

Stowe mail

VOL 11 ISSUE 3: 15 NOVEMBER 2019
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10 November blessed Stowe with a dry morning for the 200 Stowe Cadets formed up smartly on parade in advance of the Remembrance Sunday Service, awaiting inspection by the visiting preacher, Lt Colonel William Wells, The Rifles, the Head and the Chair of Governors. Much effort had been made to polish boots in various Houses, with the bar getting higher every year.

Cadet Cpls Sam Wardlaw (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Sam Ellis (Fifth Form, Chandos) carried out their role of Flag Bearers with dignity and impressive synchronicity, smartly leading the procession of Wreath Bearers and their escorts into Chapel.

Each wreath layer was accompanied by a Cadet escort; Cadet Sgt Thanabadee Hall (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Cadet Sgt Amelia Leondiou (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Cadet Sgt Harry Reed (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Cadet Sgt Bertie Bryant (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Cadet CSM Georgia Laurie (Upper Sixth, West), escorting Cadet David Gollifer (Fourth Form, Grenville) (youngest cadet) and Micky Shillington (Upper Sixth, Bruce) (Head Boy) escorting Cadet Sgt Sonya Sander (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) (Head Girl).

Prayers were led by Cdt Sgt Rosie Ludlow (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Cdt Sgt Harry Kirby (Upper Sixth, Temple), who both read with clarity and expression.

The choir sang the anthem Contaktion of the Departed beautifully, and the brass and drums played splendidly from their dizzy Chapel heights. Special mention must go to Cadet Cpl Thor Mager (Upper Sixth, Bruce) who played the Last Post on the bugle with impressive skill and precision, a daunting prospect for even the most experienced of buglers.

The Service was led by The Revd Tim Mullins and Lt Colonel Wells gave a personal and thought-provoking address, talking from personal experience of the loss of one of his Riflemen in Afghanistan and turning statistics of military and civilian losses from the two World Wars into relatable descriptions, bringing home the shocking losses across every area of life and the horror of war. 276 Stoics lost their lives, many not much older than Stoics sitting in the Service, their numbers occupying the equivalent of one third of the rows within Chapel.

Cadets, staff and pupils felt proud to play their part in what is always a moving Service.

A delicious lunch followed for parents of cadets with key roles, CCF staff and governors in the State Music Room, provided by our wonderful catering team; an intimate and friendly occasion enjoyed by all.

*Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander,
Stowe CCF*





Upper Sixth A Level Drama

A small, but nonetheless enthusiastic and appreciative audience, were treated to some superb theatre performances from the respective Upper Sixth A Level pupils on Tuesday 12 November, in the Dobinson Studio. As part of their practical performance module, the Stoics are required to explore practically, scenes and extracts from two contrasting texts before embarking on a third text, from which selected scenes will be assessed by a visiting examiner in late January.

On Thursday 31 October, the groups looked at a selection of scenes from 'Antigone' and their understanding and appreciation of the overt presentational style which is associated with Greek theatre was demonstrated with real aplomb.

On Tuesday 12 November Maddie Marriott (Nugent); Izzy Hopkins (Lyttelton); Dominic Selvey (Chandos); Georgia Page-Turner (Stanhope) and Maria Sharipova (Stanhope) took some of the opening scenes from the Ibsen classic 'A Doll's House' and looked at the conflicting relationships between Torvald, his wife Nora and their visitor Mrs Linde. The actors were ably supported by an entirely appropriate lighting design from Sascha Clark-

Jones (Bruce) who helped create a suitably cool Scandinavian feel, by his use of gobos and freestanding lamps, which enhanced the naturalistic mood.

Sonya Sander (Lyttelton), Georgia Glenser (Lyttelton), Rosie Ludlow (Lyttelton), Mia Dettori (Nugent), Flora Walters (Nugent), Ruby Redfern (Queen's) and Juliana Ziemele (Queen's) then performed their extracts from the Lillian Hellman play 'The Children's Hour'. When the play was first produced in 1934 America, it caused quite a sensation as it was dealing with issues that had not been seen before in a conventional theatrical setting. All the girls involved clearly demonstrated their understanding and awareness of the sensitive and at times emotional content that Hellman so effectively presents.

Thanks go to Mr Parker for his technical support and guidance. We are also indebted to Amelia Leondiou (Queen's) and Henrietta Gendler (Queen's) who helped with costume, hair and make-up and Poppy Baker (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) who added her dulcet tones to what was a thought-provoking and moving evening of theatre.

Nick Bayley, Drama Department



HOCKEY

The Girls' 1st XI has continued their good form since the Half Term break with two away league wins. This means the girls have defeated Oakham Saturday 5 October, Uppingham on Saturday 2 November and Oundle on Saturday 9 November. On Wednesday 13 November, the girls played in a thriller against Bedford in the 3rd round of the National Cup. In a game that could have gone either way, the girls went down 2-1, which was their first defeat since Friday 13 September.

