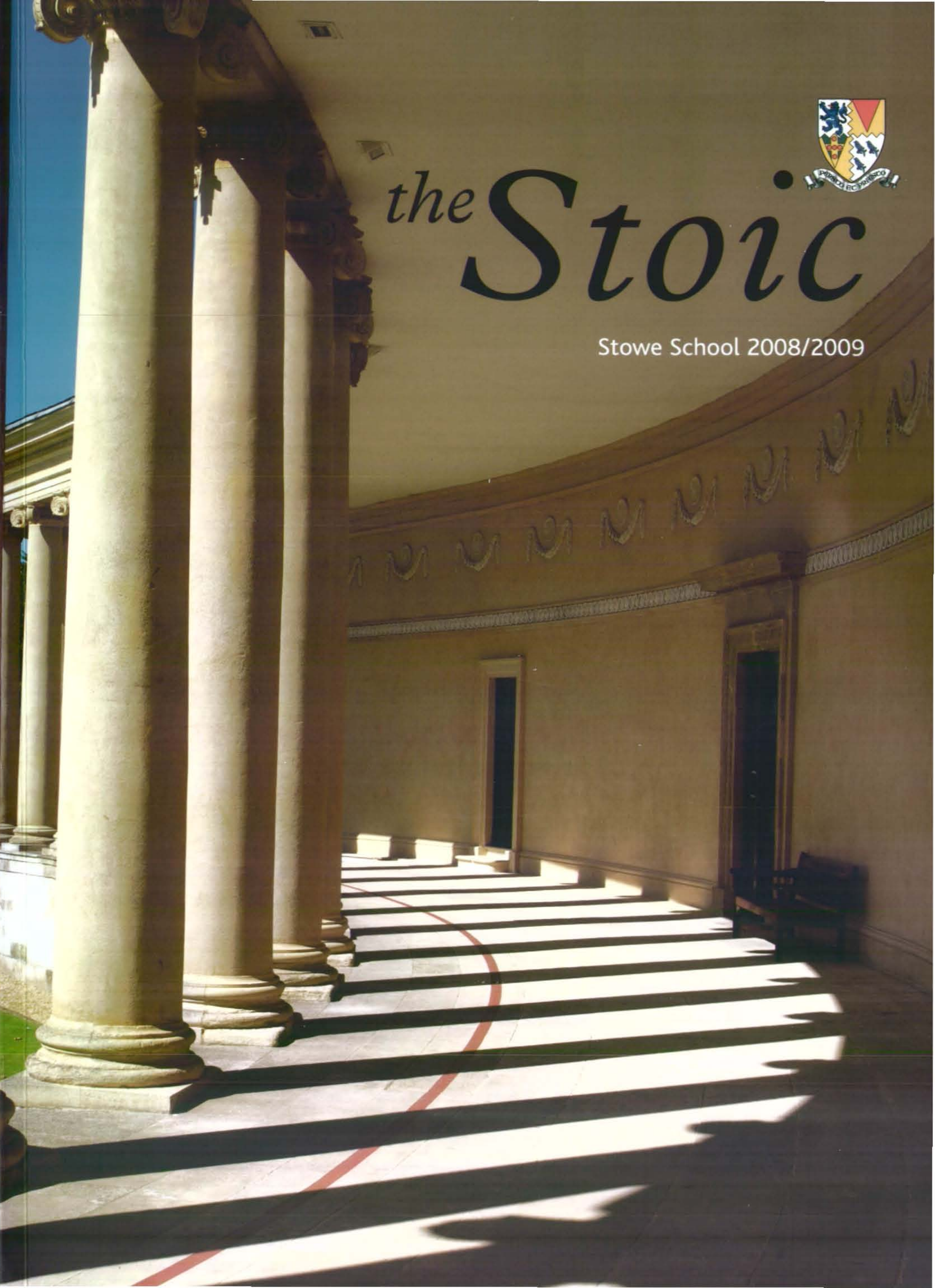




the **Stoic**

Stowe School 2008/2009





Editorial

My one and only Stoic editorship can be summarised thus: "Miss Edwards, why are you still in your classroom this late?", "Where did I file that and why is there a picture of a lobster in this folder?" and "I know it says Wednesday the 1st but what's the real deadline?" And despite my increasingly ranty emails, the frustration of waiting what seems like hours for large files to load and the moments of there are going to be no tennis/ cricket/ only half of the houses (delete as applicable) pages panic I have honestly enjoyed working on the magazine.



This year has been one to remember and although we can't seek to trump last year's Royal Visit we had something which was greeted with almost as much enthusiasm- snow. For a few Baltic days in February when Britain shut down and our cars couldn't get up our mildly sloped drives, Stowe became a winter wonderland. I suppose the snowball fights and snowman building competitions encapsulate what the school is really about. Where else could you see staff and pupils engaged in these activities and actually enjoying themselves?

Stowe is remarkable and, in some respects, this publication doesn't fully represent all that goes on here. I couldn't possibly begin to address absolutely everything that goes into making this a vibrant community. To do that would involve even more pages and the felling of a considerable number of extra trees. We have our carbon footprint to think about...

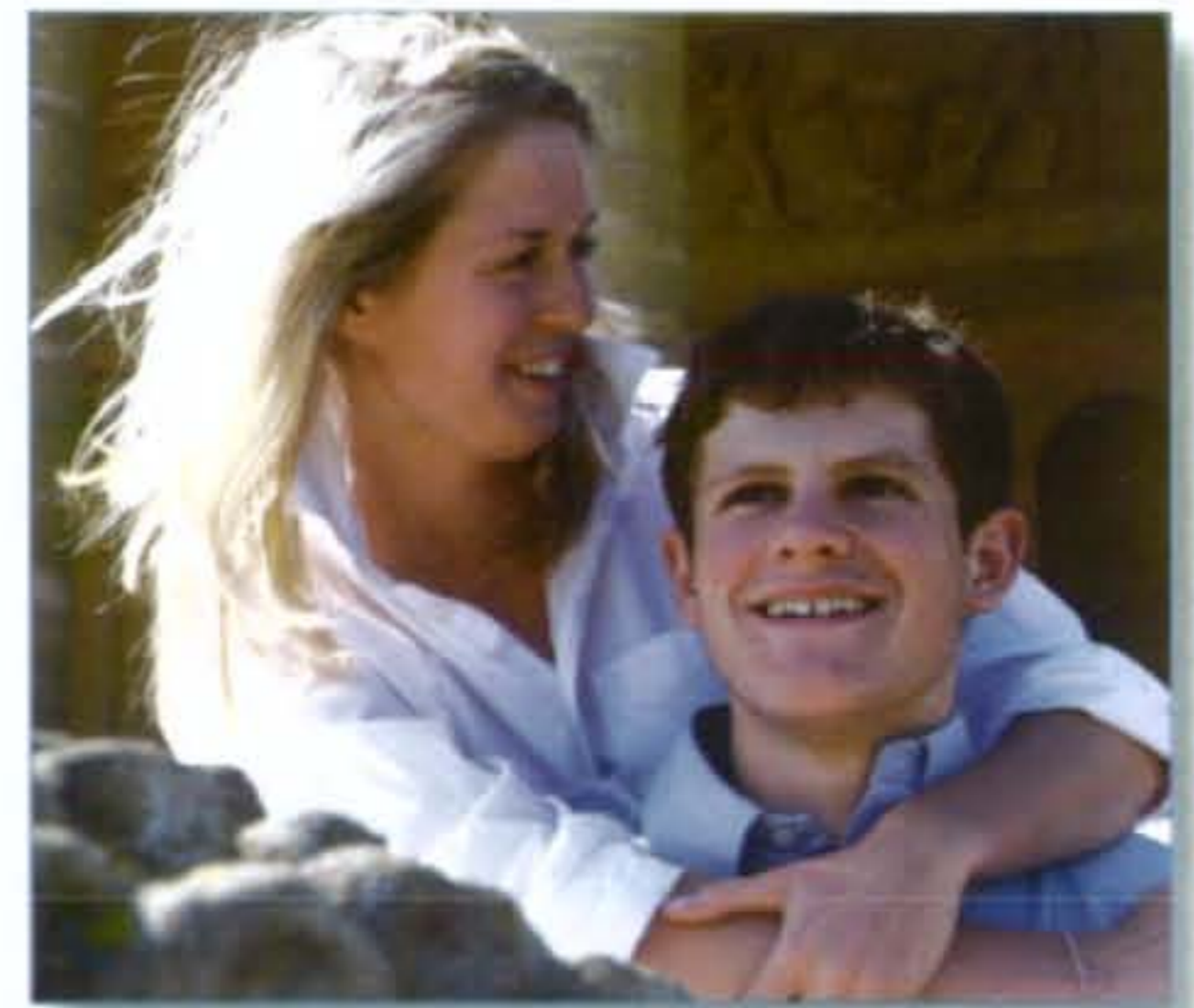
Laura and Craig have worked tirelessly on The Stoic for the past two years. It is their dedication and, thankfully, good humour that have helped to make this a school magazine to be proud (and jealous) of. Next year, I am pleased to report, that several Stoics have signed up for editorial roles, an encouraging sign for the future of the Stoic. I would also like to apologise to them for never having once brought Jelly Babies to our meetings (although, if I'm honest, I don't ever remember promising that I would).

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution this year. I am bound to have left someone out from the acknowledgments, so please accept my advance apologies.

I hope that you enjoy this edition and excuse any random typographical errors that my tired, but satisfied, eyes have missed.

Miss Vicki Edwards

After two immensely rewarding years editing The Stoic Laura and I are finally handing over the reigns/plug to this toastie machine she's going on about. I've really enjoyed working on the magazine this year largely due to the gradual loss of sanity of Miss Edwards during our evening The Stoic sessions in Stanhope. Good luck to Miss Edwards next year and good luck to the Lower sixth people taking over next year – you don't know what you've let yourself in for! I think the magazine is in a much better state now than it was when Laura and I started out. I hope you agree...if not, please keep it to yourself...



Craig Browne, Bruce U6th

Like making the perfect toastie, making the perfect edition of the 'Stoic' is not only a matter of taste, but you constantly have to add bits to it, take bits away, cut bits down, search for new bits, get slightly cross at late bits, and eventually stuff it all together so it looks pretty and manageable. As our second year of 'editorialship' comes to an end, both Craig and I have immensely valued the experiences and skills we have been given. A fellow toasty lover, Miss Edwards has been a total star and it is very very hard to imagine the amount of work she has had to put in to make such a yummy dish. Thank you so so much. I would like to end on the thought that nothing fabulous in life comes easy, but with a little hard work and some cheese your efforts can certainly go a long way.

Laura Grossick, Lyttleton U6th



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From the Headmaster:

Chairman, governors, lords, ladies and gentlemen

Many thanks for those kind words and I'm sure that all the parents will now be in a much better mood having heard the good news about next year's school fees. If the economy worsens and things get really bad, I could always stand for Parliament and put the clearance of the ha-ha, repairs to the tennis courts, swimming pool, duck house, hiring of marquees and refurbishment of the Library on my second home expenses. I could even buy a sign saying Home sweet home, sweet home, sweet home...oh dear, I must have lost count of how many homes there are.

Our main focus this term has been preparing for inspection - one down, another to go. Unfortunately, I am forbidden from saying anything specific about what the inspectors may or may not have said about the quality of a Stowe education until the report has been approved by the Independent Schools Inspectorate administrators. Without wishing to infringe the ISI code of silence - which makes the mafia code of omerta seem benign - I can tell you that the feedback session was quickly followed by the instant reward of a home clothes day for Stoics (normally there is a charitable levy for this privilege), members of the Senior Management Team sported permanent grins (at least until they started wading through the OFSTED paperwork) and the word "outstanding" was on everyone's lips. Chairman, I think that's left things pretty ambiguous, don't you?

A few vignettes will give you a flavour of what the inspectors encountered when they visited Stowe: the headmaster of Shiplake was completely charmed by a 4th Former, not an unfamiliar presence in the Gothic Library, who taught him how to fly-fish in the Oxford Water and then confided that the fruits of their labour could be grilled on an improvised stove hidden in the undergrowth. The boy did at least have the presence of mind to add that he hoped that the al fresco dining experience wouldn't end up in the inspector's report.

Another inspector reported back favourably on a day pupil who had acted as a good samaritan on his way into School. Seeing a bewildered old lady in a nightgown and wellington boots wandering down the road in Tingewick, the day boy stopped his car, put a blanket round her shoulders, reassured her that everything would be all right and waited until an ambulance arrived.

Mid-week, I encountered another inspector who looked shattered at the end of a hard day assessing Stowe's co-curricular provision: he had been shadowing a Stoic who had gone from lessons to tennis, from tennis to music, from music to the Art School and from the Art School to an academic clinic. No wonder the poor man was exhausted.

Finally, there was a telling insight into the mutual respect that exists between staff and Stoics when a pupil stayed behind after a particularly demanding, well-paced and stimulating lesson to check whether the teacher wanted to make up a golf four that afternoon.

We'll let you have a full copy of the inspection report as soon as it is published - but we are quietly confident that it will reflect very positively on the immense hard work of the staff, both academic and support, as well as the high quality of governance that the School enjoys. I should also say that this year's prefects were singled out for being outstanding role models for the rest of the School to follow.

The last twelve months has seen an astonishing range of activity and achievement. Our musicians won first prize at the Oxford Strings Festival; our rugby players were semi-finalists in the Rosslyn Park Seven a Side competition - only losing to Wellington, the eventual winners; our 1st lacrosse



team reached the semi-finals of the national schools' lacrosse tournament; we were county cup finalists in hockey; the intermediate swimmers reached the national finals last term; our Fives players are Southern Schools' Champions, the polo A team has established itself as one of the premier sides in the country and we have 4 Old Stoics currently playing county cricket for Northamptonshire.

Music, Art and Drama encourage Stoics to escape the mundane, the pedestrian, the here and now and experience something metaphysical. The Arts hold up a mirror to the soul - and, to quote Henry Miller, "teach nothing, except the significance of life itself". To see Stoic creativity at its best, I recommend the DT, Art and Textiles exhibitions which are open all day today. One highlight this year was the sublime performance of Mozart's Requiem Mass which brought out the pathos and drama of this beautiful piece; at the other end of the musical spectrum we had a delightfully effervescent Senior Congreve production of *The Boyfriend* - a much more effective way of driving out the credit crunch blues than quantitative easing and we won't be paying for it in ten years' time.

During the strangely enjoyable episode of Stowe in the Snow when we abandoned all the usual routines and improvised activities which included a huge snowball fight on the golf course, tobogganing in the Grecian valley and crafting delicate ice sculptures outside Nugent, a parent sent me a copy of a letter written by the author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, when he was a boy at the Jesuit boarding school, Stonyhurst. Describing the end of term Christmas celebrations in the 1870s, Conan Doyle wrote that the boys were given cigars and matches and then went out onto the lakes to skate while the school band played *Rule Britannia* and other popular songs. Scarcely had the boys begun to skate than the masters started to throw fireworks at them - squibs, rockets and roman candles. Conan Doyle wrote, "we enjoyed ourselves until 11.00 o'clock and then we all got a tumbler of punch to drink the Rector's health with". It makes our three snow days seem Jesuitically stern by comparison.

In March, Sir Nicholas Winton, who celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this week, returned to Stowe to open Stanhope - the wonderful new girls' house which has just



won an Royal Institute of British Architects award. Sir Nicholas is the Oldest Old Stoic alive, he joined the School as a member of Grenville in September 1923 when the School had been in existence for only four months. He is also one of our greatest humanitarians: in 1939 Sir Nicholas rescued 669 children from the Holocaust that was about to engulf Nazi occupied Europe. Ruth Humphreys, one of the children on the last Kindertransport train out of Prague, thanked Sir Nicholas for giving her the most precious gift of all - the gift of life. Heroism is often thought to be a soldier's virtue - but it takes as much courage to save a people through kindness, generosity of spirit and love. To honour Sir Nicholas' achievements and to inspire Stoics to emulate his courageous example, we have renamed the Old Stoic goblet, the Sir Nicholas Winton goblet (although Sir Nicholas suggested that it might be more appropriate to just call it the Oldest Old Stoic award!).

Another Stowe figure who is celebrated today with a new prize endowed in his honour is Bob Drayson, better known as RQD, headmaster from 1964 to 1979. Hundreds of Old Stoics joined Bob's family and friends in chapel for a moving service of thanksgiving. We heard about his skill as a sportsman, earning two Cambridge blues for hockey and his distinguished war record as the commander of Motor Torpedo Boat 236 which shortened the war by destroying the Komet, a German vessel which had been supplying Atlantic U-boats with torpedoes. It is not an exaggeration to say that Bob saved Stowe when he took over as headmaster after a period of considerable turmoil and confusion. His inspiring leadership, energy, determination and unshakeable Christian faith brought to Stowe a renewed self-confidence and self-esteem. "Dare to be Different" was his motto and it was Bob who gave Stowe the tradition of service in the community which we are now seeking to revitalise. I think that he would be proud of the scheme sponsored by Mike Parsons which has brought 5 young people from the Dominican Convent School in South Africa to experience a year at Stowe. Earlier this week they had enormous fun when they finally got to meet their idol, Sir Richard Branson, another product of the Drayson era. The five Branson Scholars have been superb ambassadors for their country and we have enjoyed hosting them.

As a tribute to these great Stowe figures, Sir Nicholas Winton and Bob Drayson, two of our leavers, Emma-Claire Bailey and

Charlotte Matthews will perform music which they've chosen for this occasion: Emma Claire will play the theme from Schindler's List and Charlotte will sing an Irish lament, Lagan Love.

Lady Thatcher - not known for her sense of humour - once announced that "everyone needs a willie". She was, of course talking about her loyal Home Secretary and deputy Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw. His Stowe equivalent in terms of dedicated service, endless hours of patient hard work and an overriding sense of professionalism, is Ro Masters. Ro joined the School in September 1984, having gained a first class degree in French and Spanish from Durham and a PhD from London. In her 1989 appraisal Ro fretted that the atmosphere at Stowe was not academic enough, that there were not enough female staff and that music was not spreading its net widely enough. Well, Ro, work is still in progress - but your drive, determination and efficiency have transformed the School that you joined a quarter of a century ago. For someone who wrote to Jeremy Nichols that she had a "knack for allowing myself to be overlooked", Ro's career demonstrates that true talent will always shine through. A brilliant housemistress of Nugent from 1988, Ro provided excellent pastoral care and clear guidelines for the girls. In 1997 she was appointed second deputy and Senior Master, roles that she combined with great aplomb while continuing to maintain a strong presence as an outstanding teacher of Modern Languages. Within a few months of my appointment, Chris Edwards, then Deputy Head, announced that he was leaving - assuring me that the two events were not connected - and Ro became the Pastoral Deputy Head. Over the last five years she has guided the School to full co-education while looking after the pastoral needs of pupils and staff alike. While we have not yet arrived at the sunlit uplands of the Elysian Fields, there's the OFSTED inspection still to come in June, things are most emphatically moving in the right direction and, Ro, you might finally be able to meet your RPD target of 1999 which was to be at home by 8.00pm for 3 out of the 6 working days - shouldn't that be 7 working days?

We say, farewell, also to Steve Thompson, an English teacher of outstanding intellectual and literary perspicacity. Steve came to Stowe in September 1985 after a highly successful academic career at Stirling, York and Oxford University, followed by six years of teaching at Maidstone Grammar and two years at the highly selective Hwa Chong Junior College in Singapore. Steve's considered approach in the classroom has instilled an appreciation of literature and language as something fundamental and enriching to five generations of Stoics. He is respected and much liked by pupils from across the full spectrum of ability because of his evident interest in them as individuals. For the last 21 years, Steve has masterminded our whole UCAS operation, guiding Stoics, like a modern-day Vergil, as they embark on the arduous journey of university applications, personal statements, open days and interviews. Along the way, he has picked up other responsibilities - careers, chess, editor of the Stoic for seven years, 3 XI cricket, cross-country and creative writing. He is also something of a guitar legend with a playing style that has been described as having a swing-pre-Beatles character. Think Hank Marvin, rather than the more ostentatious showiness of Hendrix. Steve is an all-round schoolmaster of the highest calibre and an enormously valued colleague who does not believe in self-promotion. We will miss him enormously and wish Steve and Mary a long and happy retirement.

Another Stowe legend departing at the end of this term is Lionel Weston and it's almost impossible to imagine Stowe running without Lionel's imperturbable and calming influence. A highly accomplished sportsman, playing scrum-half for England in the early 1970s and cricket for West of



Headmaster's Speech

Scotland during the summer months (and he's also a talented hockey player), Lionel joined Stowe in 1979 as Head of PE with English, Classical Studies and Geography thrown in for good measure. A genuine polymath, Lionel was for many years our Director of Sport while running the 1st XV rugby, 1st XI hockey and Athletics in the summer. He cares deeply how his teams play but his own personal emphasis has always been on their attitude towards the game and still more towards their competitors...he has set the highest standards of courtesy and friendliness in sport. Lionel was housemaster of Walpole from 1987 to 2000 and many Old Stoics, some of them here today, chose Stowe for their children because they remember the strong pastoral support that Lionel and his wife Maggie provided in Walpole. Over the last 13 years, Lionel has built up the Skills Development Department making every pupil feel valued and special to the point that they exceed everyone's expectations - including, sometimes, their own. Throughout his career he has directed ambitious plays -specialising in staging big West End musicals such as My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, Oliver and Les Misérables (otherwise known as The Glums). He is also a hugely energetic fundraiser for good causes and many charities have benefited from his enviable ability to persuade people to support these endeavours.

Finally, Rupert Litherland was a highly successful career soldier before he joined Stowe as Bursar in 1996. Commissioned into the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, Rupert held a wide range of key and demanding appointments over 27 years of commissioned service. As Chief of Staff at Staff College, he was Bursar of the Army's principal academic institution, managing the support requirements of 151 staff and 760 students. There is a symmetry to Rupert's time at Stowe: he arrived as the School emerged from the last recession and he leaves as the latest downturn begins to take grip. We keep the financial figures for those early years on the Governors' papers to remind ourselves of how bad things can get and how much better things are now. Rupert has worked tirelessly for the School and for the Stowe House Preservation Trust and he should take considerable pride in his achievements: the restoration of the North and South Fronts, the Marble Saloon and the work on the Library which will begin this summer. The School has expanded from 585 to its current roll of 714 and budgets not only balance - but deliver a surplus which can be ploughed back into upgrading the boarding houses and enhancing the educational facilities enjoyed by Stoics. Perhaps, as the Chairman suggested, Rupert's finest hour was the delivery of Queen's House in time for the official opening by Her Majesty the Queen - no mean feat after the building contractor went into insolvency in August and The Queen was coming in November. We were spared the indignity of having to offer Her Majesty a hard hat and fluorescent vest - but it is true that the Building Controls Officer only signed the papers allowing access to the house on the day of the royal visit. Rupert, well done and we wish you and Jane many happy years of retirement together.

To Steve, Ro, Lionel, Rupert, Nat Thornton, Barbara Mays, Andrew Rudolf, John Cassidy, David Ardley, Lydia Ogilvie, Vicki Edwards, Sandra Naish, Ed Surrey and all the staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term we thank you and offer our very best wishes for the future.

And now to our guest of honour, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, an Old Stoic who attended the School during the war years and then went up to Worcester College, Oxford where he read History. I have here Lord Sainsbury's rather dog-eared entry form for Stowe, dated March 31 1935: it is rather gratifying to see that John's reserve choice public school is Eton.

John joined the family business in 1950 and went on to serve



as Chairman and Chief Executive from 1969 to 1992. "Retail is Detail" was his motto and during this period Sainsbury's became the UK's most successful supermarket chain with sales growing by an average of 19% a year, and profits by an average of 24% a year. Since 1992 Lord Sainsbury has been President of J Sainsbury PLC. A profile in The Times commented that his combination of profit making and a more than customary concern for his customer "is the sort of activity which, if unchecked, will give capitalism a good name".

Throughout his career, Lord Sainsbury has pursued a wide range of interests outside business: he has been Chairman of the Royal Opera House, a director of The Economist, a Trustee of the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery, Chairman of the Dulwich Picture Gallery and Visitor of the Ashmolean Museum. With his wife, Anya, Lord Sainsbury established the Linbury Trust which has made grants of over £100 million to a broad range of causes including the arts, education, environment, medical, social welfare, humanitarian aid and, of course, heritage. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in having John as the President of the Campaign for Stowe and it is no coincidence that his tenure has coincided with the most extraordinary renaissance of Stowe as the buildings regain the majestic splendour of the C18th. It is thanks to Lord Sainsbury's generosity that the Art School will be transformed over the next twelve months and the pupils will then have a first-class facility and hub of creativity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

Headmaster

Head Boy for 2009/2010
James Elliott (Chandos)

Head Girl for 2009/2010
Rosie Gawthrop (Nugent)

Richard Branson Prize for Enterprise
Edwin Maganjo (Chandos)

Stoic Prize
Dr Ro Masters

As all Stoics know, this year we, both Staff and Stoics alike, have focused on heightening and improving the sense of community within the school. At the beginning of the year we set ourselves the goal of making this school community the most united and effective that Stowe has ever been.

To fulfil this challenge – to improve our sense of community -- I felt that we needed to focus on three priorities. Everyone loves acronyms in the education system, so I call mine PPS - Purpose, Progress and Service.

So firstly, in a community there must be a common Purpose or direction. Direction is so important when navigating towards a common goal, as the captain of a US naval ship found out several years ago when the transcript of a radio conversation between his ship and the local authorities off the West Coast of Scotland was revealed. As you will soon find out, the captain sounded a bit like the previous president George Bush- both in voice and in mannerism - and the voice of the Scottish official well he sounded a little like the cartoon hero Shrek. So, this is how it went:

(US) Please divert your course 0.5 degrees to the South to avoid a collision

(Scot) Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision

(US) This is the Captain of the US Navy Ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

(Scot) No, I say again, divert YOUR course!

(US) THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USSR MISSOURI. WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US SAILING ARMY. AVERT YOUR COURSE NOW OR WE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATION AND DRASTIFICATION IN OUR RECEDING MEASURES!!!!

(Scot) This sonny is a lighthouse. Your call.

In our school community the purpose and focus has come from two parties. Firstly the Stoics -- every single Stoic in here has so much to be proud of. Your desire to be yourselves and to care for others has been reflected in the successes of the achievement board and the peer support group, and I am so grateful to you all for this -- Thank you.

The second party or person who has steered this ship into previously uncharted waters and succeeded wholeheartedly, most recently in turning the school fully co-ed, is the headmaster. Dr Wallesteiner, you have given this school the purpose and direction it needs to improve and progress into one of the finest and most admired schools in the country.

So then for the second critical priority in building our community here at Stowe: Progress.



Head Boy

Continuing on this key point of Progress, at Stowe our motto is Persto et Praesto -- I stand fast and I stand first. This year I feel we really have persisted and tried to be a little bit different. We have tried to adapt our attitudes to positive ideas and initiatives, to push back on any traces of indifference or cynicism. The progress we have made has been highlighted from the numerous successes we have enjoyed.

With the current upper sixth setting the tone, this year there has been serious progress in the right direction.

As you well know James, your role as Head Boy, is to serve the school and the Stoics. So I come to the third of the three priorities: Service.

David Niven, the famous actor and an Old Stoic, said the following:

"I see my purpose in life as making the world a happier place to be in"

In this community we have so many people who make it a happier place to be in. Here at Stowe I believe we have unique members of Staff who work tirelessly for our benefit, and are willing to give up their own free time to help and encourage us.

This year our prefects have been incredible in the dedication and support they have given to all Stoics. Collectively, you have been such a great example of Purpose, Progress and Service.

Serving not only means serving others and the school, it also means serving the gifts we have each been given. Through serving our own individual talents and the school, we have shared a common purpose and at the same time made great progress as a united community. We have all stood fast and have all stood first. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all in a position to say to one another Persto et Praesto. Thank you.

Felix Stevenson (U6th, Grafton)





Head Girl

I think you will all agree with me when I say that Stowe is one of the most extra-ordinary schools in the country. It is a privilege to be here now as well as to have grown up within its grounds. After having attended 9 schools around the world I have been lucky enough to cherish many experiences and also to have met many inspirational people. One thing is certain however, Stowe has been the best and most enriching four years of my life- and I feel unbelievably proud of its heritage, what it stands for, and what has been achieved in recent years.

Indeed, the school has gone through something of a transition of late... And the school needed it. We don't like to talk about it now, but we all know that a few years ago the School needed to improve. The problem was... it was full of boys. That is what has made Dr Wallersteiner such a great headmaster, he understood that only with girls can a school flourish, so... he brought us in to save you.

As the first female Head of School said: 'they didn't think we girls would have the balls to do it...' But we did, and we believe we've done a fine job of paving the way for future Stowe girls. We definitely jumped in at the deep end back in the fourth form, with 12 girls and 90 boys- need I say more? It even got to the point where we had to BUS girls in (from Tudor Hall) for socials. When pupils enter Stowe now, they enter a very different school than the one we entered. One that can only be described as a fully co-educational, integrated and a successful place of learning. We have come a long way from the days of the 'all boys lower school,' only four years ago.

Most importantly of course, above all other academic, sporting and cultural successes is the fact that we are now "9th coolest" school in the country.

You will have heard that we had an 'inspection' from ISI a few weeks ago. On the Wednesday of that week, I was interviewed by one of the inspectors. Among many things, he asked me what adjectives I thought appropriate in describing Stowe. I answered with 3 key words which are central to our community: 'pride, diversity and belonging.' (Sorry about my misuse of the term adjective)

Pride- I am proud to be a Stoic, not just within school but out of it as well.

Diversity- Not only do we find diversity in the people here at Stowe but also in the opportunities we are given and the talent all around us. As we claim, Stowe does indeed 'nurture individuals rather than conformists,' it certainly fosters hair as individual as the school.

Belonging- I remember on an Open Day vividly describing the 750 acres of parklands and landscape gardens to prospective pupils and their parents. 'Blimey!' one confident lad said 'that's an acre each!' Perhaps a nice thought, but in fact Stowe is the antithesis of that image. Clustered closely around the mansion, there is a bond between us that rises above house and year group. It is the bond that means Old Stoics seem to stay friends in a way alumni from other schools don't.

Finally I'd like to thank all the prefects for their support- we have shown that together, you can truly make a difference. We have set up the Achievement Board outside the dining room-reinforcing a positive atmosphere and encouraging others that success is in their hands. The Peer Support Group is also a new



initiative- which continues to grow in numbers and success. A group where those who need a helping hand may turn to fellow peers. We are now, as a school, stronger than ever before.

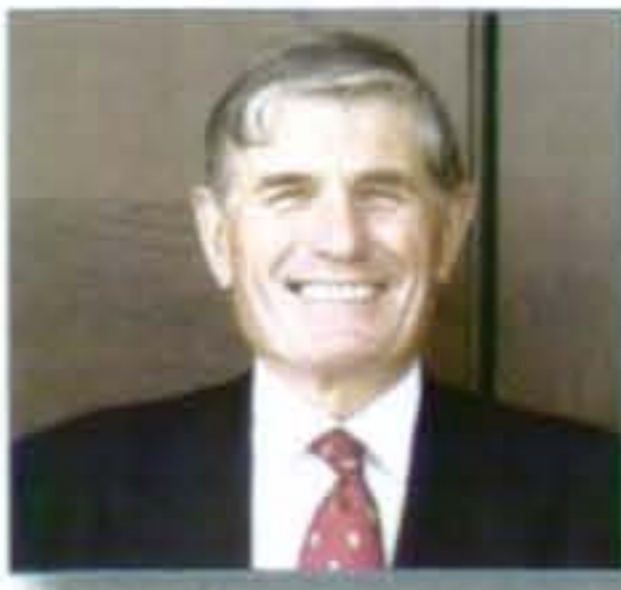
As Heads of School, Felix and I have tried to act as a link between the staff and pupils. From the Stoics, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff at Stowe, for all that you do, we certainly do not say it enough.

I would like to end on the thought that I will never forget Stowe. I will never forget how the open mornings are always so very sunny, nor will I forget the headmaster telling me he wanted to keep a surfboard in his office 'just in case it gets snowy enough to use it.' Most of all I won't ever forget the people. The friends you make here are friends for life and the community we have built up at Stowe is like nothing else.

Let us be proud to be Stoics, continue to celebrate its' diversity and most of all, let us cherish the wonderful community to which we belong to.

Laura Grossick (U6th, Lyttelton)





Rupert Litherland – Bursar of Stowe (1996 – 2009)

After a successful Army career, that included command of his Regiment, the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, the British Garrison in Brunei and the appointment of Chief of Staff at the Army's Staff College, Colonel Rupert Litherland took up the appointment of Bursar on 1 January 1996. The School roll was 545 pupils and it had traded at a deficit for three years. His first budget set a modest surplus target of £12,000. It was achieved. Twelve years later the surplus target was £2,000,000. That, too, was achieved but with considerably fewer responses of 'NO' to spending requests.

In early 1996 the Governors asked that negotiations for the transfer of Stowe House to the National Trust on the same conditions as the landscape gardens be undertaken. The National Trust declined to take on the challenge of the restoration of Stowe House and the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) was created. Rupert was appointed its Company Secretary and served that separate trustee body for 12 years in addition to his appointment as Bursar. He oversaw a number of successful applications for restoration grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage that secured £12.1M of funding. He has overseen a further application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant towards the next phases of the restoration.

He has had some trying times throughout his employment but all have ended in success. The most notable example being on the morning of the Queen's visit to Stowe the Building Control Officer finally signed off the building regulations compliance certificate allowing Her Majesty to enter and open the building ready for occupation. It was a remarkable achievement by the team under Rupert's positive leadership and direction.

He was de facto the Chairman of the Stowe Beagles and was a regular rugby referee on the Bourbon and ran the Stowe Occasionals Cricket XI and was a regular player over the years.

Rupert managed Stowe's recovery out of the last recession, a remarkable strengthening of the School's finances and oversaw 14 years of solid infrastructure and service improvements in a number of areas.

Wherever life's road takes Rupert after Stowe we thank him for his efforts on our behalf and wish him and Jane well for the future.



Dr Ro Masters

From teacher of Spanish and French, Housemistress of Nugent to Deputy Head, Ro has selflessly and tirelessly put others first whether they be Stoics, colleagues or the School itself.

Ro arrived at Stowe in 1984 to teach French and Spanish and has continued to do so despite other demanding roles placed on her shoulders. Despite her considerable commitment outside her academic department, Ro's commitment to the Modern Languages Department has been unwavering – she is always the first to offer to support and help wherever she can. She is a passionate and very gifted linguist, teaching both French and Spanish through to A Level and Oxbridge.

Appointed housemistress of Nugent in 1988 she managed the girls with typical efficiency coupled with a warm heart and smile. Her wonderfully creative and anecdotal musical performances during House 'At Homes' were always eagerly awaited! Ensuring the equality of the provision for and treatment of girls in all areas of Stowe life – pastoral, academic, sporting and social has been near to the heart of Ro's mission. In Chapel, her firm and thoughtful addresses were rightly listened to in respectful silence. Over a good number of years Ro ran a Self and Society course, the PSHE and the Community Service programmes which showed her personal and pastoral care for Stoics and also the people of Buckingham.

On a lighter side, Ro has appeared in staff revues and charity shows, loyally supporting Stoic and staff events.

As she moves on to a well-deserved retirement in Paris, we shall miss her absolute and constant professionalism in the brisk tidying up of abandoned files and books or commanding some improvement to a Stoic's dishevelled appearance and an occasional necessary steeliness which all Deputies need. Above all, we in the Common Room shall miss the more private and personal Ro: her enjoyment of singing, acting and dancing; her vivacity and laughter and her ability to defuse tension with warmth and a smile.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Barbara Mays

Barbara Mays joined Stowe in June 1988 and is retiring this summer after more than 21 years service in the Bursary. During that time she has worked for three Bursars and five Assistant Bursars.

Barbara has covered many aspects of finance work, but in particular she will be remembered for her attention to detail, her polite manner and a great sense of humour. Her work dealing with pupil billing has brought Barbara into contact with many parents over the years, and she will be much missed. She has thoughts of maybe writing her memoirs.

We wish Barbara a very happy retirement with her husband, John and their children and grandchildren.

Mrs Janis Hill



Andrew Rudolf

Most people are content with one Valete, this is Andrew's second! In 1995 he retired after being Head of History for twenty one years. Now he leaves the Skills Development Department which he founded and which, thanks to his foresight, dedication and enthusiasm, has flourished. Andrew is a man who "made it his business to find out about special difficulties in reading and writing and to ensure that something was done to help the pupils who had to cope with them". It is thanks to his energies that so many pupils have benefited and made progress. Since 1999, whilst helping part-time in the department, Andrew has helped and guided scores of pupils to unravel why they have found the whole prospect of essay writing and planning difficult. Andrew has also been able to use his considerable knowledge and expertise in History, History of Art, Religious Studies and other related subject areas to help pupils with their grasp and understanding. Andrew's contribution has been immense and I know that we, as colleagues in the Skills Development Department, will miss his cheery good humour, as well as his fund of knowledge and advice regarding

appropriate support strategies. Andrew's humane concern and understanding of pupils' difficulties is a lesson to us all. I know that Andrew will not be far away in Shalstone with his wife Juliet and we wish Andrew and all his family a very happy retirement.

Mr Lionel Weston



John Thornton

John (Nat) Thornton and his lovely wife Ann joined the Stowe Community in May 1973 and apart from an 8 month sabbatical between November 1991 and July 1992 Nat and Ann have been here for over 35 years.

Nat came to the School from GEC where we know he was a highly skilled Machine Operator for 15 years. This was made absolutely clear in Nat's reference as GEC clearly did not wish to lose someone of Nat's skill.

Nat wanted a change of career and started as Kennel Huntsman. He lived in the West Boycott Pavilion and very quickly 'found his feet' and during the period of time up to 1991 Nat developed the 'Beagle pack', increasing the standing of the pack across the country to 'show off' the pack.

After 18 years in the post Nat and Ann went to Althorp Park to work as Gamekeeper and Housekeeper respectively. After 18 years at Stowe



however, it was clear Stowe was in Nat's blood and it was no surprise to see Nat and Ann return in July of 1992 when Nat took over security duties at the School.

Nat's has a lot of interests in outdoor activities mainly revolving around fishing and shooting and for the past few years Nat has been teaching the CCF pupils how to shoot. Nat has also taken a number of staff and sometimes their children on various 'game shoots'.

During these years at the School Ann has also worked in various capacities but she will be remembered most for her time working in the Medical centre where she cleaned and looked after many sickly Stoics.

Both Nat and Ann will be a great loss to the School. Nat has solved countless problems for people around the School and the community and whilst the school is forging ahead one of its true characters for nearly 36 years departs into retirement.

We wish Nat and Ann a very happy and lengthy retirement but some of you might continue to bump into Nat if you are near the indoor firing range on a Thursday.

Mr John Wilmot



Steven Thompson

Steven has worked tirelessly at Stowe for a quarter of a century, providing generations of pupils with outstanding educational opportunities and wide-ranging support.

As an English teacher, he is unsurpassed. His breadth of reading and his depth of appreciation are legendary. He challenges students in both his choice of texts for study and his critical analysis of those texts. There are many Stoics who freely acknowledge that their love of literature was founded in Steven Thompson's classes.

In addition, for many years, he has chaired Colloquium, encouraging Sixth-Form Stoics to consider and discuss wide-ranging, intellectually stimulating topics.

Creative Writing has flourished at Stowe under his direction. He has encouraged and guided Stoics as they have drafted and redrafted their personal writing, until they have achieved the highest standard. The Creative Writing Forum Recital has become an important annual event in the Stowe cultural calendar, with pupils from every year-group performing their works before an enthusiastic audience in the Blue Room.

His work on UCAS has been invaluable and his patience superhuman, as he has helped year after year of Stoics (and their tutors) through the vagaries of the university application-system. His meticulous attention to detail in this work has been greatly appreciated.

An able chess player, Steven has fostered talent in the game at Stowe, running the inter-house Chess Competition and entering contestants in national championships. He has been a fine servant to cricket in the School, a keen coach of the 3rd XI and a consistent, reliable and knowledgeable umpire. As a guitarist, he was an "ever present" in the staff band, "Manic Street Teachers", that recently metamorphosed into "Plug Street". Ultimately, though, his colleagues will value him as an ever-gracious, considerate and erudite friend who richly deserves a long and happy retirement.

Dr Paul Miller



Lionel Weston

Lionel's contribution to teaching is broad and deep: great sporting talent, people skills and high principles, along with a wide range of educational and cultural expertise which he is never afraid to extend and refine. His 29 years as a dedicated schoolmaster at Stowe have been filled with a wide variety of achievements.

As a sportsman Lionel has excelled in many areas. At Stowe he has coached many successful rugby and cricket sides, as well as organising the rugby, starting with eight wins from eleven 1st XV rugby games in 1979 and even more in 1987. He also took five rugby and cricket tours during the 1980s. More recently he has made his mark as compere at Sports Day.

Many Old Stoics will remember Lionel as housemaster of Walpole from 1987 to 2000. He maintained a sense of spirit and community where each person was valued for their academic, musical, artistic or debating ability as much as for their sport. And few Walpudlians rash enough to linger in bed will forget his accurate aim with a water pistol.

His care for individuals was especially evident in organising Stoic visits to Andy Birt in Stoke Mandeville Hospital every day for a year and insisting that the school provided the physical support for Andy's return to the school.

Lionel served as Director of Physical Education and Director of Sport, and also taught English and some Classical Civilisation. From 1995 he built up a highly regarded department in the Skills Development Centre. As 'Uncle Lionel' he also became mentor to many a young teacher.

Equally he relished directing school musicals and plays, eleven in total from 1986 to 2008. Highlights included My Fair Lady - 'the direction is extraordinarily smooth, light and deft' - and more recently Les Miserables and Oliver, marshalling both pupils and staff with enthusiasm and skill. He also wrote and produced the first two community pantomimes in Buckingham.

We wish Lionel and Maggie every happiness for the future and trust that they will keep in contact from their home in Buckingham.

Mr Michael Bevington



David Ardley

David Ardley has packed a great deal into his two years at Stowe as Head of Design and Technology, Chatham tutor, 3rd XV coach and master i/c Anacreon. Undaunted by the sight of the Design portacabins, he persuaded the Headmaster to add another and worked hard to encourage Stoics in a creative approach to Design which married happily with art, both at Speech Day exhibitions and in the displays of work in the Mansion. Stowe will be the poorer without his can-do approach and fine-tuned sense of the ridiculous, and we wish him well in his new post as Design Director at Cranleigh.

Dr Ro Masters



John Cassidy

John Cassidy began working in the Skills Department at Stowe in 1999, having previously been Head of the Unicorn School, a dyslexic specialist school in Oxford. John has been an extremely active and influential member of the Skills Department. Latterly he has also assisted Alan Longworth in the EAL Department and I know that Alan and the pupils have been grateful for his expertise and understanding. In the Skills Department John has helped, guided and encouraged scores of pupils in their literacy skills and, latterly, with Maths and Science. John's easy manner and logical processing strategies have helped a number of Stoics unravel the mysteries of the Maths syllabus. Also John has always displayed a huge empathy and understanding of literacy difficulties. His ability to counsel and raise the self-esteem of individuals has been profound and I know that many pupils have had John to thank for providing them with the belief and confidence to pursue their academic careers. John has been an excellent colleague and friend to all of us in the Skills Department and we will not only miss his professionalism but also his quirky sense of humour, and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mr Lionel Weston



Philip Edell

Philip is a great enthusiast and despite having been at Stowe for only a year, he has got involved in many aspects of School life. Involvement in CCF, Walpole House and the Christian side of Stowe has bought him in contact with many in our community. He leaves us to starting working for Apple in Brighton. We wish him and his family all the very best for next year.

Mr James Tearle



Vicki Edwards

Vicki Edwards came to Stowe in the Autumn of 2007 to join the English Department, having previously taught at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh and Akeley Wood near Buckingham. She immediately proved a popular and able teacher, taking on a broad range of ages and abilities in the Department, while becoming actively involved in Hockey and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This year, she was appointed as a tutor in Stanhope, the new girls' house, and took over the editorship of The Stoic: thus, part of her legacy to Stowe is literally in your hands at this moment. She will be much missed as she leaves us to pursue an M.A. in Creative Writing at Manchester University.

Dr Paul Miller



Sandra Naish

'Formidable' is usually a word used to describe people that are good at their job by people who are, perhaps, less so. So it proved to be with the advance description of Sandra who, in a very short space of time, has proved an invaluable and robust source of advice and support for 6th Form Stoics, negotiating their futures via their UCAS applications. The Chemistry Department has not seen enough of her and yet it has been clear that she embodied all that we would have wanted. We wish her every success in her new post.

Mr Daren Jeffreys



Lydia Ogilvie

Lydia arrived at Stowe having just completed her MChem at Merton College, Oxford. With no previous teaching experience, she stumbled into a Chemistry department, enjoying a period of greater Entropy than usual.

Against the odds, and to Stowe's great fortune, her significant capabilities, both as a teacher and as an individual, were instrumental in the continued success of Chemistry at Stowe over the past two years. Bringing this alchemy to her Under Housemistress role has allowed her to be a confidante to many a Queen's girl, never losing the respect so vital in playing a constructive role in their lives.

I have never heard anything but admiration and praise from Lydia's fellow Chemists and we simply hold out hope that she will return to teaching, having first made some real money.

Mr Daren Jeffreys



Thea Sebastian

During her year as Harvard Scholar at Stowe Thea has brought energy and enthusiasm to everything she has undertaken. In Politics classes she played a major part in engaging the A level students in US politics and helped to organise a very successful mock Presidential election while the 3rd form History students have enjoyed her excellently researched and resourced lessons. As well as her duties in Lyttelton and contribution to the XX Group Thea has inspired Stowe's creative writers. We wish her every success for her future.

Mrs Carol Miller



Edward Surrey

In times gone by, teachers used to inspire fear in their students. Modern day teachers try to inspire motivation. Ed Surrey, however, is not like other teachers - as all of his classes will testify: he just inspires!

Ed has made his mark in all facets of Stowe life. Academically he has pushed his students to reach their potential while teaching with humour (and apparently wit). Sportingly he has introduced many budding sailors to the pleasures of sitting in a boat and has led his basketball team to many successes. Sartorially he has led the way in retro fashion where his steadfast refusal to wear anything other than rugby socks and yet he manages the perfect look in his plus fours on the golf course. Pastorally he has devoted a significant part of his life to Chatham as an Under Housemaster

and watching him stride around the Bourbon on a Saturday afternoon in his wellies supporting the house, while Finn ignores his repeated commands to heel, is a common sight. Ed and Sally are moving to work within the settling in Perth Australia. He will be missed and we wish him and Sally all happiness in their future abroad.

Mr Damian Blewitt



Matthew Walsh-Woolcott

Matt joined Stowe as a Hockey coach and since then he has become hugely involved in school life. He has been a very effective and liked Chandos under-housemaster and tutor, assistant to the exams office, girls' tennis coach and Duke of Edinburgh Gold award leader. He has immersed himself into school life both in his work and socially. The school will be losing a motivated and enthusiastic member of staff who has contributed to the school in many ways. We wish him all the very best for his future employment in the Armed forces.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

Headmaster of Stowe whose muscular Christianity and tireless persistence revived the school's fortunes

Bob Drayson, who died on October 15 aged 89, was headmaster of Stowe from 1964 to 1979 and was credited with giving the school a new lease of life; earlier, as a naval officer in motor torpedo boats during the Second World War, he had distinguished himself in a famous action in the English Channel.

In the years following the retirement of its founder, JF Roxburgh, in 1949 Stowe did not enjoy the most glittering of reputations. Drayson arrived determined to avoid turning out what he called "public school types" – one of his favourite injunctions was: "Dare to be different."

His study door was always open, and he worked hard to break down barriers and to discover what made people tick.

Under his leadership the school flourished, both academically and on the sports field. Drayson introduced girls into the sixth form and a requirement that all boys should perform some voluntary service in the local community.

He also developed a close relationship with the National Trust that has since led to the splendid restoration of the buildings in the Stowe Landscape Gardens.

When he left Stowe after 15 years as headmaster a colleague praised Drayson for his "firmness, fairness and tact...unfailing energy, tireless persistence on the pursuit of any good cause [and] vigorous sense of humour".

Robert Quested Drayson was born at Ramsgate on June 5 1919 (throughout his life he was to take pride in being a "man of Kent"). He was educated locally at Chatham House school and then at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, where he became a committed Christian and first developed his lifelong passion for sport, excelling at hockey, cricket and middle-distance running.

In 1938 Drayson went up to Downing College, Cambridge, to read Modern Languages.

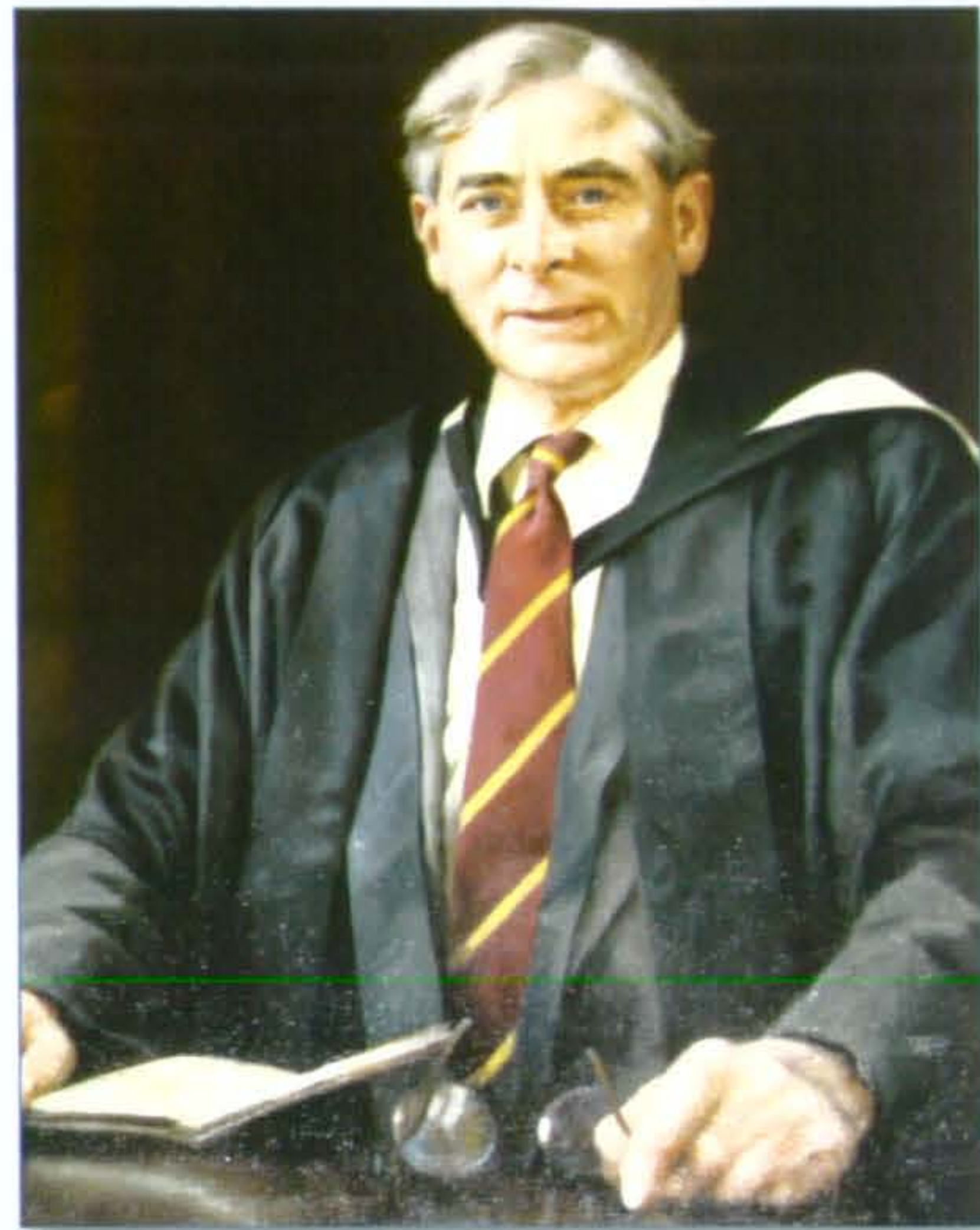
When the war intervened he joined the Navy as a rating before taking a course for officers at HMS King Alfred at Hove, Sussex. He then volunteered for coastal forces, serving in motor torpedo boats until 1946. He became first lieutenant of MTB 236 and assumed command of it just in time for what was to become a well-known action.

This concerned the German auxiliary cruiser Komet, one of several heavily-armed, disguised merchant ships which had wreaked havoc on lone Allied merchant shipping, particularly in distant waters outside the ambit of escorted convoys.

The British discovered that Komet was attempting to slip through the Channel; she had already completed one successful raid into the Indian Ocean, and her captain was hoping to repeat this.

Komet, escorted by both ships and aircraft, had already beaten off one attack when her consorts ran into a freshly-laid British minefield. After a delay to reinforce the escort, she continued her attempted break-out accompanied by a strong force of minesweepers and E-boats. But the British had the benefit of Ultra (the intelligence gleaned from decrypted German radio communications) and – despite the risk of revealing that the German codes had been cracked – a trap was set, involving four Hunt-class destroyers and eight MTBs, including MTB 326, commanded by Acting Sub-Lieutenant Drayson.

Shortly after midnight on October 14 1942, off Barfleur, Komet was lit by flares dropped by a Fleet Air Arm Swordfish. In the ensuing battle several of the raider's escorts were damaged by their own fire.



Drayson launched two torpedoes at close range at Komet, starting a huge fire; the flames spread quickly and were followed by a massive explosion which sent a ball of flame hundreds of feet into the night sky. Komet sank, taking her 251-man crew with her.

The ship's destruction marked the end of this phase of raider warfare against the Allies, and Drayson was awarded a DSC for his "great skill and bravery". He finished the war in command of MTB 701.

In 1943 he had married Rachel Jenkyns, who was serving in the WRNS, and at the end of the war he returned to Cambridge, where he switched to History. He won a Blue for hockey and had a trial for the England team; he was to captain the Kent hockey XI from 1947 to 1956.

Drayson was then invited to join the teaching staff at his old school, St Lawrence College. In 1950 he moved to Felsted School, Essex, as an assistant house master, and five years later was appointed headmaster of Reeds School, Cobham, Surrey, a school founded for boys whose fathers had been killed in the war. Drayson improved and expanded the school, which by the time he left to go to Stowe had been admitted to the Headmasters' Conference.

Throughout his career Drayson was driven by his Christian faith, and after retiring he spent five years as lay chaplain to Maurice Wood, the Bishop of Norwich, with whom he had served during the war. Drayson and his wife then moved to Sandhurst, in Kent, where he threw himself into village life, becoming a lay reader at the church; playing golf with a curious hockey-like swing; pestering Sir Richard Branson (an old boy of Stowe) to support his favourite charities; running a car scheme to take elderly people (usually much younger than himself) to hospital; and visiting and offering support to anyone who needed help.

Bob Drayson is survived by his wife and by his son and two daughters, one of whom is Dame Gillian Pugh, chairman of the National Children's Bureau.

The Daily Telegraph



Academic Report

2008-09 has been another tremendous year for Stowe: the improving exam and module results, Oxbridge successes, two Inspections - ISI (Academic) in May and Ofsted (Boarding) in June, greater success rates of entry to The Russell Group (top 20 universities), more new classrooms and facilities and so on.

2008's A Level results saw Stoics achieving an excellent 63% AB grades at A Level. While less than the previous year's superlative results, last year's results maintained the gradual rise in AB grades of past years and we are delighted with the achievements of Stoics and staff. With 55% AB at AS Level, we were pleased with the improvement from 2007 which should provide firm foundations for even greater successes at A Level in 2009. A good number of our L6 Stoics achieved outstanding A*/A grades at GCSE.

As I write this, I have just checked the draft ISI Inspection Report (Independent Schools Inspectorate) which, by the time you read *The Stoic*, I hope will be available to you on our website and also the Internet. On behalf of the Government, the ISI inspects all private schools on a 5 year cycle and much time energy and effort had gone into preparing for their visit. They assessed the quality of our teaching and learning, the provision of activities, the pastoral support, management, regulatory compliance etc. I wish to record my personal thanks to the teaching and support staff who all work, seemingly tirelessly, to provide the highest quality of service and support of Stoics. Although the contents of the report remain confidential until published, we are very pleased with the appraisal of the school's curriculum, teaching and pastoral provisions. It is also gratifying to read of the overwhelmingly positive responses from Stowe parents and Stoics themselves.

As part of our increased academic success and our openly-stated commitment to the pursuit of excellence across all areas of school life, we are also delighted at the success of our Oxbridge candidates this year. Six Stoics have been offered conditional places, the largest number of successful candidates in recent years. So, many congratulations to: Lucy Brooks (Balliol; English); Natalie McDaid (Hertford; Chemistry); Sam Tracy (Clare; Natural Sciences); Mark Goodenough (Jesus, Cambridge; Computer Science); Laura Grossick (St John's, Cambridge; Geography) and George Hunter (St John's, Cambridge; Natural Sciences). We wish

these Stoics, in particular, continued success in their A levels and also offer our thanks and appreciation for the extra work of their teachers over and beyond the curriculum.

Building on our Oxbridge successes, another of our recent aims is to improve the numbers and success rates of Stoics applying successfully to The Russell Group (the twenty, more selective universities) and also to the prestigious creative institutions for Music, Art, Design & Drama. Nearly three-quarters of Stoics are successful in their applications to these world-class institutions. In an increasingly competitive and complex world of university admissions, it is gratifying to encourage and support so many Stoics who continue into higher education and, later, good and varied employment. While Dr Sandra Naish has quietly and professionally energised the Careers Department this year, greater gratitude is also due to Stephen Thompson whose commitment, knowledge and attention to detail with all UCAS forms over many years is legendary. We wish him a happy and deserved retirement.

Exam modules are now being taken throughout the year with GCSE Science and Maths modules in November and March. The main public exam period, however, now spreads from 11th May to 23rd June this year, not allowing for oral exams, Art, Drama, Music practicals etc which often fall before hand. This relentless spread of testing eats into our teaching time and sadly could reduce our options to provide the broader and deeper curriculum we would like to impart. On a more positive note, there is much more of a sense of academic purpose in the air at Stowe with Departments offering events and lectures to stimulate and encourage Stoics both in and beyond their studies. We are pleased, though, that the ISI Inspectors praised both our curriculum and extra-curriculum provision as rich and diverse.

In concrete terms, the former Careers and International centre (the original Stanhope) has been converted into four sparkling new classrooms which will be occupied mostly by the History Department and thus re-named in honour of Bill McElwee. While the Art Dept. is temporarily housed in even more squash courts and other spaces and rooms, the original building will be gutted and rebuilt internally, re-rendered and restored to its original 1930s appearance on the exterior. On completion, though, it will house one of the country's leading Art Departments with up to date facilities, increased teaching and exhibition space. Keep an eye open for regular exhibitions in the future.

