography in illuminating literary texts as well as in revealing aspects of authors' lives. The discussion was particularly relevant to us because our speaker explored Waugh's idolisation of J.F. Roxburgh, then Sixth Form Master at Lancing but subsequently the first Headmaster of Stowe.

Later in February, we welcomed back Mr John Moule (former Housemaster of Walpole) to give a presentation on TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*. The talk placed particular emphasis upon the poem's equivocal meanings, after which Mr Moule recited the entire poem to the accompaniment of a slide-show, offering us a deeper appreciation of one of the most challenging poems of the Twentieth Century.

In March, we had a further Stowe reunion when Mr Chris Edwards, our former Deputy

Head, accompanied himself on piano in a talk entitled 'Mingled Measures' which illustrated the close cultural relationship between music and works of literature through the ages. Mr Edwards ranged from the Baroque to the Twentieth Century while moving between piano and lectern with accomplished ease.

In early May, each of our three Committee Members gave a short talk. Helena Cox discussed the Sensational Novel of the Nineteenth Century; Rebecca Down focused on the literary qualities of the novel *One Day* by David Nicholls; and Augusta Anthony concluded with a critical survey of the Harry Potter novels. The speakers showed an admirable command of literary context and a real enthusiasm for their topics.

The night before Speech Day, there was a gala dinner for the Literary Society Leavers, a five-course meal with home-grown entertainments including scenes from drama, recitations and songs. The official photograph shows the Stoics in their finery and conveys something of the joyous spirit of a memorable evening that concluded two years of study in the English Department.

Augusta Anthony (Upper Sixth, Nugent),
Helena Cox (Upper Sixth, Stanhope),
Rebecca Down (Upper Sixth, Nugent)
and Dr Paul Miller



Literary Society Dinner

Sherlock Holmes

Short Story

Revenge

It was in July 1892, and I had just returned from my exciting and ‘warm’ trip to Cornwall, when I decided to visit my dear colleague Mr Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street. I had not seen him since the last case which, as always, was successful and the villain was sent to prison. He swore revenge against Holmes once he was free, yet all Holmes did was walk away and insist we go to the opera – but I declined, as I was meant to be going to Cornwall the following morning.

What I really wanted to speak to Holmes about was the matter involving a prison breakout. Many of the criminals had been sent there by Holmes in the first place. One of them was a nasty piece of work but as I had not come to Holmes’ acquaintance at that time, I got to know of the criminal through my later acquaintance with Holmes.

Once I had entered the lonely house, I greeted Mrs Hudson and asked whether Holmes was in.

‘Of course’, she said. ‘Can’t you smell him smoking his awful drugs?’ ‘Thank you Mrs Hudson, I am sure he will stop soon enough’ I replied calmly, even though I knew he would rather shoot himself than give up his love for the wretched stuff. As I strolled up the stairs, I noticed that he had taken all the pictures down from the walls on either side. Suddenly I smelt burning and quickened my pace; what if the prisoner had already struck and killed my dear Holmes? As I opened the door Holmes said calmly:

‘My dear Watson, how nice to see you again, though I knew you were coming back today.’

‘But how did you know?’ I replied hastily.

‘Well, the average doctor gets at least two weeks’ leave anywhere you want. You, however, being a man for crime fighting, came back only after the one week, plus the horrible weather in

Cornwall.’ Holmes said this as if reading from a book.

‘But.....’ I said, astonished.

‘My dear Watson, look at your shoes, they have damp soles suggesting the bad weather, and you have sand on the collar of your shirt as you have been lying down on the beach at Rock, judging by the smell.’

‘You make it sound so easy; I mean, that was outstanding. Now it is my turn to speak; I was going to tell you that....’

‘A vicious man who I once put in jail after a two year investigation who swore to kill me if it was the last thing on earth has escaped?’

‘Go on!’ I said, intrigued by the man’s knowledge.

‘I have had many a strange letter asking me to help someone, and you know how much I love unravelling cases?’

‘Of course, you are Britain’s number one off duty detective’, I replied, eager to know more of the happenings so far.

‘I have refused this offer so far because the paper is cheap, the writing is not neat and has obviously been written in anger. This suggests that the man writing it must have been imprisoned for a long period of time and has forgotten how to write.’ Holmes said this as if saying something over and over again to a student.

‘How did you do that? And what are you going to do now?’ I replied.

Holmes slumped into his chair, closed his eyes and put his hands together and smiled. Holmes hardly had to say it.

‘Deduction my dear Watson, Deduction! Anyhow, the hour is nigh and I must be off to the post office to put my mind at rest,’ he said, leaping out of his chair in his dark red dressing gown, eager to leave the lonely house. Once he was ready he shot off downstairs, but stopped at the top and shouted:

‘Come my dear Watson, and bring your revolver!!’

I had not picked up the revolver for a long period of time and it was now covered in dust. I blew it off the gun, checked that the cartridges were in the gun and loaded, and ran as fast as Mrs Hudson would allow to catch up with Holmes, who was already strolling down the street towards the post office, I think.

Once we had left Mrs Hudson in Baker Street we strolled down the sidewalk towards the post office. Suddenly Holmes stopped and smelt the air. He whispered:

‘Do you smell that Watson?’

‘I only smell the London air,’ I replied firmly.

‘Wrong! I smell the burning of gunpowder or something near it. Move!’

A bomb was thrown from an alley and an evil laugh came with it. But the bomb didn’t go off. The muscular man who had now stepped out of the alley stopped laughing and mumbled ‘Oh!’ and ran off. Holmes screamed ‘Shoot him, Shoot him Watson!’

‘Where?’ I screamed back.

‘In the leg you blundering idiot!’

My head steadied and the crack of the gun ‘shot’ through my head, and then the man screamed.

‘Ow, god damn it, you shot me!’ and ran towards the train track.

‘What do we do now?’ I asked Holmes.

‘We stop him from killing himself’ Holmes sighed. We followed the drops of blood and once we had reached the train track, ‘Johnson’ was limping down the track, shouting to Holmes and myself.

‘You’ll never take me alive!!!’

Henry Nelson-Lucas, Third Form



Heli Carr Smith, Upper Sixth

Visiting Speakers



This has been another year in which the richness of our extra-curricular programme has been particularly evident. We have welcomed a vast range of experts whose talks and workshops all had the potential to ignite a spark within our Stoics which could lead to a lifelong interest or conviction. Exposing Stoics to a range of expertise and opinions equips them to challenge conventional orthodoxies, re-evaluate their own ideas and priorities as well as encouraging them to explore subjects in greater depth. Here is a snapshot of some of the highlights from this year...



Dr Lee Durrell, conservationist and widow of the late Gerald Durrell

In March, Lee Durrell gave a fascinating talk in the Roxburgh Hall about the conservation work of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – a conservation organisation with a difference. The talk was illustrated with personal family photographs of her late husband, Gerald Durrell, with some of the animals who were the focus of his first conservation projects which began in his sister's back garden! Lee guided us through the work of the Trust over the years in its quest to conserve the diversity and integrity of life on earth. We also heard about the tremendous work which is being undertaken to restore ecosystems and educate communities living alongside endangered species. It is no surprise that the Durrell Trust has developed a worldwide reputation for its pioneering conservation techniques.

Colin Boardman, Brek Falconry

In the Lent term, as part of our Weekend Activity Programme, Colin Boardman (Grenville 87) from Breck Falconry, came to Stowe to offer Stoics an opportunity to learn more about the ancient art of falconry. After an introductory talk, each Stoic found out how falconers handle and train their birds, then spent the afternoon watching them pit their natural hunting instincts against their wary prey in the school grounds. Everyone had a chance to get some 'hands-on' experience and the event was a tremendous success.

The Duke's Men of Yale University

The famous a capella group, the Duke's Men of Yale University, travelled from America to delight an audience of Stoics in the Music Room. The group's Director is the brother of Dara Blume, former Stowe Harvard Fellow and Queen's Under Housemistress who returned to Stowe with the group to catch up with old friends, colleagues and Stoics.

The Rt Hon John Bercow

At the start of the Michaelmas term the Rt Hon John Bercow gave an engaging talk about his journey into politics, what his role as the Speaker of the House of Commons entails and why he believes that more young people should become involved in politics. There was a lively session of questions and answers after the talk. Stoics asked intelligent and probing questions, which prompted interesting replies and gave a great insight into his life as a politician.

Paula Byrne, Author

Paula Byrne, renowned for her books on Jane Austen and Evelyn Waugh, spoke with great passion about the skill and importance of literary biography, both in illuminating literary texts and in revealing aspects of authors' lives concealed behind the veneer of their beloved characters. The discussion of Evelyn Waugh's tour de force, *Brideshead Revisited*, was particularly interesting because Ms Byrne emphasised Waugh's idolisation of J F Roxburgh (then Sixth Form Master at Lancing but later the first Headmaster of Stowe) who impressed his protégé with the words, 'If you use what the gods have given you, you will do as much as anyone I know to shape the course of your generation'.

Mark Seddon, former editor of Tribune

The talk given by Mark Seddon at Stowe in the Lent term was considered unusual enough to be featured in the Evening Standard Londoner's Diary.

Londoner's Diary: 18 January 2011

Will Lenin linger at Stowe?

The echoing halls of one of Britain's prestigious public schools, Stowe, is a backdrop to many a period drama. But last night the former seat of the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos hosted a more surprising tale, as 50 or so pupils and masters trooped in to listen to a lecture on "Socialism" by former Tribune editor Mark Seddon. The decision to invite Seddon was made by Headmaster Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Tatler's 2007 Headmaster of the year. "We have had Nigel Farage and the Speaker, John Bercow, to lecture in the past but can never find anyone from the Labour Party willing to come," said Dr Wallersteiner. "Mr Seddon even donated a poster of Lenin, published by the Czech Communist Party, but I don't quite know where to put it."

John Levy, Friends of Isreal Education Foundation

The Headmaster's Essay Society heard John Levy from the Friends of Israel

Education Foundation give a very topical and interesting talk on the Middle East. John's survey of the region took in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Iran, Iraq and the Gulf States as he explained why recent events should matter to all Stoics and discussed the historic, cultural and religious problems which have hindered a lasting peace settlement.

Stephen Bulmer, Chef

In the Summer term, Stephen Bulmer ran a Cookery Masterclass for Stoics who have an interest in cooking. Mr Bulmer is Chef Trainer at the two Michelin starred Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, and has also appeared on Ready Steady Cook.



Top to bottom: Literary Society – Paula Byrne; Dukes of Yale; Falconry display

Tattersall Wright Lectures

This year we were delighted to host three Tattersall Wright Lectures given by three notable speakers. The lectures covered the 'Sister Arts' of painting, poetry and landscape gardening.

The inaugural lecture was given at the beginning of March by Kim Wilkie, landscape artist. Kim Wilkie is a leading landscape (garden and urban) designer who is internationally renowned for his work. He spoke about his fascination with the link between land and culture and between memory and imagination. This was followed later in the month by a visit from Professor Peter Humfrey, University of St Andrews, who spoke about The Reception of Giovanni Bellini in England c.1500-1900. Professor Humphrey is one of the world's leading experts on Venetian painting.

The final lecture was given by the best known of our three special guests, Carol Ann Duffy. It was an honour to welcome the Poet Laureate to Stowe at the end of April. Ms Duffy, known for being direct and outspoken, is arguably the nation's favourite living poet. After meeting and chatting with Upper Sixth Form English students, she gave a mesmerising recital of her poetry to an audience of over 200 Stoics of all ages. She read from her collection of poems 'The World's Wife' as well as from her recent volume 'The Bees'. Ms Duffy was accompanied by her friend, John Sampson, who played a variety of British tunes on a hunting horn, a selection of recorders and a shawm (a mediaeval and renaissance member of the woodwind family). Ms Duffy's joined staff and Stoics for a meal in the State Music Room and also signed copies of her books.

Mr Crispin Robinson,
Deputy Headmaster (Academic)



Carol Ann Duffy Speaking



Old Stoic Award

Gambia

I will never forget my first day at Bakau Upper Basic. I was asked to teach English to a Grade eight class of 14-16 year olds. With no idea what to expect I was given a piece of chalk and introduced to my class. With fifty eager children looking up at me, no text books, no syllabus and no previous whole class teaching experience, I had two hours to fill. Going to Gambia has certainly taught me the art of thinking on my feet. If the next teacher didn't turn up, I would have to carry on: Maths, Science, Social Studies; whatever the pupils asked for. After a week it became clear that about half of my class were illiterate. They could all copy from the blackboard but reading and spelling the word 'cat' was impossible.

However, pupils at Bakau were keen, particularly the girls – seven of whom, in one class, were called Binta! Teaching them to read individually was tremendously satisfying. The 'Binta' crowd frequently visited our team house for learning, fun and games – our unripe mangos being their favourite departing gift.

I had spent the first part of my year working as a gap student at Beachborough Prep School. The contrast between schools and pupil ability was immeasurable. This and other aspects of Gambian life have contributed to my greater appreciation of England and, in particular, the education I was fortunate enough to receive at Stowe.

I went out to Gambia as one member of a team of twelve. As well as teaching we were

also engaged in Christian work. We ran the teaching for children at church conferences, helped at Sunday school and visited local schools to give talks. But it wasn't all work and no play. We made good friends with our neighbours and the staff of the charity, Gamfees, that we were affiliated to in Gambia. One of my favourite memories was attending a birthday lunch. At noon, we arrived at a house with no electricity, water from a well and a rather unusual loo. On the menu was pork – lots of pork. We ate a whole, freshly slaughtered pig, which the boys had been cutting up all morning. The whole experience was fun because it was so entirely different to anything I had ever experienced and we were sharing our lives with our Gambian neighbours.

Nevertheless, we did have difficulties out there too. In the same week as a boy in our team caught Malaria, our helper Mariatu had to be sent to hospital and we ended up caring for her, whilst learning how to cook for ourselves – Gambian style! As a young white girl I couldn't go out alone without receiving proposals from locals, so it was essential to travel with a boy. This was hard, especially when you are used to being independent. We also had to be careful with how we dressed. Gambia is a predominantly Muslim country. We soon realised it wouldn't give a good impression to wear short skirts to work. We didn't have a washing machine either, so we had to wash our clothes by hand.

At the end of our time in Gambia we took a ten day boat trip up river to explore the rest of country. We lived, slept and dined on the

small vessel and at night we slept under the stars on the top deck. The further up river we went, the hotter it became. When we reached Georgetown, putting aside the threat of attack from hippos and crocodiles, the river became more and more appealing until, at last, the urge to jump in was irresistible. A great time was had by all (including some local children) leaping in the water from the top of the boat.

Looking back at the four and half months I spent in Gambia, I certainly learned more than I expected. I experienced a different culture, I faced new challenges and learned how to live with twelve other people in what were often very challenging surroundings. But I suppose the most lasting impact for me personally was that, whilst reading St Mark's Gospel with my fellow travellers, I developed a greater appreciation of what Jesus did for me on the cross by dying for my sins, providing the way back to God.

Great thanks must go to the Old Stoic Society for providing this award, enabling me to have this fantastic gap year and as they say in Wolof, a Gambian tribal language, 'Jerre jeff' – Thank you!

Charlotte Matthews (OS)



Lucy Close-Smith, Lower Sixth

Another quiet summer at Stowe...

Five o'clock, Monday 4 July 2011, the end of the first day of the summer holiday and the School is looking like a cross between a bomb site and the set of a horror film.

Furniture has been removed from Bruce and Grafton Houses, left temporarily outside to be sorted and stored, the inside of the Roxburgh Hall has been stripped and preparations are in hand to remove the roof, the Vanbrugh classrooms, walls bare and floors covered, are being prepared for re-wiring and a Physics laboratory, emptied a week previously, is being prepared for a make-over that would delight the producer of one of those popular house renovation programmes. Just for good measure, the Sixth Form centre has been cleared and internal walls are already being demolished, the former staff common room area has been turned upside down and the wall coverings in the Egyptian Hall have been cleaned off while specialist conservators prepare a comprehensive restoration of this fascinating space beneath the North Front which, just a week earlier had been its usual hubbub of comings and goings throughout the day.

Just how did the School get into this state and, more importantly, will normal service be restored by the start of term? The process started in November 2010 with the annual review of the estate that generates the plans for the summer works programme. Over a three day period, the Operations Team examines every building across the estate to draw up plans for maintenance and improvement. While maintenance continues throughout the year, the summer holidays give the opportunity for major work that cannot be completed within term time. Since the summer of 2010, the boarding house refurbishment programme has focused on two houses for a top to bottom make-over. Previously, the approach was somewhat "piecemeal" and, while each House might

benefit from a new common room, a set of study bedrooms repainted or a washroom refurbished, there was little sense of a programme of overall improvement. Now, without stopping minor works in other houses, two houses benefit from a total facelift and, equally important, the programme has established the order in which houses will be done so everyone will see a major improvement at some stage in their time at Stowe.

Following the annual review, the Head of Estate Management, a professionally qualified surveyor, draws up a programme for consideration at the Development, Building and Works Committee. The Headmaster and Deputy Heads agree the programme, which is then discussed and priorities set for the work required. Financial scrutiny follows at the Finance Committee before ratification by the Executive Committee and the full Governing Body. At each stage, plans are scrutinised for value for money and the relative priorities debated and refined. By the New Year, a programme has been agreed and contracts can be let. All this presupposes that listed building consent has been secured where required and that housemasters and heads of department are happy with the proposals for their classrooms or other facilities. The fun starts as soon as the holiday begins. With a programme costed at £1.2m agreed by the governors, there are just three months in which to complete delivery of all the promised refurbishments and improvements and that equates to spending £400,000 every month. Projects are managed closely to ensure that the required quality of work is delivered, that bills are paid on time and that the work will be completed within very tight timescales. Much of the School's infrastructure is old and heating pipes, radiators and electrical supplies are all renewed as part of the projects to ensure improved efficiency in the New Year.

There is the occasional surprise. In July 2011, routine work in the former Masters'

Dining Room revealed a well, recorded in a sketch of the south front dated 1683 but never previously located. A carpenter was lifting floor boards when he dropped a tool and was surprised to find that he could not reach it. On lifting another floor board, he discovered the reason – it had fallen some 15 metres to the bottom of the well! The well will now be a feature, suitably protected, in the meeting room created from the former dining room.

By the time this feature is read, the works will have been completed and the School will benefit from improved boarding and academic facilities, the common room will have been moved to its new location closer to the academic heart of the school and the first stage of the refurbishment of the Roxburgh Hall will see its asbestos clad roof replaced by a zinc finished structure with improved insulation. Meanwhile, the School infrastructure keeps operating in support of summer schools for language students and sportsmen and women, weddings will have been accommodated and a myriad of policies reviewed and updated. Elsewhere, paintwork, plumbing and electrics will have been upgraded in many smaller and less visible projects which will continue throughout the year. Then, in November, the whole process will start again, but not before a thorough review of the projects that have been completed this year.

All in all, a pretty quiet summer at Stowe ... until the next one.

Mr Nick Morris

Sixteen kilometres of scaffolding

And the weight of twenty-two double decker buses in stone.

With a grandstand view of the scaffolding going up to start the final stage of restoration of the outside of the mansion and a part to play in completing that project, last year I found myself wondering how far the scaffolding poles would stretch if aligned end to end. The answer was sixteen kilometres, with an incredible seven kilometres of boarding to make the temporary structure useable. Add to that 12,000 fixtures to hold the thing together and you start to get an idea of the complexity of something that we have all grown to love and hate throughout recent years. By the start of the Michaelmas term 2011, it should be gone but, by that time in the past year, we will have replaced stone with a weight equivalent to that of twenty-two double decker buses. Eighty-five cubic metres of stone will have been replaced in addition to the sixty-five cubic metres replaced during sub-phase one.

With weeds and small trees growing from the masonry and a growing risk of elements becoming dislodged, restoration of the two pavilions at the extremity of the Mansion was long overdue. The first sub-phase, costing £3.3m covered the eastern pavilion, housing the library and ante-library and was reported in last year's edition of *The Stoic*. Despite losing 29 days due to the severe weather conditions of the winter, the work on the western pavilion was completed just 10 days late and well within the budget figure of £2.6m. So, a total of nearly £6m will have been spent on the two pavilions in addition to the £6.4m on phase one, the colonnades, forecourt and screen walls and the £7.5m on the central pavilion, South Front and Marble Saloon. Since 2002, the Stowe House Preservation Trust has therefore spent close to £20m restoring the Mansion.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of donors from across the globe. The Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Robert Wilson

Challenge for Heritage and the John Paul Getty Trust all supported phases one and two and then, in 2008, an anonymous benefactor laid the challenge to match £5m towards the £10m needed to complete phase 3. Thanks to the efforts of the World Monument Fund that match has all but been completed with further significant donations from English Heritage, the Linbury Trust and the Country Houses Foundation. Many other individual donors have provided invaluable support – Old Stoics, parents and other members of the Stowe community – whose cumulative effort and contribution have helped towards the great progress we have so far made. Stowe is fortunate indeed to attract such generous support and it falls to the Stowe House Preservation Trust to use this generosity wisely, charting a path through the restoration priorities to develop and deliver a programme of high quality restoration, backed by scholarly research.

Along the way, we have learned a lot about the House and about projects of this magnitude. Throughout, the advice and support of Purcell Miller Tritton, our supervising architects, the main contractor, Linfords and subcontractors from conservators to groundsmen been invaluable. The design team has also been fortunate to have the highest calibre of quantity surveyors, structural engineers, mechanical and electrical engineers and health and safety consultants whose commitment to delivering the highest quality of work within budget and to time has been instrumental in our success.

Our attention has now turned to the interiors. During the past year, trustees and associated specialists have worked through all the options and permutations to give best value for money from the funds available. First up is the Egyptian Hall, where work started on 4 July. Straightaway, we made some unexpected discoveries about how the Hall was constructed and finished. Evidence of sand textured paint, previously only found on the columns at the west end, was found on all the walls while the decorative frieze was found to be far more intricate than first thought. The sarcophagus will also be re-instated at the western end of the room, replica sphinxes will be installed at the foot of the stairs and reproductions of the paintings of Egyptian scenes will be placed in the wall recesses and along the central ceiling panel.

Restoration of the Music Room will follow during the coming academic year and the cellar will be converted into a state of the art and informative interpretation centre for visitors.

Mr Nick Morris





Stowe Bucks

Early in the Lent term, Stowe's new social centre, StoweBucks, opened its doors to Stoics and staff. The new centre, housed in the old squash courts, has added a great new aspect to the social side of school life. A competition was held to name the centre and 'StoweBucks' was the winner – any resemblance to the name of a well-known coffee establishment is entirely unintentional! During the day it functions as a café, with tea and coffee available to all free of charge throughout the afternoon. A wide range of hot and

cold drinks and snacks can be purchased including the delicious 'Stowe Shakes' which are extremely popular. In the evenings, the centre is transformed into a social club which is enjoyed by Sixth Form Stoics at weekends. It was also the venue for the unabashed extravaganza of exhibitionism, 'Stowe's Got Talent', held at the end of the Summer term. The event, in which our staff displayed their astonishing vocal talents, raised funds for the charities, Go Help and the London Ambulance Service.



Anastasia Kozina, Lower Sixth



Michelle Isong, Upper Sixth

Stowe-Harvard Dinner Speech

Here at Stowe I am, among several other things, the Under Housemaster of Chatham. My memories of Stowe, I am sure, will above all be of my life in Chatham House and the shocking things I have witnessed this year.

The most astonishing event happened recently. Never before have I witnessed dozens of teenage boys completely enraptured by a wedding. Several weeks ago, on that beautiful Friday morning when all of England was on holiday except for Stowe School, the boys of Chatham eagerly crowded into the House Room to watch Prince William and Catherine Middleton exchange vows. John Ing gave out chocolate donuts and cans of Coke, then joined his wife to watch the broadcast in the privacy of his sitting room. I had a

unique anthropological opportunity: to observe the honest, uncensored reactions of public school boys to an occasion that, supposedly, would showcase the ancient traditions and royal heritage at the heart of British identity.

The boys of Chatham were spellbound.

“Don’t stand in front of the screen!”

“Whoa, look at her sister! She is fit!”

“Shhh...I can’t hear! Oh my God, she is so fit.”

Right. The royal wedding appealed to people for various reasons.

I’ve been wondering about my own countrymen. What was the explanation for America’s obsessive anticipation of the wedding? The royal fanfare on display, I would argue, was unequivocally un-American. Had we forgotten that the first Americans waged war so that we could liberate ourselves from England’s king? It is undeniable! The United States was born in an act of rebellion against inherited entitlement. In the New World, America was to be the Enlightenment’s great political experiment, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Yet we had Katie Couric, Matt Lauer, Barbara Walters and others broadcasting from London days before the wedding so that they could captivate American viewers with predictions about royal floral arrangements.

Why? Why have Americans fetishized a system of hereditary privilege? Now, I will confess that actually I support Her Majesty’s rule over this sceptered isle, but allow me to be unsympathetic for a just a bit. In this country, the head of state gains position by birth. If you happen to be a



descendant of the House of Windsor and you are born to the right individuals at the right time, you get a kingdom. But you must be Protestant, usually you must be a man, and if you are a woman then something unfortunate needs to happen to your brother for you to be eligible to take the throne. The life stories of Barack Obama and Her Majesty could not be more different. I read a column in *The Nation* that puts it well, "In Britain, no matter how aspirant a parent is, nobody buys their kid a T-shirt that boasts Next King of England because the job is never up for grabs."

Now it's not just Americans who revere the monarchy. The majority of Britons also support their Queen. A few lone voices rail against the use of public funds to subsidize the royal family's privileged existence, but most Britons entertain at least a modest respect for the monarchy. In a time of austerity measures and serious financial hardship for most of the population, Prince William's subjects were genuinely happy to watch him and the rest of 'The Firm' enjoy a party that cost millions of pounds.

The explanation, I think, is straightforward. Human beings yearn for objects and people at which they can marvel. Why do

Americans care so much about the Queen? Because we don't have one! We feel deprived! In our normal, mundane lives we yearn to come into contact with something or someone of majesty, nobility, greatness. America has had its fair share of titanic statesmen. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, JFK – these leaders captured the spirit of America and heightened our collective sense of who we are and what we're trying to achieve. But even the greatest statesmen hold office for short periods of time and when they've left, we're left with only a set of ideas. My intuition is that American national identity is not based on the permanency of our political institutions and certainly not the reign of one truly "American" family. The House of Clinton or Bush? I don't think so. Our identity consists in the ideals of democracy, a pledge to live out the radical social and political experiment begun by a group of farmers, merchants, and statesmen. But because our national selfhood is not tied to ethnicity, lineage, or ancient custom, our sense of unity is fragile. When we elect great leaders from among ourselves, our national ideals shine through in flashes of brilliance. But those moments are fleeting. Barack Obama's

presidency seemed to offer one of those moments. Instead, the cultural and political landscape of the United States is as fractious as ever. We do not and cannot rely on individual politicians to bind our nation. We rely on ideas.

Americans are fascinated by Britain's monarchy because the royal family enshrine in their bodies and blood the identity – or part of the identity – of the British nation. The monarchy is old, stable, dignified, and grand. We don't have anything like that. It may seem surprising to Americans, but Britons recognize that because the Queen has no political allegiances and wields no real power, she is able genuinely to represent the nation. Supported by centuries of history, she constitutes the British constitution. Yes, the monarchy perpetuates some difficult and embarrassing anachronisms that are incongruous with a modern democracy. But consider this – and I quote from an essay in the *New York Review of Books*:

"For the past seventy years, Queen Elizabeth II has met weekly with the serving prime minister, over the years twelve in all – and the first of these was Winston Churchill...Queen Elizabeth is one of the





few constants in a landscape much of which has changed beyond recognition since 1945. Plenty of buildings have not been around as long. She is something the British elderly and their grandchildren have in common: for almost all their lives, she has been the head of state. And it is not only that she was around a long time ago; it is that she was around then, during what Churchill predicted would be known thereafter as Britain's finest hour. She is the last living connection to an episode – the island race standing up to Hitler – that has become the foundation story, almost the creation myth, of modern Britain.”

Just two weeks ago, I met with the parents of my third form history students. Many of them are continuing with history at GCSE, so I talked them through an outline of the

course. What are the central topics? The World Wars. And the title of one of the year-long units? Germany: 1918-1945. As one author writes, “Britain alone, Churchill, 1940, the Blitz – this is the tale of unalloyed heroism that the country likes to tell and retell to itself. And as long as Elizabeth sits on the throne, Britons remain tied to those events directly.”