The 2nd XI, U16B and U15C sides all won against Uppingham on Saturday 2nd November before the U14A and U14D girls tasted victory against Oundle on Saturday 9 November.

The 2nd XI also competed in the National Cup Tier 4 tournament on Wednesday 13 November at Woking Hockey Club taking on many 1st XI teams from other schools. The girls won 2 and lost 1 meaning they qualified for the play-off match. Despite performing very well, the girls lost 2-0 but can take a huge amount of pride in their performances in what was Stowe's first ever entry into the tournament.

The U14 boys pulled on a Stowe hockey shirt for the first time last week in their match against Northampton School for Boys. The boys played very well on their way to a 7-0 victory.

On Tuesday 19 November, the U14A girls compete in the Regional rounds of the National Cup at Cranleigh. This is the fourth year in a row that Mrs Sutton and Mrs Jones have led the U14s to the regional stages. We all wish the girls the very best of luck at the tournament.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey





CHAMPAGNE AND JAZZ

Every year, the Big Band and friends have performed a concert in aid of local charities. On Friday 8 November, we held our annual Champagne and Jazz evening, with a very large audience in attendance, all in aid of Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers.

The opening rendition of Caravan (a favourite of the band as it features in the film Whiplash) started with the Rhythm section entering and playing one by one. The star appearance was from Sean Carslaw Tricot (Upper Sixth, Grenville) who arrived on a unicycle, demonstrating some tricks before joining in on the Congas. During the piece, we were treated to some amazing drum solos from Theo Hayes (Upper Sixth, Chatham).

The band continued with some great jazz standards interspersed by some beautiful vocal solos by Sonya Sander (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Boris Baros (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Paris O'Broughton (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Oliver Taylor (Upper Sixth, Chatham). The first half finished with Theo Hayes leading the brilliant Jazz Combo featuring Otto Kampa (Lower Sixth, Bruce) on Saxophone, Oliver Seddon (Upper Sixth, Cobham) on Bass and Sean Carslaw Tricot on drums.

The audience were treated to a fantastic reception during the interval, which also included live piano performances. The Big Band have been much more adventurous in their repertoire this term, and opened the second half with 'Fantasy' by Earth, Wind and Fire. They completed the evening in the same vein with 'September'. The vocal soloists continued to impress everyone with Emily Banks (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) singing 'Cruella de Vil', and Poppy Baker (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) with 'Someone to Watch Over Me'. Our final soloists were Chloe Livesey (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) with 'Superstition' and Olivia Elliott (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) who brought a few tears to eyes with a very expressive rendition of 'Crazy'.

Thanks must go out to Jane Horwood and the team from Arts at Stowe who coordinated the entire front of house, and organised the Champagne and Canapés.

Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Wind & Percussion



BADMINTON

Inter-House Badminton Results

Inter-House badminton took place on Sunday 3 November. The results were as follows:

Junior Girls' Singles

Alexandra Besedovska (Fourth Form, Stanhope) beat Isabella Reed (Third Form, Cheshire) 21-15 in the Final. Stanhope beat Queen's 2-1 in the Final of the Junior Girls' Doubles.

Senior Girls' Singles

Eleanor Butler (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) beat Rosia Li (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) 21-12 in the Final. West beat Stanhope 2-1 in the Final of the Senior Girls' Doubles.

Junior Boys' Singles

Michael Spencer (Fourth Form, Temple) beat George Owen-Thursfield (Fourth Form, Temple) 21-6 in the Final. Cobham beat Grafton 2-1 in the Final of the Junior Boys' Doubles.

Senior Boys' Singles

Ben Li (Fifth Form, Cobham) beat Charles Xu (Upper Sixth, Bruce) 21-2 in the Final. Bruce beat Cobham 2-1 in the Final of the Senior Boys' Doubles.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton & Basketball

Bletchley Park Visit

On a cold slightly damp Friday 8 November, all Stoic Computer Scientists from the Fourth and Fifth Form embarked on a day visit to Bletchley Park and The National Museum of Computing, packed with tours and sessions informing them about the history and science behind modern day computing. Being the first Computer Science trip for many years, there was excitement from both the pupils and the staff who were accompanying them on the day.

The first half of the day involved a self-guided tour of Bletchley park, a guided talk starting at the 'Codebreakers Wall' about the importance of the park both in history and Computer Science,

and a practical session looking at Codes and Ciphers. Pupils gained knowledge about how a group of Mathematicians including Sir Alan Turing (who is often considered as father of computer science), played a part in ending World War II, two years earlier than predicted, by breaking the 'unbreakable' German code ciphered through the now known Enigma machines. This was fascinating for the pupils and it was further enhanced by the practical session, giving them a chance to learn about breaking codes and ciphers along with using an actual German Enigma Machine, now worth nearly £200,000.