The early 21st Century and the current recession have brought us all more challenges. Current Stoics will be expected to have up to seven or more jobs in their lifetimes, moving between occupations and building up successful skills: linguistic, grammatical; numerate; the ability to be persuasive in argument; to think critically and 'outside of the box' etc. They must also be honest and open-minded to others because the world is made-up of the widest spectrum of people in cultures, beliefs, talents, abilities and personalities. We have most certainly not abandoned our commitment to an holistic education and the pursuit and celebration of excellence and success of individual Stoics. We continue to strive to ensure that this credo it is at the heart of all we do.

Mr Crispin Robinson
Deputy Head (Academic)





Ed Abel Smith

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect... Watching certain people (Phil) on duty.
- 2. Why did you want to be a prefect? Walk on the grass, prefect's dinner and duty...
- 3. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? The people.



Will Anthony

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Probably still on my gap year.*
- 2. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *Mr. Thompson: "Ayoub it says Abject, A-B-G-E-C-T!"*
- 3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Double DT with Grimble any day!*



Mike Beaumont

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Prime minister/ dictator of England, maybe the world, who knows?*
- 2. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *The people and the banter that will never be understood anywhere else*
- 3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Double business boys! You can't beat it.*



Angus Blayney

- 1. Favourite School Pet...*Mr. Ing's lion, Fynn*
- 2. How many Facebook friends do you have? *I'm friends with Freddie Alexander, that's all that matters, ok.*
- 3. Prefect most likely to... *embarrass themselves at Old Stoic meetings...Ed Abel-Smith, he is already embarrassing*



Immy Brabant:

- 1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *Gosh, too hard, just too many. I think Grossi has made me realise that is possible to do everything and do it all well, whilst still being able to function socially. Her achievements are very influential.*
- 2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *On top of a volcano doing something geological...or on the stage...either or would be nice.*
- 3. Prefect most likely to...return to Stowe as a teacher? *Well quite obviously Philip Pitcher...in the meantime, although your numerous worksheets are very helpful, you are not a teacher quite yet.*



Lucy Brooks

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Venice, with my typewriter.*
- 2. Prefect most likely to.....*bet their entire life savings on a horse/dice/sports fixture? Able-Smith. Because he is such a good boy, and rebellion is long overdue.*
- 3. Prefect most likely to.....save the world? *All of us as a COMMUNITY. Thanks to the team-building workshop.*



Craig Browne

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Somewhere in the Middle East speaking Arabic.*
- 2. Why did you want to be a prefect? *It compensates for other areas that I am lacking in.*
- 3. How many Facebook friends do you have? *More than the number of people I actually know.*



Harry Burke

- 1. Why did you want to be a prefect? *So I could fill out this quiz.*
- 2. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *The people.*
- 3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Double Nellie English.*



Emma-Claire Bailey

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect...*Not having to do duties the whole of the first term...*
- 2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Doing Design stuff in a hot country*
- 3. Favourite Housemasters child... *I dislike children...*



David Devlin-Jones

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect... *Milo Drake VS. Katie Robertson*
- 2. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *Footy on Chatham lawn*
- 3. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *'Nice Hairrrr merttt'*



Thea Dorenberg

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Standing in front of the altar marrying the most perfect man on this earth.*
- 2. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *Charlotte Matthews (staring at her work) wailing: I don't want to work, I just want to get married!!! And Lucy Beaty: Do reindeers really fly??*
- 3. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Temple! They have a gaming room!*





Prefects



Toby Dunipace

1. Favourite school pet (Housemaster's dog etc.)...*The Peacocks outside the science blocks.*
2. Why did you want to be a prefect? *To make sure Felix Stevenson didn't get all the power.*
3. Favourite Housemasters child... *I would normally say my Housemaster's children; however Mr Lewis' eldest son Ben once refused to give me two sausages at breakfast. I have never forgiven him.*



Rebecca Elliot

1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most...*Felix and Grossick, it has to be those inspiring speeches*
2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Hopefully married to a rich man*
3. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Queens – own room with en-suite*



Victoria Elliot

1. Funniest moment as a prefect...*Listening all the excuses to get into lunch from lower school.*
2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Next door neighbours to Beck.*
3. Which prefect is most likely to...get married? *Elena and Prendy!*



Alexey Grabarnik

1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *Sam Morris*
2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Probably running my own multinational corporation.*
3. Why did you want to be a prefect? *As a matter of interest and new experience.*



Taisie Grant

1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most...*I couldn't name just one! I think everyone has in one way or another been of influence.*
2. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *Everything and everyone!*
3. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *Quite philosophical and long but... 'What you do today is important because you are exchanging a die of your life for it...let it be something good.'*



Laura Grossick

1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Most probably chained to a tree in a bid to rid the world of our climate-abusing, brand-bearing, culture-homogenizing nation along with a bunch of hairy legged environmentalists. Either that or a journalist in Paris. Or reading out sports results...still.*
2. Why did you want to be a prefect? For the one, the only.....*community. In all honesty it was to give something back for the wonderful 4 years I will have spent at this school.*
3. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *Being able to walk around House in a zebra costume, looking like an absolute numpty, and barely anyone blinking an eyelid.*



Flossy Hopewell

1. Funniest moment as a prefect? *When Abby weed herself in my room because she was scared of the cleaners.*
2. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *"Oh my god Floss I think I peed a little" Abby Webb.*
3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Double Dobbo, Friday afternoon...kill me now!*



Jonty Irving

1. Favourite school pet (Housemaster's dog etc.)...*Laura Grossick in her caterpillar suit.*
2. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *"JUST SHUT UP ABOUT GOUT!" – Mr Thompson.*
3. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Stanhope (duh!)*



Elena Kasche

1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most...*Jack Wills, sometimes I wish we'd never met...*
2. Funniest moment as a prefect...*That was definitely when I had to creep down the aisle in chapel being put in a CATERPILLAR costume; for the Nativity play?!!?*
3. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Being a doctor far, far away from here; probably to escape the stupid NHS, and my own family in good old Germany... Help! Where can I go? However, afterwards I will come to fame having made my millions with a series of well designed beauty products that actually work.*



George Hunter

1. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *Recently its got to be "you cant laugh, you haven't got a uterus"*
2. Prefect most likely to...save the world? *Laura through colouring in...*
3. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Having an affair with Azree*



Helena Kealey

1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most...*Perfection is a hard thing to beat; however, I have been known to influence many others.*
2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *In Trafalgar square, on a tall column next to Nelson.*
3. What is your favourite quote from your time at Stowe? *Dr Wallesteiner (to Dr Masters) 'The thing is. I think Helena is just going to be too busy to be head girl, being as she is such a wonderful person. I'm sorry to say it, but I suppose Laura Grossick will make an alright second best.*



Monty Lewis:

- 1. Why did you want to be a prefect? To change the world... *Really it was originally because my Grandfather was one and also I wanted to serve other Stoics and the school.*
- 2. What will you miss most when you leave Stowe? *The food of course and the value for money you get from Stowe...maybe not. No definitely the way that we are around so many people our age. My house Bruce, its fine architecture and interior décor.... Actually all my friends. The fun we have got out of Bruce, plus the bizarre sense of humour it brings out in every one.*
- 3. Prefect most likely to...embarrass themselves at Old Stoic meetings? *Possibly Grossi, definitely Elena.*



Charlotte Matthews

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Unfortunately still 5ft''2 off the ground.*
- 2. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Easy question. Grafton, so I could do extra Latin!*
- 3. Prefect most likely to...save the world? *Ed Abel Smith and Mike Beaumont, like Batman and Robin...*



Natalie McDaid

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *The deepest darkest dungeons of a chemistry lab.*
- 2. Why did you want to be a prefect? *The coloured jumpers of course (I think I remember something about helping people.)*
- 3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *I would like to say double free ... but I never had one...*



Alice McNair

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect...*Being made to be a sheep in the prefects nativity and teaching the little 3rd former who joined me how to bleat. He was a cutie.*
- 2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Having won the 2012 ping pong Olympics in London and touring china and Hong Kong- Olivia Palmer head of marketing will have franchised bats and balls with my face on them encouraging children everywhere to get involved with the game. Long live the ping pong dream!*
- 3. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Chandos or Grenville as they're closer to the dinning room.*



Harriet Nicholls

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect...*Hearing about Harry's crazy weekends every Monday at prefects' supper. He's so wild.*
- 2. Favourite school pet (Housemaster's dog etc.)...*Milo Bunny*
- 3. Why did you want to be a prefect? *So I could save ALL that time by walking across the grass.*



Philip Pitcher

- 1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *Don't tell them but Mr Roberts and Mr Ardley.*
- 2. How many Facebook friends do you have? *I think I've got nearly 400 (NB - I don't add friends, I get added.)*
- 3. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Mrs Akam's double geography Monday morning / Mr Murray's double Wednesday before lunch.*



Freddie Prendergast

- 1. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Not quite sure, but I'll probably be in the City attempting to get rich. Chances aren't great as it stands.*
- 2. Why did you want to be a prefect? *I thought it would look good on the personal statement and 'wanted to give something back to the school'... of course.*
- 3. If you weren't in your current house, what house would you like to be in? *Next best from Cobham is Chatham probably (although I don't really mind unless it's Bruce)*



Felix Stevenson

- 1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *Aristotle or Plato*
- 2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *Still making cringing speeches.*
- 3. Which prefect is most likely to become a bigamist...*Excuse me?*



Xandie Trevor

- 1. Why did you want to be a prefect? *Lad points*
- 2. How many Facebook friends do you have? *How many girls are in Nugent?*
- 3. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *The Business Boys*



Azree Rashid

- 1. Favourite school pet (Housemaster's dog etc.)... *George Hunter (My pet Gorilla)*
- 2. Where will you be in 10 years time? *In an affair with George*
- 3. Why did you want to be a prefect? *So that I could walk on the grass at Stowe.*





Abby Webb

- 1. Funniest moment as a prefect... *Jonty's Ears*
- 2. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Mr. Arnold!!*
- 3. Which prefect is most likely to ...become a bigamist? *What is a bigamist?*



Sarah Worssam

- 1. Person who has influenced your time at Stowe the most... *A lot of people, but generally my friends and the teachers/ coaches that have taught me.*
- 2. What was your favourite double lesson in your time at Stowe? *Double "study."*
- 3. ...become famous? *Abby Webb, Olympic England Hockey Player.*

Prefect Initiatives

The main aim we, as prefects, had set ourselves for this academic year, under the watchful eye of our Head Boy Felix and Head Girl Laura was to enhance our sense of community within the school. Upon starting this journey, we knew that breaking barriers between year groups, uniting staff and Stoics, and removing traditional stereotypes was going to be a tough job, but as Thomas Edison once said: 'There is no substitute for hard work.'

The prefects, along with support from other students and staff, have also created the Peer Support Group (PSG) which was set up in response to the stated needs of students throughout the school. From experience, we have learnt that students of all ages talk to their peers about a range of issues and research shows that they often seek out their peers first when they need to discuss both minor and major problems. Here the aims were hence to create a 'listening ear' for all students. In follow up to this, the 'PSG notice board' was set up in the lunch-hall passage way, so notices and encouraging slogans could be put up, and faces of members could be in a prominent position for all to see. A new email address was also set up to allow pupils to arrange meetings personally and an assembly was held to raise awareness and promote support, as well as to encourage new members to join. Although it continues to be a 'work in progress' we hope that the PSG will remain an intrinsic part of the Stowe community for years to come.

'Positive atmosphere' was another key term taken by prefects and celebrating achievement was one way we hoped to do this. This, mainly, came through the newly set-up 'Achievements Board,' with an aim to praise all manner of achievements throughout school life as well as out of school, for both staff and Stoics- replacing the punishments board directly outside the school dining room. This, we hope, has helped create a greater sense of pride in achievement, and spurred on other students to aim as highly as possible. Heads of Houses and staff have also been congratulating students for there achievements to further this.

In a bid to line the lunch-queue hall with increasing amounts of 'pretty colours', The 'Prefect Board' was also set up. Photographs of all the prefects with their names are on the board so that students know who we all are! As well as this, relevant information and news is put-up so that students can are aware of what is going on and a positive atmosphere is circulated throughout. It has been an efficient way to create links between the prefects and students (younger ones especially) and we hope that this idea will be taken on by future prefects.

Prefect chapels have been a source of entertainment for us, as well as hopefully for Stoics (probably at us, rather than with us.) The 'prefect's nativity' perhaps being the highlight of our Chapels- Craig Browne taking the lead role of Baby Jesus, dragged down the aisle in a blanket, whilst Alice McNair and her pack of third form sheep followed bleating behind, need we say more?

I personally feel that we have created a new era for prefect bodies at Stowe. We have shown that such a role is very much elastic, and we certainly hope that we have stretched it in the best possible manner. The prefects are vital in linking staff and students and we hope that those in the younger years will aspire to become prefects, strive and seek excellence in all aspects of life (in school and out of school) and keep their top buttons done up!

Philip Pitcher, Chatham U6th





The State library and the Ante Library are part of the next exciting phase of restoration here at Stowe. The original roof structure was taken away many years ago and as a result of the weakened timber structure and the weight of the valuable and ornate plaster ceiling of the Library it was in danger of collapsing, resulting in the infamous green netting which we have been living with for the past 2 years! As the ceiling needs to be repaired the opportunity is being taken to refurbish the Library as a whole which means that we will be moving out to the Classics area for a few months while the work is carried out.

Over the Easter holidays we were very lucky to have the help of a group of volunteers from an organisation called NADFAS who had worked on a project 10 years ago to clean and preserve all our antiquarian books on the Library Gallery and on the tall shelves behind the Library counter. They returned to pack up all these old books which need very careful treatment because of their special leather bindings. A special lift had to be hired to get the books down from the Gallery.

The rest of the books will be moved out towards the end of June after the summer examinations are over.

Mrs Carol Miller



The New Servery

The start of the Michaelmas Term saw the opening of the new and improved servery to Stoics. With easier flow, increased choice and quality of food, modern presentation and enhanced comfort in the dining rooms, this really was a welcome development.

The catering department produce over 2000 meals a day during term time and with a system and equipment that hadn't been upgraded for 20 years it was time to modernise things.

In 2006 plans were drawn up to improve the servery and overall catering provision, particularly with the planned increase in pupil numbers. When these were approved in January 08 work began immediately. The Garter Room and old servery were closed, the floor coverings were replaced and the new, state of the art equipment installed.

Visitors to meal times now have a brand new dining experience, with a vastly increased choice of food, free flowing queues and more space. There are three hot choices, a soup cauldron, an extensive salad bar, a new pasta bar and both hot and cold desserts available. The queuing system has been cleverly re-designed to minimise crossover and has been quickly adopted by the community.

The old servery, now affectionately known as "the snug" has a number of smaller, more intimate tables to sit at whilst dining continues into the State Room and on into the Temple Room. The long tables remain, but the benches have been replaced with chairs which offer more comfort and flexibility.

So far we have received some very positive feedback from staff, pupils and even parents!

Mr Geoff Higgins, Catering Manager

The Old Stoic Dinner

The Old Stoic Dinners are held annually and are always very successful. This year over 100 Old Stoics attended, their ages ranging from mid twenties to those in their 70's, and were also joined by a group of current Stoics. Many friends, Fathers and Sons attended together to be reunited with old friends from their memorable times at Stowe. The Dinner was held at the beautiful Inner Temple based in the heart of London's legal quarter and is one of the four ancient Inns of Court.

After taking part in Charlotte Matthews' charity fundraising concert to help raise funds for her Gap year trip to Gambia, myself and four other current Stoics; Gus Perkins-Ray, Immy Brabant, Floss Hopewell and Charlotte Mathews, were given the honour of providing the after dinner entertainment for the Old Stoics. The repertoire included "The flower Duet", "All I want is a Room in Bloomsbury" from the school's recent production of 'The Boyfriend' and a finale of "Hey Jude" performed by Gus.

The evening was highly enjoyable and the delicious menu coupled with a room full of great company including the first Head Girl of Stowe was topped off by a witty speech given by the Headmaster. It was most certainly an evening to remember and one that left the eight current pupils very proud to be Stoics

Rosie Gawthrop (Nugent, L6th)



Richard Branson- The Branson Scholars

I had an extra-ordinary day when I went with my fellow Branson scholars to visit Sir Richard Branson. Once again I felt out of the ordinary, knowing very well that I'm going home very soon. Our trip to meet Mr Branson was an eye-opener, he encouraged us to achieve anything we want to achieve in life, even though he left early from Stowe he managed to start his own company and expand in prosperity. We spoke to so many business men and women alike, people that started from scratch. His house is pretty big but his garden is enormous, he has a river going through it and behind his lawn he has a cricket pitch. We told him that he is very welcome at the Dominican school and that people are very keen to see him, so he said that he will [hopefully] come in July because he's coming to South Africa on business. Overall our journey was perfect and at the moment life can't get better than this!

Khamuka Moloi (Cobham 4th Form)



Most notable achievement:— Consistently ranked as No. 1 Boy's House for TWO attainment and effort

One line statement that sums up Bruce:—Good House, Good Boys, Good Year!

From the Housemaster;

Bruce welcomed me as their new Housemaster after eight years of strong leadership from Mr Michael. With the 'Super-Matron' Ann Lake, the very energetic, positive Upper Sixth form and the set of House Prefects helping to 'show me the ropes', I can now reflect on a very good year indeed for Bruce, with many triumphs in a wide variety of areas.

Firstly the Bruce boys have proven themselves to be a studious bunch, with excellent TWO and exam grades. Many have won themselves places on the regular cinema trips for the top achievers in Bruce. The highest number of 'pluses' this year have been picked up by:- 3rds – Billy Lawrence-Thorne (61), 4ths – Tom Baylis (35), 5ths – Dham Srifuengfung (69 - highest in the year), L6th – Alex Bodian (35), U6th – Spasimir Vladimirov (45). Mark Goodenough has done extremely well to be offered a place to read Computer Science at Jesus College Cambridge. We would also like to congratulate our Speech day Prize Winners this year – Jamie Bailey, Mark Goodenough, Robert Higham, Jonty Irving, Monty Lewis, Anton Melnikov, Ben Paton, James Saunders, Dham Srifuengfung and Spasimir Vladimirov.

Bruce have thoroughly enjoyed the varied Inter-House activities throughout the year and managed to pick up several trophies including: Individual Badminton (Craig Browne) and Team Senior Badminton; Senior Chess; Senior Rugby (Plate); Senior Fives; Individual Intermediate Squash (James Saunders); Junior Basketball; Junior Debating (Imran Momen, Gareth Browne and Henry Stockdale); Individual Swimming (William Jackson) and Team Junior Swimming as well as Junior Fives. Many boys have given their best when competing for the House in these competitions where their efforts are much appreciated and enjoyed.

The Bruce 'At Home' was a fantastic showcase for the varied talents that are emerging. Alex Bodian (percussion), Liam Forster (clarinet), Mike Gutkins (piano) and, of course, Luke Davison, added some very impressive, high class musical pieces to an entertainment show that also included some amusing films utilising the skills of Jonty Irving and Dom Nazeri. Some fine group singing pieces followed, including a 'Bruce rap', as well as more traditional covers ending with a lively and engaging set from the Bruce band of Isi Madojemu, Tom Rawicz-Szczerbo, Alex Bodian, Miles Bailey and Jamie Bailey.

On the Stage, Jonty Irving, Monty Lewis, and Chris Lord performed in the Senior Congreve, 'The Boy Friend' and Gareth Browne, G-T Svanikier, Billy Lawrance-Thorne and Imran Momen are busy rehearsing for the Junior Congreve, A Midsummer Nights Dream.

Congratulations to the following for being selected to be School Prefects next year: Alex Bodian, Luke Rust (both Senior Prefects), Craig Holton, Champ Panyarachun and Ollie Childs.

When asked in a recent questionnaire "what is the best thing about Bruce?" the overwhelming response was – 'the friendly people in the house and the general happy atmosphere.' The excellent group of Brucites in this year's Upper Sixth form have certainly played a major part in creating this. They will be fondly remembered and we wish them every success in the future.

Mr Craig Sutton

Housemaster – Craig Sutton
Matron – Ann Lake
Under Housemaster and 4th Form Tutor – Charlie Barker
3rd Form Tutor – Alan Murray
5th Form Tutor – Tom O'Toole
L6th Form Tutors – Rory Akam and Panos John
Attaches – Eric Krieger and Caroline Alary
Head of House – Craig Browne
House Prefects – Jonty Irving, Monty Lewis, Spasimir Vladimirov



© R&H Chapman Photography

Bruce Head of House Report

"When you're close to tears remember, some day it'll all be over" was the depressing first line of our house song and couldn't contrast any more with the fun and friendly atmosphere that has enveloped Bruce this year. Mr Sutton joined us as Housemaster in September and clearly didn't know what he'd let himself in for: a simply bizarre collection of individuals. Mr Barker was also new as Under-housemaster and quickly made his mark. For clarification, just look at the state of his flat! Matron has been brilliant as always and so supportive that she even made the pilgrimage up to watch house cricket on the Bourbon, in the rain. That my friends, is commitment!

We've also had a reasonably successful year, a phenomenally dire Coldstream Cup aside. Bruce dominated in undoubtedly the most important sport played at Stowe, Badminton, and so naturally all other successes were overshadowed, apart from the brilliant Junior House debating victory by Gareth Browne (Yes, we're distant relatives), Henry Stockdale and Imran Omen.

Within the bricks of the gorgeous 1970's building that is Bruce, a committed prefect team has overseen a silky smooth transition between housemasters. Jonty Irving and Monty Lewis, despite having practically the same name, have been extremely supportive as has the hardest-working, and only, Bulgarian in the house, Spasimir Vladimirov. House seniors were appointed once Mr Sutton (or 'Soap Sutt's' as he is affectionately known) had had time to get to know everyone better. Dan Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Dom Nazari, Chris Lord and Mark Goodenough have been simply good enough (sorry, I couldn't resist). Tristan Phipps has led a lively and, to a certain extent, funny 3rd form in their pursuit of topping the social ladder whilst the 5th form, and particularly Dham Srfuengfung, have been unbelievable in every TWO session.

I have really enjoyed my role as Head of House this year. The main perk was the sofa that I was allowed in my room however it has been great fun in every way. Hopefully I've done a good job, along with the house prefects, and maybe one day there will be three working machines in the house computer room.

Craig Browne, Head of House



Head of House keeps control



6th Form dance



Leavers 2009



Senior Rugby



The finely tuned 6th form athletes



Cheese & biscuits on Saturday night with Mr & Mrs Sutton



X-Country 4th & 5th form - raring to go??



The angelic 3rd form!



A new boy arrives!



Bruce

From the Housemaster

This has been another superb year for Chandos, ably led by Alex Cameron. His prefects (Matthew Constant, Bint Bencharongkul and Edwin Maganjo) have all made significant contributions to the effective running and motivation within the house and also deserve a great deal of credit for their efforts. The House has been happy, successful and driven.

The year started off very well, with all of our football teams making it through to the finals on the first weekend of term. The 3rd form showed a good deal of skill on the sports pitch and boundless energy too. This continued through to the other competitions in the year as the House ended up winning the Junior House rugby leagues, the Yearlings rugby 7's, the 3rd form badminton, the House sailing, the Intermediate hockey and the Yearlings hockey competitions. In addition, we placed 2nd in the House debating, with superb performances from James Elliott, Cully Curwen, James Gordon Reid and Elliot Barnes. Unfortunately we came up against an equally good Chatham side in the final, who just pipped us at the post. Cross-country has always been one of our fortes and this year was no exception. There were fine runs from Jonny Constant, Freddie Clarke and Jake Olley in the Juniors, as well as from Matthew Lockyer, James Elliott and Tom Rook in the seniors. However, our Intermediates stole the show with four boys in the top 10: Henry Rudd (3rd), Cameron Cox (4th), Edmund Robinson (5th) and Andrew Welford (9th) – an outstanding achievement. Tom ter Haar and Oliver Jackson have been steadily climbing the House Fives ladder and developed well as the year progressed, finishing in 2nd place. We also came 2nd in both the 4th form squash and in the 5th form rugby competitions.

On the academic front the House triumphed again, gaining some excellent TWO scores and also winning the merit league for all of the boy's houses in both the Christmas and Summer terms. The Literary Quiz was also a highlight of the more cerebral competitions, as Oliver Cox captained the team of Charles Dedman, Felix Edelsten and Daniel Capurro to victory in the boys' competition.

On the musical front, Edward McDonald and James Gordon Reid both won their classes in the Stowe Piano Festival and James was also awarded the Gilling-Lax prize for Strings. We have 22 boys taking music lessons in the House and the breadth of talent was clearly illustrated in our House 'At Home'. The pieces ranged from Beethoven, through classical composition, jazz and rock. Momentum has also continued to build in the House singing competition and the Part song in particular was excellent this year, with James Gordon Reid, Tom Rook, James Blackham, Edward McDonald & Guy Turner singing 'Westlife'.

Finally, we have also had a number of notable achievements outside of the school, with Charlie Wright competing in downhill mountain biking competitions, Tom Zhai coming 3rd in the National 'Go' Championships and Henry Rudd cycling 100 miles in a day to raise money for the cricket tour.

Housemaster	Mr B.G.Durrant	Under-Housemaster	Mr M.J.Walsh-Woolcott
Matron	Mrs C.E.Hill-Hall	6th Form tutor	Mr M.Pitteway
6th Form tutor	Mr P.S.Miller	4th form tutor	Mr C.Peratopoulos
3rd Form tutor	Mr R.N.M.Rendall	Head of House	Alex Cameron
House prefect	Bint Bencharongkul	House prefect	Matthew Constant
House prefect	Edwin Maganjo	Most notable achievement	Winning the plate final for cricket, despite not having any 1st XI or 2nd XI players

Chandos: a committed, charismatic, confident community.



Head of House Report

Our final year at Stowe has been and gone and think it safe to say that it was the most enjoyable and rewarding. Five years when you are 3rd form seems an awfully long time but I can assure you that it goes very quickly and it doesn't seem that long ago that I was being dropped off at the front door on the first day.

This year started off strongly with the bright new arrival of Mr Rendall, the new 3rd form tutor, who has already brought a great deal to the house, whether it may be cheering us up when he is on duty to helping out hugely with the Coldstream cup, which although a valiant effort from all team members, did not see Chandos in the top three, however I think provided a good bench mark to start from next term.

Chandos as a house has preformed well this year, on and off the sports field, and just to name a few, despite being robbed at the house singing, Chandos and our beautiful singing voices progressed to final of the house debating, won the plate in house cricket, gained a victory in the junior house rugby and continues to be the best situated house in school, a mere 20m from the dining room.

With a united and efficient prefect team, things in house ran smoothly and the juniors may have found their bed time a little early, on more than one occasion so that we could catch the last ten minutes of "The Inbetweeners" on TV.

This year does not see the departure of only the Upper 6th, and this has also been the last year for our under housemaster Mr Walsh-Woolcott, with Mr Rendal to be the future under house master.

Mr Walsh-Woolcott has given a huge amount to the house over the years so a big thank you to him, from all the leavers.

Lastly a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Durrant and our beloved Matron, Claire Hill-Hall who looked after us these past few years and kept us on track.

Good luck to all those who have done exams and I wish all the best for my fellow leavers and next years Upper 6th.

Alex Cameron



Chandos



"Chatham House has a very strong identity. It is a great sporting and academic environment that allows people to develop all areas of their personality"

From the Housemaster;

An eventful year with much success and a considerable amount of change. On returning from the summer holidays the prefects settled in to their newly refurbished and completely transformed rooms. We are very grateful to Alexandra and Ralph Abel Smith for their generous contribution to make the work possible. After the retirement of Tally Kettler, our long serving and very successful Matron, Caroline Firth came to us directly from a career in the National Health service and has taken to her new role with ease. Although at times she has possibly questioned the sanity of her decision to change careers, Caroline has quickly established herself as an approachable, caring and very capable Matron. Caroline has very much been an integral part of the team, helping to run Chatham, ably supported (no pun intended) by a team of Tutors and the House prefects. Ed Abel Smith has been outstanding as the Head of House. His sense of pride in Chatham and the desire to make sure that we bring the very best out of all Chathamites has inspired Chatham to even greater heights this year, with many sporting successes and a particularly notable win in the senior debating. Academically we have performed very well, with a number of boys achieving 100% in public exam modules and consequently very much on track for some excellent grades. So far this year Chathamites have been awarded an incredible 1448 merits, 37 commendations and 4 Benes. Our achievements can be expressed as about a 200% increase on last years tally at this stage! A combination perhaps of a much improved work ethic in the House and increasing expectations from my teaching colleagues. Early in the year we entertained the parents with a great afternoon of fun on the occasion of the 'At Home', with perhaps our finest hour of various sketches, the Chatham jazz band and some very dodgy guest appearances by the "home team" We have marked the end of the year with a similarly successful informal picnic and golf day for parents and sons.

We bid a sad farewell to Ed and Sally Surrey, as they head "down under" for some Western Australian sunshine. Ed is returning to what he was doing before he came to Chatham, working in a Church. For these past two years Ed has been a very hard working and extremely reliable Underhousemaster. We will miss him and Sally and wish them the best of luck for the future. David Ardley also leaves us this term. Duty nights without 'Ardles' just won't be the same and we will all miss his sense of fun, always tempered with a desire to get the best from the boys. Bonne chance David. With Stowe and Chatham House featuring on a Channel 4 production in June and a video appearance planned for a "fly on the wall" look at a House on the new Stowe website, Chatham has enjoyed a rather higher profile than usual in recent weeks. With much refurbishment planned for the summer we look forward with anticipation to next September and the new challenges that brings.

Mr John Ing

Housemaster;	Mr J.L. Ing
UH and 3rd Form Tutor;	Mr E. S. Surrey
Matron;	Ms C. Firth
4th Form Tutor;	Ms D.J. Arscott
5th Form Tutor;	Mr R.W.J. Tait
6th Form Tutor;	Mr D. I. Ardley
6th Form Tutor;	Mr B.L. Johnson
6th Form Tutor;	Mr S.H. Malling
6th Form Tutor;	Mr C.C. Robinson
6th Form Tutor	Mr T. Wright
Head of House	Ed Abel Smith
Deputy H of H	Angus Blayney
House Prefect	Michael Beaumont
House Prefect	Jack Berner
House Prefect	David Devlin-Jones
House Prefect	Matthew Gibson
House Prefect	Philip Pitcher
House Prefect	Henry White



Chatham Head of House Report

As I write this, I can look back on what has been a great year for Chatham! With a crop of new 3rd formers, a few new lower sixth formers and a new Matron, it was a fresh start for the house. We have had a great year of inter-house competitions, having won everything from the more academic like the Senior House Debating to the sporting side like the Senior House Golf to the simply bizarre; the alternative sports day! Here we showed some excellent skill like the tug of war, the egg throwing and the egg and spoon race. We got to the Semi-finals of the Rugby, Hockey and the Cricket. Chatham won the shooting in the 'Coldstream Cup', near getting maximum points, which is obviously the most important part of the competition.

As usual, in true Chatham spirit, our Christmas Dinner was an eclectic mix of entertainment, food and fun. We had also had a fantastic 'At home,' and house picnic.

This year, Chatham says goodbye to the Upper Sixth who are now entering the world of Gap Years and University. It has been great to spend the last five years with many of them, and two years with the others. It is sad for all of us to leave, but also exciting for what the future holds. We would all like to wish all the very best to the new Lower Sixth and the whole house. We would especially like to thank all the Chatham Staff: Mr and Mrs Ing, Miss Firth, Mr and Mrs Surrey and the Tutors as well as the support staff who have all been amazing at running the house. We would also like to say goodbye to The Surreys and Mr Ardley and wish them all the best in the future!

Edward Abel-Smith



Chatham





From the Housemaster;

I think that the greatest compliment that I can pay a departing group of U6th is that they have succeeded in leaving the house better than they found it at the beginning of their tenure 'at the top'. Unusually the whole of this year's Cobham U6th were House Prefects and they fully justified the faith that this decision placed in them. The key to their success has been the leadership summed up by George Van Valkenburg when he said that "Leadership is doing what is right when no one is watching". This has helped us to create an atmosphere where diversity is celebrated and success of all forms is rewarded. So what about the highlights of the year:

The Cobham Family

There has been stability on the staff front as our wonderful Matron, Eve Collins, and ever-generous Under-Housemaster, Huw Jones, were foolish enough to stick with me for another year. Indeed, I have still failed to shake them off and they will make up the House team again next year. Kate remains my ever-patient pillar of strength. Cobham Parents have featured strongly this year. We enjoyed a lovely evening of dinner and musical entertainment in late November followed by the Cobham Compass run the next day for which so many of you supported your sons in a generous way and indeed in which some parents ran. The summer saw us hold our annual Fathers v Sons cricket match and picnic. We were lucky again with the weather and we enjoyed a relaxed and fun afternoon on the Bourbon. Parental support for these occasions and in fact for the house in a broader sense is essential to our sense of 'family' and so it was great to have such wholehearted and widespread support for the events mentioned above.

The boys remain fiercely loyal to 'Team Cobham' and this sense of spirit has brought with it the usual clutch of house trophies. We are particularly strong on the sports front in the middle part of the house and it was therefore not a great surprise that we won the Colts Inter-House Rugby with some ease and the 4th form won the indoor football. Andre Van was made captain of basketball and he led the house to victory in the Senior Basketball competition with the Juniors losing our narrowly in their final. 3rd Form table tennis and 4th Form rugby also yielded silverware. Balthazar Mattar and Gus Perkins-Ray continue to be musical stars within the school, winning the Oxford Piano Trio in December among many other things. Gus' performance in The Boyfriend made us all very proud that he was a Cobhamite.

The Boys

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Let's Play

One of the most pleasing moments of the year was the award to Cobham on Speech Day of the Drayson Prize for Service. Bob Drayson was a highly-regarded former headmaster of Stowe who put much emphasis on Stoics conducting community service. Freddie Prendergast collected the award on behalf of the house as the Charities Prefect, but the whole house contributed in raising money, visiting the Let's Play charity and helping out with the disabled youngsters or in helping to organise our fund-raising efforts. Through our Compass Run, the sale of Valentine's roses, a Home Clothes Day and the Alternative Sports Day, we have managed to raise over £3000 this academic year. As we rush from sports field to classroom, from music practice room to exam hall, I hope that our engagement with Let's Play has given the boys the chance to look up and outward at some point.

Housemaster: Matthew Way

Under-Housemaster: Huw Jones

Matron: Eve Collins

House Tutors: Mike Dawson; Peter Staples; Eric Krieger; Matthew Wilson

Head of House: Max Fossett

Deputy Head of House: Andrew Consett

Best achievement: Raising over £3000 for the Let's Play charity and our engagement with them.

House Prefects: Rowley Barclay; George Hunter; Felix Parker; Freddie Prendergast; Azree Rashid; Xandie Trevor; Andre Van



From the Head of House: Leavers 2009

Rowley Barclay - 1st XV Rugby and Athletics both of which at county level, he has also started getting involved in point to point racing, as well as being a talented pianist, playing in school concerts throughout his Stowe career. 'Best known for his talents in Wunning, Wugby and Widing'.

Andrew Consett - A spirited cross-country runner, awarded colours. 3rd XI cricket have been lucky to have had such a talented bowler. 'Very keen deputy/secretary for the Head of House and always looking for more responsibilities to take on (or a promotion)'.

Felix Parker - As well as being a valuable member of 3rd XV rugby, Felix also did a good job as captain of Cobham water polo and he won the charity Compass Run. 'A popular House Prefect and legendary for his neat hair'.

Freddie Prendergast - Fred was in charge of Cobham charity events, helping us to raise a healthy £5,000+ in total for Let's Play, Sindisa Foundation and Adam Rogers Trust. He was chosen as a School Prefect and Captain of Hittites rugby, and was part of x-country and Coldstream Cup teams. He also won the Gap Year Scholarship. 'Cobham was lucky enough to have Fred as he was able to tackle any technical problem'.

Max Fossett - Chosen as Head of House, Max also represented 1st XV rugby and 3rd XI cricket. 'Always one to volunteer, Max has been very motivating and has been a great leader of the house mainly down to his inspiring speeches and organisational skills.'

Azree Rashid - A dedicated School Prefect and valuable member of 1st Basketball Team, Azree has done a good job at representing the school. 'Also Azree was a keen long-distance runner. In 5 years never has Azree been late for a lesson or received any punishment. Some would say he is the model Stoic...'

Andre Van - Captain of the 1st Basketball team leading them to an undefeated season as well as leading the Cobham team to winning the senior House Basketball Cup. Andre has worked tirelessly with aims of becoming a Doctor. Andre was also part of the X-Country and Coldstream Cup Teams.

Xandie Trevor - Just falling short of being Senior Prefect, he settled well into the role of School Prefect. Xandie has taken part in almost all house events, leading by example with his willing and enthusiastic take on situations. He did a great job captaining the Coldstream Cup and Stowe Sailing Teams. 'Winning the house sailing cup three years in a row as well as captaining the team, Xandie is referred to by fellow sailors as "The Pirate of the 11 Acre Lake.'

George Hunter - He was clearly a valuable member of the School Prefect team, also taking a leading role in Stowe 1st XV Rugby, Jazz Band and Stowe Orchestra. We're very proud to have a potential Cambridge student among us, and despite George only being with us for 2 years he fitted in from day one and has always been willing to help with inter-house events.



Cobham



From the Housemaster

This year has been a great success for Grafton. It began with the appointment of Felix Stevenson as Head Boy, a strong new intake to the third form, and a positive atmosphere in the house led by Olly Tett, and his team of prefects.

It would be easy to give a list of cups won this year, as a demonstration of success (rugby, hockey, badminton, soccer, cricket, tennis, cross country, swimming, water polo, squash), but that would only tell half the story, because the successes won have been based upon a strength of character from the house, a desire to do their best, and an unwillingness to admit that they are beaten.

This has also been reflected in a wider sphere than house competition, with academic strides being made by the majority, as seen in steadily improving TWO grades, some excellent module results, both at A level and GCSE through the course of the year, and some good university offers won at the top end of the house.

None of this would have been possible without a very strong team supporting the house, with the tutors, who have worked very hard for Grafton this year. In particular, I would like to single out Mr Hayden, who took over as under-housemaster and 3rd form tutor from Mr Mochan, and has made a real impact, and of course Mrs B, who remains tireless in her devotion to the boys in the house.

Finally, I would like to thank those that are leaving at the end of this year. From the 5th form, Michael Platts-Martin is going to West Buckland having shown his ability by making the 1st XI cricket this summer. Then from the U6 we say goodbye to Freddie Alexander (captain of swimming and water polo – two successes for Grafton), Peter Chong (a dedicated student who will surely find his way to all As at A level), Angus Hay (a star of the 1st XV and sevens), Richard Hay (the hardest working man in the theatre, and a crack shot on the clays), Oli Heath (an excellent prefect, and captain of the rugby leagues), Fred Hicks (1st team tennis and superb artist), Hamish Musker (made it! And off to Goldsmith's as well, captained the house soccer winners), Henry Pilleau (CCF maestro, and a good hockey and rugby man), Felix Stevenson (a superb head boy, with talents in so many areas), Magash Saugabayev (a fine swimmer, and a good man) and Olly Tett (captain of hockey and cricket, and head of house).

Finally this year, we said farewell to Stefan Rogge at Christmas, who has since suffered a serious injury on the polo field, and I know that our thoughts will be with him and his family in the coming months.

To sum up Grafton –

Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.

[quote of the week, September 2008, from Wigan RLFC]

Housemaster	Chris Townsend
Under Housemaster	James Hayden
Matron	Terri Bosman
Tutors	David Critchley
	Alan Hughes
	Ian Young
	Dominic Mochan
	Tom Blampied
Head of House	Olly Tett
Head Boy	Felix Stevenson
House prefects	Oli Heath
	Fred Hicks
	Magash Saugabayev
	Angus Hay
Most notable achievement	Winning the senior house rugby 2008



Head of House Report

Mr Townsend (more commonly known as 'The Ref' in house) has encouraged us all throughout the year with inspirational quotes each week. 'It's not the size that counts, it's the way you use it' was my favourite and was used to explain how we managed to obliterate Walpole in the house rugby final after an epic semi against Chatham (favourites to win). Our team, starring 'Raging Ricko' and 'Petrifying Pilleau', managed to produce a fantastic win. Mr Hayden moved from Walpole, to join the better house this year, and provided us with vital inside information on our main rivals. He managed to fill our 'under-dog' hearts with courage and pride with a truly sensational team talk! Our beloved Matron, Mrs B, has never failed to deliver when called upon and helped us to develop into the fine young gentlemen we are today. Any ache or pain, no matter the severity, is cured with a simple Tea spoon of Calpol and "This'll do the trick, be brave lovey!"

We have appeared in many a house final this year, including hockey and tennis! Rugby has not been Grafton's only victory mind. We came out on top in the Swimming Gala and, everybody's favourite, the X-country! If only the Directors trophy was still around, a certain trophy for the house! I am still not sure of the truth behind this rumour, but Grafton is said to have once been the site of the mansion's stables. This stable has won too many trophies to count this year (and managed to retain the ice hockey cup...!) I think this says a lot about us as 'stable boys!'

The day Mr. Townsend asked me to take on the role as Head of House of Grafton I felt a mixture of emotions. I was nervous, asking myself; 'would the guys respect me?' I was excited about having the biggest room and my own fridge though! But I was also sure that the support of all my friends in house would help me to combat the pressure and issues I was presented with. In the end I am very pleased to say that issues have been few and far between!

I have made 10 lifelong companions in my time in Grafton and wish the best of luck to each and every one of them in the near and distant future and will also do my best to keep in contact with them all!

Olly Tett



Grafton



From the Housemaster;

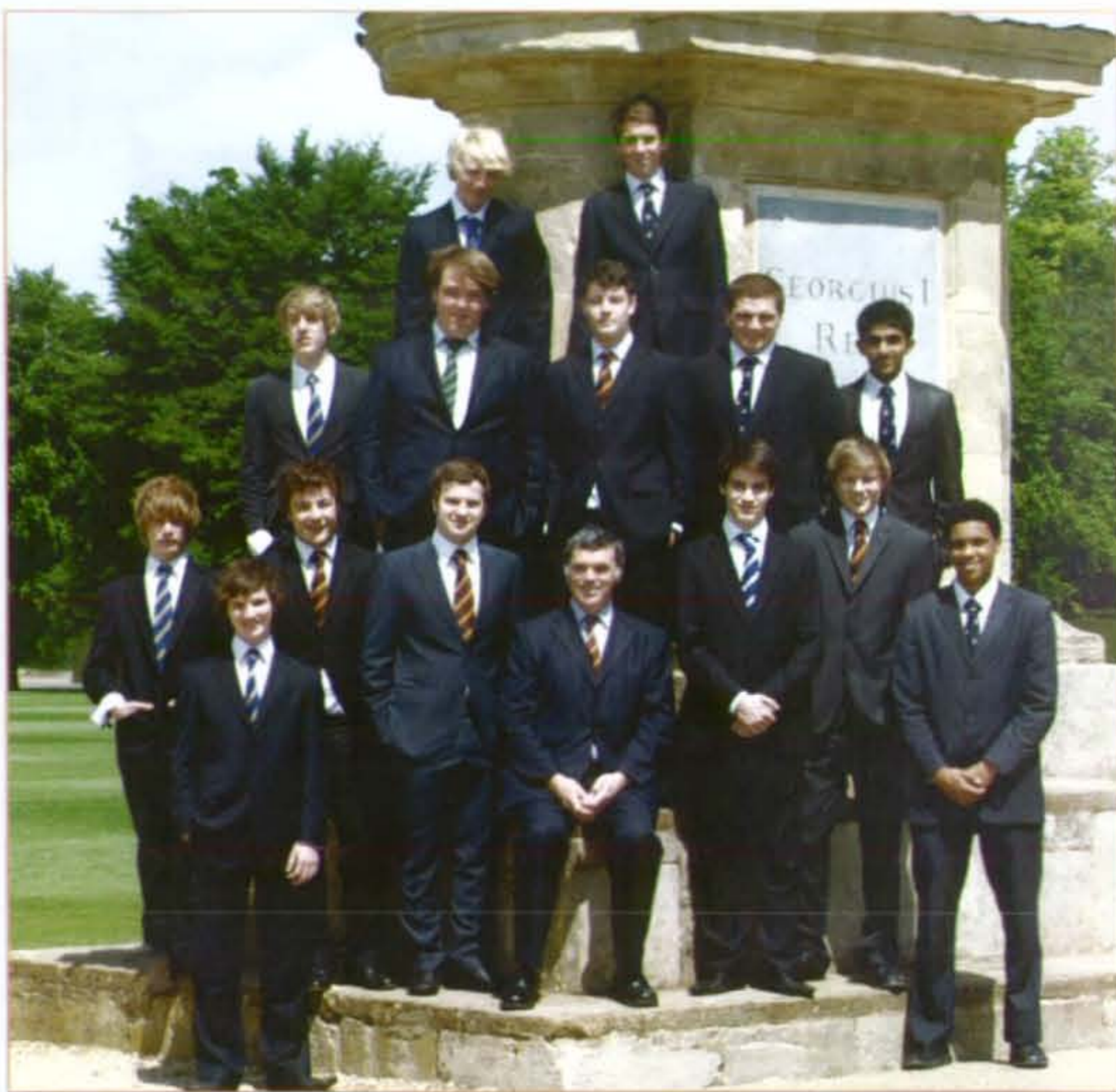
Fine wines receive their accolades over time, through trial and experience; the year of 2008-2009 for Grenville, though good, is still to be judged. Undoubtedly Harry Burke has been a formidable Head of House: intellectually hot – top scholar – and a "glory boy" three quarter for the 1st & 2nd XV Rugby, he has faced every challenge head on and boys throughout the House have respected and admired him. His loyal deputy, Robbie Cameron, and other House Prefects – Michael Warner, Will Page-Ratcliff and Alexey Grabarnik – have enabled him to command Grenville with a blend of rigour, efficiency and fairness. The support and example given by the rest of the Sixth Form has generally been excellent too.

Successes: Swimming has been as successful as ever this year – lots of cups were claimed by Alexey Grabarnik and Anders Palm – and Grenville did well in the Waterpolo too. Junior Soccer Leagues, Coldstream Cup, House Singing, 3rd Form Football & Hockey, Senior Cricket (admittedly Leagues) ... were all fiercely and successfully contested – Grenville are Senior Tennis Champions – and the House can boast some serious academics and musicians.

Memories: summer barbeques, winter term pizzas (dutifully cooked by Mrs Knight), the vain attempts to get Nickleby to tidy his room and for Jamie Robson to avoid using the colonnade fire door; did we ever catch Mishaal working? Who can forget the dulcet tones of Matron summoning her dog in the courtyard? The snow ... the Swine flu ... and how we all went home ... and actually missed each other.

Hopes: I hope Grenville will maintain its style and poise and that the boys will remain true to themselves, kind to each other and more zealous for the greater good of the House. Complacency must be avoided. Some promising wines do not make the grade; some good wines go off. Don't forget that some unremarkable grapes produce the very best results ... at Christmas I leave Grenville ... the new Upper 6th will I am sure enable 2010 to be a vintage year.

Housemaster	Mr Richard Knight
Under-Housemaster	Mr Henry Swayne
Assistant Under-Housemaster	Mr Mark Blew
Tutors	Mr Gwilym Jones
	Mr Lionel Weston
	Dr David Smith
	Mr Michael Righton
Matron	Mrs Emma Whitehead
Head of House	Harry Burke
School Prefect	Alexey Grabarnik
Deputy Head of House	Robbie Cameron
House Prefects	Will Page-Ratcliff
	Michael Warner



Grenville Head of House Report: Who's Who 2009

Keiran Hagan - Although only joining for sixth form, Keiran had his heart set on Grenville from the moment he worked out it sounded the most like 'Gryffindor.' Since then he has been a credit to the house, representing the school in rugby. No one will quickly forget his impressive range of sleeveless vests, nor the day he was once spotted wearing jeans.

Michael Warner - Whatever Michael has attempted during his time in Grenville he has done so with a smile on his face. The last five years have seen him rise to the heights of house prefect, a role he has performed with great reliability. He has also played for the school golf first team.

George Riddick - George has risen in stature, quite literally, over his five years at Grenville, being an all round asset to the house, or at least the boy with the most skills. Has usurped the head of house as school Captain of Athletics. George seems to be most comfortable, though, enjoying slightly slower country pursuits, particularly fishing, for which he has travelled far and wide, like Canada.

Alexey Grabarnik - School Captain of Swimming, Alexey seems to be the only person to have justified the building of a new house trophy cabinet, his whitewash at the House Swimming really giving him a reason to hold his chest out proud. Alexey is a House Prefect and School Senior Prefect, fulfilling both roles with great acclaim.

Will Page-Ratcliff - Although never quite becoming a professional cricketer, Bitty has nonetheless gone on to captain the school 3rd XI with great dedication. He has also proven to be a very committed house prefect, although he probably should have been under head of house, but oh well. He has proven an incredibly popular character in the TV room, as well as a generous provider of crisps and drinks.

Luke Sparrow - Hasn't changed at all since third form, in fact his cartoon taste hasn't changed since he was about five. However his music taste has nonetheless matured greatly, as he has dedicated himself a lot to his guitar and drums. He has found a particular talent in running, contributing fantastically to the successful house Coldstream Cup team, and never fails to make people laugh in Grenville, even when he doesn't mean to.

Alex Wipfler - Although only being with us for 0.5 of our Stowe career, Alex has proved a hugely laid back influence in the common room. However, I don't want to write anything rude about him here as he has particularly excelled in karate during his time at Stowe, aspiring to be the next Chris Tucker. He's only half way there though.

Abey Phillip - Another joiner for sixth form, Abey contributed greatly to the house cricket, representing the school 2nd XI. Another laid back character, his friendly presence has been much appreciated all year.

Petko Pishinov - Although only joining for sixth form, Petko decided he couldn't get enough of Grenville, and stayed on for an extra year, the only downside being he could no longer get the rest of us up from our seats in the TV room. He has contributed greatly to school badminton, as well as transferring his racket skills to the squash court.

Jamie Robson - Robson has found a particular talent in slower sports such as shooting, where he has become the school's top gun. However he also pursues a much more energetic activity playing cops and robbers with the teachers in the school grounds. Although a quieter member of Grenville, he will be sorely missed for his many entertaining true stories.

Robbie Cameron - Esteemed deputy head of house. Has represented the school first team in tennis, and helped lead the house team to victory in the house tennis competition. However, he has represented the house across the board, particularly showing his dedication in the Coldstream Cup. Was awarded his house tie, for a while.

Nickleby Evans - School golf captain, Nickleby has also represented first teams in tennis, hockey and football, leading him to appoint himself house sports captain. However reserves his true talent for the dance floor in centre on a Saturday night, at least when he's not in DT.

Blake Woodruff - CLASSIFIED.

Harry Burke - The Hermione Granger of Grenville, earning his fair share of house points. However his greatest success at the school was the day when all the fifth form turned up to stance.

Harry Burke





From the Housemistress

One line; every wise mans daughter doth know, thou need look no further

This has been a very important year for Lyttleton as our first 13 year olds have reached the upper sixth and are about to leave having been an outstanding year group and great role models to the generations of girls who will follow in their footsteps. They have all been high achieving, talented and good fun in their own way, contributing to the progress of the whole school. In Lyttleton we are especially grateful to Camilla Carr Smith who has been a warm and vibrant head of house, as well as Poppy Fisher, Lara Simpkin and Charlotte Matthews who have led the house through a successful year. Our most notable achievement has been the positive attitude and harmonious ambiance in the house this year.

Housemistress:	Mrs Gracie
Underhousemistress:	Miss Ross
Matron:	Mrs Pohlmann
Tutors:	Mrs Dawson, Mrs McMahon, Mrs Miller, Mr Gabbatiss, Miss Sebastian
Head of House:	Camilla Carr-Smith
House Prefects:	Poppy Fisher, Lara Simpkin Charlotte Matthews

In the house singing Charlotte Matthews trained everyone up for an action packed Mama Mia rendition.. For the part song Helena Kealey, Charlotte Matthews and Charlotte Everitt sang "More than Words" by Extreme, a truly beautiful song and they did it justice.

In Coldstream Cup, Natalie McDaid was tireless and produced a polished squad, honing their skills to perfection in her quiet way. They won the assault course, the drill and the parade. Camilla Carr Smith, Laura Grossick, Katie Robertson, Chessie Hutt, Josie Broughton, Pippa Farr and Loochie Trevor made up our team. Natalie won the Nulli Secundus Cup for the most efficient NCO of the year as she was professional and meticulous in every way. It was great to see a girl win for the first time too.

In Basketball the junior team won quite convincingly.

For inter-house swimming the intermediate girls took all the silverware on offer and Chessie Hutt and Ellie Rix gave fantastic performances. Chessie had the chance to set the first Stowe intermediate girls records.

In the house Chess tournament we won the girl's award and came second to Bruce in the final. Players Natalie McDaid, Anna Brodskaya, Thea Dorenberg, Kate Manser and Becky Woods.

In the junior debating we also reached the final, again coming runners-up to Bruce, after three emotive rounds passionately defended by Ellie Rix, Cornelia Prior, Chessie Hutt, Kate Manser, with Rebecca Elliott contributing to the research.

On the Drama front there was a stunning production of The Boy Friend in which Charlotte Everitt played Hortense, Anna Brodskaya and Thea Dorenberg danced the tango, Yasmin Hughes was in the chorus and Rachael Millard and Bobbie Staden were backstage doing hair and make up. The fifth form put on a performance of Romanof and Juliet in which Tanya Prytula, Arabella Midwood, Kate Manser, Cornelia Prior and Rebecca Elliot gave convincing performances.

Interhouse cross-country was completed in fairly appalling conditions. Laura Grossick won the senior event with room to spare and Liliias Wigan came in next for Lyttleton. In the intermediate race Loochie Trevor came in second. The first junior girl in was Charlotte Lechmere, followed by Georgia Stone.



Head of House Report

It seems Lyttelton has stolen the show once again this year. Ring master Juicy Judy has kept the crowds amazed with her glitz, glamour, impressive management and loving nature- keeping our show slick, successful and on top of the game. Her new and foxy assistant Oracle Olive has brought a touch of gloss with her this year and proved to have wowed audiences with her kind and gentle manner, looking after all of us performers throughout the year, we are all eternally thankful to them both. The stars of the show have however been the Trapezing Twins Mills and Poppy- showing that no gap is too big to jump, they have performed marvels, whilst also proving to keep the wild little beasts well at bay back stage, taming and nurturing the new ones, who all seem to be developing into splendid and mature young animals. Their side-kicks Lara (camel herder extraordinaire) and Charlotte (Greek goddess) have also proved to be incredible role models. We have had some truly exotic imports this year. The Lions have been coming on well- although taming their manes has proved to be a bit of a problem, Juicy Judy having particular trouble with mavericks Zoë and Lara, although she seems undaunted by their feisty tempers and continues to pursue them with a brush before their morning performance. Animal rights group PETA have released a statement saying: 'this is in fact good for the animals.' Our class clown acts Lexi, Rosie and Loochie continue to keep audiences entertained, whilst escape artist Katie has attempted her most daring stunt yet- risking her life in pursuit of her art went down a stormer. The Inspectors, dazzled by all of our performances, had only positive things to say about us all. Reviewers have nothing but good things to say about the show this year, showing we are an all round class act- success, fun, glitz, glam and most of all adding a bit of joy to life. Finally, Becky Woods continues to do well with her flea circus.

*Mills Carr-Smith, Head of House
with assistance from Laura Grossick*



Lyttelton





From the Housemistress

Stowe is a vibrant, magical, yet challenging place at times and being a boarder at a school like this is tough! You have to be independent, organised, flexible and prepared to relinquish home comforts for the hurly burly life that Stowe demands of us! Back in September 08 we had plenty of tears and feelings of unrest (from Lower 6 I might add, not the Housemistress!) and it suddenly dawned on me just how much of a change to daily routines it is for those that have been used to a day school for the past ten years. Two and a half terms on they tell me they wouldn't swap it for the world! They have learnt to be supportive, caring, to cope with being teased and willing to help out in any situation - a trait that determines a true Stoic I believe?

We are a family – we experience life's ups and downs – we go to bed tired and we get up refreshed (well, sometimes!) but most importantly we look out for each other.

This year, perhaps more than any other since I have been at the helm, we have experienced an unusual amount of successes:-

House Singing, X – Country, Coldstream Cup, House Lacrosse and House Literary Quiz were all memorable events especially as the first two involved the whole House pulling together and performing on the day. Trophies do wonders for the morale of the House and to achieve so many victories early on in the first term gave us a sense of unity from the very start.

Congreve in the second term created a 'buzz' in House as 16 Nugent girls were part of the cast. I will always remember the breathtaking talent of Floss Hopewell, Liv Mulhall and Rosie Gawthrop as Dulcie, Maisie and Madame Dubonnet in 'The Boyfriend. I am fortunate to have been blessed with an abundance of musical talent this year; our 'At Home' in February was spectacular - even accepting the staff act that opened the programme with their rendition of 'Happy Ending' by Mica. Needless to say no recording contracts have been offered and the fact that Simon Dearsley fell off his chair in hysterics the first time he heard us rehearse probably tell us that our futures lie in teaching and not in the musical business. However, for those of you lucky enough to have heard either Floss or Rosie, you wonder how long it will be before they appear on 'Britain's Got Talent' – surely even Simon Cowell would get to his feet and give a standing ovation?

And so finally, I finish with my thanks!

- A House Team of Liz Chare (U/H), Di Olivier (Matron) and Liz Hollick (Annexe) who have offered support, help, guidance and an ability to see the funny side of life.
- A Tutor Team for all the guidance and support they offer the girls.
- A Duty Rota Team for all the work they do in the evenings.
- A House Prefect Team for their ideas and camaraderie.
- Finally my Head of House – Harriet Nicholls for her organisation, sense of humour, leadership qualities and total inability to come up with a prank that was as funny as the one I played on her in Chapel!

Nobillissima et naturalissima Super Omnia

Housemistress: Mrs Jayne Duckett
Under Housemistress: Dr Liz Chare
Annexe: Miss Liz Hollick
Matron: Mrs Di Olivier
Tutors: Mrs Sally Akam, Mr Nick Bayley, Mr Simon Dobson, Dr Liz Chare,
Mr Chris Walters, Mrs Laura Campbell, Mr Brian Johnson, Mr Kevin Ryce,
Mr Michael Bevington, Mrs Tracey Jones
House Staff: Mrs Akam, Mr Bayley, Mr Dobson, Dr Masters, Caroline Alary, Sandra Lee Bradfield
Head of House: Harriet Nicholls
Deputy: Millie Clarke
Prefects: Taisie Grant, Poppy Regan, Liv Johnston, Kristy Robinson, Hannah Jackman
Notable Achievement: Nugent part Song girls performing with 'The Yale Spizzwinks' in the Marble Hall!



Head of House

This has been an amazingly successful and action-packed year for Nugent girls. I think it would be appropriate to begin by mentioning our proudest moment of the year: walking away with all three of the trophies from the House Singing Competition, despite changing our Unison song 3 days before the competition – no big deal. Whatever!

Following swiftly on from this, Nugent then finished in 1st place out of the girls' houses (2nd overall) in Coldstream cup – a true accolade for our team of Taisie Grant, Vicky Elliott, Abby Webb, Becky Elliott, Sarah Worssam, Caitlin Gracie, Julia Bevan and Katie Peters

Our 'At Home' was brilliantly attended; it was great that so many made the effort to come, and those of you who weren't there missed out on an extravaganza of raw talent and fun packed entertainment. One act that immediately springs to mind (possibly not referring to raw talent this time) is "JD and her staff", as they attempted to cover our part song version of 'Happy Ending' by Mika – no trophies were won this time, but at least it gave us all a good laugh!