Even if the residents of Chatham House don't know much about twentieth-century history or if they simply associate the royal family with wealth and celebrity, I can't imagine that anywhere else would a bunch of adolescent boys have been so keen to watch a wedding ceremony unfold. They hushed each other as William and Kate exchanged vows. They sat on the edges of their seats whenever the camera focused

on the Queen. Watching along with these boys were millions of other people, most of them from backgrounds that are extremely different from those of Stoics. The royal wedding did celebrate an exclusive, privileged class, but the event itself was far from exclusive. The ‘royal wedding’ would not have been what it was without including the public, Her Majesty's subjects, in the celebration. Britons, Americans, Stoics and at least one Harvard Fellow watched with pride, happy to support an institution that affords us something that is majestic, noble, and great. We all want a little bit of that.

Now before I return to my table and get lambasted by my friends for being a monarchist, I want to share with you some stories from my year at Stowe because my reflections on the time I've spent here are shaped by very specific, vivid memories.

Everything began with a sick bowl.

The very first night of Michaelmas term, I stood in the corridors of Chatham House and watched wide-eyed as a never-ending stream of boys lugged their trunks up and down stairs, greeting each other with glee. The experience was not unlike what I felt at the age of ten, exiting the airport terminal in Bombay and stepping out into the car park. My ears were overloaded by foreign-sounding voices, my nose awakened by strange smells. What would they be like, these adolescent creatures who all wore the same Nike basketball shoes and all addressed me as if I were a venerable old man?

“Sir, do you have a sick bowl?”

One of them limped towards me in his bathrobe – a short, pudgy ginger-haired boy in the Fourth Form...

“A what?”

“A sick bowl, sir. I'm not feeling well.”

“A sick bowl?”

“You know, sir, if you wake up at night and feel sick...”

That night, I struggled to learn the names of my seventy new neighbours. It was not easy. The next day, a member of staff confided to me that in the first 48 hours or so, the kids all look the same because their faces are all equally pale and terrified. I think she was right.

I came to know the boys of Chatham very quickly because they were – and are – incredibly warm and friendly. I think there's

a consensus that Stoics are quite well-socialised when it comes to interacting with adults one-to-one. As an Under Housemaster, I was also able to see how they transform when they interact with each other. One evening I was sitting in the house room and a boy in the Sixth Form, we'll call him Titus, was bouncing off the walls and generally being crazy. He's a tall very thin boy who sort of looks like a candy cane. In the midst of his game of pool he plopped himself on top of a rubbish bin and – passed wind. Keep in mind that this was still my first week at Stowe. Titus began laughing so hysterically that he fell into the rubbish bin and got stuck inside. I was caught completely off guard. Another boy named Alexander could see such surprise and uncertainty in my face that he turned to me and said, "Sir, are you uncomfortable living with boys?" I ignored the question and looked with disbelief at Titus.

"Titus, do you know the word 'boor'?"

"Boar, sir? Like the animal?!"

"No, boor. B-o-o-r. Do any of the rest of you know what it means?"

Titus took this moment as an opportunity to hee-haw like a mule.

"It means someone who behaves like an uncivilized beast."

"Oh! That's hilarious, sir!"

I've taught several new words to Titus and his cohort this year, but they've also taught me words that I never knew existed, from benign phrases like sport kit and morning stance to the bizarre: blud, bredin, budgie smugglers. Yes, strange.

Now, for those of you who don't know, Saturday afternoons at Stowe are reserved for sport fixtures. Since I am by no means a talented sportsman, I was given the weighty task of directing traffic and instructing parents where to park. One of the benefits of directing traffic on a Saturday at Stowe is that you get to see some fantastic cars: Porsches, Jaguars, Mercedes, and the occasional Ferrari or Maserati. The vehicles belie the typical demographic of a Stowe family. But they don't tell everything. One Saturday I walked over to the athletic fields with a boy from eastern Europe whose father's wealth is unimaginable. We talked about his imminent trip to London to see his mother. I asked how he would get there and he said he would take a taxi (£120) straight to his family's London flat. When I asked if he

used the Underground, he looked very surprised and said that his parents wouldn't let him. I gave him a look of disbelief and he offered, "My father only make me take underground if I am failure in life. It will make me see how the other people live." I know where I stand.

I could tell many silly stories like these, but the reality is that Stoics are extraordinary people. I wish that I had been at school with some of the students that I've taught this year. Their intellectual curiosity and sense of wonder is rich, and like all young people, they respond to teachers who are able to share their own passion for knowledge. Some of those teachers are here this evening. But Stoics are not bookish academics. Even the best students at Stowe realize that life is about more than books and academic success.

“Stoics care about each other and they have genuine enthusiasm for living here, together, with their peers and teachers. It's been a special privilege for me to live in Chatham House”.

That's something that I've truly learned to appreciate this year. Stoics care about each other and they have genuine enthusiasm for living here, together, with their peers and teachers. It's been a special privilege for me to live in Chatham House. So much of my experience has centered on Chatham: coaching the house to sing 'Twist & Shout' for the House Singing Competition, learning from the boys about horse racing and polo, talking with them about religion and philosophy, supporting them in their personal as well as collective victories and losses. John Ing has been a flexible and supportive Housemaster, and under his leadership I've had the opportunity to really know the boys, to form the type of teacher-student relationships that are only possible in a boarding school.

Living and working at Stowe has genuinely changed my life. It's difficult to articulate exactly what has shifted in my sense of self and view of the world, but I think it's best described as a deep broadening of my own understanding of who and what exists out

in the world. I've encountered people, places, and values of which I knew nothing before coming here. And being at Stowe has made that type of learning effortless! I'm here, plugged into this community – people want to talk to me! They tell me where I should travel, invite me to their homes – the family of one Stoic hosted me in Italy for a week! The Greek poet Homer would be proud that I've been treated as a true guest-friend. In the end, though, a guest-friend is still an outsider and it has been my foreign-ness that has allowed me not only to observe this place with a unique perspective, but also to observe myself with fresh eyes.

My time in the classroom has been a 'learning experience' for teacher and students alike, but I think the main explanation is simple: teaching is hard. I'm grateful for the opportunity to begin learning the craft of teaching at Stowe, and I'm especially thankful for the people who've advised me along the way. Crispin Robinson has been a constant source of wisdom and friendship. Mike Rickner helped me plan lessons when no one else would. Sophie Palmer introduced me to the Whiskey Mac and has lifted me many a time from despair. Huw Jones and I can talk about anything, from music to our pining for America – although, I'm sorry Huw, you won't catch me in Los Angeles. Tony Chan has been a great friend and captivating interlocutor since the first day I arrived.

My number-one protector and defender has been Carol Miller. Carol is loved by everyone because she cares for everyone. She's watched out for me all year and I was eager to do the same when she needed it.

Of course, the people whom I love the most are the ones who love me the most: my parents Richard and Zarine, my sister Delna, and all my friends. You are 'my people' and while I'm sad to leave Stowe, I'm glad that I will be closer to you next year.

Thank you, finally, to Brian Hecht and all the members of the American Friends of Stowe. Thank you for this Fellowship. Stowe is a singular place and it has changed my life in ways that I had never anticipated. It is a beautiful school in a beautiful country and what happens here is important. I hope that you will continue to support Stowe as it becomes an even better version of itself, ever striving to help pupils become who they are. It's helped me. Thank you.

Mr Darius Weil



Diving trip to Egypt

In April, 12 brave souls and two members of staff went on a scuba diving trip to Sharm El Sheik and, despite warnings of shark attacks and Mubarak's residence in the area, the trip was a wonderful experience with some amazing sights.

It was immediately obvious that the atmosphere in Egypt was relaxed and very peaceful. All the students were immediately at ease although some were a little taken aback by the direct salesmanship of some of the shop vendors: the phrase 'Good price, Asda price' was heard in almost every shop. We also managed to see some camels (some a little closer than others) by the end of the first evening.

The group was split in two on the first day of diving for those who had not dived and those who had. Those who had not spent two days learning the necessary skills and knowledge and then practising them in the sea – just off shore in a protected, cordoned off area. Afterwards they went out into open water and most completed the four open water dives required to earn their 'Open Water' status. The other, smaller group had some more freedom and were able to dive in the National Park, Ras Mohammed. On the Thursday, we all

came back together and spent a day out on the boat enjoying the sun, some more diving and the odd sun-tan lotion fight. During these few days, everyone saw a wide range of fish including crocodile fish, lionfish and the phenomenally large Napoleon Wrasse. There was plenty of other sea life to see, including moray eels, octopuses, rays, dolphins. After all the excitement, however, there were no sharks.

The evenings were spent either relaxing in the hotel or visiting the local areas. We went up to Naama Bay and mixed with other tourists and locals with some quite flamboyant belly dancing thrown in. On the last night, after a Mongolian style BBQ, some of us had a go at Go-Karting before returning back to the hotel where the boys treated us and the rest of the guests to some appalling attempts at singing with the Karaoke, while the last day was spent shopping or topping up sun-tans.



I would like to thank Dr Chare for her help and support and thank the students for their good behaviour and making the trip a successful one. I look forward seeing you all again next year.

Mr Damian Blewitt

Polo tour to Kenya

In the Easter Holidays six Stoics, Melissa Wadley and I and with two sets of parents, took off to Kenya on the first ten-day Stowe polo tour to Kenya.

After arriving at Nairobi airport and travelling North, we arrived at Delorane Lodge, the stunning home of our wonderful hosts: Tristan, Cindy and Archie Voorspuy.

Then began our intensive polo week. This involved polo lessons every morning with our own coach, Gavin Chaplin. Not only is Gavin one of the most renowned of polo coaches, but he's also a great enthusiast and morale booster at all times! In the afternoon, after hearty lunches by the pool, the Stoics played chukkas on the Voorspuy's pitch. Meanwhile parents either rode around the farm and pitch or watched the polo from the tops of Land Rovers until the Kenyan evening set in. These evenings at Delorane were in true colonial style: we all sat together in the beautiful house with spectacular food and company.

There is no doubt that everyone who took part improved almost beyond recognition. Amir Ansari proved his fighting spirit by whizzing round the pitch at lightning speed, sometimes managing to fight the ever-skillful Tom Gordon-Colebrooke and Monty Owen off the ball. Not only were the boys' Polo skills improving but also their general riding abilities. Charlie Peagram appeared to be incredibly ruthless, especially playing forms of "tag" on horseback. We all took part in evening rides through the picturesque farm, with even the less-experienced parents ended up cantering through the Kenyan countryside. On these rides Charlie Lockyer and Alex Long showed real bravery, riding unknown, slightly hot-headed horses, while always appearing at the same time to be totally calm. Charlie's riding skills improved dramatically as a result.

During the days based at Delorane a number of the parents flew off to the Massi Mara for a number of nights, returning bragging about seeing lion kills etc... However, as a group we took the short drive to Lake Nacuru National park, seeing rhino, giraffe, zebra and many more.

After this stay we relocated to Sosian lodge. It is from here that the Voorspuy's run their safari business. We spent four days here in luxurious cottages. The time was either spent on riding, walking or driven safaris. Tristan Voorspuy accompanied us on these, demonstrating his incredible knowledge not just of the country but of all the creatures that live there.

All of these safaris were spectacular, with some moments truly breathtaking. We rode next to wild herds of the rarest type of zebra, and walked next to an area of brush that suddenly roared! But on the first night we came very close to a male elephant, and at this point all bravery disappeared from everyone, Stoics and teachers alike.

Then, after a morning safari, the groups met for lunch in designated places. These ranged from a river picnic in front of hippos to a lunch of boating and fishing, and even included an infamous waterfall leap.

I would like to thank the Voorspuy's for being the most wonderful and welcoming hosts. Matt Pitteway did a fantastic job in organising the trip, along with Melissa Wadley, who also proved to be totally invaluable. I must also thank the Lockyers, Mrs Ansari and Yasmin, as well as the Stoics themselves, for creating such a fantastic and life-enhancing experience.

Miss Sophie Palmer



Main: The team after an evening chukka. *Top to bottom:* Delorane House; Out on a ridden safari



Stowe School 1st XI Cricket Tour to Dubai

During the Easter break 2011, having spent two rigorous terms preparing indoors, the 1st XI cricket team at Stowe travelled to Dubai to take part in the Schools' Arch Trophy. This tournament is a mirror of the Pro Arch Trophy that several counties play in each year as part of their pre-season preparation.

The side was led by Ali Birkby (currently in the Northants Academy) and the side included several other county players including Fifth Former, Ben Duckett who is part of the England U17 Development squad. The hard work they had invested prior to the tour paid off as the team played and won all their matches against King's Canterbury, Repton, Dubai College, Abu Dhabi Schools and the Young Talents Cricket Academy to be crowned Trophy Champions. In fact, this turned out to be the start of a 15 match winning streak for the 1st XI. The match against Abu Dhabi Schools was played at the stunning Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi and

Archie Hood's excellent century (118 runs) gained him a place on the Hotel's honours board. One of the highlights of the trip was the match against King's Canterbury at the Zayed Stadium where Liam Gough hit the last ball of the match for four to achieve a thrilling victory. Off the pitch the team enjoyed training at the World Class ICC facility, going to the top of the Burj Khalifa (tallest building in the world), visiting the Dubai Mall, Karama Suq and the Wild Wadi Water Park. It was a superb tour and thanks must go to my colleagues, Phil Arnold and Dominic Mochan and our scorer, Lynn Allen.

To raise funds for the tour, Stowe put on a 'Question of Sport' dinner on Saturday 5 February, hosted by Darren Gough with guests of honour Andrew Flintoff and Alan Knott.

160 guests were treated to a wonderful evening's entertainment with a champagne reception, four course dinner and auction. In total the squad raised £12,000 towards the tour and the Andrew Flintoff Foundation, which support facilities for disabled children.

Mr James Knott

Stowe play Kings Canterbury at the Zayed International Stadium in a day/night game





Rome 2011

At the end of last term a group of Upper Sixth Art Historians, led and supported by Mr Robinson and Miss Lake, the Bruce Matron, visited Rome primarily to study 17th Century Art and Architecture.

It is impossible, however, to visit Rome or the 'Eternal City' as it is also known, without physically walking, as we did, through 2000 years of history. For four days and evenings, as a group we walked through the Rome of the Ancient Romans, the Early Christians, the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and, more recently, the Risorgimento of the 19th Century, the Fascism of the mid-20th Century, and now contemporary Rome.

After two terms study with Mr Robinson, we were keen to focus on the Art and Architecture and to see for ourselves much of what we had studied. All the ideas behind Baroque art – the drama, the movement, the artistic illusionism, plus profound ideas of invention, poetry and Christian teaching all came alive during our visit.

The literal highlights were the numerous dramatic ceiling paintings at which we cricked our necks or stared down into mirrors, or just lay on cushions, to marvel at the illusionism. Notably the Barberini Ceiling, painted for the Pope and his relatives, to celebrate their political, social and religious successes and where we lay on our backs and gawped at the illusion of real figures floating around the sky, classical allegories, fictional sculpture and architecture. But this was only the beginning. Mr Robinson showed us more ceilings where, seemingly, figures of saints and hosts of angels floated up to heaven and where we could not work out

what was painted and what was three dimensional as sculpture or architecture.

We were privileged to enter the French Embassy, the Farnese Palace, to see one of the most important 17th century ceilings full of wit and charm. For us it was, perhaps just another great Baroque ceiling. For Mr Robinson, who had never been able to get in to see it, the experience was unforgettable.

These dramatic illusions continued with our delight at seeing the sculptures by Bernini who carved living figures who run, turn, grasp each other and who seem to breathe. The classical god, Pluto, grips the thigh of a struggling woman so hard that his fingers bite into her flesh, and yet this is all in marble. Apollo chases Daphne through a room, arms, drapery and legs in movement as she turns, screaming, as she is transformed into a laurel tree. At the end of her fingers sprout individual twigs and leaves.

With tired, and occasionally blistered, feet, but stimulated by visual and aesthetic pleasures, we saw palaces, gardens and fountains. We discovered for ourselves the delights of wandering in some of the back streets of Rome. We walked through the Roman Forum, past its ruins and temples, converted into churches. Like the Ancient Romans, we climbed the stairs of the Colosseum to marvel at its scale and to recall the engineering genius which enabled it to be built. We were amazed at the ancient Roman Pantheon, its huge dome open to the sky so that the smoke of incense and offering to the gods could float upwards.

Our visit, of course, was more than just the splendours of Rome, as we enjoyed the food and the wine as part of our experience of La Dolce Vita (the sweet life). We shall all return because we threw our coins, over our shoulders, into the Trevi Fountain. It was our interaction with the works of art which has prepared us for our A Level revision and exams, as well as introducing us to the numerous delights of the city. On behalf of the group, I would like to thank Miss Lake for looking after us and Mr Robinson for taking and teaching us.

Sam Strutt, Upper Sixth

Outstanding Individual Sporting Stoics

At Stowe our elite sportsmen and women receive specialised assistance with their training and balancing their work and sporting commitments. This year the 'squad' has comprised Stoics who have achieved excellence in an extremely diverse range of sports – cricket, rugby, lacrosse, hockey, swimming, rowing, shooting, fencing, golf and equestrian sports.

The following Stoics were selected to represent Great Britain or England in their sports:

Will Jackson (Swimming, Great Britain), James Rudkin (Rowing, Great Britain), Hannah Campbell (Fencing, Great Britain), Henry Plant (Shooting, Great Britain), Claire Gallimore (Dressage, Great Britain), José Brake and Danni Allard (Lacrosse, England), Will Berner (Polo, England) and Ben Duckett (Cricket, England).



Will Jackson –Swimming (GB)

As a result of Will's 'outstanding' times over Butterfly and Backstroke at the Great Britain Swimming trials held over the Easter holidays, Will was invited to train with the elite Great Britain youth team.

Will Berner – Polo (GB)

Will first represented England at Polo when he was part of the Young England team tour to Argentina (U14). He then went on to represent England in the England U16 21 Cup squad, the England U16 Alan Budgett Trophy and the England U18 touring squad to South Africa last year.

James Rudkin – Rowing (GB)

James Rudkin was selected for the Great Britain Rowing Team for the Coupe de la Jeunesse, European Junior Championships at Linz in Austria and we were delighted to hear that his quadruple sculling crew won gold medals at the event. For James, Great Britain selection was the culmination of a year of trialling and testing and gruelling 38 seat-races over five days at the Final

Trials. James is very grateful to Michael Righton, Jonathan Peverley and Ted Bainbridge (Old Stoic) for the help they have given him to develop his sculling at Stowe. He is now aiming for the World Championships in Bulgaria in 2012 and we look forward to following his success.

Hannah Campbell – Fencing (GB)

During the Lent term, Hannah Campbell (East Midlands Regional Sabre Champion 2010/11) was invited to compete in the Camden Cadet International Sabre competition and to represent Great Britain at an International Sabre competition in Meylan, France.

Claire Gallimore – Equestrian (GB)

Claire has represented Great Britain at major international competitions in Holland, Belgium and France, consistently gaining top placings. For the past two years she has been part of the Great Britain Pony European Championship Team. At the European Championships, the German and Dutch riders can usually be confident of the top eight positions, but this year, Claire broke their

domination and gained an impressive fifth place, the highest Great Britain placing for many years. At the British Dressage National Convention she was awarded the Lucan Trophy in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

Henry Plant – Rifle Shooting (GB)

Henry has represented Great Britain in the sport of Rifle Shooting and continues to be successful in the sport.

José Brake and Danni Allard – Lacrosse (England)

José Brake and Danni Allard joined the England U-19 Lacrosse World Cup squad

Ben Duckett – Cricket (England)

Ben Duckett toured South Africa with the England Development Cricket Squad and represented the English Schools Cricket Association. He was awarded his English Schools cap by Andrew Strauss during the Summer and is currently part of the England U17 squad.



Left to Right: James wearing medal; Claire Gallimore; Will Jackson – Swimming (GB)

The Road

‘When your dreams are of some world that never was or of some world that never will be and you are happy again then you will have given up.’

A flurry of hustling bustling bodies, white coats, blue scrubs, like my own snow storm, if I can even remember snow. Outside snow does indeed fall, but I wouldn’t know. I look through just one window now, through into a frozen world, through to you, sleeping bone, stone beauty. A twisted fairytale to be sure; the evil witch leukaemia cast her wicked spell, despite the fruitless efforts of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery, the three good fairies, I fear the spell has not lifted. Sleeping beauty will not wake, and neither will you. I can hear your tinkling laugh in my ears, my dear, if you could hear these satirical musings, but the glass separates us, as surely as our lives will be separated by a definite barrier of unjust destinies. I’m afraid to enter your world, as if the icy white floor will crack under my feet and a vast canyon drop before me, a fall into desolate desperation to reach you. Your blue lips alone tell me how dreadfully cold you are in there, a hat perhaps for your bald, exposed head; is that not a mother’s usual solution to the biting cold? But I do not think though that you are gripped by a fierce frost to be solved by a hat. No, I have learnt over these eight years that the whirling wind that attacks you is not something I can defend you from. You are chilled from the inside out, not the outside in. Your very blood freezes those once red rose lips to as blue as that bluebell wood at the edge of town. That is why the wired ivy clings to your branch arms; to suck out the cold, to poison the winter out and leave room for a frail summer to thaw your heart out, so red roses will again bloom in your lips.

A stuttering staccato beep cuts across the dull humming room; the white coats fling themselves at your door, daring to venture across the precarious ice to reach your little island. Frenzied panic attempts to awaken you from the spell of frozen sleep, pushes, prods, probes, but still you sleep,

as if unaware of the activity frantically tethering you to life, still under the spell, still sleeping beauty. Yes, you are a beauty. Odd you may look with a child’s nightgown billowing around your bird bones, but there is the hint of dimples in your cavernous cheeks, the whisper of flowing brown ringlets in your straggly hair, the illusion of roses in your frozen lips. The ghost of a girl lies with your skeletal body, and the ghost of a mother stares back. The moment that staccato beep became a single long note, the vast wasteland that had stretched between us was gone, you and I were united in that last faltering breath, the ghost girl and ghost mother clinging to a final thread of life. For that is what I have become, only the shadow of a mother left in me. The apocalypse of your life rendered me empty too, our life together like the dogged search for meagre food, dragging to the assured end.

A whimpering white coat whispers that room 304 was no longer occupied by you but by a body.

“Would you like to see your daughter, Madam?”

Yes I would like to see her. Absurdly I carry the blue chair with me; it has been my home for the past five months. As if sleepwalking I go across that icy floor, to sit by the body of a girl in my daughter’s hospital bed. Perhaps I had hoped she would still be hidden somewhere underneath those shuttered eyelids. But she wasn’t.

The scene flashed before me, the bed, once, a sheet floating across the empty face, twice, white coats sullenly organising the room.... tired eyes closed and fresh ones open. A rosy faced girl ran into my open arms, red roses blooming in her lips, flowing ringlets in the deep chocolate hair, dimples to the corners of her mouth. A dream of a never again reality.

A ghost of a girl, a ghost of a mother...

The wired ivy clings to your branch arms...

Tabbi Owen, Lower Sixth



Michelle Isong, Upper Sixth

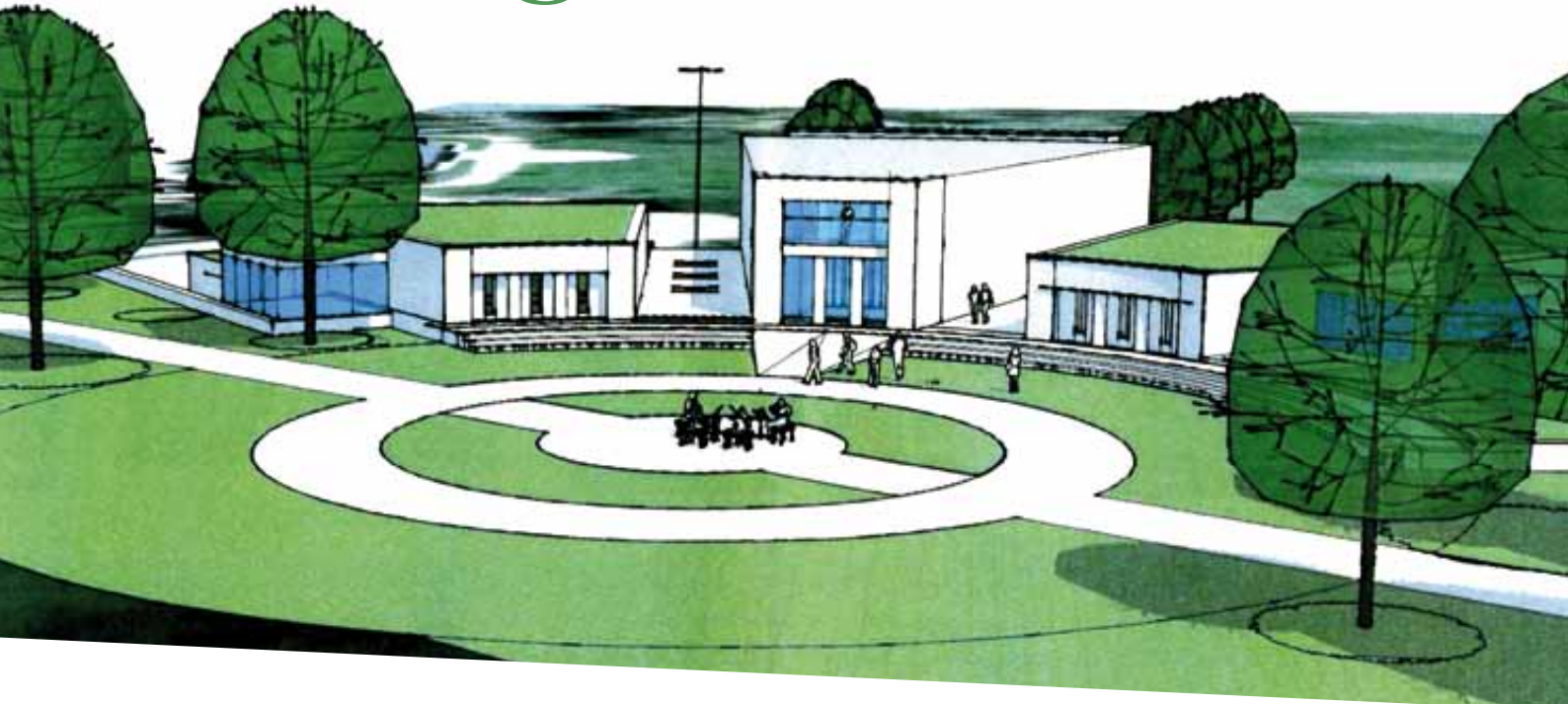


Jasper Simkin, Lower Sixth



Anastasia Kohsina, Lower Sixth

Looking to the Future



This year we have seen the plans for the new Musical School come to fruition, the Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and Big Band have all regularly been performing at outside events, the Clarinet Quartet and String Players performed to very high standards at the Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition and the highlight of the year was the Music Department trip to Los Angeles with 'The Music Scholars of Stowe'.

This year seven architects were invited to present, to a committee of senior Stowe staff, their vision of what a new music school at Stowe could look like. All the presentations were tremendously creative and of a high standard. After five months of deliberation, the committee recommended to the Governing Body that they appoint Nick Cox Architects, and on 25 June the Governing Body recommended that this design should go forward for planning permission to the local district council. This project has also formed the basis of the Stowe Campaign this year (please visit www.stowemusic.co.uk if you have not already done so). The building will be centred on a Concert Auditorium that will seat 250 people. There will be

24 practice and teaching rooms, two large classrooms, a rock room, recording studio, fully fitted percussion room and a large and impressive resources room.

The building, due to be completed in September 2013, will be a wonderful resource which will amply serve the needs of all Stoics no matter what their level of interest in music. Whether they are Music Scholars and Exhibitioners with hopes of winning places at Conservatoires and Universities to become professional Classical, Jazz and Pop musicians, or Stoics who simply love playing for their own delight and enjoyment and want to record their own concept album in our Sony Recording Studio – all tastes and styles will be represented and given the opportunity to flourish in this new music facility.

Just after the summer break, at the start of the Michaelmas term, the Big Band played for a local charity event in Finmere, and their infectious and stylish playing quickly got the audience dancing. Just a few weeks later the Chapel Choir set off to the North Yorkshire City of Ripon, where they sang Evensong. Two of the current members of the Chapel Choir, Liam Forster and Clara Holden, both Music Scholars, were choristers at Ripon Cathedral before coming to Stowe. En route, we stopped off at the South Yorkshire Sculpture Park,

a place not to be missed for those who travel the M1 corridor; not least because of the Sculpture Park, which is tremendous, but the also for the excellent cafeteria which served the Choir a real rib-sticking Yorkshire lunch. At Evensong we sang Stanford in C, the Cleobury Responses and Wood's 'O Thou the Central Orb'. Huw Jones really enjoyed playing the Cathedral organ and accompanied the choir in his characteristically immaculate style. After Evensong a number of parents who had come up to hear the choir, joined us for a lovely Italian meal before we set off back to Stowe.