We could not have left the site of Bletchley Park without visiting The National Museum of Computing, which houses the world's first electronic computer, Colossus, built with a single purpose to help decipher the Lorenz-encrypted (Tunny) messages between Hitler and his generals during World War II. In the two hours we were there, pupils were guided through four informative sessions, including talks about Artificial Intelligence, history computer science development and a processor architecture session demonstrated by a Senior mathematician using now known as WITCH (Wolverhampton Instrument for Teaching Computation from Harwell) regarded as the world's oldest working digital computer.

The Stoics headed back to School enthused and excited by a brilliant day, which will become a day to enjoy on the Computer Science calendar for many years to come.

Aditya Gupta, Head of Computing



Racing Scholarship

On Monday 28 October, Trennon Bettany (Fifth Form, Grafton) attended the Ginetta Racing Scholarship event at Blyton Park where, over three days, 72 applicants were tested to their limits of physical endurance by Richard Chessman (former member and drill instructor to the British Parachute Regiment, trainer to the England Rugby team, British Cycling Team and fitness coach to multiple Formula 1 racing champions including Fernando Alonso and Jenson Button), their ability to perform in front of the media was assessed and scrutinised by Richard John-Neal the acclaimed motorsport commentator and media trainer, and finally their driving ability was put to the test in a number of demanding sessions around the track circuit with a current race champion testing their style, determination and talent.

Ultimately the field was full of experienced and accomplished racing drivers and unfortunately Trennon did not win the scholarship but he successfully made it to the final 12. Everyone is extremely proud that he got so far and was praised by the Ginetta organisers, instructors and fellow competitors.

Gavin Moffat, Grafton Houseparent



FLIX - STOWE FILM & LITERATURE SOCIETY

On Friday 1 November FLIX members enjoyed a very successful Shakespeare evening. The evening, which culminated with a Black Tie dinner began with a fascinating talk on the links between Shakespeare and film given by academic Daniel Rosenthal. His argument that all genres begin with Shakespeare was well made and over 30 pupils were engrossed by the lecture.

With our first season of film adaptations of the novels of Stephen King almost over; it is great to announce some exciting events FLIX members can experience next year.

Alongside two short seasons of crime and spy movies on Monday evenings; FLIX is also gearing up to a special screening of a film

about Margaret Thatcher and her ideologies, introduced by its director; an evening of criminal activity with author Leigh Russell; trips to see the movies *The Rhythm Section* and *Kingsman* (some of which, was shot here at Stowe) and, most excitingly, The Stowe Oscars in March which this year will have a James Bond theme (and if we are lucky, a special guest James Bond car too).

All that and *Sensational!* a pop up exhibition of pulp fiction and other literary oddities for Book Week and the launch of our first journal make FLIX the coolest club on campus.

Dr Andrew Webber, English Department



IN BRIEF

Lacrosse

The 1st X played against a Dadford team in a good-natured festival on the South Front on Saturday 12 October and managed to get the better of their rather more senior opponents!

Cycling

Harry Kirby (Upper Sixth, Temple) continues his busy racing schedule having competed in the National Closed Circuit Championships over Half Term where he came a superb 3rd in the 17 year olds' category. He then tried his first National Hill Climb Championship on Sunday 27 October where he came 18th.

Larissa Campbell (Fourth Form, Nugent) races in the Central Cyclo Cross league and she came 3rd in the U16 Girls' category. If anyone would like to try the sport of Cyclo Cross, which is road racing on mountain bike or specialist cross bike, please get in touch with Mr Grimble in the Art Department.

Netball

Congratulations to the Senior team who played in the first round of the Under 19 Netball Tournament at Aylesbury High School on Wednesday 6 November, coming in 2nd place on goal difference and therefore qualifying for a place in the regionals rounds next January.

Rugby

Well done to the 1sts, 2nds and JCA XV's for wins against Radley just before Half Term. On Saturday 2 November, three teams travelled to London to take on St Paul's. The outstanding performances came from the 3rds and JCBs who coped superbly with the two hour journey and challenging weather conditions.

On Wednesday 6 November, the JCAs had a comfortable 50 -3 win against Sponne in the National Cup. They were similarly far too strong for St Edward's on Saturday 9 November. Stowe won 8 of the 13 matches against St Edward's in total, with the Yearlings A team managing the most nail-biting victory with a score to win in the last minute.

Swimming

There was an excellent overall win for the Stowe swimming team against Oundle on Thursday 7 November, with both the Senior and Inter boys dominating in the pool. Special mentions go to Angus Kennedy (Fourth Form, Temple) and Marco Myklaus (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Swimmer of the day went to Phoebe Haynes (Third Form, Cheshire) for wins in her three individual races.

Remembering Caroline



Caroline's daughters, Toria and Gee, together with her brother, Jeremy, put together a wonderful Celebration of Life service for Caroline. The service included a selection of poems, readings and hymns, many of which had been chosen by Caroline, and a very moving poem written by her daughter, Gee. Caroline's brother, Jeremy, spoke about Caroline's life and shared tales of her successes and adventures.