We proudly claimed the trophy for the annual inter-house literary quiz this year (first time ever) thanks to the wise captain Olly Mace, and her well-read assistant Fleur Chenevix- Trench.

The inter-house Lacrosse competition took place in the Lent term, and was certainly not taken light-heartedly. The fierce Captain, Vic Elliot led the Nugent squad onto the pitch with yellow war paint smeared across our cheeks and megaphone in hand to ward off the enemy. It definitely worked as the team swept the board with 3 easy wins against Lyttleton, Stanhope and Queens; therefore regaining the trophy. Nugent also won House Hockey this year, captained to the highest standard by Sarah Worssam. House Netball was also played in the Lent term, so spirits were similarly as high. This time, it was Ellie Green who rose to the challenge of Captaincy – and an excellent job she made of it too. Ellie led her team into second place (we can't win everything) behind Queens.

One of the highlights of the year was the Senior Congreve performance of "The Boyfriend", in which 16 Nugent girls took part. Rosie Gawthrop was stunning as Madame Dubonnet, and Liv Mulhall, Floss Hopewell, Abby Webb, Jodie Mills and Becca Ingram played the lead "perfect young ladies", and were also fantastic. The rest of us lingered at the back grinning for most of the time but none the less, were equally as impressive, we like to think.

And it doesn't stop there. We are also incredibly funny. The 1st Lacrosse team (9 Nugent girls involved) travelled to London to play in the National Schools lacrosse tournament for two days over the last exeat weekend (that's more than dedication) of the Lent term. After the first day, the team enjoyed a burger and chips that evening in the Holiday Inn next to Heathrow. A game of Dares began, and one Nugent member of the team (who shall remain nameless) was convinced that it was a good idea to chat up the boys at the bar and slide Mrs Duckett's phone number towards them instead of her own, whilst the rest of us sat giggling in the corner. Subsequently, Mrs Duckett received a series of suggestive text messages and phone calls, resulting in a very sleepless night for her! I might just take this opportunity to formally apologise on behalf of the team to Mrs Duckett – and say how very sportingly she took the prank!

Thanks to Mrs Duckett, Mrs Olivier ,Dr. Chare, and all the other house staff who have looked after us tirelessly all year, and have made Nugent the best place to be... (You all know it's true).



Nugent

Most likely to get an ASBO: **Stella Weatherall**
 Person who's ALWAYS there: **Nadia Anton**
 Person who eats the most toast: **Jodie Mills**
 Most likely to become famous: **Vicky Olley**
 Most likely to become a WAG: **Kristy Robinson**
 Most likely to have the first baby: **Ellie Green**
 Most likely to become a Formula 1 driver: **Lilly Hanbury**
 Most likely to be in the West End: **Becca Ingram**
 Most likely to become prime minister: **Bells English**
 Most likely to become a sign writer: **Violet Oliver**
 Most likely to work with children: **Laura Duncombe**
 Most likely to write the gossip column for Heat magazine: **Lily Samengo Turner**
 Most likely to run a honey business in Scotland: **Lucinda Finlay**
 Most likely to become a nun: **Charlotte Cockbill**
 Most likely to be in the London Olympics: **Vic Elliot/Abby Webb**
 Most likely to become a dentist: **Julia Bevan**
 Most likely to become a technician: **Georgia Lowther**
 Most likely to come back and work at Stowe: **Sarah Worssam**
 Most likely to marry her boss: **Emma Fahie**
 Most likely to work in Burger King: **Livi Johnston**
 Most spiritual: **Fleur Chenevix-Trench**
 Most likely to cure a pandemic: **Hannah Jackman**
 Most Likely to become a florist : **Harriet Nicholls**





From the Housemistress

It's difficult to believe that our first Upper 6th are in the final stage of their Stowe career. The time has flown by and although they have a reputation for being home birds – it takes a lot to draw them away from the comfy idyll of Queen's or rather 'Desperate Housewives' and '90210' – I am very glad that they spend so much time in House as they are such good company. When they arrived at Stowe I told them that they faced the challenge of forging a house identity and their work ethic, sense of fair play and genuine friendship certainly form part of what we are all about. Academically, a number of them have achieved some truly spectacular results to date – between them they have got 100% in 29 modules – Lucy got full marks in her English AS (that's 100% in all 3 modules) and Elena matched that in her Art AS. The U6th hold offers to a whole host of our top universities (thank you tutors and Dr Naish for your invaluable help with UCAS forms). We have held onto the Academic Salver (awarded to the house with the most merits, commendations and benes on average per pupil) for a second year and the 4ths, who sat their first GCSE Science modules in March, secured 14 A*s and 5 sets of 100%.

We have a growing collection silverware in Queen's having managed a clean sweep across the age range in soccer, netball and tennis alongside some victories in cross-country, swimming, badminton, egg throwing and 2nd and 3rd places in the house singing competition. Our junior debating team reached the semi-final of the house competition and we came a very close 2nd in the literary quiz. We are very proud of Louisa Dobbs who represented Northern Ireland at U17 level at netball in the European Championships and of Laura Welford and Georgie Leech who both played county hockey for Bucks.

This September we welcomed 10 new L6th, 3 fourth formers and 14 third formers into Queen's so the house is now full to capacity. The L6th are close friends and are very supportive of each other and I very much hope that they too will make their mark on Queen's as they take the reins from the U6th. The 3rds are full of life, fun and potential. They have christened Matron, 'Maitch' and I think their broad smiles tell their own story.

We have said goodbye to Zoe Branford-White as UHM (she will remain a tutor in Queen's) as she has taken over the Geography Department and now say farewell to Lydia Ogilvie as she moves onto pastures new. I would like to thank them for their support and help along with Alice McNair – my head of House since we moved into Queen's in January 2008. Alice is organised and efficient, firm but fair. She and her team of house prefects have led from the front, always ready with goodies to reward the girls when they have done their bit. Last but by no means least, Maitch - thank you for everything.

Housemistress:	Jane Hamblett-Jahn
Underhousemistresses	Lydia Ogilvie Zoe Branford- White / Dara Blume
Matron	Mrs Ann Reading
Head of House	Alice McNair
Deputy Head of House	Josephine Robinson
Tutors	Hazel Browne
	Tracey Jones
	Hilary Suckling
	Chris Walters
	Sandra Naish



Head of House

Dear Queen's,

As we, your pioneering inhabitants prepare to depart, we feel we should leave you with some of our acquired wisdom...

- Boys. In the words of our under-housemistress – 'They won't buy the cow if they can get the milk for free!' – A philosophy which we urge you to follow.
- En suite bathrooms must be appreciated; university living will only be downhill from here.
- Academia - with the threat of a week's imprisonment for poor TWOs, only Stanhope outstrips our prowess in the classroom (sometimes).
- Neat uniform, hair and minimal make up may seem tough but, 'It's the house that's orange – Not us!'
- Take every opportunity on offer – when else will you be able to chase small dogs around ancient monuments in the same day as auditioning for big time American TV shows?
- Surrounding yourself with good friends is never a challenge in a house like this.
- Only in Queens can you avoid climbing multiple flights of stairs via the lift.
- Crossing an angry house prefect is never a good idea. Trust us.
- It's really not the winning, but the taking part that counts! Having said that, JLHJ would like to point out that we currently hold trophies for tennis, netball, football, swimming, cross-country, badminton, XX Club, riding, drama, work....
- Always get to Chapel on time, as Mrs H-J says – 'We're only a stone's throw away!'
- Leave your mark on the house and the school, it's the only one you'll have!

We cannot hope to cover everything in this small space... the rest you'll have to work out on your own. But from the looks of it you are already doing a pretty good job. That's right Queenlings, you've made your U6th proud. From the somewhat inauspicious start camping in the San we've all done our very best to forge an identity and house spirit – and that will become our legacy. Although you juniors do your best to shake off the "anti-social" reputation of your founding housemates, we hope that you can forgive us... and maybe one day in the not too distant future you'll come around to our way of thinking!

The school has done so much for each of us, individually and as a house, for which we are immensely grateful – but, cheesy as it sounds, it is the friendships we've made that will last forever.

Our last piece of advice is to do EVERYTHING once, no matter how much it may demand of you.

EXPERIENCE everything.

And keep your friends in the forefront of your mind because they're the ones who really matter.

SO – HASTA LA VISTA!

Alice McNair, Lucy Brooks and Laura Paine



Queen's



Most notable achievement – success in the House Swimming gala where Stanhope won both Junior and senior girls trophies, with Ellie Pinnock breaking 4 school records. Also, the diversity, individualism and co-operation within our house.

From the Housemistress – Nelson’s Column

This first year in Stanhope has been one of inauguration, transformation and consolidation. The official opening of Stanhope House on March 6th was very special occasion and one in which we all felt truly humbled in the presence of such a humanitarian, Sir Nicholas Winton. We remind ourselves of his ‘prepare for the unexpected’ often, as we survive the daily exuberance of our house community.

Our transformation from the old Stanhope surroundings into the shiny new 21st Century mega-structure that has become our home was accomplished at the beginning of January 2009. Since then we have emerged as a successful, individual house, full of distinctive character and sense of purpose.

It didn’t take long for Stanhope to show its’ academic promise with our lower school girls successfully winning the Junior Academic Salver in their first term and not a day passes without our girls being awarded a terrific number of Merits, Commendations and the more coveted Benes.

On the extra curricular and sports side of Stowe life we have enjoyed much success, albeit with some of the less traditional sports! Our 3rd form hosted and won the Lower School Table Tennis tournament in November, whilst our Lower 6th triumphed in the Senior Basketball, with an ‘edge of the seat’ final penalty shoot out, clinched for Stanhope by one of our sport’s scholars, Phoebe Avent.

February saw our house swimming team sweep the board in the school swimming gala, with Stanhope winning both Senior and Junior girls overall titles. Praise must especially go to our swimming captains Daisy Coulson and Ellie Pinnock who won all their races; Ellie breaking four school records in the process. It was great to see such supportive spirit from so many of their Stanhope peers and indeed, congratulations are due to all our girls who have contributed so fully to the wider sports programme in general.

On the artistic side we have many talented individuals committed to their Drama, Art, Design and Music. Many of the Stanhope musicians, Elizabeth Yarnold, Chloe Last, Isabelle Elliott, Lettice Spooner and Alice Speakman, have performed outstandingly well and we have also watched Lucy Milburn, Nichola Wagg and the Branson Scholars inspire us on stage in the Congreve productions; whilst our artists and designers continue to fill us with a sense of surprise and wonder. This was no more evident than at our inaugural Stanhope Garden Party when we were treated to an eclectic fusion of musical, dramatic and poetic talent. This surely is testament to the diversity, individualism and co-operation within our house. At the end of this first year, thanks must go to Tiffany Georgallides and Lydia Wood at the helm of our house prefects, to our strong dedicated staff team, and all the Stanhope girls who have together, established such a terrific esprit de corps.

House mistress	Jenny Nelson
Under Housemistress 1	Julie Johnson
Under Housemistress 2	Victoria Hunter Smart
Matron	Sandra Hewlett
Head of House	Tiffany Georgallides
Deputy Head of House	Lydia Wood
Prefects:	Lucy Milburn
	Daisy Coulson
	Phoebe Avent
	Lucinda Goodwin
Tutors:	Roland Johnson
	Sarah Sutton
	Bob Roberts
	Daren Jeffreys
	Vicki Edwards



Stanhope Head of House Report

Stanhope House has had an eventful first year. There is rarely a dull moment in Stanhope – with a house full of such lively, positive girls how can there be? Our first term at Stowe was certainly a unique experience for us as we were squatting in the san. It was not always easy living there [there was a shower ratio of about 1 shower to every 15 girls] and sometimes we just wanted to break free [but did we..?] However, the best was yet to come with the opening of our new establishment. The opening itself was a great day where we all proudly showed off our house to the rest of the school and other visitors. We have settled in nicely and although at times things can get pretty hectic [including one smashed window by an aspiring Romeo] we have a lot of fun. On some Saturday nights, before the sixth formers leave for centre, we have BBQs as a whole house where we often end up having an improvised sports day [including 3 legged races which the third form usually win]. We also enjoy gossiping with Mrs Nelson and it's nice having her around more now as before there was no room for her in the san with us!

We have also made many hearty attempts at house competitions like the Coldstream Cup. Some may say that our marching was inspirational and was the closest thing to perfection that they have ever seen... they would be wrong. However, our brutal defeat has only fuelled our ambition to win it next year and, whoever writes this report this time next year will surely tell you of our inevitable victory [or not].

House basketball and table tennis proved to be the sports that we Stanhopes excel in, as well as winning a prize for having earned the most merits in the junior school [with the help of the sixth form, of course.] Like I said, it has been an eventful year in Stanhope and being 'Head of House' is not always a walk in the park [sometimes it is more of a struggle as I fight through a sea of overactive third form] but as the summer term draws to an end, on reflection there is nothing I would change [well...]

Tiffany Georgallides



Stanhope





From the Housemaster

As we contemplate a ceremonial hog roast to commemorate the threat of Swine Flu passing I have been pondering just how to summarise this last year, how to fit in all the highs and personalities of what has been a terrific year and then I read Toby's report and I thought that it says it all, not just about Temple this year but about Toby and just how superb this senior team has been.

It has been a great year of success and I have always felt that the House goes best when it is the students who are leading it. Toby Dunipace has been a quite excellent Head of House and I have much to appreciate. He and I have been supported by a wonderful Senior Team of Will Anthony, Ben Manser and Will Scholfield. Perhaps what I have appreciated most is their honesty – they are not "yes men" and are willing to let me know when I haven't got it quite right and that is exactly what is needed. They have led the boys and exhorted them to greater things and no one can honestly say they have not taken an interest. Of course the Upper 6th as a whole have been involved in the House from supervising juniors to leading sport and music and they have all done it, with out exception, quite superbly.

With Swine Flu, snow-days et al it has been quite a year and we are all looking forward to celebrating what has been a fantastic year.....so over to you Toby and your thoughts....

Mr Tony Lewis

Housemaster	Tony Lewis
Underhousemaster	Tony Chan
Matron	Ms Pamela Dennison
Head of House	Toby Dunipace
Tutors	Tony McDaid Phil Arnold Michael Bevington Steven Thompson

Temple



Head of House Report

As Head of House for Temple this year I have seen the guys in my house strive to contribute in all areas of the Stowe School society. In all year groups there has been great success. Naturally with just 66 teenage boys in a confined area 24 hours a day there have been some interesting moments over the last 12 months, but these are certainly in a minority to the general joyful attitude which Templars have around school.

There has been great success, and in some cases improvement in academics this year, and as always sport is a major factor of Temple. It's always competitive. Highlights this year include 4 members of Temple representing the 1st XV Rugby team, 4 representing the 1st Hockey team, and 4 representing the 1st Cricket team. Special events include the Coldstream Cup (drill section victory), the Senior Cricket final, and the rugby house league season and winning the senior plate, swimming success in Easter, junior indoor football, junior rugby, victory in the senior hockey plate final, and retaining the Tankred trophy.

There have been changes to the house this year, which include.... A fond farewell to Philip Arnold as a devoted Underhousemaster after 4 years of honourable and unforgettable service to Temple, (although he remains the 4th form tutor, which he enjoys greatly I know!) to be replaced by Tony Chan. Mr Chan is always seen around the house, I think he is a great asset to the way Temple works, his animated personality has a really positive effect on others. He has also taken on the role of 3rd form tutor.

We also welcome Damien Blewitt as a 6th form tutor, and also Head of Maths at Stowe. Mr Blewitt and I have not crossed paths a great deal this year due to different academic interests. But I especially enjoy it when he is on duty in house, and allotted bed times are forgotten.

At the end of this year we say goodbye to Steven Thompson, who has been here as a part of Temple since 1986. Mr Thompson is a keen guitarist as well as an excellent tutor to the 6th form. He has helped many Templars with UCAS related problems over the years. I'm not sure if UCAS existed when he arrived but he has been in charge of it since the beginning as far as I know. I speak on behalf of everyone in house by wishing 'Thompy' a happy retirement. Before he leaves I must ask him if his first name really is "Essex?" or is it the morse-like "Endeavour" – EST.....?

A special mention must be given to Pamela Dennison, our Matron, who as always has been superb in all areas, whether it be cutting hair, providing endless cough sweets, explaining the correct way to cut toe – nails, or whipping up her speciality after a long cricket game – beans on toast with cheese.

Tony Lewis is as always our faithful and dedicated housemaster, although, as of the beginning of this year, he is officially 'Senior Housemaster.' I'm not sure what this actually means but I am guessing it means he is in charge of all houses at Stowe, and how they run. I know, however that he remains forever loyal to Temple!! As always he has been a fantastic housemaster this year, many thanks...

Finally, after this brief overview of who can be seen around house, I think it's important to say that Temple is really characterized by the people inside. From 3rd form to Upper Sixth there is diversity and originality. From Academics, to Artists, to Musicians (Jacob Dennison was the cellist in the string trio who won the Oxford Trio Competition), to Thespians (Josh Low and Hamish Eggins in "The Boyfriend"), to Sportsmen, everyone in Temple makes Temple the great house that it is. But there is no doubt in my mind that this year the upper sixth leavers have led the house this year and each deserves their own special mention.

William EA Anthony – House Prefect, School Prefect, Full house colours, Coldstream Cup, 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Hockey, and 1st XI Cricket. For A level Will is taking English, DT, and Sports Science. A natural Sportsman, (despite being only just over 5ft tall) and great figure around the house. Director of the House song. Will has the ambition to go to Bristol UWE after a Gap year.

Toby CR Dunipace – Head of House, School Prefect, Full house Colours, Coldstream Cup, 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Hockey, 2nd XI Cricket, Congreves, Roxburgh Scholar. The last of a Dunipace Temple Legacy. I am taking History, History of Art, and Religious Studies for A Level. My ambition is to go to Leeds to study History of Art after a Gap year.

Hamish S Eggins – House colours, Coldstream Cup, 1st VI Tennis, 1st XII Football, Congreves. For A Level Hamish is taking Drama and Business Studies, whilst also taking AS politics for the second year in a row. Extremely dedicated and loyal to the house over 5 years. He has the ambition to go to Leeds MET to read sports marketing after a gap year.

Christopher Findlay – 1st VI Tennis, 1st team Fives, Kit arrived in 4th form from Harrow (good move!) and has become a favourite in Temple, academically hard working and a talented Tennis player. For A level Kit is doing History of Art, Business Studies, and Sports Science. He has the ambition to take a gap year and then go on to read Business and Law at Bristol UWE.

Jude T Issa – Jude joined Temple House in Lower Sixth from Jamaica and Spain, extremely cultured individual who has become instantly part of our year in Temple. Jude is a part time song writer and lacrosse goalkeeper. For A level Jude is taking Spanish, Economics, and DT. Jude has plans to go to a Manchester University after a Gap Year.

James DM MacLeod – House colours, Mac joined Temple House in Lower Sixth from Australia, a dominant character in our year, despite having a certain undomesticated essence to his room. A natural sportsman in sports such as Swimming and Surfing. For A level Mac is doing History, DT, and Business Studies. He plans to go back to Australia for university after taking a Gap year.

Ben J Manser – House Prefect, School Prefect, full house colours, 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Cricket, Congreves, also claims to be in the top teams for basketball, rowing, water polo, and maths – and therefore claims to be the best sportsman in the school....modest to a fault! A great guy who has served Temple well over the years. Ben plans to go straight to Bristol University after leaving Stowe to read Physiological Science.

Harry JH Parker – 3rd XV Rugby, 1st team Gym, Corkscrew. Academically hard working. Harry has always been someone with a point of view without being afraid to express it. A central figure in the house that always competes in house events. For A Level Harry is taking History, Religious Studies, and Politics. Has the ambition to go to Leeds University to study Philosophy after a Gap Year.

Luke OW Porritt – House Colours, 1st team Squash, 2nd XI Cricket. Roxburgh Scholar. A natural sportsman. Academically extremely dedicated, Luke has always put academics first. Straight A's at AS level. The last of a Porritt Temple legacy. For A level Luke is doing Art, History of Art, and Religious Studies. He plans to go to Leeds to study History of Art after taking a Gap Year.

William S Scholfield – House Prefect, Full House colours, 1st XI Hockey, 1st XI Cricket, 1st team Golf, natural sportsman, and Academic scholar. Dedicated member of the house over 5 years, an example of which is directing the house song. The Last of a Scholfield Temple Legacy. For A level Will is doing History, Politics, and Geography. Will has the ambition to go to Leeds to study Geography after taking a Gap Year.

Sam W Tracy – Sam joined Temple in Lower sixth and his tall presence will never be forgotten in house. A man of the Sciences as opposed to the arts, as well as a keen interest in music (unplugged!) and essential backstage man for all Congreves and House plays. For A level Sam is taking Physics, Maths, and Further Maths; he plans on going straight to Cambridge to read Computer Science after leaving school.

Nickolai M Uglan – Captain of Shooting, Cross Country. Nickolai has been a solid member of Temple for 5 years, carrying on the Uglan presence in Temple from his elder brother and the last of the Uglan Stowe dynasty. Nickolai has been some what of an entrepreneur during his career at Stowe. For A level Nickolai is doing History of Art, Business Studies, and DT. He plans on going to University after taking a gap year.





From the Housemaster

This year has been a fantastic year for Walpole House and every boy can be extremely proud of what the house has achieved this last year. The year began with lots of changes. Mr. Last arrived as the new Housemaster, Mr. Ryce arrived as the new Under-Housemaster and Mrs. Terry Sanders arrived as the new Matron. We also welcomed Mr. Edell as our 3rd year tutor, Mr. Michael as 4th year tutor, Mr. Dearsley as 6th form tutor and Mr. Pickersgill remained as the one constant in the house from the previous year!

Housemaster:	Pete Last
Under-Housemaster:	Kevin Ryce
Matron:	Terry Sanders
Head of House:	Freddie Forrester
Deputy Head of House:	Bertie Schiff
3rd form prefect:	Ben Smith

The Walpudlians responded in terrific style to all of these changes and we quickly established ourselves as a friendly and supportive House that means business in all that we do and a House where clear expectations and high standards are set for all to attempt to attain.

Michaelmas Term

We had a fantastic first term, one of the highlights being our tremendous victory in the Coldstream Cup. The Walpole team were formidable and did an amazing job in all of the disciplines but were outstanding both on the cross-country run (smashing the existing record) and on the assault course. The team of Jonathan Wale, Freddie Forrester, Hugo Empson, Ben Smith, Jarvis Prestidge, John Gurney, Harry Hawkes and Josh Dickinson, worked really well together and it was our teamwork that won the event for us. It was particularly pleasing for Josh Dickinson in the 3rd year to be awarded the prize for best turned out cadet. I was hugely proud of the whole team. In this term we also won the 5th year football, senior football and the rugby leagues, with a strong squad ably led by Ben Darby. We narrowly lost to Grafton in the final of the Rugby Cup, but we had to let them win something this year.

We also won the Junior Boys Cross County and had first place in the intermediate race and the senior race, with terrific runs from Harry Hawkes and Ben Smith respectively. We also had a fantastic entry in the house singing with our highly commended house song of "Three Lions" and our superb part-song, "Sweet, sweet girlfriend" orchestrated by Orlando Sheppard and sung by him, Jonathan Wale, Harry Hawkes, Nick Brown, Rupert Leyland, Harry Cluff and Orlando Whitehead. The judges awarded the best part-song to another house but told us afterwards that they thought they had made a mistake and that we should have won! At least Orlando had the consolation of being awarded the prize for best arrangement for part-songs. The term was rounded off with an excellent Christmas Dinner with some good entertainment; the prize for best dancer going to James Rudkin.

Lent Term

Most of the boys will not remember much from this short and shivery term except for the snow! For days, the school tried to struggle on through the wintry weather but we all had an absolute ball as normal activities were put on hold and enormous snowball wars took over the school golf course. We did manage to win the Hockey Cup this term, beating Grafton in a cracking final and with an excellent team led by Ben Smith. We were also dominant in the senior Water-Polo, winning the league comfortably under the Captaincy of School Water-Polo captain, Freddie Wells.

Summer Term

As I write this, the summer term is being very kind to us, with absolutely gorgeous weather which is great for cricket and free time but not ideal when you are stuck in an exam hall! I am delighted to report that, at the time of writing, the senior cricket team have just won the Cricket Cup, something which has not been achieved at Walpole for a very large number of years. We also had a wonderful Speech Day and it was very gratifying to watch both Freddie Forrester and Orlando Sheppard collect named prizes for their excellent contributions to drama and music/creativity respectively.

We have also made considerable academic progress this year. In the first set of TWO grades back in September the house only had 174 plus grades and 45 minuses. In the most recent set of TWO grades, the plus grades had risen to 251 and the minus grades had dropped right down to 30. I see no reason why we should have any minus grades at all and I will be looking for the boys to raise their game in terms of their academic work next year.

I would like to thank every boy in the house for the contributions they have made this year; my first year in charge has been a very positive experience for me and I hope it has been so for the boys as well! Roll on next year...

Walpole Head of House Report

There isn't a person in the school who would deny that coming into Walpole at some point during the day will always be an eventful trip. Walpudlians always seem to somehow conjure up some kind of entertainment even in the most depressing of school days, which is why there isn't another house in the school that I would have rather lived in these past five years. The upper sixth this year have really excelled in making Walpole the best house in the school and I will give a little account of each of the leavers.

Bertie Schiff – Deputy Head of House, 2nd/3rd team Rugby, a keen artist spending a lot of time in the art block this year defying all those that have called him "lazy" for some inexplicable reason.

Freddie Wells – 1st team Football captain, 1st team Water Polo captain, 3rd team rugby, interested in all sports and will probably pursue this in the future, but focuses his attention on the failing Arsenal FC.

Charlie Morris – 1st team for Rugby and Cricket. Charlie is renowned for his hard working attitude towards school life but has always managed to put aside time to kidd around every now and then.

John Wale – 1st swimming and Water Polo. Cycling, rowing, swimming and birds would probably be his main interests (in that order). John prides himself on being a true athlete.

Alex Johnston – 1st team Footballnot much else, although he does seem to have a thing for foreign girls. Alex

is a keen and excellent linguist and is still bitter about not winning the Spanish prize.

Ben Smith – 1st team Hockey (County and regional hockey player as well). Ben's life did seem to revolve around hockey and cross country these past 5 years but he has always managed to entertain us at the same time.

Ben Darby – 1st team tug of war but apart from the gym Ben is normally found in the Physics and maths Department where he has made some excellent friends with whom he has been able to share his intellectual prowess.

Rupert Hall – One of the all time Grotto greats of Stowe. 3rd team rugby bugger but has a reputation for his intellectual capabilities in the Classics department, forming great relationships with his teachers.

Hugo Empson – 1st team for Rugby, 1st team footballer. Hugo is another keen artist; some would say he is vain, however doing a self portrait for his A level piece would beg to differ.

Orlando Sheppard – Signed to a band at 18 (only after he dyed his hair), Orlando seems destined for greatness. Has kept many of us awake at night with his guitar playing, so it better pay off!

Freddie Forrester (added by PAL) - Head of House, 2nd XV Rugby Captain, 1st XI Hockey, 2nd VI Tennis. "Foz, anything from you tonight?" Never shut up in house meetings and paid the Price throughout the Upper 6th.

Freddie Forrester



Walpole





Stowe Library

With the increasing numbers of students at Stowe, the school's late 18th century library (a ball room up until 1793) continues to be one of the busiest areas of the site, far outstripping the other state rooms, the gym, sixth form club, centre and indeed competing with the tuck shop, in terms of student usage. The elaborate Neoclassical ceiling, ornate marble mantelpieces, large wall mirrors, busts of Bacon, Newton, Horace, Demosthenes and Homer, as well as the stunning views of the South Front all the way to the Corinthian Arch, provide the Stoics of 2009 with a unique learning atmosphere, as it did their predecessors.

However, the Library is by no means an immobile keepsake of days gone by. This year has witnessed the launch of the new Library web-site (updated every week) with access to 'Oliver', online subscriptions, university reading lists, articles by Stoics and other literary information. Since April, the Ante Library has been celebrating the growth of Stowe's connection with the African continent with a display aimed to increase awareness and knowledge of African literature, and texts about many aspects of African life. The topics covered include fiction, famous people, travel, art, history, politics and photography.

Both the State library and the Ante Library are the next part of the restoration campaign at Stowe. As a result of the original roof structure being removed many years ago, the remaining timber supports were weakened, and the valuable, ornate plaster ceiling has been threatening collapse since (hence the infamous green netting which we have been living with for the past two years!) With the repair works on the ceiling taking place this summer, the decision has been made to refurbish the entire Library. The momentous task of removing all the antiquarian books began this Easter with a group of volunteers from NADFAS (the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) and is due to be finished at the end of June.

World Book Week was celebrated this year with the third Inter-House Literary Quiz, won by Nugent and the (eventual) publishing of the 'See What Your Prefects Read' photographs on the Library website.

The importance of the Library to students is never more evident than it is at this time of year (exam time). Study leave and exams have started for GCSE and AS level students and with the imminence of A2 study leave and exams, it is already nearly impossible to find a free desk during lunch times or the afternoon. We both feel that it is extremely complimentary of not only the individual Stoic's work ethic, but also of the Library's amazing facilities and atmosphere that students still choose to work and revise in it, rather than in their own studies.

Jonty Irving (Bruce, U6th) and Charlotte Matthews (Lyttelton, U6th)

Senior Prefects of the Library



The XX Group offers enrichment and extension for Stoics interested in applying the knowledge they learn in the classroom to the real world.

The Third form started off the year by producing a newspaper about the Autumn drama festival. Students reviewed performances, interviewed performers, and talked to their peers to get an insider's view of the drama festival. The result was a leaflet distributed to the school.

Another highlight for the XX Group was the trip to the Milton Keynes' Borders. With the library budget, students were able to choose a book for the school library. Choices ranged from chick lit to biographies of Obama to science fiction. The library will certainly benefit from the students' selections!

Like many other Stowe associations, the XX Group had a holiday party, but instead of celebrating Christmas, they learned about Hanukkah. Students learned the history of Hanukah, sang traditional Jewish songs, and played "dreidel," a game with a spinning top that has centuries of tradition.

In between these activities, the group met several times for shorter activities. These included a brain gym session with activities designed to help students think outside the box, and a session debating the BBC's refusal to air an appeal for aid to the Gaza strip.

All in all, it has been a great year for the XX Group, and we look forward to more exciting opportunities in the upcoming academic year!

Miss Dara Blume

Members of this year's XX Group:



XX Group

This year's Literary Society programme kicked off with a riot of creativity and energy as we hosted three of London's brightest poets. Rhian Edwards dazzled with her quirky humour and clever verse, while Hugo Williams ended the evening on a high with his vivid poetry and considered delivery. Another Friday night was brightened as Niall O'Sullivan's lively performance transported us away from the music room to a world of gritty late-night London antics. Thankfully, there was no mention of selkies and not a tambourine in sight, and so Stoics' faith in the performance poet was restored (pace MacCool!).

We then enjoyed yet more dynamic dramatics, but of a very different kind. Lit. Soc. joined our friends in the Drama Department for the inventive *Hamlet: Cut to the Bone*, performed in the Drayson. As the name suggests, this one-man adaptation did indeed delve to the very core of the play and proved harrowing and thought-provoking viewing. Our thoughts were then provoked in a very different manner as we ventured out to Statonbury Campus to watch 'Oh What a Lovely War!' The musical's satirical mix of the tragic and the comic left us thoroughly entertained yet deeply touched.

Luckily for those of us labouring through A-Levels, the curriculum was further enlivened by our next three speakers. Professor Bate, of Warwick University, impressed the U6th as the man who had actually written the biography of John Clare. His depth of knowledge was invaluable and his enthusiasm infectious as he treated us to a university-style lecture. Sticking with the theme of Romanticism, our next speaker, Mr Farquhar, Stowe's former Head of English, returned to old territory to share his wisdom on William Wordsworth. He succeeded in disguising the exam-specific titbits of fact and analysis with an entertaining and engaging delivery. Following this in-depth exploration of romantic poetry, our next presentation straddled the other two modules of English A-level: Sylvia Plath and war poetry. John Drew, Professor of English at Buckingham University, made the fascinating links between the 'Poetry of Pain', helping with analytical and literary connection skills whilst broadening our minds about the affinities between different contexts and cultures.

In honour of World Book Day the annual Inter-House Literary Quiz celebrated all things fun about literature. From Christopher Robin, to Jilly Cooper, to Kubla Khan, the diverse range of material appealed to the broadest range of readers. The new addition of a music round – featuring the likes of Coolio alongside the more typical Jerusalem – added that extra 'cool' factor, while the competitive element and special audience quiz got us racking our brains over books. Congratulations to Nugent House on their victory after a closely-fought contest.

April 23rd saw the return of Bill's Birthday Bash, celebrating the 445th birthday of William Shakespeare. The evening's entertainments were held at the spectacular Queen's Temple. Performers included Dr. Miller, Mr. Rendall, Heloise Ramage-Hayes, Freddie Forrester, Hamish Eggins, Craig Browne, Jonty Irving, Laura Grossick, Miss Edwards and Mr. Thompson and a wonderful finale of the first scene from *King Lear* performed by staff and students from the Drama Department. "Shakespearian" music was provided by Artbeats (Messrs. Barnes, Burke and Sheppard), Gus Perkins Ray and Charlotte Matthews, accompanied by Mrs. Suckling. Lucy Brooks compered a memorable and entertaining alternative to prep.



Early in May, a brand new Lit. Soc. event, Committee Night, proved a notable success. A small but enthusiastic audience heard three short papers. Lucy Brooks offered a critical biography of Dorothy Parker, spiced with entertaining extracts from her poetry, reviews and bons mots. Elliot Barnes, under the enigmatic title "The Pen in the Painting", presented a survey of the relationship between literature and art ranging from mediaeval times to the present. Harry Burke took a narrower critical focus on the poem "Howl" by Allen Ginsberg, but widened the perspective to take in other writers and artists of the "Beat Generation". By design or coincidence, all three talks interacted to present a fascinating snapshot of American cultural life in the period c.1920-c.1960.

A small group of U6th students were treated to a delightful Sunday away from the stresses of school and exams, travelling into the charming rural world of the poet, John Clare. We were lucky to begin the day with a look at some Clare first editions and rare books in Oundle School Library (many thanks to Oundle's Librarian for her guidance and for making us so welcome). The messiness of Clare's handwriting and lapses in grammar certainly made us feel closer to him! Then we literally walked the map of Clare's life, from his Northamptonshire birthplace in the village of Helpston to his grave just a few hundred yards away. After a visit to Burghley House, where Clare worked as a gardener, our tour concluded in Stamford, where Clare was a great frequenter of bookshops and publishers (as well as of less salubrious hostelryes).

As a finale to what has been an exciting and enriching year, the Leavers' Dinner began with a bang – and a glass of champagne. With everyone looking glamorous in formal wear, we posed on North Front and took our first step towards leaving Stowe and moving into the big wide world. The very yummy meal that followed was spliced with acts that demonstrated just how talented the Literary Society is in its own right, marking the end of a talent-packed programme.

On behalf of the Literary Society, I would like to thank the members of the English Department for all their hard work, organisation and imagination. This year has been a prime example of the value of the Literary Society in expanding and enriching classroom studies, and inspiring and cultivating a love of literature.

Lucy Brooks (Lit. Soc. Committee) Queens, U6th

Colloquium 08-09

I have been privileged to be the organiser of this long-standing 6th Form discussion group since autumn 1988, at the rate of 6 meetings each year. The Stoics have pondered, ventured observations, and argued in consistently stimulating and thought-provoking ways. The groups and I have been grateful to the many members of the Common Room who have introduced a multitude of topics for discussion over the years. A small sample of the range of subjects, off the top of my head, might include 'Darwin, Freud and Morality', 'The Death of the Family?', 'Nationalism', 'Revolutions', 'Rights', 'What is Beauty?', 'Global Warming and other Bandwagons', 'Genetic Engineering and the issues arising', 'Images of Power', 'Feminism' – this last introduced recently by Dr Rosemary Masters (also retiring this year), and prompting a very lively, many-sided discussion of the issues. The last meeting I shall attend is June's topic - 'What use is Literature?' – which also promises to be enjoyable.

Next year the society will be organised by Mr Crispin Robinson.

Mr Steven Thompson

Anacreon 2008/9

The Anacreon Society (a fine dining society - named after the Greek lyric poet, notable for his drinking songs and hymns), used to exist at Stowe up into the early 90's when the master in charge at that time, Mike Hornby, departed Stowe and the society disappeared into the ether. Thankfully through the vision of Mr David Ardley (Head of Design) and Phil Pitcher (Chatham U6th), and after an absence of some 15 years, the Anacreon was re-established this year, and firm rooted foundations have been laid down to secure the society into the future.

The society aims to integrate fine wines, delectable food, and a high quality of social intercourse over an evening, the only catch being that the meal is held in a staff house, and planned, prepared and cooked by pairs of the members on a rota basis.

The welcomed success of the society could not have been achieved without the kind support of those staff who have allowed their homes (and more appropriately their kitchens!) to be taken over for an evening. Mrs Gracie, Mr & Mrs Durrant, Mr & Mrs Last and Dr & Mrs Wallersteiner were warm and friendly in inviting us into their homes, and creating a superb atmosphere for the meals to thrive.

Some of the highlights of the year include the 'Murder Mystery' meal held at the Lasts house, where Mrs Akam played an invigorating role (in the quest to find the murderer!), the fine champagne served by Dr Wallersteiner and the final meal which was a candlelit affair held at the Queens temple with several invited staff guests in attendance. This was not only a great success but served admirably as a concluding event to what has been a most enjoyable and entertaining year for the Anacreon Society.

All the members of the 2008/9 society (Jonty Irving, Monty Lewis, Sam Tracey, Phil Pitcher, Natalie McDaid, Charlotte Everitt, Bobbie Staden, Violet Oliver, Jess White, Felix Stevenson and David Ardley) are confident that the Anacreon Society will remain active at Stowe and provide the same high standards as depicted by the meals and events hosted throughout this year.

Final words of thanks must go to Mr Ardley, who has worked full on to ensure the society's success and we all wish him well on his move to Cranleigh as their new Design Director next year. To Phil Pitcher who has masterminded and orchestrated much of the logistics behind the Anacreon this year and finally to Richard Pickersgill who will be the new master in charge of Anacreon for next year and we all wish him well in his new role.

Above all, a big thank you goes to all the members (chefs!) who have helped make the Anacreon the wonderful success that it is. Long may it continue!

Phil Pitcher and Mr David Ardley

Thought provoking questions, and no certain answers, a vast array of complex perspectives challenged with equally complex objections. Colloquium is akin to what I would refer to as a form of intellectual sparring. The topic of discussion is representative of a fighting ring and ones boxing gloves are his or her arguments towards the question at hand. The knockout blows are derived from a unique blend of knowledge, rhetorical ability and last but not least a sinister (yet prudent) touch of sarcasm. As a result, I would highly recommend colloquium to anyone who feels that he or she has the ability to have an impact on the future of the world we live in today, for the ideals applied in colloquium are primarily similar to those applied by higher institutions around the globe, such as legislative debates in parliament.

Edwin Maganjo (U6th, Chandos)





Stowe's Geography Department have had a very successful year. I replaced Mr Last as Head of Geography, as he took over the role as housemaster of Walpole, and Mrs Dawson joined as a new member of staff. The Lower Sixth started a new syllabus and seven of our present Upper Sixth have applied to study Geography at University. We are especially delighted that Laura Grossick was accepted to read Geography at St John's Cambridge. Our results have been excellent, with Imogen Brabant gaining 100% in an A2 module in January and Jacob Dennison gaining 97% in an AS module- congratulations to them both! In addition to our classroom lessons, we also carried out many fieldwork trips. Our 4th Form sets conducted a river study in Water Stratford, the 5th Form completed their GCSE coursework in Buckingham, the Upper 6th went to Milton Keynes and finally the Lower Sixth are due to go to Northampton in June. Next year the Upper 6th are all looking forward to visiting North Wales, where they will collect and analyse data for an A2 module. The Geography department now has digital projectors in all of its teaching classrooms, a fully operating resources room, three interactive white boards and full laptop access in one of the rooms. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing this department continue to succeed in its academic achievements, enjoyable lessons and a positive working attitude between staff and students.



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Miss Zoe Branford White

This year our 5th Form Geography class went on a field trip to Buckingham as part our GCSE course. The trip was great fun, as it gave us an opportunity to go out of the school grounds and explore the fun town of Buckingham! Fortunately the weather was perfect, making it an ideal day to collect data for our GCSE coursework, even though an unlucky Rory Hay managed to lose his group within 5 minutes and spent the rest of the time looking for them - typical! By the end of the morning everyone managed to collect their valuable data along the set transects using a variety of methods. The lessons following this trip involved analysing the information and coming to a final conclusion.

George Low, Walpole 5th

Out came Mr Murray's shorts and sunglasses and before we knew it, the Upper 6th Geographers were whisked away on another exciting field trip to study the urban settlement of...wait for it...Milton Keynes! After arriving at MK Discovery Centre and being given a lecture from 'Henk', we set off on the bus to explore MK and establish whether or not we thought it was a sustainable town. The Queen did not grant it permission to be a city, even though she came to visit it last year (before opening Queen's boarding house)!

At various points along the tour, Henk (a fountain of knowledge on the urban settlement) would show us specific examples of how MK's new housing developments had been designed to be sustainable. This was really interesting for those of us who are interested in pursuing a career in town planning or real-estate management.

After the very informative tour, we arrived back at the Discovery Centre with lots of notes and a high level of understanding about MK and its development - an excellent case study example for our A2 exam in June!

Abby Webb, Nugent U6th

The Geography Society has offered an eclectic mix of lectures, talks and social events this year. The highlight of the calendar year for many students was hearing from James Cameron who is one of the most experienced, and globally recognised, advisors on global warming. He is currently the chairman of the CCC, and he is one of the world's pre-eminent experts in developing market based policy responses to climate change. Some members of the U6th had the fortune of being able to dine with him; an experience that I am sure will not be forgotten for many years to come.

The Lent term saw the society welcome the Chief Executive of ATTA, the African Travel and Tourism Association, Nigel Vere-Nicoll who spoke on tourism in Africa and Asia and their role in promoting it.

More recently, the geography society bid farewell to the U6th geographers in a rounders match and BBQ. Special mentions must go to Mr Last for his utter enthusiasm, Mr Murray for his expert BBQ skills and Miss Branford-White for the organisation of it all. It was a great evening and a great way to celebrate all the fun times that Geography has offered us all as Stoics.

Philip Pitcher, Chatham U6th



Business Studies

The Stowe School annual Business Studies trip took place in October. We took 12 Stoics on what was a very enjoyable trip to Newcastle and the North East of England. Leaving Stowe at 7am we travelled to Wakefield and visited the National Coal Mining Museum. Going underground and listening to an ex-miner talking about how harsh the conditions were whilst still desperate for the pits to open again was a very moving experience.

From the mine we travelled to Newcastle via Richmond (Yorkshire) where we had lunch. We arrived at the University of Newcastle for a short talk and presentation by the head of admissions to the Business School. The talk gave the Stoics a very useful insight into the various options at higher education in terms of business related courses.

The next day we headed off bright and early to the Abbey Well factory in Morpeth. This has been a regular visit over the past few years and it never fails to amaze. The process of blowing plastic bottles, filling the bottles and then labelling, packaging and storing them on such a vast scale is amazing to see.

Finally, from high-tech capital intensive production to traditional labour intensive production, we travelled to South Shields for a factory tour and presentation at the Barbour clothing factory. We came away with the impression that Barbour can definitely justify the high prices they charge for their jackets as the whole process is completed by hand.

All in all it was a privilege to travel with such a mature and sensible group of Stoics. The commercial world is evolving all the time but being able to go back in time and visit a coal mine and a traditional 'hands-on' factory as well as the high tech bottling plant gave us all a real flavour of the diversity of businesses that remain in Britain today!

Mr Panos John and Mr Matthew Pitteway

Classics

In December some sixth-form classicists visited the Olivier Theatre in London to see the acclaimed production of Sophocles' Oedipus the King. The title role was taken by Ralph Fiennes who presented a powerful depiction of the horror engulfing him and his family. The stark set and new contemporary translation by Frank McGuinness added to the sense of despair and loss.



In January we were privileged to welcome Dr Ken Wardle from the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at the University of Birmingham, thanks to his niece Heloise Ramage Hayes, an A level student last year in Latin and this year in Classical Civilisation. He gave a fascinating talk on the Mycenaeans as the super-power of Bronze Age Greece, illustrated with many pictures of his own research and excavations in the eastern Mediterranean.

In February a coach took many studying Greek or Classical Civilisation to Hugh Viney's production of Aristophanes' Frogs at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London. Hugh, a former Stowe classicist and head of school, had translated the play himself. It was an evocative performance full of visual and verbal wit which delighted the audience and was a tribute to Hugh's talents.

Mr Michael Bevington



Over the year, Stowe School has continued to collect mobile phones for the purposes of recycling. Not only is this the environmental responsible thing to do (mobile phone batteries are responsible for a considerable amount of water table contamination if not disposed of properly) but they are also worth money to many charities.

This year we donated phones worth about £500 to the Meningitis Research Foundation.

We have also started collecting phones for the Crossroads Caring for Carers Charity which helps to provide support for those people who are responsible for the care of children and adults who require large amounts of supervision.

If you would like to donate any old mobile phones, please contact Mr Mochan, Religious Studies Dept

Meningitis
Research Foundation



Green Team

The Green Team is a Monday afternoon activity run by Miss Ross which seeks to make pupils more aware of environmental issues. It looks at practical ways in which something can be done to improve our own local environments and contribute to the overall improvement of the world for everyone. Activities undertaken this year include planting gardens, litter collection, recycling activities and research into the most important aspects of global environmentalism. If you have any ideas for activities which could be of benefit to Stowe and its environment please contact Miss Ross or Mr Mochan.



Maths

The Maths department has gone through many positive changes: the arrival of the 3rd Form, two new teachers and a Harvard graduate (not mention various arrivals in the Lower Sixth) has made for a busy year.

The focus, not surprisingly, has been public exams. The 4th Form sit their first GCSE module in the summer term; the 5th Form take the consecutive modules. This modular scheme has produced some excellent results with pass rates following an upward trend. There have also been abundant numbers choosing to take Mathematics through A level.

Off curriculum saw an old teacher turn up to give a lecture on "Misleading Statistics" during the Stowe Festival and the Maths Challenges seemed to throw up a few problems even for our more talented mathematicians. However, Mark Goodenough, in prime form, shook off all challenges to come top of the year and headed up the maths team over at Warwick University. In the Intermediate challenge Francis Drysdale was the strongest candidate achieving the only gold. The expectations for next year only ever increase!



Debating

2008-2009 has been a most successful year for Debating and Public Speaking at Stowe. A high level of skill was demonstrated in the Michaelmas term by all participants in the senior inter-house competitions who debated issues ranging from the importance of National Service to the dangers of political correctness! Congratulations to the Chatham team (Philip Pitcher, Edward Abel Smith and Guy Merrill) for their winning performance in the final debate where they proposed the motion that 'preserving the past is inhibiting the future'. The junior inter-house debating teams also impressed their audiences with their oratory skills. Congratulations to the Bruce team (Gareth Browne, Imran Momen and Henry Stockdale) for winning the junior final and persuading us that Science is a nobler study than the Arts! Thank you to all participants, supporters, judges and the Debating Society representatives, Charlotte Matthews and Philip Pitcher.

Stowe has also competed at a high level in the schools' public speaking competition organised by the English Speaking Union. The junior public speaking team impressed the judges at the inter-schools regional heats at Bedford School in March and were awarded the 'runner up' prize (2nd place) for their outstanding performance. Congratulations to Imran Momen for his captivating speech entitled 'patriotism is a menace to mankind', to Anton Melnikov for his effective role as 'Questioner' and to Ellie Rix for leading proceedings as the Chairperson.

Mrs Julie Johnson



The ESU Public Speaking Team: Imran Momen, Anton Melnikov and Eloise Rix

Pitt the Younger Society has been founded to encourage young historians in the lower school, the third, fourth and fifth forms, to further their knowledge of History. It takes the form of films and talks on specific historic themes and events. Last term we saw the film 'Amazing Grace' - a film about the role of William Wilberforce in the abolition of the Slave Trade, and the film 'Glory' - about the role of a black American regiment in the American Civil War. These two films were of value in bringing to mind the varying roles of Slave emancipators from both sides of the Atlantic. This term we showed to the entire third form the film, 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', which dealt with a young and naive son of an SS concentration camp commandant, and his friendship with a young Jewish boy held captive inside that same camp. This was in support of our Holocaust scheme of work this summer term.

We also had a guest speaker, David Faber, former MP and author who gave a talk on the role of Neville Chamberlain in the Policy of Appeasement, which was particularly relevant to fifth formers in their examination preparation for the summer GCSE History examinations.

Later this term the entire fourth form will be invited to attend the viewing of the documentary film on the Czech crisis of 1938, 'Peace in our Time?'. We also intend one Sunday early in the Autumn term to have a trip with interested lower school Stoics to Blenheim Palace, the home of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

Mr Jonathan Sayers



It has been interesting to note over my last two years at Stowe how the subject of Design is perceived by staff, Stoics and parents. The manufactured item is, in reality, only worth between 12% and 20% of the total mark across the GCSE and A-Level courses. However, like a piece of Art, the final outcome is all that many perceive as 'the work'.

Design is NOT simply about manufacture. Design education is about significantly more than that. Many think that Design is simply about 'making things'; on the one hand it is indeed the icing on the cake but it is by no means the core activity. That core activity has to start with the design concept – beginning on paper as a sketch. It then moves through the development of the design from its embryonic stages (the seed of an idea within a Stoics mind), through thorough analysis and synthesis and then onto a developed and well manufactured product which ultimately has to then be marketed effectively.

Last year saw the Stoics begin to break away from some of the traditions that have historically been prevalent throughout much of the work produced within the Design department, especially within the product design resistant materials course. Certainly, it is fair to say that I have had several quite passionate discussions with staff, Stoics and parents regarding the creative path that I have tried to lead the young designers of tomorrow down regarding innovation, originality and the need for a divergent approach to solving everyday problems often away from the tedium of syllabus delivery. Thankfully, the vast majority are in total agreement with the philosophy that we are trying to instil. It is not a case of 'replacing the old' with the new – far from it; we have to maintain a significant broad base of traditional craft and graphics skills BUT that piece of 'seating design'; that 'gun cabinet'; that 'storage system'; that 'architectural model' can, and should, be innovative and original in concept and inspire those looking on, drawing upon what has happened in the past (Design History) and spur it forward into the future.

The development of our world depends upon this 'future forging'.

This year has again seen further significant change in both the nature and outcome of much the work produced by young Stoics across the Product Design courses we offer in Graphics and Resistant Materials. Part of the reason for this is the new suite of syllabuses at GCSE and A-level that have helped to push the ideals of innovative and creative work as outlined above. Our Stoic numbers are again on the increase and the new Design studio installed last summer has helped us adapt to these positive changes, as have the refurbishment of the 'old' photography area into a light and airy design studio space/ICT area. Certainly the use of the newly purchased CNC laser cutter and router has led us to pastures new; however it has to be understood that this technology serves only to support, not replace, the key designing and craft skills that go into manufacturing new and innovative products. It is but a tool, as is the use of appropriate ICT.

As ever, my thanks go to Mark Wellington, Costas Peratopoulos, Steve Grimble, Alex Eve, Lisa Ash, Jan Lane and Brian Rogers who have all worked tirelessly to ensure that the Stoics achieve as well as they do. Congratulations must also go to all the Stoics who have worked hard to (hopefully!) secure top grades again in their exams this year. Well done to all.

I have enjoyed my two years at Stowe, challenging though they have been, and I will miss the place however I am confident that the new incumbent (Myles Nash from Wycombe Abbey) will be able to continue to take the department forward from its traditional origins and onto a department of national repute for genuine Design education.

Enough rambling – let the products do the talking!

Mr David Ardley



Lottie Blackwell A2 Graphics (Queens) - Landscape Model of Garden



Monty Lewis A2 Graphics (Bruce) - Home Extension Model



Design Technology



Tom Wood GCSE RMT (Chatham)
Contemporary Seating design in steel



Henry Pilleau A2 RMT (Grafton)
Kitchen Dining Table in Oak with inlays





Arts & Science Festival

Now in its fourth year (and growing all the time), the 2008 Stowe Festival ended on the night of Tuesday October 14th with a fantastically well-received concert from the Adriano Adewale Group in the Chapel in front of the entire school. Mixing jazz, rock, folk and latin rhythms Adriano and his three-piece band were on top form. This was the last event from over thirty different workshops, masterclasses and performances which took place in venues all over the school from Friday October 10th to Tuesday 14th. There was the usual eclectic mix of theatre, music, magic, illusion, dance, singing, lectures, talks and hands on demonstrations. Stoics had so much to choose from this year! There were some new initiatives as well. On the Saturday night we had two contrasting, but equally effective events going on, with a good, old-fashioned Variety style show in the Roxy for the lower school and a 1950's themed dance in the mansion for the sixth form. The Variety show, hosted by yours truly, featured two Stowe rock bands, Artbeats and the Crystal Balls as well as the dynamic Milton Keynes based Hip Hop dance outfit, Frantic UK. The show went down a storm with the younger Stoics and it was great to witness such a superb atmosphere in the packed Roxy. The 50's themed dance in the mansion was really well supported by the older students and there were some imaginative outfits on show! The sixteen piece big band, Swing's the Thing, provided the live music for the night and it was great to see so many Stoics attempting some fancy jitterbug and jive moves! On Sunday afternoon and evening we saw the 'Unplugged' concerts happening once again and I am always in awe of the blistering talent that is on show. Stowe is blessed with some very talented singers/musicians and they did not disappoint this year! Gus Perkins Ray deserves a special mention for his help with the organisation of this event. Monday and Tuesday had so much going on that one could easily have mistaken Stowe for the Royal Mile in Edinburgh on a warm August, festival day! We really did have a school fully involved and committed to making the most of all that was on offer.

Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Music from the Top

Attending my first festival at Stowe was for me a fantastic experience. I attended and watched the Guitar Workshop, the Composer's Workshop with Martin Suckling, the student organised 'Unplugged' event in the Roxy, the Vocal Workshop run by Sheridan Coldstream and Daniel Green's Piano recital, as well as introducing the Anthony Bolton Composition Competition. It was simply a stunning few days. The Guitar Workshop saw seasoned professionals develop and help many student guitarists and drummers to feel more comfortable and at ease exploring simple, but effective ways of improvising: as done against a background of informed and explicit playing and performing. The atmosphere was electric in every sense! The same atmosphere was evident at Sheridan Coldstream's witty, informative and above all activating workshop on the voice. Students were captivated by his style and manner, and sang some really beautiful close harmony music, which they themselves created.

On the Saturday morning the music department welcomed the Oxford University Lecturer and high flying Scottish composer Martin Suckling (Husband of our Head of Keyboard and Resident Accompanist, Hilary Suckling). About 16 students had studied two elements of Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale*, and had then written a short study for Violin, Clarinet and Piano, performed at the Festival by Hilary Suckling (Piano), Jennifer Nelson (Clarinet) and Julian Tear (Violin), using the elements that Stravinsky had used for his original composition. The Trio began by playing Stravinsky's work, and then played all the student pieces, while Martin Suckling provided commentary, informed criticism and delightful anecdotes, and useful pointers to improve their works. But the highlight of this morning was Martin's ability to focus on the students' individual gifts and compositional flair.



Hip Hop

As part of the Stowe festival, a variety of genres of music productions and workshops were introduced. Frantic UK was one of those who kept their beats and movement on people's minds for quite a while. I certainly lay my opinions with those who thought the workshop was awesome. It was dope and off the hook. I do not know where to begin with the way the talented dancers and choreographers, Pinkie and her friend moved. We popped, locked dropped and battled it all out as an integral part of the b-boying culture. What would hip hop be without pushing the swag and keeping it fresh to death??

Makgotso Maiko, Stanhope 4th

Bouncers

The wretch-inducing stench of vomit, disturbingly fluffy hairstyles and more fights than you can shake a stick at. No, I'm not talking about the school canteen but a lively and humorous performance of 'Bouncers' that took place in the Roxburgh Theatre during the Arts Festival. The five actors played bouncers at a club and lasses on a night out superbly (and slightly worryingly) well. Particularly brilliant was the ability of the actors to improvise and integrate the audience into the performance and, naturally, the scene in the toilets went down very well.

Craig Browne, Bruce U6th

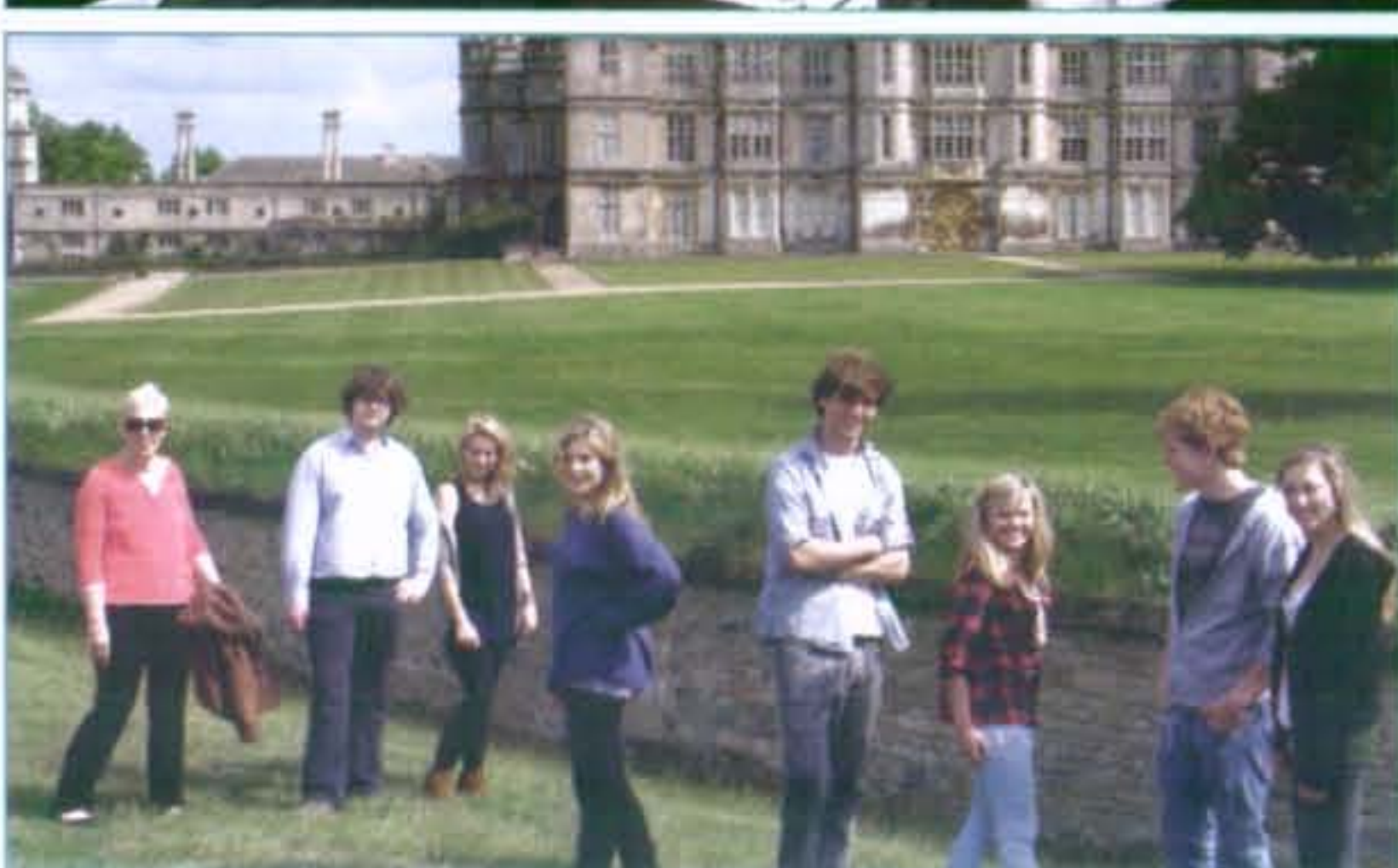


The Rocket Work Shop

The rockets was an exciting workshop. First we watched a very fascinating video which put our minds to the case of building our own rockets. Mr. O'Toole handed out a small kit to build our magnificent rockets. Then he gave us the main part which we had to put a parachute in so when it took off it would come out. Then we had to wait for the rocket to dry.