This year we changed the format of the Carol Services, and the Christmas concert. It was felt that it would be appropriate to give parents the opportunity to celebrate the start of the Christmas festivities as a family, so we created two Carol Services which now take place on the last day of term. The choir were in good voice, and



Isabelle Elliot and George Eatwell sang the solo verses in Darke's 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter', while Liam Forster, Clara Holden and Miles Clark sang solo verses in Palestrina's Advent Responsory. Philippa Dearsley returned, by popular request, to sing Adam's quintessential Christmas Carol, 'O Holy Night', with the Chapel Choir. Debbie Arcsott's Brass Quintet played the famous Wilcock's Fanfares with Matthew Turner on the Timpani, and Huw Jones played the Chapel organ with style and verve.

The Christmas Concert raised over a £1000 for the Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice in Oxford. The newly formed Symphonic Wind Band, directed by Jennifer Nelson, played a wonderfully challenging and charismatic piece called November, while Debbie Arcsott's Brass Group opened with Copland's 'Fanfare for the Common Man'. The Orchestra played two movements from Prokofiev's 'Lieutenant Kijé', featuring Marco Capella on Cornet and Stefano Capella on Tenor Saxophone. Our trumpet players performed the seasonal 'Bugler's Holiday', featuring Marco Capella, George Eatwell, Edward Kealey, Elizabeth Johnson and George Wallace and the orchestra played two 'Sleigh Rides'; one an exquisite image of a Russian sleigh ride by Delius and the other, a Hollywood romp by Lee Roy Anderson. The Chamber Choir also sang under the direction of Huw Jones.



The Chamber Choir has sung at numerous dinners and events both in and out of school, including a mixed Greek/Anglican wedding for an Old Stoic who was a member of the Choir when at Stowe. Mr Jones is constantly arranging the newest and most fun pop music for the Chamber Choir to sing, but he has also become very accomplished at producing new settings of the Grace. The 'Royal Grace', written for the Queen's visit, which is a regular start to

dinners in the State Rooms, has now been replaced by the new 'Grace D'Amour', with words from the 'Song of Songs'.



In October, after many discussions with our Campaign Director, Colin Dudgeon, we decided it would be a wonderful to organise a music tour to reconnect with Old Stoics on the West Coast of America. It quickly became clear that although there are pockets of Old Stoics dotted along the West Coast, the majority live in or near Los Angeles. We also found out that one of our most distinguished Old Stoic composers, Harry Gregson-Williams is based in Venice Beach. With the whole department fully involved in preparations for the Banbury Music Festival or rehearsing 'The Hired Man' (by our other distinguished Old Stoic composer, Howard Goodall), the majority of the planning and setting up of the tour was done by our very capable Music Administrator, Sarah Searle.

We were invited to perform at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles and at Sony International Pictures, for the Old Stoics. Sir Howard Stringer, a current parent, very kindly arranged the concert at the latter venue and facilitated a reception for Old Stoics at Sony International Pictures on the original Columbia Pictures lot in Culver City. The event was a thrilling experience for all involved thanks largely to the efforts of Lucienne Hassler, Senior Vice President Administrative Services at Sony. The Music Scholars of Stowe sang arrangements of popular songs, and a beautiful setting of the 'Irish Blessing', the Stowe Strings played a Pergolesi Concerto Grosso and James Blackham (Head Boy) played Bach's Violin Concerto in A minor, directed by Daniel Bhattacharya (Head of Strings). A highlight was Tom Wallace's performance of Lawson Lunde's Saxophone Sonata. The wine flowed,

delicious canapés were circulated and current and Old Stoics mingled like old friends. Before the afternoon concert, Lucienne had managed to gain access to the closed set of Spiderman 4; it was a mesmerising experience to be walked through the inner workings of a major film.

Sadly in the evening Harry Gregson-Williams was unable to join the event and meet with other Old Stoics, but the following morning the Headmaster and I visited him at his private studios in Venice Beach. Harry had come to Stowe as a

chorister from St John's College, Cambridge, where he studied under the distinguished George Guest. In the Third Form he played the lead in the musical 'Smike', for which, he told us, he earned his music colours! He is now one of the leading film composers of his generation. It was a delight and privilege to meet an Old Stoic who is such a talented and successful composer. We are also delighted that he has agreed to be our musician in residence next year and will therefore be able to advise our budding composers and help them to create their own miniature film scores.

The event at Sony Pictures was going to be hard to follow, but the Choir's singing of Vivaldi's Gloria and then performing with the professional choir at the Los Angeles First Congregational Church proved to be 'icing on the cake'; one of the members of congregation was so excited by our singing he arranged for us to have free ice creams at one of LA's oldest ice cream stalls. We then visited the Stowe Archives at the Huntingdon Library, where we viewed photographs of the Stowe State Rooms.

After half-term we launched into Nick Bayley's marvellous production of Melvyn Bragg and Howard Goodall's 'The Hired Man'. This gutsy and driven work is often thought of as the Cumbrian 'Les Miserables'. It tells a story of a family struggling with the formation of unions, the demands made upon workers by employers and the First World War as well as the required tangled webs of love that must be central to any piece of Musical Theatre.



One of the highlights of the Summer term took place during the first exeat weekend, when a professional orchestra, the Stowe Festival Orchestra, came together to accompany five concerto movements played by current Stoics. Aimie Rusher, Chloe Knibbs and Stefano Capella played the whole of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto,

Liam Forster played the first two movements of the Tartini (arranged by Gordon Jacob) Clarinet Concerto, and the first half concluded with George Eatwell playing the entire Haydn Trumpet Concerto. It was marvellous to hear such beautiful music in the State Music Room. The second half was a performance of

Horovitz's comic oratorio 'Summer Sunday', with most of the chorus singing short solos while the following Stoics had more substantial roles; Olivia Wagg sang the role of the Cow, Lucy Coe sang the role of the Crow and Henry Coldstream sang the role of the Man; mention should also be made of the role of the Small Girl, Daisy Eatwell (a younger sister of two current Stoics) who sang so beautifully. The concert was preceded by a Stowe Parents Association (SPA) dinner.

The Music Department has had such a busy year, and we are so grateful to the current Upper Sixth Stoics who have worked so hard with us and for us. My special thanks go to James Blackham, Marco Capella, Stefano Capella, Lucy Coe, George Eatwell, Edward Kealey, Chloe Knibbs, Elizabeth Johnson, Andres Richards, Aimie Rusher, Oliver Sewell, Thomas Wallace, George Wallace and Andrew Welford.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music



An interview with: George Eatwell

Mr Dearsley (SPD): At what stage in your life did music become important?

George Eatwell (GE): I started playing at the age of nine but it became really important when I started playing for Northampton County when I was 11.

SPD: What is your most memorable musical moment at Stowe and why?

There have been so many amazing musical experiences, but amongst the most memorable are singing and playing the trumpet in the huge cathedral St John the Divine in New York, singing with the professional choir in the Los Angeles Congregational Church, singing evensong at Ripon Cathedral and finally performing the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with a professional orchestra.

SPD: If you had advice for other music scholars, what would it be?

GE: Grasp every aspect of the department you can and make the most of every opportunity that is thrown your way; there

are many! You can never do too much and the rewards are worth it; I came to Stowe with one Grade 7 and left with two Grade 8s!

SPD: What aspect of the musical opportunities at Stowe have you enjoyed the most?

GE: The trips and tours and the numerous opportunity to perform in public.

SPD: Has it been difficult finding time for music while having a very busy schedule at School?

GE: It has been fine finding time for music groups and rehearsals which are scheduled to fit around the rest of your day. It has been more difficult to find time for personal practice but if you put the effort in, make time and treat it like another lesson then it usually works out.

SPD: You are planning to go on and read Geography at Southampton, do you think you will maintain some involvement in music (aside from changing to a course in music once you get there!)?

An interview with: Chloe Knibbs

Mr Dearsley (SPD): At what stage in your life did music become important?

Chloe Knibbs (CK): At the age of nine, I began to develop an interest in music and this grew as I began to take on more musical activities. Before I knew it, everything I did was related to music and I loved it. Not soon after starting music it was clear that I had found what I wanted to do in life; nine or so years later this still hasn't changed!

SPD: What will be your most memorable musical moment at Stowe and why?

CK: There are so many it is hard to pinpoint a particular moment. Conducting the Stowe Orchestra was something I never thought I would do but I learnt so much by having to be the one in charge and this is definitely something I would like to do again. I also absolutely loved working with the ensemble

GE: Of course, I really enjoy music and can't see myself stopping it. It's a skill that allows you to mix with other people and meet a variety of people, it's fun, it allows you to be continuously learning, you are able to perform and sometimes it helps to earn money! I will try and join as many groups as I can both for singing and brass; and if a group doesn't exist you can always start one! Oh, and then the conversion to a music course...!

SPD: Do you see music as being part of your future career?

GE: I am not sure what I will be doing post university but whether my career involves music or not I still hope that it will feature in my life as a passion. I currently play in an evening function band which I thoroughly enjoy so I would certainly not rule it out.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music and George Eatwell

"Talkestra" on my most recent composition. I learnt so much in such a short time and it was such a thrill to hear my piece performed so well!

SPD: If you had advice for other music scholars what would it be?

CK: To make the most of everything that is on offer, time at Stowe will go very quickly and before you know it you will be leaving. Even if you do not intend to pursue music as a career, being in musical ensembles allows you to meet so many people and enjoy so much music. With everything that happens at Stowe you can improve so much in such a short time that it is worth making the most of every opportunity. I have also found that using all the performing opportunities has been a great chance to test pieces I am working on as well as gaining in confidence as a performer.

SPD: What aspect of the musical opportunities at Stowe have you enjoyed the most?

CK: I think the variety is amazing as I have been able to experience musical opportunities as a listener, composer, pianist, clarinettist and singer! The variety accommodates so many different interests which means you get to know people really well and I have enjoyed gaining the extended family of the Music Department! I also think that the challenging nature of music has helped me, as it has motivated me to reach the targets I had wanted to achieve before coming to Stowe. I have found all the music staff to be great at seeing how much I can achieve and giving me challenges such as the Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition or performing at the RNCM's Chopin Weekend.

SPD: Has it been difficult finding time for music while having a very busy schedule at School?

CK: Yes, Stowe is very busy! Many people find Stowe life very hectic but I have found the rewards have outweighed the time constraints. The best thing to do is to be as organised as possible and plan ahead. It amazes me how much you can fit into a Stowe day; no wonder you can achieve so much at Stowe!



SPD: You are planning to go and read Music at Manchester, what was attractive about studying for a music degree?

CK: As I have wanted to be a musician for so many years, the idea of reading music at university has been something I have looked forward to for a long time. It will be great to focus on music without having to worry on anything else; allowing me to prepare myself further to go out into the world as a musician. Moreover, Manchester is a really musical city so it will be a great opportunity to be inspired and surrounded by the numerous musicians and musical events.

SPD: Do you see music as being part of your future career?

CK: Definitely, I can't imagine myself doing anything else! Although it is hard to know where music would take me, my ideal aim would be to become a successful composer as this is where I feel truly at home in the world of music. Furthermore, it would also be fantastic to be able to work as a professional performer perhaps in chamber groups; but I think this will only come with many more hundreds of hours of practice!

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music and Chloe Knibbs

Butterflies

She spoke as if through a dream. Her words were of course perfectly formulated with her usual eloquence, yet behind the languid remarks and flawless declarations, her eyes fluttered hopelessly in their cocoon. She flurried through the social crowds in order to defy the emotions forcing themselves upon her... Perhaps this could deceive the people who murmured their misgivings and fluttered their wings, in the space around her prison.

People parted as she danced through, as if her jagged edges were tainted with poison; when in reality her jagged edges were no more than frayed wings. Battered from the cruel world. It was clear life had not been fair to her, that her grief would never hit home; and yet the resilient slant that carved her pained face was evident to all. She was defeated, but not yet conquered.

Everything around her was graceful and perfect, much like the perception of her full, pure life. She was always there, beating against the past, swimming against the current. She did not deceive me. I saw her floundering, drowning in the storm that had engulfed her since...

In time, tear tracks were absorbed into scars, scars that ran too deep to be dealt with; disfigurements that blemished her soul. It is not that she was alone. She was never alone, but it was the sheer fragility of her life since... It all seemed so breakable and surreal. Even to me.

It was not until mid-winter that the snow caught her and slowed her to a lethargic crawl; and then finally the icy summer brought her to a standstill. The fiery leaves were malting from the trees before I saw her next. The olive skin fluttering to the ground was all the evidence that autumn was here and that things were moving on. She edged through the spaces around the Oak trees, desperate not to be seen. I could have approached her and begun the practiced pleasantries and the continued condolences, yet something plucked me back. Something hauled my feet to a standstill, causing my mind to falter and my body to weaken.

The turmoil beneath the surface was still imminent. Things like that do not just disappear;

but for that infinitesimal moment, that fraction of a second... she looked peaceful. I would not remind her of the agony, the raw love that stung with potent futility.

Before I could move the breeze flurried her away and I lost sight of her amongst the people swarming through the park. She was like a candle in the wind, but her flickering light no longer danced. The lost love had consumed her flame, leaving the waxy remains to shrink further and further until they disappeared.

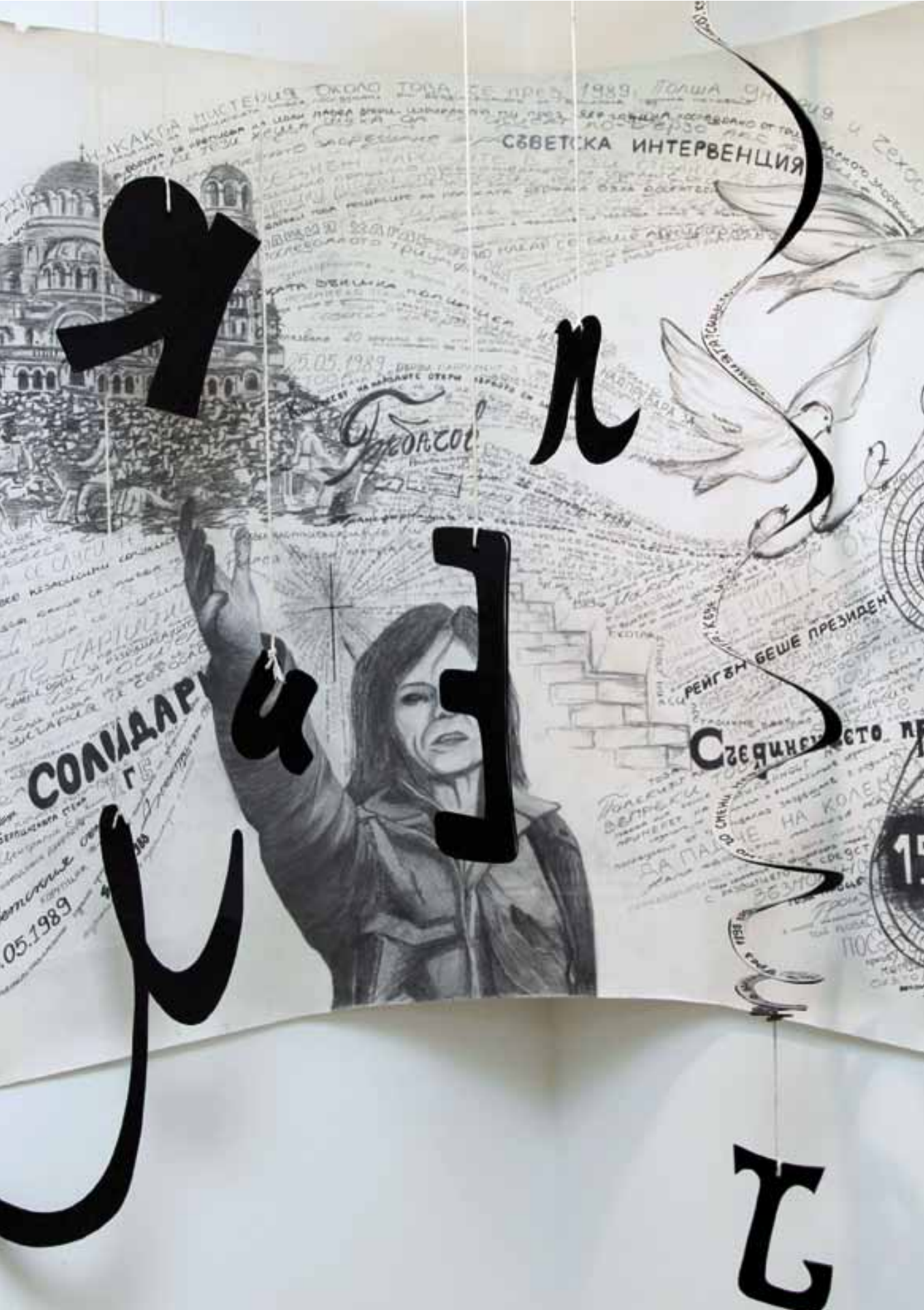
The butterflies left in the summertime, disappearing into the vast expanse of blue. They left her abandoned. She tried to fly with them but her bones were too heavy, filled with the poignant grief that now stunted her escape. I had been travelling away that summer but by the time I had returned, she was already tied and bound: ready for the return to winter. The return to her cocoon...while the butterflies darted gracefully back into warmth of society; either to die, or to start again.

Her disappearance did not surprise me; she was bound to flee soon enough. Her departure was simply a plea to leave it all behind. All the guilt and grief; all the suffering and pain. All of it.

What surprised me the most was that she was still ceaselessly alive. She may have curled away and hidden in the dark; but her vitality illuminated the space she used to fill. She was the core of reality in the society she used to occupy. The only sincere presence among the relentless insects, that crawled amongst the upper classes with the pretence of flying.

The wings of the society had deceived me; I believed her to be cocooned and imprisoned, and yet it is those butterflies that will be held captive. It is those incarnate, pretty creatures that will be broken in the end, not the caterpillar that cocoons itself. Simply waiting. Trying. Hoping. To fly, beating freshly into the future.

Hannah Maxwell, Lower Sixth



Iveta Drazheva, Upper Sixth

Senior Congreve:

The Hired Man

Written by Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76) and based on a novel by Melvyn Bragg, the story chronicles the lives of ordinary working class people and their struggle to carve a living from the land, during a time span of just over twenty-five years, from 1898 to 1923.

The Stowe production ran for five performances from Wednesday 16 March until Saturday 19 March, with a special matinee performance on the Friday afternoon for children from Milton Keynes Prep School and guests from the local community. The production featured an on-stage cast of 27 Sixth Form Stoics, with another 23 from the Fifth and Sixth Form helping backstage.

Four Stoics shared the two lead roles; Harriet Easdale (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Imran Momen (Lower Sixth, Bruce) played the young couple, Emily and John Tallentire, in Act 1 and Lucy Coe (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Tom Wood (Upper Sixth, Chatham) played the older, more world weary couple in Act 2. There is a sixteen year gap, during which time the Tallentire family moves from the hills of Crossbridge, high up in the fells, to the grimy pits of Whitehaven and although initially the decision to split the roles was seen by some to be a little contrived, the overall theatrical effect was excellent.

Harriet's passionate and emotional rendition of her final song in Act 1 was superb at every performance. Her Cumbrian accent never waived and she brilliantly captured the intense frustrations of a young woman who is trapped in a dull, loveless marriage and who is desperate to escape to something better. Imran brought a sense of enormous pride to the character of John and his unflinching desire to tackle every job in the best way he could, often to the detriment of his relationship with Emily. Lucy and Tom's duet, 'No Choir of

This year's Senior Congreve production of *The Hired Man* was a resounding success. Shunning the usual trappings of your typical big, brassy, showbiz style musical, the story of *The Hired Man* is as tough as the granite Cumbrian hills and Whitehaven coal pits where the action takes place.

Angels' was one of the highlights of the production. Tom used his superb range of acting skills to wring every ounce of emotion out of the war scenes, as we saw the motley crew of farmers, miners, brothers and uncles, desperately coming to terms with the horrors of trench warfare in the killing fields of Flanders.

Harriet, Imran, Lucy and Tom were ably assisted by a fantastic ensemble who played the land owners, farmers, hired hands, villagers, soldiers, pit workers and 'extended' family with great aplomb.

Special mentions must go to Congreve regulars. Alex Stevens (Upper Sixth, Grenville) brought a good deal of humour and spirit to his role of Isaac, the 'wild at heart' middle brother of John. Max Smith (Lower Sixth, Chandos), was superb in the role of Jackson, the conceited and confident land owner's son who makes a serious play for Emily's attentions in Act 1. Barty Shepherd (Upper Sixth, Chandos) played Harry, the 16 year old son of Emily and John, who in Act 2 defies his parents and enlists in the Army, only to meet a tragic end in the war.

Stowe newcomers, Daisy Ussher and Alice Jackman (both Lower Sixth, Nugent) caught the eyes and ears of the audience in their respective roles of May Tallentire, the fiery and forward-thinking daughter and Sally,

the Crossbridge neighbour and seemingly only genuine friend to Emily in Act 1. Other featured characters were played with skill and confidence by Alex Miarli (Lower Sixth, Bruce) as Seth, George Eatwell (Upper Sixth, Temple) as Bill and Isi Madojemu (Upper Sixth, Bruce) as Ted.

Musical Director, Simon Dearsley, brought the very best out of some highly accomplished singers and the large, group 'company' numbers including 'The Song of the Hired Men', 'The Work Song' and 'Tell your Children' were simply stunning in their power, energy and commitment. Simon incorporated a wonderful band, comprising Stowe Music Department staff, Huw Jones and Debbie Arscott who added poignancy and colour to the quite brilliant score by Goodall, which draws so cleverly from a wide variety of musical influences and references, including English folk, church and traditional music. The costumes were suitably authentic and added a great deal to the overall effect of the production. Angela Cammish and her wonderful team of wardrobe helpers deserve huge praise for their endeavour and commitment.

The audience reaction was astonishing and it was fantastic to see how the company grew in confidence after each performance. For many of the cast, the production of *The Hired Man* was to be their last involvement in a Congreve production at Stowe School. What a superb way for them to say farewell!

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





Tales Untold

How do you follow the rip roaring success of the Junior Congreve production of 'Midsummer Night's Dream'? Go back to the best storyteller around or try and find a nice alternative?

Thankfully, Director and designer, Nick Bayley, came across the script of *'Tales Untold'*, a collection of eight short plays based upon tales originally found in the Brothers Grimm collection, for his June 2010 production, staged in the Roxburgh Hall, for four performances.

With a huge cast of over fifty performers, singers and musicians drawn from our Third and Fourth Form, *'Tales Untold'* was a delightful, eclectic mix of exciting theatre, dance, mime, puppetry and song, staged with gusto, confidence and a real sense of charm.

Each 'tale' featured its own cast and we were treated throughout the evening to the many delights of the tales.

Highlights included the story of the 'Six Travellers', performed as a puppet show, with suitable looking marionettes and featuring an excellent Old Witch (Jemina Phillips) and chisel jawed 'hero' (Hugo Brooks), 'Clever Else' with the dippy looking, Sloaney 'Else' performed superbly by Gigi Bacon, and the 'Six Stupid Hans' where we see an increasingly frustrated Mother (Izzy Berner) and her six, dim witted sons, all called Hans (Oscar Page, Oscar Robertson, Jonny Constant, Freddie Dixon, Tristan Phipps and Kit Dixon Smith) desperate for the attention of local heart throb 'Gretel', played with expert style by Daisy Anderson.



Junior Congreve: 2011

Terry Pratchett's novel tells the story of Johnny Maxwell, a boy who discovers, while taking a short cut through his local cemetery, that he can both see and hear the dead who emerge from their graves to talk to him, while to everyone else they are both invisible and silent.



Johnny and the Dead

from the novel by
Terry Pratchett,
adapted by Stephen Briggs.

It falls to Johnny, therefore, to help the dead in their struggle to prevent the cemetery from being sold; in a clear reference to the scandal of Westminster Council selling off its cemeteries in the 80s.

The demanding role of Johnny was taken by Alfie Hardman. He was on stage virtually throughout the play, supplying linking monologues as well as interacting with all the other characters, and was not only convincing throughout, but held the narrative of the story superbly. Johnny and his three friends – Wobbler, Bigmac and Yoless, played respectively by Hugo Ellison, Priscilla Powell and Abraham Okeowo – established a strong, on-stage relationship and provided a good deal of the humour that infects the play. Each member of the cast was able to create a strong and convincing characterisation, adding both comedy and variety to the production. Hoagy Pollen played the pompous alderman; Alex Long played the fiery communist, a Lenin lookalike; Henry Sylvester was the Italian escapologist; Maddy Wackett was the upper class suffragette; Louis Hitchcock, the mad scientist, with Coco Anthony as his more practical sidekick; Rebecca Raeburn was the voice of doom; and finally Will Dinsdale was the 30s footballer who had scored the most own goals in the history of any sport,

and who was speechless throughout (except for his final words 'Goodbye Johnny').

Kemal Eyi, was remarkably convincing as the 80 year old chairman of the British Legion, and Marina Oswald, was superb as Johnny's granny, while a strong chorus provided a range of smaller roles. One memorable section of the play involved a dance routine (based on Michael Jackson's 'Thriller') which was choreographed with wit and humour by Lucy Ashe.

No production can be brought to life without strong backstage support, and I would like to thank Angela Cammish and her team who provided costumes and make-up for a cast of over thirty characters; Steve Grimble, who worked his usual magic, creating both a set of gravestones (and an opening tomb) and a complete red telephone box; and finally, the theatre crew lead by our technician, Ed McLean, who supplied the lighting and sound, as well as a team of stage hands.

Ultimately, the production was a lively and funny play which was not without its serious points, and which provided entertainment for its audience, while offering a satisfying and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Mr Chris Walters



GCSE Drama

Students of GCSE Drama have two practical assessments over the course of the Fifth Form: first a devised piece, in which, starting from one of the stimuli provided by the exam board – a title, a picture, a song – they are allowed several weeks to create, rehearse, and then perform an original piece of theatre. This gives them the opportunity to experiment with a variety of techniques and theatrical devices that they have learnt during the course. Such pieces of work can be among the most exciting and creative displays of theatre to be seen at Stowe.

This was certainly the case this year. A striking and somewhat disturbing photograph of a child's dress abandoned on a beach was used as the starting point for three of the performances, all possessing emotional, poignant, storylines. Hugo Brooks, Rebecca Dale, Isabelle Elliott and Ben Wild presented a murder mystery, placed in the setting of a seaside funfair, allowing them to create various rides and stalls through imaginative physical theatre. Gigi Bacon, Isabelle Berner, Freddie Dixon and Will Watson gave us a Romeo and Juliet-like tragedy based on thwarted love, while Jonny Constant, Will Jones, Steph Page and Lucas Worsdell created a moving, wistful look back at a long ago disappearance and its tragic consequences.

Chris Carrelet, Jack Chaplin, Georgie Leech and Oscar Robertson and a group comprising Eleonore du Bois de Montule, Sophie Gordon Cumming, Bertie Hayward and Charlie Samuelson both used the Beatles' song, She's Leaving Home. Their pieces were more light-hearted in tone,

and used strong comic characterisations and some clever staging techniques to tell their tale. The final subject was the most open; the title was Behind the Door. Tristan Phipps played a troubled film star in one scene, using murder to get his way out of some unwanted romantic entanglement, while the final group of Kit Dixon-Smith, James Drax, Rayyan Nazir, Oscar Page and Siana Vere Nicoll created a complex story of sibling rivalry, and utilised some superb theatrical techniques in order to do so.

The other practical task came late in the course. In this, the pupils had to perform extracts from published texts. This

demanded different skills to those involved in creating their own plays, but arguably this is closer to the working life of an actor.

We began the assessment day with The Birthday Party by Harold Pinter, which showed Gigi Bacon in sparkling comic form as the somewhat demented Meg, landlady of a seaside boarding-house, with Jonny Constant as her long-suffering husband, and Will Watson as their lodger. Real food and drink contributed to the naturalism of their scene and gave Jonny the difficult challenge of coping with lines while munching on a bowl of cornflakes. Billy Liar, the next extract, was similarly naturalistic in tone. Will Jones played the eponymous hero, while Freddie Dixon and Isabelle Elliott provided comic contrast with their portrayals of his brash friend and drippy girlfriend, constantly eating oranges.

After these two classics of the English kitchen-sink, we had two American plays: Edward Albee's The Zoo Story and Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie. In the former, Lucas Worsdell created a real sense of menace in his role as Gerry, confronting the more conservative Peter, played by Ben Wild, over a bench in New York's Central Park; while in the latter Isabelle Berner, Hugo Brooks and Rebecca Dale, all using effective accents, successfully portrayed a repressed Southern family.