Colin Dudgeon (Development Director) reflected on his memories of Caroline during her years working in the Old Stoic Office. He spoke at length about her favourite event of the year, the Old Stoic Classic Car Display on Speech Day. It was therefore very fitting that Caroline's old car, a 1933 Austin 7, was parked outside Chapel for guests to see as they entered the service.

The service was an uplifting occasion; celebrating Caroline's rich and varied life and was a fitting reflection of her. Three of her great friends created wonderful flower arrangements for the Chapel, which looked stunning at the altar and in the aisles. The Stowe Chamber Choir performed an excellent rendition of Carole King's 'Beautiful'.

After the service, Caroline's family and friends were invited to a reception in the Mansion. It is testament to how well loved Caroline was that it was a struggle to fit everyone into the Marble Hall.

A full obituary for Caroline will be included in the next edition of *The Corinthian*.

Anna Semler, Old Stoic Director

On Thursday 3 October 2019, 350 people gathered in Stowe Chapel to celebrate the life of Caroline Whitlock.

Caroline died on Monday 1 July 2019, having been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer just over a month before. Caroline, who retired in March 2017, worked for the Old Stoic Society as the Old Stoic Events Co-ordinator for 10 years and was well known and loved by Old Stoics around the world.

For weekly reports
on all Stowe Sports
visit our website

www.stowesport.co.uk



EPQ and HPQ Fair

On Thursday 31 October - 150 Fifth Form Stoics (and Leia West (Fourth Form, Queen's) who has completed her EPQ three years early), presented their research and findings of their projects to the School, parents and staff. The presentation fair took place in the Library, Ante-Library and the Blue Room.

It was an appropriate setting as the pupils showed off their academic prowess to all who came. The variety of projects on show really continues to prove how Stowe caters for the individual. Whether a pupil studied 'Extra-Terrestrial Life' or put together a musical concert to raise money for charity - the HPQ has allowed the pupils to research an area of personal interest and they have furthered key academic skills such as independence, analysis and referencing.

I am hugely thankful to Mr Smith and Dr West for all their help that afternoon and to the pupils for putting so much time and effort into their presentations.

Michael Rickner, Head of Projects



FIVES

Senior House Fives Competition

A well-fought contest by both the boys and the girls made an enjoyable day of Eton Fives on Sunday 10 November. For some of the Stoics it was their first time on a Fives court, but they soon got to grips with rules and regulations. In the girls' event a very determined Stanhope won through two rounds to get to the Final for the second year in succession. In the Final they can up against last year's winners Nugent who maintained their winning record for the fourth year running. In the boys' event there were some exciting matches, but in the end the first and second seed (Cobham and Grenville) met in the final. For the second year running Cobham took the title.

Next term will see the Junior House Competition and all are welcome during activity time on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

John Skinner, Head of Fives



Mentors and their Mentees

On Thursday 7 November, Cobham had a Mentor & Mentee hot chocolate evening during which we had great fun decorating Gingerbread houses or 'people'.

As you can probably tell from the pictures, it all started off calmly, then someone had a sparkling idea to bring the whippy cream over too... things began to get messy, but they all enjoyed themselves immensely and congratulations most definitely goes to the (only!) finished house by Jack Saville Sneath, Scott Lee and Jasper Calkin, and a special mention to our Lower Sixths and to Max Broom Smith who decorated his 'people' beautifully. Unfortunately, the 'people' were gobbled up before I had time to get a photo!

Jo Dalrymple, Cobham House Matron



The Annual National Eton Fives Midlands Competition, which was held at the Repton School on Saturday 26 October, saw a total of 64 players entered, Poom Hall (Upper Sixth, Cobham) being one of them and the first time a representative from Stowe has entered this event. The competition started with the group stages, Poom and his partner entered a pool alongside seven tough competitors. Playing a best of one, round robin, Poom ended the first day placed 4th in the group C, winning four out of his 7 games, thus winning a place into Sunday's main tournament.

On Sunday 27 October, knockouts of the last 16 began, Poom and his partner played the 1st seed from group D. A great game was played but Poom was unfortunately knocked out, losing his game 12-15. He then entered Plate A, battling out for the highest finishing rank. The Plates ended with Poom playing seven games, winning four of them, and being played 12th in the competition. Although it was not the result he had hoped, it was a good effort given by the one of the youngest players in the competition.

Anyone who has never heard of Fives but would like to give it a go is most welcomed, courts and training is offered at Stowe, speak with Poom Hall or Mr Skinner for more information.

The Crucible

in rehearsal

Enormous amounts of praise should be given to everyone involved in this year's Senior Congreve, The Crucible, as we head into the last two weeks of rehearsals before opening night on Wednesday 27 November. Arthur Miller's challenging play has provided fantastic opportunities for Stowe's performers to dig deep into characterisation, and tackle the timeless themes of rumour and suspicion.