We headed out to the Bourbon and met up with the people playing sport. This time we did not use air we used DYNAMITE to blast them up. I was not to sure how far they went up but they were amazing especially when the parachute came out. All and all a very successful day for the rocketeers.

Mungo Kilgour, Temple 3rd





Art



Arabella Midwood 5th Form



David Gourlay 5th Form



Kate Manser 5th Form



Alice Coulson L6th



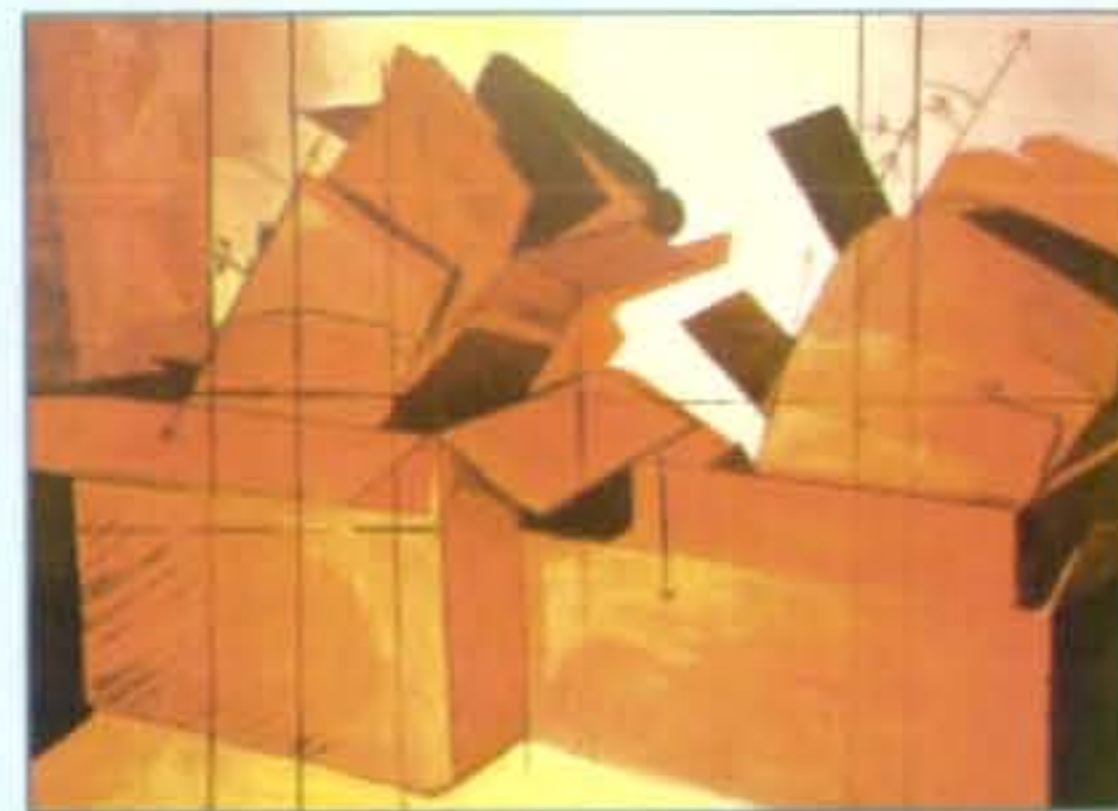
Lily Wigan L6th



Ben Paton L6th



Sophia Stainow L6th



Andre Van U6th



Tom Bacon L6th



Stella Weatherall U6th



Olivia Mulhall U6th



Zoe Partridge U6th



Bint Bencharongkul U6th



Lara Simpkin U6th



Camilla Clarke U6th



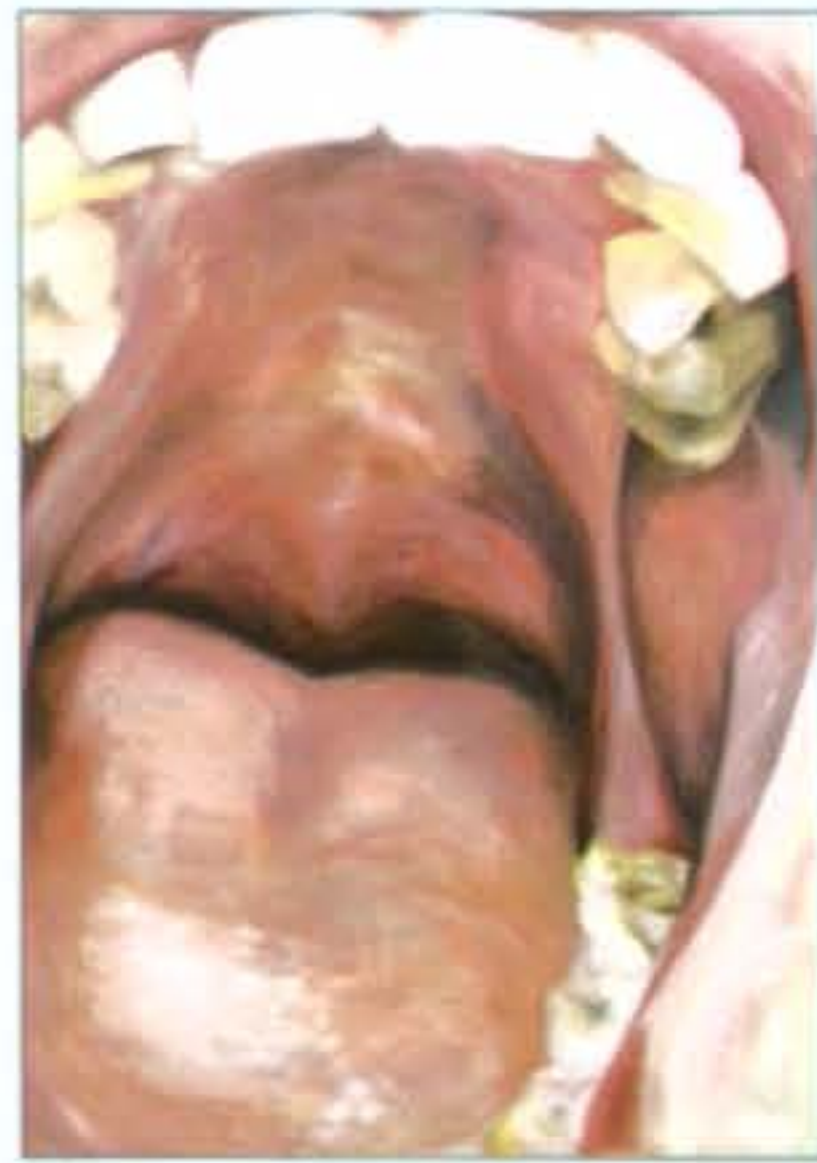
Harriet Nichols U6th



Violet Oliver U6th



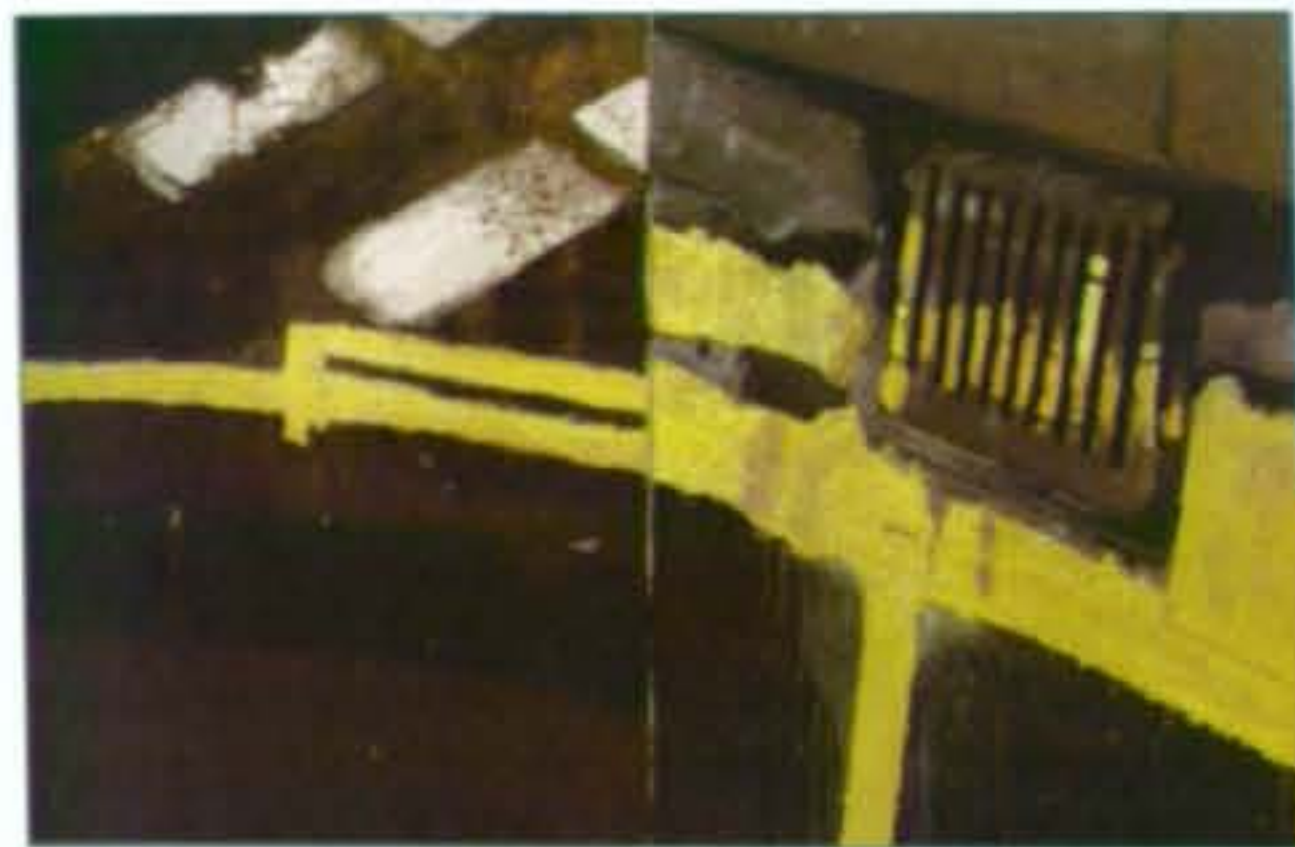
Lucy Ponsonby U6th



Elliot Barnes U6th



Alex Price U6th



Stella Weatherall U6th



William Foyle 5th Year



Nick Brown 5th Year



Zoe Partridge U6th



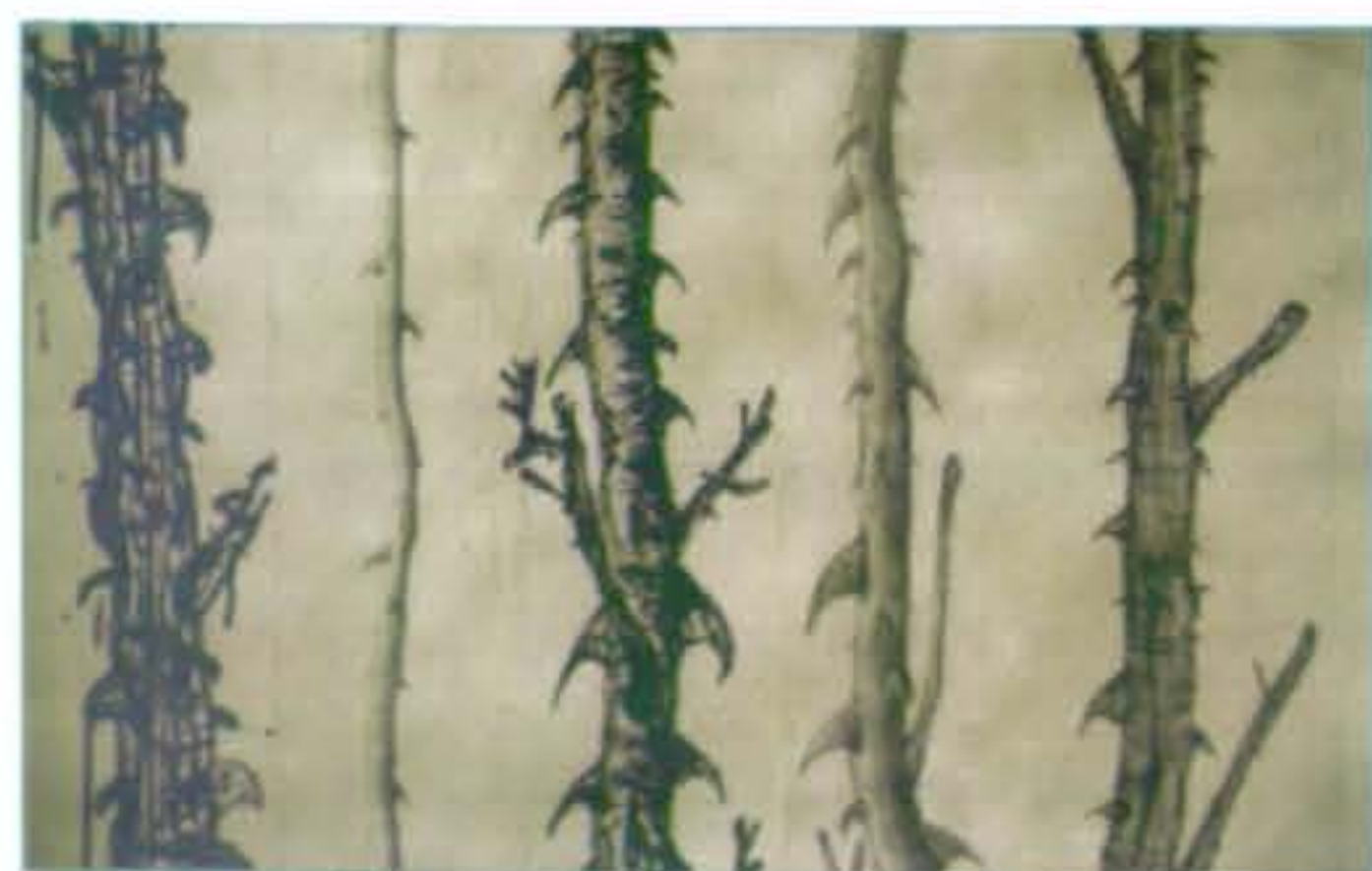
Simon Plunket L6th



Anders Palm 5th Year



Elena Kasche U6th



Olivia Johnston U6th



Rebecca Ingram L6th



International Students

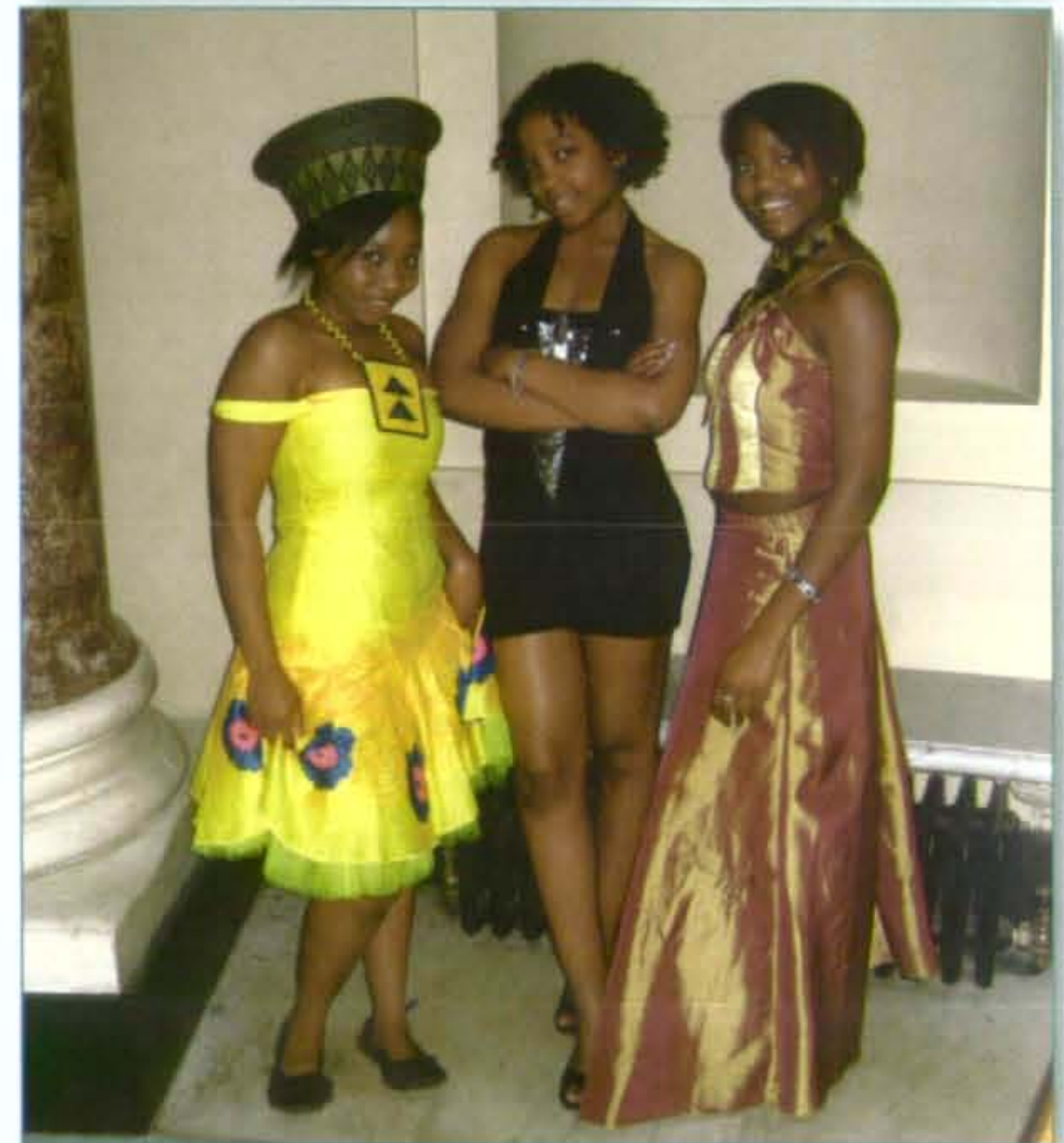
On Thursday May 21, 2009 about 100 Stoics representing some 39 different countries sat down for their annual dinner and enjoyed a lively evening with excellent food and entertainment. Everyone was invited to come along in a mask, if they weren't able to do this, it was possible to purchase one at the door, which many did and the money collected was given to a local children's charity.

The meal, set out at individual tables, included: tapas, tortillas, nachos with cheese and salsa, delicious meatballs with pasta, fish goujons with tartar sauce and was rounded off with strawberries and impressive pyramids of profiteroles.

Mike Gutkins entertained us on the piano with lively renditions of popular music in the style of Scott Joplin that got everyone cheering and clapping. Emma-Claire Bailey offered to help out with the ongoing musical interlude and gave us a virtuoso violin solo performance that was much applauded; our thanks go out to both of them for giving up some of their time to entertain us.

Stowe really is an International community and it is on occasions like this that the spirit of community and camaraderie becomes very plain to see. It was great to see members of the upper school mingling with everyone, moving from table to table making an invaluable contribution to the success of the evening. The comments at the end of the evening were all very positive and we look forward to the next academic year when we will endeavour to expand these events even further.

Mr Alan Longworth





This year five South African students were brought in as ambassadors to take on the challenge of moving away from their families and friends for a year. Using the headlines, "I believe anything is possible", from one of Britain's top newspapers, The Daily Telegraph as a foundation, the scholarship program focused on not only inspiring but also empowering young fabulous South Africans to experience a taste of the outside world and broaden their outlook on success and accomplishment within their time spent in England. Partially sponsored by Sir Richard Branson and Mike Parsons, the scholarship program focused on empowering young South African students to lay a their land marks on English ground and be willing to learn and interact with others. As Branson Scholars, our journey throughout the year has been that of which one could not describe. The best way to put it is the year being awesome.

Dominican Convent School students were chosen to apply for the scholarship. The application included an essay that had to be completed with applicants expressing how they thought the scholarship would open doors and what was felt to be achieved.

An elimination process then had to be made to become a step closer to choosing the representatives, leaving less than thirty pupils to go through an interview with Dr Wallersteiner and his wife.

One of the things that had to be included in the essay were our interests and what we did during our free time. During my free time I enjoyed reading about South African politics and spending time with friends and family. And oh boy, oh boy was I in for a hot seat! The Headmaster began to dig deep into politics and asked me questions that only those with minds that could encompass complex questions infested with bombastic words would have the courage to reply!

Partially sponsored by Sir Richard Branson and Mike Parsons, the scholarship program focused on empowering young South African students to lay a their land marks on English ground and be willing to learn and interact with others. As Branson Scholars, our journey throughout the year has been that of which one could not describe. The best way to put it is the year being awesome.

"There is a saying: LIFE IS A CLIMB, BUT THE VIEW IS GREAT.

This saying almost describes how my journey at Stowe has been. It has been hard, with the settling in and making friends but on the other hand, after settling in and making friends, Stowe has become a home away from home. Being at Stowe has been amazing; I've done things that I never thought were possible. I would say Stowe has helped me grow as a person and it helped me build my self-confidence. And I am very grateful to all those people who have made it possible for me to be able to attend such a beautiful school." After having heard Karabo Galetlole successfully compress a year's worth of experience into seven inspirational lines, we get to believe how much we have benefited from it.

Without any doubt, I had no idea what I was putting myself into and what I would gain after this opportunity. The opportunity came when I least expected it, and so I decided to give it a try. For some reason, I had a strong feeling that I might not have had what it took to become an ambassador. I could not imagine myself representing Dominican Convent School and studying in England for a year, but I took a bet upon myself to apply for the opportunity.

I stand firm and strong, ten years later, eye witnessing the wonderful time spent at Stowe School. Without going any further philosophically, one simply cannot lyrically express my experiences throughout the year in England. I have been through obstacles', failures, achievements, tears, joy and laughter with Stoics. One of my greatest challenges I found was moving away from my family and friends, especially my mother. I believe that I got too used to depending on close people and always having someone there for me whenever in need, where as Stowe School I learnt to steer my weaknesses and faults in a way that would help me become a bold and independent person. Overall, after all the sweat, joys and pains of this scholarship that led to a climb, the view has been great!!

With myself being both the writer and ambassador, I strongly feel that I have firmly accomplished as much as I could in terms of reaching the academic standards set by Stowe School and interacting with others. The opportunity moved us from being put in a narrow framework of things and place where it was essential for we Branson Scholars to familiarise ourselves with what the outside world had to offer.

Makgotso Maiko, Branson Scholar, Stanhope 4th Form



Taisie & Bobbie

With our interests in Greek architecture and Geography, Bobbie and I decided that Greece would be the perfect destination for our McElwee trip as we could both explore the architecture of which I knew little about as well as looking at many graphical aspects of the country such as tourism in the city in comparison to the tourism on the islands. Over the course of 13 days we visited Athens then moved around four of the Cyclades islands: Mykonos, Paros, Naxos and Santorini.

Upon arriving in Athens, we were shocked to see the graffiti covered buildings that greeted us when we came up from the metro station to the main street. It was far from the perfect cosmopolitan city I expected from a capital city. There was a lingering smell of urinals and a heavy, muggy feel to the atmosphere. We found our hotel quite easily which was perfectly adequate for our stay as all we really needed was a bed and some air conditioning. That evening we ate in a quaint little restaurant where the temperature was still 33 degrees at nine o'clock at night.

The next morning having familiarised ourselves with the surrounding area, we set off towards the Ancient Agora and Acropolis. After walking, through the run down streets full of concrete eyesores, arriving at the foot of the 2500 year old Pentelic marble plateau, which holds one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, was a spectacular sight. From the top there was a breathtaking 360 degree view across the valley in which Athens is situated. We next visited the ancient agora finding an expanse of temples, walkways and statues. Our next destination was the parliament building to watch the hourly changing of the guards, and after watching them complete their traditional ritual, we headed to the flea market.

The next morning we headed towards the National Archaeological museum which was filled with fascinating ancient artefacts such as the bizarre looking frying pans and the most intricate jewellery, which would not have looked out of place in a shop today. We then trawled the endless rooms of ancient Kores and other statues which were most intriguing to see how they had both changed in form and technique over time. That evening we explored Monastiriki and its gardens and watched the street sellers enticing the tourists.

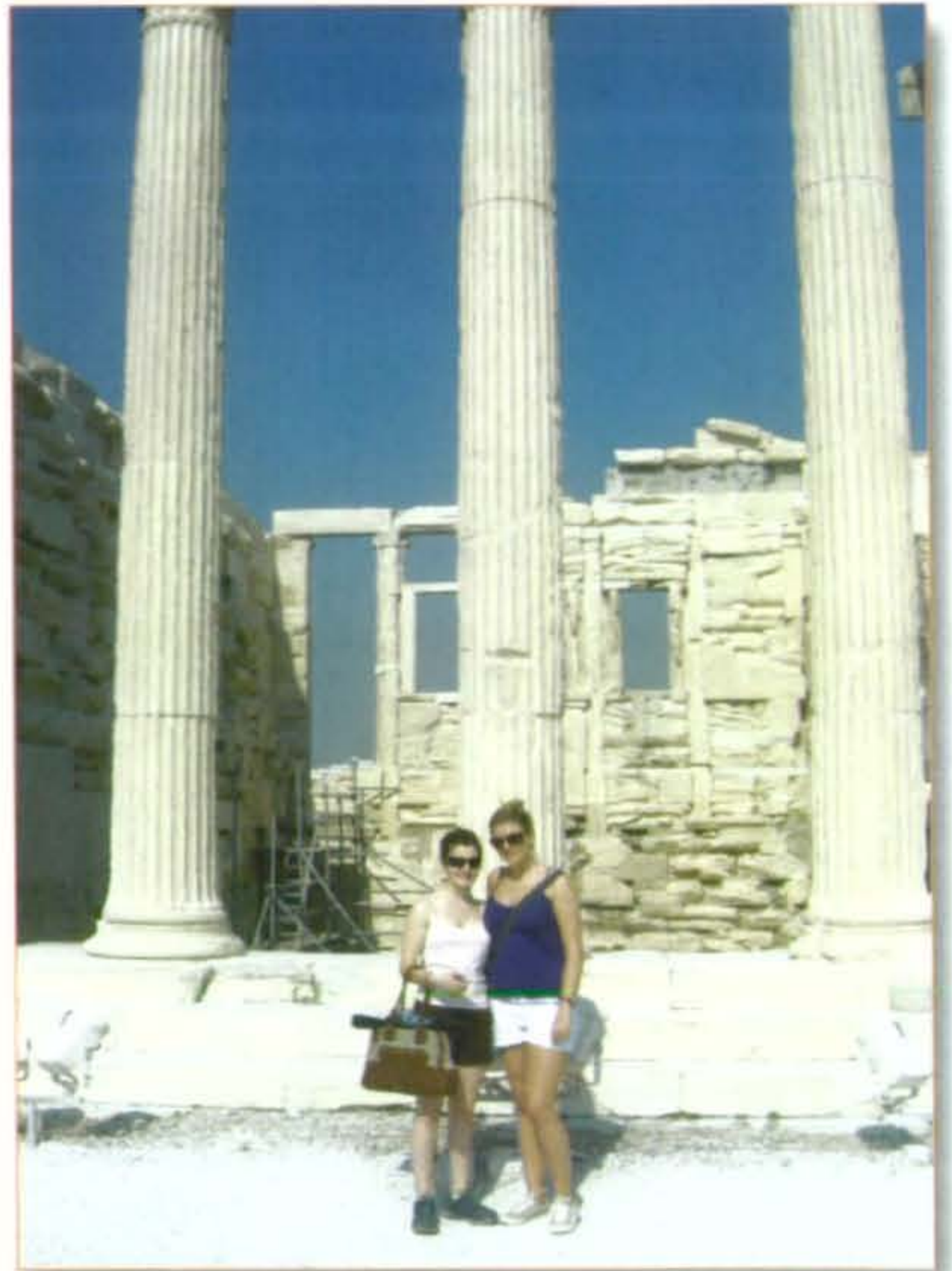
Our next stop was Mykonos, here we stayed on a beach called Paradise which turned out to be not so for us, as it was full of nudists. However, during our time in Mykonos, we explored the town getting lost in its tiny intertwining alleyways then the next day visited the barren island of Delos where we discovered some remarkable ruins such as the terrace of Naxian lions, houses of Cleopatra and Dionysus and the temple of Zeus. Delos gave us a huge insight into a completely different aspect of Greek architecture compared to the Ancient Agora and Acropolis in Athens.

On Paros, we visited the caves of Antiparos. We spent a few hours roaming the impressive caves admiring the incredible rock formations including spectacular stalagmites and stalactites, which was particularly memorable for us after studying them for so many years at school we finally got experience the beauty first hand. We then spent a few hours exploring the actually town itself which was quite remote and not too dissimilar to Mykonos.

The next stop was Naxos. Here we bussed our way through the desolate landscape to a little village called Halki where we visited a tiny pottery shop of which the two artists, who design both jewellery as well as the pottery, have won international awards for their work.

Our final island was Santorini. We had a lot to fit in, in just one day. That evening, we experienced the black beach and the salty water on which you could practically float. The next day was a day trip which took us to the volcano. We climbed this to see the panoramic view of the surrounding islands and the actual crater of the volcano. Next we were taken to the hot springs which were like swimming in a hot bath full of rotten eggs due to the sulphur. Finally we stopped off in Oia to watch the world famous sunset, which was truly beautiful.

We would like to thank the trustees once again for their generosity and for enabling us to travel on this remarkable trip of which we learnt so much from, not only about architecture and geography, but also about ourselves. We would strongly recommend applying for the scholarship, as it is such an incredible opportunity just to pass up.



Abey & Edwin

We were given the opportunity to travel to Italy this summer and the theme of our trip was the Renaissance in Italy. Neither of us had been to Italy before and so we knew we were in for a new experience. We landed in Pisa airport on a hot evening and from there we took an hour's shuttle ride to our hotel in Florence where we were going to be based for the next four days.

We decided the best way to spend our first day in Florence was to familiarise ourselves with the surroundings and eccentric culture of the city. This was a particularly remarkable experience as we had never encountered such vast yet minute architecture all in the same place. Whilst in Florence we went to see the Pitti Palace, a world famous Renaissance house and gallery with over 500 paintings. There are two parts to the palace: the Galleries and the Boboli Gardens. Part of the galleries also included rooms of some of the Florentine dynasty who once lived in the palace. Just outside the palace we walked along Ponte Vecchio, a famous bridge lined with numerous jewellers and art dealers. We then went to the nearby Piazza della Signoria where we saw a copy of Michelangelo's David and "Hercules and Cacus", by Bandinelli.

On the 3rd day we visited the Galleria Dell'Accademia. Here we saw the real version of David; this was understandably one of the most striking pieces we had seen. It had taken Michelangelo 3 years to finish it and it was carved from a solid Carrara marble block. The museum had other works by Michelangelo such as the unfinished 'Slaves' collection which was equally as stunning as they show us, to an extent, Michelangelo's train of thought and process during the carving of his sculptures.

Later on in the afternoon we went to the Uffizi Gallery and we were astonished at the array of masterpieces we could see from a range of artists all under one roof. There were special rooms dedicated to Italian Renaissance artists however the one which we were most looking forward to was the Leonardo da Vinci Room. In this room we were particularly drawn to the "Adoration of the Magi" by Leonardo da Vinci and loved the intricate detail and its 'unfinished' feel brought about by the slight blur conveyed the significance of the painting that much more.

On the next leg of our trip we took the train Rome where we used the metro to go see the Coliseum, truly a great wonder of the world. On exiting the metro station we were both taken aback by the sudden appearance and sheer scale of the Coliseum at such a close distance. Despite the long wait and the now nauseating heat, the architecture and grandeur inside the coliseum left us overawed. We slowly walked our way round the edge of the arena where gladiators, animals and Christian martyrs were once the main attraction for various showings for the Roman Public almost 2000 years ago.

We then went to see the Borghese Gallery. The gallery was thankfully less crowded than other places and was located in a tranquil park-like area called the Villa Borghese. In the museum what we were drawn to the most was the sculptures by Bernini such as "David" which we concluded is better than the one by Michelangelo. This is simply because we felt the one by Bernini captures a more aggressive emotion as it shows a more dramatic action frozen in stone. Also in the main gallery and one of the main reasons we wanted to come here was to see the "Apollo and Daphne" also by Bernini. As well as the story behind it, we found this statue visually stunning as you can see the emotion on the faces; the muscular tension and the definitive creases on dress all so clearly.

Our trip to the Vatican on the final day of our trip is one that neither of us will forget any time soon. Standing in the queue in St. Peter's Square was quite a humbling experience with the large square lined with the symmetrical colonnades that again reminded us of Stowe, as well as being topped with statues of saints. There was a stunning view of the city of Rome from the top of the Basilica and the Dome of the Basilica had one of Michelangelo's finest designs. Inside the Basilica we were amazed to see such a rich collection of golden ornaments and others made of various precious materials. One of the most impressive structures within the basilica we found was the Baldicchino, a gigantic structure built by Bernini to cover the main altar of St. Peter's. Time flew and we had to rush back to the hotel, grab our bags and catch the shuttle bus to the airport; after which we soon found ourselves back in Gatwick late that night.

We'd like to say a big thank you to the Members of the McElwee Trust, we are indebted by the opportunity given to us and strongly recommend Lower Sixth to apply for it.

*Abey Philip, Grenville U6th and
Edwin Maganjo, Chandos U6th*



McElwee



How did the Roman Empire influence Fascism?

We had great luck in Rome, finding a cheap convent to stay safely in. The convent we had decided to stay in was a full five places from St. Peter's left hand side colonnade, with the most spectacular views over the iconic place of pilgrimage.

Before we left for Rome, I knew that the name 'Fascism' was derived from the Roman word 'fasces' which was a bundle of sticks with an axe tied to the top, and the Roman sign for power and strength. After some research I learnt that the famous Hitler salute was originally Mussolini's, and a salute he had borrowed from the Roman era. The first indication was the Victor Emanuel Road built by Mussolini. It is straight and direct, as a Roman road and with tall strong pillars either side of the road remarkably reminiscent of columns. I was thrilled to see the clear stylistic copy Mussolini had made of his Roman predecessors, reflecting his belief in the resurrection of the glory of Rome and his own personal ambition as the next Roman dictator and emperor.

First we went to Trajan's Market which used to be a Roman



shopping centre. It was wonderful to finally see an archeological site that would have been a focal point for Roman society in the 1st century AD.

We next went to the Vittoriano monument, Helena was ecstatic about seeing the boot which worn by the infamous Garibaldi. She had spent the last year studying Italian unification and was adamant you cannot understand the rise of Mussolini if you do not understand Italy's complex history.

After a little mapping reading hiccup, we saw the Pantheon, designed by the emperor Hadrian (who also brought back the fashion of wearing beards!) around 118 AD. The rotunda's height is approximately 43 metres and the diameter is equal. The hole at the top of the dome, the oculus, provides the only light.

On our way to the Palatine Hill we made the big mistake of asking directions from a 'Roman', in full Legionaries armour. We were then bullied into taking photographs with them, and when, sheepishly, we asked how much it was going to be, his partner reported it would be 'just a tip.'



Throughout our trip we had yet to spend 10 euros in a shared meal, so that was our lunch gone!

After visiting the Palatine Hill, we finally went inside the forum (one of the places which I had been most excited to see). The forum was the centre of political, commercial and judicial life in ancient Rome. Finally seeing the Rostra was fantastic. It was here that Speeches were delivered, and the head and hands of Cicero were hung.



After day visiting the coliseum and the National Etruscan museum, Helena and I had a fabulous day visiting Ostia Antica, an old abandoned Roman port. The site is huge, probably about as big as Buckingham. In the house of Diana we saw the marble counter used by customers for buying their sausages and hot wine sweetened with honey. We also saw a laundry, firemen's barracks and beautiful black and white mosaics.



Mussolini's house was built from the outside in the style of a Roman temple. The inside of the building is also designed exactly like a Roman villa around a large central stone room. The villa was lavishly decorated with frescos, mosaics, jugs and classical statues, every inch made to replicate that of a Roman Villa.

Most of the mosaics on the floors and frescos depicted Roman emperors and leaders preparing or partaking in battle. We were strongly reminded of the villa's we had seen in Ostia Antica. From this rare insight into his home, we learnt that Mussolini thoughts and motivations greatly reflected that of a deep rooted desire to aspire to be the next Roman Emperor and to restore the Italian Nation from one of deep divide to one of glory, reflected in his propaganda and architecture.

We spent the finally day in A and E, due to an ear infection, which was terribly frustrating. However, having the worst possible scenario happen to us, has given us the confidence to believe that we really are capable travelers. Bring on the gap year.

Nevertheless we really did have a fantastic time and it was wonderful to finally see and experience what we had been reading about in our text books. We would like to thank the trustees for enabling us to go to Rome, so we could gain a wider knowledge of the common architecture and fascist vision of the recreation of Rome.

Charlotte Matthews and Helena Kealey, Lyttelton U6th

Vi and Holly's Excellent Adventure

In March 2008, we were presented with the Myles Henry scholarship and given the opportunity to do volunteer work abroad in a country of our choice, for whichever cause we wanted. We won this scholarship by doing a presentation to a board of judges. We selected south Vietnam as our destination, with the aim of building houses for the underprivileged and disabled people living in My Tho, the one of the poorest and largest cities on the banks of the Mekong delta.

We began our venture after raising the money at Speech Day [thank you to everybody who donated!], leaving for Vietnam on the 3rd July. After an eleven-hour flight, we arrived in Bangkok, managing to get lost in the terminal before nearly getting on the wrong flight altogether. After finally getting to H Chí Minh City after a further three hours, we met the rest of our volunteer group at the hostel in District 10.

After receiving a crash course of the Vietnamese culture, we were shipped off on a two-hour journey into the countryside, to where we would be living for the next month. Work began the next day, at the worksite which was located in the middle of a jungle-like forest, where the electricity was strung along tree-lines and the fusebox tacked to a tree and protected from the rain by a plastic bag, and the bathrooms made up of a variety of pots and buckets, with of course no running water.

For the first few days, our main job was to manually transport all the building materials—bricks, sand, cement, stones—along the four-hundred-metre dirt track through the trees leading to the building site, as well as demolish the battered reed hut which had been the home of Lin, a 32 year-old mother, and her 12 year-old daughter. We found out that the mother suffered from a heart condition caused by the chemicals used in the Vietnam war, leaving her unable to work.

By the end of the first week the foundations had been laid and we had begun to build the house, under the watchful eye of Naim, the builder who we fondly named "Bob". We found ourselves being accepted into the community quickly, joining them for card games and meals in our time off, and occasionally karaoke. Seeing as nobody at the worksite spoke both Vietnamese and English well enough to communicate beyond basics, we found the art of mime incredibly useful when learning to build a house!

Eventually we found two twelve year-old children who were studying English at school, and were prepared to spend their free days with a group of twelve 17-24 year-olds, translating instructions, compliments and, most essentially, the lunch menu— before this, Vi had been sampling such delicacies as "rice with miscellaneous items" and "something like dandruff" [English translation as provided by the phrasebook]. We will be eternally thankful to Ha and Minh for helping us reject proposals of marriage, making sure we weren't scammed, and showing us more of the city.

We both tried our hand at bricklaying, producing rather shaky walls which Bob soon corrected, and sent us to mix cement by hand until we had improved. It was amazing being accepted by the children, there, who would constantly try to pull us away from work to play, and also by the rest of the neighbourhood, who all insisted upon helping, whether it was building, bringing us food, or standing by and pointing at what we were doing wrong.

After about a fortnight, Lin was taken to hospital where the doctors gave her two years to live, which made us determined to finish her house before leaving, which we finally did just before the four weeks were up. We received a heartfelt farewell, in which we sampled home-made rice wine and exchanged presents. The day we were leaving happened to be Bob's birthday—we gave him his first ever birthday party and bought him his first cake, before leaving, amidst hugs and tears, for H Chí Minh City.

We wish to thank Stowe for giving this amazing opportunity to do such a thing—you don't realise until you're out there how different the cultures are, and the most wonderful people can be living in the worst conditions.



Myles Henry



Charlie Thuillier

So here I was, still not quite understanding what I had let myself in for, on a 737 bound for Nairobi, or Nairobbery as it's nicknamed by locals and tourists alike. For my gap year, I decided on spending 4 months in East Africa with a company called Africa & Asia Venture, that specialise in 'year out' opportunities overseas, before flying off to Australia, Fiji and New Zealand where I planned to do a mixture of paid work and travel for 5-6 months.

For me, the aim of my gap year was to broaden my horizons, appreciate different cultures and how others live in the world. To mature, and see places that I may never get to see again.

AV posted me to Nandi Hills in the western province of Kenya to work at a rural secondary school, called Samoei Secondary for 3 months. I was to teach Business studies, Sports Science and P.E. My Business Studies class, was 60 boys ranging from 12 to 27 years old. I thought I

appreciated Stowe when I was there, but it's only when you leave, and step into the real world, that it hits you what an amazing place it is, and how much it sets us up for life. Next, I was pointed in the direction of my Sports Science class. I remember saying 'What, all of them?!' as 120 grinning faces looked up at me expectantly on the orange dust pan that was Samoei's games field.

I found all my subjects daunting at first, but soon came to love and relish the task of teaching the boys something new each day. Whether it be regarding Malaria, the positive effects of exercise, AIDS, or the differences of net profit compared to gross profit.

After the term finished and the exams were over, all AV's broke up into groups to start our three weeks of travel. We left Nandi via Matatu for Nairobi, then down to Mombasa, and all the way up to the island of Lamu. Lamu's a fabulous place with donkeys as taxis, and two tuk-tuk's as the island's ambulances. From Lamu we followed the coast south, stopping at various places all the way down to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. From here we took a ferry to Zanzibar, followed by a 12 hour bus ride to Moshi to sky dive over Kilimanjaro.

We then returned to Nairobi to meet up with the rest of the AV's, compare travel stories and set off for our group safari. I still remember the wonder of waking up and unzipping the tent door, to a herd of elephant wallowing in the mud 100m away.

So on to Brisbane! Unlike Africa, I didn't have any plan. I wanted to leave it very open, and see what the options were when I arrived. I had simply booked a week in a Brisbane hostel. I was very lucky and managed to find a sales job within 2 days of arrival. I rented a house with others, and worked in Brisbane for 6 weeks before moving on to Fiji where I spent some time with an island tribe. I then flew to New Zealand where I did the Kiwi Experience tour all the way round the country, followed by Melbourne where I met two other backpackers, and travelled up the east coast of Australia to Cairns, before flying home.

Australia, Fiji and New Zealand are indeed probably some of the most popular backpacker destinations, and for a reason. They are beautiful, and highly accessible, but Africa was my favourite. I loved being out of my "comfort zone" in a challenging and demanding environment. Africa has magic, and I'm going to go back there as soon as I can.

I arrived home in June and am now spending the last months of my gap year working in a hotel as a barman and lounge waiter, replenishing my bank account! My gap year is proving to be a fantastic experience. I look forward to starting university life in an improved position both emotionally and intellectually than this time last year.

Many, many thanks to the Old Stoics for giving me this opportunity. I'm very grateful. Thank you.

Charlie Thuillier, OS Bruce '07





Pat Ramsay

After leaving Stowe in the summer of 2007, in the summer holidays I went to Lourdes with the Order of Malta (OMV). Lourdes gathers thousands of holy pilgrims every year to have the holy water and have spiritual holiday. I volunteered to help the disabled pilgrims for a week. This involved waking, showering, entertaining, feeding, taking them to the toilet, taking them to ceremonies and putting them to bed. This is one of the most moving parts of my year as seeing such happy people getting over any misfortunes in their lives. There were over 100 other volunteers to go through the experience that made us all gel.

Late August I went to the Grange Cookery School where I spent a month. We spent the days cooking many courses which will be useful in jobs and in everyday life. We would spend 7 hours a day perfecting our skills. We finished the four weeks with a full lunch for friends and family.



In October I started work at Fortnum and Mason where I worked up until Christmas. I worked on the Pie counter. Where I happened to serve Michael Caine, where he ordered two sausage rolls and a pork pie. There were a hundred other gap year workers, and many I saw on my travels.

In January I flew to India with two friends, Will and Henry. I taught in a school in Trivandrum in Southern India. I taught the students English, concentrating on the spoken part which is vital in India, as well as sports. The school was called Christ Nagar School it was a Christian school run by priests. I would do four to five hours a day of lessons with thirty students in each class, as well as an hour of sports after. During my two months at the school I stayed with an Indian family whose children went to the school. The family slept in one room as we slept in the other. Their room only had one bed, this was strange for us as their son was 17 and daughter was 14. The family fed us breakfast and supper every day. Breakfast was the same everyday which was coconut chutney and naan bread, which after a few weeks became boring and tasteless. We became very close to the family, once while walking to school one morning Anish the 17 year old son went to hold my hand, I pulled away but he caught my little finger, so we walked to school with him holding my little finger. In India it is very usual for men to hold hands, as a result you see policemen holding hands.

After 2 months at the school it finished for exams and holidays. So we moved schools for two weeks to the Sivikasi state school which was much poorer. English was at a very low standard. Class rooms had no desks or chairs so students worked on the floor. The class rooms were also too small for the 40 students in it that some would have to sit outside to hear their lessons, as a result, students were often hard to control, especially as we refused to use the cane. Every class room had a cane and the teachers would freely use it for any minor offense. After the two weeks at this school we started our travels.

We started going north as we had cover most of the south during the weekends at the schools which we had free. We travelled to Mysore where there happened to be an Indian festival called Holi-Day where the Indians run down the streets of the city throwing paint at each others, we were privileged enough to be able to join in. We were very lucky to be able to go to many festivals in India. We moved onto Hampi one of the most beautiful places of India, with stunning rolling scenery with massive boulders to climb. We spent a couple of days in Goa where we could party for a few days, which in India is very rare. We quickly moved on though to Mumbai where we walked through the slums to see the diversity of the city. We were asked into a person's home, where there was only one room with a basin, cooker and mats for beds. A family of eight lived in this tiny room. I managed also to get into a Bollywood film as an extra called Right Yaa Wrong. We spent 9 hours on the set waiting for our appearance to act out a market scene. We got paid 500 rupees which is just over 5 pounds which is a very good days pay in India. That amount would get us 5 nights in a hostel.



We moved onto Rajasthan where we went to Udaipur, this was my favourite place of my travels, as the scenery was the best I had seen as well as another Indian festival was happening to liven the place up. We spent a night in the desert near Jaisalmer, we travelled into dessert by camel. We were lead by three guides which made us food and gave us blanket to sleep on. We woke up with dung beetle marks round us. Before leaving India we did a quick trip to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.



We flew to Thailand at the beginning of May. We spent a few day in Bangkok and going done the Kwai. We headed north to Laos where we went to the French town of Luang Prabang where there were great waterfalls to jump off. Went to Vang Vieng where we did tubing. Tubing is where you float down Nam Song river on a rubber ring then get off a bars along the river, and you jump into the river using swing and zip wires. We went back into Thailand to Koa Tao to do a week's scuba diving course, then went across to Koh Phangan for a week for a full moon party.

Late May we flew to Australia, we spent a week on a farm near Sydney doing some logging to earn some money. We were given a tent and a car so we drove up the east coast camping wherever we wanted. After a month camping in Australia we decided the best way of travelling New Zealand was by camper van and happened to be the cheapest option. We did a sky dive in the cheapest place to do it, Taupo. We saw the beautiful scenery of the South Island, this was made better by doing 3 days of skiing near Queenstown. In July we flew back to England via Los Angeles.



Matthew Payne

During my gap year I was privileged enough to receive a Parent's Gap Scholarship award. I intended to spend the majority of my time in Fiji and South Africa in order to pursue my two passions of rugby and veterinary science.

I left England in early March and spent a week in Los Angeles reacquainting myself with distant relatives. While there I was able to get a taster of the American lifestyle and also experience a bit of what my 7 weeks of coaching in Fiji would be like as my aunt happened to be a teacher and I gave a rugby taster session to a group of 11 year old kids. Although they didn't understand any of the principles of the game it was good to see them getting enjoyment from the game I love.

I moved onto Fiji. The project I was involved in was based in Lautoka, Fiji's second largest city. I coached with children of all ages and abilities. We coached children who had never played the sport before; these were mainly Indo-Fijian children who were more interested in football. However, when we were coaching the native Fijians, the skill levels they displayed were incredible. The main part of our coaching was to develop the children's understanding of the game so that they could read their options better in order to set up more scoring opportunities. We met local rugby players after our coaching sessions in the afternoon and we played rugby with these guys 5 afternoons a week until nightfall. It was so unusual to see rugby as such a major part of the culture and was something I really missed when I left Fiji. While on the project I was given the opportunity to visit a tribal community in the Fijian mountains on Viti Levu. This was an unforgettable experience travelling in the back of a truck for 4 hours up the mountains and arriving in the most picturesque of locations, to be 'adopted' by a family there telling you that they will be your parents for the week. I worked with my 'father' on his Kava plantation, tended to his cattle and went Prawn fishing. During the evenings we took part in a traditional Fijian Kava ceremony, this was a very social occasion with all the community meeting up at one family's stilt house for a session. I found Fiji to be a beautiful country and one that I was privileged to see so much of.

Following Fiji I flew to New Zealand and Singapore for brief periods of time. These countries felt so Western to me having spent such a long period of time in a Third World culture and the transition took a bit of getting used to.

I moved on to South Africa in May to start my veterinary project. Veterinary science has always been a passion of mine and I intend to try and study it at university, this was the main reason I decided to get involved with this project. I was based in northern Natal in a town called Hluhluwe. I was posted with a wildlife vet called Dr. Chap Masterson. He was an outstanding vet with an incredible technical knowledge.

Within 24 hours of jetting down in Johannesburg I was out working with Chap on a Rhino tagging. This involved darting the rhino with an anaesthetic called M99. The rhino was tagged so that the game reserve could keep track of their rhinos and see how they were interacting with the rest of their species. During my placement I was also involved with the relocation of a white rhino from Swaziland to Natal, inspecting a female lion that was suspected of being pregnant and helping administer ultrasound to the lion. She was pregnant and up to the point where I left the project she had experience no complications with her pregnancy. A lot of my time was also spent tracking leopards as they are becoming endangered as farmers in South Africa see leopards as pests and are shooting them. Our job was to track and catch leopard so that we can administer GPS collars in order to establish their territories. These collars also give off different signals if the leopard has died so it allows the leopard researcher for the area, Tristan De Wet, to keep track of where all the leopards are and what condition they are in. We also worked on Sable antelope, nyala, buffalo, cheetah and one elephant GPS collaring. I found the leopard work to be the most worthwhile as it was directly related to conservation of this beautiful species in South Africa. This was a once in a lifetime experience for me and I would like to thank the Stowe Parents Gap Scholarship committee for giving me this opportunity.

Matthew Payne, OS Walpole '07



New York Trip

On Friday 13th February the Art and History of Art students of Stowe were privileged to leave for the big apple on a trip that was full of promise, possibilities and the opportunity to explore New York's finest art galleries.

We left from Stowe with all of the students buzzing with excitement. Before we knew it we were on the aircraft, soaring through the sky and watching Mamma Mia or listening to ipods – any means of entertainment as the flight was 6 hours long! We arrived at our hotel at 4:00am [UK time] and went straight to bed, exhausted from the flight but anticipating the days to come.

Day 1 in New York started with an early rise, where almost all Stoics were to be found in Starbucks getting their breakfast. Our first ride on the New York subway was interesting, yet discouraging as we got lost – the first of many times to come! After we had fully orientated ourselves we got to Central Park and enjoyed a leisurely stroll to the Metropolitan Museum. There we saw the works of such famous artists as Damien Hirst, Monet, Matisse and Andy Warhol. The Met had an extensive collection of both modern and contemporary art and was a great place to start our trip, feeding our enthusiasm. We then were given free time to explore 5th avenue and later met up for dinner at Patsy's Pizzeria.

Day 2 brought us to The Frick Collection. In my opinion it was the best gallery with its exceptional collection of paintings, antique furniture and sculptures. After exploring the gallery we were given a lunch break. We all then went to the Guggenheim, which did not fall short in our expectations, as it was breathtaking in its size, structure and content. The most memorable part of the Guggenheim would have to be 'The Dream Room' which used blue and purple lighting as well as supersonic sounds to manipulate the senses. After a few hours in the Guggenheim we were given more free time and so we went to the famous Bloomingdales. We all walked up and down Time Square later that night, where the bright flashy lights of the city mesmerized us all.

By Day 3 the art students were keener than ever to see what else New York could possibly have to offer. Entering the MoMA [Museum of Modern Art] we saw the works of prestigious artists such as Cézanne, Rothko, Chirico, Judd, Picasso... the list continues on, as did our excitement after we left. After being given even more time for shopping we went to an old Stoic's flat to see his impressive collection of artwork. John Richardson proved to be a worldly man with many contacts in the art world. He had many anecdotes to tell us and we had a lovely afternoon. That evening we went to the flat of Brian Hecht, an ex-Harvard Fellow of Stowe. Brian and his partner had prepared a lovely BBQ dinner for us, while he made a speech about his art collection. I think Stoics especially responded to his bubbly, enthusiastic nature, where he portrayed his passion for art in a way that inspired us all. The evening was a great success and we all appreciated his hospitable nature.

Our last day in New York was spent in Soho, where we spent any remaining dollars we had or sat in a coffee shop, reflecting on the trip. Later that day we got on the airplane and left New York. Most of us caught up on some much



needed rest and we were home before we knew it. It was definitely a successful trip and it will not be soon forgotten. I left New York with a greater appreciation and understanding for art and culture as well as a pair of fabulous new shoes. A final thank you to the teachers is needed, as it was a chance of a lifetime that will stay with us forever.

Tiffany Georgallides, Stanhope L6th



Terminal 5 seemed eerily quiet at 4.15am in the morning. Monday, June the 30th and a group of twelve Stoics were ready for their mini adventure. Our journey had officially begun and before we knew it, the Stowe Pitt Society has arrived in Berlin. Shortly after 8am our band of merry travellers hit Checkpoint Charlie. Following Checkpoint Charlie we went into the centre of Berlin, discovered a fruit juice stall which was to become a sight of pilgrimage for us over the next week and 'the lads' indulged in their first pair of aviators that holiday. On the way, the Berlin wall, unmissable in any trek around the city, sprung up at us as lines across busy central roads or tatty memorials, semi standing, and coloured by graffiti. The neat lines dividing mainstream roads, echo's of the history and segregation excited Dr Smith particularly.

Tuesday; and it was to be another early awakening. Right in the centre of Berlin, just down from the Reichstag the Holocaust memorial dominates a central position and covers a 4.7 acre site. The blocks, irregular in shape but on a grid like structure, begin as small ankle height elevations, but 'grow' as you walk down in-between them until they unexpectedly dominate and disorientate you- demonstrating the enormity and inexpressibility of the holocaust. Later that day we visited the iconic Brandenburg gate, a sight Dr Smith particularly enjoyed. Trotting around Rome, Laura, Ed Able Smith, Felix and Helena were assaulted by an American interviewer asking our opinion on the particularly unattractive new US embassy next to the Brandenburg gate. We were mostly very polite, T.V stardom was utmost in our hearts, until Helena spouted that, frankly, she thought it was disgusting. Laura, meanwhile, very helpfully grinned inanely behind, dreams of being viewed by millions of disinterested American's unable to change the T.V channel after the Oprah show finished, had clearly made her speechless. From here we made the long and dizzyingly hot walk to the Victory column, which we climbed and then, feeling the heat, paid some Berliner's to cycle us all the way back, for lunch. To end the second day, we potted off the 'museum island' and visited a Cathedral.

Edward Able Smith delighted us on Wednesday morning with the 'knowledge' the lemon juice on your hair turns those little yellow streaks into glorious bright golden threads. Obliging, Laura, Able-Smith, Max Porter and Dr Smith (despite the clear flaw that Dr Smith's hair is, in fact, a rather darker shade of Blond – being black) donned the very attractive stiff, stinking hair approach for the day on our travel to the house of the Wannsee conference. We took the trains to the Wannsee conference house where arrangements were made for the deportation of the Jews to Auschwitz and other death camps. It turns out German tubes are far more exciting than those in England, and Max to get well acquainted with a drunk man on the tube but denied the offer of pocketing fifty euros. Later that evening our group headed back up to the Reichstag and climbed into the glass dome above.

Thursday and another hot, jam packed day loomed ahead. The Smiths walked us through beautiful parts of the city with the delights of the mid day heat on our English complexions, to the Jewish Museum. A one-hour boat trip on the river cooled us quickly and the rest of the afternoon was filled with art gallery fun. Tired from the day's activities, we fell to public transport and took the tube into the centre. That evening Felix, Laura, Ed and Helena were scammed into paying 15 euros for henna tattoos whilst Beanie, Anna, Izzy, Alex and Iowana explored the rest of the city. Back to the Hostel in the evening and we met up with some of the Germans staying for the week from Hamburg.

The next day started with our staple breakfast of ham and cheese in preparation for our long trip to Krakow. The nine hours passed relatively quickly, a few of us wasting time by taking inane photos of sleeping members of our group and



playing 'slappsies' until hands went a volcanic shade of red. Our entrance to Krakow started well, and a 100 zloty fine for illegally using the tram without paying for tickets set us up well for the rest of our stay.

A day trip to Auschwitz was our next stop, although we were all a little apprehensive. It was to be an indescribably thought provoking day, with many of us a little too emotional to speak throughout the many hours we spent at both camps. The most potent image (that of glass containers full of hair, glasses and other personal belongings) sent many of us to tears and the morning remained sombre and quiet for the whole journey back. After a good power nap and some food we were all raring to go again and the evening proved to be a fun one. That evening we ventured into the centre, eating cheap pizza in café to begin with then hitting a smart bar in the centre for some chocolate milkshakes until it got dark and we took the tram (lawfully paying this time) home.