In the parallel group, Charlie Samuelson and GT Svanikier played the twins in *Blood Brothers*, whilst Georgie Leech, Rayyan Nazir and Honor Turner effectively created the shifting alliances that characterise playing children in an extract from Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills*. Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle* was an ambitious effort pulled off with great élan, Siana Vere Nicholl playing the servant Grusha, Eleonore du Bois de Montule and Sophie Gordon Cumming playing a pair of spiteful rich women, and Bertie Hayward excelling himself with three contrasting characters in quick succession.

In *Skinny Spew*, Kit Dixon-Smith played the titular hero and Chris Carrelet and James Drax played his put-upon parents, creating anarchic comic chaos. The assessment was completed by Jack Chaplin, Oscar Page, Tristan Phipps and Oscar Robertson, who played John Godber's *Bouncers* in great comic form, giving us a hilarious view of the bouncers in question and a variety of the characters they met during one evening.

The first time, we had two technical candidates, Tom Humphreys and Matt Robbins. Their ideas and expertise contributed significantly to the success of the pieces they worked on. Matt's sound effects had a huge impact on *Skinny Spew*, while Tom designed, rigged and operated the lighting for one of the devised pieces as well as *Chalk Circle*.

Both assessments allowed the pupils the opportunity to give a practical demonstration of what they had learnt over the two year course. All credit goes to them for their superb work.

Mr Chris Walters



Fifth Form production

Sparkleshark

Sparkleshark by Philip Ridley was chosen as the Fifth Form production for a number of reasons. First of all, it was one of the very first plays to be written for the BT Connections/National Theatre competition, in which ten new plays are commissioned each year from established playwrights, specifically designed for young people to perform, and so is particularly suitable in terms of both style and content for this age-group. More directly, the play is the set text that we have chosen to study at GCSE. Not only would it be beneficial for the cast to have a working knowledge of how the play might be presented, it would also be an invaluable experience for all the other pupils studying the play to have the chance to see it on stage.

The play tells the story of Jake, a troubled young man, much bullied at school, who escapes to a place of refuge and safety, the rooftop of a nearby tower block, where he writes his stories. On this occasion, however, his sanctuary is disturbed by a succession of visitors: Polly, a new girl at the school, sympathetic to his plight and a fan of his storytelling, but then Natasha and Carol, two girls who have followed Polly, and who are in turn trailed by the very bullies Jake was trying to escape. As a ploy to escape a beating, Jake and Polly start to re-tell one of his stories: a fantastic tale featuring dragons, chariots, a witch, a princess and gradually the others are all drawn in to take on the roles of the various characters.

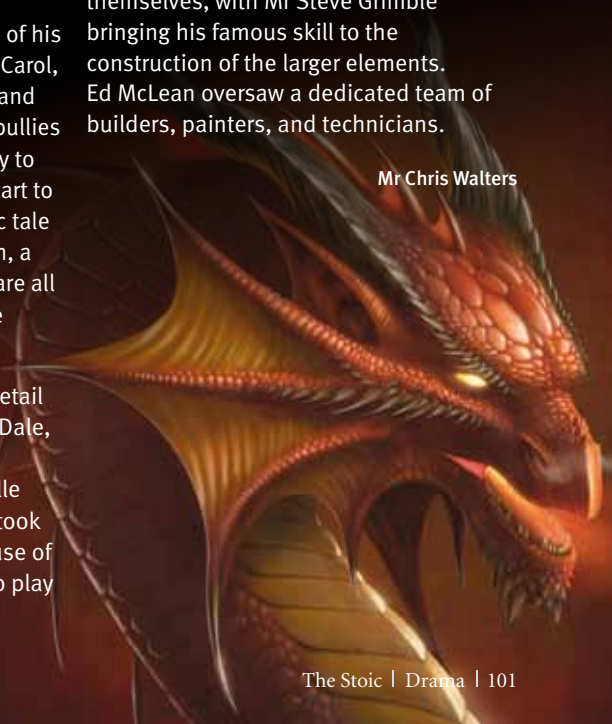
Jake was played with convincing detail by Lucas Worsdell, while Rebecca Dale, as Polly, was able to bring out the various nuances of the role. Isabelle Berner and Daisy Anderson, both took on new roles at short notice because of a cast illness, Isabelle switching to play

Natasha, the school Queen Bee, while Daisy took over Isabelle's previous role as Carol, Natasha's none-too-bright wannabe friend. Hugo Brooks, also at short notice, took on the role of Russell, chief bully and self-described 'love muscle'. He gave an intelligent, lively performance, while his own pair of followers, played by Charlie Samuelson and GT Svanikier, managed to steal quite a few comic moments with their highly amusing characterisations. The final two characters were the super-cool Shane, played by Oscar Robertson, who brought to the role an extraordinary range of mannerisms and facial characterisations which really brought it to life; and Finn, Polly's huge but challenged younger brother, who ultimately 'became' the dragon, *Sparkleshark*, poignantly brought to life by an almost unrecognisable Tristan Phipps.

The play contained some notable set-piece scenes, the most memorable being the climactic fight between Russell and *Sparkleshark*, played out in dramatic slow-motion and accompanied by atmospheric lighting and a booming soundtrack of rousing classical music.

The set for the production almost became a character in itself: a realistic depiction of a tower-block rooftop, laid out on a thrust stage jutting into the audience, complete with skylight, TV aerials and dishes, and all the debris and litter that such places tend to attract. The stage crew excelled themselves, with Mr Steve Grimble bringing his famous skill to the construction of the larger elements. Ed McLean oversaw a dedicated team of builders, painters, and technicians.

Mr Chris Walters



AS LEVEL

The 16 AS Level drama students performed extracts from 'The Trojan Women' as their major practical assessment exam. Performed in a very physical, visceral style all the students were superb and should be congratulated on creating work which was brave, challenging and exciting.

The major practical assessment exam for the 16 AS Level Drama and Theatre students in January 2011, was based on performance extracts from the classic Greek drama text, 'The Trojan Women'. Part of the assessment criteria requires the candidates to explore and experiment with styles and techniques associated with an influential theatre practitioner and this year our Stoics decided to look at the work of Antonin Artaud (1896-1948), the troubled yet brilliantly creative, French writer/actor/director and resident of several 'institutions'. Artaud advocated a very physical, visceral performance style that was later picked up by directors such as Peter Brook (The Marat Sade) and Steven Berkoff (Metamorphosis). All the Stoics who performed on the day were superb and should be congratulated on creating work which was raw and inspired.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





The Maids

At the start of the production week for the Junior Congreve production of 'Johnny and the Dead' in late June 2011, three of our Branson Scholars, Nombuso, Whitney and Lydia, were involved in an imaginative and extremely well-staged production of 'The Maids' by Jean Genet. Genet loosely based this classic piece of European theatre on the infamous Papin sisters, Lea and Christine, who brutally murdered their employer and her daughter in Le Mans, France in 1933.

Solange (Whitney) and Claire (Nombuso) were two housemaids who spend their 'free' time constructing and acting out elaborate sadomasochistic rituals when their mistress the Madame (Lydia) is away. The focus of their role playing is always the murder of Madame and they each take turns portraying both sides of the power divide. However their deliberate pace and devotion to detail guarantees that they always fail to actualise their fantasies, by ceremoniously 'killing' Madame at the ritual's denouement.

The production, directed with great skill and assurance by Harriet Easdale (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and assisted on all things technical by Nick Bayley, was relocated to a large South African city, but the themes running throughout the play were not altered.

The design setting for the production was stunning. Four large, freestanding mirrors reflected the action, which was set entirely in the boudoir of Madame. Expensive looking dresses, shoes, coats, make-up and flowers were liberally strewn around the performance space and were even seen high up in the lighting grid, to remind us all of Madame's decadent and shallow life. A subtle mix of French and African music was used to enhance the action and the pace, energy and commitment of all three performers could not be faulted.



HOUSE DRAMA

There was fierce competition in the Michaelmas term as two plays battled it out on stage; I take a look back at the differing performances of the Bruce and Lyttelton vs. the Nugent play.

Be My Baby (Nugent) is a most glorious illustration of how ludicrous morality and cultural taboos can do unbelievable damage to our lives. Thankfully times have changed.

The story is about a real life situation of four ordinary teenage girls living in the 60s – who found themselves pregnant. The play was written by Amanda Whittington and cleverly directed by Ellie Chadd.

The characters were completely credible – each with their own story to tell. Central

to this play is the story of Mary Adams (Rebecca Down), who at the age of 19 has found herself in ‘trouble’ and is taken by her mother (Katie Wellington) to a home run by a matron (Lucy Jackson) who seems cold and unfeeling. Norma (played by Daisy Ussher), was astonishing; she played the emotions of pain, confusion and loss brilliantly. Mary only found consolation and comfort by reciting the Lord’s Prayer. Queenie (Alice Jackman), dreamt of being the singer, Dusty Springfield. Dolores (Hayley Sarratt), is

lacking in education and is consequently naive as a result and needs to be befriended.

We are shown how they coped with their lot and formed friendships in the home for unmarried mothers (quite a sinful and despicable state to be in back then) where they had their babies in secret and then were forced to give them up as soon as they were born. The play is full of humour and accompanied by a fabulous soundtrack, but when I listened to the words in the context of the play, I realised how hypocritical and sick society was at that time. The swinging sixties? There was such an undercurrent of tragedy and unfairness; I doubt many people left the Dobinson Theatre without a lump in

their throat. Morality and reality seemed to hit each other head on. It is a sobering thought that the victims depicted in this play would still be around today – all those women who lost their children and all those babies who never had the chance to know their biological mothers.

The Godmother (Bruce and Lyttelton)

This was a very amusing play with strong characterisations by a number of Sixth Form pupils which took place in the Roxburgh Theatre. The cast comprised the best that Bruce and Lyttelton had to offer, with the addition of Joe, from Cobham, who was just dying to get involved and try on a rather fetching tutu! The play was brilliantly directed by Jamie Bailey and Ellie Rix.

The play was based on the character of Spat's (Jamie Bailey) being the 'main man' but Velma (Ellie Rix) actually being the 'main man' hence the title 'The Godmother'. Spat's runs the theatrical agency and Velma keeps it running. Spat's owes Scarface (Isi Madojemu) money but cannot pay and sends round the 'Girls' (Ha!) to knock off Scarface's henchmen. Simple. Oh, and you get a number of Upper Sixth Formers (of the male variety) jumping around looking far too at ease in make-up, tutus and stockings, whilst destroying classic dance numbers like 'Tragedy' and 'Bad Boys'. But more importantly, why wasn't 'Spats' Palazzo sporting a dapper pair of spats (a type of classic shoe accessory for those uncultured yobs amongst you)? He is named after them, after all.

A few members of the chorus looked distinctly worried at times, in particular Alex Worth whose intense concentration without doubt stole the show. José Brake and Rebecca Elliott seemed far too comfortable dancing with their six foot yeti-like partners namely Joe Stieger-White (the imposter from Cobham) and Tom Baldwin (let's pray those stockings don't get ripped on the Rugby pitch). It must be said that all of the boys prepared for and embraced their roles by pumping iron back stage to develop those 'girlie muscles'. Did you see those biceps or were you sat more than one row back?! In interview it turns out the boys "found it difficult to get out of character" as "it just came so naturally" said Joe as

Mrs Hamblett-Jahn wiped off his nail varnish outside the Dining Room. I also believe that Brodie Smith was heard declaring his desire to be a woman while his feather boa was prized from his hands. Boys, I think a trip the Gym is in order ... Grrrrrr! The other dancers were clearly told to smile at all costs, but all had a kind of forced grin when YMCA was belted out from the speakers; in fact, I think their challenge was to refrain from collapsing into fits of giggles. 'Man, I feel like a woman' was a very fitting song which just about summed up the play. This was an enjoyable romp which was only an evil stepmother and a genie away from being a pantomime! Thanks must go to Lyttelton, Bruce and Joe (flying the flag for Cobham) for a thoroughly enjoyable evening – It was truly hysterical.

Katie Wellington (Upper Sixth, Nugent)



UNPLUGGED

On Sunday 27 March, at 7.45pm, the Roxburgh Hall was home to 'Unplugged' which, as the name suggests, is an evening of raw musical talent with live pop/rock performances from our most talented singers, instrumentalists and composers.

Every performance was simply stunning. Mike Illingworth and Hannah Maxwell sang together, James Blackham and Hamish Barnes wrote and performed their own song entitled Silver, Freddie Dixon impressed us with his beat-boxing and Max Smith sang For The First Time by The Script accompanied by Daisy Ussher (drums), Fred Benyon (guitar), Gideon Issa (piano) and Alice Jackman (backing vocals).

Earlier in the term, following in the footsteps of the Beatles in 1963, The Screening, tipped by NME as a 'band to watch', played in the Roxburgh Hall. The band are currently putting the finishing touches to their new album entitled, 'We'd all better learn how to swim', produced by Mark Needham (producer of The Killers' debut album). The band are committed to encouraging young musicians and spent the Saturday afternoon chatting and 'jamming' with Stoics before taking to the stage in the evening. Thanks to Mr Jeffreys for organising the event, which was a great inspiration for the 'Unplugged' concert.

Max Smith (Lower Sixth, Chandos)





'Unplugged' Appreciation.

Music is a subject that touches every aspect of life at Stowe pervading the daily structure and fabric of the people who live their lives here. As a visiting music teacher I see and hear a variety of styles of music at Stowe and I am impressed by the high standard of creative talent that sometimes hides its light under a bushel.

Sitting in the Roxburgh Hall practice rooms I see the musicians passing through each day but there are some guitarists, singers and songwriters whose genuine ability and skill is rarely seen. Many of our students have 'published' their work on You Tube and My Space yet the actual opportunity to perform had been lacking, that is until Unplugged became a staple of the yearly music calendar. I have attended all of them and the growth in the confidence of performers, the quality of the content and the sheer pleasure of playing to the audience and the audience demonstrating appreciation is wonderful to see.

Unplugged is the flipside of the glorious summer concert that is Cobham Court, a raucous,

let your hair down and fly by the seat of your pants affair. Unplugged is somewhat introspective but adept at having a programme of original and cover pieces that the audience listens and responds to. The organisers this year, Lucy Coe and Andrew Welford, organised a top night of high quality and fabulously entertaining artists. The night flowed seamlessly between performers with adroit compering to announce each act (whilst backstage mayhem and panic were quite the order of business).

Performing a piece of art to the public is a nerve-tingling thing to do. It takes great courage and self-assurance to entertain, even to a captive Stowe audience, you can be sure that technology and fate will do its utmost to test the steeliest of nerves. Most top professional acts have it all down to a fine art and will be slicker than Fred Astaire in a dinner suit. For musicians who have not yet mastered the art of microphone technique, who are looking at an audience yet can't see past the front row, who are trying to ignore the lights and coming to terms with the fact that they can't actually hear anything let alone the player next to them this event is a major challenge. However, every artist demonstrated remarkable skill and patience and more than did justice to themselves and to the school.

Like many showcases all styles and types of songs were played. It was a truly rounded evening and I can honestly say every act was as good as each other. That's the wonderful thing as music shouldn't really be a competition. Everyone in the Roxy was a winner in what was given and gained from the night. I heard the comments of really impressed parents,

the backslapping of friends who supported their friends and the smiles of the band members which showed no words need be spoken. I thought 'good job' by all them. one for the CV, 'I did it, I was there'.

In my tenure here I have seen some serious talent. Names that have gone into Stowe legend, Orlando Shepherd, The Artbeats, Azu Nsirim, James Larter and working, gigging musicians like Andrew Welford, Mickey Portlock, Hamish Barnes and Louis Hitchcock. This is the music of the future. I don't doubt one or more of these guys has every chance of making it with their talent and a ton of luck, These musicians are hard working people who recognise that constant gigging and being out here are the only to have a chance at a successful and long career in music. Stowe should take consummate pride in that these players cut their teeth here, that this is where the encouragement and drive started and was first recognised.

Here is the Roll of Honour for the 2011 concert – fine young musicians who truly enthralled their audience.

Andrew Welford, Lucy Coe, Jamie Lemos, Patrick Keating, Priscilla Powell, Harry Bell, Andres Richards, Freddie Benyon, Daisy Ussher, Gideon Issa, Alice Jackman, Max Smith, Mickey Portlock, Elizabeth Johnson, Edward Kealey, Olivia Wagg, Isi Madojemu, Louis Hitchcock, Florence Pearce, Jemima Phillips, Michael Illingworth, Hannah Maxwell, Hamish Barnes, Frederick Dixon, James Blackman, Rupert Leyland, Otto Balfour, Nicholas Upton, Siana Vere Nicoll, Guy Turner, Oscar Robertson, Harry Cockbill, Kemal Eyi, Hugo Ellison and Myles Coe.

Nick McNulty

Helsinki

With my body fully immersed in the fresh water and my hair floating around me, the city of Helsinki, which I had fallen so in love with during my stay in Finland was now an ancient memory. I closed my eyes and imagined nothing but the blue grey clouds that were in fact above me, and the sky scraping pine trees that soared overhead, because I had no need to dream of a beautiful landscape. For I was there, and in heaven.

Every one of my senses was tingling with pleasure as I breathed in the ancient wood and the newly formed pine cones and dived under the water, breaking through. Wanting to be part of the blissful scene, I pushed myself further into this divine natural abyss, and the deeper I swam into the dark and rich blue depths of the lake, the colder the water felt on my exposed skin, until eventually, I felt my pores exploding as I broke into goose bumps and my cheeks flushed a hot red. My muscles contracted with the contrasting temperatures when I pulled myself to the surface and rested my arms and chin on the dilapidated pier.

Terrified of losing even a moment of it, once again, I closed my eyes. This time, I squeezed them tightly shut, trying to trap the memories in my mind. I thought of the tea that was prepared with such care for my friends and me, and how the humble Finnish woman held her bent back as she crouched down to hand us ancient, fading photographs, her giant of a husband slumped, silently smoking as he stared vacantly at some distant memory. I also thought back to the scorching heat of the sauna early that day, and how the steam collided with my sweat to form tiny pools of water over my whole body. I wanted to keep these memories; I wanted to save them for a time when I needed to be carried away to some blissful place like this.

Looking around the refreshing oasis, I imagined my mother floating in the water beside me, so many years ago, and felt closer to her than ever before. For now, I understood why she would describe this haven to me at every chance she got. It was her secret idyll, away from the world. And now, the ecstasy that she had felt so many summers ago was running through my veins.

Idil Savaskan, Lower Sixth



Claire Langer, Lower Sixth



The Duke of

This year has seen more Stoics than ever before opt to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – we started the year with 77 Bronzes, 24 Silvers and 45 Golds and finished with almost as many. Each year we say this has been one of the best groups we have ever had – this year has been no exception. It is very difficult to put onto paper what is required for our Stoics to take on and meet the challenges of their Expeditions – in short each and every one has taken the challenge head on and come through the other side, if not smiling at least with a great sense of achievement. Here are some of the adventures of the past 12 months.

Scotland – June 2010

The end of the Summer term saw the Gold and Silver Award groups head to the Cairngorms for their assessed Expedition. This really is as remote as it gets and even at Base Camp the only running water is what flows past your tent. Armed with midge nets, Deet and a pocket trowel the groups were sent off to the hills on what was an exceptionally successful Expedition. Unlike the Practice the weather was reasonably kind and the visibility good, affording spectacular views across the South Eastern Highlands. Well done to everybody who took part in the final chapter of a very challenging year!

The Bronzes – March and May 2011

We had so many Bronze participants this

year that we had to split into two separate expeditions for both the Practice Expedition in the Cotswolds and the Assessed Expedition in Shropshire. The end of March was kind to us and our Fourth Formers had their first taste of Expeditioning in hazy sunshine in the rolling hills around Bourton on the Water and Chipping Norton. In Shropshire they were put to the test in much more challenging countryside but the weather was once again kind, all of their hard work in training paid off and they completed the Expedition with apparent ease – although I am sure they will tell a different story!

Golds and Silvers in Yorkshire – April 2011

April in Yorkshire proved challenging – temperatures were low and the rain came





Edinburgh Award

in hard for two days straight. The Gold groups had challenging routes which skirted the Three Peaks (although one group managed Whenside – well done girls!). But once again they pushed on through, braved the elements and were actually smiling when they came in on the final day in glorious sunshine! The external instructors who were leading the Silvers also spoke highly of their groups who performed well in similar terrain and identical rain. A very successful trip – The saying of the Expedition? “It’s not as bad as Dartmoor!”

Buckingham Canal Project

In addition to the expeditions, participants are required to complete a Physical Recreation, a Skill and a Volunteering

Section. This year Mr Webster set up a project with the Buckingham Canal Society to help restore the local canal network. The Fourth Form have been helping with the digging and clearing of various parts of the canal on a Monday afternoon as part of their volunteering section, work which has been greatly appreciated by the BCS.

Leaving

Unfortunately this year we must say goodbye to two valued members of our staff team – Mr Pitteway and Mr Webster who are both leaving for sunnier climes. Their expertise, knowledge and possibly even their sense of humour will be greatly missed on our expeditions and we owe them both many thanks for all of their help and support over the years.

Thanks

As always none of the expeditions or training would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff team who give up their afternoons, weekends and home comforts to help run training sessions, First Aid courses, team-building exercises, route planning sessions and of course the Expeditions themselves. A huge thank you to Mr Pickersgill, Mr Pitteway, Mr Gabattiss, Mrs McMahon, Mr Webster, Mr Moller, Miss Palmer, Miss Ashe, Miss Donaldson, Mr Crossley, Mr Lyle, Mr Falvey, Mr Higham, Mr Wagstaff and Mr Cooper.

Mr Gwilym Jones



Stowe CCF: Army, RAF and Naval Sections

This has been extremely busy and enjoyable first year for me in command of the Stowe CCF. Throughout the three sections in the CCF, the training has been imaginative and very high in quality. With flying opportunities for the RAF cadets, a great deal of 'afloat experience' for the Royal Navy cadets and the entire contingent converted to the new A2 weapon system, I am very proud of what we have achieved. The CCF year started with a marching party from Stowe, invited to take part in the cadet 150 celebrations. Having not marched formally myself for some years, this was as much a challenge for me as the cadets taking part! Needless to say, the Stowe cadets acquitted themselves very well, in what was a large public parade in the centre of Aylesbury. Over the summer, prior to the beginning of the academic year, the assault course was completely rebuilt and some additional leadership elements have been added, for use by the CCF (and of course the rest of the school). These additions have been hugely successful and are used regularly by all of the cadets.

Contingent Commander Lt Col J. L. Ing RMR

Army Section

CCF Summer Camp 2011: As one of the larger contingents at Crowborough Army Base, the Stowe Cadets impressed from the start with their enthusiasm and commitment. On an exceptionally well organised camp where the food exceeded all expectations the Cadets enjoyed activities ranging from 'Chessington World of Adventures' on Sunday to performing Platoon attacks on the Monday. Particular praise is due to the NCOs (Non-commissioned officers) who ensured throughout a quality of care and leadership that places us well above the rest. A measure of Stowe's overall success was winning 3 stands (and Runners up in one) on the final Competition Day where many of the other schools were fielding predominately Sixth Form teams against our Fourth Form. The visiting General who gave away the prizes commented on the fact that personal development was what the CCF, and the Camp in particular, was all about; given that we won the Survival and

First Aid (as well as the Drill – well we do associate with the Coldstream Guards) it suggests that the whole experience was a very worthwhile one.

Major I Findlay Palmer (Officer in charge of Summer Camp)

Royal Naval Section

The Royal Naval Section has had an active year. After a week of navigation and boat-handling on the Clyde in motor vessel Strathallan (courtesy of Lt R Caves RNR), and a tour of the Navy's newest submarine HMS Astute, we returned for the new school year in September. Kayaking and sailing on the Eleven Acre Lake continued until the end of October, and the second year cadets (Fourth Form) completed their Proficiency syllabus, focusing on Emergency Aid and Map Reading. The October Field Day found the section afloat in the Solent, training on motor vessel, Black Swan, and the yacht, Amaryllis. The new recruits joined us in January, while the second year cadets (Fourth Form) moved onto studying navigation, rule of the road, and buoys and lights. The new recruits (Third Form) spent the March Field Day weapons training, while the second years embarked on something new for Stowe – a two-day afloat training exercise in the Solent, with an overnight stop at Cowes Marina. In June, with the contingent march past completed, we resumed training on the Eleven Acre Lake, while a small group headed off to RNAS Yeovilton for flying lessons in a two-seater Grob trainer. A notable change this year is that many more Stoics have spotted the opportunities offered by RN camps and courses: at Easter, Michael Hill and Hugh Evans attended a kayaking course and Charles Pilleau an Adventure Training Course; while Bertie Grossart, Frank Kilsby, Jamie Lemos, Tom Humphreys, and Charles Pilleau headed off in the summer holidays to the Dartmouth Camp, power-boating, Ocean Diving and completing a First Aid course. We continue to be grateful to S Lt Tremaine (kayaking and Emergency Aid), S Lt Johnson, Miss G Peel and CPO Blick for their invaluable assistance.

Lt D J Critchley CCF RNR



Left to right: HM meeting the Black Knights; Coldstream Cup Drill Competition; Lynx Helicopter; Navigation Exercise on board Strathallan; Coldstream Cup Drill Competition



The Coldstream Cup



The Coldstream Cup continues to be the one of the major events in the School's calendar and although we removed the drill element this year, the inclusion of the ferret pull was a very challenging and exciting addition.

Two new Inter-House competitions have been created this past year, the drill competition and assault course – shooting competition, both have quickly become hotly contested and helped to raise the standards within the CCF. I was very pleased to note that we won the drill competition on the recent summer camp, competing against many other schools. We have had a number of very successful field days for Cheshire company (recruits), including a field weekend at Sandhurst, the weapon training package at Crowborough and the army proficiency tests here at Stowe. With an excellent annual contingent parade on the South Front, followed by a military display involving all three sections of the CCF, topped off by a parachute display from the Royal Artillery display team The Black Knights, it has been an excellent year for the CCF. I am very grateful to all the officers

for their hard work, particularly to Major Nelson-Lucas who took over as training officer in the middle of the year and to Mr Dawson, the SSI who along with Gerry Foster administrates the CCF extremely well.

John Ing

As the new recruits to Cheshire Company lined up in September 2010, it was difficult to see how such a rabble would ever be transformed into anything resembling a military company. The long hair, jewellery, make-up (and that's just the boys!) took weeks, perhaps months to eradicate from weekly parades. By October, and the first field weekend however, it was clear that Cheshire Company were coming together... all cadets survived two days in the wilds of Barossa Training Area at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Camp cooking, basha building and navigational skills were put to

the test. With the basics squared away, it was time to focus on weapon handling. The second field weekend put the cadets through their paces – they were drilled for 48 hours at Crowborough Camp before sitting their Weapon Handling Test. By the Summer term, it was time to see just how proficient the cadets had become. The proficiency field weekend tested the cadets across the skill set from drill to observation, map reading to teamwork. In reward for their efforts and as part of the broader military experience, a Lynx helicopter from Headquarters Army Air Corps at middle Wallop, dropped into visit the cadets deployed on the field weekend and all were taken on a sortie in the local area. Special congratulations to the top scoring cadets of the proficiency field weekend.

Captain E Watson
(Officer in charge Cheshire Company)

Beagling

The 2010-11 season began with some great days trail hunting around the Buckinghamshire area.

This was followed by a trip to Northumberland during the Michaelmas half-term. We were invited for a three day tour where we were kindly looked after by the Stoic family, the Leyland's. We were provided with land on which to trail hunt and lodging from Hughie Leyland OS, Chris Leyland OS and Tim Smalley OS. After we returned we continued through Christmas, and particularly enjoyed taking the Beagles out on the North Front on Boxing Day.

Once we returned after Christmas we had to overcome the problem of snow, however we only missed one of our days hunting, and we enjoyed tea at Lady Gage's house. We had many good days where the hounds continued to show some exciting hunting skills. Then we went on a successful tour to Cumbria and North Yorkshire with welcome support from both Stoics and outside followers and we thoroughly enjoyed being in a

different environment. Thank you to Henry Bowring (Cumbria) and Michael Bannister OS (North Yorkshire) for hosting us.

During this season we have had three joint meets with other pack of hounds. We had two days with the Old Berkley Beagles, one day in our countryside, one day in theirs. Both days were very exciting and a great experience as we got to learn from a professional huntsman. The third day was with the Radley College Beagles, where we had a great day at Little Preston and hunted until dark. All of our joint meets went well and resulted in memorable days with the hounds running well together.