More than 30 Stoics are bringing to life the people of Salem as they face accusations of witchcraft, dividing the community. The pupils have given of their time in the afternoons, evenings and at weekends, following the necessarily complex schedule, bringing an amazing positivity to the Roxburgh Hall. They are learning to tackle the exciting prospect of theatre-in-the-round; audience seating will be available on all four sides of the performance space, providing a truly engaging experience.

Workshops focusing on vocal skills, tension building and group awareness have been provided as part of the rehearsal process. Now the cast are enhancing their scenes with reference to these experiences. Camille Gibson (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) (Abigail Williams) controls her band of young women with great mastery of menacing tone and driving pace. The tension created between husband and wife, Emilia Havard (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) (Elizabeth Proctor) and Dom Selvey (Upper Sixth, Chandos) (John Proctor) is palpable, as they struggle to hold onto their complex relationship. A further example of excellence has come from one of our youngest pupils, Drama Scholar Finley Simpson (Third Form, Winton), playing the part of one of John Proctor's sons: he has come to rehearsals promptly, stayed focused, and delivered lines with youthful conviction.

There is a common saying that there are no small parts - just small actors: and some members of this cast are proving to be great actors. They have few lines, but are creating great impact through their group work, and use of movement, and ingenious vocality. This is noticeable twice: the group of young girls reacting in the famous court scene - Skyla Wakeman (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Annie Flint (Third Form, Queen's), Sophie Taylor (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Tess Clarke (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Sienna Bettany (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Katie Lee (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Kiera Haines (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Polina Von (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Eleanor Blane (Fifth Form, Queen's). This group are learning to work as if they have a hive mind - responding instantly together with truly disturbing twitching action, and super-natural voices. Later, the insanity of prisoners is shown through Paris O'Broughton (Fifth Form, Queen's), Martha Shillington (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Charly Tyson (Lower Sixth, West), and Isabella Galione (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), as they seek to "fly away" whilst being guarded by a the long suffering Archie Blake (Fifth Form, Grenville) (Herrick), Charlie Cole (Fourth Form, Walpole), Max James (Fourth Form, Cobham), and Henry Thornton-Izzard (Fourth Form, Winton)(Cheever).

Laura Parker, Production Assistant

Tickets are available, a good number are already allocated - so we would urge all of our Parents to make sure they have their tickets ahead of the performances. Bring friends, bring more members of the family - don't miss The Crucible!

Contact The Arts@Stowe Box Office:
01280 825710 or www.artsatstowe.co.uk



GOLF

Stowe Golfers have had a busy few weeks with two new fixtures added to our ever-expanding programme. On Wednesday 30 November, we travelled to Northampton Golf Club to take on their Junior team. This was a good experience for our golfers and we are looking forward to welcoming Northampton to Stowe next spring, where they will join us for a match on our new Golf Course. On Sunday 3 November, we travelled to Northamptonshire County Golf Club - a high profile venue and Open Championship Regional Qualifying course. Our players enjoyed a good match against strong opposition with notably strong performances from Max Faulkner (Fifth Form, Temple), George Hooper (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Miles Dickinson (Third Form, Grenville).

Our Golf Scholarship and Golf Academy Programme continues to go from strength to strength with twice-weekly coaching and development sessions taking place at Whittlebury Park. Our PGA Golf Professional, Andrew Hancox, is now able to use the very latest TrackMan 4 dual radar analysis system - this really is the cutting edge of 3D ball flight and impact analysis, with the system utilising Doppler radar to track the full flight of every golf shot and then process the parameters via a complex algorithm calculation. Andrew is then able to use his knowledge to interpret a player's key parameters such as club speed, attack angle, launch angle, club path, face to path, spin loft, spin rate, spin axis and many more in conjunction with detailed video analysis. Max Faulkner, Tom Youds (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Fourth Form, Queen's), Miles Dickinson, Elliot Strickland (Third Form, Grenville) and Edward Davis (Fourth Form, Bruce) have made particularly good progress over recent weeks.

Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf



Philosophy@Stowe

Do we really live in a post-truth world, and if so what can we do about it? Stoics packed the Music Room to hear Professor Simon Blackburn (University of Cambridge) share his thoughts on this topic with a little of help from his philosophical hero David Hume. The evening was deftly chaired by Alfe Cliff (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Jasmine Smith (Upper Sixth, Queen's), who interviewed Professor Blackburn and mediated questions from the floor. We were also delighted to welcome pupils from the Cottesloe School and Northampton High School, and at least one old Stoic. Our Parents and the public are always welcome to attend: please see the Arts@Stowe calendar for further details.

Peter Dennis, Philosophy & Religion Department



CCF Leadership Course

Over the Half Term five Cadets attended a week long Cadet Leadership Course in Folkestone. The course concentrated on the the seven leadership behaviours, leadership styles, values and standards, coaching, goal-setting and the GROW Coaching Model. Upon arrival at the camp we had a kit inspection, and were told our sections for the week. The course was very intensive and we were challenged in all aspects of the Army Cadet Leadership Code. On the first morning we participated in a round robin of 10 Command Tasks. Everyone had the opportunity to lead, plan and execute a task. Command Tasks are an opportunity to bond together as a team.