Sunday was a chance for us to see Krakow. From the grand castle in the centre to the European Jewish ghettos, we seemed to be constantly followed by men with trumpets and accordions. Wading our way through Polish markets seemed a successful way to buy cheap presents for the family. Later, and separated from the rest of the group for a bit, a few of us decided to hit what looked like a medieval shrine for lunch- with bread that was deceptively used as a bowl, we were unsure what was edible and the purple shine of the beetroot soup wasn't particularly appealing for us culturally shaded Stoics. It was then back to the hotel via a dress shop for a quick pack and a nap before our last meal out in the beautiful centre of Krakow- something never to be forgotten.

We left the next day, safe in the knowledge that we had had a wonderful trip, experienced an enormous amount of European culture, made new friends and had a lot of fun- many thanks to the wonders of the Smiths for all. A flight back that encapsulated the brilliant wit and fun of the trip, along with the enticing and brilliance of culture- a set of polish ministers on their way to see the pope, their first time on an aeroplane and a good straddle on the way to the toilet.



Rome

I think if we'd all known quite what an amazing trip we were heading off on we would have all turned up to our 3.30 am coach dressed as dapper as Angus Blayney, who came with little more than a suit, cravat and 15 minute Italian phrasebook. However, by the time we arrived in Rome, our bleary eyes having been woken by the first architectural highlight of the week, Heathrow Terminal 5, we were immediately energised by the bustle of the Eternal city and soon talking about mounting the best invasion since Garibaldi. And thus, with the joint revelation that, for the Stoics, beer could be served in litre jugs and, for Mr Robinson, the hotel had to be changed as the pipes had burst (Italian plumbing), our week had begun.

Our first stop was the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria, where the trip began in style with Bernini's climatic rendering of St Teresa of Avalon, a perfect embodiment of Counter Reformation art in Baroque Rome. This rather set the tone for the week, with Mr Robinson's comment that you should never pass a church without having a look inside losing its initial humour after we realised quite how many there were in the city. However, the sheer variety of churches proved irresistible, and we ended up visiting five on our first afternoon alone, more than most of us had visited in our life but not quite challenging CCR's record of 47 in a single day. It did enough however to showcase the best examples of the Baroque church and its contrasting talents, with Borromini's San Carle alle Quatro Fontane competing with its neighbour, Bernini's Sant'Andrea al Quirinale as well as Caravaggio and Carracci duelling in the Cerasi Chapel, San Maria del Popolo. By the time we'd visited the Pantheon, resplendent in the evening sun, we were all quite ready for supper, with the Stoics typically picking out the 'Big Apple Bar & Grill' from all the Italian cafes surrounding the Piazza Navona.

The next day included possibly the highlight of the trip, excluding 'smart day' - the indomitable St Peter's. The morning was spent delighting in the extensive collection of the Vatican Museum, in which our rather selective tour seemed to cover most of Western art history. This only whetted our appetite, though, for the fantastic St Peter's basilica, the scale of which amazed us from the moment we were embraced by Bernini's dramatic colonnades in the Piazza. After a short moment spent cooling off in the spray of the fountains, and a severely failed attempt to chat to a Swiss guard, we were inside the vast basilica, only prevented from being drawn towards Bernini's iconic Baldachino by Michelangelo's supremely modelled Pieta, a masterpiece in affective sculpture. The afternoon really highlighted both the power and importance of the Counter Reformation Catholic Church, glorified by the Baroque artists. The ensuing walk across the city back to the hotel would have made a pilgrim proud, and was thankfully punctuated by a Caravaggio and then a pizza back by the Pantheon.

The remaining three days were a tour de force of the High Baroque, perhaps highlighted by our education in Baroque ceilings and increasing levels of illusionism, including that of a two dimensional dome. We were also able to look further afield than merely our Roman Baroque syllabus, hitting the tourist hotspots of the Coliseum and Forum as well as viewing High Renaissance masters, in which a study of Leonardo's hand gestures proved to be particularly rewarding.

The trip proved to be an absolute all round education for everyone, and it's hard to believe that any of us will soon forget the power and majesty of, say, the Baldachino or Longinus. A huge thank you therefore to both Mr Robinson and Mrs Lake for their immense enthusiasm, dedication and, most importantly, sense of humour, for making the trip such an unforgettable experience.

Harry Burke, Grenville U6th





Ski Trip

We all turned up at Gatwick airport at 4am on a chilly morning tired yet eager to get to our hotel, see the snow for the first time and check out the opposition. Once we had settled into our hotel and got to know everyone on the trip we were briefed on the trip and how it was going to be run. On the 1st day of skiing we were all designated ski instructors and we got back in the rhythm of skiing again.

After bowling in the evening we were all put to bed early to get ready for the 1st day of racing. 3 other schools competed alongside Stowe: Wellington, Whitgift and Ardingly; each had strong competitors in their team. After assessing everyone's ability we split our racers into A's, B's and C's respective of ability.

The first race was the parallel slalom where we were put into 2 pools and the top 2 in each faced each other in a straight semi final and final. Unfortunately Stowe B and C didn't make the cut due to the high quality of the other competitors. But due to a dead heat for 2nd place between Stowe a team and Wellington a team there was a straight race to see who would continue in the competition. Unfortunately due to nerves, our rider fell at the 4th gate handing victory to Wellington A, who would go in to win the Parallel slalom. The next day was the giant slalom which was both an individual event

and a team event, each rider went down twice and their times were added up and the fastest times won. From Stowe, Miles Johnson came 3rd in the individual event and led the A team to victory in the Team event with brilliant runs from Angus Craven, Ed Robinson, Miles Johnson and Rory Langman by winning it by over 5 seconds over their main rivals Wellington who came 2nd. This was a huge boost to the team with Stowe B and C coming 4th and 8th respectively out of 12 teams. This victory made the bowling in the evening so much sweeter and the desire to continue skiing for glory on the final day.

The final day was slalom with a hard course set, in which Stowe A team came 3rd in the team event, with Miles Johnson again coming 3rd in the individual event. Ardingly won both the individual and team gold and eventually won the overall trophy. Later that evening there was a prize ceremony which saw Stowe take away free medals, t shirts boot bags and even a brand new snowboard!

This was more than a successful trip for all, especially as we brought some silverware back with us! Many thanks to all the staff who were involved in the running of the trip which included Mr Mochan, Dr Chare, Mr Arnold and Miss Caterson. It would not have been anywhere near as good without them.

Miles Johnson, Chatham L6th



Day 1 started at 3 o'clock in the morning, as we had to share a bus to the airport with the History of Art trip. We arrived in Madrid airport and Mrs L-T got rather fraught buying our metro tickets. After dropping off our bags, we went into the centre of Madrid to look round the Plaza Mayor for a bit, as well as seeing the Plaza Real on our way back. We celebrated being in the sunshine and not at school by having a beer!

Day 2 We all met on the Metro at 9am and made our way to the bus station to get us to the historic city of Toledo. Once we arrived we made our journey into the walled city and up the narrow streets towards the central plaza, visiting a small chapel on the way. We took the ZocoTren tour around the entire city, which helped us to understand a little more about the history. A couple of us then decided to go and see the Museum of Torture with Mr Dobson, which was very interesting, despite being a little grim at times. It certainly gave Mr Dobson some new ideas for people who don't do their prep... We were soon heading back to Madrid where we met up with Alex and Mr Johnston for tapas and decent wine, before returning 'home' to our apartments.

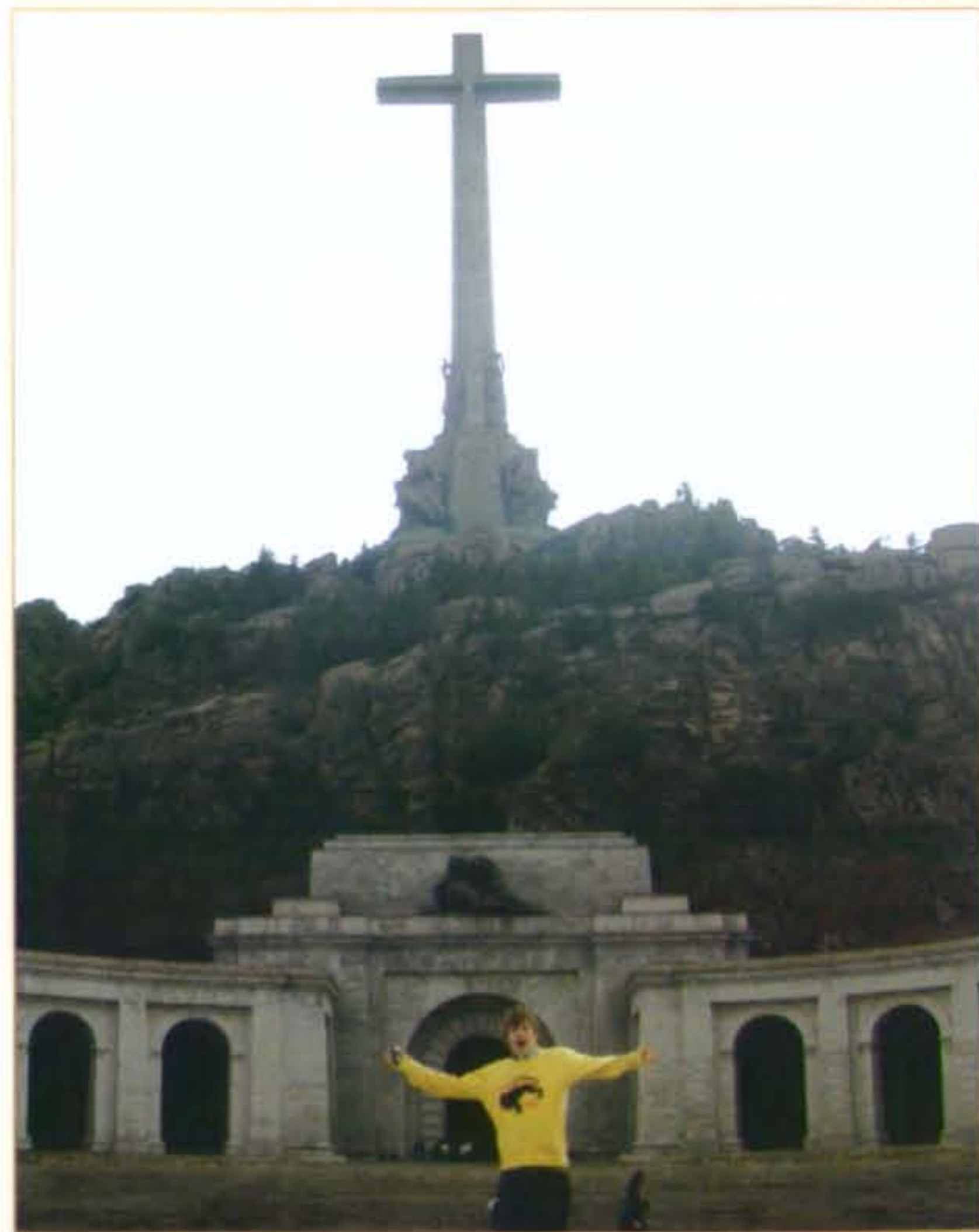
Day 3 Today started off with a highly anticipated visit to Madrid's impressive Prado art museum. The museum contains work from some of the world's greatest artists including the Spanish masters Velazquez and Goya. We spent the morning discovering the art. Then we wandered over to the Reina Sofia Museum which is Madrid's answer to the Tate Modern. The main reason we went there was to see Pablo Picasso's 'Guernica' which is one of the best known paintings to come out of Spain in the last century - it was breath taking. After stopping for a typically late three o'clock Spanish lunch the group split up. The boys went with Mr. Dobson, and the girls and Mrs L-T went to see the newest Pedro Almodóvar film (a director we are studying). We eventually found out it was Spain vs. Turkey, so with six football tickets in our pockets we were in high spirits when we met up with the girls in 'Sol', a lively district in Madrid where there is always something entertaining to see and do. We all went out for supper to a very nice Spanish style restaurant, three very large servings of Paella later and everyone was ready to call it a day.

Day 4 The group took a bus out of the city to see El Escorial and La Valle de los Caidos. In the evening, it was time to go to the match, which didn't even start until 10pm. When got on the metro to head to the Bernabeu, the atmosphere was already very electric and the adrenaline kicked in. Even the

most avid non football fan would have become excited by the seemingly mad Spaniards singing and dancing. Meanwhile some of the girls took Mr Dobson to the bullfighting bar in Central Madrid. Photographs of famous matadors adorned the walls as did various bulls' heads and intricate examples of "Trajes de Luces" ("Suit of Lights") which matadors wear during the bullfights. The girls were certainly impressed by how fit the matadors looked!

Day 5 It was time to leave. We all said our goodbyes and arrived at the metro station to start the journey towards Barajas airport. Poppy had left us in Madrid, and Alex was travelling on to Geneva, so it was a slightly depleted group who arrived in Heathrow that afternoon. It is no surprise that many of us now want to live in Madrid in the future!

*Charlotte Everitt, Poppy Fisher, Immy Brabant, Rachael Millard, Nickleby Evans, Jude Issa, Alex Johnston, Angus Blayney, Freddie Forrester and Jack Berner (all U6th).
Edited by Mrs Chrissie Lawrance-Thorne.*



The Cape Town cricket tour is so far and probably will be the highlight of everyone's year that went on it. We all had a great time in South Africa and everyone really enjoyed it, but that wasn't just because all the things we did and saw were very nice: we won every single match we played. Here are some small match reports of all our amazing games.

Pinelands High School- Match 1. Won by 3 Wickets. Pinelands 197 for 7 dec. Stowe 200 for 7

We arrived at the ground to have very low lying clouds and the outfield was pretty damp with the wicket itself having quite a few soft patches on. This didn't affect us much and I went out to toss, lost it and they chose to bat. The first 20 overs went really well, and we restricted them down to only 60 runs for two. But there was 1 of their 1st team players in, who was settled in and leading his team. At 50 overs we finally got him out on 107 with some good consistent bowling from Harry Martin. Now was when we put the pressure on, and they declared for 198/6 of 58. We then went in to bat, and after a slow start we were 30/0 of 10. Then a quick flurry of wickets fell, and we were 54/4 but a good partnership between Henry Rudd and Ben Duckett got us back in stride, thanks to a good 60 from Ben it took us up to 120, we had 20 overs to go 80. Then we lost Ben and two more wickets, but a good knock from Ben Paine and Jake Olley brought us home with an over to spare winning by three wickets.

Goudini High School- Match 2. Won by 114 runs. Stowe 156 for 5. Goudini 42 all out

We got to the ground after lunch at a very nice vineyard and a good relaxing swim at the Goudini Spa. The outfield was about 2 inches high and the wicket didn't look great, but we wanted to bat. I lost the toss again, and luckily they chose to Field. After an early loss in the first over, we were a bit shocked, but a great strong partnership of 100 between Henry Woodward and Ben Duckett, we were back at cruising rate. We then lost Ben for 85 and Henry for 22, so a quick swing for three and four took us up to a fine total of 156. On a pitch that was very hard to get runs by we thought it would be hard for them to chase down. We put the pressure on early and they never really got into a rhythm, but we did. I bowled seven people, all of whom got wickets, James Rose coming out on top with 3-1 off 4 overs. We got them all out for 41.

Reddam Atlantic Seaboard- Match 3. Won by 60 runs. Stowe 142 for 8. Reddam 82 all out

Under the cover of the new football stadium, we played on a pitch with a massive boundary but in pretty good condition. At last, I won the toss! So we batted first hoping to put some good runs on. After a quick loss early on didn't set the attitude to well, but a good knock of 49 from Russell White well supported by Barran, Olley and Nichols kept us moving. We posted 143 of the 30 overs. But again, great opening bowling from Paine and Barran had the opposition on their back foot. A small struggle from their middle order gave us a bit of a problem but some great bowling from Duckett and Martin nailed them all out for 71. Duckett and Martin shared a good six wickets.

Reddam Constantia- Match 4. Won by 146 runs Stowe 167 all out. Reddam 21 all out.

This was said to be the best team we would play on the tour, it was certainly a nice school and good pitch, but what was too happen with the match.... I lost the toss and we were put in to bat on the freshly watered track. Not the best batting performance of the tour but thanks to a good strong base of 61 from Duckett, we built around him but didn't get a massive total, only 167 off 38 overs after being bowled out 2 overs short. This time it was quite a scary start, and instead of having them pinned down in the first 5 overs, they were 17/0 off 2! Their 2 openers had scored hundreds two weeks before, and I was very worried. But the next over Ben Paine stuck at it, and got 1 guy out, then the next and, and the next. Before I had had time to think they were 17/4 after Edward Wightman claimed the fourth. Jake Olley then came on and took 4 for 1, Wightman took another one, and after a quick flurry of wickets, Woodward snatched the last wicket and we bowled them out for 21!!

Langa Township- Match 5. Won by 119 runs. Stowe 175 for 4. Langa 56 all out

We had a wonderful tour round the other half of Cape Town, and then ate the most amazing food at lunch in a local restaurant, after which at 31degrees we set off to the pitch. Finally I won a toss and we decided to bat. We went into this game with massive confidence seeing as it was the last match and we wanted it like anything. After a great start from Nichols and Duckett, we were on 50 off 4 overs. We then lost Nichols for 26. Again, another quick loss of wickets brought



Jake Olley to the crease to join a cruising Ben Duckett; Jake had a wonderful knock of 48 not out, trying his hardest to give Ben the strike. When he got it he had 2 balls left with 11 to get for his hundred, going for the 6 sadly straight down the throat of the man at long on just a few yards of the boundary. We finished with a big 175. Full of excitement we put our Blue and yellow war paints on and hit the field running. Their openers started well, but Cameron Roberts then took 2 vital wickets that lead to their collapse. Another great bowling attack and fielding display bowled the Langa side out for 56.

Henry Rudd, Tour Captain, Chandos 4ths

Favourite Part

Ben Duckett - Watching the penguins

Ben Nichols - Tour dinner and the 50 Partnership in 4 overs with Ben D in the 20Twenty...

Ben Paine - Staying with the African families and I loved the penguins!

Cameron Roberts - Hot Chocolate at night with Ben N, and the wicket celebration with Hugo...

Rob Hill - The luxury comfortable beds in the hotel, playing cricket in the heat for once!

Henry Woodward - Getting Fielder of the Tour

Jake Olley - Winning the First and hardest match with Painey, and getting 48 not out in the Twenty/20.

James Rose - Chief Carder, playing and looking at Langa Township

Henry Rudd - Having the privilege to lead such a fun group of friends in such a fantastic tour!

Mr. Arnold - Hospitality and music of the Langa Township.

Mr. Mochan - Watching the brave members of the team cover and run away when they were confronted by a baboon on the path on our way up to Cape Point.

Mr. Knott - The Pinelands win was the by far and away the highlight as this was the school coached whilst playing as the overseas professional for Pinelands Cricket Club. A really close match that ebbed and flowed all the way through it. A real triumph.

Tour Award

Best Batsman: Ben Duckett

Best Bowler: Ben Paine

Best Fielder: Henry Woodward

Most Improved Player: Ed Wightman

Best Team Man: Robert Hill

Man of the Tour: Henry Rudd

MOM Pinelands: Henry Rudd

MOM Goudini: Ben Duckett

MOM Atlantic Seaboard: Russell White

MOM Constantia: Ben Paine

MOM Langa: James Rose



The Cape Town U15 Cricket Tour



Hockey Tour

MALTA APRIL 2009

During the Easter holidays, the Stowe Junior Girls Hockey team toured to Malta for a week of hockey against local and National opposition. The week started with a 4am meet at Gatwick Airport.

Upon arriving at the hotel, we had some free time to unpack, relax and explore the pools before heading into town for some tenpin bowling. The squad split into its three teams for the week, each led by one of the members of staff. Team Walsh-Wolcott won, naturally.

The following morning, after far too much breakfast (!), we boarded the coach and headed for the hockey stadium for our first two hour training session with James, our ex-International Maltese hockey coach. That evening, the game against Qormi HC was tougher than we had expected due to a mistake over the standard of the opposition, but despite the mix up, the girls played superbly well and although Stowe lost the match, the performance was both professional and encouraging.

In the next session with James the girls learnt some new techniques and ways of approaching the game including ball retention and pressing the opposition "D" with a transfer in and around the "25". Their second match of the tour saw them come away with a 2-0 win against Sliema. In the evening we walked to a local Brazilian bar for a night of Salsa dancing with our Cuban instructor!

The team had a lie on Friday and after breakfast boarded the transport to the harbour for a relaxing cruise around the island with a lunchtime stop off at Comino Bay and the Blue Lagoon.

Our final training session on Saturday was followed by a fixture against Malta National U15 Boys side, which the girls were very excited about, if not a little nervous!!

All in all everyone had a great time; thanks to Miss Ogilvie and Miss Edwards for their help.

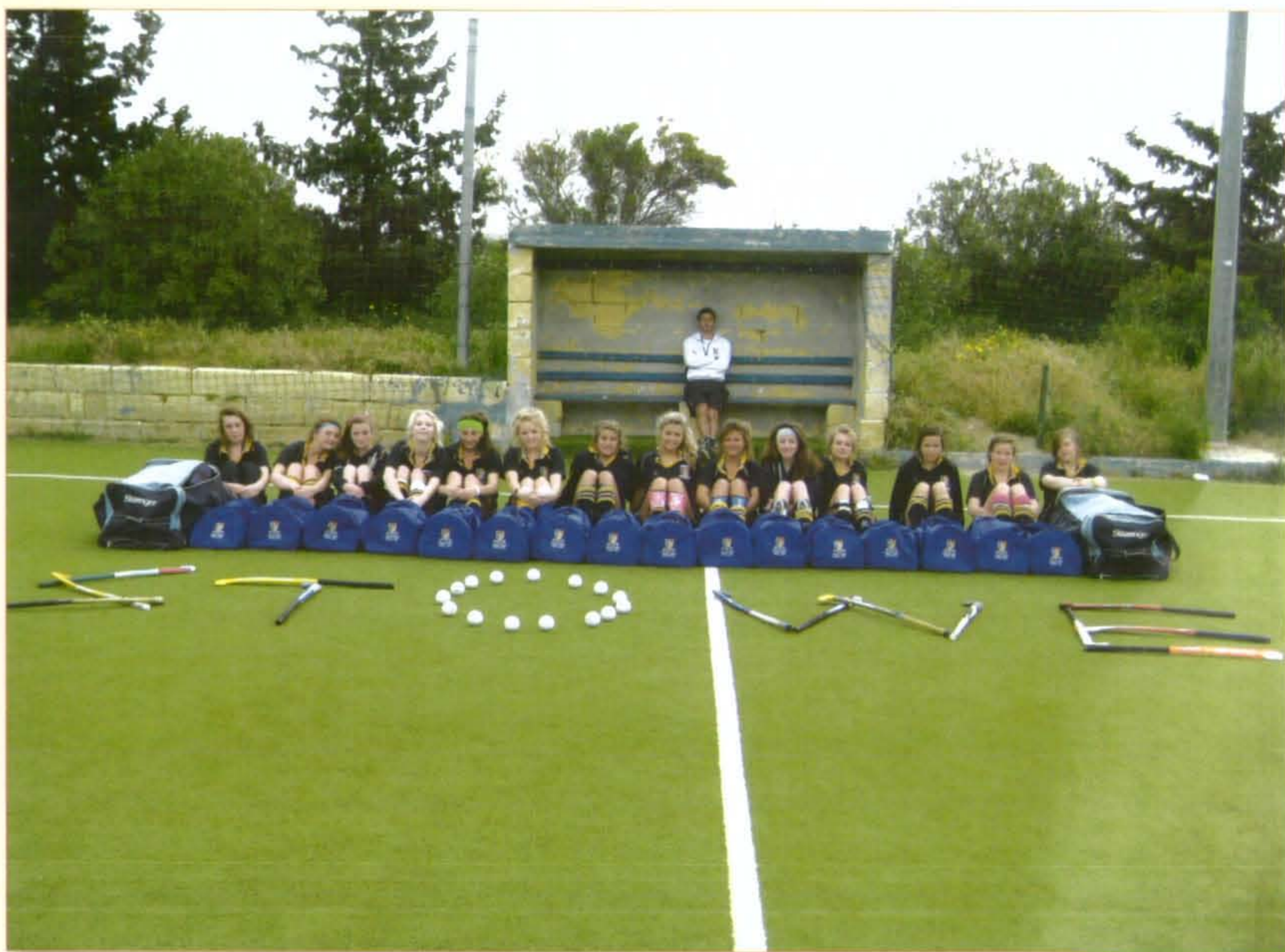
Mr Matthew Walsh-Woolcott

Here's what the girls had to say:

"It was very intense but we did not put in our full efforts as we had to save our energy for the match that evening." (Charlotte and Imogen, Tour Diary, Day 2)

"...it was a lot of fun and everyone got quite into it and Cookie likes to practice it [salsa dancing] now in her free time to impress the boys..." (Lara and Pinny, Tour Diary, Day 3).

"We had a fun last session with Walshy and James, they took us through a tiring session of long corners and transferring the ball from side to side improving our skills." (Sarah and George, Tour Diary, Day 6)







Since September the Music Department Staff, Music Scholars, Music Exhibitioners, Instrumental and Singing Students have taken part in about 40 Concerts and attended or given nine thousand Music lessons. We have introduced and developed a brand new curriculum for year 9 that has led to an uptake of Music GCSE which is in double figures for the first time. Every Wednesday there have been concerts which have produced many beautiful performances, novice performers playing a grade one piece or our gifted and talented Music Scholars and Exhibitioners stretching their techniques and musical boundaries playing virtuosic repertoire; over 200 students have played in these concerts during the year. We have seen the creation of the Stowe Choral Society which has performed Handel's Messiah and Mozart's Requiem. It has been an exciting and deeply rewarding year for both staff and students alike.

In November the whole school came together to celebrate their musical prowess and enthusiasm for singing and performance in the House Singing Competition. Two very skilled judges came to adjudicate the event. Gavin Carr, an international baritone who is a very experienced professional singer and conducts three major choral societies in the West Country, including the Bristol Bach Choir, and Stephen Dummer who is a multi-talented conductor/clarinettist jazz and classical musician and founder of Talkestra. Each house put forward every member of their House and sang a unison song, and then a smaller group offered a song in parts. The whole school and many members of staff packed the chapel and the event was mesmerising. House after House sang with style, enthusiasm and musicality. The Boy's houses often feel at a disadvantage, because the girls, apparently, are naturally more gifted at singing, and don't have to deal with the agony of broken voices. The judges were spellbound by the standard of both boys and girls singing. In the end the controversial decision to award Nugent all three awards for part-song, unison song and overall winners indicated that the girls had outflanked the boys with some really 'world class' singing, but the boys were not that far behind. Walpole, Cobham and

Temple produced three excellent part-songs, and even the girls within their own ranks produced some beautiful music, particularly the Queen's part-song. Sheridan Coldstream, the internationally recognised vocal coach and teacher, who lives near-by and has a close relationship with Stowe's singing (having been an adjudicator himself in the previous year's competition), came and gave a workshop in the afternoon and while the judges were thinking, he directed a wonderful group of Stoics, who entertained the waiting audience of 750 people.

On November 6, Jennifer Nelson, as well as managing a brand new girl's boarding house, organised a wonderful day of Jazz Improvisation for Prep Schools and our own students including Beaudesert, Hallfield, Farleigh, Aldwickbury, Moulesford, Northcote Lodge, Milton Keynes Prep and Spratton Hall. 125 prep school students took part, and 40 Stoics. Jenny had successfully engaged an outstanding Jazz workshop leader, Andy Baker. He is a Double Bass player who studied at the Royal Academy, and is now in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, he has led literally hundreds of creative music projects in schools! So we were delighted to have him come to Stowe. The final concert in the afternoon was testament to his fine and exciting leadership.

The formation of a Choral Society has allowed the Chapel Choir and those members of the school, staff and students, as well as those in the community at large, to participate in large scale choral works. At the Christmas Concert the second half was Handel's Messiah. Charlotte Matthews, Florence Hopewell, Jacob Dennison and Augustus Perkins Ray sang the solos from the Christmas section of Handel's oratorio, while the Choral Society sang the choruses and then finished the concert with the Halleluia chorus, for which the audience stood and joined in. The soloists all sang beautifully, giving an air of quiet professionalism. The audience were captivated by these young singers' performances. In March the Choral Society sang Mozart's Requiem. On both occasions the orchestra has been a small professional group led by Mark



Messenger, who is the Head of Strings at the Royal College of Music. We were also joined by four fine professional soloists, Philippa Dearsley, Charles Richardson, James Lonsdale and Andrew Tipple. The school orchestra led by Balthazar Mattar, opened the March concert with Delius' Marche Caprice and Haydn's Lamentation Symphony. Charlotte Matthews (Oboe), Augustus Perkins Ray (Horn) and Lucinda Finlay (Flute) all were featured as soloists. Daniel Bhattacharya's String Orchestra played Purcell's Chacony, which was conducted by Mark Messenger.

The Carol Service was very well attended and the choir sang beautifully. Charlotte Matthews and Jacob Dennison sang a carol by Vaughan Williams, and August Perkins Ray sang the baritone solo in Cornelius' Three Kings. Mr. Huw Jones played the organ and Debbie Arscott organised the Brass Players for the Wilcocks arrangements which preceded the congregational carols. It should be noted that Charlotte Matthews, as the leader of the choir this year, has given endless support to the Chapel Choir and has been an exceptional example as a musician and as a student who is conscientious and shows tireless commitment to the Chapel Choir. I hope she is successful at the forthcoming Cambridge Choral Scholarship Competition.

Just before the Carol Service The Jazz Band under the direction of Debbie Arscott and The Stowe Chamber Choir led by Huw Jones performed in the Marble Hall, the State Music Room and the Temple Room for the 300 people who attended the Dinner N' Jazz event. Emma Allen, Debbie Arscott and Geoff Higgins ensured the event was a success. This was the first time the Chamber choir had sung at the event, and they did a set of 30's show tunes while people ate the delicious meal. The band were very fine, and Jonty Irving, Josh Low and George Hunter gave their all in the final Dinner N' Jazz event of their school careers.

In February Gavin Carr returned to Stowe, after his adjudication at the Singing Competition, to perform for us Schumann's Song Cycle Dichterliebe (The Poet's Love). I had

the pleasure of playing for him, and rarely have I had the opportunity to work with such a skilled technician and such a fine interpreter of the German language. The atmosphere on a cold winter's Sunday evening was perfect for a leader recital given in the State Music Room, what was extraordinary were the plate-size flakes of snow dropping outside onto the South front lawn. The weather clearly affected the numbers who heard Gavin sing, but those who were there had a real treat. Had we know what the weather was going to be we would have done Schubert's cycle 'The Winter's Journey', perhaps next year?

Due to the extraordinary snow and weather the Prep School Choral Festival had to be postponed from its February slot. But in March Debbie Arscott put together a lovely day of Woodwind playing for the Prep Schools' Instrumental Festival. Debbie led the day and bought in some fine Woodwind, Brass and Percussion players including Emily Cumby (Percussion), Philip Blake-Convey (Tuba), Murray Bortwick (Tenor Horn), Sarah Watts (Bassoon), Natalie Witts (Trombone) and Sally Adams (Flute). They helped to divide the large group of 90 students plus about 40 Stoics, into smaller groups so they could rehearse more easily. The concert included a Suite from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and a suite of songs from Mama Mia, which the audience and players enjoyed a great deal.

In the midst of the final weeks of the spring term, the music department was wholly immersed in Sandy Wilson's show The Boy Friend. Cast and band worked very hard, and the students in the band played with verve and the appropriate 'Twenties' style, Alex Bodian (Kit), George Hunter (Trumpet), Balthazar Mattar (Violin), Caroline Harington (Violin), and Edward McDonald (Cello). I could not have done the event without the support Hilary Suckling, who was a marvellous Assistant Musical Director, and the members of staff who played in the band Debbie Arscott (Trumpet), Jennifer Nelson (Clarinet and Sax) and Alan Wakeman (Sax).

On the final two days of term we had one day of Associated





Board Examinations and all our AS/A2 practical examinations. Because of the new course that Hilary Suckling devised, the A level practical's were immensely enjoyable. The student's were well prepared and the performed well. Many of them also had high grades to take the day before, and the results of these were excellent. Augustus Perkins Ray Grade 8 Piano Distinction; Jacob Dennison Grade 8 Singing Distinction; Florence Hopewell Grade 8 singing distinction; Caroline Harington Grade 8 Piano; Florence Hopewell Grade 8 Oboe; Rosie Gawthrop Grade 6 Piano Merit. August Perkins Ray in the Autumn term achieved 143 out of 150 for his Grade Singing and James Larter, who is only in the fourth form, achieved 141 out of 150 for his grade 8 percussion.

All of the string players and myself did wonder what on earth we were doing sitting on a minibus at 4:15AM being driven by Jockey, who is one of the many exceptional chefs at Stowe, to Luton Airport after one of the busiest spring terms I can remember. However, what surprised me was the arrival of Evie Roxburgh (cellist), Frank Kilsby (cellist), Edward McDonald (cellist), James Blackham (violinist), Jacob Dennison (cellist), Balthazar Mattar (violinist), James Gordon Reid (violinist) and Emma-Claire Bailey (violinist) at such an early hour, all packed, with their instruments and music!

Monarch air took us to Gibraltar where we were met by Matthew Coman, a Double Bass player with the London Symphony Orchestra, who had organised the tour and welcomed us into the comforting warmth of Southern Spain. We drove through the beautiful countryside to arrive at our home for the next four days in Alcala de los Gazules, a white mountain top village nestled in a national park. Our hotel was very comfortable, and once unpacked Matthew took us straight to a local restaurant for lunch alfresco. The students and I were simply stunned by the warmth and the overwhelming smell of orange blossom which filled the air.

Each day the students rehearsed with Daniel Bhattacharya (Head of Strings) and Chris Windass (Violin teacher) each day and they prepared to play Purcell, Bach and Vivaldi. We had one concert in Alcala, which was televised and one in Cadiz. We played in two churches, and James Gordon Reid and Balthazar Mattar played their concertos with a vibrant sense of style and occasion. The audience were also thrilled when Emma-Claire Bailey played a part of the Schindler's list theme, James Blackham played Czardos, and Edward McDonald poetically gave a very moving performance of a movement from one of Bach's Cello Suites. The musicians from Stowe were taken aback by the standing ovation the Spanish audience gave them at the end of the concerts. It was a thrilling tour, and one I hope we will repeat, at some point, each year.

The summer term has 20 events taking place from the end of April to the end of June and they began with a wonderfully informative and inspiring Woodwind Workshop given by acclaimed clarinettist and pedagogue Paul Harris. The event preceded the Woodwind festival which involved all the Woodwind players performing in the Queen's Temple, with Hilary Suckling accompanying, and Sue Gill, Head of Woodwind at Haileybury giving advice and encouragement to all our students. Nearly every Sunday this term there has been some sort of instrumental festival. Mark Messenger returned to judge the string Prizes, Daniel Tong came and gave encouraging comments to all our pianists, and Shelia Barnes will be coming in June to give guidance to our many young but distinguished singers. The final Mozart Trio Prize is being adjudicated by internationally acclaimed concert pianist Philip Fowke.

Just one week after the school was inspected the postponed Prep School Choral Day took place. It was a beautiful sunny



day, and at the lunch break 450 Prep School students took full advantage of the South Front lawn. The image of them playing was really inspiring. They eventually returned from their games and worked hard in the chapel and produced a very beautiful Evensong singing Walmisley's Evening Service in D minor, Preces and Responses by Stephen Cleobury and the anthen was Parry's I Was Glad. Huw Jones accompanied with imagination and sensitivity and the anthem was accompanied by a Brass Octet and organ. The music was arranged by Debbie Arscott: her expertise as a Brass Band player was clear to hear in this exciting 'brass-band' like arrangement. From the many letters and emails I received I think singing with the Organ and the Brass was a highlight for many of these young singers.

Just before speech day we had a wonderful weekend of A Capella singing from two extraordinary groups Oxford's Out of the Blue and Yale University's Spizzwinks. Both groups were enormous fun to watch. Chris Townsend had managed to secure Out of the Blue and in the Roxburgh Theatre they provided musicianship and entertainment of the highest order. The following evening Spizzwinks created an atmosphere in the Marble Hall that took the audience back to the 1930's, perhaps a cabaret show at the Cotton Club. Both groups were spellbinding as harmony singers, and I hope they will act as an inspiration for the part-songs in next year's House Singing Competition.

Speech Day itself took on a new format, and the weather was very kind to us. The inspiring sound of the String Orchestra playing Bach on the South Front Portico was simply poetic, as

was James Gordon Reid's playing of the Bach A minor Concerto. It was a performance of this piece that enabled him to win the String Prize the previous week. The Jazz Band took over at 11AM and nearly managed to get the parents and stoics to dance into the vast tent. Once in the tent the speeches began, but the event opened with Florence Hopewell 'knocking them dead' with If I were a Bell from Guys and Dolls. As the Headmaster spoke of Sir Nicholas Winton and his work rescuing children from the Holocaust and Bob Drayson's Memorial Service, Emma Claire Bailey (Violin) played the theme from Schindler's list and Charlotte Matthews' sang Lagan Love, a lament, both very moving performances. For the Finale Imogen Brabant and Augustus Perkins Ray reprised a song from The Boy Friend only to then be joined by the whole cast who sang the Finale from Act III.

It has been an extraordinary year of music making, and there are still many things about to happen, the Jazz Band are appearing at the Althorp House Literary Festival, Foden's Brass Band are coming to perform, and the summer term comes to an end with the Jazz Band's Summer Picnic, this year happening on the South Front Portico.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music



Music



'The Boy Friend' ended its three night run in the Roxy Theatre here at Stowe on Saturday March 14, 2009. Throw in a few who saw the final dress rehearsal on the Wednesday night and we had over 1000 happy, contented and broad grinning audience members who loved every minute. Some even liked it so much they came twice!

The show is essentially a boy meets girl love story with a slushy, happy ending. It is a real throw back to the old fashioned, 'terribly nice' musical comedies made popular in the years between the wars from such masters of the musical genre as Noel Coward and Ivor Novello. No loud, obnoxious American High School airheads and cheerleaders in this show thank goodness and not a swear word to be heard but instead we are introduced to a parade of perfect young ladies, French maids and thrusting gigolos, school teachers with a shady past and enough cut glass English accents to make even the most patriotic Britisher proud!

Regular Congreve stars IMOGEN BRABANT as Polly, AUGUSTUS PERKINS RAY as Tony, MONTGOMERY LEWIS as Lord Brockhurst, JONTY IRVING as Alphonse, LUCY MILBURN as Lady Brockhurst, FELIX STEVENSON as Percival Browne, FREDDIE FORRESTER as Henri and CHARLOTTE EVERITT as Hortense were joined by the likes of the sensational OLIVIA MULHALL as Maisie, FLORENCE HOPEWELL as Dulcie, ABBY WEBB (minus Hockey stick) as Nancy, JOSH LOW as Bobby, JODIE MILLS as Fay, REBECCA INGRAM as Phoebe and our new Head Girl to be ROSIE GAWTHROP as Madame Dubonett in the main principal parts.

However it is nigh on impossible to single out individuals for particular praise as this was a real 'company show with a cast and crew of over 70 Stoics working incredibly hard to produce such a polished and professional piece. I would like to take this opportunity to say a thousand thanks to ALL who took part on stage, played an instrument, worked backstage, applied make up, combed a head of hair or ten and hung up a costume!

Huge and heartfelt thanks must also go to my fellow colleagues SIMON DEARSLEY, HILARY SUCKLING, ED MCLEAN, STEVE GRIMBLE, ANGELA CMMISH and SUSI COX for their time, energy and commitment to the cause. The wonderful Matrons of Stanhope, Chandos and Chatham (you know who you are!!) kept us all in control backstage and for those suffering from strained voices there was always a supply of Honey and Lemon, and a little nip, made by their fair and experienced hands!

Finally I want to say a big thanks on behalf of the entire company to all those parents, friends and family who came to give us such fantastic support and even bothered to write to me afterwards to express their thanks.

Here are a few of the Parent comments I received:

"I just want to say how much we enjoyed the performance of

Stowe

Senior Congreve 2009
proudly presents

The Boy Friend

A musical comedy of the 1920's
by Sandy Wilson

Thursday 12 March
Friday 13 March
Saturday 14 March

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Limited

The Boy Friend. What an amazingly colourful, cheerful and professional show. It was such fun, and we were all incredibly impressed. Your dedication and the time you put in is highly appreciated. Congratulations to you all and thank you for a lovely evening. It was a joy to see all the boys dancing with such obvious delight!"

"Thank you so much for the invite to the show on Saturday Nick. I thought it was excellent. The principle performers acted and sang their hearts out as did the wonderful Chorus. Please pass on my congratulations to all the students who took part. I thought the tableau scenes were superbly done and the costumes quite stunning. All round a very professional and spirited performance."

"Dear Nick, your production of The Boy Friend was quite brilliant. I enjoyed every minute of it. The work that clearly went into it from all sides was huge and it really paid off. The cast looked like they enjoyed every minute of it and congratulations to each and every one of them for such outstanding performances."

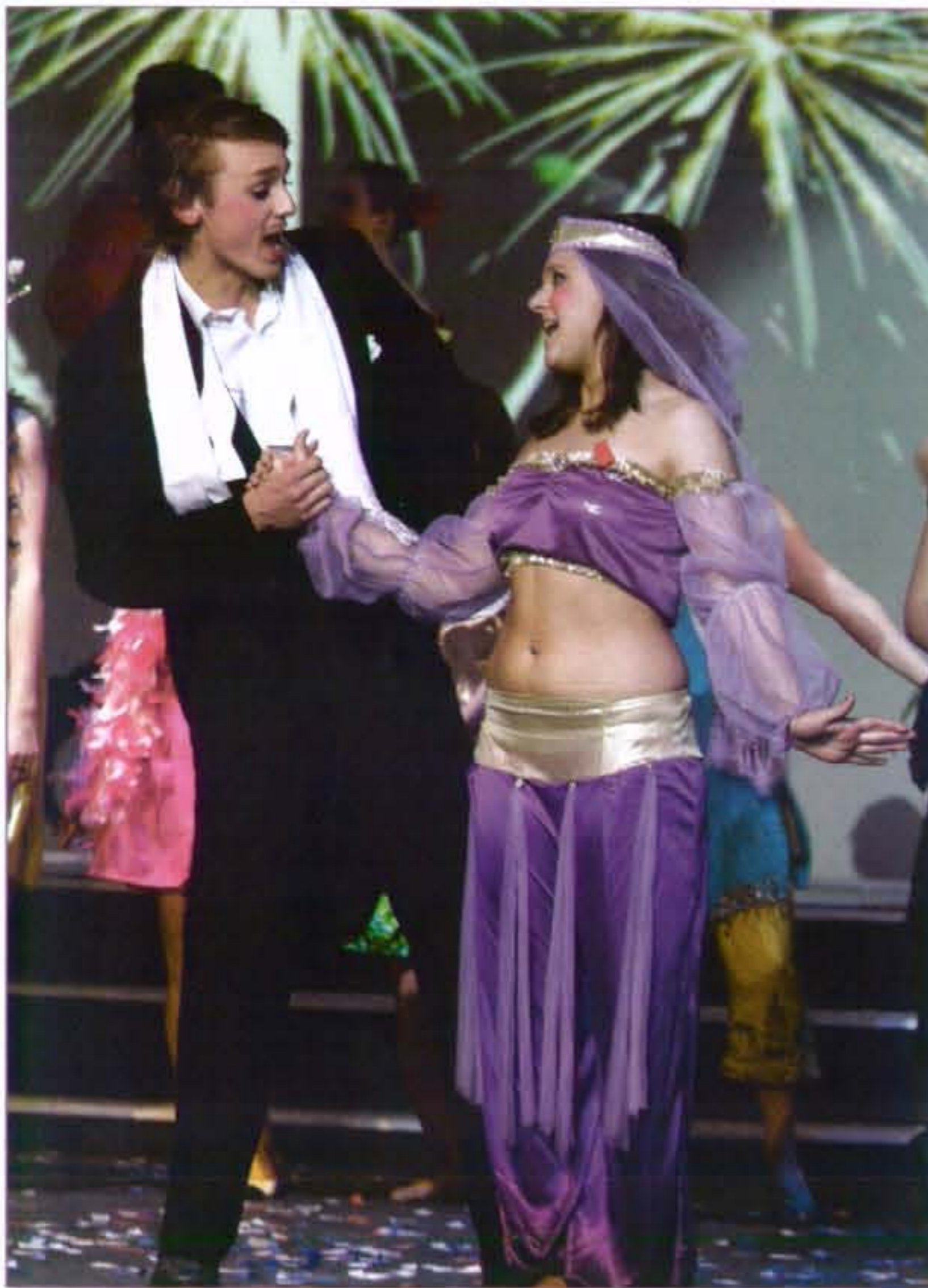
"Fantastic! We loved the Boy Friend and thought the cast were all brilliant, professional, enthusiastic and really wonderful."

"Just wanted to let you know how much my family and I enjoyed last night's performance of The Boy Friend. I don't know how you manage to get such superb performances out of such young people, my husband was convinced that Felix Stevenson (Percival Browne) couldn't possibly be a Sixth Former!"

"Just a quick note to let you know how much we enjoyed *The Boy Friend* last night. I was absolutely amazed at the polished performances all the cast were able to produce. I can only guess at the time and effort you and your team have put in to reach such a professional standard but it was well worth it and it was obviously thoroughly appreciated by the audience. Many thanks to all the musicians, actors, backstage crew and particularly to you Nick for providing such an amazing evenings entertainment."

"To witness a magnificent, spirited performance from such talented, confident and enthusiastic students made me feel really proud to be a Stowe parent. I know the school do so many things really well but this was quite stunning. I have paid very good money to see so called professional shows in Milton Keynes which were not a patch on your fabulous production."

"I must write to congratulate you and your fantastic cast on a wonderful production of *The Boy Friend*. The first play I saw at Stowe was when I was the Bursars secretary in 1938 and I have seen a fair few since then! I can truly say I think this was the best."



Senior Congreze



Our Day Out by Willy Russell

Circumstances dictated that there was only the shortest of rehearsal periods in order to prepare this year's production, so an ensemble production, with pretty much the entire cast involved throughout, was thought to be the best option. The cast rose magnificently to the challenge, and in just a few short weeks created a lively, funny and at times moving production.

The story, of a class of "special needs" children taken on a bus trip to Wales, is well known, providing lots of opportunities for a large cast to inhabit their characters, and despite the apparent lack of similarity between the cast and the characters, they achieved this with real sympathy.

Three characters stand out from the rest, and each of these was given a strong rendition. Isi Madojemu was powerful and commanding as the authoritative Mr Briggs, revealing something of a soft centre, and then reverting to type at the very end, when he destroys the evidence of the good time he had had. Harriet Easdale played the motherly Mrs Kay with warmth and subtlety, while Maddy Webb evoked real sympathy as the downtrodden Carol.

Two aspects of the production were particularly appreciated – the Beatles songs which punctuated the production, and the fairground scene, in which the life, energy and excitement of the fair was created by the sheer physicality of the actors – my own particular favourite was the Waltzer.

Fifth year production

Romanoff and Juliet by Peter Ustinov

Although the Fifth form are counted as part of the Senior School as far as Congreve productions are concerned, there can be a tendency for them to struggle to be included, so this year for the first time the Drama department decided to include a production specially for them.

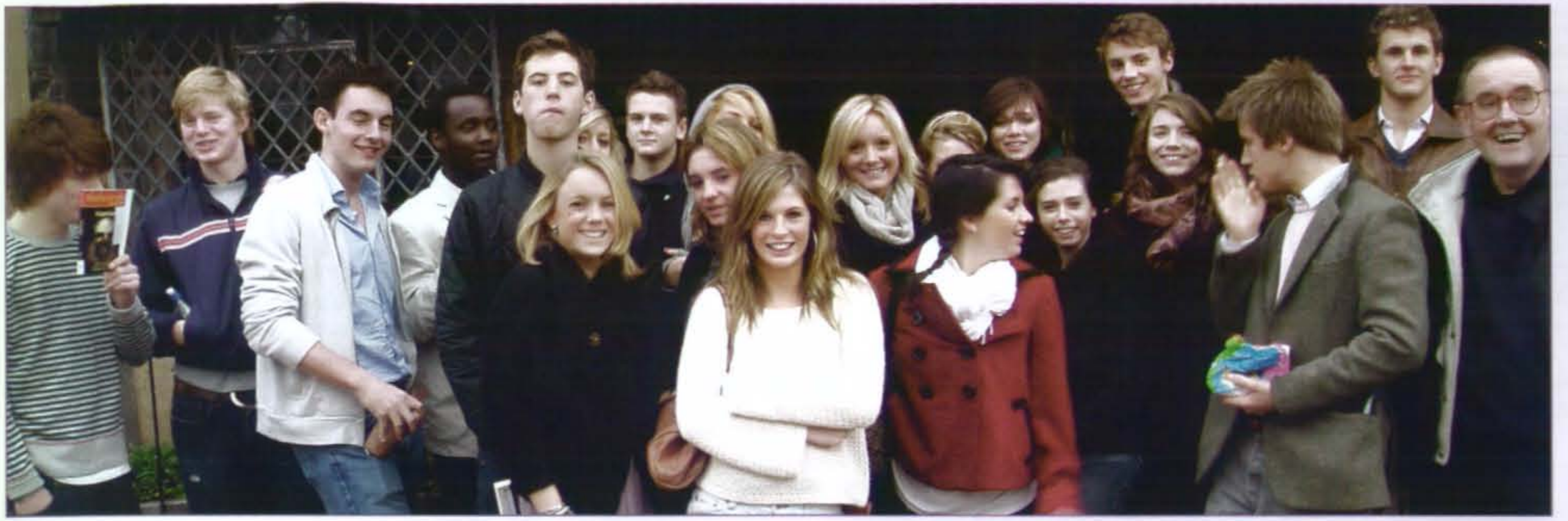
Peter Ustinov's comedy, a comic take on Shakespeare's tale of star-cross's lovers, has the action transferred to a tiny European country in the middle of the cold war, with the son of the Russian ambassador and the daughter of the American falling in love. It is a relatively sophisticated tale, but the cast took to it with aplomb, and produced a charming and affectionate production.

Micky Portlock and Rebecca Elliott played the lovers, producing convincing emotions and accents, (especially when surrounded by real Russian and North American voices) and Andrew Gordon-Colebrooke was suitably manipulative as the General who oversaw their plight, and engineered the happy marriage that a comedy must end with.

There were entertaining performances from the whole cast – too numerous to name individually – and special mention must go to George Irvine and his team of artists, who produced a wonderfully eclectic set of images and posters to provide a vibrant set.

Mr Chris Walters







On Thursday February 12, the seventeen AS Level Drama and Theatre Studies students performed their practical assessment, which is worth 40 % of the AS course.

As part of the assessment the Stoics had to explore some of the theories and techniques advocated and developed by two contrasting theatre practitioners whose work have influenced modern, contemporary theatre practice.

The set text play we explored this year was 'Oh! What a Lovely War', the classic first world war satire by Theatre Workshop and Joan Littlewood.

Littlewood was heavily influenced by the work of Bertolt Brecht, the German director, playwright and artistic director of the Berliner Ensemble. His work was primarily about challenging the restrictions of 'naturalism' in the theatre. He developed a very broad non naturalistic style, using narrative techniques, an exaggeration of performance style, the use of song, multi media and other 'epic theatre' techniques.

The Stoics worked in small groups to present an extract from this episodic 'musical entertainment' as Littlewood called it. Resplendent in clown faces and army combat trousers, the Stoics portrayed the incompetent Generals, Politicians and decision makers as buffoons and contrasted these beautifully with the working class 'tommies' who Littlewood felt were very much the victims of the senseless slaughter carried out on the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium between 1914-18.

The Stoics then had to develop their own original pieces of theatre, based on some of the themes which came out of the study of the set text play. Themes discussed included class division, futility of war, loss and greed amongst others.

These were then worked on and developed by applying some of the staging ideas of Steven Berkoff. Berkoff is something of an enigma and at the ripe old age of 70 is still turning out challenging and vibrant theatre. His adaptation of the famous Elia Kazan film ON THE WATERFRONT played in the West End at the start of the year. Berkoff sees theatre as ritual and was himself heavily influenced by the work of Artaud and the Theatre of Cruelty. He uses lots of physical theatre techniques such as mime and stylised gesture and glorifies in shocking his audiences with often obscene, barrack room language!

The quality of the work produced was extremely high and all those who took part should be congratulated for their commitment and enthusiasm.



Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Hot on the heels of the AS Drama practical assessments and sandwiched in between the Senior Congreve production of THE BOY FRIEND, came this years A2 Drama assessments for the 21 UPPER 6 DRAMA and THEATRE STUDIES Stoics.

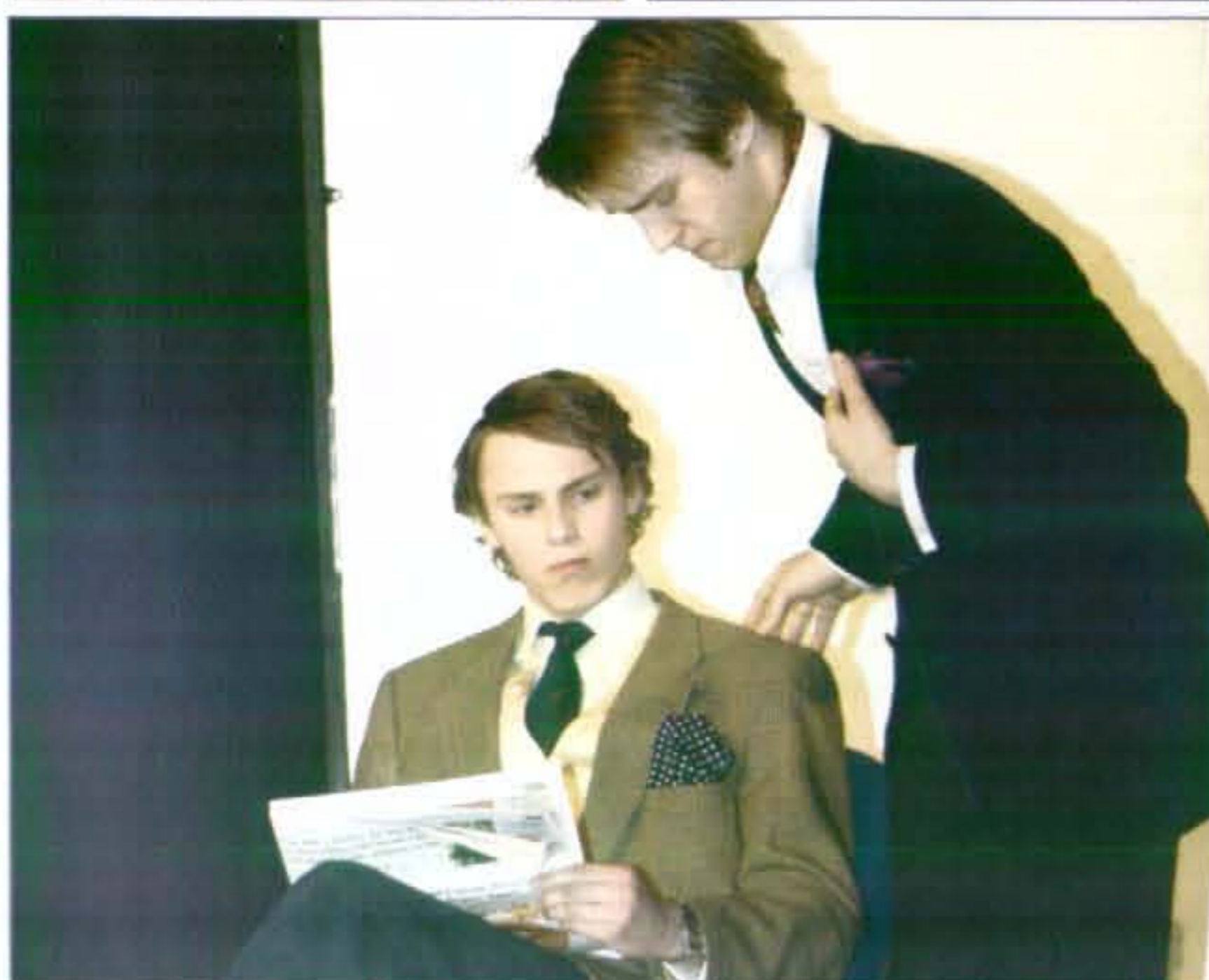
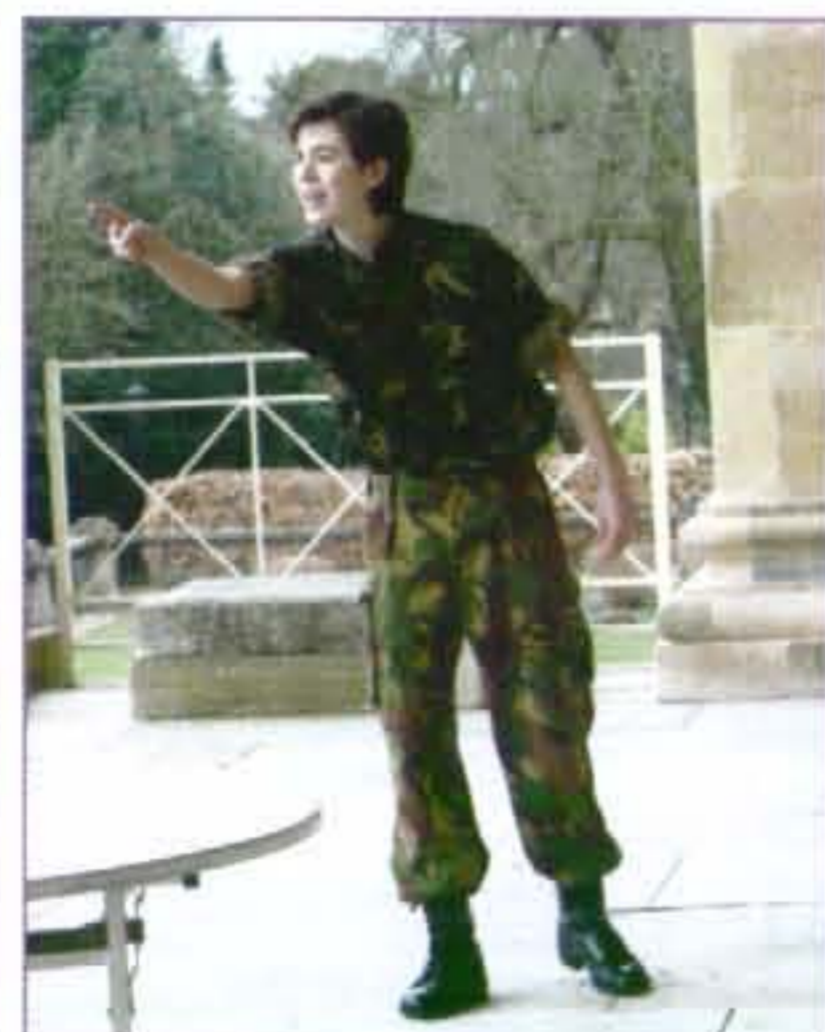
Their task was to rehearse, develop and present three contrasting extracts, two scripted, one being from a pre 1900 text and one from a post 1900 text as well as a devised piece, based around a theme set by the exam board.