As the season began to draw to the end we held our Hunt Ball in the Mansion House at Stowe. This event has always been a good fundraiser for the pack and we are very grateful for the use of the venue. A large number of Stoics attended which made the evening more enjoyable for the current beaglers. Thanks to the Chairman and Secretary of the Hunt, Alistair Magee and Chris Coade, who made the evening possible and fun for everyone who attended. The end of season dinner took place at the Saracens

Head, Towcester, with retired professional huntsman, and hunt follower Mark Weiner as guest speaker for the evening. It was an enjoyable and entertaining evening which marked the end of a long season.

On 25 May we held our biggest fund raising event of the year, The Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials. This was kindly organised by the Strangman family of Gawcott, who have been long-term supporters of the Stowe hounds. It proved to be a good day and we had a good number of entries despite the ground being so hard.

This was followed by the Puppy Show on the 11 June. Recent additions to the pack came under the scrutiny of the judges, Michel Bannister OS and Rory Knight Bruce OS, both distinguished members of the hunt community. The mastership was handed over to the new Senior joint masters Harry Bannister, Harry Howard, and then Junior master to Henry Macpherson, who I hope have as much fun in the upcoming season as we did.

Edward Birch Reynardson (Upper Sixth, Grafton)



Left: Ollie Beazley (Fourth Form, Chatham), Adda Birch Reynardson MH, Phil Kennedy KH. Right: Edward Birch Reynardson (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Master of the Stowe Beagles 2010-11; Henry South

S@S

Service at Stowe



Stowe Radio with Mr Higham



Stowe Radio with Mr Higham



Lifesaving with Mr Cowie



Lifesaving with Mr Cowie



Chemistry for Prep Schools with Mr Teale



Community Visits with Ms Gracie



Football with Mr Crossley



Allotment with Mr Irvine



Allotment with Mr Irvine



Maintenance with Mr Byrne



Stowe Wardrobe with Mrs Cammish



Community Newsletter with Mrs Browne



Bellringing with Mr Sayers



Stowe House Preservation Trust with Mrs McEvoy

Chapel



Chapel this year has been as full as ever. Having said farewell to Tor Hunter-Smart (now, of course, Mrs Henry Swayne), we welcomed Ellie Donaldson. She came to us from York University where she studied History of Art and she has rapidly settled in to life at Stowe.

She took over the running of Crossfire, and notwithstanding the official report on Crossfire, I would just like to add some comments. Crossfire is a vibrant weekly event which is unique at Stowe. It is entirely voluntary, it demands no special gifts or abilities, it brings outside speakers into Stowe on a weekly basis, and it is open to everyone, irrespective of their role at Stowe. Clearly, the bulk of the average weekly gathering of around 50, are Stoics, and they come from all the Houses and all the age groups but there are always a number of the teaching staff there as well, the occasional spouse, oh, and a 'mature' Old Stoic who is as regular as anybody, and the remarkable thing is that everyone is made to feel welcome because everyone welcomes everyone else! It also helps that Ellie is a really friendly and warm character who sets the tone when it comes to the atmosphere.

In Chapel, we've had some excellent services and some first rate speakers. Lady Susie Lyle, mother of Josh and Sam (Chandos 97 and 99) came with Sam and spoke about her work in setting up a charity to help struggling Zulus in South Africa. Colonel Robbie Hall QGM, the commandant of the Joint Services Bomb Disposal School, preached on Remembrance Sunday and what he said was particularly poignant, not only because he was training the men and women who are disarming the roadside bombs in Afghanistan, but also because his own son was about to head out there on a tour. Because the Carol Service had been moved to the last Friday of term, we had a special nativity service on the final Sunday, and using a combination of Stoics and staff children living on site, we had really good fun. Preachers since then have included: Mike Neville, a parent; John Ashe, also a parent (but of a staff member); Adam Atkinson, an Old Stoic; Libby Talbot; Richard Horner and Keith Wilkinson, all school chaplains, and Paul Howes, the local

Methodist Circuit Superintendent. Finally, and how could I forget them, Tough Talk, who were represented by a pair of dodgy ex-hardmen from the East End who had become Christians, put their knuckle dusters in the dustbin, and become ambassadors for Jesus – great fun!

Midweek chapel continues to provoke and challenge as well as inform, and I am for ever indebted to the members of the Common Room who are happy to commit scarce and therefore precious hours to preparing their talks. Last term, we looked at phrases in common use today that have their origins in the King James version of the Bible, this to mark the 400th anniversary of its first publication – all very enlightening.

The Lenten Addresses were led by Nick Rough from the Hillsong Church in London. The team arrived in two large white vans from which was disgorged a mass of equipment for their approach to communication makes excellent use of modern audio visual technology. During the day, they led sessions for each of the year groups on the theme of 'I Care'...

I care in the sense that I matter, I'm important, but also I care in the sense that I care for other people. The combination of a live band with video back-up was powerful, and the Christian message of love your neighbour was compelling. In the evenings, there were the voluntary meetings which were more evangelistic in nature. It might have been that the girls had fallen for Heber, Hillsong's young Brazilian drummer, or that the band was quite simply outstanding, who knows, but these evening sessions were well attended (100+) and much appreciated. I cannot tell you how many Stoics have come up to me asking if I can get the same people back for next year but for me at any rate, more significant was an email from a fourth former that left me in no doubt that God had been with us over those three days in March...

'What can I say. They were incredible. I have really enjoyed listening to them and learning about God. It has really changed the way I think about life as a whole. I would love to see them come back next year. Please can we have them next year. What a week it will never leave my mind. Thank you so so much'.

As for Confirmation, once again, there have been over 60 candidates which continues the sudden upwards trend that began a couple of years ago and that I have finally twigged is a result of Stowe being 20% bigger than three years ago! Again, with numbers like these, confirmation preparation would not have been possible without the commitment of a number of colleagues, a commitment that involves not only a weekly group, but also the weekend retreat which once again was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by those who attended.

And so my time at Stowe comes to a close – nine years have been full and fun, challenging and rewarding, and it is with a tinge of sadness that the time of separation has come. On the other hand, fresh blood is always a good thing in any leadership role, and the Christian mission and ministry at Stowe is ready for a new hand on the tiller. What I have learnt here (and in my previous jobs) will be put to good use as I move on to Buckingham University to help set up a Centre for Applied Theology that is looking to prepare men and women specifically for the role of chaplain, and not just in schools but in prisons, hospitals, the armed forces, airports, or indeed any of the increasingly varied non-church settings that they find themselves in. Should be fun!

The Revd Robert Jackson, Chaplain

Crossfire

Crossfire gives Stoics the opportunity to explore their own faith, ask the big questions of life and take time out of the busy school timetable.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to be part of Crossfire. We've had an exciting year, meeting every Friday evening in the North Front Pavilion learning and understanding about Jesus Christ and his importance in our lives today.

Three words capture what Crossfire is really all about:

Fun, Friendship and Faith

Fun

We really enjoy meeting together and gathering in the pavilion. The highlight for many is the offer of cookies, doughnuts and Coca Cola which are consumed in large quantities within minutes. We always encourage an atmosphere which is relaxed, cheerful and welcoming for every Stoic who comes along.

Friendship

One of the aims of Crossfire is to provide an opportunity for Stoics to get to know each other and it is great to see everyone mingling and chatting amongst the year groups and developing long lasting friendships.

Faith

Our aim at Crossfire is to get to understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus in today's world. During the Michaelmas term we looked at different aspects of Jesus' life through the Gospels. This helped us gain a better understanding of Jesus' character and know that he faced some of the challenges that we go through in our daily lives. In the Lent term, we looked at Christianity in the world of work and we heard from a professional sportsman, businessmen, a teacher, an artist and a doctor. Speakers talked about their own experiences of



being a Christian in their field of work. The Summer term brought with it some of the big questions of life. Why do natural disasters happen? Do all religions lead to God? What about the other religions? Why bother with Jesus? We attempted to tackle some of these tricky issues and come up with some answers.

It has been wonderful to see the faith of students growing and developing as the year has progressed. We are grateful to the guest speakers who give talks at the meeting throughout the year. We also look forward to taking a group of Stoics on the Iwerne Camp this Summer in Norfolk!

Miss Ellie Donaldson, Chaplain Assistant

The whistling, rain soaked shapes slid past, the dull red lights blinking along the street as they surged through the sickly neon glow of the advertising, showing a life that never was or ever will be. The cars rattled and juddered over potholes, cracks, an old pack of Marlboros, pushing through the steam as it sneered back from an unseen, broken world. I trudged past the bright shop fronts, the pretty, over-conditioned girls shifting jewellery, eye shadow, pillow cases, credit cards and other dreams. I looked back up at the signs as they winked back at me, with all the promise of a hooker's smile.

I turned out of the rain to the bright, clinical lights of the underground. The escalators descended down into the bowels of London, into the heart of it. I passed the faceless, desperate people, slumped as they rose back out into the open; unsure where they are going but fooled into believing that they would get there. As the silver snake slid down through the crack at the base, I stepped off to the platform greeted only by the faded "Notting Hill Gate" peeling off the blackened bricks, and the dead-eyed porter shrinking back into them. A light, tinkling voice echoed through the station, words merging together to form the same great lie, one of prosperity, one of life. To my surprise, as promised, a steal can rolled through the station, surging to a halt. As the fogged doors opened, they pulled me into a new flickering cell of cold metal, damp seats and lino floors, with a tired wheezing exhale.

As I lurched into the carriage, I was hit by a wall, not of heat or smell, but of sadness. Everything from the dirty, liver-spotted windows to the broken handholds gave a melancholy air to the place, as if it knew that its time was at an end. The doors pushed out and in with a final gasp, and we rolled out into the oily blackness. The dim lights on the windows illuminated the cables, ropes and pipes worming their way along the bricks, wriggling faster and faster. Soon, however, the worms began to tire as we began to lurch into the next station. The same sad old man was pulled off the platform to join us, greeted by the same wheeze, the same sugared echo. He looked at me, briefly catching my eye before quickly darting his grey eyes back down to his limping feet. He sank down to the bench. He pulled out the crisp, creased evening paper. As he stared at it, more out of convention than vocation, he too began to realise how "Van de Vaart guides Spurs to another win" had little importance.

The train began to roll forward again, pushing through the swirling, oiled air to the next station, and the next, and the next. There was the same echoing voice, the same sucking and wheezing of the doors, the same sad man, on and off. As I looked out of the window, the writhing of the cables fell away, and as the carriage began to slowly fill with the grey orange light of the evening sky, hanging over the city, I looked out towards the west to catch a glimpse of the fading sun, turning her back. The ghost greeted me. Pale orange, no warmth. The sun had not shone for weeks. The dark shapes of buildings, cranes smudged by the hanging plumes of soot, steam and cigarettes. "The future is not what it used to be", I murmured into the glass as the rain began to spit, streaking dark across my face.

Phil Collier, Lower Sixth



Natasha Robson, Upper Sixth

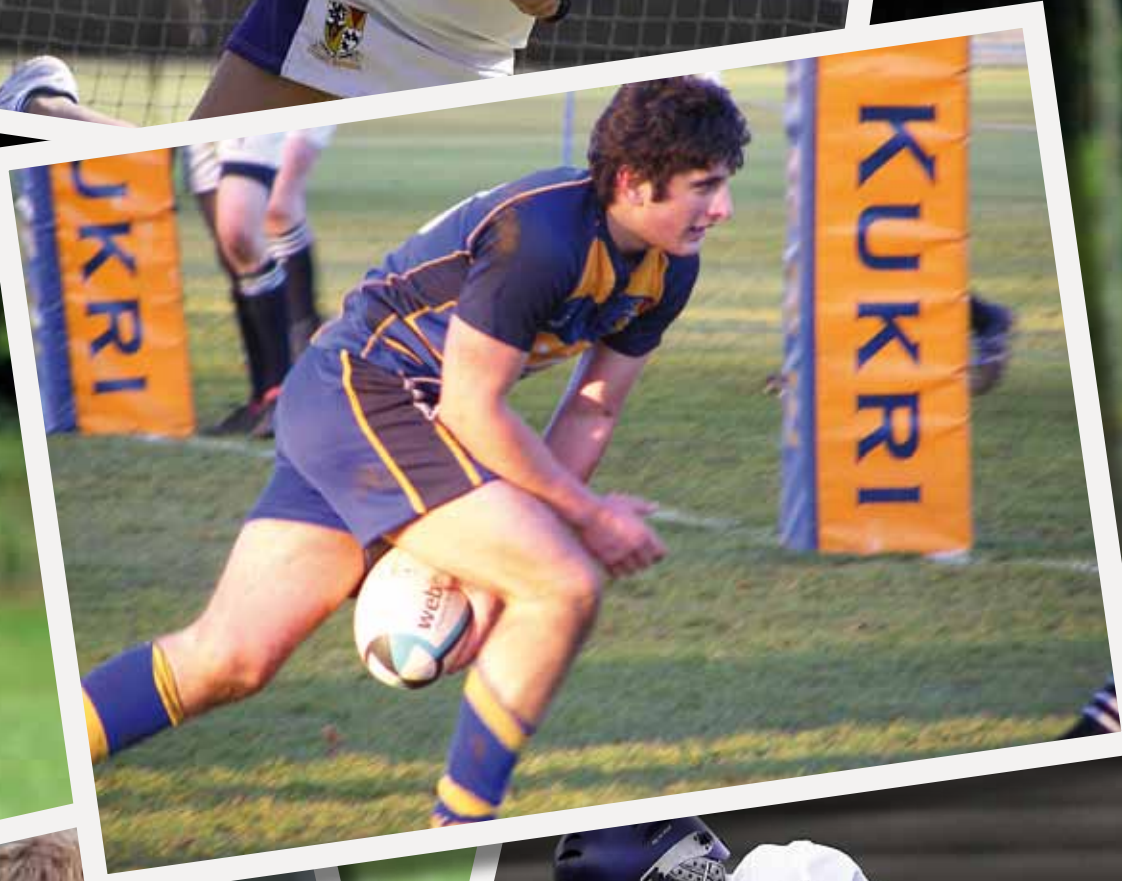


Octavia Trevor, Lower Sixth



stowe

sport





Rugby: 1st XV

Played 15; Won 11;
Lost 3; Drew 1

After last season it was conceivable that this year would fall below those standards but to the credit of all concerned we had yet another outstanding year.

After another excellent pre-season in France, Oakham were first up again. Having most of the possession and territory we lost with the last play of the game and even Oakham admitted they had robbed us. Disappointed but encouraged with the first outing we took revenge on Bloxham winning 64-3. Flush with success, we under-performed at Pangbourne and appeared to do just enough winning 22-14.

After Exeat Oundle arrived undefeated having dispatched Bedford the week before. Perhaps they were over-confident but they couldn't deny our 20 point lead at half time with tries from Brodie Smith (2) and Gus Hopewell. It finished 20-10 but it provided the side with an inner belief which would stand them in good stead for the rest of the season. An injury laden match against Loughborough saw us restricted to a 24-0 win and then we started another epic Daily Mail Cup run by beating Lord Williams at home. Before half-term we travelled to St Edward's and

on an Open Day for the hosts we didn't help by putting on a show of strength and quality running out 47-15 winners.

After half-term, we had a comfortable win against Haberdashers' 34-8. Next we played Trent away – a stern test before playing RGS High Wycombe in the next round of the Daily Mail Cup. Unfortunately, we went down 18-10 in an error-strewn match.

Away at RGS High Wycombe it was 13 all with five minutes remaining: we would go through if we drew and we were clinging on by our fingernails. RGS drove over our line and converted the try with four minutes remaining. Having then been held up over their line I thought we had blown it but with the last play, Ben Roe bulldozed his way through three tacklers to touch down under the posts and convert to send us through on the most tries scored rule. Not a day for those with heart problems!

A comfortable win at home against Bedford Modern (39-0) restored all our heart rates but the side enjoyed the mental torture for the travelling band of parents and staff by scraping through another cliff-hanger with Aylesbury Grammar School in the fifth round of the Cup, eventually winning 37-32.

The bad weather disrupted the end of the season and our last game before

Christmas saw an away win against Mill Hill, 27-6.

After several false starts due to the weather, we played Abingdon in the sixth round of the Cup. With a score of six points each at half time we showed we hadn't played for some time but the second half saw us click into gear and pull away to win 34-6.

This meant an overnight stay as we had to play Plymouth College away. A fourteen hour round trip and still the parents travelled en masse to support the team. We were involved in a fantastic game of rugby but were caught short on two occasions which meant we were always chasing the game. Down 21-10 with five minutes on the clock, Tom Baldwin, captain, drove over and Ben Roe added the two points: now we were 21-17 down. The Plymouth side were out on their feet but we just couldn't manage to pull this one off. The season ended there.

Blessed with a "never say die" attitude and the arrival of creative talent in midfield the side produced some outstanding rugby at times.

The platform was provided by a physical front row of Tom Mason, Nick Brown and Henri Da Costa, none of whom are known for retreating. The second row fluctuated between Adam Minnie, Alex Worth and



Tom Bishop, all of whom were work horses around the breakdown area. The back row was made up of four main contributors; Cameron Roberts, a prolific try scorer who provides continuity; James Clark, a destructive blindside; Harry Hawkes, who was everywhere and Tom Baldwin who grew into a talisman at No. 8.

Gus Hopewell was the player of the season at scrum-half and Ben Roe steered the ship at fly-half. Our centre pairing consisted of Ben Nichols who brought vision to the position, Patch Adams, a consistent performer, and Will Shires added pace and guile at outside centre. James Blackham, Brodie Smith and Andy Welford all benefited from the width they maintained and Jake Olley evolved at fullback. There were others who supported these main players and their contribution was no less.

Tom Baldwin goes onto start his professional rugby career at Bath. He has

blossomed into a fine player in his two years here and matured as a captain, demanding standards he was able to demonstrate himself. Gus Hopewell played for the Public Schools Barbarians and Nick Brown toured Zimbabwe with them, and now moves on to the Bedford Blues Academy.

A special thank you to Barney Durrant who has coached the forwards for many years and now moves on to other School commitments. Dedicated, supportive, forthright and ambitious for the school to evolve on the schools' circuit, he has been behind much of the success we have enjoyed over the last few years. He, along with many others, has put Stowe very much on the map: we are all indebted to him.

Next season sees a fixture list strengthened by the additions of Whitgift, Bromsgrove and Warwick.

Mr Alan Hughes

2nd XV

The 2nd XV have only lost three games in two years, so members of this year's team had a great deal to live up to. This pressure to perform did not appear to faze the players and once again they had an outstanding season, surpassing all expectations by winning every match they played.

After a good start with comfortable wins against Bloxham, Oakham and Pangbourne, Stowe faced a stern test against Oundle. After starting poorly, with fifteen minutes of the game to go, Stowe trailed by nine points and looked beaten. However a superb penalty and an interception try in the last minute by Cameron Roberts led to a last minute victory. This match proved to be the springboard to further success.

St Edward's and Loughborough Grammar felt the full force of a team as they reached their peak and notched up 143 points over the two games. All credit goes to the increasingly confident team which gave an excellent platform for a very talented back line. A strong scrum was a trait of set play with both Will Cowley and George Easdale proving to be superb props. The mercurial talent of number ten Ben Nichols was a feature of the brand of rugby the team played and he was supported well by Andrew Welford in the centre.

At times the team played rugby which was reminiscent of the great barbarian sides of old. The commitment to running rugby from all areas led to some incredibly exciting games. The final points tally was a staggering 379 points scored with only 61 conceded. The team was blessed with an inspirational captain, Isi Madojemu, and a potent finisher, Cameron Roberts, who scored 10 tries in only four games. Both Henry Rudd and Seb Clarke were also a constant threat in attack.

They were a tremendous team to work with and it was fantastic to watch the players develop as the season progressed and play a major role in the success of the first team.

Mr James Hayden



3rd XV

From the 3rd XV's opening game, narrowly lost to Oakham, it was clear that the squad had some naturally talented players who showed a great deal of determination to succeed. All the matches during the season were played at high intensity and pace. The team achieved convincing wins against Bloxham, Pangbourne, Loughborough, St Edward's, Mill Hill and more and only lost three games throughout the season. Notable performances came from Theo Vicat, Josh Sutton, Alex Bache,

George Low, Cameron Cox, Roddy Blackburne and Stefano Capella.

The 3rd XV (along with the 4th XV) developed significantly as a squad throughout the season. Their conviction and desire to win as a team and individual skills such as passing and tackling improved so much that several players such as Alex Bache and Hugo Barran earned places in the 2nd XV later on in the season.

Mr Tom Higham

Colts A

Won 6; Lost 3

This season began with an excellent pre-season tour held in France which laid the groundwork for a good season. One minor setback was when Oscar Page, captain, turned up to play with a suspected broken wrist and almost had to be chained down by the physiotherapists to keep him off the field! The Colts A had some tough tests this season, and made significant progress in both the technical and mental sides of the game. The facts that five Colts were invited to play in the 1st team during the season highlights the strength of this squad. These players included Jake Olley, George Jones, Oscar Page, Tristan Phipps, Louis Forsyth and Ben Duckett. This also meant that players like Kit Dixon-Smith, Nathan Charlesworth, Harry Consett and Hugo Brooks got a chance to shine in the Colts A colours. The Colts managed a record of 6 wins with 3 losses which, as some players were missing at various stages of the season, is an excellent achievement. Representative honours were also gained by Tristan Phipps, George Jones, Jake Olley and Oscar Page. The boys should now focus on the transition to senior rugby for next year.

Players of the year: Ben Duckett and Hugh Hillier

Mr Charlie Barker and Mr Michael Rickner



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Colts B

There were high hopes for this team who were unbeaten in their first season at Stowe last year and were expected to follow a similar path this season. However in the first game against Oakham, Stowe threw away a slim lead with only 15 minutes remaining and then conceded four tries to record a loss of 36-14. It was not a promising start but the following week we went to Bloxham and recorded an incredible, unanswered 78 points. Pangbourne had similar problems and capitulated 43-0. The season was looking up until Stowe were stopped in their tracks by a well-drilled Oundle side, losing 34-19. This performance was the worst of the year with many of the players thinking that a match was won simply by turning up. However, the loss refocused many of the players and Stowe then proceeded to win all their remaining games. Scalps included St Edward's 33-7, a tight game against Bedford 24-18 and an excellent game against Trent 48-0.

There were many outstanding performances but a couple should be mentioned here. First were two players who excelled whenever they touched the ball and were both rewarded by being called up to become A team regulars: Nathan Charlesworth, whose speed created many tries and Will Jones who has become a very intelligent, creative player. Joe Hartley Matthews, George Barham and Nick Paine always looked dangerous with ball in hand and, between them, scored many of the side's tries. Harry Cockbill gave some confident displays at fly-half and managed to record his first ever try for Stowe. In the forwards Sadiq Abbagana and Luke Pepera were consistently strong and unyielding while Jonnie Huddart and Dom Smith caused opponents no end of problems. Harry Martin kicked penalties as well providing the scrum with some power. Special mention should be made of Alex Levett-Scrivener, captain for his efforts from the first whistle to the last tackle. His attitude and leadership helped meld the side into a successful team who ended up winning nine out of 11 matches. Congratulations to all who played and contributed to a great season. Mr Moffat and Mr Blewitt are very proud.

Mr Damian Blewitt



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Colts C

This group of boys produced the best season of rugby in their three years at Stowe. Sadly the season was dampened by cancelled fixtures caused by severe weather and frozen pitches, including the cancellation of the fixtures against The Oratory and Uppingham.

The boys worked hard all season and put in some huge performances on match day. The highlight of the season was the game against Marlborough; in adverse conditions the boys managed to hold the line against a severe onslaught and stole two intercept tries in the latter stages of the second half to win by 2 tries to 1. The team were skippered by Adam Parker whose tackling was second to none

throughout the season. The forwards managed to work well as a unit, leading to their success at breakdowns and scrum time. The powerhouse of the team was put in motion by the likes of Joshua Caine, Fyodor Vorotynsev, Charlie Samuelson and Jonnie Huddart. The loose forwards combined well amongst the backs and at fringe play. William Hawke, Guy Turner, Merlin Rothschild, Harry Mayo and Oscar Robertson all put in consistent performances in these parts of the game.

The backs worked well off broken play and were able to create tries from most parts of the field. William Watson and Ben Wild performed exceptionally well all season, helped along by Roland Parker, Sebastian

Young and Robbie Henriques at stand-off. The back three kicked well and ran hard. Alex Norton improved tremendously and Jack Raeburn scored a handful of tries from the wing position. Other notable performances in the back line came from Edward Bensted and from Antonio Muñoz who was a wall of strength in midfield, lining up many unsuspecting victims of his ferocious tackling.

A fantastic season was had by players and coaches alike and we look forward to seeing these young men develop into the core of the 3rd and 4th rugby teams at Stowe.

Mr Mark Blew and Mr Roland Johnson



Junior Colts A

I knew that this season was going to be eventful when the team set out their goals at the start of term meeting: any team that states it wishes to score five tries every match would be a great one to watch.

Looking back at the first term of rugby, which seems an age ago, I only have positive memories, the atmosphere at training sessions, on the bus to games and during the matches was a real pleasure to see.

I met the team at the end of August when we had a few days at school for pre-season training, where we also set off for France to the Brian Ashton camp in Normandy. Brian Ashton's philosophy of rugby equates to 'playing what is in front of you', which the Junior Colts this year took to remarkably. Ashton himself said that he rarely sees a more natural attacking side.

The season began with an away match at Oakham – a fantastic display of running

rugby with our wingers Constantine and Chatamra sharing five tries, but perhaps as pleasing was the commitment shown in defence when Oakham were camped on the Stowe line for 10 minutes. To win the first game by 38-0 is always impressive.

Further victories came against Bloxham 68-0 and Pangbourne 46-24, where we still had the commitment to attack at all opportunities, which at times tested the nerves of the Pangbourne coach.

More testing matches were now upon us. We travelled to Oundle, which seemed to be the game the boys really wanted to both win and display their talents to the full. In a tight and high quality game, we came out on top 19-5. Special mention must go to the forward pack in this match who were outstanding.

Then came our first defeat to a very well-drilled and competitive Loughborough Grammar side. It is often said that you learn

more in defeat than victory and this proved to be the case for the boys. The following training sessions were sharper and it was clear the boys wanted to turn things around. We had a victory over Princethorpe College 54-0, which set us up for my favourite memory of the year, the match against St Edward's.

The match against St Edward's was a fiercely fought match, in which St Edward's had the majority of the ball and built pressure throughout the first half. What was most pleasing was we only let them in for the one try out wide, with the conversion missed. In the second half the boys responded wonderfully, with George Jackman's tactical kicking – outstanding for his age. Andrew Todd went over for the match-winning try, which prompted great scenes for both players and parents alike. Stowe won the match 7-5.

We didn't lose another match in the regular season, and progressed steadily in the Daily Mail Cup, where we met a very strong Warwick side who, on the day, proved to be the better team. This match will stand the boys in good stead for next year's fixtures against some considerable opponents.

I'd like to thank Mr Sutton for his sound advice and knowledge of back play. His enthusiasm for attacking rugby made coaching this side a real pleasure. Last but by no means least, thanks to all the boys who represented the Junior Colt A team this year: coaching you was a real pleasure and I wish you the very best for next season.

Mr Daniel Falvey



Junior Colts B

We few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers. This was a side that grew in stature as the season progressed and it was disappointing that so many of the matches at the end of the season were cancelled.

Even so, they managed to win eight out of their 10 games with the last three being closely contested victories over A teams. Special mention must be made of the captain, Hugo Hiley, who led by example

and was never afraid to put his body on the line whilst Fergus Jones proved to be a legend playing wherever he was asked to (but does need to know where the dead ball line is!). Mentioning these individuals should not detract from what was, above all else, the best TEAM I have coached. Everyone contributed, and whether it was the brilliance of Tom Burke, the tenacity of Jonathan Dann or the heart of Alec Pultr, all played a critical role. My heartfelt thanks go to all the lads for giving me such a wonderful season and to the many supporters who kept me company on the touchline; none of us will ever forget that match-saving tackle by Tom Noest as he pulled the opposition player back over the try line or William Chatamra's game-winning breakaway try.

Ian Findlay-Palmer

Junior Colts C

Rob Field and I had high hopes for our team as the season started with three cracking wins – away at Oakham 56-5, home to Marlborough 33-10 and a fantastic result away at Oundle 14-12.

But after some of the players were promoted to the Colts B team and depleted due to illness, we were disappointed by a home defeat to the Oratory 0-22.

As our last three matches were cancelled due to bad weather, our final match of the season took place on Saturday 16 October resulting in a stunning 43-0 win.

Josh Macmillan was our ‘find of the term’ scoring eight tries in four matches. Other trie scorers were Alex Fitzjohn (3,) Alexis Lazareff (3), Will Scrase (2), Alex Long (1), Archie Grosshart (1), Louis Hitchcock (1), Montgomery Owen (1) and Piers Fountaine (1). Conversions were made by Will Scrase (3) and Piers Fountaine (4).