As part of the course we visited Ypres on a battlefield study which concentrated on four Victoria Cross recipients. We then created presentations which focussed on the Victoria Cross recipients' particular Leadership Behaviors, Values and Standards required to achieve such an honour. During the Battlefield Tour we visited the the Memorial Museum at Passchendaele, and the Menin Gate which was very moving as every night at 8pm they play the Last Post.

The Cadet Leadership Course consisted of

Infantry Tactics, including Section Attacks, Room Clearing, Urban Patrolling, Vehicle Check Points, Quick Reaction Force Drills and a TIBUA Assault. We had the ideal training facilities of Cinque Ports Training Area, Hythe and Lydd Ranges to practise and learn new skills.

On the final day, we had the privilege to visit The Battle of Britain Memorial Park at Capel Le Ferne atop the famous White Cliffs, The National Memorial to the Few, dedicated to the heroic and selfless deeds of the men who fought in the Battle of Britain from 10 July to 31 October 1940. There was time to reflect on the sacrifices made, their leadership qualities and then interaction with the Scramble Experience. Finally, we received a 30-minute presentation and saw the statue of the lone pilot, the Memorial Wall, and a replica hurricane and spitfire.

All in all this was an extremely worthwhile experience and one that all Cadets who attended will remember. We are very grateful to Major De Gale and Sgt Abbey for this amazing opportunity.

Georgia Laurie (Upper Sixth, West)

FENCING

On Saturday 2 November, Edward Don (Upper Sixth, Chandos) took part in the Men's Épée British Ranking Competition, held at The Manchester Fencing Centre.

The results from this competition would determine which GB fencers would be selected for the next international in December. Overall Edward finished 7th which should give him sufficient ranking points to give him a top 10 position and selection for the second international in Heraklion.

Following this, Edward was selected to be part of the British Fencing team and flew out on Friday 8 November to compete at the Junior World Cup event at Riga, Latvia. Edward continues to make impressive strides in the world of Fencing, with a national ranking now, of 14th in the U20s category.

Anthony Ashfield, Chandos Houseparent



PHILOSOTHON

Stowe hosted its second Open Philothon on Wednesday 6 November, welcoming over 150 pupils from a diverse mix of grammar, academy and leading independent schools. Across four intensive discussion rounds, they sought to find mutually acceptable answers to tough questions in ethics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and social choice theory. As one participant put it, they learned "how to present my ideas in a formal and eloquent way without getting heated and shouting."

The Stowe team came sixth for their critical thinking and deliberation skills in a crowded field that included Eton, Winchester, St Paul's, Latymer, Aylesbury Grammar and Bristol Grammar. Special praise is due to Oliver Seddon (Upper Sixth, Cobham) who came 15th overall, Darius Shirazi (Fifth Form, Chandos) who came 23rd, and Alfie Cliff (Upper Sixth, Chandos) who came 25th.

Peter Dennis, Philosophy & Religion Department

CCF visit to The Royal Artillery Barracks at Larkhill



On Wednesday 6 November, 10 Cadets from Fifth Form and Lower Sixth, visited the Royal Artillery Barracks at Larkhill. Armed with the most essential piece of equipment for the day - ear defender, we headed to Salisbury Plain for the first demonstration. This was a group of AS-90s (tank-sized with 155 mm guns), providing support fire for a ground team who were operating 7km ahead in a training exercise. Although it was freezing, the experience was very enjoyable. The sheer power of the guns firing could be felt through the ground and throughout your body, even with the double ear-defence, the noise taking you by surprise every time. After a delicious lunch in the Mess back at Larkhill, we had a brief overview presentation on the role of the Royal Artillery. We learnt that even though they are mostly known for being "Gunners" they also have ground teams as part of the strike side of

the company. In addition, they have a wide range of innovative technology which is used to locate enemy, from drones and pilots to powerful microphones which can triangulate where the source of enemy fire is coming from. Next, we had a detailed introduction into the 32nd regiment of the Royal Artillery which are equipped with Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The focus was the Thales Watchkeeper WK450. We had a detailed tour around the drone itself and the container in which the drone is operated from. After this were introduced to the Multiple Launch Rocket System which can fire over 100km with ridiculous accuracy. Overall the day was fascinating, informative and fun. It even persuaded some of the cadets who are considering a career in the forces to consider the Royal Artillery.

Corporal Ned Ellison (Lower Sixth, Bruce)



**BEACON SCHOOL
IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

Holocaust Beacon School London Residential

As part of this year's UCL Holocaust Beacon School programme our Lead Teacher, Ms Francesca Holloway (Philosophy & Religion), travelled to London over the Half Term break for four days of intensive training and development.