The A level Drama Stoics are always encouraged to think 'outside the box' when planning to present their work for performance and this year was no exception. We had a wonderful As you like it with Jonty Irving, Georgia Lowther and Poppy Regan on the Nugent lawns, a thrilling and powerful Julius Ceasar with Freddie Forrester and Hamish Eggins on the South Front Portico, some elegant Oscar Wilde in the shape of 'An Ideal Husband' with Lilly Hanbury and Chris Lord and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' with Monty Lewis and Ed Abel Smith in the Music room and a moody Macbeth with Phillipa Wadlow, Steph Inden and Autumn Kidd and the hilarious DRINKING COMPANION(Alan Ayckbourn at his acerbic best) with Jonty, Georgia and Poppy in the sixth form club.

Throw in for good measure THE FROGS and THE GLASS MENAGERIE, with Immy Brabant, Lucy Gallimore and Blake Woodruff ,OTHELLO and A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE,with Liv Mulhall, Edwin Maganjo and Lily Samengo Turner, ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE with Monty and Ed, THE WHITE DEVIL and MOTHER FIGURE with Laura Paine, Olivia Palmer , THE CRUCIBLE with Lilly and Chris, and the brutal realism of DRUMMERS with Freddie and Hamish and one was treated to a fabulous , eclectic mix of the very best of world theatre.

Credit must go to the effort and commitment of all the students taking part particularly as many of them were busy with Congreve at the time. Huge thanks must also go to my colleague Chris Walters for his fantastic work in helping to prepare the students for this challenge.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



A2 Drama



Drama GCSE Practicals

On May 7th the two Drama and Theatre Studies GCSE classes completed their second major practical presentation of the course. They had already presented one piece of self devised Drama earlier in the year, and now had the scripted component, taking extracts from published plays and performing them under the critical eye of a visiting examiner. As is usually the case with such tasks, there was an entertaining mix of styles, genres and playwrights for the examiner, and for those privileged few able to take the time to see all the performances, there was lots to enjoy.

William Assheton, Alexia Beaty and Nick Langridge began the proceedings with the opening scene of Pinter's *The Birthday Party*, and this style, with black comedy masking a sinister sub-text, was continued with *The Education of Skinny Spew*, by Brenton with Barty Shepherd and Sebastian O'Donnell playing both the parents of the unfortunate Skinny, as well as everybody else in his young life, while Joe Dockerty played the hero with good pathos to complement the physicality of the script. Tom Mason and Tom Rawicz-Szerzbo took two short scenes from Jim Cartwright's *Two*, alternating playing the woman in the scenes, which sandwiched the performance of *Moth and Maudy* from the same play, played with terrific chutzpah and comic timing by Nick Brown and Rosie Hayward.

Isi Madojemu and Micky Portlock then took on the challenge of presenting the final scene of Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*, in which they had to cope with concluding the scene with Isi bleeding to death, the fake blood making a serious mess of three of his T-shirts not to mention the floor of the Dobinson Theatre. The morning was completed with a stylish rendition of Oscar Wilde's famous tea party scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Cornelia Prior and Francesca Hutt, both contributed superbly to this piece performed with style and skill, in the state Music room.

The parallel class adopted a different approach, taking consecutive extracts from a single play, *Can't Pay, Won't Pay* by Dario Fo. In summary, the various Giovannis were played by Alex Stevens, Hector Macpherson, John Carter, Tom Wood and Max Sanderson; his wife Antonia was presented by Arabella Midwood, Ellie Rix, and Tanya Prytula; her friend Margherita was played by Bethan Jones and Jose Brake; and her husband Luigi was taken on by Joe Stieger-White, Geordie Wilkes and Freddie Hardman-Lea. The two Inspectors (or rather, the one Inspector twice) were played by Jamie Bailey and Ollie Sewell; the two Sergeants by Jack Sharp and Anton Melnikov, and the single role of the Undertaker was played with suitable gravity by Harry Parsons. The highlights? Joe eating "his wife's olive" (too complicated to explain now), Ollie being tormented by a series of slapstick falls, Freddie climbing into a coffin to escape the attentions of the police, and Tom, Geordie and Anton managing a seemingly endless trail of sacks thrown from one to another.

Students in both groups gave a very good account of their characters, their plays, and themselves, and all can look forward with optimism to the results in August.



Thursday 6/Friday 7 November 2008 - Public speaking Thornton College

On Thursday and Friday we went to Thornton College. We were there for a workshop of public speaking. On arrival, we were split up into separate groups so that none of the Stowe boys were together. It is a Luffield policy that you mingle with the pupils from other schools so that you do not just improve whatever it is the workshop is on but also critical life skills such as making friends and talking to people you are unfamiliar with. Thursday afternoon was basically just to introduce ourselves with each other and choose our debate topic. My group chose "The media do not respect the lives of the people they are reporting on". On Friday morning we prepared our debates and then, in the afternoon, we did them in front of the Conservative MP. Overall, it was an enjoyable day and a half.

Orlando Whitehead

Thursday 2 October 2008 - Technology at MCS, Brackley

Hip Hop Dance Winchester House, Brackley

I was one of four 3rd formers to go to the Luffield street dancing. We set off for Winchester House in the brand new mini bus. When we got there, we were told that there was a delay with the dancing instructor so we got into groups and made up our own dances. 20 minutes later we were told that the dancing instructor couldn't make it so got a replacement. His name was Jamie and he belonged to Frantic UK in Milton Keynes. He was an extremely good dancer! He knew so many different moves! To start us off, he just taught us some basic moves. First of all he taught us how to glide. Although I wasn't very good, it was very funny trying. Next he taught us to wave and body roll. Later on in the day he taught us a pairs routine. The routine was quite challenging but fun at the same time. Chloe and I had a lot of fun trying to do the moves (most of the time unsuccessfully). After the first dance, he taught us a break dancing routine. It must have been very entertaining to watch because I just couldn't get it right! Once we had practiced for a bit longer, some younger children from Winchester house came into the hall to watch our performance. They all seemed very impressed by what they saw and we all enjoyed it as well.

A very successful day, thank you Mr Bayley.

Alice Speakman





The Award is a stamp of character equated by many universities and employers to an A grade GCSE at Bronze Level and an A grade A-Level at Gold. Below are snapshots of some of the activities of the 98 Stoics involved in the Award Scheme in the last twelve months.



BRONZE ASSESSED EXPEDITION TO BIRCHOVER, 8th – 10th June 2008

52 Fourth Form Stoics completed the Bronze assessed expedition and could not have wished for better weather to do it in. The sun shone for the three days we were away and the opportunities for sports to be played in the campsite kept on their feet even after hours of hiking. The groups all passed and impressed staff and assessors with their knowledge and experience gained from the practice expedition in the Cotswolds.

Mr Matthew Pitteway



SILVER AND GOLD ASSESSED EXPEDITION TO THE CAIRNGORMS, 22nd – 28th June 2008

One Gold group drove up to Blair Atholl by minibus (12 hours!) on the Sunday morning and three Silver groups flew up on the Monday. The Golds then had to complete 50 miles in 4 days and the Silvers 30 miles in 3 days, carrying everything with them. To their great credit, all Stoics passed the expedition element of their awards and indeed we were blessed with very good weather for the most part.

Mr Matthew Pitteway





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



GOLD AWARD BRIDGING EXPEDITION TO THE PEAKS, 13th -17th October 2008

"We were keen on participating in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award but had not done it at Silver level. The school was delighted to support us and packed us off to the Peak District in the middle of winter, to walk around in the freezing cold, rain, fast winds and cow faeces for five nights!

Many a time we found ourselves standing at the top of a hill, looking at our maps in the pouring rain trying to figure out where we were, but we remained positive with the help from the love shack - our name for the "party" tent!"

Tiffany Georgallides

"Avoiding bumping into stealthy cows, which if you're not looking close enough, blend in perfectly with the long grass, was more difficult than previously expected!"

Pippa Douglas

"The expedition in October was tough but really good fun. Mr Walsh-Woolcott and Miss Caterson were amazing at teaching us the basics of navigation which made the expedition in March much easier."

Lucy O'Brien





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

SILVER AND GOLD PRACTICE TO NORTH WALES, 26th-31st March 2009

4 Gold groups and 3 Silver groups headed to the hills near Harlech at the start of the Easter holiday. The Golds walked 50 miles in 4 days, the Silvers 30 miles in 3 days.

Ben Paton (little known younger brother to Ray Mears) rose to fame during the expedition, leading his Gold group calmly through the fog, and Daisy Coulson also deserves mention for overcoming serious muscle pain and completing her 50 miles against the odds.

Of the Silvers, Becka Elliott stood out as the only girl left in the Silver Award -completing her expedition with ease. David White, Angus Hopewell, Charlie White and Alex Stevens all showed outstanding map skills especially on the final day when visibility was down to 20metres, leading their groups through tricky terrain. Hugh Stanley and David Gourlay also impressed throughout with their professional manner.

It is frustrating not to have the space to mention all 38 individually. It was the strongest D of E group for years and everyone should feel proud of themselves.

Special thanks to Lionel and Maggie Weston who looked after us all with the most incredible care, humour and non-stop work.



BRONZE PRACTICE EXPEDITION TO LONG COMPTON, 26th – 27th April 2009

We set off with 47 Fourth formers in early May for a lovely two day and one night practice expedition to the Cotswolds. The story is perhaps best told by the Stoics themselves – who were excellent.

Mr Matthew Pitteway

Thanks to our group mentor Mrs Hughes who saved all our lives...mainly sticking with us all the way (even on the rainy Monday). The free time on the Sunday afternoon was great fun as there were many activities to do such as football, frisbee throwing and cooking our own meals. The most annoying thing on the WHOLE D of E was Phil Pitcher getting us up at 6:00 in the morning which, was helpful in a way. The donkeys were very pleasant, leaving a pile of poo by our tent.

D of E was a great experience for everyone. We were sent off into the wilderness and had to run through fields of scary cows, but had lunch on top of a hill looking over the beautiful countryside. In the evening we all sat round our Trangia talking and singing campfire songs. The next morning was the most horrible morning ever. It was freezing and raining but we made a nice breakfast of baked beans with sausages, scrambled eggs and hot chocolate.

Emily Marchant Group

All our supper cooking was successful apart from Beatty's "Ready-to-Eat Bacon and Beans" which wasn't what you might call attractive!

Honor Dangerfield Group



Our washing up did not quite live up to Philip Pitcher's standards so after the fourth attempt of washing up Inca demanded that the Duke of Edinburgh came to inspect her great efforts of stove-cleaning himself!

Emily Marchant Group



MONDAY AFTERNOON BRONZE AWARD NUTRITION SESSIONS

Along with First Aid and Navigation Training, for the first time this year we ran a five week Nutrition course for all 4th form Bronze participants. First, there was a session on Nutrition Theory covering simple and complex carbohydrates, hydration, energy expenditure and suggested camping foods. Then there were three cooking sessions (Breakfast, Dinner and Puddings!) and a final session on camp stove safety.

Mr Matthew Walsh-Woolcott



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

SPECIAL PRAISE TO THE SILVER AWARDERS

We have had 20 participants this year and they have been the most motivated and enthusiastic group yet. We have had Skills that range from photography to pet keeping, Physical Recreations ranging from from rugby to squash and Service activities from recycling to clearing mole hills.

Working with the National Trust in the grounds of Stowe is one of the most important aspects of the Silver award. As Louis Staden suggests, 'it allows us to put something back into the Stowe community'. It is often hard work and occasionally monotonous but the job we do is very much appreciated, as recognised by the National Trust's Mr Stefanovic who stated about our group: 'the D of E group have been fantastic for us last year and this year I hope they have enjoyed themselves and we will look forward to working with them again in the autumn.'

Well done, guys!

Mr Richard Pickersgill

A FINAL WORD

Since the last Stoic was published we have run 5 expeditions. Enormous thanks must go to Mr Pitteway (i/c Bronze), Mr Pickersgill (i/c Silver) and Mr Walsh-Woolcott (i/c Gold) who have stepped in to run these expeditions, working far beyond the call of duty. Huge thanks are also due to Ms Sheard who has yet again volunteered to do the invaluable, laborious job of chasing up Stoics' logbooks, and Philip Pitcher who seems to have helped with all the above and done everything else!

But it takes more than 5 people to sustain 49 Bronze, 20 Silver and 29 Gold Awarders. Many, many thanks, then, to:

Mrs McMahon, Mr Dawson, Mrs Dawson, Mr Jones, Dr Chare, Miss Hunter-Smart, Mr Rowan, Mr Rendall, Miss Edwards, Mr Weston, Mrs Weston, Mr Krieger, Mr Wright, Miss Bradfield, Mr Peratopoulos, Mr Staples, Mr Eve, Miss Caterson, Mr Christian, Mrs Hughes, Miss Sebastien, Mr Rose, Miss Morle, Mr Coleman, Mr Rogers, Mr M Reynolds, Mr J-P Reynolds and Craig Browne. Matt Lewis, at Blacks, Milton Keynes, has also been more helpful than words can do credit.

Mr Bob Roberts, M i/C Duke of Edinburgh's Award



RAF

The RAF Section enjoyed a superb weekend visit to RAF Halton in February which included an insight into the very diverse roles and career options in the RAF. Orienteering in the extensive woods honed their navigation skills and the whole section spent an afternoon on the terrifying high ropes course climbing onto the tops of very tall telegraph poles, jumping off them onto trapezes, and negotiating tricky obstacles at dizzying heights.

The Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson has continued to provide superb flying opportunities for the boys and girls with the brave ones having a go at basic aerobatics. Flying around Benson gives a fantastic view of the dreamy spires of Oxford, the mini factory, the spectacular shiny giant donut of the synchrotron at Harwell, the A34 and the surrounding countryside. Opportunities for weekend flying continue with our new association with the Volunteer Gliding Squadron in Abingdon, enabling cadets to fly the Vigilant powered glider, a very different experience of flying but no less fun.

The Section's Senior Cadet, Riley Curtis, was awarded a Gliding Scholarship and spent fantastic week training on the Vigilant and achieved his first solo flight. Riley awaits promotion to Sergeant on completion of the Cadet Leadership Course at Royal Air Force College, Cranwell this autumn.

At the time of writing the Section is in final preparations for its exam for the award of the First Class Cadet badge (assessed on map reading and knowledge of the RAF and the principles and history of flight). The highlight of the year will be, as always, the summer camp which for the first time this year is at RAF Cranwell and will again include some superb flying.



Mr Rod Tait



We've had a lively year with lots

happening and much to look back on and be happy about. The Navy Section has been doing what it ought to do... spending time on the water. The Army have been painting their faces green and crawling around in the mud, and the RAF section has even managed to get airborne. Job done!

We were fortunate to have a number of new staff join us in September. Phil Edell in the RAF section, and Tom O'Toole, Julie Johnson and Nick Rendell in the Army section (The latter of whom first visited Stowe a couple of years ago when he was sent by the Coldstreams to judge the Coldstream Cup). Unfortunately though, we are losing three members of staff this summer – Ed Surrey & Lydia Ogilvy are leaving after two years of commitment and Phil Edell after a single year. This has become the pattern of CCF staffing as younger members of staff come and go.

Anyway, speaking of events, the Coldstream Cup was, yet again, a top event (as was the dinner at which our principle guest was Lieutenant General Andrew Graham CBE, Director of the Defence Academy at Shrivenham). Field Days came and went, and we got on with the training. We've had a good bunch of NCO's and have benefited from their input. In particular, I'd like to mention Jonty Irving and Natalie McDaid who have been stalwarts, and Dhanat Srifuengfung who has been a brilliant quartermaster – greatly appreciated by the SSM.

So what of the future? Well, we're moving! The CCF HQ is to be flattened as part of the Art School renovation scheme, and we're being relocated to the paint store in Powerhouse Yard. Happily, it's not as grim as it sounds and it has given Ray Dawson the opportunity to design his own HQ. He has been very involved with the whole process and I am delighted with what we're getting. Ray has even persuaded the authorities to install a shower! He and Gerry Foster will be well accommodated as they continue to make the contingent tick.

Reverend Robert Jackson





New Pico Dinghy

June 17th 2008 saw the arrival of a new Pico dinghy supplied by the Ministry of Defence. It is a major addition to our resources since it means that with our existing five Toppers we can now put seven sailors out on the Eleven Acre Lake.



New Kayak Trailer

Last year saw the arrival of seven kayaks for use on the Eleven Acre Lake. An application for assistance to HQ CCF's Adventurous Training Fund brought sufficient funds for us to commission a custom-built trailer. Getting the kayaks on the water is now much easier.



Camps and Courses

Every year HQ CCF organises an extraordinary variety of camps and courses around the country, which generally cost cadets a mere £1.56 per day. In summer 2008 Euan Welsh obtained his RYA Power Boat Level 2 at Torpoint and did a week's Leadership Training at Britannia Royal Naval College, and in spring 2009 Rupert Leyland obtained his RYA Power Boat Level 2 at Torpoint. In summer 2009 Harry Maberly has been offered a place cruising the Irish Sea onboard TS John Jerwood, and Lt Critchley will again be instructing on the HMS Bristol Summer Camp.

Emergency Aid Class

First Aid has a key place in CCF syllabuses: this year an external instructor, Sub-Lt David Tremayne, came and gave a series of instructional sessions leading to the Emergency Aid certificate.

Air Experience Day

On June 18th eight cadets visited 727 Squadron Fleet Air Arm in Yeovilton. We each got 45 minutes flying with an RN pilot in a two-seater Grob. We had to wear flying suit and helmet, which did not reassure us. More worrying still was when they told us to get a parachute: we were all expecting to have a fun aerobatic flying lesson rather than to jump out of the plane. After flying we saw the museum where there were many planes including a 1936 Swordfish and the world's only fully functional Seahawk.

Euan Welsh, Chandos L6th

Afloat Training at Portsmouth

Regular trips to Portsmouth have provided Stoics with the chance to train afloat onboard the CCF's own vessels: in October 2008 and again in March 2009. Wind and tide, buoyage and rule of the road all become real issues once we are on the water, and for many it is their first chance to take the wheel and drive a vessel themselves. Accommodation is provided by HMS Bristol, which all Stoics will agree is different from their boarding house.

Section Report

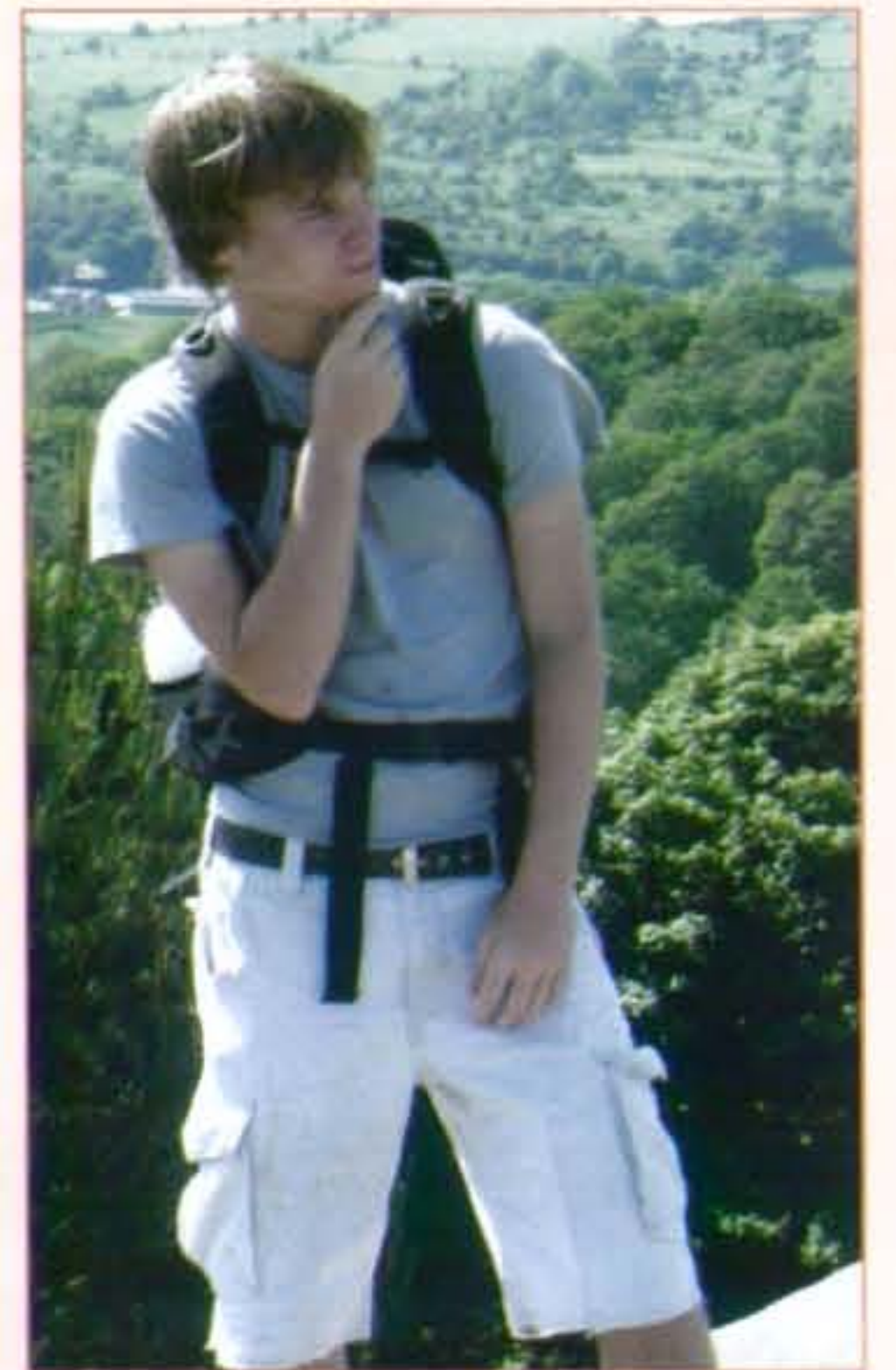
May 2009 sees 22 cadets in the Royal Naval Section. We have continued our emphasis on practical activities, afloat wherever possible, and this year we stayed on the water right through until the October half term, when the CCF sailing season finishes. Basic naval training, with a first aid course for 5th formers, followed, and the summer term sees the cadets rotating between kayaks, dinghies, and an outdoor land programme. Leading Cadets Welsh, Merrill, and Lewis have done much of the basic instruction, with the team of Chief Stone, Sergeant Sidford, Sub-Lieutenant Tremayne, and Miss Ogilvie in the background or taking over when appropriate. Regular trips have provided cadets with the opportunity to get out and do things that are not possible within the confines of the school.

Lt DJ Critchley RNR (CCF)

March 2009 Field Day

We arrived onboard HMS Bristol on the Sunday evening, and were given a safety brief and a tour of the Bridge. The next day one group went sailing in the Solent on Amaryllis, another went out on Black Swan and a third started off with a harbour tour. Shortly after we had a guided tour of HMS Victory, and toured an old WW2 submarine in dry dock, experiencing some of the conditions that submariners would have known many years ago. Finally we visited HMS Collingwood, the Royal Navy's Engineering training base, where we saw state of the art defence systems, such as anti-aircraft guns and torpedoes, and learnt how they worked.

Euan Welsh, Chandos L6th





Coldstream Cup 2008

The 2008 Coldstream Cup leapt upon the competing Stoics on a typically bitter, English day in November. By the time Nugent got the ball rolling, the temperature of the lake had plummeted to hypothermic levels and the heavens had opened. Nonetheless, everyone taking part continued enthusiastically, pretending they were actually enjoying the day.

Walpole set the standard on the assault course with a superb time considering the dampness of the course. Several houses



struggled across the balance beams on the course, often with at least one team member dropping off the damp wood and having to restart. The run followed a brief rest for each team and yet again Walpole dominated with 3rd former Josh Dickinson putting in a particularly brilliant performance to aid the team in breaking the record for the run by over a minute. Josh clearly didn't enjoy the swim across the now arctic-esque lake but it would have to have been a particularly twisted individual to enjoy the wintry conditions.

The fairly low scores on the shoot, which was preceded by the run and the lake crossing, can certainly be attributed to the temperatures outside. Heart rates were going through the roof after the shocking experience of trying to swim through an ice bath, which, incidentally, was expertly patrolled by Mr Critchley and his fortress of a wooden boat.

The drill routine was the next obstacle for each house and it meant another few minutes exposed to the elements whilst wearing extraordinarily thin shirts with rolled-up sleeves. Despite Chandos' best attempts to 'camp it up' (some of their manoeuvres were more akin to Monty Python than the Coldstream Guards) and Grenville's best efforts to arrive late, most teams did fairly well in this round. Several polished performances showed Captain Louis White and WO1 John Sheard that a lot of effort had been put in by all teams, with some synchronised marching making this point clear. There were, of course, the mandatory mishaps with people turning the wrong way here and there. Nothing ever seems to provide onlookers with more satisfaction than a glaringly obvious error!

The inspection came half way through the drill and was accompanied by some banter from Captain White. His thorough inspection of each team's dress often found houses wanting in certain areas of their uniform however; on the whole, the inspection brought some good scores with it.



A shroud of satisfaction descended on every team once they had completed every event. The cold weather was left for the warmer climes of the Marble Hall where every house had to line up in order to learn the results. After a lengthy wait, WO1 Sheard revealed the winners of the awards. The Nulli Secundus Cup for the best NCO was awarded to Lyttelton's Natalie McDaid for her hard work and commitment to Stowe CCF. Josh Dickinson of Walpole was awarded with the award for best drill which capped off a truly memorable day off for the Walpudlian. Then it was revealed that Walpole had won by an enormous margin and so captain Jonathan Wale duly collected the rather substantial piece of silverware. Nugent won in the girls' competition prompting the customary high-pitched shrieking, that never fails to erupt from the elated winning girl's house, as captain Taisie Grant collected the award.

So, as the sun set on yet another epic Coldstream Cup, the victors joined members of the Stowe CCF for a fantastic black tie dinner. After a superb meal with the esteemed guests the curtain came down on a fantastic day of teamwork and perseverance.

The Coldstream Cup was a very satisfying yet challenging experience. The part I found the hardest was crossing the river as this was really difficult and very cold! I also found the marching very hard, especially the weeks of training for it. The shooting was fun and the running was also enjoyable but the best bit was definitely realising we had won. The supper after was also great!

Josh Dickinson, Walpole 3rd

Craig Browne (Bruce, U6th)



Coldstream Cup 2008



Beagling

This year the Stowe beagles have had the most challenging season in a long while. With bad weather conditions, a late start due to the harvest and bad scenting conditions, calling it a trial would not do it justice! There have been some very memorable moments, including two fantastic days at Weston and Astwell Park. We have also had the pleasure of travelling up to Yorkshire to stay with the exceptionally generous Bannister family during the Christmas half term. This turned out to be an absolutely phenomenal day, where we were all introduced to a very different kind of hunting in the fells. The Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles requested to hold the annual 'Young Hare Hunters Day' at Stowe and this took place in the Christmas term. Over one hundred people turned up to hear speeches and look around the kennels and see the hounds, many in awe of the wonderful surroundings we have and the support we receive.

Later, in the Lent half term, we all travelled up to the Middleton Hunt for a day in the heather which again was a far cry from the lovely arable land that we experience in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. Then, by any means possible (from trains and cars to hitch hiking!) we travelled down to Nottingham by kind invitation from the Beaumont family. The best part of this was the fact that every whip came on that trip which shows the level of dedication that the whips have. Here we hunted on two days; one at Oxton Estate and the other at Locko Park in Derbyshire. Both hunts were nothing short of incredible! To say the least, the hunting hasn't been easy, but with such an amazing team of whips, supporters and hounds, it turned out to be fantastic. The whips have been absolutely brilliant this year as the conditions were not ideal but nonetheless everyone stuck at it and gave it their all, resulting in a number of great days





when they could so easily have been unsuccessful. It has been great to see a number of new beaglers down at the kennels at various times and has resulted in a number of them becoming 'civi' whips.

We have had many other highlights this season, including the Hunter Trials, held by the kind invitation of the Strangmon Family. Here, several Stoics competed, with all the whips and followers judging fences, commentating and scoring. It raised a huge amount of money for the beagles and was a hugely fun day. We also held the Hunt Ball in the Marble Hall and state dining rooms on Saturday 7th March, which was certainly a night to remember. We are all hugely grateful to The Headmaster, The Bursar and all the staff who have helped us this year. Thanks is owed to many people for this season, however no-one does more than Phil Kennedy, the kennel Huntsman. With their ever expanding family, Phil and Lucy have done an unbelievable amount for us and the beagles, and for that they cannot be thanked enough.

Edward Abel Smith & Michael Beaumont (Chatham, U6th)



Beagles



Chapel

As I type this, I am uncomfortably aware of the fact that the deadline for Stoic articles is 24hrs away and I have caused Vicki Edwards more hassle than she deserves... it is a timely reminder that none of us is an island, and that what we do inevitably affects the lives of others both for the good and the bad... sorry Vicki. Anyway, to persevere with this theme, this is surely a lesson of massive significance to teach young people and in doing so, to remind ourselves not just of the often unseen stress we cause others by our cheerful chaos, but also of the joy we can and do bring when we indulge in random acts of kindness. I had just this experience in Johannesburg when I was despatched thither in the February half term to interview next years aspiring Branson Scholars. Dominican Convent School rests in a somewhat rundown area of Johannesburg (local hotels see fit to boast of their security arrangements) and there is a squatter camp on their doorstep with refugees from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and even the DRC. They decided to paint a corner of their Junior School red and hand out red jumpers to street children. By the time they're five, they've been taught basic hygiene techniques, been fed simple meals, been introduced to simple shapes, colours, and numbers, and those without them have been equipped with birth certificates. To date, the Wings of Hope project has seen all its five years olds get into the local schools... a cracking result. What can Stowe learn from this? What can we do in our local community to help in similar fashion? Bob Drayson's memorial service provided a timely reminder of the Pineapple Club which he championed but which, of late, has been overlooked. There are a number of us here who wish to see it resurrected and we're working on it. Watch this space!

This year saw the inauguration of the Spam Lectures. The idea is to build on Spam Ed and to invite individuals to speak on things that stoics ought to be aware of and perhaps even interested in. Canon Stephen Sizer enlightened us about the Israeli Palestinian impasse, Professor Simon Conway Morris, an Evolutionary Palaeontologist from Cambridge, argued that evolution does not get rid of God and Krish Kandiah looked at spiritual values in the movies. There's more on the way.

The Lenten Addresses were slightly chaotic but powerfully led by Silas Crawley, and many came to the three addresses and heard the simple message that our nation is in a bit of a mess, largely because the Godly traits of honesty, integrity, generosity, humility, selflessness, and, dare one say it, love, seem to be missing in public life. The Godly remedy is vocation - God is calling Christians to stand up and do something about it, to lead the way, to set the example, and to go for it.

And as for Chapel itself, we've had a good variety of Sunday preachers, split midweek chapels in that the pressure of numbers means that the 3rds meet in the Parish Church, and two moving one-offs. We had a great service of dedication for Stanhope with Sir Nicholas Winton who remains remarkably spry for all of his 99 years. The other was Bob Drayson's memorial and it was moving to be in the midst of so many people determined to thank God for the life of a remarkable individual who achieved many things in his life, and for whom God was a solid anchor.

Finally, we had a simple dedication for the new Chapel Quiet



Space. An unused corner of chapel has been turned into a really nice area with comfortable seating and an amazing glass screen replete with an engraved door. Fittingly, it was the product of a number of individuals, all of whom are Old Stoics. Mark Cazalet engraved the door, Mary Kate Edwards (nee Lyell) designed the interior, Jeremy Walker produced the technical drawings and conceived the lighting, Simon Saunders constructed the seats, and to cap it all, John Wates most generously financed the whole project. The chapel not only has a wonderful piece of art, but just as importantly, an intimate space where people in the community can sit and just be.

Rev. Robert Jackson



We've had an excellent time at Crossfire this year, each week finding out more about Jesus Christ and his relevance in our lives today. Crossfire is a great opportunity for Stoics, whatever they believe, to look into what being a Christian is all about.

Each term we've had a different series and Stoics and staff alike have found themselves intrigued, challenged, engaged and encouraged over the year. It's offered the chance to think about the big questions of life that rarely get a look-in during a busy school week.

Autumn – 'Parables that Punch' – we began the year exploring how Jesus' parables, told over 2000 years ago, are strikingly relevant to us today in Stowe in 2009.

Lent – 'Heroes in the Bible' – each week we looked at the radical life of a different biblical 'hero' and saw what we could learn from their fearless faith.

Summer – 'What's God really like?' – we're currently investigating God's awesome character, before a series after Half Term called, 'I can't be a Christian because...', when we'll consider some of the reasons people have for not being a Christian – is it boring, irrelevant or untrue..?

What's gone on each week:

Meetings are very informal and open to everyone, whatever their age, background or beliefs. We usually meet in the Blue room every Friday at 8.40pm with time for chatting & games as people arrive – Stoics often comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere as soon as you walk in the door, regardless of what year or house you're in.

- New to Crossfire this year we've introduced 'In the Spotlight', where occasionally a Stoic will explain at the start of the meeting why they're a Christian and what it's like being one at Stowe.
- A 6th former then interviews our visiting speaker & we find out who they are, how they became a Christian, as well as other 'essential' information such as embarrassing moments, worst food eaten, & desert-island essentials...
- Next we hear a short talk from the Bible, sometimes with group discussion, and at the end there's a chance to ask any questions as well as plenty of time to hang out, eat brownies and chat.

What they said about Crossfire...

'Crossfire is a great way to catch up with friends, eat yummy food and find out about Jesus and the great gift he has given us'
(Lucy Milburn)

'Really friendly and welcoming – you get to meet new people from across the school'
(3rd Form girl)


'Easy way to understand parts of the Bible'
(Johnnie Huddart)

'It helped me find out more about Christianity' (3rd Form girl)

'Crossfire: friends, food & faith' (Chris Lord)

'Perfect way to end the school week' (Edwin Maganjo)

CROSSFIRE
Summer 2009



'WHAT'S GOD REALLY LIKE?'
and after Half-Term:

'I CAN'T BE A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE...'



Highlights

- An excellent Christmas special with around 80 Stoics packed into the Blue Room for Christmas quiz, prizes, and a talk on 'The Truth behind Christmas' – as well as plenty of festive food which nevertheless disappeared in minutes...
- The North Front Pavilion hosted the similarly popular Crème-Egg-themed Easter special in March. We tested Stoics' knowledge of Crème Egg trivia and, while Crème Eggs were munched, we heard a talk on 'Why Good Friday is so good'.

Miss Victoria Hunter-Smart



One of the principal founding principals of the group is that it should be open to Stoics from all year groups. It offers an opportunity for pupils to gain confidence in voicing their opinions about a myriad of topics, learning tolerance of opposing opinions and an open mindedness when hearing Stoics from different cultural backgrounds expressing very different opinions about the topics open for discussion.

Whilst the Michaelmas term saw us following the format of last year, some of our regular attendees were proving to be very capable, independent thinkers and so the Lent and Summer Terms saw a change in format with pupils being asked to present their own topics of interest – the only rule being that it had to link into current affairs and/or international relations. We moved from the luxury of the common room in Queen's House to the slightly more formal setting of one of the larger classrooms in the Adam Building to enable the use of Smart Screen Technology and the presentation of topics using Power Point software.

Whilst Stoics attending the group for the first time may be quite quiet and reserved for the first session, they quickly find their feet and some become quite vocal, particularly if they strongly disagree with another opinion! The international dimensions of the group add a wonderful depth and variety encouraging Stoics to consider how diverse cultures view issues very differently. Offering pupils differing perspectives on an issues in the news, showing them how they need to research for themselves and not to led by one opinion has provided the group with some interesting moments of reflection.



Here are some of the topics that have been discussed this year and their presenters:

The Gaza Strip	General
Cultural Identities and the Clash of Civilisations	Liz Capurro
The Reclassification of Cannabis	Laura Paine & Elizabeth Eden
Child Abduction	Matthew Robbins
Who would you want to erase from History?	Tom Humphreys
Gun and Knife Crime	Rowena Namatovu & Daphny Natangaza
Water Distribution	Cordelia Evans
The Ethics of War	Liz Capurro
Is War right or wrong?	Cully Curwen
The Youth of Today	Stephanie Inden

Some comments from pupils who have attended the group:

Imran Momen 4th Form Bruce

Current Affairs allows people to discuss things happening in the world that are important to them. Normally you could not, or would not want to talk about the Gaza strip with friends – I know I wouldn't. Different circumstances allow for different conversations! It is a good feeling to be able to express your views, and develop your thoughts. Especially at Stowe where everyday life does not often allow for new or revolutionary thinking. Furthermore it is a great opportunity to talk to people from other year groups, people from higher years and different houses who you may not have talked to much before.

Tom Humphreys 3rd Form Bruce

It is what says on the tin - pure and untouched debates about current affairs. As a third former, I find it covers many aspects that we look at in our RS ethics course. It was sheer joy to know that what I had just spent an hour discussing was what I needed to know the very next day for RS and could then contribute to the lesson! It is an activity for people who want to stretch their knowledge of the world and for us all to voice our views.

Mrs Liz Capurro



This year Stowe has introduced a more comprehensive weekend activity program. With trips to paintballing, the cinema nights in the Roxy and the unforgettable 'Inflatables' evening being added to the usual dances and socials no Stoic is ever heard saying 'I'm bored'.

The Milton Keynes Shopping centre is amazing. There are two of almost every shop (floors included) and a huge variety. There is the usual shops 'Zara' and 'Topshop' but there are also some that you wouldn't find anywhere else like the 'All-American Food', the name says it all! My favourite was the huge 'H&M' or 'Boots,' which were both massive. Going for the first time is a little overwhelming but if you get a nice group of friends to come with you, you get a lot of laughs out of whole experience and it becomes a great time to bond! The efforts that Stowe goes to for us to have a good weekend are greatly appreciated and everyone I went with really enjoyed themselves.

Sophie Gordon Cumming (Queens, 3rd Form)

During the weekends at Stowe, there are various activities which you could sign up for ranging from paint balling to going to the cinema. This is of course if you have the time to do so. These out of school trips usually happen on Sundays after chapel. There are frequent opportunities to go shopping in Milton Keynes on the Sunday. Most of these trips are organised and advertised by email to everyone in the school so it encourages everyone to sign up.

Andre Van (Cobham, U6th)

On a rainy Sunday afternoon when outside activities did not look so inviting, it was the perfect time to have a baking and banter session with our matron. Famous for her mouth-watering scones it was brilliant to have a cook and a chat and also to gain some culinary skills other than toast. All in all it was a brilliant afternoon and what we produced was pretty good too.

Lydia Wood (Stanhope, L6th)

Staff Stars in their Eyes

After last year's 'Staff Weakest Link' charity event, I thought that this year should see the return of the 'Staff Stars in their Eyes' event. There was a stunning array of acts including a duet by Mr Last (Walpole Housemaster) and Dr Masters (Pastoral Deputy Head), and a take off of the boy band 5ive by Dr Chare, Harriet Caterson, Miss Ogilvie, and Miss Hunter-Smart. But, by far the highlight of the evening for many of the audience was the performance of 'I Kissed A Girl' (Katy Perry) which was performed by Mr Walsh-Woolcott (Hockey), Mr Pickersgill (Sports Science) and Rob Christian (Gap Year Student). It was more their choice of clothes that won it for them rather than their singing capabilities, as each of them kitted themselves out in a stunning dress with other suitable accessories!

The evening was a great success and raised way over the target of £1,500 for the Stickler Syndrome Support Group (reg. charity 1060421), which will go to support the younger sufferers of the disorder as well as provide money for the printing of information booklets. I would like to thank all the staff who gave up so much of their free time to make the evening what it was. My extended thanks also to all the technical team (especially Ed Mclean and Richard Hay) and to Mr Weston who helped with the organisation.

Philip Pitcher, Event Organiser (Chatham, U6th)





Creative Textiles

Creative Textiles has proved to be very successful once again this year, producing a number of garments and various other items, showing the flare of Stoics. Mrs Cammish has constantly brought new ideas, techniques and materials, to inspire students to design and make different pieces. Several workshops have been held throughout the year by the department including a Make-up workshop for both stage and street wear, one at Christmas where Pupils enjoyed making decorations and hand-made wrapping paper, and an afternoon of jewellery making with Lee, a London jewellery Designer. The highlight of our year, however, had to be the trip to The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham.

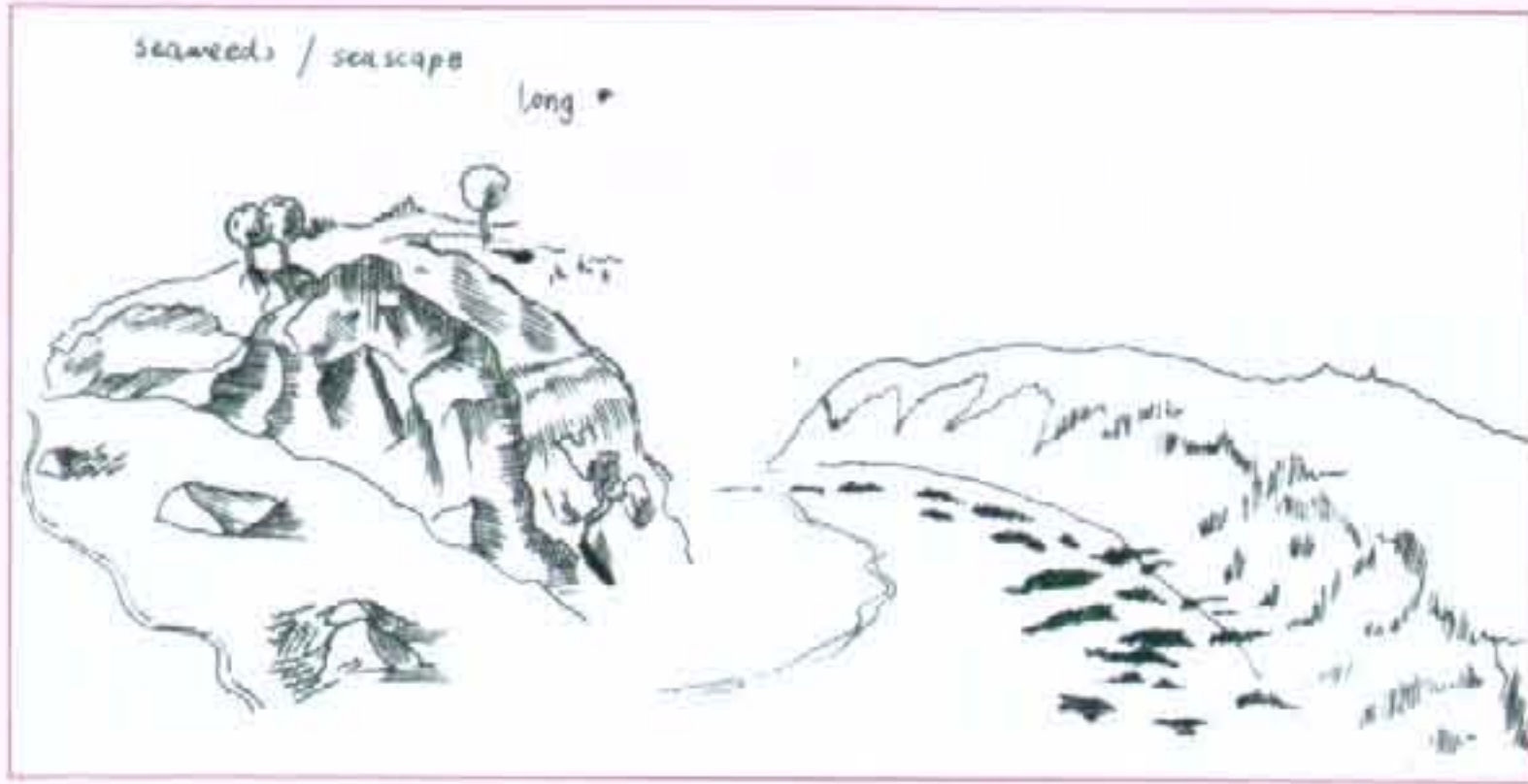
Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed Creative Textiles over the past twelve months, and the development of the new Art School should further improve the Department. Thank you to Mrs Cammish for another great year of Textiles - all the Upper Sixth will definitely miss creating, chatting and Classic FM in the afternoons!

Rachael Millard and Bobbie Staden (Lyttelton, U6th)



"I really enjoyed Creative Textiles as my afternoon activity. It's a place where we can show creativity in different ways making garments, cushions, silk painting, and more. I've made cushions, an evening dress, and costumes for The Boyfriend. Who knew you could have fun and still be productive?"

Matshidiso Nhlapo (Stanhope, 4ths)



Roxburgh Verse Prize Junior Winner

Discovery

Fronds of gutweed: like hair on smooth dimpled stone,
Velvet horn: deer's antlers where the stem
branches dichotomously,
Jelly buttons hitching a ride on seaweed plants,
Breadcrumb sponge: tiny volcanoes that stain the
rugged rocks.

Sun and aqua combine,
Making ribbons that pierce the blue and the green,
A hidden treasure, secluded and discreet,
Fully exposed only for a fleeting moment.

Calcareous tubeworm cling leech-like onto
unsuspecting substrates,
The knotted wrack in summer: shrivelled grapes;
Old Father Lasher, hidden from the timid eye,
'Chiton' with his coat-of-mail, akin to knights of old.

An unknown world,
Mysterious but uninviting,
Forever the same,
An untouched beauty.

Oar-weed with its strap like fingers,
Bladderwrack: its spherical gas bladders at
intervals along branching fronds;
A white horse sways the kelp,
The tiger scuttles through the maiden's hair.

A rippling world where tide meets rock:
The essence of peace,
Shall never be discovered.

James Larter (Temple, 4th Form)



Roxburgh Verse Prize Senior Winner

Discovery

A horror, that wells up inside me,
The sudden slice of sickness through the gut.
I am aware of eyes that have seen,
Noticed and judged, all around.
Scissors of guilt clip through confidence,
Cutting a tall man down to size.
The knowledge, its presence,
A revelation made immediate,
That hurts so, cuts so, bruises so
Deeply, poignantly, truthfully.

This truth so obvious, now with new light,
An indication from one so close:
How could none have let me know?
Before be calm, ignorance be bliss,
A walking fool, a visible oaf,
Considered nothing in knowing similarly.
The terror that flapped behind,
A sail that drifts me to ridicule, a wreck.
Too far have I walked, while passers have seen,
To come back from the brink; I'll remain in disgrace.

I wonder why none had the decency, the courage, the
kindness,
To let me know of this fatal error, so obvious, yet unnoticed
by myself.

The horror that me trousers were tucked into my sock.

Elliot Barnes (Chandos, U6th)





Discovery-A New Foal

Something cold ripped inside me;
Gusts of invisible force from within,
Great gulping gasps strip my delicate throat.

Bright dazzling light, startling, blinding
Harsh and unknown,
Colour bouncing, rocketing around me.

No steady rhythm of a mother's heart,
Instead foreign twitters of song;
Disorientating: above, beside, below all at once.

Alien smells, overwhelming,
Sweet, tangy, sugary
Aromas wash over, unruffled.

Something spiky tickles my whiskers.
A mother's wet tongue sweeps over,
Intense solidness beneath me

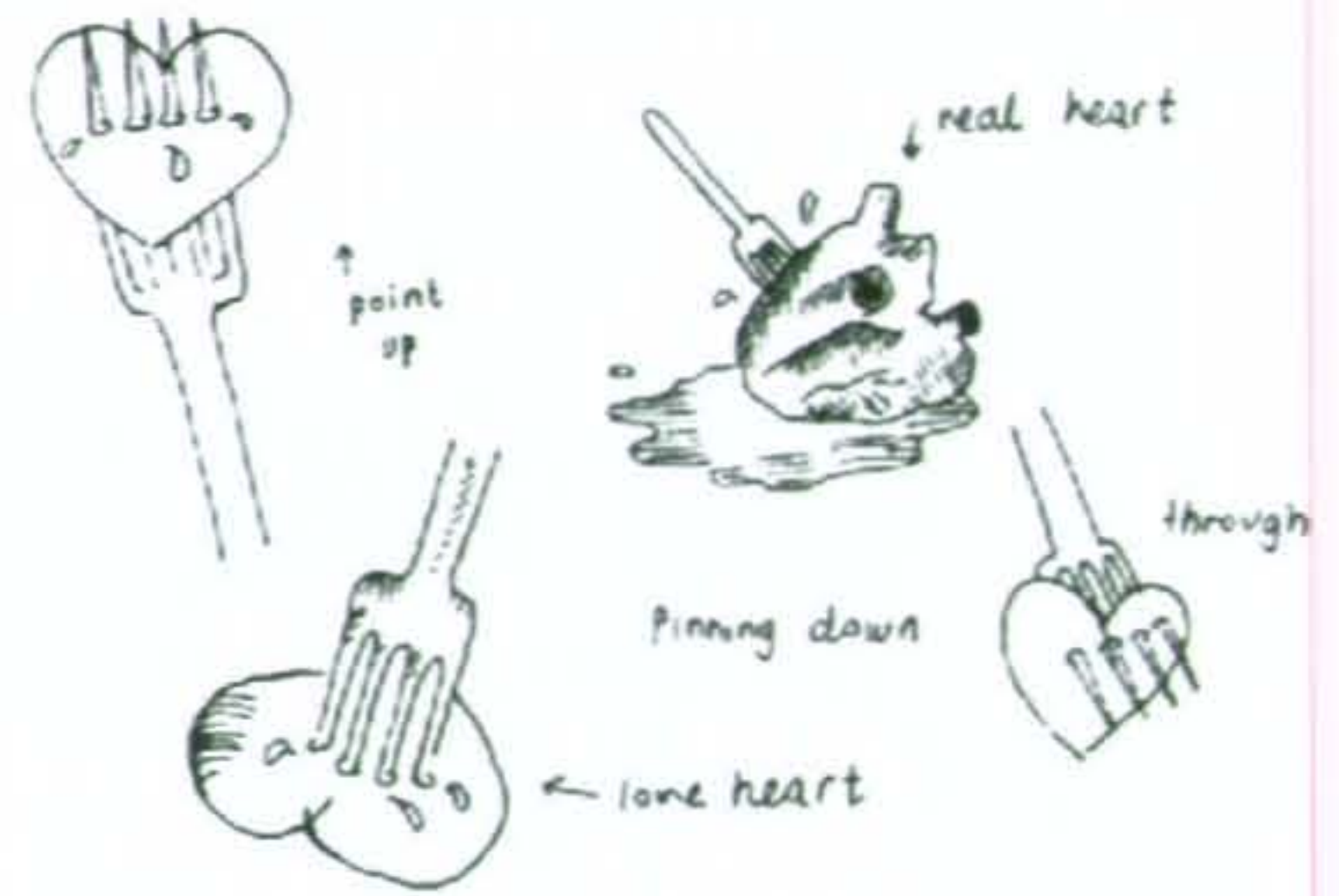
My eyes throb with excruciating pain,
My head pounds and spins,
My legs tremble and shake.

I wobble and the solidity hits me,
It rises up to me thumping my ribs.
Warm breath over my neck, comforting:
My mother.

Warm milk in my mouth, giving me strength,
I stretch up and free my legs;
I am alive.

Anna Carter (Queens, 4th Form)

a fork and a heart



Fork

pure winsome smile
like...

breathless heart and
everyday happiness in your hands
like... spring lambs joy
like lost words and lost time
with you.

it all seemed true-
you said how funny fork sounds
when you say it over and over and over
fork fork fork fork fork
what is fork?
and i smiled all goofy
you'd left me speechless.
and every sentence was perfect
because suddenly words meant nothing
fork spoon knife
love

undead flower you left me
pronged
on a fork in the road
(i could eat your heart
with a fork)

Harry Burke (Grenville, U6th)

When my heart rejected me,
The pain screamed chaos.

A Hell siren, which shattered through soft air
And sliced that cupid clean in two

Pink and
Expensive ribbon, knotted tightly

Around my throat,
Glistening in the white shade

Whenever I spoke,
I sweated

Whenever I sweated,
I lost it

Then there was You

You unwrapped me,
And with steely elegance

Slipped my chain
Off

Then there was You

You cut yourself
A spread of embrace

You held my hand and
Led me through

Together we found it
Inside of you

And decorated it
With

Pink and
Expensive ribbon

Balthazar Mattar (Cobham, 16th)

There it is,
Phallic and tall
Beautiful
Scraping at the sky and
Making heart
Look like heart
Parted
In two by golden
River
Flowing like
Flow like sunlight trickling
Down the side and
I bask.

Base beauty, spinning circles fine silky around my heart and
The smell of light drowning me in its poignant grip

Small little hands catch white roses in the breeze, and
Release, watching them float up,
Ever harder,
Ever harder
I reach

Let down your hair
Become one

In the steel blueness
I climbed your golden ladder
And silvered my way through
Your window

Lying on a bed of red roses

That witch

That witch
Beside you,

Crazing you to ecstasy

In a flash of hate
Your skin
Flaked off
Black red Devil
Black solid
Fate
Dragging like
Drag like oily fish
Choking
Dying on a sharp
Hook Devil

Devil!

I fell heavy,
And thorns of roses past scratched
Gritty tears

Trickling,
Down,
The side

Balthazar Mattar (Cobham, 16th)





**Gavin Maxwell Prize
Junior Winner
Footprints**

27/07/07

Darling Julia,

I was sitting on the hard pew earlier today, thinking of you. I can't even remember what was said at the service. I felt nothing, no anger, no remorse, just painful emptiness. I felt as if my heart had been ripped out of my chest and was lying in that tiny coffin in front of me instead of my daughter's fragile body.

It was a Tuesday, the day you died. You were only six. You were playing in the park behind our house in Devon, and ran out into the path of a car in your eagerness to show us a creature you had found in the dirt. That was you; so keen and interested in everything around you, and full of energy. The driver couldn't have helped it, I understand that. I have accepted that no one was to blame.

After the service everyone came back to our London house for food and drinks. I sat on the sofa staring into the dead ashes in the fire grate, thinking about how they were like a metaphor for my life without you; once so bright, but now, nothing. Grandma bustled round me bringing fresh cups of tea and taking away the stone cold, untouched old ones.

21/08/07

Darling,

I'm supposed to go back to work tomorrow. In a way I'm looking forward to the distraction, but other times it seems like only yesterday that you were taken and I can't stand to be around other people. I miss you like I'm missing a part of myself. Sometimes I am just walking down the supermarket and I'm bent double by the pain as if I've been punched in the stomach.

Daddy can't really understand how I'm feeling, not that he hasn't been hit badly by this; he is just mourning in a different way. Outwardly he puts on a heroic front, but I have heard him crying in your room when he thinks I'm downstairs. Your father's been trying to persuade me to go to counselling, but I can't bring myself to talk about you with a stranger who can't even begin to understand what this is like.

22/08/08

Dearest Julia,

Somehow today I was on my way to work but found myself in Devon. I got on the tube to go to work this morning, and felt the familiar crush of the tube train. I felt comforted in the anonymity of the train; no one knew what had happened. Daddy had offered to drive me to work, but I thought I'd better get back to a normal routine. But as soon as I stepped into the busy tube station my feet began to carry me and I found myself at Paddington asking for a ticket to Devon. I don't know what I hoped to achieve. I had no overnight things, only my laptop, phone and purse that I'd brought to work.

I found myself three hours later standing on Totnes platform wondering what to do with myself. I only had a small amount of cash and a credit card, which would be no use for a taxi. I walked into the centre of the tiny town, searching for a shop. I managed to find a small store where I bought some food and toiletries. After this I began to walk the long journey to our house the overcast sky weighing heavy above me, mirroring my mood.

A friendly stranger picked me up on the walk and dropped me off at the top of our drive. The sun was shining now and I just stood there for a while, looking through the alley of trees that led up to our porch. I thought of all the times we had played cricket down that thin lane; the sun shining dappled through the leaves of the oaks lining the road, you squealing in delight as we got Daddy out, me laughing and swinging you round as you giggled! I sank to the floor as I wept and wept.

I let myself into the house, and stared through the huge window out over the sea around the tiny fishing village. The house is full of memories of you. Your toys and games are all still here; packed away in a box under the coffee table. I went through to the sitting room and lit a fire, but didn't feel much like eating. I went over to the book case and picked out a book, maybe Mog or the Gruffalo, all I remember is curling up on the sofa and crying myself to sleep, hugging your book.

31/08/07

Julia,

Today I went down to our beach. It's not really our beach, but we've been coming here since before you were even born, so we've always called it that. I remember a time soon after you began to talk when we were on the beach on our own, when some other people came and sat on the beach quite close to us. Us calling the beach 'ours' had obviously confused your three year old brain, as you immediately asked us very loudly what they were doing on our beach! I still smile thinking of the look on those people's faces as we hurriedly explained that you didn't mean it!

I sat on the beach for the whole day, gazing at the gently tumbling waves, watching as children ran towards the sea, only to run away from the cold water, and thought how many times you had done this in your pitifully few years on earth; your footprints quickly fading as the water sank into the depressions and washed away the imprint. Present for a few, brief seconds until the swirling waters swallowed them back up. Year after year, you would make new footprints as you ran through the wet sand, only for them to last mere seconds. The never-ending cycle of nature would not cease to preserve the imprints of your footsteps through the sand, and neither would it cease to preserve your life. I sat on the soft sand as the grey clouds scudded across the sky and wept until I had no tears left inside me and the sun had gone in.

I want you back so badly my darling that it pains me even thinking about all the years you will miss. I think about the university fund we set up for you, that you weren't going to access for another twelve years. I think about the school at which you'd already been enrolled for secondary school. I think about the fact that you will never have another birthday party with cake, games, presents and singing. You will never have a sweet sixteen, or an eighteenth, or a twenty-first. I think about bringing you home from the hospital that first night and how scared I was that I had another little life that was in my hands. I think about how Megan called you 'Baby' until you were at least six months old. As I think all these things I can barely even go on.

When I got back to the house Daddy had left seven more messages on my phone which I couldn't bring myself to read. Instead I sent him a text saying I was safe and that my battery was about to run out. I also found that our neighbours had left a basket with some food and a note saying "We're so sorry for your loss". I was immediately so touched that I started to cry again. I was soon glad of the food as I realised that I hadn't touched food in more than twenty-four hours. I made some food, but barely even noticed what it tasted like as I sat at the kitchen table looking at a photo of you and Daddy on a skiing holiday. I slept on the sofa again, as I couldn't bring myself to go upstairs and have to see your room,

14/09/07

My Darling Girl,

I've been down here for three weeks now, though I don't really know what I'm looking for. Some sort of closure maybe, but I don't even know how I can begin to go about getting that. The fact is; this has destroyed my life. I know that I need to go home soon, but I keep telling Daddy that I'll be home tomorrow. I don't feel I can talk to anyone. No one knows the extent of my loss and pain, no one can be feeling that same amount of pain that I am.

Everyday I've been down to our beach. There is no one down there now due to it being the middle of September. I just sit on

the beach listening to the music of the sea as the waves tumble onto the shore and into the rock pools that you used to spend hours staring into for tiny sea creatures.

21/09/07

Baby girl,
It was your birthday yesterday.