Mr Ray Dawson

Yearlings A

Played 11; Won 11; Drew 0;
Lost 0

The playing record speaks for itself, a reflection of the attacking flair and the water-tight defence exhibited by this side. It was in their sixth game that they conceded their first points, a remarkable statistic in itself. Uppingham, Oundle, Stamford, Shrewsbury, QES Barnet and King Edward’s, Stratford were some of the bigger scalps they took in their stride, playing some physical rugby up front matched with width and continuity out wide.

The front row of Eveleigh, Edwards and Wangmontri are strong first phase players but also have the subtlety in the loose to steal ball and produce turnover possession. Ryan Eveleigh and Michael Edwards in particular are masters of the ‘dark arts’ enabling others to benefit from their work. Seb Cecil and George Dunn combined at lock and did a lot of unseen work; both have good engines allowing them to adapt to a wide game.

The back row was an excellent balance of destructive aggression and constructive support. James Ondari is formidably strong and tackles accordingly. George Lee was often first to most breakdowns. Murray Aitchison was the talisman of the side, strong, quick, and illusive at No 8, turning his hand to playing in the backs without much effort.

At scrum-half Ben George (partnered by George Silk or Tom Young) evolved from a back row forward to a very competent half-back with excellent vision and decision making skills. George has wonderful balance, acceleration and guile and looked at home playing fly-half or outside centre – a captain who led by example. Tom Young was a more orthodox number 10, who distributed well, had an eye for a gap and released his back line at important times.

At inside centre, James Paul played like another 10, sure in his distribution and footwork. Outside James, Mark Kozyritskiy proved illusive, quick and too strong for many opponents.

On the wings Alfie Hardman and Will Pepera were excellent finishers showing pace and an ability to off-balance defenders by changing their angles of run. At full back Kyle Browne showed some good footwork coming into the line.

Other boys played their part: Keith Harrington, Bart Rougier, Tom Hulbert, Patrick Keating and Toby Pemberton all had cameo roles during the season.

There will be bigger tests ahead and their ability to handle pressure has yet to be seen. There are some strong characters and enormously talented players in the side and their ultimate success will be measured by their ability to bring that strength of character to the team in a positive fashion. If coupled with the ability to harness their desire and spirit, they are sure to enjoy a good run in the Daily Mail Cup next year.

Mr Alan Hughes



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Yearlings B

The Yearlings B XV showed a great amount of maturity and patience in the way they played rugby this season and produced nine wins out of 12 games against some very tough competition. They narrowly lost to Prince William, QES Barnet and also to Oundle in an extremely close, action-packed game which finished 17-14.

The Yearlings B XV played brilliantly at the intimidating Uppingham School sports ground, beating them 21-0 in a game which the team should be most proud of in terms of their ability to according to the conditions and adjust their game beat an opposition which was very forward-centric. The Yearlings A, B and C squads can be incredibly proud of themselves in the way in which players

such as Toby Pemberton, Will Hulbert, Kiaran Carney, Will Cowley, Tristram Rothschild and Keith Harrington have slotted into the side seamlessly and earned places in the higher level teams adding to their success during the season.

With a score of 311 for and 119 against the Yearlings B XV were an incredibly potent attacking side, displaying fluid running lines, great interplay between backs and forwards and pure grit and determination up front. The Bs played a really good season and I look forward to coaching many of the players next season in the Junior Colts.

Mr Tom Higham



Yearlings C

Charlie Barker and I looked forward to our Spring fixtures with much anticipation once we realised what a great squad of players we had for the Yearlings C Team. In any other year, many of the boys would have made it to the B team.

Unfortunately, in our first match we were thumped by St Paul's School, Milton Keynes 12-57. They were bigger, faster and angrier! But our potential was realised in the next six matches which we won, very well, both home and away gaining 227 points for and 14 points against – a fantastic run.

Our penultimate game was away to The Perse, a great match which we narrowly lost 26-27. Finally, the big one – Oundle away. This was a battle of epic proportions, which ended 33-27 to Oundle.

This has been a wonderful season, with some fast flowing rugby from a group of boys who never gave up. In The Schools' Rugby All Comers League we finished 2nd out of 36 in the whole of UK – a fantastic achievement.

Tries were scored by; Tristram Rothschild (7), Will Ramsay, Will Cowley (2), Artem Ioannesyanyan (4), Nick Bell (2), Jamie Baring (3), Jack Keeping, Monty Curran (2), Kai Komai (6), Felix Spooner (4), Kiaran Carney, Joe De Roeper (5), Nico Upton, Angus Norman, Jack Edmonstone (2) and Alex Birdwood.

Sadly Jack Keeping, our best kicker, playmaker and also captain, was injured and missed our last three games. Many of the lads who started in the C team have been promoted, ensuring that rugby at Stowe has a good future. Finally, well done to all the boys and the very best of luck for next year.

Mr Ray Dawson



Senior 7s

With another keen and promising group of players, we approached the 2011 season in confident and bullish mood. On paper, the team seemed to be well-balanced, although a few of the key players were new to the game at this level. The arrival of Will Shires and Brodie Smith this year gave the back line added threat and James Clark worked hard on his game to become a good forward.

The team was lead by the outstanding pair of Tom Baldwin and Gus Hopewell. These two players were the heart beat of the squad this year and deserve special congratulations for their input.

Our first tournament at Solihull came soon after the Daily Mail 15 a side season had finished, so we lacked practice time together. However, the tactics were swiftly picked up and we reached the quarter finals, before getting knocked out by the eventual winners, Adams' GS.

Our level of fitness was developing steadily, although lack of training time meant we could not do as much as we would have liked during the preparation phase. The Windsor tournament again proved that we were a side to be feared as we went on to reach the semi-finals, eventually losing to a strong Bedford team. By this time, players like Cameron Roberts, Jake Olley and Ben Nichols were emerging as very effective players, and they all have another season to follow next year. An excellent day down at Bryanston saw the full squad being tested.

Further 'new' players such as Seb Clarke, Harry Hawkes, Geordie Wilkes and Patch Adams came through strongly and all contributed significantly. The reputation of Stowe 7s is now very strong and we showed the West Country schools that we were able to match the best schools from their area.

The season was moving towards the 'big' tournaments as we travelled down to Surrey Schools which is regarded as the 'warm up' to the Nationals. A fantastic victory over Epsom College kicked off a good day, with Baldwin, Roberts and Hopewell showing that they were comfortably in the top tier of players at this tournament which had 56 schools competing. An excellent run was brought to an end when we were beaten by a last second try by Coleg Sir Gar, (which is the 'Scarlets' Academy).

Rosslyn Park was always the prime target for the season and we approached it knowing we had a good chance of doing well. We also knew it was going to be tough to win the group and progress, so we were fully prepared. Stowe has an extremely strong history of doing well at this tournament, but unfortunately, this was not to be our year, as we lost to St John's Leatherhead by one try.

This was a hard pill to swallow and left us feeling very frustrated. However, when reflecting on the season as a whole, the squad can be proud of their efforts.

Mr Craig Sutton

Tournament	Solihull	Results
Schools Played	Solihull	W 77-5
	Bedford Modern	W 28-26
	King's Worcester	W 14-12
	KE Aston	W 44-5
	Adams' GS (QF)	L 19-26
Tournament	Bryanston	Results
Schools Played	Bristol GS	W 38-7
	Sherborne	W 38-0
	Abingdon	W 33-10
	Blundell's	W 12-5
Tournament	Rosslyn Park	Results
Schools Played	Kingswood	W 38-12
	St. John's	L 7-12
	Abingdon	L 17-19
Tournament	Windsor	Results
Schools Played	St Benedicts'	W 28-5
	Pangbourne	W 28-5
	Latymer	W 34-10
	Oratory	L 14-22
	Berkhamstead (QF)	W 31-17
	Bedford (SF)	L 17-31
Tournament	Surrey Schools	Results
Schools Played	Epsom	W 24-22
	Worth	W 26-5
	Emanuel	W 29-7
	Coleg Sir Gar	L 26-31

Boys' Hockey



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1st XI

Played 13; Won 5; Drawn 3; Lost 5

The 2010–11 season proved to be an exciting one which had success both at the start and finish of term. The team, led by captain, Ali Birkby, and Vice captains, Geordie Wilkes and Will Berner, recorded an even season with five wins, five losses and three draws with some fantastic results. Will Berner went on to be top goal scorer with 11 goals.

The team had a great start to the season winning their first two matches against Mill Hill and Uppingham. During the Uppingham game the boys played some of their best hockey of the season and in the first 20 minutes went three goals up and then went on to win the game 4-2. Henry Rudd was a constant source of running in the game dominating a talented opposition midfield and scoring a fabulous solo goal.

In the County Cup the boys were knocked out by Dr Challoner's 4-3 in a game that saw Ali Birkby convert two goals in one of his best games as captain against his old school. The game went all the way to the wire as Stowe

pushed for the equaliser and the team created a clear goal-scoring chance in the last 30 seconds only for the ball to skip over Will Berner's flat stick after hitting a piece of debris on the pitch.

The team's best performances in the first half of term were when they scored early, played with confidence and displayed intensive play and good team defence. This was shown in the win against Abingdon when the boys defended superbly with George Corner making some good saves, particularly one from a short corner at half-time. Gus Hopewell and Robert Hill also made countless tackles in a strong central defence. Will Berner took his chances early in the game scoring two goals and Jake Olley scored the winner.

The second half of term saw an undefeated set of results with the team picking up hard fought draws against Stamford, Magdalen College School, Oxford and two fantastic wins in their last two matches against St Edward's and Sir William Borlase. In the last

two, the boys played some great counter attacking hockey – Jasper Simpkin scored four goals against Sir William Borlase, Cameron Cox scored his first ever goal in a Stowe shirt and Will Berner gained his first hockey Man of the Match award.

The second half of the season also gave an opportunity for other players to move up and represent the 1st XI team. Twenty-one players featured in the 13 games including Drew Todd from the Fourth Form, Will Jones, Will Drinkwater, Ben Duckett and Nick Paine from the Colts. However, it was the Upper Sixth that have really developed this year. Their commitment to Stowe throughout the first term which included indoor Monday night training has been fantastic and they have certainly reaped the rewards for all their efforts. Louis Staden and Geordie Wilkes gave everything on the pitch and both excelled in their last couple of matches. Gus Hopewell constantly pushed the opposition and Ali Birkby was powerful in midfield. William Shires also proved his worth and played extremely well in midfield.

The awards for the season went to Will Berner who finished top goal scorer with some well taken open and set piece goals. Cameron Cox was the most improved player of the season, playing every match in the season apart from when injured and always giving his all to the team and the school. George Corner was Players' Player of the Season and made good saves throughout the season and became a real leader on the pitch. The Coaches' Player of the Season was awarded to Rob Hill who was a rock in the centre of defence, making match-saving tackles and taking responsibility at the back to distribute and set up the attacks. Many thanks go to Mr Pickersgill for coaching the team and stepping in to umpire during the season.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

Life in the 2nd XI can be hard work as often the team which trains together on Friday is different from the team which plays together on Saturday. It has been heartening to see so many of the players who started in the 2nd XI make their way into 1st XI contention but it has meant that selection has been erratic. The core of the team has been solid throughout the season. Barnett, Broghan Smith and Cockbill have been ever present in the back line whilst Sebastian Clarke,

Cameron Roberts, Dixon-Smith and Ben Housson have played their part up front. Players such as Charlie Cox and Oscar Cole took their opportunities well and managed to hold their places in the team. Player of the season, Rupert Leyland, was never short of excellence in goal.

In terms of results, there were some excellent performances, the highlight being the tremendous win against Mill Hill in the first game. Interestingly, the team played

some of its best hockey in the closely fought losses to Uppingham, Magdalen College School, Oxford and Oundle. The quality of hockey in these games was very high and proved that many of these players would be capable of playing 1st XI hockey. Special mention should go to Cameron Roberts who scored 20 goals during the season and Broghan Smith who was by far the most improved player in the squad.

Mr Dominic Mochan

3rd XI

Sadly, the 3rd XI hockey team got off to a poor start when they lost their opening match against Uppingham, 8-0. It was a score line which did not reflect the number of outstanding saves that the goal keeper, Michael Evans, pulled off together with some solid defending from the team. Michael Evans continued to save well throughout the entire season and, as a result, became Player of the Season. After three matches, the 3rd XI goal difference was a negative 11, and it took some hard work and determined performances from the team to pull this back to all square as they started to put together some victorious performances against the likes of Bloxham and Haberdashers'. The team also managed some notable draws against Kimbolton, Magdalen College School, Oxford and St Edward's to finish the season with their heads held high. Andrew Atkins swept cleanly in defence, assisted by Alexander Heerema and most improved player of the season was Hubert Leese. Frederick Benyon and Nico Gilbert put in some sterling performances in central defence and midfield whilst Edward Wightman, Ben Nichols and George Low worked hard down the flanks. Captain, George Leslie-Melville, was top goal scorer for the season followed closely by Hamish Barnes who at times pulled the opposition's defence left and right to dodge them clean off their feet. Harry Bell and Francis Drysdale worked hard up front. Overall, it was an enjoyable season which began poorly but finished well.

Mr Mark Blew

Colts B

The Colts Bs had a great season, showing improvement in both ability and team work throughout. With only one loss against a very strong Oundle side we almost had an unbeaten season and the boys showed excellent team spirit and energy throughout. Some of the highlights included great performances against Oakham 1-0 and Uppingham 2-0 where Christophe Carrelet scored two goals and Harry Martin was very solid at sweeper. The top scorer of the season was Christophe who was a constant threat in front of goal. The most improved player was Josiah Hartley Matthews who, having never played in goal before, went on to become very useful between the sticks. Player of the season was Will Plant who made countless tackles throughout the year preventing the opposition from creating clear cut chances.

Miss Gabrielle Peel

Colts A

If the measure of a team is in its progress over the course of the season, then this must rank as a satisfactory one for the Colts As of 2011. Missing up to three of the best players from the year group throughout the season to the 1st XI, it was always going to be a little tough for these boys. Add to that a few tough opening fixtures to the season and narrow losses to Sir William Borlase, Oundle, Uppingham and others, morale was on the low side a few weeks in. A skilful and determined 4-3 win over Oakham the day before half-term, however, seemed to do wonders. The boys realised what they were capable of and things got better from there on.

In the second half of term excellent and hard-fought victories against Borlase

(part II) and then St Edward's on the last Saturday of term were well deserved and put a much more positive slant on a hitherto tough season. Mentions in dispatches to captain, Louis Forsyth, who in spite of 'umpire issues' led the team wholeheartedly from centre back; to Will Jones for his integral roles in central midfield; to the athletic and determined right half, Will Drinkwater; to Angus Craven for some terrific saves in goal and to Nick Paine who deserved the plaudits (and a regular 1st XI place) for a very impressive St Edward's hat-trick. It has been good to see a number of these boys representing the 1st XI already and I shall follow their senior hockey careers with interest.

Mr Henry Swayne



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Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B hockey team completed their 2011 season unbeaten with every member of the team playing their part. Over the course of the season there were several players who made the step up to the A team. These included goalkeeper Charlie Barnes who began the season as goalkeeper for the Junior Colts C team and progressed to become the first choice for the year group. Harry Cornett matured both on and off the pitch to become the rock of the A team defence and Charlie Clover played up front. Several others including Fergus Edwards, Will de Boinville and Tobin Mills also had A team appearances.

The team had depth in all areas starting at the back with Alfie Hardman in goal and then the back four of Sam Whitbread, Tom Noest, Jasper Upton, Will de Boinville and on occasion, Jack Walker-Payne. Tom Noest also displayed some excellent play.

The flair was in midfield with captain, Fergus Edwards, in the centre and Piers Fountaine on the right. Both had great skill on the ball. Jonny Dann was also a key member of the midfield; he has a good head on his shoulders and never stops running. Up front, Archie Grossart was always a real handful with skilful and pacey runs. Henry Wheeler, Tobin Mills, Jack Walker-Payne and Charlie Pilleau shared the honours on the wing and all scored their share of goals.

I have every confidence that this team will develop further next year and there will be many more opportunities for them in the A team next year as some of the Colts make the step up to the 1st XI.

Mr James Knott



Yearlings A

Played 12; Won 7; Lost 3; Drew 2

The Yearlings A team had a fluctuating and compelling season, winning some excellent matches against very tough opposition. The team have been well led by captain, Tom Young, and have bonded firmly as a unit. Our home form this term has been superb with perhaps our best achievement being our 2-1 win against The Leys and our most exciting match being a 5-5 draw against Sir William Borlase. There have been many strong individual performances over the course of the year with George Silk, Nick Bell and Tom Young all playing important roles. George Ellison has gone on to represent the County and was invited to Regional trials. The most improved player was Murray Aitchison who picked up a hockey stick for the first time at the start of this term and went on to play in every game for the A team. The most memorable moment for the team was when Kieren Carney scored a hat-trick on his debut in the 5-5 draw against Sir William Borlase.



Junior Colts C

The Junior Colts C team had some great results this term winning five out of six matches. Outstanding performances were against Oundle 7-0, with hat tricks from Jack Walker-Payne and Rollo Chad and Uppingham 3-1 with goals again from Jack Walker-Payne (2) and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley. Jack Walker-Payne went on to be player of the season and represent the Junior Colts B team.

Junior Colts D

For the first time Stowe was able to put out a Junior Colts D team which had five matches through the term. Fergus Jones led the scoring for the team hitting a fantastic hat trick against Abingdon and Chris Parsonson was dynamic in midfield. Overall the boys have improved due to their hard work and strong desire to play for the School.

Yearlings C, D and E

Throughout the term the Yearlings C, D and E teams have trained hard in all conditions and on any surface. There has been movement up and down the teams and many players have stood out. For the Yearlings C team, James Paul did well in the forward line and Jack Edmonstone and Jonny Carter were always impressive in the back line. For the Yearlings D team, Somerset Akerman was good value in the back line and Ben George and Mark Kozyritsky were dangerous on the wings and up forward. Great victories for the Yearlings C team included a 1-0 win against Stamford with Ben Ter Har converting a penalty corner and an outstanding performance from Toby Pemberton. The team also defeated The Leys 3-0 with goals from James Paul and Keith Harrington. The Yearlings D team recorded a great 1-0 win against Uppingham and the Yearlings E gained a good 1-1 score against The Perse with Jimmy Ondari scoring the equaliser.

Girls' Hockey



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1st XI

Played 11; Won 5;
Lost 5; Drew 1

The girls' 1st XI team had a successful season built around good team spirit and a willingness to work for each other. Joint captains Zara Nichols and Clarissa Pugh created a positive attitude amongst the team which encouraged all the girls and resulted in a very balanced season.

Throughout the season there were highs and lows. A last minute short corner equaliser against Pangbourne by Rebecca Dale resulted in wild celebrations amongst the team who had fought back from being 3-1 down to draw the opening game 3-3. In a tough match against Beaconsfield High, Charlie Lechmere sent a fantastic strike into the side netting of the goal to secure a 3-2 victory. Even in the games they lost the girls played with determination and vigour. This was demonstrated when they were defeated by St Edward's. The girls played some of the best hockey of the season but it just wasn't enough against the extremely strong St Edward's side. This desire to continue to play good passing hockey regardless of the score line shows how much the team has improved during the year and hints at their potential for next year.

Mr James Fair

U15A

Played 7; Won 6;
Lost 1

This was an excellent season for the U15A girls, however a potent mix of power cuts and ice rather disappointingly cutting short a very successful term, scoring 36 goals and only conceding 10.

The girls made some really pleasing progress throughout the term both as a team and as individual players. The highlights include the early 5-1 triumph over Bloxham, a gutsy 2-1 victory over St Edward's and a Lucy Horan double hat-trick against Tudor Hall. This is a formidable team and the girls' ability to play confident, attacking hockey have led them to become accustomed to winning. Particular congratulations go to the following girl: captain, Clara Holden, for her strong skills in leadership, terrific defensive play and for fighting back to fitness after a eight-week absence caused by a serious leg injury; Lucy 'the flyer' Horan, who wins this year's Golden Stick Award with an astounding 18 goals in seven matches and Ella Markham and Maddie Wackett for their tireless efforts in the midfield.

Mr Henry Swayne

U16A

Played 11; Won 3;
Lost 3; Drew 5

The future of the team looks positive as six Fifth Form girls were regular members of the U16A squad. Throughout the term 18 players made their debut for the U16A team. Heli Carr-Smith and Sophie Bird have both shown some great skills up and down the wings. Sophie Carew and Olivia Leyland have been fearless in defence making countless tackles throughout the year and have provided a solid platform for the team. Co-captain No. 1, Zara Nichols, has led the scoring charts with 11 goals and she was voted Players' Player of the Season. Co-captain No. 2, Clarissa Pugh has matched leadership qualities with a great desire to stop the opposition playing.

I would like to thank the girls for all their efforts this year. They have a pleasure to coach and have shown great commitment in all weather conditions. I would also like to thank team coach, Mr Arnold.

Miss Olivia Thorogood

U16 National Championships squad

In a thrilling County Cup, the girls overcame an early loss to Sir William Borlase and won their remaining games to qualify for the Regional rounds as County runners-up. The Regional tournament involved six short matches in three hours and the girls battled hard against some superb opposition. Unfortunately a number of the girls were not a full fitness but despite that they finished in a commendable fourth place. They defeated Wellington 2-1 and Oxford High 1-0 but lost to Cranleigh and Portsmouth Grammar. The captain, Georgie Leech, was the most outstanding player in the tournament as she consistently drove the team forward and led by example.



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U14A

Played 23; Won 19; Lost 2

The U14A hockey team have enjoyed a fantastic season being crowned County Champions and finishing in the top four of the Southern Region. They remained undefeated in the first term playing 15 matches, winning 14 and drawing one. In the second term the girls went through to the Regional tournament and competed against some very strong hockey schools. At this tournament they beat Wellington and Teddington but were beaten by St George's and Kingston to leave the school fourth in the Region – the furthest a Stowe girls' hockey team has ever got. During the Regional tournament there were some outstanding performances from Tessa Horan and Willa Barham in goal.

The most notable victories of the season were against Bloxham 3-2, Wellingborough 3-2, St Edward's 5-0 and Marlborough 6-1. In each of these matches the girls showed great team work attacking and defending as a team and putting all the things they had practiced in training into the matches.

The top goal scorer was Valerie Madojemu with 23, closely followed by Tilly Upton and Georgia Alderton each scoring 15. The player of the season is Tilly Upton who has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the team at Right Forward. The most improved player is Lottie Hodson who has become extremely reliable in defence and thank you to the captain, Ellie Clark, who has led by example throughout. Congratulations to the whole team on an outstanding achievement in your first year at Stowe!

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U15B

The U15Bs have had a very challenging hockey season and their defensive skills were being tested every week. Although poor weather caused a high number of cancellations, when the girls did play they put up a terrific fight against some very strong opponents. The girls always kept up their team spirit and never let their heads go down even when they conceded a goal. This showed true sportsmanship. The most improved players were Georgie Jack and Lauren Clark-Hattingh. Both girls' hockey progressed throughout the season, as they gained in confidence and skill. The Player of the Season is Shona Drummond for some outstanding goal keeping performances, which kept us firmly in the game each week. As a result of these performances, Shona was selected to play for the A team at the end of the term. Well done to all the girls.

Miss Gabrielle Peel

U14B

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 2

The U14Bs have shown great enthusiasm this term and have demonstrated great flair for hockey. They had a great 3-0 victory against Cokethorpe's A team and one of their best performances was against St Edward's when they played some fantastic hockey resulting in a 2-2 draw. The most improved players were Molly Suthers and Fenella Barrons who both worked very hard all season. Claudia Wace up front and Anastasia Brunette-Jacobs in defence must be mentioned as the strongest leaders on the pitch and it was very pleasing to see both girls move up and play in the U14A team. Anastasia went on to be involved in the Regional squads playing a good role in defence.

Miss Gabrielle Peel



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Lacrosse

1st XII

Played 19; Won 16; Drew 3

The Stowe 1st team had a record breaking season. During the Michaelmas term the girls enjoyed a record 16 wins and 3 draws and won the Midlands Regional title for the first time in Stowe history. Nine of the 1st XII were selected to play in the U19 Bucks County team and eight represented the U19 Midlands team. We replaced Wycombe Abbey as the top Midlands school. Honours went to José Brake (Bucks and Midlands captain), Danni Allard (Bucks and Midlands), Caroline Thompson (Bucks and Midlands), Emma Saric (Bucks and Midlands), Jo Chung (Bucks and Midlands), Claudia Button (Bucks and Midlands), Hetty Hill (Bucks and Midlands), Bryony Seekins (Bucks and Midlands), Looch Trevor (Bucks).

José Brake and Danni Allard went on to become involved in the U19 England preparations for the World Cup and although neither made the final squad we sure that both girls will eventually play at Senior level. Claudia Button has been asked to captain the U17 National Centex squad in Germany this summer and is another bright prospect for the future.

In the Lent term the girls focused on preparations for the Nationals. We defeated St Swithun's and Berkhamsted, teams we had previously only managed to draw against, in two very tough matches. The team entered the Nationals with an undefeated season behind them and high expectations despite being placed in one of the hardest sections. They battled for the third time against St. Swithun's and Berkhamsted. Unfortunately, they fell to Berkhamsted in a 2-1 loss, but were victorious in all other matches. On the second day the team was placed in the Championship round as one of the top 12 teams in the country. They finished with three wins, one draw and two losses, but were the only school to defeat Godolphin 3-2 who would later go on to win the entire tournament. Unfortunately, in our last game of the season, missing key players, we fell to Cheltenham Ladies College 5-2.

This season showed how hard the girls worked to progress from an average team to one of the best teams in the country which means that we will be seeded in the top 10

for Day 1 next year. Captains José Brake and Bryony Seekins both had outstanding seasons and were an indispensable part of this team. Jose had a total of 42 caused turnovers, 17 groundballs, 17 draw controls and 6 goals. Bryony Seekins finished with 28 goals, 15 assists, 27 groundballs, 21 caused turnovers and 26 draw controls. Danni Allard had a breakout season coming up with 90 goals, 14 assists, and 25 draw controls. Hetty Hill was our offensive commander with 38 goals and 18 assists. Looch Trevor was a new contributor on the defense resulted in a team high of 39 groundballs. Jo Chung continued to improve in each game and as a result ended with a total of 107 saves. Emma Saric was our top draw taker coming up with 49 draw controls; Claudia Button had 62 goals, 17 assists, 19 caused turnovers, and 21 draw controls and Caroline Thompson had 25 groundballs and 14 caused turnovers.

The captains for the 2011-2012 season will be Claudia Button and Looch Trevor.

Miss Elizabeth Hollick

2nd XII

It has truly been a fantastic year for Stowe Lacrosse and the 2010/2011 season shaped up to be our best ever! At the start of the season the girls came out just wanting to play lacrosse but as the season progressed they became more intense and competitive as players, making sure they did everything required to win. The girls really pushed themselves throughout this season defeating Berkhamsted, St Swithun's, Marlborough, Downe House, and St Paul's Girls', London and as a coach I could not be prouder of what they have achieved. The girls were a pleasure to

work with, not only because they were easy to coach, but also because of their raw talent. Without a doubt, each member of the team contributed to every win that we had this year!

Claire Gallimore and Natasha Robson made a huge impact every time they were on the field. Natasha, in particular, was a key defensive player, starting the season off at low D and then making her way up to a midfield defense wing. By doing so she made a huge difference to the team's attacking. She had a career high of five goals, 20 caused turnovers and 15 ground balls. Claire was also a huge asset to Stowe's attack. She gave 100 percent every time she walked onto the pitch. She was, without a doubt, one of Stowe's most

motivated players of the season. Claire finished the season as the leading goal scorer with 50 goals and 10 assists.

It would be wrong not to mention players such as Tessa Stephenson, whose work rate was second to none and who never gave up until the ball was in her stick. Elly Parker was a great crease defender who contributed with 10 caused turnovers and 25 ground balls. Zara Nichols had a career high of 12 goals and six assists. Tamara Rowan Hamilton (one of the 'youngsters') knew when to take risks and when to hold back. Lottie Phillips, whose linking play with Zara, produced timeless fast breaks and caused the opposition all kinds of problems. And finally our goalkeeper, Rachel who saved us on many occasions.

Overall this season has been one to remember. Competing in the Nationals, winning their division on the first day and ranking in fifth place, have definitely been the greatest moments of the season. The girls have really shown their true ability and love for the game of lacrosse making the 2010/2011 season one which will be remembered for a long time. Well done ladies and congratulations!