Her journey began at the Imperial War Museum and ended three days later at The Wiener Holocaust Library, one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. Over the course of the four days, Ms Holloway took part in sessions on antisemitism, resistance, legacy and British responses to the Holocaust. The weekend has played a key role in helping Ms Holloway formulate her ideas and the ethos behind our new Third Form course, which will be taught to the new cohort in Michaelmas 2020.

Ms Holloway will complete her training with the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education with a visit to Poland in April 2020.

Ms Holloway said: "I was delighted to have an opportunity to expand my knowledge of the Holocaust over the course of an inspiring, motivating and moving four days. Although the forthcoming course will be taught to the Third Form I am looking forward to working across the School, promoting awareness of the importance learning about the Holocaust and the philosophical and ethical questions it raises."

Francesca Holloway, Teacher of Philosophy and Religion



Visit to Christ Church

On Tuesday 29 October the Fourth Form Philosophy & Religion pupils headed to Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, to learn more about Christian practices in a world-famous setting.

One of the visiting Stoics writes: "We arrived at Christ Church Cathedral on a cold morning through the main entrance where we were warmly greeted by the volunteers who were showing us around. This included going to look at the incredible dining room which hosts the College's students. This was an amazing room and where the makers of the Harry Potter film gained inspiration for Hogwarts. It was incredible look around this stunning dining room and everybody was astounded. Next we looked more round the College and the quad which gave everybody an insight into what an Oxford college looks like. For me the second part of the day was the most exciting because we were going around the Cathedral.

This was really useful for what we are studying in P&R because Christ Church Cathedral is a very liturgical church. The Cathedral was beautiful and we soon learnt it had its origins as a nunnery, as the site of St Frideswide's priory. In the Cathedral was her shrine and stained glass windows dedicated to her. Finally, for the end of the day we all got to spend time with Canon Robin Gibbons and ask him questions. We all asked him very tough questions on the Christian faith and I think one thing we were all impressed by was his ability to answer questions honestly, without causing any controversy. It was extremely interesting to hear about the life of somebody who is heavily involved with the Church and the Cathedral. Overall, I think my favourite part of the trip was going into the Cathedral as it was a stunning building and it felt a special place to be."

Francesca Holloway, Philosophy & Religion



Volunteering

Stoics have been out in force this Half Term, volunteering for various projects that help support the local community. The Conservation Team has done good work with the Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust and the National Trust. In partnership with the latter, they planted 550 bluebells near the New Inn and potted up 500 fritillaria for the Stowe Gardens.

A further forty pupils across the Fifth and Sixth Form have been visiting the elderly in four residential homes in and around Buckingham. Some of them have also chosen to become Dementia Friends through The Alzheimer's Society.

The Primary School Project, under the direction of Mr Cook and Ms Ackroyd, has also gone from strength to strength. Stoics have supported around 100 children in Years 3-6 in two primary schools. They have helped children with reading, provided classroom support, dug allotments for the forest school, played with the children in the nursery using parachutes and bubbles, helped deliver PE lessons, worked in IT lessons to code a robot with Year 6 students, and created art work. Ms Ackroyd has now moved on from the

project, due to her new commitments as Head of Faculty, and we are very grateful to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

Stoics have demonstrated and developed compassion and creativity in other ways, too. The Puppetry Team, led by Mr Sayers, has delighted residents of Gracewell House, Maids Moreton, with an afternoon performance that used a variety of puppets, and Stoics volunteering with the Riding for the Disabled Association have made a real difference to the lives of three very young children.

In all this, our Stoics have not just developed new skills and grown in confidence: they have risen to the challenge of becoming kinder, more sacrificial people who are more able to see a bigger picture. Ethan Collins (Upper Sixth, Temple) said, "The experience has been enjoyable and the work we are doing is making a positive impact on the School and experience of the children."

Our congratulations to them and our thanks to the Stowe staff and all our working partners who make these opportunities possible.

Dr Imogen Adkins, Head of Volunteering

Syrian Refugee Project

Those of you who were fortunate to attend last year's wonderful production of Romeo and Juliet may recall that, with the blessing of Dr Wallersteiner, as well as Rebecca Clark and the Drama Department, I used the occasion to make an appeal for donations to the fund I was running. The previous year, I had taught at Jeb Jannine, a school for Syrian refugee children in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon, and had seen the opportunity to convert a redundant storeroom there into a multi-purpose hall.

I do know that all too often, when people donate to such a project, they can be uncertain that the money raised goes to its intended destination, so I am delighted to be able to report that, within the period of one year, the money was raised and the project designed and completed. My wife Val and I were delighted to be able to attend the official opening of the Hall in July; in fact, it had already been in use to allow classes in fitness and martial arts during the summer school, and is now in regular use for classes in music, dance and drama, as well as a space for indoor sports and meetings. The photos give an idea of the dramatic change that has taken place. There are also short videos of the opening, and of classes taking place, which can be seen via the following link:

www.chrisdwalters.com

Jusoor, the charity which runs three schools in Lebanon, as well as other educational projects for Syrian refugees, is very grateful for the support which the parents and pupils of Stowe School have given, which has helped this idea to become reality; I know that the teachers and students at Jen Jannine, as well as Val and myself, would also like to offer our sincere thanks.