I've never felt so much pain and anguish. I felt like I was being rent apart inside, as if my very soul was being destroyed. It felt like a part of me died when you did. When you died I lost my identity as a mother; as a wife; as a woman. All I could keep thinking was that I should have been supervising you in that park, that I should have been stricter. I know deep down that there was nothing I could have done, but that doesn't make the guilt any better. I can barely even write this to you.

I went back to the place by the park yesterday. I thought that seeing it on your birthday would somehow make the first sight of it better. The sun was shining weakly over the black tarmac, making the vision that greeted me all the more surprising. Flowers and messages had been placed at the side of road. As I rounded the corner this caused me to laugh and weep at the same time, I sat opposite the tribute on the grass verge, just sitting, alternately crying and laughing.

Eventually I got up as the sun was going down behind the golden hills behind me, shining its last rays on the sad looking teddy bear clutching a note in its paws. I went over to read it, both dreading and looking forward to what it would say. "Dear Julia, Mummy told me you went to heaven so I'm giving you my teddy bear. My sister says I'm too old for a teddy anyway, so I hope you like it. Maybe you could play with it with God in heaven. Love Jack".

22/09/07

Darling,
This is going to be the last time I'm going to write to you. Daddy came to pick me up today. I decided after seeing the flowers at

the roadside that I couldn't hide away anymore. It's not that I've moved on or gained closure, but I realised that my family is hurting as well. Daddy booked me sessions at a therapist and I went to see her. She told me that my reaction had been understandable, but that I had to accept that you've gone and stop writing to you as if you were alive. So I won't be writing anymore, but I will pray for you, and will always think about you.

You know that I love you, and you will never be from my thoughts. I still feel the pain of your death every second of every day, and will never get over this, but I need to carry on with my life. Daddy and I have agreed that I won't go back to work, but instead work from home setting up a group for other mothers who have lost children. I know it will please you to think that I'm doing something to help others.

Before we left Devon, we drove down to our beach. I got out and walked down to the sea, to where my feet made soft, squelching imprints in the damp sand. I thought of all the footprints you had made there over the years, and how you would never make any more. As I walked back to the car I had tears streaming down my face, but they were tears of acceptance, not rage and pain. Nature would always continue, and whilst I could never understand why had been taken, your life was like the footprints. They were around for a while, maybe a few seconds, but they would always be washed away by the sea. I could not hold back the sea to preserve your footprints, any more than I could hold back time to keep you with me.

I love you darling Julia,

Love Mummy

Rebecca Elliott (Lyttelton, 5th Form)

Gavin Maxwell Prize - Senior Winner **Footsteps**

Left, right, left, right, running running running with long weightless bounds like running on the moon, feet over feet in the sand and screaming because no one else is there, no sun, no sky, no one. I can feel the wind washing right through my face, my hair and everything in between and ripping my features into a smile, smile, smile, and I can feel the soft sand flying beneath my feet and my toes, step after step after step. And finally, breathlessly, I fall over, face first into the sand, body everywhere and burning, pumping, breathing with the earth as it smothers me. It's like falling back into the womb.

I remember the first time I lay on your bed, eyes shut and breathing up the cotton duvet, and how I smiled the biggest smile that no one ever saw into the bed, and how I could feel my breath warm and welcome pumping into the sheets and how my nose was really squashed. You said my name twice and I didn't reply because I'd outgrown it, I no longer needed it, you'd made me more than that for that little moment and I could even be dead. It was like when I used to lie in my parent's bed pretending I'd had a nightmare, wild, wretched and wonderful with multicolour monsters, just so I could lie there and listen to the lullaby of someone else's breathing. You were my monster you were my monster you were my monster. It was like we were walking in each other's footsteps for a while but then I fell over. The last time we said goodbye, I turned and watch you never turn back, and when you'd finally become the horizon I stayed and watched your footsteps for ages. They're gone now but I'll always remember them.

Footsteps always disappear. I often wonder about the footsteps on the moon, regal and sleeping and etched in moon dust, and how dreams came true. If I could lie there for ever and ever, comatose and comfortable on the moon, undisturbed and unworried looking at the wild, tiny earth and the immortal, beautiful black nothingness stretched everywhere then I would, god knows I would, because then I'd be free, so free I could do absolute pure nothing forever. And I'd know every colour, and be every murmur and I'd be part of the universe, not earth, I'd be part of space. And then I wouldn't just make footsteps on the moon, I'd make snow angels, and Neil Armstrong would eat his heart out.

I stretch out and blur a snow angel in the sand, a sand angel, sand going down my shorts and my tee shirt until I am lying like Gabriel after a stag night. The trouble with angels is they have no life experience, yet they are the ones that let you into heaven or not, they are the ones that judge you. I met an angel once and she kicked me out of bed, and I fell right onto her high heels, all because I didn't answer my name. When St Peter asks my name I've got no idea what I'm going to tell him. It would be better if he never asked me at all, if he just knew where I had to go upon first sight, or even better if I knew before he even told me, or even better if I just lay here for ever like so much seaweed. I realise I'm annoyed that I called her an angel, I called you an angel, not just because I'm supposed to be bitter but because honesty caused me so much trouble in the first place. But it's fine because no one's around to hear.



The day's a grey day, grey sand, grey sky, grey looming beach, grey air, all the tourists and locals hidden away inside and all their dogs and kids with them. It would be different if people were around, all doing something, all walking or sitting or talking, all avoiding strangers like strange candy but fascinated all the while. I wonder if I would still be doing the same thing if the beach was buzzing with people, a warm sticky vanilla ice cream August bank holiday beach day, all sand castles and paddling and Punch and Judy and donkey rides everywhere. I wonder what people would think of my sand angels. I imagine it would be the most beautiful thing ever.

It suddenly strikes me how completely deserted the beach is, and how there are no galling sea gulls or even small crab movements anywhere, just the wash wash wash of the breathing ocean softening the silence. And so I lie there just keeping still, listening to my heartbeat, its amazing be dum be dum be dum, but it's not like the claustrophobic aloneness of being surrounded by people, it's a different aloneness, open and free, because you can feel it and be it and become a part of it instead of just smothered by it. And I think how honest I was in telling you 'it's over' when it never is, and how if you retraced your footsteps they would have led back to mine.

A wind stirs me and I sit up and look across at my ant trail footsteps, cut into the sand like a line on a blank page, a shaky, drunk monster line but a bold line nonetheless. I like every little footprint because it's like a perfect signature, a perfect accident but one saying 'I was here I was here and I was running.' And I think how each one is like a heart beat, left right left right left right 'I am I am I am' over and over and undisputed and real, like the music on a page or fingers dancing across the keyboard. And I think how intangible thoughts are, how they always float away like smoke or steam, like sugar hiccups, like bubbles. But I'll always remember the footsteps on the sand when I took one last look at the sunset beach that day, two lines curving side by side across the open book, and how I made those footsteps, they were mine, they were mine, they were mine.

When I went back the next day they were gone.

Harry Burke (Grenville, U6th)

TOO MUCH EDUCATION, TOO SOON

So as some rocked back dangerously on weak plastic chairs straining to catch snippets of conversation from the group gathered at the back of the classroom and others distracted Mrs. Fuller with questions on Zimbabwe, a storm was brewing a mere ten minutes away from the seemingly secluded school.

I stared out the window at where the thick clouds met the desolate land. 'We need more space to grow,' was the headmaster's feeble excuse for cutting down the trees. I laughed humourlessly thinking of his unfortunate timing. He wouldn't have the chance to grow now. Now. I thought about now. What happens now?

'It's quite sad...' Mrs Fuller was saying, 'really is. We ran away from the same situation in Zim and...'

'...now Kenya's going down the same road.' Dennis finished with the tact and sensitivity of a cow. And there it was, out in the open, suspended in the ensuing silence like an oppressive odour. The stifling heat seared through our uniforms as we stared at Dennis in horror.

'What makes you so sure?'

'Well, it's obvious, Winnie haven't you seen 'it' for yourself?' Had I seen 'it'? God! I had lived 'it', which was more than could be said for the over-pampered, over-bearing boy.

I winced inwardly as I recalled the angry youth running down the streets, smashing through shops and houses, the voices of helpless mothers. How they stopped matatus (buses) and separated the one tribe from the rest, 'Wakikuyu simameni hapa!' (Kikuyus stand here!)

I felt revulsion for the perpetrators of the violence. Ah yes, the perpetrators...

'But can you imagine Kenya being poorer than Uganda?' Andy piped in defusing the tension. Laughter ricocheted across the solid grey classroom. The joke had always been on Uganda and their hopelessly weak currency but now it was on Kenya and there was something comical about the role reversal. Yet there was this niggling feeling clawing at my consciousness. Fear. It reverberated under the facade of humour.

Fear hung on to us tenaciously and with good cause: only minutes away a storm was gathering.

The bell rang and we filtered out of the classroom with one mission – lunch. The humidity weighed down upon us as we attempted to shrug off our anxiety. However, I was unable to forget the conversation in class. Suddenly, I remembered an incident several weeks before.

It was one Sunday lunch with granddad and uncle Kivuitu. They retired to granddad's immense study after the meal but must have left the door slightly ajar, enough for me to catch every word.

'It started with one constituency – Molo.' Kivuitu's voice sounded strained. I heard him say something about the fact that it wasn't meant to get out of hand – just a few unaccounted for votes in relatively insignificant constituencies would have been enough to swing the election. Kivuitu was the chairman of the electoral commission of Kenya.

'Raila would have been the wrong choice,' Kivuitu reasoned desperately. It was only now that I realised why granddad had turned a deathly pale. Uncle Kivuitu had taken the country's elections into his hands.

I had no appetite for lunch or anxiety-ridden conversation. I returned to my boarding house, willing the thought of uncle Kivuitu out of my mind. Carelessly on the table-tennis table were strewn the day's papers. I picked up the Daily Nation, 'as impartial as a newspaper can afford to be,' my father always said of the paper.

125 dead in Kenya's bitter election violence read the front page. I couldn't bring myself to peruse the article; not when I knew



who had caused the violence. I switched on the television and edged closer to it as the cameraman zoomed in on an area I knew only too well. Molo.

'Angry youth protesting against the outcome of the December elections have today blockaded Molo,' the newscaster stated. 'No one is allowed into or out of the town and it's rumoured that the youth are planning an attack on...'

'Oh God!' I whispered. Then I heard a deafening bang. I spun round in a fluster. A bolt of lightning flashed as the sky unleashed a torrent of rain. The storm had gathered. 'Winnie, have you heard...?' someone asked sprinting into the house.

There was a shriek in the distance. People attempted to scatter from the prevailing storm. I stood rooted to the spot. A petrifying chaos ensued. Then sudden stillness as it dawned upon us –

They had come.

Winnie Maganjo (Nugent, L6th)

Tea at Cape Trafalgar

It was morning when I stared at my brother from across the coffee table. He was perched on the edge of his armchair, his hawk-like eyes hardened at the playing board but his hand was proffering a plate of miserable yellow biscuits. The hand shook until one biscuit tumbled away from the others onto the floor. We ignored it. A moment ago, Mrs. Fairway had brought in cups of tea, so congealed that I was surprised my sugar cube hadn't sat on the surface instead of melting into it. A kindly woman, if not a very mindful one.

"You're not following."

I turned my head back to the game, embarrassedly scratching the ruddy flush that I sensed blooming like a starburst across my nose. Rufus, not looking too disappointed at my refusal of the biscuits, began to eat them himself.

"Um," I hesitated, hearing my voice shake. I hated this game. If the destitution, horrors and primeval purging of human life in war were not enough for some, they turned it into a folly of peacetime. Rufus' eyes followed my fidgeting with the rigidity of a final examiner. "F 9?"

Rufus sighed as a parent would with a cheeky, chocolate-covered child.

"No, Fletcher, you tried that four turns ago. It hit my aircraft carrier, remember?"

I sighed and fisted my hands in my sleeves, feeling nerves wrack my hands. Whilst cursed with the disposition of a spooked water vole, Fletcher Paris Hartleby was in return blessed solely with solid intuition, a good tactical mind and a wealth of memorised physics equations. I would be loath to lose it now... I looked away to the marble bust of Caesar father had bought several years back. He showed no sympathy for me.

"E 2, Rufus?"

Rufus smiled contritely, picking up one of his red pegs. Down goes the ship then.

"A corking hit?" Speak of the devil. Father himself strode in, gnawing on his Cuban and boots clack-clack-clacking on the polished floor.

"Consider my destroyer well and truly 'corked.'" Rufus offered him a biscuit. He took one, despite having no intention of eating it.

"Good, good... Good to see the game's growing on you." He parked himself in a nearby chair. "Your cup, Fletch. It's going to leave a stain. Put it on the paper."

I adhered and moved the cup, shuffling backwards and ensconcing myself in the armchair's confines. A silly game that one can go about with genius. Mathematical probabilities and possibilities recorded and mapped out by figures and percentages and orders, if you had the time. Or you could take the common approach and blast granite boats

with chaotic, random red pegs. Probability, chance, fortune - it's all semantics in the end, isn't it?

"You wanted to have a word? Quite surprised me when Mrs. Fairway came in this morning when I was writing the old will. I said, 'Not my boy Fletch, surely? The chap likes to keep to himself.' That's right, isn't it?"

I nodded slowly. Chuckling at an imaginary joke, he leaned forwards on his knees, palls of cigar smoke hanging over our ersatz battlefield.

"I don't want to read History at Durham."

And suddenly I was the 'bad egg'. The proverbial one monkey out of never-ending monkeys that bashed out a work of Shakespeare's on a typewriter. I sniffed and turned my head from the fog of nicotine fumes gusting my way. Rufus' foot tap-tap-tapped tensely on the oaken floorboards.

"Hartleby boys have followed in their father's footsteps reading History at Durham for generations." He responded slowly, which was most unusual. Rather chilling, actually; he did like to explode and throw the room into disarray, his trusty cigar wielded like a sabre and his red, boiling face the flush of a king's standard.

"I was thinking of astrophysics." I scrambled for words to dent the steel in his eyes. "The stars, cosmos, bigger things – the whole functioning of the universe!"

He didn't share in my exhilaration. Flailing like a wretched, beached emerald-backed trout, I pulled the yellowed letter from under the stone cold tea and unfurled it, feeling the rub of worn paper against my thumbs.

"I've been accepted into Cambridge."

He turned away to the Caesar statue; chin on fist, puff-puff-puffing the rhetoric, what's to be done with him?

I did not need a raven croaking 'Nevermore' to see my inheritance drip away penny by penny in the whirlpool of broken tradition, or watch the years lengthen and the family visits and invites shorten before my eyes. Rufus furrowed his eyebrows at me, silently relaying his disapproval before steeping his fingers.

"B 4?"

And the game goes on, as it always has. "No hit." I replied.

He grinned. "Didn't think it would sink you."

And suddenly, there's a whole new trail of footsteps to tread.

Phillipa Douglas (Stanhope, L6th)



Community Service Christmas Party

The Christmas party this year gave our guests a real treat, with music provided by our new Director of Music, Simon Dearsley, and his wife Philippa. They performed some great Christmas numbers with plenty of opportunity for us all to sing along. This was very much appreciated, and all the more so since Simon was also preparing for the School Carol Service later that same day. Father Christmas again honoured us with his presence, to the awe and delight of the various staff children who had come along, and bingo and a raffle rounded off the afternoon. Stoics did themselves, their guests and the school proud by helping out with great willingness on a variety of fronts from start to finish. I am most grateful to them and to the Catering staff and Matrons for their efforts. Letters and cards received from our guests afterwards showed just how much they had enjoyed their time with us. I trust this traditional party will continue for many years to come.

Dr Ro Masters

The Cookery Course at Brook Hall started in January this year. As a new activity it was a chance for all ten of us to be introduced to the world of refined cooking. Steve, our teacher filled our Monday afternoons with sumptuous cuisines and humorous anecdotes from the world of professional cooking. This course has so far proved to be worthwhile and very enjoyable. Our last day saw us cook a three course meal and then receive our certificates from Steve Bulmer, the Chef, and a glass of champagne from his wife Joanna. Hamish Musker received the Master-Chef's hat and we were all given a present by Steve and Joanna, each exemplifying our particular skill or food preference, some received cake tins or potato mashers or frying pan as a gift. I would like to thank all the Brook Hall Cookery School staff, Mr. Sayers, for driving us even in the worst of weather conditions and above all Revd Jackson who's brilliant idea this was.

Winnie Maganjo (L6th, Nugent)







1st XV - P17W7D1L9PTSF 286PTSA 226

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The 1st XV started well and finished exceptionally well but in between had an indifferent spell where too many matches were lost by less than a score and 3 games in particular would make the statistics above much more easy to digest had we come out on top.

After a toe to toe battle with Harrow on pre season Stowe opened brightly putting the ghost of Bloxham to bed after the disappointments of the previous year with a comfortable 24-8 win. The following week saw Oakham visit the North Front and the hosts enjoyed much of the first half exchanges dominating up front and leading 7-0 at half time, however with a minute to go Stowe trailed 10-7 but were awarded a penalty just to the left of the posts. A lack of confidence amongst our place kickers saw us spurn the chance to draw the match and instead concede an interception try with the last play of the game. This was a cameo of how close we came to getting a result from matches but instead conceding the game.

A draw away at Mill Hill was a demonstration of the strength in depth of the squad when we had several injuries to first choice players. A poor performance followed when we lost to the Royal Latin but the following Saturday saw a magnificent rear guard performance against Oundle, with Stowe only just falling short. A comfortable win in the Daily Mail Cup gave the side fresh energy going into our away match at St Edwards in which Stowe were denied by a last minute try.

The side bounced back with one of their best performances beating MCS Oxford 36-20 in the Daily Mail Cup before the final match before half term saw Abingdon prevail.

A bright start at John Cleveland yet again summed up the sides potential but also highlighted its inability to take the lead but not build upon it and suffer the consequences later in the game. Trent College, a new fixture, saw the side nervously creep over the line as 11-5 winners but yet again nerves were frayed as we clung on this time for a tight but positive finish. Another trait of the side was our ability to give away far too many needless penalties and this cost us against Loughborough as we went down 11-10.

Three mistakes in the first half against Bloxham meant we were always playing catch up and although Charlie Morris scored a couple of good tries we left ourselves with too much to do and the prize of playing Wellington College at home in the next round of the Cup went begging. Another new fixture at Haileybury saw us lacking confidence and so we slumped to another defeat despite a late rally.

At this point the side could have drifted but to their credit they rallied beating arch rivals Uppingham more convincingly than the 17-10 final score suggested and in their final match on the North Front they demonstrated a huge defensive effort to hang on for an 11-5 victory against Bedford Modern. In their last match of the season the confidence was there for all to see and in another new fixture against Northampton School for Boys under floodlights the boys showed their true class and scored five magnificent tries ending the term with a 34-5 win.

Special mentions must go to Craig Holton who was outstanding in his first term at Number 8, player of the season Will Anthony and talismanic captain David Devlin-Jones, who will be touring the USA this Easter with the Independent Schools Barbarians. As ever I must take this opportunity to thank those who coached and supported the side throughout the season in particular Barney Durrant, Steve Malling and James Hayden. It was a pleasure to work with this group of players and I know that the staff enjoyed seeing these players develop as the season evolved. As many leave for University I hope they continue to pursue the game that many of them cherish.



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2XV

Having lost only three games in two years members of this year's second 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 with a record of twelve wins and two defeats.

After a superb start with comfortable wins against Bloxham, Akely Wood 1st XV and Mill Hill the team went into the Oakham match with real confidence. In an exhibition of running rugby the team scored three length of the field tries with excellent interplay between backs and forwards. This style of rugby was a feature of most games and certainly attracted large crowds on the North front.

The team was blessed with excellent leadership throughout the campaign from both Freddie Forrester and Oliver Tett. This was to prove crucial in some of the sterner tests of the season, the Oundle game being a noteworthy example. With ten minutes to go the team trailed by nine points. After a penalty to bring the side within six points, the players showed both patience and tenacity to overturn the deficit with a well taken try by Miles Johnson.

There followed a run of good results with further wins against St Edwards, Abingdon and John Cleveland. This eight game unbeaten run saw Stowe climb to the top three of all second teams across the country.

Outstanding performances from top try scorer Hugo Empson, Harry Burke and Charlie Morris led to deserved call ups to the first team. This trio in particular were missed in the last part of the season and perhaps contributed to the only losses against Trent College and Uppingham. Despite these setbacks the team again showed great character to record further wins against Loughborough grammar school, Haileybury and Bedford Modern. Overall a fantastic season and credit must go to all the players that participated.

Mr James Hayden

3rd XV

The 3rd XV season was a mixed one. As always at initial team selection and build you are open to many players (often in key positions) moving up and down the squad structure over the initial couple of weeks. We had players move up to the seconds and above and a couple who moved down a squad. This is no bad thing however finding your feet and getting the squad genuinely settled takes some time. Our season was rewarding, challenging, exciting and sometimes disappointing however it has to be said that the players worked hard and gelled as a group of individuals.

Captain for the majority of the season was Jack Ryan who led by example throughout the season – working hard and showing gutsy, determined play (especially at turnover). Josh Low was our gifted fly-half who, despite sponsorship from Wella for his flowing locks, managed to overcome any distractions from further sponsorship deals and kicked some excellent ball from the hand and from place kicks. We lost our resident Swiss terrier (Tom Worsdell) at No.8 early on through injury, however Rupert Hall stepped into the breach admirably and was a consistently dogged fighter at the base of scrum. Other Upper 6th Stoics who performed superbly included our scrum half Felix Parker who played with flair and skill all season, Bertie Schiff who despite one or two early huffs and chuffs due to social and Art commitments, was a talented hooker who scored several storming tries during the season; Monty Lewis who was strong, fast and hard but unfortunately could be like a headless chicken at times (taking out some of the parental supporters in one game not realising that in fact they were not the oppo); Freddie Wells, Henry Pilleau, Jonty Irving, Freddie Prendergast, Olly Heath and Matt Gibson (who stepped in to help at short notice and was a true gentleman) were also magnificent in contest. For next season we have some talented individuals coming through including 'Mighty Mouse' Tolly Leech, Tom Worsdell, John Blount, Euan Welsh (player of the year for his outstanding flanker work), Max Porter and Toby Clegg. For those who did play and I have missed out I apologise!

So, where did this place us at the end of the season? We played 11 matches; we won 6, drew none and lost 5. So in essence not a bad outcome given our strong opposition. A platform for improvement? For sure. An enjoyable season? Definitely.

As for the two coaches, both David 'bearded wonder head of design supremely fit - not' Ardley and Damian 'marine wannabe mental head of maths guy who enjoyed dumping Felix and Robson any chance he got' Blewitt had an enjoyable and challenging time with the squad come rain or shine.

We want to thank all the Stoics who turned out for the 3rd XV this year and wish you all well in the future, be that here at Stowe next season or on to University and the world of work. Whatever you do – we hope you continue to enjoy your rugby.

Mr David Ardley and Mr Damian Blewitt



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Hittites

Every so often, a season comes along that is different... and this year was just one of those seasons. We never actually settled down as a team. Quite why this was, I don't know. It certainly had nothing to do with Fred Prendergast who was amazing in the role of Captain Fantastic leading the Brown Dirt Cowboys (Google it guys) in a super-dynamic, energy stuffed manner, regularly quite literally running himself into the ground... but we never managed to generate a core of regulars around whom the team would have been based. Perhaps it was because we trained with the thirds and this meant there was more interaction with others, or maybe the chemistry was simply just not right. Whatever. In the end, we never really fired on more than two or three cylinders and more importantly, the sheer joy of rampaging over the muddy acres of public school pitches, throwing caution to the wind (and the ball all over the place), was not a frequent experience. More often than not, we laboured somewhat and there were more grimaces than grins.

That said, we won a couple, lost a couple, and we might even have drawn one – who can remember - no doubt it's recorded somewhere for posterity for some historian to pore over five decades from now. What it will not record, however, is the moment of the year: Misha Grinin, a Muscovite, brand new to Stowe and to rugby but well schooled in the art of wrestling (Olympic style, not WWF), took to rugby as a rhino might take to dressage. Tackling was ferocious (and generally legal) and his stamina limitless. He became a kind of exocet missile and until the Thirds ungraciously nicked him, he was our penalty option. Irrespective of field position, Fred would tap the ball, give it to Mish, who would then run toward the opposition's line. We were in Oxford playing Teddies, they had gone 7-0 up after a minute, but the anticipated deluge had not happened. With a couple of minutes to go, it was still 7-0 and we had a penalty deep in our own 22. Give it to Mish was the call. He took it and ran pretty straight, brushing off Teddies in the manner that a cow's tail might deal with blue bottles. Triumphantly, he put the ball down over the line. Try! But no, sadly, white lines don't feature much in wrestling and he had apparently crossed the touch line just shy of the goal line. Hey Ho. Maybe we'll try to sneak him back next year, who knows? In the mean time, many thanks to Dr Smith who helped coach, and to the U6 and to any team you may play for in the years to come, good luck, and to the L6: see you next year.

Reverend Robert Jackson

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Colts A Played: 16 Won: 5 Lost: 9 Drawn: 2

The Colts A's season got off to a cracking start with a strong win over local rivals Bloxham, with Stowe's backline organisation proving too much for Bloxham, typified by the performance of our crash tackling centre James Blackham. A strong away performance away at Oakham in the next game left a sense of what might have been, as Stowe lost 15-10 despite dominating the second half 10-0, Isi Madojemu impressing in only his second game at Number 8. Gradually, however, it appeared that the Colts were beginning to believe they were not merely there to make up the numbers. Another good performance



on the road saw the Colts win 15-12 away at Mill Hill, county scrum half Gus Hopewell coming through with the winning try backed up by Nick Brown's barnstorming display up front.

A disappointing away match at Oundle seemed to prove a game too far for Stowe as we lost a disappointing match 34-0. Confidence was soon restored however with the first home match and a 44-0 win over Akeley Wood, with Isi Madojemu's showing signs that his match performances were beginning to live up to his obvious athletic potential. Next came the highlight of the season with a tremendously hard fought and physical 0-0 draw against St. Edward's on the North Front. In particular Stowe's team spirit and commitment that day was epitomised by the kamikaze performance of our openside flanker Harry Hawkes. As half term approached and extra school commitments mounted it became obvious that the team were tiring; a couple of lacklustre performances against Haberdasher's Askes and Abingdon resulted in 27-17 and 14-27 losses respectively.

The second half of the season began with a bang as they faced the traditionally strong St. John Cleveland School, a tactically strong and controlled team performance earned Stowe a superb 15-15 draw. Jamie Cockbill starting in his first match at blindside flanker also took his opportunity well and announced himself as one to watch for the future. Unfortunately for the next two weeks injuries and a loss of concentration in training resulted in mixed performances with a 5-18 home loss to Trent and a 46-33 away loss to Loughborough Grammar. The season was set back on track however with a strong win over Cokethorpe 10-0, Ben Roe again showing his control and tactical awareness from the fly half spot. Whilst the following match saw a controlled 27-13 win over Haileybury, Joe Stieger-White coming to the fore as man of the match from the engine room of the second row. As the season drew to a close the battle to maintain energy levels intensified, to their credit they fought hard in their remaining three games and played some good rugby. It would be fair to say therefore, that the Colts A were hard done by with a return of three losses to Sponne 10-17, Uppingham 3-33 and Bedford Modern 27-7.

Despite the losing slant on the stats, however, it is interesting to note that over the season they not only drew 2 games but

also lost a further 3 games by 10 points or less, the potential for a winning season was definitely there. The team have undoubtedly therefore, made huge strides this season both collectively and as individuals. The usual suspects stood out for Stowe with Gus Hopewell (30 points), Isi Madojemu (35 points), Nick Du Bois De Montule (22 points) and Harry Hawkes all at the heartbeat of the team. If not more pleasing however, was the emergence of previous C and even D team players such as Joe Stieger-White, Ash O'Callen-Smith, James Dale, Dom Noakes and in particular Jamie Cockbill who deservedly collected the Colts' A 'Most Improved Player of the Season' Award. Finally player of the season was our fly half and captain Ben Roe, who lead from the front throughout and ended the season not only with a personal tally of 68 points but also two 1st XV caps.

Congratulations to all the boys on a hard working and enjoyable season and I would like to wish them all the best in their quests for 1st and 2nd XV shirts next year!

Mr Tom Blampied

Colts B

The Colts B completed their season this year with a record of Played 12, Won 3, Drawn 2 and Lost 7. This was a hard working season for the Colts B, who despite sometimes falling the wrong side of the score line managed to remain positive and committed throughout.

The Colts B's season kicked off with a 29-5 away win at Bloxham, which was soon followed by a nail biting 20 all draw at Oakham and a very pleasing 30-19 victory over Mill Hill. Early season momentum had been generated however the loss of some key players up to the A's, and a fourth successive away match at

Oundle, proved a game too far for the Colts B as they were comprehensively beaten. With their first home match however, the Colts B came back fighting with a hard earned 8-8 draw against local rivals St. Edwards. Unfortunately a painful 19-17 loss away to Haberdashers Askes was then followed by losses at home to Abingdon 0-10, Trent College and a 60-17 away loss to Loughborough Grammar. Stowe's final win of the season came at home against Haileybury 25-14, before final matches against Uppingham and Bedford Modern saw the Colts B loose 34-0 and 31-0 respectively.

Key players for the Colts B this season were their irrepressible back row forward Alistair Moncur who took home the most Man of the Match awards, Player of the Season went to the big hitting Brad Kim whilst Most Improved Player went to Ben Hackett. Thanks must go to the Captain Theo Vicat for all his organisation and hard work motivating the team. Thanks to all the Colts B for an enjoyable season and good luck to all the boys who take their first steps into senior rugby next year.

Mr Philip Arnold.

Junior Colts A has had a terrific season, which has included big wins against Warwick School, Haileybury and the Royal Latin School. The highlight of the season was the Daily Mail Cup run, which took us to the 6th round before finally being beaten by a strong Rugby School side. Within the 'starting' 15 for the A team, 31 different players from the A and B 'performance squad' have managed to wear a starting jersey throughout the season, showing the high levels of competition and ability within the squad. The attitude of the boys has been disciplined and focused, and they are an excellent team to coach due to their enthusiasm and drive. Outstanding players this term include captain Cameron Roberts, full back Henry Rudd, centres Seb Clarke and James Barnett and from the forwards Mike Evans, Alex Hambro Rabben and Ed Bethell. This is not to forget the other crucial elements of the squad, such as the strong link at half-back between Ben Nichols and Ollie Clark which was central in orchestrating our patterns of play. The season ended with 11 wins, 6 losses and 1 draw, although several of those losses were by 3 points or less. This squad has developed massively through the term, and next year they must aim to win those close games that just slipped by this year. Overall this has been an outstanding season for the Junior Colts As which has been successful and enjoyable for all involved.



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Coaches: Charlie Barker & Chris Townsend

Captain: Cameron Roberts



Junior Colts B Won 6, Lost 6, Points For; 258, Points Against; 204.

An excellent season for this team. Results ended even and really do not reflect what a good team this has been. Our A team had a good run in the Daily Mail Cup, which obviously impacts on us. From our group, no less than eight players represented the A's, often more than once.

I generally do not like to single out individuals, however I must mention Big Ben Rimell who would be my man of the season. Oliver Plunket has been a fantastic Captain. My tip for the future would be Archie Walters. He has been injured for most of this term but showed in our last match against Bedford Modern, just what we have been missing. Mr Hughes, take note. Well done to all.



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Mr Ray Dawson

Junior Colts C Won 2 Lost 6.

This was a heartless scoresheet for a team that consisted of so many dedicated players. We lost heavily to a big Oakham side to start the season, but Jeronimo Vilar's total commitment resulted in one Stowe try. Mill Hill won by a much lesser score, being much hampered by Ed Robinson who was an outstanding spoiler at Scrum Half. Oundle was tough and Mike Illingworth broke his wrist in the contest. However, a trip to St Edwards brought our first win of the season, Ed Pettifer scoring twice and Captain Freddie Elliott once to bring a 17-12 victory. Dan Capurro made a try-saving tackle and Ed Robinson, again, was everywhere. Sadly Abingdon brought our greatest defeat. The team's attitude impressed, though, and Ed McDonald's tackling in particular shone. Charlie Cox and Kirk Blair also put themselves on the line. Then, at Haileybury, we won 46-7. Hugo Pickett started the scoring, followed by Ed Robinson (twice), Dan Clark (finally!), Freddie Elliott, Ed McDonald and Jasper Simpkin (twice)! Quick-thinking Fly-Half Freddie Elliott must also be credited for creating two of the tries he did not score himself. The last two matches of the season – Uppingham and Bedford Modern – were not so good. James Rudkin deserves mention for his determination in the No. 8 position, and Matthew Corless, Joe Hearty and Rory Langman likewise for their dependable team spirit and forward play. Man of the season has to be Ed Robinson, whose fearlessness and dedication are an inspiration to all.



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Mr Bob Roberts

Development XV

The Development XV have had a great season. They have played an expansive and ambitious style of rugby and gone undefeated in their 5 matches. The highlight was possibly against Loughborough Grammar, where a predominantly 5th form side took Loughborough to pieces with fast and flowing rugby. The record was 4 wins and 1 draw, the draw being the first match against Welbeck College. Great improvement has come from all round, and the first team for next year will hopefully have many of these lads playing. In the forwards, Jarvis Prestidge led well from the front and big improvement was also seen in the front 5 from Nick Brown and Craig Holton at 8. In the backs, Callum Jones was always dangerous on the wing and Luke Rust produced some talented running and handling to create many of our tries. This is not to forget the rest of the squad who have produced an excellent term of rugby. Well Done

Mr Charlie Barker and Mr Stephen Malling

Yearlings A

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This looks to be a strong year group all round and on the rugby field they did not disappoint. It is perhaps a testament to how strong the A's are that, this year, the B's went undefeated indicating also the strength in depth.

There are some good individual players who are both big and strong for their age but the other players around them are also extremely skilful and their passing ability enables them to play a very fluid game.



Captain Oscar Page is a dominant and capable leader who dictated play from No8. He is a strong aggressive player who is learning the art of letting others play off him and once his decision making improves he will be a boy to watch. Jake Olley and George Jones were the leading try scorers in the backs. Jake demonstrates great speed and skill while George is more brutal in his progress to the line but never the less as effective.

Henry Woodward, Ben Duckett and Angus Morton have all adapted well to new position in the backs and although at times each may have shown a lack of experience in these new roles they all demonstrated tenacity, guile and vision to drive the team forward. Harry Allhusen, Freddie Clarke and Henry Palling have contributed much to the cause and competed well for the remaining threequarter positions.

Henry Brookes came through from the C's initially to claim his spot at Loosehead. The hooker and the sides "artful dodger" was Jack Chaplin who has developed his closed skills. Will O'Callen Smith is a solid customer at tighthead who, occasionally, let his focus slip when scrummaging but demonstrated a huge appetite for carrying the ball. Locks Tristan Phipps, Jamie Lemos and Hugh Hillier shared the positions but were all a tower of strength. Supporting Oscar in the back row Jordan Cleary was perhaps the most improved player steeling ball at will on the floor and in the tackle, sometimes illegally but what good openside plays by the law! Dominic Smith was tenacious at blindside putting in the necessary tackles and linking well with his backs.

Their one disappointment was the defeat to Oundle. Although leading at half time 7-5 they had a chance to push home the advantage just after half time but a dubious tackle by the Oundle fullback halted Olley on the line and a finger tip tackle on George Jones prevented a further score. The telling factor was the Oundle front row which caused us problems on the day.

For me their best performance was the first half against Mill Hill at home when George Jones rounded off one of the best tries I have seen on the North front. Offloads, width, the recycling of the ball and the handling ability led to a two minute assault this way and that before we finally crossed the line. It was a joy to watch.

The next two years are vitally important in their development as opposition will catch some of them up size wise. That said many of our own backs will grow and providing they maintain this zest for the game I will look forward to meeting up with them in the sixth form.

A huge thank you to James Hayden, Tom Blampied and Damian Blewitt for supporting me with the coaching of this group of players, it has been a real pleasure.

Mr Alan Hughes



Rugby



Yearlings B

This was a very strong season for the Yearlings B who did fantastically well to end the season unbeaten after 6 matches, finishing up with 163 points for and just 27 points against.

The season started with a 15 all draw against Prince William School as the Yearlings B struggled to find an early season rhythm, however by the second week of term the Yearlings B were up and running with a 46-0 demolition of Leys School. The highlight of our season soon came in our third game, with a brilliant display of running rugby from the B's to beat the traditionally very strong rugby school of Oundle 37-0 away from home. A well contested game against Carres School followed, Stowe eventually pulling through 27-12 victors before our final match of the season brought a strong 38-0 victory against Mill Hill on the North Front, the perfect way for the Yearlings B's to finish a very successful season.

Stand out players this season were the Yearlings B stalwarts of Harry Martin, Nick Paine, Adam Jones and Will Plant. Top try scoring honours went to our winger Freddie Dixon who scored 5 tries in total, also making him our highest points scorer. The award for most improved player of the season went to our irrepressible openside flanker Alex Levitt-Skrivener, whilst undoubtedly the prestigious honour of being named Yearlings B Player of the Season award went to our fly half and Captain Will Jones.

All in all the Yearlings B were a pleasure to coach for Mr. Blewitt and myself, and we wish them all the best with their future rugby at Stowe in what promises to be a very talented year group.

Mr Tom Blampied



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Yearlings C P 6 W4 L1 D1.

I am very happy to report that this terms C Team have performed exceedingly well.

Two of our matches were lost due to foul weather, I believe that our overall results would have been even better if we had played them. 14 - 14 at home to Uppingham was an unusual result. We had lost both Luke Perpera and Angus Craven to the B Team that week. I am certain that with them in our team, it would have been a better day!

It has been a great pleasure for both Mr Blew and I to work with these lads. The Forwards have been exceptional in their efforts to improve week on week. Our backs just need time to grow, they have the skills but as yet, not the size. Well done to all.



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Mr Ray Dawson

Yearlings D

The Yearlings D rugby team has an enjoyable season disrupted mainly by bad weather. Many of the boys in this team had not played rugby before and it was a great challenge for them to adapt. The D team played 4 games- winning 2 games and losing 2 games. Sadly, a number of the games for the season were cancelled due to unplayable conditions as a result of the snow. The forward pack played consistently well, while the backs struggled to live up to their potential. Overall, the boys and coaches involved enjoyed the season thoroughly.

Mr Mark Blew





Girls' Hockey Report **Played 13, Won 6, Drew 3, Lost 4.**

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Captain: Laura Grossick
Vice Captain: Sarah Worsamm

Leading goal scorers: Webb 12, Worsamm 8, Jackman 7, Nichols 6, Grossick 6.

*Now this is the law of the jungle –
As old and true as the sky;
And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper,
But the Wolf that shall break it must die.
As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk,
The law runneth forward and back -
For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
And the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.*

This was a 'great' team. Great because they played good hockey, but more so because of the way they did it and the legacy they leave behind. Perhaps the thing we should all aim for is to leave something better than we found it and the girls did that this year. Laura Grossick as Captain has been playing for the 1st XI for 3 years. She has been at the vanguard of turning Stowe girls' hockey into the force it is now. When she started playing 1st XI hockey, she was in the only girls' hockey team Stowe possessed. This year she presided over a club of 8 sides. She is an outstanding leader, ambassador and player and she set the tone of fun and competitiveness that the others followed. Her right hand man was Sarah Worsamm whose sense of fun and sheer determination added so much to the spirit of the team and to every training session and match. Abby Webb combines her huge talent with great humility. Playing for your country at 17 years old is a pretty amazing achievement and her talent shone for the Stowe 1st XI this term. Abby played for the England U18 team during the season.



A record of played 13, won 6, drew 3 and lost 4 is a good season. We had some tough matches and tested ourselves against the best and were never thrashed. We had three 3-3 draws, in each one coming from behind to snatch a draw in the last few minutes. Perhaps the game against Wellingborough was the best we played all term, and it certainly saw the emergence of Phoebe Avent and Louisa Dobbs as the talents of the L6th. The thrashing of Royal Latin 8-1 was satisfying and saw us through to the County Cup Final. At 2-1 up just after half time in the final against Sir William Borlase we were in with a chance, but their class told in the end and we lost 4-2. Zara Nichols and Jose Brake were the young guns from the 5th form. Both are talented and have shown great improvement and we look forward to them playing a key role over the next two years.

Other U6th leavers in the team include Hannah Bassett who was a stalwart in defence and always played better after a good breakfast! Hannah Jackman added to the goal scorer she always was with a more tenacious approach. Taisie Grant was an enigmatic figure, but at her best she revealed a talent that will carry her to success in the future if she sticks with hockey at university. The L6th girls who were new to the school meant that we had no weak areas and I expect Holly Deakin and Katie Peters to be a big part of things next year. In goal, Alice Coulson had little experience at the beginning of term, but a desire to learn meant that by the end of the season she had become a reliable and ever improving figure in between the sticks.

Thanks are due to Miss Branford-White, Mr Knott and Mr Pickersgill for their support. In the words of the Vice-Captain; "mention how amazing we are and that your going to miss us so so so much??" For once she is right....on both counts.

Mr Matthew Way

2nd XI

For the first time Stowe's Senior Girl's Hockey has generated three very successful teams. The second XI have been incredibly competitive, for example the highlight of their fixture list was beating a very strong Princethorpe College 3-0. Throughout the season they played to a really high level and remained very motivated and focused, resulting in them playing to their best ability in every match. Under the Captaining of Camilla Carr Smith, they had a real team spirit and were all very proud to be part of this squad. Charlotte Cockbill's strong hitting ability combined with Izzy Critchley's finishing touch provided many goals. Emma Fahie's feisty attitude and determination to get the ball (no matter what was in her way!) resulted in her being one of our key defenders, finally both Sophie Dudley and Rowena Namatovu showed great improvement throughout the past two seasons with their game play. This team and all of its achievements, not just within hockey, but also socially, shall be fondly remembered.



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3rd XI

The 3rd XI, under the captaining and guidance of Susie Shilling and Yasmin Hughes have also had great success with their hockey. They played five promising matches, showing improving skill and increased determination throughout. Alex Price was their top goal scorer and Ellie Green and Immy Brabant were key defenders. The girls had a wide variety of ability and also year groups and deserve to be praised for their positive team spirit and drive to succeed in every game.

Miss Zoe Branford-White

U15A GIRLS HOCKEY WIN:6 LOSE:6 DRAW: 1

The U15A's had to overcome some serious injury issues at the start of the term with key players such Pinny Stuart-Mills, Imogen Voorspuy and Charlotte Cook all missing early games. Nevertheless, after tough opening games and a good performance against Bloxham (which finished 1 – 1) the girls had back to back wins against Pangbourne and Akeley Wood scoring 10 goals and conceding only 3. Other big wins came in the second half of term against Cokethorpe, which Stowe won 6 – 0 and the rematch against Bloxham which was a 5 – 1 win. Looch Trevor was captain and Lara De Keyser and Imo Voorspuy were joint top scorers. Izzy Kenny-Herbert will be missed after two great seasons in defence.



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Matt "Coach" Walsh-Woolcott

U15B

The Under 15 B girls' team had a great season this year, winning all but 2 of their matches. Captain Hannah Maxwell led the Stowe offence throughout the season, with Harriet Goffman anchoring the midfield and helping both offensively and defensively. Emma Curley and Inca Curwen shared duty in goal and both were key defenders. Molly Davison brought the ball up the wings throughout the season, creating opportunities for Stowe and bringing the team's game to the next level. The girls improved a lot, and should be proud of a great season!

Miss Dara Blume



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U14A Girls' Hockey

The U14A's developed into an extremely cohesive team who enjoyed considerable success during the hockey season with 8 wins, 2 losses and 3 draws against strong opposition. The captain Georgie Leech led the team by example with their most notable performances against St Edward's (3-1), Bradfield (3-1), Bloxham (2-2, after an earlier 1-3 defeat at the beginning of the term), culminating with the County Cup final where they finished runners-up to Sir William Borlaise. The player of the season was Charlotte Lechmere for her consistent outstanding level of play, the top goal scorers were Stephanie Robinson and Eleanor Pinnock with 13 goals each and the most improved players were Arabella Wallersteiner and Eleanor Pinnock. A special mention must also go to the goalie, George Stone, who literally threw herself into the role at times! Well done to the whole U14A squad who were a pleasure to coach!



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Mrs Sarah Sutton

The Under 14 B's

For a team that were new to secondary school hockey, the Under 14 B's had a great season with some impressive wins. They showed obvious improvement over the term, giving St Edward's a run for their money in a very close final match. The team was filled with athletic and committed girls, some having never played hockey prior to this term. The girls battled extreme weather at a number of trainings and always kept a positive spirit throughout. As a coach I was proud to see the girls take new skills in their stride and at the end of a mixed season they appreciated hockey and were promising to continue playing in their future years at Stowe.



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Miss Harriet Catterson



Hockey



The 1st XI enjoyed a mixed season this year. After a very successful, albeit slightly different to what was expected, pre-season training camp, the season started well with a 4 – 3 victory over our regular cup rivals Sir William Borlase with goals coming from Kim (x2), Blayney and Trotter. The team struggled for results to go their way for a while after this and were unlucky not to pick up 'W's in fixtures like the 1 – 1 draw at home to RGS High Wycombe. The final 20 minutes of each match became an innate problem for this particular side with games either level or in Stowe's favour before a last quarter implosion would cost the game. Goals were also scored by Smith and Berner in a season where on paper, the results don't look kindly on a side that played some very good hockey at times, but that couldn't hold out for the whole 70 minutes. Strength in depth was an issue, with injuries and illness costing the side dearly. Serious promise remains, however, in the form of Trotter, Shepherd Barron, Kim, Johnson and Richardson who all served the team well. Finally, farewell to the leavers, and thanks for all their efforts throughout the campaign: Stevenson, Scholfield, Evans, Berner, Anthony, Blayney, Smith, Forrester, Dunipace and in particular to the captain, Oli Tett.



© R&H Chapman Photography

Top Scorer: Angus Blayney - Player of the Season: Ben Smith

Mr Richard Pickersgill and Mr Matthew Walsh-Woolcott

2nd XI

What started as a relatively promising season for the 2nd XI did not quite deliver as hoped. Snow, injuries and a lack of strength in depth did not help but there were nevertheless some champagne moments to celebrate. The term started brightly with a 7-0 thrashing of a weak Akeley Wood team, Nickleby Evans earning promotion to the 1st XI with an assured hat trick. The best match of the season, against Stamford at the Bourbon fortress, followed. A well-matched affair ended 1-0, Stowe showing pleasing strength of character against a strong Stamford side. The snow rather disrupted the next few weeks and the second half of the season was lacklustre. We finished with an exciting 3-3 draw to Magdalen College School in which glimpses of Abey 'Thierry Henry' Philip's finishing ability were sighted. Notable performers throughout the season were Tom Benyon, a linchpin in the defence, Billy Richardson, who earned a well-deserved call up to the first team and Henry White, who was athletic on the field and amiable off it.



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Mr Henry Swayne

Colts A XI

The Colts A had a difficult season. They were lacking influential players in some key positions and this led to the side being a bit unbalanced. The quality of some of the side which we played was outstanding and this difference in standard was reflected in some of the scorelines.

However, there were some very encouraging performances throughout the season and I hope that some of the main players will continue to make progress and work their way into the 1st Team squad for next year. The team was led by Geordie Wilkes in midfield, ably assisted by Angus Hopewell and Will Berner. Angus was the beating heart of the team and he never ever gave up at any point in any of the games. In Nick Du Bois we had a natural goal scorer but he was often quickly identified as such and then closely marked out of the game. The goal keeper was George Corner who had some fantastic games, particularly against Stamford where he single-handedly stopped the score from being in double figures. Adam Qazi, Ben Roe and Cameron Cox were the stalwarts at the back with Tom Wigan and Jamie Cockbill developing as defenders as the season went on. Louis Staden and George Leslie-Melville were solid performers up front.

Our best performance came against Shiplake and in the game against Kimbolton in which we put on a spirited come back in the second half but could not get the ball in the goal despite numerous chances.

Mr Dominic Mochan

Junior Colts A Played 8 / Won 4 / Drew 1 / Lost 3

The 2009 hockey season was largely affected by the weather, with a number of early fixtures being lost to frozen pitches and then the impressive February snow putting pay to a further three games. Despite these interruptions, the Junior Colts A squad performed at a high tempo throughout and at times played some of the best hockey I have seen for a long time. Their determination and cohesion as a team were the side's best attributes and it was these characteristics that got them the winning season they so thoroughly deserved.

Highlights of the season include beating St Edwards 3 – 1, Bloxham 2 – 1, MCS Oxford 4 – 0 and drawing our first game against a decent Stamford side. Regular scorers of the 19 goals we scored this season were Ben Paine, Henry Rudd and Jasper Simpkin. Henry Rudd captained the side and also won the most Man of The Match awards, deservedly earning him the accolade of Player of the Season.

This team has bags of potential and I am very much looking forward to see how they develop in the next few years. Stoics who played this season include; Michael Evans (GK), Jack Palmer (GK), James Barnett, Ben Paine, Tom Baylis, Oscar Cole, Rob Hill, Henry Rudd (C), Hugo Barran, Charlie Cox, Guy Dixon-Smith, Jasper Simpkin, Archie Nesbitt, Ben Nichols, Ben Housson, Barney Curran, George Neville, Sam Tottenham and Henry Stockdale.

Mr Philip Arnold



Junior Colts B

The JCB's had a highly successful season with five wins, two draws and only one defeat. The highlight was an 8 - 1 drubbing of Shiplake. It was always a team effort with Ben Rimmell, Broghan Smith, Freddie Benyon and Alex Heerema providing the solid back four that was hard to break through. Jack Palmer did a sterling job in goal.

In Midfield, Ben Housson displayed his talent on many occasions and was well supported by Ben Nicholls (who forced his way into the A's by the end of the season), Archie Walters and Henry Stockdale. Up front it was the dynamic duo of Seb Clarke and Cameron Roberts that created many of the opportunities. Cameron ended up with twelve goals. Left wing was often rotated between Barney Curran and George Neville but both had some fine moments throughout the season.

Overall it was a successful and enjoyable season - well done to all the lads who played for the JCB's this season.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts C

The C team played some excellent and spirited hockey throughout the term and thoroughly deserved their victories. David Akam was the top goal scorer, followed by Ben Wackett, Frank Kilsby and KK Moloi. Arthur Hobhouse was a sound defender and captain.

St Edward (a) won 3-0, Abingdon (h) lost 0-2, Oakham (a) won 3-2, Bloxham (h) won 3-0

Team from: J Hearty, R Brogden, D Capurro, A Hobhouse, F Kilsby, E Wightman, D Akam, E Robinson, K Moloi, H Maberly, H Leese, B Wackett, T Maddison, R Langman, F Elliott

Mr Michael Bevington

Yearlings A Report

The Yearlings A Hockey this year has been the strongest it has been for a number of years. The Yearlings A team gelled well as a team and had some fantastic wins against Loughborough Grammar, Royal Grammar High Wycombe and Dr Challenors who are always some of our strongest opposition. The most pleasing results have been the draw with Royal Latin School and the Perse both of which showed the potential of the team and the improvements they have made as a group. There have been many superb individual performances but mentions must go to Angus Craven, Ben Duckett and Jake Olley for their consistently high levels of performance. All the players have improved dramatically during the season but the biggest improvers were Harry Cockbill, Kit Dixon Smith, Will Jones and Nick Paine. The team should be very proud of its achievements this year and should look forward to competing as Junior Colts next year.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

Yearlings B

The highlights package of the Yearlings B season: terrific victories against The Leys, RGS High Wycombe and Mill Hill; battling losses against strong Uppingham and Oundle sides; energy, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the season; strong midfield play throughout from captain Harry 'Steven Gerrard' Allhusen; attacking flair, increased fitness and 'loudest player on pitch award' for Jack Chaplin; steely defence from Harry 'the rock' Martin; a 15 goal aggregate for Russell 'Rusty' White; a talented team that achieved success, improved much and enjoyed playing good hockey.

Mr Henry Swayne

Yearlings C

The Yearlings C improved steadily over the term and ended a very competitive outfit. The team was based around a solid back four of Henry Plant, Will Plant, Jordon Cleary and Oli Jackson (who also had a spell captaining the side). Findlay, O'Brien and Hawke had some flair in midfield and Chris Carrelet scored 11 goals up front. The progress this side made was highlighted by reversing results against the teams we played twice, namely Oundle and Berkhamstead (this result was particularly pleasing having lost 3 - 2 first time round to win 5 - 0 in the second leg). With hard work I'm sure these lads will keep developing and break into higher teams as they move up the school.

Mr James Knott

Yearlings D

The Yearlings D had an eventful season full of enthusiasm and commitment. They defeated many worthy opponents with impressive score lines at each outing. With only one defeat at the hands of Oundle (it was the grass which was our undoing) they had the most successful Hockey season of all Stowe teams during the term. Under the captaincy of Ben Wild, and, at times, George Jones, they were a force to be reckoned with. Congratulations to all of those who played for the team.

Miss Vicki Edwards

Yearlings E

The team played with enthusiasm and determination during the term. In their matches they found it difficult to maintain momentum right to the end and tended to let in goals in the final minutes. Their level of skill improved significantly through training on the Astro pitches but they found the grass for their final match a challenge.

Team from:

H Brooks, C Baldwin, T ter Har, J Maberly, L de Monfort, L Forster, L Wordsell, B Hayward, A Parker, F Clarke, W Baird, G-T Svanikier, T Phipps, G Turner, B Suthers, M Akerman, J Choi, O Robertson, S Abbagana, L Pepera

Mr Michael Bevington

First Team

Led by Captain Vicky Elliott and Vice-Captain Harriet Nicholls, the Senior 1sts slowly but surely developed their team into a force to be reckoned with among the higher division schools. Supported by Midland County players Becky Elliott, Henry Gladdle, Georgia Lowther, Gerogie Saunders, Rebecca Elliott and Jose Brake, as well as key attacker Stella Weatherall, the seniors proved their tenacity time and time again in the first term. Their significant showing at the Midland Schools competition- where Stowe won 4 out of their 5 draw matches and tied with Wycombe Abbey for the first time in tournament play- ended in a semi-final, 35 minute match against Moreton Hall, finally falling 0-1. The highlight of the Michaelmas term came against Malvern St. James, where Georgia Lowther stepped up to faceguard England player Danni Allard, completely removing her from the match and allowing a Stowe victory 8-4.



The Lent term brought heavy snowfalls and frustrating draws with Marlborough (8-8) and Oakham (7-7). However, the Stoics worked together to defeat Haileybury, Alice Ottley, and St. Albans. The momentum from these victories secured a competitive place at the Nationals Tournament, where on the first day the girls went 3-1-1, placing them in Division 1 for the final day of the tournament, the highest Stowe has ever placed. Division 1 consisted of teams which Stowe had never previously beaten in regular season or tournament history. However, the Stowe girls stepped up to the challenge, eventually surpassing almost every team they played: Cheltenham Ladies College, Withington, Walthamstow, St. Swithuns, and Bedford. Despite losing to Malvern St. James, their point total allowed them a spot in the semi-final competition where they lost in overtime to Haberdashers Monmouth.

The final proof of Stowe's arrival into elite lacrosse was the match against the Downe House 1st team, a team consistently within the top 3 in the nation and whom Stowe's 1st team had never challenged. The Stoic defense, made up by Vicki Elliott, Becky Elliott, Lydia Wood, Georgia Lowther, Lottie Blackwell, Natasha Trevor and goalie Josephine Chung, kept it even in the first half, only to come up short in the end (3-8). However, the precedent for Stowe lacrosse has now been set- only to be raised in future competitions against teams like Downe House.

Captains for 2009-2010: Tash Trevor and Lydia Wood

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Second Team

The Senior B Girls lacrosse team had an outstanding season over the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, finishing with a record of 17-11-2. The girls ended the lacrosse year on a roll, winning 10 out of their last 12 matches. The highlight came at the Midlands Tournament where the girls went 4-0-1 before losing to the eventual champions by 1 goal in the semi-finals. This year's team was led by captain Beanie Robinson who had a strong supporting cast of Upper 6th Girls including Alice McNair, Lucy Ponsonby, Poppy Regan, Laura Duncombe and Hennie Gladdle. Lucy Beaty, Lexy Beaty, Lily Wigan, and Katie Peters were also consistent contributors to the squad. Outstanding job and a great year!



U15As

The U15A team ended with a record of 14-8-3 for the entire year. The highlights of the season came both at the beginning of the year, where the Stoics won the Berkhamsted 8's tournament, and at the end of the year, where they defeated both St. Helen's & St. Katherine's at home (8-7) and Downe House away (7-6). Imogen Voorspuy and Looch Trevor led in scoring goals, with Lara deKeyser close behind them both. Captain Lottie Phillips and Charlotte Cook controlled the midfield, showing their ability to lead their team on both ends of the field. The tandem of Ellie Melville and Pippa Farr was nearly flawless on defense, shutting down some of the best attackers from opposing teams. Great thanks to Leonie Hearson for showing enormous spirit when she volunteered to play goalie when no one else would.



U14s

The U14s have used their first two terms of lacrosse to increase their knowledge and skill of the sport. Their development this year allowed the U14As to finish the key term with a 3-2-1 and the U14Bs 1-2-1. The U14s now have a good base of abilities to build on and carry forward to future seasons. We are expecting big things with our key players Laura Welford, Ellie Holt, Charlotte Lechmere, Carla Springer, Rebecca Dale, and goalie Rachel Taylor.

Miss Elizabeth Hollick



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Vicky Elliott

Special recognition goes to Vicky Elliott, Stowe Captain, U19 Buckingham County Player, and U19 Midlands Team Co- Captain. Currently preparing to train for England's U21 squad, her play demonstrates exceptional skill level, incomparable tactical knowledge and extreme passion of the sport. At each match and at each practice, she led by example, motivation, and inspiration to bring the best competition to the pitch. Had accurate and consistent statistical recordings been made, Vicky would have been the leader in almost every category: blocks, tackles, ground balls, and forced turnovers. Her display in footwork, body positioning, stick skills, and communication warrants extraordinary recognition for what she has contributed to our defensive unit. Additionally, her ball handling skills, her speed in the transition, and her shot placement on goal made her a major threat on the attacking end as well. We wish Vicky the best of luck as her level of competition continues to increase and improve.



Lacrosse



1st XI 2008

P28 W13 D3 L12 A1

The second half of the 1st XI season lacked consistency and the team never really strung a series of good performances together, but still managed to record 13 wins overall. Team highlights were wins over Malvern College, Bedford School and Oundle and Uppingham in the National Twenty/20. On the last two days of term the 1st XI competed in a Twenty/20 festival at St. Joseph's College (who were the National Plate finalists) and after a loss in the first game, completed the rest of the tournament unbeaten and finished as comfortable winners of the festival. It was a nice way to finish what had been an up and down season.

There were several outstanding individual highlights. Most notable was Jamie Hirst who nearly reached a thousand runs. He amassed four centuries and three fifties (two of which were in the nineties) and he kept wicket in each game as well, taking 19 catches and 3 stumpings. Harry Wolrige-Gordon also had a fine all round season compiling 524 runs and taking 35 wickets. Harry was also the leading wicket taker. Tom Wilson, the captain, led from the front with 565 runs (including his first century for the school) and 18 catches. Jamie, Harry and Tom were winners of the batting, bowling and fielding cups respectively.