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U15A

The U15As had a successful 2010/2011 season with an 11-1 winning record. Their only loss was to St. Paul's Girls', London 8-7. The girls did a fantastic job of learning how to use each other effectively on the field to win these matches. Attacking plays were worked on and it was fantastic to see them use these tactics to overpower strong teams such as Cheltenham as the season came to an end. In the attack they learnt how to move the ball quickly with specific plays, whilst the midfield possessed most of the draw controls and the defence worked together with slides and tight man-to-man defence to stop their opponents from attacking. Top scorers of the season were Lucy Horan with 34 goals, Charlotte Berrill with 26, Megan Duckett with 16 and Alice Hughes with 15 goals. Top defenders of the season were Maddie Wackett with 30 ground balls, Katkin Farr with 23 and Shona Drummond with 17 ground balls. Priscilla Powell made a positive impact in goal with 35 saves for the season.

The girls also played exceptionally well at the Nationals Tournament held at the beginning of March. They were placed second in their group and sixth overall in the tournament. This is a group of shining young talented athletes who are ready to take their skills and knowledge of lacrosse so far to the next level. Great season girls!

Congratulations to Lucy Horan, Megan Duckett, Shona Drummond and Lily Comyn for their selection to the Regional Centex programme for 2011/12.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

U15B

The U15B team had a development season with some of the girls finding their way in to the A team for some matches. An impressive victory over Bedford High started the season well but matches against some other schools' A teams were tough. However, there is no doubt that their skills are improving and their tactical knowledge is getting stronger. Players to watch out for in the future are Lettice Carter, Florence Pearce, Iona Palmer-Baumack, Ella Markham and India Cornish.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U14A

The U14As had a very progressive season. They started out as individuals and by the end of the season came together and developed into a strong team capable of taking on some schools who had years of lacrosse behind them. They dedicated themselves to working hard on their individual skills at every practice session and were able to convert those skills into learning how to play with eleven other people by the time that the Midlands Tournament came around. Victories over Rendcomb, Uppingham, Bedford High and Swanbourne gave them a taste for success. However, their results at the Midlands Schools' Competition in March demonstrated how far they had travelled. The girls tied with

Bedford High in second place but the goal average prevented us from competing in the semi-finals. However, after battling against teams that have been playing together for two to three years, achieving third place was a great accomplishment.

There were many girls who contributed to this season's success. Tessa Horan for her hard shot and aggressive attacking skills; Tilly Upton for her consistent hustle up and down the field and her knack for back checks when the opposition thought they had got away; Ellie Clark for her quick defensive skills and her ability to strip an attacker of the ball with ease and, last but not least, Valerie Madojemu for her ability to find her open team mates as well as score many by herself.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U14B

The U14Bs also displayed plenty of talent and although the first year of learning a new sport is tough they finished the season with some very promising results. There were a number of players who pushed their way in to the A team – Lucy Oswald, Lottie Hodson, Georgia Alderton, Lizzie Witkowski are all players who went from strength to strength and are names to watch.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Cricket



1st XI

It has been an unprecedented cricket season for Stowe's 1st XI beginning with the tour to Dubai, during which the 1st XI were unbeaten. The team followed this with 13 wins out of 16 matches, which included knocking over the likes of Uppingham, Oundle, St Edward's, Bradfield College and the thrilling last ball victory over Oakham. Ben Duckett, Fifth Form (913 runs @ 65 and 22 dismissals behind the stumps) made the England U16 Development squad in the winter and is waiting to hear if he has made the U19 squad to face the South Africans this Summer. He also made his Championship debut for Northants 2nd XI, scoring an unbeaten fifty against Nottinghamshire. The 1st XI captain, Alastair Birkby (731 runs @ 52 apiece and 34 wickets @ 15 apiece), has also made his Northants 2nd XI debut and is hopeful of more games as the summer progresses. These two boys have formed a formidable partnership at the top of the order with several century partnerships. They broke the school record for the opening partnership when they put on 221 against Bedford Modern School.

There have also been notable contributions from Liam Gough (477 runs and 14 wickets @ 13 apiece) and Jake Olley (430 runs @ 35). Will Berner (26 wickets @ 15 apiece) and Ben Paine (14 wickets) have led the attack with an extremely high level of competence. Harry Martin (19 wickets @ 12 apiece) is developing well and Cameron Roberts (21 wickets @ 14 apiece) also deserves his nickname of 'golden arm', having taken many important wickets. Lower down the school the U15s are top of the National League tables and are through to the Regional Finals of the National Twenty/20 competition. This is the first time the team have reached this stage in the competition. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of all of the masters in charge of each team so I extend a huge thank you to them. Thanks also to Steve Curley and his team who produce such high quality wickets for the lads to play on and lastly a big thank you to our officials, Mike 'Pasty' Harris, Keith Timpson, Clive Cross and Lynn Allen who have been outstanding all year.

2nd XI

The challenge at the start of the season was always going to be scoring enough runs for a good bowling attack to defend. A combination of dropped catches and 20/20 style batting resulted in losses against Uppingham and Oundle in games that we should have won. Finally, the batting line up started to deliver and wins against Rugby and Oakham meant that the side finished the season well. Teddy Kealey skippered the side well, progressing in ability through the season. His left arm spin continued to be put to good effect. Hugo Barran, Joe Sutton and Edward Wightman have been an effective seam attack and Siddhant Sachdev added some surprising spins along with some wristy runs. Archie Hood has been a committed player and his wise advice to the skipper, excellent slip catching and runs at No. 3 were all important for the team. Guy Dixon-Smith came back from a difficult start to the season to score some good runs at the top of the order and Freddie Elliott came in having scored runs for the 3rd XI to become a sensible and powerful middle order batsman. Josh Sutton has kept wicket very well and his batting has great potential for the future. Robert Hill has undoubtedly been the best fielder across the matches. This is a young team and a good one and Mr Michaels and I have enjoyed coaching them in what finished as a winning season.

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3rd XI

A truncated season but one played in excellent spirit with fine wins over Abingdon, Bedford Modern and St Edward's. The season featured strong batting contributions from Nichols (107 not out v St Edward's), Clarke (63) and Staden (100 v Bedford Modern). Wicket takers included Gregson, Curran and Cowley but the two most extraordinary bowling performances go down to Wackett who, in one match, bowled six consecutive maidens ending with a wicket maiden and Staden who, with his last ball for Stowe, at Stowe on the South Front, was on a hat-trick only to see the extraordinarily difficult catch put down. Such excitement!

Mr Tony Lewis

4th XI

Played 2; Lost 2

The 4th XI was a new venture for senior Stowe cricket as we did not put a 4th XI out last season. We only had a couple of matches but it was enough to give a number of Sixth Form boys a good taste of competitive cricket. Our first match was at Uppingham in a howling gale in April. We batted first and got to 170 with some good knocks from Henry Harrison (36), Tom Maddison (26), Tom Newman (26) and Ben Rimell (30). Sadly our bowling attack was simply not strong enough to take wickets and we lost by 6 wickets, although Tom Newman took 3 for 19 off 3 overs.

Our second match was against Oundle where again we batted first. This time we struggled to make runs and limped to 125 all out after only 19 overs. Only Harry Bell (17), Will Prideaux (34) and Tom Newman (29) offered any real resistance with the bat. Such a small total was always going to be hard to defend and thus it proved with Oundle passing our total in the 19th over. Ben Rimell looked the pick of the bowlers with a very impressive 3 for 14 off 3 overs, but we did not have a big enough target to bowl at.



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Colts A

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2

As they assembled on the North Front in late April, this year's Colts faced an inconvenient combination of factors ahead: a team which had lost five of its players from the previous season to the new 1st XI, a term reduced to four weeks before study leave began leaving less time for training and matches and the loss of one of their coaches, Mr Michael, who was snapped up by the 2nd XI as a result of changes in the transfer market! In spite of these hurdles, an enjoyable and at times successful season came and went which saw some considerable progress made by the team.

The first match was an away game at Uppingham which saw us narrowly beaten by two wickets. Batting first on a windy late April day, 150 wasn't quite enough in spite of an excellent partnership between Louis Forsyth and Jack 'Chappers' Chaplin who steadied the ship and got us to a respectable total. Next came Abingdon and a run chase of 30 more than should have been the case due to sloppy bowling and fielding. However, 'Chappers' scored a memorable 67* to win the game from no.6, scoring 100 from the last 10 overs to the accompaniment of loud cheers from the excited Fifth Formers watching on the

South Front. On the following Saturday, we played a home game against Oundle who scored over 200 from their allocated 35 overs. A target of six/seven runs per over was looking comfortably achievable for the first 20 minutes. However, Christophe 'Stand and Deliver' Carrelet (the 'find' of the season) and opening partner Harry Consett began with some massive hits to take us to 55-0 in the space of six overs. Often in cricket, 'One brings two', however, for Stowe the phrase 'one brings four' would have been more accurate as the team fell victim to a calamity of errors including Consett running himself out, Carrelet swinging wildly at the next ball and getting stumped and Forsyth getting run out without facing a ball at the non-striker's end courtesy of a deflected strike from Chaplin. A spirited counter-attack from Chaplin and Drinkwater and Constant (tail-enders) was to no avail. The last match saw Rugby hammered by nine wickets due to an extraordinary display of batting from Christophe who scored 78* from 20 overs and aided by Consett (35) and Chaplin (37*) we wrapped up the season in triumphant fashion.

Mr Henry Swayne

Colts B

The Colts B had a shortened season due to exams but in the time they had, they managed to secure two excellent wins including a satisfying victory away at Uppingham. Top batting performances came from Kit Dixon Smith and top bowling performances came from Luke Pepera and Tristan Phipps. Overall, it was an enjoyable season that gave the boys some relief from their exam pressures earlier in the term.

Mr Charlie Barker

Yearlings A

The Yearlings A made a very promising start to the year beating Uppingham and Oundle in very close games. The team, led by Tom Young, were shy on the batting front but they bowled and fielded well and put sides under a great deal of pressure. Another close game against Abingdon saw the boys lose on the last ball of the game before normal service was resumed with a big win over Bloxham, the highlight being Tom Young's 81. However, since then, the side struggled to gain any momentum and the batting continued to be an issue. There is certainly some talent in the team and Will Cowley, Monty Curran and James Scott look good prospects for the future. Tom Young and Jack Keeping were the mainstays of the side and were invited to play in the U15 team which reached the South West Regional final in the National 20/20 competition.



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The Yearlings A Cricket team also enjoyed a three day festival at Ardingly College against the hosts, Cheltenham College and St Joseph's, Ipswich. Balmy weather and superb school cricket grounds made for an enjoyable atmosphere however Stowe's cricketing performance was disappointing. Stowe only managed to take eight wickets over the three days whilst we lost 30 of our own. Stowe made first innings scores of 134 against Cheltenham, 76 against St Joseph's and 114 against Ardingly (which was called off due to rain). Despite the poor performance, the team enjoyed their time together, practising 50 over cricket and learning from the different aspects of the game.

Mr Dominic Mochan

Yearlings B

The Yearlings B quickly became a cohesive unit this season. The season kick started with an excellent performance against Uppingham. Sadly it ended in a loss, but the commitment and talent was on show that would come to define the season.

The first win of the season came with a dramatic one run victory over Oundle, as tight fielding and bowling came to the rescue of some suspect batting.

Good wins followed against, Dr Challoner's Grammar School and St Edward's and the season finished with a superb result against Oakham. Henry Nelson Lucas must be mentioned for gaining seven wickets and a run out against Dr Challoner's as well as four wickets against Oakham. Nick Bell who hit 91 not out against St Edward's, George Barham who hit 64 against Oakham and Rex Roxburgh who hit 51 against Bloxham are also worthy of mention.

For the majority of the season, the team was expertly captained by Ben George, who led with a smile and displayed a passion for the game which kept the team buzzing along nicely. Overall, it was a pleasing season with many players developing several aspects of their game. Well done!

Mr Michael Rickner



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Yearlings C

Struggling with bowling extras early on in the term (making some matches much tighter than they ought to have been), the Yearlings C team soon found their rhythm, and aside from a couple of lacklustre performances against Kingham Hill and Cheltenham, they played with reasonable success. Season highlights included a 5-wicket haul by William Hulbert and a top score of 66 by Jake Lussier. There was a real sense of unfulfilled potential for the team, and hopefully, lessons learnt this year will benefit them next summer. The team comprised S Cecil, J De Roeper, G Gill, K Harrington, W Hulbert, G Lee, J Lussier, O Marment, A Norman, E Rolls, N Upton, B Wangmontri, C Whitehead and was coached by Mr J Cater.

Yearlings D

The season started in fine fashion, with a strong win against Uppingham, featuring a 150-run opening stand from Ed Hopkinson and Caspar Whitehead. From there, runs and wickets came with less consistency – yet, although results were not favourable, all involved in the team played with a great sense of fun and enjoyment of the gentleman's game, reflecting the bright sunshine which graced most matches. This seasons team comprised R Adams, S Akerman, M Aitchison, W Arthey, T Barker, A Birdwood, N Berenguer, J Candler, J Croom-Johnson, G Dunn, M Edwards, W Lewis, J Macdonald, J Simpson, H Sylvester, A Tyrrell and was coached by Mr J Cater.



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Boys' Tennis

1st VI

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5;

Wins against: Uppingham, St. Edward's, Bloxham, St. Edward's (mixed), Bloxham (mixed) Lost to: Oakham, Warwick, Abingdon, Rugby, Oundle.

The arrival of John Harvey to the tennis scene was a major boost as he is a player with a very strong pedigree and went on to win every set he played against school boy opposition with his partner in the first pair, another very talented player, Arthur Hobhouse. These two boys led the team with exciting and classy doubles play, although the experienced Old Stoics did find a way to get the better of them. Jasper Simpkin returned to the tennis courts, having played cricket for the school for three years, and quickly settled to make a lively and watchable pair with Roddy Blackburne. There was usually an air of good humour (and plenty of noise) when they played. Nicolas De Bois de Montule is one of those players who can make the game look so easy when he is in form and he combined with the very steady Francis Rowlands. This pair went on to secure some very valuable points for the team under severe pressure. This was another very enjoyable season on the fantastic setting of the 'Shop Courts'. Many thanks to our visiting professional coach, Paul Robinson, and to Mr Weil for his tremendous support and enthusiasm.

Mr Craig Sutton



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Colts

The U16 enjoyed a relatively successful season, with good wins over Oakham and St Edward's and narrow defeats to MCS and Uppingham. Nick Paine and Harry Warden were the regular first pair, ably supported by Elliott O'Brien, Arthur Lonsdale, Jack Barham, Mungo Kilgour, Orlando Whitehead, Robbie Henriques, Angus Merrell and Bertie Hayward. All these players will be able to represent school senior teams next year if they are prepared to work on their technique.

Mr Rory Akam

3rd VI

The boys have enjoyed their tennis this term, but were very unlucky to miss out on winning any of the three matches they played. Unfortunately, their talents were not displayed during the matches and the boys need to work on calming their nerves on match days next year if they are to make significant improvements. The highlights of the short season included some great serving from George Low and the super doubles play from Edmund Robinson and Titus Edwards. The greatest disappointment of the season was the cancellation of the mixed doubles at Tudor Hall due to bad weather.

Mr Brian Hart



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Junior Colts A

Played 6; Won 6; Lost 0; Drew 0



The three pairs remained consistent more or less throughout the season and all delivered important sets throughout the term. The first pair comprising Toby Cole and Fergus Edwards displayed a vast array of strokes and they were able to win sets at important moments. Will de Boinville and Archie Brogden were both hard working and dedicated players. Their victories were a result of sheer tenacity but at times they were perhaps too intense and should have been focussing on the process rather than the outcome. Ollie Beazley and Hugo Hiley also have some marvellous shots.

Comfortable wins were enjoyed over Abingdon, Oundle, Rugby and St Edward's.

The match against Uppingham took place on a bitterly cold day but de Boinville and Brogden won the match in the last set. In the last match against Warwick, Brogden, partnered by Beazley, turned the game in Stowe's favour beating their second pair to keep the team undefeated over two years.

Some top pairs have represented the seniors this season with great success and I hope this provides them with the motivation and experience raise their game next year. It was a superb season and all the boys should take credit for their efforts.

Junior Colts B

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2; Drew 0



There were some very strong tennis players in this year group which have enabled me to select a super team, However, this has also meant that it has been a challenge to ensure that everyone had the opportunity of playing a game throughout the season. The regular players, Jamie Milne, Tom Forde, Marco van de Koppel and Archie Grossart were

the mainstay of the side and provided us with solidity and guile. Others boys such as Alexis Lazareff, Henry Coldstream, Felix Grant-Rennick, Guy Riches and Charles Pillion all represented the school with enthusiasm and determination. The wins over Abingdon, Uppingham and St Edward's were particularly satisfying.

Yearlings A and B

This year the Yearlings A and B tennis teams have trained hard and come up against some fierce opposition from rival schools. After bruising encounters against Uppingham and Abingdon, the Yearling players regained their composure and went on to perform very well in their mixed doubles matches against Bloxham and St Edward's. While tennis often competes with cricket for players, it was very pleasing to see how many Third Form players were willing to give tennis a try and participate in the school teams. 11 players took part in the six-man Yearlings A team over the course of the season, demonstrating an impressive array of talent and tenacity. The players were Barth Rougier (Walpole), George Tucker (Walpole), Luke Lindsay (Grafton), Luke Reddyhough (Bruce), Felix Spooner (Grafton), Edward Gorst (Grenville), Leo Marmion (Cobham), Charles Garnier de Falletans (Bruce), George Ellison (Bruce), George Silk (Chandos) and Mark Kozyritskiy (Chandos). The Yearlings B team also put in commendable performances over the term, giving the school a strength in depth to look forward to when these players become next year's Junior Colts. Players in the B team included Rodrigo de Rato (Grafton), Ben Boscawen (Temple), Hugh Daunt (Grenville), Charlie Peagram (Bruce), Ryan Eveleigh (Temple), Robert Milner (Cobham) and Jamie Hardinge (Grenville). Well done to all who played this year.

Mr Roland Johnson



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Girls' Tennis



1st VI

The 1st VI, captained by Danni Allard and partnered by Chloe Stewart, had a strong fixture list this year including Oakham, Rugby and Downe House. This provided them with some extremely competitive matches. With Lexy Beaty and Zara Nichols as second pair, and Georgina Drummond, Helena Carr-Smith and Charlotte Lechmere all taking turns to make up the third pair, the team achieved wins against Bloxham 5-4, Northampton High School 8-1 and a draw with Tudor Hall. During the exam period the girls found time to play mixed doubles against Bloxham and St Edward's winning both matches 7-2. Chloe Stewart, Zara Nichols and Lexy Beaty are all awarded their senior colours and Chloe



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has also been selected to be captain of Girls Tennis next year. Well done to all the girls involved in this year's team.

Senior House tennis was won by Nugent. Intermediate House was won by Queen's.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

3rd VI

The 3rd VI team had a great season this summer ending with a 2-1 record. Bryony Seekins and Rebecca Down led the team as the first pair and played good, solid tennis throughout the season. Looch Trevor and Annabel Duthie made a strong second pair winning seven out of nine matches and, despite being paired with a different partner in each match she played, Caroline Thompson was a constantly reliable half of the third pair. The girls had a terrific season overall and we look forward to the younger girls having a bigger role in the team next season!

2nd VI



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The 2nd VI had some very exciting encounters and enjoyed a winning season. With Tavy de Ferranti and Hetty Hill at the first pair, Rebecca Dale and Bella Wallersteiner as second pair and Imogen Voorspuy and Charlotte Cook as third pair they won 9-0 against Bloxham. This was followed by notable defeats of Downe House 5-4 and St Edward's 8-1.

After half-term they lost narrowly to Rugby 4-5 then finished with a 3-3 draw against Tudor Hall but celebrated victories in both their mixed doubles games. Throughout the exam period, the team was supported by girls from the 3rd VI team and the U15A team which helped to contribute to their overall success.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

4th VI

The 4th VI team began the season with an unfortunate loss but finished in a strong position with two big victories resulting in a 2-1 record. Hatty Comyn, Issy Berner, Daisy Ussher and Clarissa Pugh made up the backbone of the team. The girls had a great season and we look forward to seeing them step up their game next season.

U15A

Played 7; Won 6; Lost 0; Drew 1

The team enjoyed a successful series of matches with Megan Duckett, Charlotte Berrill, Alice Hughes, Maddie Wackett, Lucy Horan and Katkin Farr playing six out of the seven matches. As the season progressed some of the girls were called up to the 1st VI and 2nd VI which bodes well for the success of girls' tennis next year. Megan and Charlotte should be congratulated for their contribution to the first team against Tudor Hall when they were the only pair to



win all three sets. We watched some super battles of tennis, the most satisfying being against Oundle with a winning score of 8-1. I'd like to congratulate this U15 team for the fact that, since joining Stowe two years ago, they have yet to lose a tennis match. Colours go to Lucy Horan and Katkin Farr.



U15C

Our U15C team battled hard and were reliable at practice, but were unable to play matches as our competitor schools failed to provide us with opposition. We very much hope that the hard work that the girls put in this season will be rewarded with some good external matches next year.

U15B

Played 4; Won 3; Drew 0; Lost 1

Our first pair, Issy Taylor and India Cornish and second pair, Imogen Wallersteiner and Bella Kelly, were well supported by a third pair made up of either Ella Markham, Lily Comyn, Olive Savage or Caroline Schaufelberger. Their greatest triumph was their victory against St Edwards 5-4.



U14A

Played 7; Won 4; Drew 0; Lost 3

The U14A team grew in strength over the season and I was very pleased to see their skills and tactical knowledge develop. Their ability to win points as a result of determined net play improved and the impressive victories against St Edward's and Rugby demonstrated how far they had come throughout the term. The team comprised Tilly Upton and Annabel Rushton as first pair, Valerie Madojemu and Claudia Wace as second pair and Tilda Bevan and Tessa Horan as third pair. All the girls played their part in the success of the season but Tilly and Annabel should be congratulated for winning 18 of their 21 sets played. Junior colours go to Tilly Upton.



U14B

The U14B team have worked tirelessly during practice sessions this term and deserve to be proud of the extent to which they have improved as players. Although the defeat against Downe House was disappointing, they have worked hard to improve all aspects of their game and as a result they beat Bloxham, St Edward's and Rugby – winning 26 sets and losing only one. A magnificent achievement! The team comprised Lottie Hodson and Lucy Oswald as first pair, Flora Marriott and Dima Georgieva as second pair and Izzy Boorman and Willa Barham as third pair.



U14C

The season's U14C team have been extremely close to the U14 B team in terms of the standard of their tennis and it will be fascinating next year to see how the girls have developed through the winter months. The girls played some very close matches against a strong Oundle side, but the outstanding win of the season was against St Edward's – eight sets to one. The team comprised Annie B-J and Lizzie Witkowski as first pair, Letty Rothschild and Ally Blyth as second pair and Anastasia H-Jenkins and Lily Holland Bosworth as third pair. Annie and Lizzie deserve to be congratulated for winning five of their last six sets.

Basketball

The U15, U16, Senior A and Senior B teams have had an unbeaten season. The highlights have included the record points victory for the Senior team against Uppingham, plus the victories in the last fixture of the season against Bradfield by the U16 and Senior teams by a two point and one point margin. Particular praise must go to the Senior team captain, Nicolas du Bois de Montule, who scored a staggering 381 points in the nine games played, smashing the school record for most individual points scored in one season.

This year basketball colours have been awarded to Alex Kostic, Sadiq Abbagana and Daniel Clark.

Mr Isaac Michael

Winners of the House Basketball trophy



Stowe School Basketball Results Lent term 2011

Date	Teams	Opposition	Venue	Result
15.01.11	SENIOR	Public Schools Competition		
		Pangbourne	A	(W)
		Charterhouse	A	(W)
		Wellington College	A	(L)
		Winchester	A	(W)
22.01.11		Bedford	H	(W) 84-34
25.01.11		Oakham	H	(W) 89-41
05.02.11		Eton	H	(W) 72-44
12.02.11		Bedford	A	(W) 64-40
15.02.11		Uppingham	H	(W) 112-30
05.03.11		Pangbourne	A	(W) 84-30
08.03.11		Uppingham	A	(W) 104-25
15.03.11		Rugby	A	(W) 92-29
19.03.11		Bradfield	A	(W) 47-45
22.01.11	SENIOR B	Bedford	H	(W) 56-30
12.02.11		Bedford	A	(W) 46-26
05.03.11		Pangbourne	A	(W) 44-19
25.01.11	U16	Oakham	H	(W) 37-30
19.03.11		Bradfield	A	(W) 45-44
05.02.11	U15	Eton	H	(W) 27-14
09.01.11	INTER-HOUSE	Senior Boys Competition	H	Grenville
09.01.11		Senior Girls Competition	H	Queen's
16.01.11		Junior Girls Competition	H	Queen's
16.01.11		Junior Boys Competition	H	Chandos

Senior squad

K Blair, D Baniukevic, S Abbagana, N Du Bois de Montule, D Clark, A Muñoz Ballester, E Siu, J Harvey, L Pepera, B An, I Nenkov, M Corless, T Baldwin, A Kostic, T Athigapanich, A Drumov, B Kim.

U16 squad

A Deriziotis, H Mayo, J Raeburn, L Pepera, A Sinyukov, K Ali, B Wild, A Norton, H Perske, H Pollen, S Abbagana, A Muñoz Ballester.

U15 squad

A Deriziotis, O Balfour, K Ali, H Perske, H Pollen, H Hiley, K Makiura, O Song, M Chen, L Palmer, W Chatamra, O Constantine, H Morgan.

Football

This has been another season of real progress for football at Stowe. Numbers playing the game in activity time remain very high and the overall standard of play – and the level of sportsmanship – continue to improve.

We have recently moved into Saturday fixtures and have also managed a couple of games (victories on both occasions) for a 2nd XI ably led by Ivaylo Nenkov.



Apart from the Saturday games at Rugby, Bromsgrove and Haileybury, the 1st XI have played Sunday fixtures against more 'traditional' opponents, including two Old Stoic teams. Throughout the season the squad players have displayed a real hunger to improve their team-play. Stowe has, where possible, kept the ball on the ground and moving at a fast pace. A natural tendency to want to play the 'passing game' has made for some attractive periods of play. The work-ethic of all involved has been very much in evidence and the team has been highly competitive in all of their games – losing only one Sunday fixture (3-2) to a highly competitive and much older Buckingham University side.

Nick Langridge, the captain, has proved himself to be an excellent organiser and leader, and the whole squad is to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of the School.

Mr Alan Murray

During the Lent half-term Stowe's 1st XI football team travelled to Norwich City's Carrow Road stadium to take on Charterhouse, winner of this year's independent schools' soccer championship.

William Despard writes...

The game finished 4-1 to Charterhouse, but even the Charterhouse coach had to admit that the score-line

flattered Charterhouse. For the first five minutes Stowe were pushing forward and pressing the Charterhouse defence, we got a corner which Alex Stevens headed over. Then a few minutes later, in the first attack from Charterhouse, Harry Lineker (son of Gary) put them 1-0 ahead, a defensive lapse allowed a long punt to bounce between the defence and fall to Lineker who scored. A few minutes later it was 2-0 to Charterhouse. A poor corner caused havoc in the Stowe defence, bouncing around and then finally being prodded in by a Charterhouse attacker. So after around 15 minutes it was 2-0 to Charterhouse. After these two defensive mistakes Stowe seemed to force themselves back into the game. We had three shots in quick succession, with two being expertly saved by the Charterhouse keeper, and a flood of corners for Stowe. Stowe also started to play their trade mark pass and move football in the midfield, and Charterhouse didn't have a sniff of the Stowe goal right up to half time. The half-time score remained 2-0 to Charterhouse.

In the second half there was a huge improvement in Stowe's performance but unfortunately not enough to close the gap on Charterhouse who won the match 4-1.

A huge thank you to the members of staff, including Mr Bashaarat, Mr Robinson and Dr Wallersteiner, who attended the match, I hope you enjoyed yourselves, and I know the whole team was very grateful that you were present.

Netball

1st VII : The 1st VII Netball team had a developmental season and made encouraging progress which bodes well for next year. They enjoyed some competitive fixtures with particularly close outcomes against Downe House, Royal Latin, Northampton High School, Cokethorpe and Akeley Wood. Once again, Karen Atkinson, the England Netball captain, came to Stowe to give an inspiring and motivating workshop which was most beneficial. The Player of the Season was awarded to the captain, Georgina Drummond, for maintaining a consistently excellent standard of performance throughout the term. The most improved player was Helena Carr-Smith who was commended for the high level of play she too achieved. Both Georgina and Helena were awarded their Netball Colours and will be missed next year!

Team: Georgina Drummond (captain), Helana Carr-Smith, Lisa Dunkley, Yemurai Soper-Gwaditzo, Harriet Deakin, Rebecca Dale, Sophie Murray, Annabel Roe

2nd VII: The 2nd team enjoyed success and played some extremely nail-biting matches with 9 games coming down to a 3 goal difference! The player of the season was Sarah Gujadhur and the most improved player for the second year running was Molly Davison. Well done and thank you to the captain, Rose McKie.

Team: Rose McKie (captain), Sarah Gujadhur, Molly Davison, Georgie Leech, Tabbi Owen, Eleanor Pinnock, Sophie Bird, Florence Bagwell

Juniors: The Juniors, who opted for Netball as a Tuesday activity, had the opportunity to play some games against local schools. In the U15s Heloise Kleinwort, Alice Hughes and Charlotte Berrill are to be congratulated for their performance and in the U14s, Tilly Upton, Tilda Bevan and Tessa Horan deserve a special mention for their contribution to the team.

House Netball: The Junior, Intermediate and Senior House competitions were all won by Queen's.

Mrs Sarah Sutton and Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn



Athletics

Lead by the boys' and girls' team captains, Tom Jenkins and José Brake, athletes across all age groups produced notable times and distances throughout the term. There were many age group wins in the school matches, several school and ground records broken and 29 Stoics were selected for the County Schools Athletics Championships – resulting in the selection for one Stoic for the National Finals.



School Matches

The Junior Girls' team posted match wins against St Edward's, Oundle and Uppingham. Hannah Tilleard and Valerie Madojemu broke the discus and javelin records respectively. Notable performances came from Ellie Clark, Jess Carne, Georgia Alderton and Annie Brunette-Jacobs.

The Junior Boys' team, led by County Long Jump Champion, Alfie Stanford, had a very successful summer. They recorded wins against Akeley Wood, Bedford, Oundle and Uppingham. A healthy rivalry between Alfie Stanford and George Silk in the triple jump provided interesting battles throughout the season. Noteworthy contributions were made by Mark Kozyritsky, Tom Hunnable, Will Pepera, Keith Harrington, George Ellison and Murray Aitchison.

In the Intermediate Girls' age group, a total of eight school records were broken or equalled this summer. In addition, they beat Royal Latin and Akeley Wood and narrowly missed out on a few occasions to some very talented opponents. Records broken include Heloise Kleinwort (hurdles and long jump), Shona Drummond (300m), Annie Hutt (1500m), Rebecca Raeburn (high jump), Rebecca White (triple jump), Priscilla Powell (shot put) and Rachael Buckley-Taylor (discus).

The Intermediate Boys' age group were successful against Akeley Wood, and were very competitive versus Uppingham, Cheltenham and Oundle; narrowly missing out on first place to Uppingham by eight points. Outstanding performances came from Will Scrase, Jan Pultr, Hugh Hillier, Jack Wallis, Oliver Constantine, Kalil Ali and Drew Todd.

Led by José Brake, who broke the 100m School Record this summer, the Senior Girls' team showed guts and determination in all their school matches. Notable contributions were made by Emma Saric, Claudia Button, Rosie Sutcliffe, Yemerai Soper-Gwatidzo and Sophie Bird.

In the Senior Boys' team, Tom Jenkins guided victories against Cokethorpe, Cheltenham and Uppingham. A highly competitive sprint saw three athletes go under 11.8 seconds in the 100m, and two athletes go over 1.75m in the High Jump. Significant performances came from Chima Ngerem, Alex Hambro-Rabben, Stef Capella, Mike Illingworth, Adam Minney, Seb Clarke and Isi Madojemu.

National Championships

After winning the Shot Put with 10.45m at the County Athletics Championships, Priscilla Powell was selected to go to the English Schools' National Finals. She competed at Gateshead International Stadium on 1 and 2 July, finishing in twelfth position with a putt of 10.06m.

Sports Day

On Sunday 1 May, eight boys' houses and four girls' houses battled against each other for the highly prestigious overall boys' and girls' trophies. A competitive afternoon saw Stoics go head to head in running, jumping and throwing events. Outstanding performances came from Murray Aitchison (discus & 400m), Mark Kozyritskiy (100m and high jump), Eleanor Clark (100m and 200m), Anastasia Brunette-Jacobs (javelin and shot), Nick Paine (high jump and long jump), Heloise Kleinwort (hurdles and 100m), Charlotte Lechmere (300m and 800m), Brodie Smith (100m and long jump), Harry Hawkes (400m and high jump), Daniella Allard (800m and 1500m) and José Brake (100m and 200m).

Girls Winners: Juniors – Queen's, Intermediates – Queen's, Seniors – Nugent,

Overall – Queen's

Boys' Winners: Juniors – Chandos, Intermediates – Bruce, Seniors – Cobham, Overall – Bruce

Colours

Colours were awarded to Isi Madojemu (Bruce), Stefano Capella (Cobham), Tom Jenkins (Chatham) for their performances on and off the track. They regularly turned up to athletics training in all three terms and their attitude, work ethic and contribution in all of the athletics matches was second to none. José Brake's (Lyttleton) contribution on and off the track during the Summer term was rewarded with the Senior Girls 100m record. As well as being influential on the track, she was always helpful and always the first one to a match, last one to leave. In addition, the attitude and commitment illustrated by Michael Illingworth (Cobham) and Chima Ngerem (Temple) throughout all three terms have been exceptional. They gave 100% at all of the athletics matches, resulting in massive lifetime bests in the High Jump and 100m respectively.

Mr Neil Crossley



Cross-country

The cross-country team have had a good term with many fine performances and results.

We started the term at the Bucks County Championships, Caspar Dickinson ran a very well judged race against a mixed Fifth and Sixth Form field to win the Silver Medal. His brother, Josh, was not far behind in fourth place guaranteeing both a place in the World Cross-country Trials which were televised in March.

The long trek to Sevenoaks for the Knole run was next on the agenda and this time Josh set a new record for a Stowe runner, finishing 19th in a field of 400 runners. The rest of the squad found the 10kms a bit too far for them so early in the season and we finished 27th in the team competition.

The King Henry Relays in Coventry celebrated their 40th Anniversary this year and had a great turnout of 80 school teams. Unfortunately for us the race clashed with GCSE exams leaving us at less than full strength but Ed Robinson ran a great leg clocking a time just one second outside the fastest ever by a Stowe runner, as we came home in 41st place.

The Knole Run and King Henry's relays allow us the chance to compete against the best schools from across the UK, our next race was a little bit more parochial. The County Schools' Championships pits us against local rivals RGS High Wycombe, Dr Challoner's, Aylesbury and William Borlase in races involving more than 45 schools from across Buckinghamshire.

Caspar Dickinson was again to the fore winning the Silver medal just ahead of Josh who collected Bronze. Charlie Lockyer and

Rory Knight closed the Intermediate team. Ed Robinson won a place in the County team with his fine 7th place in the Senior event, David White also qualified for the Bucks squad by finishing 12th. This gave us a double which we have not achieved since last century as we took both the Intermediate and Senior team titles.

A misjudgement by the Master i/c cost our top five runners a medal at Wellington when I split our resources across two different races.

Our trip to Oxford for the relays around Christ Church Meadow is always a high point of the season. A smaller event in size but higher in quality, we faced two of the top four teams in England over the four leg course. Josh Dickinson got us going and really set the cat amongst the pigeons as he led us home in first place at the end of the opening leg. His time won him the Bronze medal for the third fastest leg of the day, a remarkable performance as the only two runners to clock quicker times are both International runners at Under 20 level. Ed Robinson, David White and Charlie Lockyer all put in determined runs as we were the third school to finish.

The final school match of the term was against Old Stoics on a rarely raced route via the Corinthian Arch. Old Stoic, Matt Mahoney, took the individual honours, but, as he has done throughout the season, Ed Robinson put in a great performance to lead the school team to victory.

My thanks to Miss Ashe, Mr Rendall and Mr O'Toole for all of their help this term and I was delighted to award Cross-Country Colours to David White, Ed Robinson, Caspar Dickinson and Joshua Dickinson.

Mr Tony McDavid



Top to bottom: Charlie Lockyer; David White; Caspar Dickinson; David White again; Caspar Dickinson again





Rowing

Following a very successful 09/10 season, the rowing squad have had another fantastic year.

James Rudkin (Walpole) has gone from strength to strength as he gained a place in the Great Britain squad. In early May, James competed at the Ghent International Regatta. The first day was dogged by unfavourable crosswinds and this led James to have a poor start in his first heats but he still managed to achieve a Bronze medal. Following a rearrangement in the racing orders, James was placed in a lane that favoured his long stroke and powerful finish. From the start, he powered through the Dutch and Belgian top oarsmen and even last minute sprints from them with 500m to go still couldn't affect our 6'5" champion as he went on to win the Gold medal.

James continues to train with Leander and Tideway Scullers in the hope of making his Henley debut next year. Thanks to Mr Andrew Rudkin for all his assistance with James' training and for being a solid point of contact for all things technical.

However, as James moves into his final year at Stowe, we turn our attentions to a future champion – Max Marston. Max has already proved to be a good sportsman off the water, but he is still very much in his element in his J15 1x category. Max has represented Stowe at several regattas this year. His most recent achievement being a comfortable overall win in J15 1x at Milton Keynes, where he demolished the strong competition from Bedford. At the time of writing, we send Max off to compete in the National Schools Regatta and we wish him the very best of luck in this tough

and competitive environment. Mr Mark Marston must be thanked for his support and for transporting Max to events around the country.

The Michaelmas term saw Riley Curtis (Bruce) and Sam Anderson (Chatham) achieve some solid results at Evesham. Sadly, their presence at further regattas was restricted due to poor weather at the start of the year. High winds caused the cancellation of the Pangbourne Regatta in November and the Peterborough Regatta where Riley and Sam were due to make a repeat performance of Evesham. Also, our captain of Boats, Theo Vicat (Chatham), has been injured all season but this hasn't stopped him helping with the coaching of the novice rowers. We wish him the very best as he takes up a temporary coaching position at the Dragon School.

This year has seen a good intake of pupils who are new to the sport and already several of them are seeing action at some of the small boats regattas around the region. It is encouraging seeing their perseverance with this physically and technically demanding sport. Thank you to those parents who have made time in their weekend schedules to come and support the Stoics whilst they compete.

The continuing enjoyment that the Stoics have had this year would not have been possible without the dedicated support of Michael Righton, Liz Chare, Becky King, Ellie Donaldson and Philippa Gleave. With such a strong team we are optimistic that Stowe will continue to become an increasing presence on the water in the coming years.

Mr Jonathan Peverley

Sailing

Team: Freddie Vere Nicoll (capt.), Charlie Barnes, Will Barnes, Fergus Jones, Theo Shepherd-Smith, Lauren Carley, Magnus Sligo-Young

Housematches: Cobham

Helmsman's Tankard: Freddie Vere Nicoll

Junior Pennant Competition: Theo Shepherd-Smith

Grebe Cup for all round improvement: Will Barnes

It has been an excellent term for sailing, with good winds and an enthusiastic band of mainly younger sailors. The team was captained by Freddie Vere Nicoll, who supplied experience and tactical wisdom, while the other members were entirely from the Fourth and Third Forms. A late Easter made for a very short racing season. Against Bloxham, the team remained in contention throughout and were in the lead for the start of the second race. At the Eastern Region Championships of the British Dinghy Racing Association at Rutland Water the team came fourth in the Bronze group. It has been good to see many sailors using the opportunities of both the fleet of 420s at Great Moor Sailing Club and the toppers on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe to improve their skills and racing techniques. For the first time in several years the House match teams were all able to supply two helms and the series of races was highly competitive. Thanks again go to Mr Critchley and Mr Jones for all their invaluable help.

Mr Michael Bevington



Clay Pigeon Shooting

This year we have fielded a very young team (in one match last November, 11 of our 12 shooters were from the Lower School). It has meant that, while – at team level – we haven't won any trophies or cups, we have noted that, in two or three years time, Stowe will once again be a power in the land.

Our best shooter, has been Adam Minney (Upper Sixth, Temple) but the achievement of the year belongs to Tom ter Haar (Fifth Form, Chandos) who won the Boys' Individual Top Gun at the Warwick Challenge in March 2011. Mr Davenport, the organiser of the event, said he couldn't remember the last time a pupil from the Lower School had won this award.

In the House Shooting competition, Walpole, ably represented by Alex Robertson, Alex Levett-Scrivener and Cameron O'Brien, won by one clay from Temple in a very tense competition.

On Speech Day, the Father and Sons Competition was won by Adam Minney and his father, whilst the school team got the better of the Old Stoics (captained by David Pickavance) to win the Galetzine Cup, one of the oldest of Stowe's cups.

Next year's captain will be Henry Plant (Lower Sixth, Chatham).

Mr Peter Staples



Tom ter Haar, Warwick Challenge, March 2011

Polo

Before I begin I would like to thank all the parents of Stowe's Polo players. Without their support, Stowe would not have been able to field such a strong squad. Thanks also to Piers Plunkett at Lycetts for continuing to sponsor the Stowe polo kit.

This has been another excellent year for Stowe polo. After winning the National Intermediate tournament last summer, the plate competition and finishing the season as runners up in the arena, this was always going to be a tough act to follow but in some ways we have been just as successful. The B team finished runners up in their arena competition (narrowly losing to Cheltenham in the final) and the A team finished fourth nationally after two excellent group matches (the highlight of which was a terrific draw against Cheltenham's A team).

The summer has also seen a lot of polo activity following a very successful tour of Kenya. The A team consisting of Will Berner (C), Tavy De Ferranti, Max Dodd-Noble and Hector Worsley have played very well together, remaining unbeaten in the 2011 summer season. They finished fourth in the Indoor Nationals and are currently fourth with matches to play in the Summer league table. Having convincingly beaten Eton, Rugby and Radley this year the Stowe A team look a promising side for the Nationals. As well as this, there has been a record number of starters and learners this year who have attended practices on Wednesdays and Fridays. Stowe has managed to field a boys' A, B, C and girls' team this year with a huge variety of skill and definite potential for the



future as many younger pupils are trying out the game. All the players have been enthusiastic and ready to learn.

On Saturday 25 June, we beat Cheltenham College in the final of the Berenberg Bank Schools' Polo Championship at Cirencester Park by half a goal. Congratulations to Max Dodd-Noble, Hector Worsley, William Berner (captain) and Old Stoic, David Ashby (Chatham 03). On the following Sunday, we beat Cheltenham College again to become winners of the Inter Schools' Trophy. A tremendous conclusion to an unbeaten season.

Finally over the five years that I have been here at Stowe my polo has improved significantly. I have seen several masters in charge of polo but over the past three years Matthew Pitteway has done the best job. He has always been very keen and enthusiastic and tried to fit in the recruitment of new players and driving the minibus to every practice and match. Promoting a sport such as polo will always be a challenge but he has done a fantastic job and we wish him the best of luck in his new career.

William Berner

Equestrian

At the start of the Lent term, we welcomed the first ponies to Stowe Ridings. We have been lucky enough to secure stabling and riding facilities at the nearby stables, situated right on the edge of the Stowe School grounds. This marks the start of an exciting new development at Stowe – the Equestrian Centre. We have now received full planning permission for a stable block for 24 horses, paddocks, an outdoor arena and a cross-country course and we hope to have the facility completed for the start of 2012. This will enable Stoics to ride during term time and will encourage an interest in Equestrianism which will further enrich their school experience. We already have competitive riders and those who simply want to enjoy the benefits of riding and caring for their pony at school.

The first pony to join us was Fizz (Goldie Couture), belonging to Bonnie Leheup, Third Form (Lyttleton), and it wasn't long before she was joined by Cracker, owned by Chloe Stewart, Lower Sixth (Nugent); Little Mickey Finn, owned by Daisy Ussher, Lower Sixth (Nugent); Carizma owned by Hetty Hill, Upper Sixth (Nugent) and Cushtie owned by Harriet Stringer, Fourth Form (Queen's). From then on, it was full steam ahead and the girls were busy schooling, hacking and enjoying the all the amazing opportunities that come with keeping their ponies at school. Daily visits within activity time quickly became a regular pastime. The Stoics were able to exercise their ponies, take part in training sessions and hack out on the lovely off-road bridle paths that lead onto the school grounds.

We are very proud of a growing number of Stoics who are keen competitors in all disciplines. With the help of the essential support teams at home (thanks to all of you) who keep the horses fit and well, the Stoics are able to 'take up the reins' during the holidays and compete at all levels, from Novice to Regional and International levels.

Mrs Elena Hughes

Shotokan Karate Club

The karate club has had another successful year running classes every week for both Stoics and staff. The classes enable Stoics to learn self-defence, attain physical fitness and confidence, take part in competition and have fun.

During the year we offered practical training against assaults and attacks covering skills for the complete beginner to Black Belt standard and competition karate for the more advanced students. We were pleased to hear from former Stoics who had thoroughly enjoyed their time in the club when they were at Stowe.

Mr David Smith, Master in charge of Karate

Master Gichin Fukanoshi said, 'The ultimate aim of karate lies not in victory or defeat, but in the perfection of character of its participants'. Karate is more than a sport as it takes the physical attributes of traditional sport and

combines them with both philosophy and self-defence. Through karate I developed not only physically but also built on my self-control and discipline, something that served me well during my military service in Austria.

Alexander Wipfler

I was one of the first members of the Karate club at Stowe. It was first formed by Sensei Kath Deard when I was in the Fifth Form. Prior to joining Stowe, I had been a practitioner of the Martial Arts but I only started to take my training seriously when I joined the club at Stowe. It was a friendly environment which helped me to develop as a martial artist and as a person. I learnt about comradeship, compassion, strength and honour. When I left Stowe I spent six months training in China and am now the President of the Cardiff University kick boxing team.

Rogan Allport



Golf

The Golf season straddles all three terms. With the opportunity on their doorstep for all Stoics to enjoy the challenge of this great game it has been good to see so many boys (still not enough girls) taking to the fairways. Golf lessons with the Buckingham professional, plus a chance to represent the School in matches, is always there for the eager and talented. The Micklem Trophy, held at Woking Golf Club in March, was a brilliant experience for the team and their victory over Bradfield was very gratifying. Despite the interruptions of examinations the Golf team enjoyed a particularly successful Summer term. Unbeaten in all its school fixtures: victories over Eton, Radley, St Edward's, Monmouth and Bromsgrove were particularly pleasing. It was excellent to play, yet again, on some of the most spectacular golf courses in England: Woburn was exquisite and challenging, whilst the magnificent Stoke Park hosted two of our fixtures (courtesy of Chester King, OS). Will Berner captained the team well and managed a developing squad of players very astutely. Tom Wood, Ben Robinson, Ben Jenkins, James Clark, Josh Choi and James Scott were regular team players; youthfulness is definitely on our side at present and things do augur very well for the next season. Ben Robinson (playing off scratch – handicap zero) has been appointed captain for the coming season. With a talented group coming through we will be entering the ISGA national tournament in September, in addition to the HMC Foursomes.

Recently 18 pairs took part in the annual Headmaster's Tankard competition (Staff + Pupil) and this year's winners were Mr Henry Swayne and Vikram Gupska, who is a visiting exchange student from the Doon School in India. Well done to them both.

Mr Richard Knight

Badminton



Top to bottom: Boy Team 2011; Girls Team 2011



Squash

Senior V

This year the Stowe Senior V squash team was captained by James Saunders, who showed remarkable composure and leadership throughout the term. The team faced a number of challenging matches during the Lent term and emerged with a credible tally of four wins out of six matches played. Whilst the fixture against Bedford proved to be too great a challenge for our Seniors, there were good wins against St Edward's and Oundle. Sadly some of the most competitive schools on the South-East circuit did not field a team this season, leaving the Senior V with fewer matches than has, historically, been the case.

This year we say goodbye to three of our longest-serving Senior V players. Captain, James Saunders (Bruce), Hugh Stanley (Chatham) and Daniel Robinson (Temple) have all played for the Senior team since the Fifth Form and the Stowe Squash Department wishes them well for their futures at university and beyond. All three players have, at some time, enjoyed the distinguished title of top school player over the last two years and they will be greatly missed. The Senior V also included a few new players this year, including the most improved player over two years, Fifth Former Jack Chaplin (Grafton). Also playing the Senior V for the first time this term were James Macdonald (Grafton) and Arthur Hobhouse (Temple).

Junior V

The Stowe Junior V had a very impressive season this year, winning all five of their matches. This included tough fixtures against Bedford, Oundle and St Edward's. Congratulations to Dominic Smith (Chatham) and Will de Boinville (Temple), who captained the side at different stages of the season. With such impressive talent in the Juniors, there is clearly a bright future for squash in 2012 and beyond!

Congratulations to all who played this season.

Mr Roland Johnson

Stowe Fencing Club

This has been a great year for Stowe fencers with new captain Albadr Alhashemi injecting some refreshing enthusiasm. He was able to breathe new life into an older unit of fencers.

We had four matches against Oxford Fencing Club which resulted in a draw (in the foil discipline) in the series – a good result. We had a successful tournament at Bloxham School to finish the year off.

This year's A Team comprised Albadr Alhashemi, Charlie Barnes and Will Barnes. Charlie and Will were both very competitive and were able to confuse the opposition with a variety of approaches on attack. The B Team of Otto Balfour, Chema Negerem and Alex Long were a great new addition to our fencing Department. They fed off each others positivity and enthusiasm. Alex and Chema had the ability to lunge at a distance because they both have long arms. The most improved fencer of year was Otto Balfour with lightning reflexes which dazzled his opponents. Next year we are looking forward to a number of girls joining our fencing team.

This year we welcomed a new Fencing Coach to Stowe. Béla Pákey, a highly

qualified and experienced coach, who has trained Olympic and World Championship fencers and was Hungary's National U20 Champion in 1985. His specialist weapon is the Sabre and his appointment has meant that Stowe now offers coaching sessions in both Foil (Wednesday evenings) and Sabre (Friday evenings). One of our Sabre fencers, Hannah Campbell (Regional Sabre Champion for the East Midlands) was invited to compete as one of the GB fencers in the Camden Cadet International this year. She was one of 100 fencers competing from a total of 13 countries. Hannah also represented Great Britain in an International competition in Meylan, France at the start of the year.

Mr Stewart Cowie, Master in charge of Fencing



The Stowe foilists



Hannah Campbell, Lyttelton, Lower Sixth



Swimming

We started the Michaelmas term with the teams beating Bradfield, Oundle and Mill Hill. This gave us hope for good results at the English Schools' qualifiers in October and the Senior boys were indeed successful and made it through to the National Final this year for freestyle.

The Lent term was action packed and began with the House Swimming Championships. In the Senior Boys' competition, last year's winner, James Blackham (Boys' Swimming captain) and Sam Strutt were the boys to beat. Sam won the freestyle and backstroke events and James won the breaststroke and butterfly but Sam had accumulated just enough points to win the Senior championship. The Intermediate competition was also dominated by two boys, Will Jackson and Francis Smiley. Will Jackson (Boys' U16 captain) set school records in the butterfly and backstroke and also won the Intermediate Medley. The Junior competition saw George Lee (Boys' Junior captain) win all his events closely followed by Toby Pemberton. The Senior Girls' event was dominated by Olivia Wagg. Katie Wellington (Girls' Swimming captain) won freestyle. Annabel Roe (who will be Girls' Swimming captain next year) won the breaststroke.

The future looks good for the Junior Girls' age group with some dedicated swimmers, notably Elsa Desmond, Lauren Carley and Annie Brunette-Jacobs.

The Summer term also brought success as Will Jackson was invited to trial for the Great Britain team over Easter and earned himself a place in the squad. This was a fine achievement for him and a real boost for his U16 team at Stowe.

The Stowe Relay Competition, now in its eight year, hosted twelve teams across a variety of age groups. Our Junior Boys' and Senior Girls' teams both received bronze medals for their efforts. The Senior Boys' team of James Blackham, David White, Harry Hawkes and Sam Strutt beat Bromsgrove and Bedford to lift the Merritt Cup for the second year running. But, the best was still to come with our new dream team of Intermediate swimmers. Will Jackson, Guy Riches, Francis Smiley and Ollie Constantine won the Clucus Cup for Medley swimming. The boys set two new championship records which had not been broken since Harrow set them in 2005. The Intermediate team's success continued as they beat Rugby, King's Canterbury and Harrow to finish the season unbeaten.

I would like to thank our captains, James Blackham and Katie Wellington for their enthusiasm and dedication, our dedicated staff and matrons who helped as officials along with all the parents and pupils for supporting the swimming team throughout the year.

Mr Stewart Cowie, Master in charge of Swimming

Senior Girls' Team
Won 3; Lost 3
K Wellington (captain)*,
E Rix (Co-captain), C Thompson,
S Murray, A Roe, O Wagg
Swimmer of the season:
Katie Wellington (Nugent)

Junior Girls' Team
Won 3; Lost 3
E Desmond (Co-captain), L Carley
(Co-captain), M Allington,
A Brunette-Jacobs, H Stringer,
N Edwards, J Carne
Swimmer of the season:
Elsa Desmond (Lyttelton)

Senior Boys' Team
Won 8; Lost 1
English Schools Relay Finalists and
Winners of the Merritt Cup for Freestyle:
JS Blackham (captain)*, D White*,
H Hawkes*, S Strutt*, W Jackson*,
D Baniukevic
Swimmer of the season:
Sam Strutt (Grafton)

Intermediate Boys' Team
Won 9; Lost 0
Winners of the Clucus and Burrell
Cup for Medley and Freestyle:
W Jackson (captain)*, F Smiley,
O Constantine, S Johnson,
W Chatamra, I Popov, M Marston,
K Makuira, G Riches
Swimmer of the season:
Will Jackson (Bruce) who
gained a place in the GB squad.

Junior Boys' Team
Won 5; Lost 3
G Lee (captain), T Tserni, N Joiner-
Straughan, L Reddyhough,
S Gillingham, T Pemberton, A Norman
Swimmer of the season:
George Lee (Chandos)

*Colours



Water Polo

Senior Team: Won 9; Lost 0; Junior Team: Won 7; Lost 0

Senior Team

This has been another fantastic year for our Senior Boys' team, in fact the best season ever for this squad of dedicated players. Their fitness regime began back in October 2010 and carried on with rigour throughout the season.

The opening match was against Oakham and the boys scored 24 goals showing the potential of this team in strength and depth. The quickest goal was after a restart where Edward Pettifer (Walpole) decided to plant the ball so that Sam Strutt (Grafton) could launch a reverse spinning shot deep into the Oakham goal. This three second goal was the fastest ever scored by a Stoic.

Goalie, Barney Curran, played superbly this season and his goal from the shallow end against St Bede's in the English Schools' Championship Competition Final was executed with immense accuracy. Harry Hawkes and Edward Pettifer were outstanding. Edward was able to put a record 11 goals past a floundering Harrow team in our 18-0 victory. The most outstanding player in defence and attack was Louis Staden (Temple). He confused the opposing Cheltenham team by scoring whilst his head was submerged under the water, an unusual yet effective technique developed during the season.

The highlights of this season came in the English Schools' Championship Competition when we gained a place in the finals – a great achievement.

On Speech Day, our unbeaten team won the annual Shepperd-Barron Shield again for a second year beating the Old Stoic team 9-4.

I would like to thank Sam Strutt (captain) for his dedication throughout the year. Well done and I look forward to watching Edward Pettifer take on the challenge of captaining next year's team.

Junior Team

The Junior team this year was led by Will Jackson (Bruce). He was a good leader with a strong work ethic. This worked well in fitness sets during training sessions. Ollie Constantine (Grafton) was our technical guru at vice captain. The two of them complemented each other like a marriage made in heaven. Ollie was able to score some superhuman goals. In midfield there was another great partnership, Will Chatamra (Grenville) and Guy Riches (Temple). Guy is ambidextrous and this proved to be very confusing for the opposition's defence. The English Schools' Championships were upon us once again. The team were able to battle through the qualifiers quite easily to get to the semi-final, thanks to Kalil Ali (Temple). His quick speed and long bullet passes gave our attackers that extra two seconds to develop a scoring opportunity. We were able to win against St. Bede's School 3-2 having been 2-0 down after the first half and then beat the hosts Bradford Grammar, 5-1. Well done to Will Jackson for his superb captaincy of the team. Thank you also to all parents who travelled with us the length of the country to support us. Good luck to Ollie Constantine in his role as captain of what will be an even stronger team next year.

Mr Stewart Cowie,
Master in charge of Water Polo

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The Revd Jonathan Fletcher
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Prof Sarah Gurr
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David Hudson
Robert Lankester
Lord Magan of Castletown
Lady Stringer
Christopher Tate (OS)
Air Vice-Marshal Marten van der Veen (OS)
Mrs Susan van der Veen
Christopher Wightman (OS)

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