Other all round performances of note were Tom Howgego and Charlie Morris who both had fine all round seasons completing the double of 200 runs and 20 wickets. Our most improved cricketers were arguably Charlie Roberts and Will Scholfield who took 20 wickets and 408 runs respectively. During the twenty/20 festival special mention must go to young Will Berner who was plucked from the junior colts to play in the XI and ended up being the standout bowler of the tournament with remarkable figures of: 19.2 overs, 95 runs and 11 wickets at an average of 8.63.

Despite some inconsistency, 13 wins is still a fine achievement and the team managed 3rd in the National League table behind Wellington and Birkenhead School. Eight of this side leave Stowe now for gap years and University places, so it will be a young XI in 2009.

Thanks to all the coaching staff and Stoics, across all year groups, for their hard work throughout the season.

Mr James Knott



Averages:

Batting (Qualification – 200+ runs)

	P	I	No	HS	Runs	Avge	50/100	Ct/St
J. Hirst	24	22	1	115	932	44.38	3+4	19+3
T. Wilson	26	23	6	101*	565	33.23	3+1	18
H. Wolrige-Gordon	26	23	3	83*	524	26.20	3	7
W. Scholfield	22	18	1	76	408	24.00	3	5
A. Blayney	21	18	3	48	260	17.33	0	6
T. Howgego	26	22	2	39	297	14.85	0	6
C. Morris	25	20	0	51	228	11.40	1	4

Bowling (Qualification – 10+ wickets)

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	RPO	SR
W. Berner	31.2	3	152	11	13.81	5/11	4.85	17.09
H. Wolrige-Gordon	179.3	23	654	35	18.68	4/50	3.64	30.77
C. Morris	70	5	383	20	19.15	4/33	5.47	21.00
C. Roberts	95.4	13	452	20	22.60	3/15	4.72	28.70
S. Scott	131.3	16	529	22	24.04	4/36	4.02	35.86
T. Howgego	159.2	23	615	25	24.60	2/5	3.85	38.24
J. Hirsch	90.5	8	429	14	30.64	4/43	4.72	38.92

1st XI 2009

The 1st XI have finished the first half of term well with wins over St Benedict's, Bedford Modern and the Old Stoics. In amongst these results were solid draws against Radley and Oundle. The team have also qualified for the plate competition of the National Twenty/20 competition where they face King Edward's School, Birmingham in the next round.

These results followed a difficult start to the term where the XI lost some close games that could have gone either way and suffered from several batting collapses. The team is now playing with more confidence and is aiming to finish the term well.



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The batting has been dominated by two players Will Scholfield and Charlie Morris who have scored over 600 runs between them – with Scholfield averaging 41.5 runs per innings. With the ball John Gurney has been the pick of the bowlers. He has taken 21 wickets at an average of 17.90 and has been rewarded with a contract on the Leicestershire Academy. Josh Sainsbury-Bow started the term well with a four for against Abingdon and 3 for Bloxham before a back injury ruled him out. Captain Olly Tett has also bowled well and there has been good support from Morris, Scholfield and Blayney. One of the highlights of the season so far has been Oliver Trotters wicket keeping where he has shown great improvement. Oli has already taken 11 catches and executed 4 stumpings and three run outs.

With continued application and hard work this team should keep improving and enjoy more success in the second half of term.

Batting Averages:

Name	M	Inns	N/O	Runs	Avg	Top	50s	100s	S/r	%Team	Ct	St	R/O
W Scholfield	11	11	3	332	41.50	91*	2	0	66.27	23.41	5	0	0
C Morris	12	12	0	290	24.17	71	2	0	116.00	19.73	7	0	0
M Platts-Martin	12	12	1	232	21.09	53	1	0	92.43	15.78	1	0	1
B Sutton	12	12	1	158	14.36	43*	0	0	69.00	10.75	3	0	0
W Richardson	11	10	2	155	19.38	45	0	0	115.67	12.17	1	0	0

Bowling Averages:

Name	M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avg	Econ.	S/r	5wh	Best
J Gurney	12	100.0	18	376	21	17.90	3.76	28.71	2	5-17
W Scholfield	11	32.4	1	167	11	15.18	5.11	17.91	0	3-7
O Tett	12	72.0	9	326	11	29.64	4.53	39.36	0	3-37
C Morris	12	57.0	1	256	9	28.44	4.49	38.11	0	4-33
A Blayney	11	46.0	3	176	7	25.14	3.83	39.86	0	3-27
J Sainsbury-Bow	3	29.0	6	118	7	16.86	4.07	25.14	0	4-37
B Sutton	12	20.0	0	145	5	29.00	7.25	24.00	0	2-25
B Manser	11	32.0	0	178	5	35.60	5.56	38.40	0	3-25



2nd XI

This has been an enjoyable group for Mr Lewis and I to coach this term and they have been ably led by captain Craig Browne. Indeed it is indicative of the talent and approach of the side that three players have received call-ups for the 1st XI at different stages in the season. After a disappointing start on the South Front against Abingdon, where we simply did not score enough runs batting first despite 42 from the skipper, the 2nd XI have claimed a couple of notable wins. Firstly, over Reading Blue Coat on a 'sporting' wicket at Reading. Fielding first, Stowe restricted RBC to 135 all out with Ify Ejindu (5 for 18) and Luke Porritt (3 for 9) the pick of the bowlers. Craig Browne then got his head down in the reply and his 59



not out ensured a 5 wicket win. Playing away at Radley we were fortunate to play on the 1st pitch and we were well-looked after with umpires. This allowed the author of this report to sit back and enjoy watching the team to a fine win. Henry Longton ripped out two of the Radley top order before they built a healthy partnership that saw two of their players get to 50. A double bowling change did the trick, however, and Dunipace (4 for 28) and Rust (3 for 35) saw the rest off for Radley to be all out for 183. This was still going to be a stiff task and when Porritt and Curley fell early Stowe were up against it. However, the captain Craig Browne (73 not out) led from the front again and with Miles Johnson (61) they put on over 100 to ensure an excellent 5 wicket win. The 'flu' episode has robbed us of some games, but post the writing of this report, the team are hoping for more success towards the end of term. In short, the proprietors of the South Front have had a good season.

Mr Matthew Way

3XI

It has been a most pleasant season for the 3rd XI, with many of the matches played in tremendous spirit. There have been joyous instances of outstanding cricket from the amiable opposition and from Stowe, in which victories against Oratory and Bedford Modern have been balanced with defeats by Abingdon, Radley and Oundle.

Particular highlights have included: Salaal Hasan taking 4-13 against Oratory and James Knight's boundary-laden innings of 57 n.o. in the same match; Raman Dhaliwal's deserved figures of 3-23 on a windy day at Radley; Andrew Consett's brace (leading to a hat-trick ball) in a late win against Bedford Modern, with two wickets to spare; and Kieran Hagan's career-best knock of 22 runs against the Oundle attack.

Examinations and multifarious conflicts in the calendar have necessitated a fluid and constantly evolving team list. Thanks must be accorded to those players who answered late call-ups through the course of the season (especially Colts playing up), who all provided memorable contributions. From these disparate parts, the team has been commendably and considerably led by William Page-Ratcliff, who has managed to pull everyone together into a dedicated team, united in an honest approach and enjoyment every Wednesday and Saturday fixture. The good cheer of the 3rd XI has doubtlessly helped to keep the spirit of cricket in good health.

Team players: M. Binyon, T. Bishop, O. Childs, A. Consett, R. Dhaliwal, I. Ejindu, K. Hagan, S. Hasan, C. Holton, A. Hopewell, J. Knight, A. Lindsay, W. Page-Ratcliff (Capt.), A. Peake, F. Prendergast, S. Plunket, T. Rook, J. Simpkin, Y. Skelton, B. Smith, R. Speakman, A. Welford, T. Wood.

Mr Peter Last and Mr Tony Chan



Colts A

The season got off to a disappointing start against Uppingham who amassed 198 in a 20/20 game. In reply Stowe made 129 for 4 with Platts-Martin top scoring with 46 runs.

There was some improvement in the over-all performance in the next game against Cokethorpe, however, the team's total of 62 on a damp wicket proved not to be enough as Cokethorpe squeezed home by 4 wickets. Welford and Rudd were the pick of the bowlers taking 3 wickets a-piece.

The Colts played Bedford next up in a 20/20 match.

Bedford posted 154 but were 3 for 69 after 10 overs.

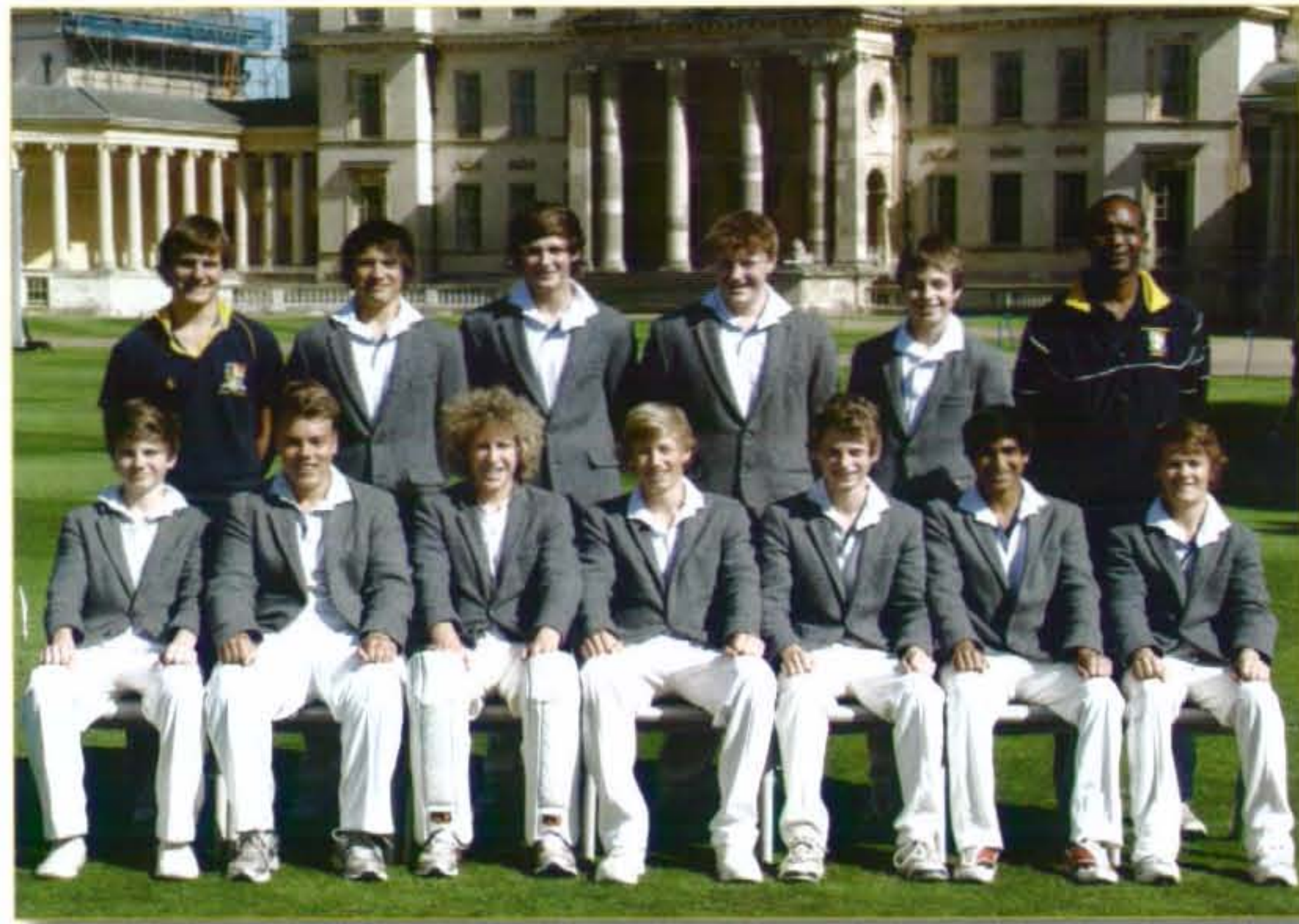
Rudd and Platts-Martin were going nicely on 24 after 4 over before Rudd left one which nipped back and clipped the off-stump bail. Unfortunately captain Hopewell was unable to bat due to injury as the middle order batting collapsed with Stowe finishing on 74 all out.

Captain Berner lost the toss (again) so Radley elected to bat and

The highlight of the term was the amazing performance against Akeley wood scoring 199 for 2 off 25 overs. Duckett timed the ball exquisitely for his 61 whilst captain Berner anchored the innings with 78 not out. Olley came in at no.3 to smash 38 in no time. In reply Akeley Wood were dismissed for 62 with Welford bagging 4 wickets.

This season this Colts team proved to be an excellent fielding and bowling side with great team spirit. It was very unfortunate for the team that the best batsman had been moved up to play in the 1st XI as it was the batting which let this side down in most of the matches. It was certainly very enjoyable coaching such an enthusiastic group who was very keen to learn. Many of this team will go on to play 1st or 2nd XI cricket next season where I expect they will continue to make significant progress with their cricket.

Mr Isaac Michael and Mr Tom Wright



Colts B

The Colts B team really enjoyed their brief season despite winning only one of the four games they played. The statistics certainly do not tell the whole story as some excellent cricket was played. After losses to Oundle, Uppingham and Radley the team showed tremendous character to beat Bedford school. The positive attitude of the Stoics and the aggressive stroke play of some of the batsmen led to some captivating matches, with the Radley game being particularly close.

The side was very well led by Captain Kitt Smith who opened both batting and bowling. He was aided with some excellent spin bowling from Tom Newman who starred in the victory against Bedford, taking three wickets in the last over to win the game.



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Junior Colts A

Played 8 / Won 7 / Lost 1

At the time of writing, half way through the season, the Junior Colts A team are the most successful team in the school, having won all bar one of their eight games. This outstanding first half of term was undoubtedly helped by the Under 15 pre-season tour of South Africa, where they returned home unbeaten.

With a few additions to this touring side, the Junior Colts A have looked a balanced and adept side who all contribute to a very competitive team. They have played some excellent cricket, gaining wins against Abingdon, Bedford Modern, Oundle and Rugby to name just a few.



There have been some outstanding individual performances including on the Batting front; Ben Duckett's 69, 75 and 100 run innings', all of which he was not out for; Ben Paine's 50 not out against the Oratory and Henry Rudd's 45 not out against Rugby. Ben Duckett is leading the Batting averages with an average of 70! On the Bowling front, James Barnett has stolen the headlines, taking 23 wickets in the 6 games he has bowled in, including two 6 wicket hauls and one 5 wicket return. He is clearly leading the bowling averages with an average of 6.5, with Rudd and Cameron Roberts following, having taken 12 wickets each.

The team are through to the last 16 of the County Cup, where hopefully they can progress to the final and potentially earn a place in the National Twenty Over Competition. The team has been superbly captained by Henry Rudd and I am sure he will lead them to further success in the second half of this amazing season.

The stoics who have played for the team this season include; Henry Rudd (c), Ben Duckett (wk), Ben Nichols, Ben Paine, Ollie Clarke, Cameron Roberts, Hugo Barran, James Barnett, Rob Hill, James Rose, Ed Wightman, Guy Dixon-Smith, Theo Gregson, Ed Pettifer and Jake Olley

Mr Philip Arnold

Yearlings

The Yearlings side has made a positive start to the 2009 season winning 5 games, drawing 1 and losing 1. With a number of the team representing the school on the recent tour to Cape Town, the return to the slow pitches of Buckinghamshire was a bit of a shock. However, the batting has been the strongest area of the team. Russell White and Henry Woodward are maturing into a very effective opening partnership who have always given the team a base from which to build a total. Harry Allhusen, Darren Gough and captain Jake Olley have all shown that they have a good technique and the ability to produce runs. Olley's 169 no against Akeley Wood was a very impressive display of hard hitting. The bowling has improved as the season progresses and the new ball attack has been supplemented by the inclusion of Henry Palling and Harry Consett. The twin spin of Martin and Constant is beginning to add another dimension to the attack. In addition to these players, Page, Phipps, Morton and Chaplin have all played their part in the early successes of the team. The second half of term sees a very busy schedule with the semi finals of the County Cup and the tour to Cheltenham College as well as the usual fixtures. This is a very talented group of players who have the potential to be a top class team in the future.



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Mr Dominic Mochan

Yearlings C

At the time of writing the Yearlings Cs cricket are having an excellent season. They are thoroughly enjoying their cricket and have won 2 out of 3 matches, wins coming against Oundle and Abingdon. There is an excellent team spirit within the squad, shown brilliantly in the fielding performance against Oundle, when encouragement and enthusiasm in the field held Oundle to 96 from 30 overs, a total which we achieved in 24 overs, even if it was for 9 wickets! Outstanding bowlers have included Robbie Henriques, Harry Roberts, Ed Howes and Merlin Rothschild, while with the bat Lucas Worsdell, Casper and Josh Dickinson, Wyn Clayton and Ollie Jackson have all excelled. The team has been captained excellently by Seb Young, and with a couple of games to go, we hope to end the season with 4 wins chalked up.



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Mr Charlie Barker

1st VI

The 1st VI have had a very successful season so far only going down to Abingdon and the Old Boys when many of the regular players were unavailable on Speech day.

Wins over Bloxham, Uppingham and St Edwards and Akeley Wood have reflected the efforts of the boys and new coach Richard Walters.

Outstanding as 1st pair have been Saktip Panyarachun (Champ) and Alex Jacobs who are two outstanding tennis players with a variety of strokes at their disposal and hard hitting players who have provided the backbone of many of the victories.

A mixture of players and pairings have supported their efforts with Freddie Hicks, Hamish Eggins, Kit Findlay, Hamish Edwards, Milo Drake, Cameron Roberts and Nickleby Evans all making valued contributions. Many of these players will leave us at the end of this term and it will be down to the likes of David Carter, Miles Warden and Tom Benyon from the Lower sixth to carry on the good work.

Mr Alan Hughes



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SENIOR TENNIS

This season has been our most successful ever and although we still have a number of matches left to play, the signs are that girls' tennis is moving in the direction of our other key sports. Is this down to winter coaching with Richard Walters, the invaluable help given by John Skinner this term or just the mere fact that our 'home grown' girls as well as our strong intake of Lower Six players are producing wins against many more of our competitor schools compared to the past few years?

We took great delight in over turning previous defeats at the hands of Bloxham and St Edwards at 1st team level; both matches finished 6-3 in our favour. Perhaps the most exciting (and equally disappointing!) match was our 1st VI game against Uppingham. Having never given them a competitive game before, our 1st team of Lydia Wood, Izzy Cameron, Lucy Ponsonby, Lucy Beaty, Harriet Nicholls and Georgia Lowther fought hard despite losing the first round by one set to two, but had equalled the sets to 3-3 as they went in to the last round. We all knew that match was there for the taking and but for an element of complacency on our behalf (plus a serious fight back by the Uppingham 2nd pair) we would have won 5-4. As it was, Uppingham took the match by one set!

Our 2nd team have fought hard and have some serious contenders for the 1st team next year, but recognise the need to play some regular tennis throughout the winter to add some consistency to their game. Our 3rd and 4th teams have all had some tough games – with our 3rd team losing by one tie break set to St Edwards and beating Bloxham by 6-3. Our 4th team should be extremely proud of their 6-3 win over St Edwards and 8-1 over Bloxham. Notable performances came from Sarah Worssam, Laura Duncombe, Lottie Blackwell, Katie Robertson and Sophie Dudley.

I would like to thank all captains – Lucy Ponsonby, Charlotte Cockbill, Alex Price and Sarah Worssam for their excellent leadership, loyalty and hard work. They have all been role models for the younger years.

Senior colours go to:

Lydia Wood and Izzy Cameron



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Tennis



Junior Colts

This year we have had a strong group of U15 boys representing the school, enabling Stowe to regularly field both an A and a B team. The A team was captained by Arthur Hobhouse (Temple), who played with George Neville (Chatham) as first pair. In terms of matches, the teams had a tough season this year. Difficult early fixtures against Abingdon and Uppingham gave the early pairings some trouble. This fired the A and B team to reach greater heights against Akeley Wood, a match that was dominated by Stowe throughout. Further tough fixtures were played out against St Edward's, Cokethorpe and Rugby. Alex Heerema stood out as the most improved player in the Junior Colts this year.

The team representatives were as follows:

Junior Colts A: Arthur Hobhouse(c)/George Neville, Roddy Blackburne/Alex Heerema, Nick Varney/Fred Benyon.

Junior Colts B: Titus Edwards (c)/Felix Henderson, Max Dodd-Noble/Sam Tottenham, Ben Tims/Rowan Brogden.



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U15A

The U15A's first match started with an extremely positive win against Bloxham (7-2). Sarah Warner and Pandora Stuart-Mills won all their sets and Imogen Voorspuy played some lovely tennis, partnering Octavia Trevor who scrambled so well to keep the ball 'alive'! In a round robin against Akeley Wood the team won 4-2 with our newly appointed first pair, Imogen and Charlotte Cook, beating their opposite number in a tie break. The team had a good late afternoon of tennis away against Bedford High School (L 32 games to 40) playing timed 20 minute matches. It made for a competitive atmosphere with the girls fighting hard for each point, a particular mention for Annabel Duthie who played especially well. At home against Uppingham the girls narrowly lost 4-5 but the following week they had a fantastic match beating St Edward's 5-4 in extremely windy conditions. The matches to look forward to now are against Cokethorpe, Rugby and Oundle finishing the season with some mixed tennis. The whole team are to be congratulated on being awarded Junior Colours for their strong performance this term.

Imogen Voorspuy (cpt), Charlotte Cook, Sarah Warner, Pandora Stuart-Mills,

Annabel Duthie, Octavia Trevor

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U15B

The U15B team began their season playing Akeley Wood who they dominated winning 6-0 conceding only three games with Emily Beatty and Lottie Phillips playing especially well. They followed this with an impressive victory over Uppingham (5-4) as they were 2-4 down going into the last round but, against their own pair, they all managed to win! Away against Bedford High School they narrowly lost 33 games 37. They had a strong start to their match against St Edward's with Emily Beatty and Eloise Melville and our second pair Harriet Goffman and Harriet Easdale winning their first matches, 6-2, 7-5 respectively. However, the St Edward's 2nd pair proved to be too strong and we narrowly lost 4-5 overall. It was a competitive season so far and the girls have played very well.

Emily Beatty, Eloise Melville, Harriet Goffman, Harriet Easdale, Lottie Phillips,

Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo

Mrs Sutton



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Tennis



U14 Boys

The U14's have experienced a mixed bag of results in their first term of Tennis and it has been very much an experimental period finding out the best pairings and their pecking order in the two teams we have run.

The A's were well beaten in their very first match with Abingdon but then just lost out to Uppingham and have since beaten Akeley Wood and Cokethorpe very convincingly. Nick Paine and Harry Warden have claimed first pairing and are ably supported by the likes of Bertie Hayward, Oliver Findlay, Jack Barham, and Elliot O'Brien

The B's started off by beating Abingdon and in their other match to date lost 5-4 to Uppingham with the likes of Mungo Kilgour, Arthur Lonsdale, Orlando Whitehead and Sadiq Abbagana all impressing.

Both groups of players are settling down to play some attacking tennis and are becoming more comfortable with playing close to the net. Their progress will be interesting to monitor over the remainder of the term

Mr Alan Hughes



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U14 Girls

The U14 girls tennis team has had an excellent term so far. Wins have come against Bloxham, Akeley Wood, Bedford High and St. Edwards with only one loss thus far narrowly against Uppingham. The B team have had the best win of the term at present with a 54 games to 1 victory over St. Edwards – namely every set was a 6 – 0 win bar one 6 – 1 set! However, the A team first pair of Charlotte Lechmere and Bella Wallersteiner are the pick of the pairs having played some simply brilliant tennis despite coming up against some excellent opposition. Helena Lewis and Sophie Merrel have had some very good results as C team first pair, as have Hattie Comyn and Sophie Gordon Cumming as B team first pair. The results so far bode well for the future of girls tennis at Stowe. Well done to all the teams so far.

Mr. Matthew Walsh-Woolcott



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Under the able captaincy of Ivo Nenkov, the U16 Basketball team had an excellent season. In defence Daniel Baniukevic and Daniel Clark were key players, getting possession of the ball. On offence, Kitt Smith and Brad Kim were brilliant at moving the ball around, but it was Nick du Bois de Montule who was the most dangerous weapon in the team. In our two closest matches against Oakham and Bedford, he scored over half our points. To provide support from the bench was Rory Hay, who progressed well through the season. Overall we played 6 and won 5, beating Haileybury twice, Oakham, Bedford and Bloxham.

Special Awards: Rory Hay & Tom Wood
Best Offensive player: Nick du Bois de Montule
Best Defensive player: Kitt Smith
Most Improved player: Daniel Clark
Most Valuable Player: Ivaylo Nenkov

U16 Squad:
 Rory Hay
 Kitt Smith
 Brad Kim
 Michael Platts-Martin
 Daniel Baniukevic
 Ivaylo Nenkov (captain)
 Daniel Clark
 Tom Wood
 Suhail Bahwan
 Nick du Bois de Montule
 Oliver Plunkett
 Sadiq Abbagana
 Ben Wild
 John Carter

The Senior basketball team had another outstanding season. The team was unbeaten in the first 6 games of the season with victories over Pangbourne, Haileybury (twice), Eton, Uppingham and Oakham. Only injuries to key players in the remaining games denied the team an unbeaten season. The team scored 449 points and conceded 377. The team was well captained by Andre Van who was the only survivor from last year's side. From the off the squad worked really hard in training and developed a superb team spirit. John Gurney was a revelation and impressed at both ends of the court; Brad Kim made the team tick at point guard and Miles Warden was 'Mr Reliable' playing with great intensity at both ends of the court.

The dedicated coaching staff of Mr Isaac Michael, Mr Edward Surrey, Mr Tony Chan and Rev Robert Jackson ensured that both the Junior and Senior teams thoroughly enjoyed their practices and matches.

Mr Edward Surrey will be missed as he takes in a new teaching post in Australia.

The Player Awards are as follows:

Most Valuable Player: John Gurney
Best Offensive player: Miles Warden
Best Defensive player: John Gurney
Most Improved players: Brad Kim, Craig Holton & Iffy Ejindu
Special Awards: Andre Van (Captain)
and Champ Panyarachun (for being fully committed in every match)
Basketball colours were awarded to Andre Van; Azree Rashid; Ben Manser, John Gurney, Miles Warden and Champ Panyarachun

Senior Basketball Squad
 Folarin Lawal
 Miles Warden
 Andre Van (Captain)
 Ify Ejindu
 John Gurney (Vice Captain)
 Ben Manser
 Craig Holton
 Champ Panyarachun
 Brad Kim
 Azree Rashid
 Tom Prideaux
 Jacob Balangtaa
 Michael Platts-Martin
 Edwin Maganjo
 Salaal Hasan

Stowe Basketball Club Results - Lent Term 2009

DATE	OPPOSITION	Seniors	U16	U16 & U18B	U15
SAT 17/1	Pangbourne	(W) 38 - 32			
SAT 31/1	Haileybury	(W) 65 - 33		(W) 31 - 16	
SAT 7/2	Eton	(W) 39 - 36			(L) 14 - 41
THU 12/2	Uppingham	(W) 78 - 36			
THU 26/2	Oakham	(W) 55 - 34	(W) 41 - 24		
SAT 28/2	Haileybury	(W) 36 - 24		(W) 42 - 21	
WED 4/3	Buckingham Univ	(L) 49 - 62			
SAT 14/3	Bradfield	(L) 54 - 71	(L) 25 - 52		
TUE 18/3	Bedford	(L) 35 - 49	(W) 54 - 46		
FRI 20/3	Bloxham		(W) 31 - 2		



Stowe Netball Club

This year saw the rejuvenation of the Stowe Netball Club with a group of talented, motivated girls, captained by Sophie Dudley, committed to giving Netball at Stowe a new lease of life.

The 1st VII Netball team enjoyed a successful, winning season with victories, in highly competitive matches, against Cokethorpe (30-29), Northampton High School (21-20), Epsom 2nd VII (16-14), Akeley Wood (30-8), Wellingborough (34-27), Downe House 2nd VII (43-16) and Waddesdon (22-11). The team went from strength to strength throughout the term as they learnt to play together to form a cohesive, dynamic unit. Sophie Dudley was awarded the 'Captains Prize' leading the team by example to create a positive atmosphere within the club. Sophie proved to be an extremely consistent goal shooter working and for her performance she was awarded her colours. Louisa had a significant impact on the team at Goal Attack.

As an experienced player she was able to infuse new ideas and dominate when on the court. She was unable to play for a few weeks whilst she was away representing Northern Ireland in the U17 European Championships which was an excellent achievement. Louisa was awarded 'Player of the Season' for her outstanding contribution. Caitlin Gracie played with commitment and flair at Wing Attack. She is a dynamic, inspirational player who added strength to the attack and a sense of calm confidence to the team. It was great to watch her play on her old stomping ground against Royal Latin. Sarah Worssam at centre was able to control the flow of the game, making timely passes and adding her competitive spirit. She was awarded colours for her performance in her number three sport! As a strong games player, Phoebe Avent developed her game to become an effective Wing Defence. She communicated so well on the court, forcing errors through her 'zone defence', this was especially evident against Wellingborough when we were 21-22 down going into the final quarter only to win 34-27. Eloise Green worked with 100% effort as goal defence to put pressure on the opposing shooters. She was able to read the game and make invaluable interceptions, in particular against Pangbourne and Princethorpe. For her determination and high level of performance she was awarded colours. Finally Izzy Cameron, who was awarded 'most improved player' of the season was an excellent role model on the court. In the often 'thankless' position of goal keeper she worked tirelessly to defend our circle. This was especially evident against Northampton High School where we managed to hold on to a one goal lead throughout the second half. Rowena Namatovu proved to be a versatile reserve making an impact in defence with her ability to intercept and read the game.

The 2nd VII also had an impressive season winning 7 out of their 12 matches with notable performances against Princethorpe, Tudor Hall and Cokethorpe. They had to be adaptable some weeks with injuries and illness but always remained determined to build on their experiences. The 'Player of the Season' was awarded to Rowena Namatovu, the 'Most Improved Player' goes to Roberta Staden and the 'Captain's Prize' was awarded to Kristy Robinson. The 3rd VII team had the opportunity to play two matches and the U14 A had a fixture against Royal Latin which they won 15- 8. We can now look forward to an exciting future for the Stowe Netball Club!

Mrs Sarah Sutton



1st VII 09

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2nd VII 09

© R&H Chapman Photography



Under 14 A 09

© R&H Chapman Photography

Fives

Stowe Fives has enjoyed another year of growth in popularity at the junior level with three pairs of third formers competing at competitions and with successes at the regional ladder competition held at King Edward's Birmingham and in the Southern Schools Tournament at Charterhouse. House Fives was keenly contested by pairs from several houses over the two terms, with Bruce winning both the senior and junior house competitions, and the courts have been used more this year than at any time in recent memory.

Mr Rod Tait



Christophe Carrelet



George Jones

Soccer

Football continues to thrive as a sports activity at Stowe. It is played by a large number of pupils during afternoon sessions and the improvement in overall performance and conduct on the pitch is very encouraging to note.

The 1st XI, ably led by Captain Freddie Wells who was full of encouragement for those around him, have had a good season, the highlight of which was undoubtedly a 2 - 0 victory on the astroturf in the first ever game against St Clare's College. The hallmark of the players in the squad has been their willingness to contribute an exceptionally high work-rate and their ability to bring out the best in each other. They have been well-organised too and have proved difficult to score against.

Top goal scorer for the 1st XI was Hugo Empson with 4 goals but credit must go to the whole squad who have been excellent Ambassadors for the School.

Mr Alan Murray





Athletics Summer 2009

For obvious reasons the athletics season has been rather curtailed this year but despite our lack of facilities the team captains George Riddick and Natalie McDaid have done a good job in keeping the sport running under trying circumstances.

The Javelin throwers seem to have been the least affected and have led the way in school matches. Rob Downer McGlone has remained unbeaten throughout the term and consistently breaks the 40 metre barrier. Carla Springer in the Junior girls has also produced some good efforts and is only just shy of the 20 m mark. In the Senior girls Natalie McDaid has also proved unbeatable and has regularly thrown beyond 25 metres. Katie Peters and Julia Bevan have provided good support in the senior girls and helped them to 2nd place in a triangular meet and 3rd in a 6 school match at Rugby.

13 Boys and 5 Girls gained selection for the District team to compete in the county championships.

Mr Tony McDaid

Cross Country

The Cross Country teams had a good season culminating in some fine performances on the last weekend of the Spring term. Tom Osborne and Laura Grossick travelled up to Leicester with the Buckinghamshire county team to run in the English Schools Championships. Laura produced one her best runs of the season to finish 131st and second runner home for the Bucks team in a field of over 300. Tom struggled to battle illness on the day as well as a tough course but was eventually the 6th scorer for Bucks helping them to 28th place amongst the 45 county teams that compete.

On the final Sunday of the term Tom was back to his very best form for the race against the Old Stoics, his winning time of 22 mins 30 seconds was the 3rd fastest time ever for this race. Josh Dickinson won a great battle for second place ahead of brother Caspar as the school team beat the Old boys.

The team have trained really well throughout the season and the improvement over the course of the year from runners such as Craig Browne and Henry Longton, just goes to show what can be achieved through hard work and determination. The Boys teams have produced some very good races against other schools and even against each other, choosing a first choice team was difficult. The B team finished only just behind the A team at Wellington in January and towards the end of the season at the Tortoise relays in Oxford the B team led the A team until the final lap.

In the Juniors Caspar and Josh Dickinson have really improved as the term has progressed and should be very pleased with their 4th and 7th places respectively at the South of England Schools Championships. They also teamed up with Josiah Hartley Matthew recently to claim the team bronze medals in the junior boys race at Parliament Hill.

It has been the girls teams who have been collecting most of the medals and trophies again this year. At the Tortoise relays in Oxford they won the Gold medals, winning comfortably and Laura Grossick picked up the silver medal for second fastest individual, Lydia Wood just missed out on a medal as 4th fastest. They followed this up a couple of weeks later with team bronze medals at Parliament Hill, an individual bronze for Laura in 3rd place overall was backed up by Tiffany Georgallides and Elizabeth Eden.

Finally I must thank Mr Rowan, Mr O'Toole, Miss Ross, Mr Ing and Mr Durrant for their help and support this year.

Mr Tony McDaid



Rowing

The 2008-9 rowing season at Stowe has been a definite move forward in terms of participation and the inclusion of girls in the rowing squad at Stowe. However, on our return to school in September we had hoped to see a new Boat House at Northampton... far from it! In fact we spent most of the Winter Term rigging boats and doing technical sessions on land as the builders had failed to meet their deadlines. It wasn't until we returned after Christmas that we were able to enjoy the new and now excellent recourses on offer.

Since then we have had some very good success stories. Our most consistent crew of James Rudkin and Pierre Scrase won at Evesham Regatta and Bath Avon Regatta in the J15 Double Sculls, They also won the double sculls at Cambridge before Easter. James Rudkin also won the J15 Single Sculls at the Ball Cup in what was a very large field of competitors.

2009 also saw us enter our first ever Eight competing against a very strong crew from Bristol City Boat Club. Despite a valiant effort they were just out powered by this team of adults. Theo Vicat and Riley Curtis won all their races in the Men's Junior 16 Double Sculls only to be disqualified due to a dubious steering violation in the final against Bryanston School! Other notable races were Freddie Wheeler and Angus Merrell who competed for the first time at Eton coming in 4th. Another good show was from Lucy O'Brien and Phillipa Douglas who successfully competed in the Women's J18 Double Sculls.



A very big thank you must be made to all the coaches including Dr Chare, Rod Tait, Mr Critchley and Ms Ogilvie who unfortunately will be leaving us this year and we wish her the very best for her future career.

Mr Michael Righton

Sailing – Summer 2009

The sailing team has enjoyed a positive season. Under captain Xandie Trevor, and with sixth-formers William Childs and Alex Savage joining it for the first time, they came second in the plate competition at the Eastern Regional Championships of the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association at Thrapston in early May. In breezy and sunny conditions they kept in contention with the opposition and achieved some good individual places in competitive races among a total of 14 schools teams. In the later match against Bloxham, away at Boddington Reservoir, Stowe won 2-1. The team performed strongly with Freddie Vere Nicholl and Jeronimo Villar securing first places, and Xandie Trevor and Euan Welsh coming second in various races. Owing to the windy conditions the away fixture at Draycote against Rugby was sailed in Picos. The Stowe team was relatively inexperienced in these dinghies and lost 0-2.

In the Sailing house matches ten teams competed for the first time. There was some good racing, along with various thrills and spills, allowing Chandos to win. At the time of writing, high winds have delayed holding the individual competition for the Helmsman's Tankard, while the Junior Pennant is scheduled for later in the term.

It has been good to see so many enthusiastic Stoics opt for sailing, with a promising number of beginners on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe. Here the five Toppers and new Pico have proved invaluable in giving opportunities for learning.

I am grateful to David Critchley and Gwilym Jones for all their help and especially to Ed Surrey for his skills as a world class sailor in training the team. We shall be sorry to lose him and wish him all the best in Australia.

Team: Xandie Trevor, William Childs, Alex Savage, Euan Welsh, Freddie Vere Nicholl and Jeronimo Villar.

House matches: 1st Chandos, 2nd Chatham, 3rd Bruce





Polo

Over the 2008/2009 season Stowe polo has progressed. We have a new member of staff in charge in the shape of Mr Pitteway, a new kit has been designed and a busy summer of fixtures has been organised.

In the Lent term there were a series of matches for both the A and B teams in the arena. The B's had a successful season with comfortable wins over Radley and Bloxham. They then went down to the National Schools Arena B team Championships at Longdole Polo Club in Gloucestershire. Despite a last minute withdrawal of their captain (Lily Hanbury) they competed well and came out the competition in 6th place (a marked improvement from last year's championships).

In the A team National Schools Championships Stowe finished up 7th with a close matches against Cheltenham and Marlborough. In the last game of the day Stowe beat Pangbourne to finish up 7th.

The summer term has been a success story so far. Both the A and B teams have had matches. The A team squad consists of Jack Berner(c), William Berner, Archie Voorspury, Harry Raikes and Max Dodd Noble. The B team squad consists of John Blount(c), Hector Worsley, Lily Hanbury, Alex Worth and Alex Lindsay. The A team have played three matches so far this term and are unbeaten. A 9-1 thrashing of Shrewsbury in the first game was backed up with 5-3 win over Eton in the team's best game of the season. In the most recent of the three games Stowe beat Bloxham 6-4 in a close game.

This term the B team have in one game against Cheltenham and were unlucky to go down 2-1 in a three chukka match. After half term there are fixtures lined up for A and B teams against Radley, Harrow, Wellington and a touring New Zealand School.

Many thanks to Mr Pitteway for the time and help he has given Stowe Polo this term.

Jack Berner, Chatham U6th



Riding

The Stowe Equestrian Team competed in 2 competitions in the Easter holidays.

In the inter schools and Pony club Show jumping competition organised by Headington School and the Heythrop Hunt Pony Club held at the Addington Equestrian Centre, best individual performances were by Tamara Rowan- Hamilton (3rd form) who was placed 3rd in a strong class of 73 riders and Lauren Bell (L6th) who was placed 8th in a class with over 100 riders competing. Individuals representing the school at this event were Georgie Leech and Siana Vere Nicoll.

In the Cross Country competition at Gawcott, the Stowe Super Stoics Team came 2nd overall out of 34 schools, beating Oundle, Bloxham and Rugby.

Best individual performance came from Lauren Bell (L6th) who finished joint 9th in a class of 136 riders.

The team have a lot to look forward to for the rest of the year, we hope to compete at the National schools Show Jumping Championships at Hickstead, in August and the Stonar One Day event in September.

Other success stories include James Hale who competed at Burnham Market International One Day Event 9th April, where he performed a very good dressage and eventually finished 6th.

James also took part in the Inter-Schools one day event representing Stowe at Poplar Park in Suffolk on 22nd May where he came 1st.

James is hoping to be able to compete in the Junior under 18 National Championships in May where he shall be competing against the best of GB, hoping to win of course!

Romy Skinner has also had great success with her Pony at the BSPS

There are also a number of Stoics who are taking riding lessons and with more exciting events and opportunities planned for next year watch this space!

The 2 teams consisted of:

Stowe Super Stoics.

Lauren Bell
Tamara Rowan-Hamilton
Isabelle Berner
Alexandra Grant

Stowe Stoic Stars

Lauren Bell
Emily Beatty
Jessica White
Jose Brake





Clay pigeon shooting has proved to be a very popular activity this year, with between 20 and 30 students coming up to the bursar's field every Wednesday and Friday afternoon to shoot. Our external instructors, Messrs. Lockwood, Harris and Spademan, have certainly been kept busy (and agreeably so!)

The team has been ably led by captain of shooting Nickolai Ugland, with strong support from Richard Hay and Alexander Robertson. Week in, week out, our top gun has been Jamie Robson and for the girls, Jessica White has been our leading shot. While we didn't win any cups or shields this year, we gave a good account of ourselves at both the Warwick Challenge in March (coming 5th out of 12 schools) and at the Nationals in May (finishing 11th out of 24 schools). We also enjoyed some friendlies against our arch-rivals Cokethorpe. Our congratulations go out to them as winners of both the Warwick Challenge and the Nationals. That said, we shall be endeavouring to settle the score, as it were, with effect from September 1st under the direction of our new captain Alex Robertson.

Mr Peter Staples

Golf

The existence of our majestic golf course gives all Stoics the opportunity to play at no cost and at little expense or effort; to have such a fantastic facility is something which is the envy of most boarding schools. The senior golf team has played an array of matches this year against our traditional opponents: Eton, Harrow, Radley, Cheltenham, Rugby, Uppingham, Bromsgrove and Monmouth. Results have varied with more matches being lost than won; however, a fine victory over Radley (at Buckingham) and a draw with Eton (at Denham) stand out as highlights. In September the Old Stoics entertained us to an afternoon at Sunningdale and the selected Stowe Team enjoyed 3 days of fierce competition in March (at Woking) in the Gerald Micklem Trophy. Our team this year has young blood in it and there is plenty of promise for the future; if James Rose and Jack Palmer can work hard at their games then we will have a strong team in two years time. Captain this year was Stefan Rogge; he passed over the reins to Nickleby Evans in the Spring. Other team players include: Charlie Morris, Jack Rose, Will Scholfield, Will Berner, Michael Warner and Angus Blayney.

Mr Richard Knight

Chess

The stand-out event was again the Inter-House Chess Tournament held on Sunday 1st March (future organisers note: do not bring event forward into winter: there is no school heating in classrooms on Sundays!) The final was the most exciting match that I can remember. The build-up to that encounter was a series of knock-out rounds featuring all 12 Houses – Stanhope having been launched in the Autumn Term. The boys' and girls' houses each produced a finalist after preliminary tournaments, the excellent idea of Mr McDaid, the co-organiser. Therefore Lyttelton was pitted



against Bruce in the grand final. It must be remembered that Lyttelton House, the trophy-holders, had won the event several years running, owing to their formidable top boards trio of Natalie McDaid, Anna Brodskaya and Thea Dorenberg. A nail-biting match saw Bruce triumph 3-2, producing a result against predictions. This was a splendid achievement.

Natalie has contributed to the club for over 6 years, even before she enrolled as one of the first 2 junior girls to enter Stowe. Thea has been a stalwart for 4 years, and Anna has made her mark as soon as she arrived at Stowe 2 years ago, and is the club champion. They will be much missed, but they leave on a strong note, having made a great impression at the 2009 UK Chess Challenge regional Megafinal, Natalie and Anna winning through to the July Gigafinal. Next year the club will welcome players from all year groups, and beginners are warmly welcomed.

Mr Steven Thompson



Badminton

The girls have had a good season and it was great to see so much improvement after our coach was in. Unfortunately we lost the first match of the season 7 - 2 against a strong Stamford, but the girls did very well. They were also narrowly beaten 5-4 by Rugby school but had some very exciting games. The girls really gave a great performance and have improved no end over the season. Our first pair of Rachel and Bobbie did well, winning 2 games and again losing narrowly to their opposition 1st pairing and the same goes for Radina and Lara. Nevena and Nicola also acquitted themselves well

This year, the boys played with great spirit and good cheer. Craig Browne and Josh Sainsbury-Bow have continued to be a formidable force as our A's number 1 pair, playing with conviction and commitment on every occasion. Backing them up, there has been consistently good play from See-Ho Leung and Alex Savage as the term has progressed. Gareth Browne, Ben Tims and Jamie Bailey have all played with determination and Daniel Carvalheira-Mobaraki played well when he was called upon.

A number of House tournaments have also been held this year. The Junior Boys' Doubles was won by Grafton and Singles by Henry Rudd of Chandos. The Senior Boys was a total victory for Bruce, winning the Doubles and then with Craig Browne taking the Singles. The Senior Girls' Doubles was won by Lyttelton and the singles by Ioana Moldovan from Queen's. Congratulations to all!

Thanks very much to Mrs Browne and Mr Dobson for all their hard work and involvement in coaching the teams this term.

Colours were awarded to:

Craig Browne (Captain), Daniel Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Alex Savage, Peter Chong, Rachel Millard (Captain), Bobbie Staden, Radina Nedeva, Nevena Nenkova, Ioana Moldovan

Next year's captains will be Charles Giafferi and Nicola Wagg.

Mrs Kim McMahon

Squash

Squash has maintained its standing this academic year as both a competitive team sport and vibrant recreational activity.

The squash year at Stowe begins with winter training in the Michaelmas term for team members and recreational players alike. Stoics from all years of the school attended weekly training with our visiting professional Fraser Liversage, an employee of England Squash, during the long winter evenings.

The senior team encountered stiff opposition this year, but all came away with a sense of achievement. Bedford School once again proved to be our nemesis, but credit should go to Josh Sainsbury-Bow, who captained the side valiantly and led the team with assurance through thick and thin.

The junior side won a credible 4 out of seven matches played. The fifth form players showed particular skill and resolve, and there is no doubt that they in particular will develop as they rise to join the senior team next season.

Squash colours were awarded to Petko Pishinov this year, who captained the side against Bloxham and has been one of the most committed players in the squad. All the players who regularly featured in the teams this year deserve a mention for their positive attitude and unerring sense of competitive yet gentlemanly play.

Those players who took part as regulars in the senior team were Josh Sainsbury-Bow (captain), Dominic Noakes, Petko Pishinov, Hamish Edwards, Madhav Dhir, Daniel Carvalheira-Mobaraki and Alexey Grabarnik. In the junior side, the regular players included James Saunders, Daniel Robinson, Hugh Stanley, Arthur Hobhouse and Edward Warburton.

The recreational side of the game has flourished at Stowe, and it has been pleasing to see so many Stoics pick up a racquet for the first time and find enjoyment of the game at a range of ability levels. This year the squash department was proud to offer Stoics the opportunity of a masterclass with Mr Chris Noakes and his son Alex, who plays squash at European level. This was a highly enjoyable event that inspired players across the ability range.

Congratulations to all players this year – and let's look forward to another jam-packed season in 2010!

Mr Roland Johnson



Swimming Report

This year has proved to be a learning curve for the junior teams but an inspirational year for the U16 Boys

They started the year by winning the Buckinghamshire County Championships for the second time in a row. Two days after winning this, they battled through the snow to the English schools finals in Gloucester where Anders Palm, Harry Hawkes, James Blackham and Sam Strutt gained 8th place in the national final. Later in the Lent term we were at the Bath Cup. Sam Strutt, Alexey Grabarnik, James Blackham and Anders Palm were in electrifying form. We were able to take 7 seconds off last year's record to post a 3mins 52secs for the 4x100m Freestyle event. This put us in the final of the Alderham Cup, a competition for schools with a role of 500 boys. We secured a silver medal and our time saw us ranked 8th out of the 60 schools competing in the overall competition. In the annual Stowe relays our u16 Boys again were first to the finish line picking up the Burrell Cup and the Clucas Cup, again for the second time in succession.

The following week at the Bromsgrove relays the U16 swam at senior level and came home with a bronze – a tremendous achievement out of age group.

Due to examinations and other commitments the senior boys saved their best for the house competitions. It was a one horse race at senior level where swimming captain, Alexei Grabarnik swept the board. There was talent galore in the inter age group. Sam Strutt, Anders Palm and Harry Hawkes drew swords to do battle. Anders and Sam came through in a nail biting tie for first place; Harry had to settle for 3rd place. The Junior champion was a Bruce boy – Will Jackson who mopped the floor in all his events. Nathan Charlesworth (Cobham) was outstanding in the breaststroke where he easily collected gold. For the boys overall champions were Grafton.

For the girls, a new star at senior level in the form of Daisy Coulson (Stanhope) appeared. She was able to race home almost effortlessly to reign as supreme champion. However Sarah Worrasm got the last laugh in the Breaststroke when despite being third fastest going into the finals collected the Stewart Cup

The intermediate race for the title was done and dusted before the ripples had settles by Francesca Hutt; she was streets ahead of everyone. Ellie Rix shone through on the Backstroke, giving her a new incentive to train and swim hard. She was also able to swim in the Bath Cup for the 1st time, which is no mean feat.

In the junior competition Stanhope, the new kids on the block, came through to win the house swimming. Junior captain of swimming Ellie Pinnock proved to be in a different class, winning all her events. We saw the birth of another speed merchant, in the freestyle, as Charlotte Lechmere stormed through to take gold.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Senior Boys Team

Won 5

Lost 3

A V Grabarnik (CPT) *

S Panyarachun

M E C Drake

S T C Plunket

M Saugabayev

M R G Warden

Colours = *

Inter Boys Team

Won 8

Lost 0

J S Blackham CPT

A N G Palm *

S J Strutt

H C Hawkes

E C Fitzroy

R J Higham

D J White

I Momen

Colours = *

Junior Boys Team

Won 4

Lost 4

W R Jackson

H S G Warden

N S Charlesworth

W O'Callen-Smith

J W P E E Drax

H D K Palling

R B Q Henriques

Senior Girls Team

Won 5

Lost 3

S C Worrasm (Cpt) *

J C E White *

F J Hutt *

D M Coulson

A M Coulson

K Robertson

E Rix

L A O'Brien

Junior Girls Team

Won 4

Lost 4

E A Pinnock (Cpt)

L E Welford

S J M Rushton

S A Merrill

M E Mackay

C G E Lechmere



Captain of Swimming Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville House)



Alexey Senior 100m butterfly champion



Alexey



Anders palm



Ellie Rix intermediate backstroke house Champion (Lyttelton House)



Junior Water Polo

This has been a great season for the Junior boys' team. Late night training and a strong work ethic in the camp has paid off in competition. Louis Staden on the left wing was very agile. His strength and ability to set up scoring opportunities were second to none and he was ruthless in scoring. Tom Newman was as solid as a rock in the centre back position and worked well with our goalie, Barney Curren.

Stowe juniors were able to beat Harrow for the first time at this level which was a great achievement.

Junior Water Polo team:

Tom Bishop (Cpt), Sam Strutt * (Vc), Tom Newman, Ollie Plunket, Barney Curren, James Drax, Rory Langman, Harry Hawkes, Ed Pettifer, Louis Staden, Ash O'Callen-Smith, James Rose.

Water Polo Colours = *

Mr Stewart Cowie

Senior Water Polo Results and statistics

Stowe	8	Win	Stowe	12	Win
Oundle	4		Radley	4	
Stowe	15	Win	Stowe	12	Win
Harrow	14		Cheltenham	9	
Stowe	5	Win	Stowe	14	Win
Bedford	3		Abingdon	0	
Stowe	2	Loss	For	68	
Warwick	4		Against	38	

Average Stowe goals per game 9 roughly.

Goal Scorers this term in School matches

Sam Strutt	24	(Left Wing)
Ben Manser	20	(Centre Forward)
Simon Plunkett	8	(Centre Forward)
Harry Hawkes	6	(Right Wing)
Miles Warden	4	(Right Fetcher)
Tom Worsdell	2	(Centre Back)
Will Richardson	1	(Centre Back)
Tom Bishop	1	(Centre Forward)
Harry Burke	1	(Centre)
Fred Wells	1	(Goalie)

Won 6 matches Lost 1 match



Water polo



James Rose Junior Water Polo



Stowe Video promotion Anders Palm Backstroke start

INTER-HOUSE SATURDAY WATER-POLO LEAGUES

Seniors (Seal Trophy)

Result as at 22nd March

House	P	W	D	L	Goals For	Goals Against	Diff	Points	Pos.
Grafton	7	7			54	1	53	14	1
Cobham	7	1	1	5	7	29	-22	3	8
Temple	7	4		3	22	17	5	8	3
Chandos	7	2		5	14	26	-12	4	5
Walpole	7	3	1	2	23	17	6	7	4
Chatham	7	2		4	8	26	-18	4	6
Bruce	7	2		5	12	31	-19	4	7
Grenville	7	5		2	30	19	11	10	2

Juniors (Dolphin Cup)

House	P	W	D	L	Goals For	Goals Against	Diff	Points	Pos.
Grafton	7	5	1	1	36	12	24	11	2
Cobham	6	2		4	9	17	-8	4	6
Temple	7	4		1	17	18	-1	8	3
Chandos	7	3		4	18	18	-	6	4
Walpole	7	7			36	10	26	14	1
Chatham	6		1	4	4	21	-17	1	8
Bruce	7	3		4	12	13	-1	6	5
Grenville	7	2		5	14	29	-15	4	7



English schools finalists 4x50m Inter Boys Freestyle & Medley Team. Harry Hawkes, Anders Palm, James, Blackham, Sam Strutt



Swimming Silverware

- The Senior Boys 100m Freestyle Cup - **Milo Drake (Chatham)**
 The Open 50m Freestyle Cup - **Sam Strutt (Grafton)**
 The Senior Girls 50m Freestyle - **Daisey Coulson (Stanhope)**
 The Intermediate Boys 50m Freestyle Skidmore Cup - **Sam Strutt (Grafton)**
 The Intermediate Girls Freestyle - **Francesca Hutt (Lyttelton)**
 The Senior Boys Backstroke Cup - **Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville)**
 The Senior Girls Backstroke Cup - **Alice Coulson (Stanhope)**
 The Intermediate Boys Backstroke O'Brien Cup - **Anders Palm (Grenville)**
 The Intermediate Girls Backstroke - **Elle Rix (Lyttelton)**
 The Senior Boys Breaststroke Seebom Cup - **Champ Panayrachun (Bruce)**
 The Senior Girls Breaststroke Stewart Cup - **Sarah Worrsam (Nugent)**
 The Intermediate Boys Breaststroke Tankard - **Harry Hawkes (Walpole)**
 The Intermediate Girls Breaststroke - **Georgie Staden (Queens)**
 The Senior Boys Butterfly Cup - **Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville)**
 The Senior Girls Butterfly Bisp Cup - **Daisey Coulson (Stanhope)**
 The Intermediate Boys Butterfly Viper Cup - **James Blackham (Chandos)**
 The Intermediate Girls Butterfly - **Francesca Hutt (Lyttelton)**
 The Senior Boys 100 IM Cup - **Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville)**
 The Senior Girls 100 IM Hobbs Cup - **Daisey Coulson (Stanhope)**
 The Intermediate Boys 100m IM Cup - **Harry Hawkes (Walpole)**
 The Intermediate Girls 100m IM Cup - **Francesca Hutt (Lyttelton)**
 The Junior Boys 100m IM Cup - **Will Jackson (Bruce)**
 The Junior Girls 100 IM Cup - **Ellie Pinnock (Stanhope)**
 The Senior Boys Champion GEH-Spencer Cup - **Alexey Grabarnik (Grenville)**
 The Senior Girls Champion Drayson Cup - **Daisey Coulson (Stanhope)**
 The Intermediate Boys Champion Tankard - **Anders Palm (Grenville & Sam Strutt (Grafton))**
 The Intermediate Girls Champion Cup - **Francesca Hutt (Lyttelton)**
 The Junior Boys Champion Cup - **Will Jackson (Bruce)**
 The Junior Girls Champion Cup - **Ellie Pinnock (Stanhope)**

THE HOUSE CUPS

- Junior Boy Cowie Tankard Relays - **Bruce**
 Junior House Cup Boys - **Stanhope**
 Junior House Cup Boys - **Bruce**
 Intermediate House Bowl - **Grafton**
 Intermediate Girls House Cup - **Lyttelton**
 Senior House Girls Bernadotte Cup - **Stanhope**
 Senior House Bowl Boys - **Grafton**
 Overall House Relay Elkington Cup - **Grafton**
 Overall House Champions Big Bowl - **Grafton**

JUNIOR BOYS COMPETITION

1ST	BRUCE	73 points
2ND	GRAFTON	36 points
3RD	TEMPLE	25 points
4TH	GRENVILLE	21 points
5TH	COBHAM	19 points
6TH	CHATHAM	10 points
7TH	WALPOLE	5 points
8TH	CHANDOS	0 points

INTER BOYS COMPETITION

1ST	GRAFTON	57 points
2ND	TEMPLE	35 points
3RD	GRENVILLE	33 points
4TH	CHANDOS	32 points
= 5TH	WALPOLE	14 points
	BRUCE	14 points
7TH	COBHAM	12 points
8TH	CHATHAM	0 points

SENIOR BOYS COMPETITION

1ST	GRAFTON	41 points
2ND	CHATHAM	35 points
3RD	GRENVILLE	33 points
=4TH	TEMPLE	27 points
	BRUCE	27 points
6TH	WALPOLE	16 points
7TH	CHANDOS	8 points

HOUSE OVERALL BOYS SCORES

1ST	GRAFTON	36+57+41 = 134
2ND	BRUCE	73+14+27 = 114
= 3RD	TEMPLE	25+35+27 = 87
	GRENVILLE	21+33+33 = 87
5TH	CHATHAM	10+0+35 = 45
6TH	CHANDOS	0+32+8 = 40
7TH	WALPOLE	5+14+16 = 35
8TH	COBHAM	19+12 = 31

JUNIOR GIRLS COMPETITION

1ST	STANHOPE	67 points
2ND	QUEENS	55 points
3RD	LYTTELTON	42 points

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS COMPETITION

1ST	LYTTELTON	77 points
2ND	QUEENS	53 points

SENIOR GIRLS COMPETITION

1ST	STANHOPE	64 points
2ND	NUGENT	42 points
3RD	LYTTELTON	40 points
4TH	QUEENS	24 points







GOVERNING BODY

Christopher Honeyman Brown
John R C Arkwright (Chairman of OS Committee)
Nicholas W Berry
Jonthan M A Bewes, BA, ACA
J G (Algy) Cluff
Simon C Creedy Smith
The Revd Jonathan J M Fletcher, MA
Professor Sarah J Gurr, BSc, ARCS, DIC, PhD, MA
Mrs Gillian Hylson-Smith, BA
Robert A Lankester, MA
Richard D Lord, QC, MA
George M Magan
Mrs Sara J Murray, MRICS
Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC
Richard P Taylor, MA
Peter J Thorogood
Air Vice-Marshal Marten van der Veen, MA, RAF (Retd)
Sir Edmund R Verney, BA, FRICS
Christopher P J Wightman, BA
Mrs Helen E W Williams, MA
Admiral Sir James Burnell - Nugent, KCB, CBE, ADL
Secretary to the Governors – Nevil Coulson, MA, MBA

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