Chris Walters, Former Drama Teacher



Language Society

The Language Society met on Wednesday 13 November and enjoyed a very diverse and special night with two presentations from their Vice-Presidents. Lorenzo Perrotta (Lower Sixth, Cobham) gave an enticing talk about Argentina explaining the 53% annual inflation the country is faced with as well as giving us an insight into the huge inequality that exists between Buenos Aires and the rest of the country. Luciana Butler (Lower Sixth, Queen's) talked passionately about Peru, mentioning exciting places to visit, the economy and food. While we enjoyed the presentations we also tasted food and drink from Germany, India, France, China and Italy which enriched everyone's culinary knowledge and hopefully everyone benefited from the meeting, whether by learning something new from the presentations or simply enjoying the delicious food on offer. A big thank you to all the members who brought food and drink and especially to Lorenzo and Luciana who gave fantastic presentations about their respective countries.

Tom Scott (Upper Sixth, Chandos)





Three Peaks Challenge

On Tuesday 22 July Hugh Fox (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Thomas Fountain (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Henry Saunders-Watson (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and I, with my Mum driving the bus, arrived in Fort William to attempt the Three Peaks Challenge - climbing to the top of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon inside 24 hours. We arrived at the foot of Ben Nevis and had some pasta before a hesitant walk across the river to the starting point. Mum then summoned us to an extended photo shoot before sending us on our way at 5pm.

Ben Nevis was a challenging start to the walk and made us realise quite how far we had to go. As we walked up, everyone else seemed to be walking down, which was as depressing as it was worrying, because there were five year old children who had skipped up the hill. I found out that soaking my hat in the rivers periodically on the way up was a brilliant way too cool off, although I did get some odd looks from passers by. We were met at the top by incredible views of the surrounding area after which we then sauntered down the mountain with the sun setting. Walking down the hill, we began our combined hatred of steps, which would develop over the next 20 hours.

We got down from Ben Nevis within good time and jumped straight in the car, driving through the night to Scarfell Pike. We arrived at around 3.15am in the dark to be met by torrential rain and thunder all around. Occasionally a flash of lightening would forebodingly light up the mountain in front of us. At 3.45am, once the lighting had stopped, it was safe for us to set off but 10 minutes into our walk the heavens opened again and we were quickly made aware that none of our kit was waterproof, adding to this we completely lost the path. However Tom, a Bear Grylls fan, confidently steered us back on track using his navigation skills. As we neared the top we had a change of terrain and ended up on a steep scree slope which seemed endless. The visibility by this point was at about 10ft which didn't help any of our moods. At the top of the scree we finally found the summit marker.

The descent was uneventful but it cultivated our hatred for steps. We arrived at the bottom to a very relieved Mum who fed us a much-needed bacon and egg sandwich before we set off again at 8am. We arrived at Snowdon about 12:15pm. This mountain was a different kind of challenge to the other two. We were exhausted, most of us had blisters and overall none of us relished the thought of walking up yet another mountain. However we soldiered on, managing to find a path not on the map which ended up being a better option. The climb seemed to take an incredibly long time but we saw a lot of nice people on the way up who cheered us on. The top was busy and sadly we couldn't see anything due to the mist. We wandered down in no particular hurry as we had time to do so. We finished with a time of 23 hours and 15 minutes having walked 26 miles and ascended 3,000 metres. Overall this was a really rewarding experience which I will remember forever, although I hope I never have to climb another mountain anytime soon!

George Buxton (Upper Sixth, Chandos)



NETBALL

England Netball Coaching Course

Staff members Victoria Dias, Helen Large, Hannah Nelson and Sarah Dunkley took part in an all-day netball coaching course with the very recently retired Head England Netball Coach, Tracey Neville. It was a brilliant day and thoroughly enjoyed by all. They are looking forward to putting into practice everything they have learned.

TENNIS

This year's Senior School Competition is now underway, and during this term there are a series of matches in a 'round robin' format.

The boys got off to a great start on Thursday 7 November with a convincing win over Bedford School 5 sets to 1. Congratulations to Thor Mager (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Charlie Maclure (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Harry Burnet (Upper Sixth Grafton) and Archie Burnet (Fifth Form, Grafton).

The pre-season training trip to Portugal in March 2020 has been cancelled due to the lack of numbers, but the 2021 trip will be publicised during the Summer Term 2020.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis

LACROSSE

Dads v Daughters Lacrosse

The now annual game of Dads vs Daughters at lacrosse on the South Front went beautifully on Saturday 2 November. The girls had predominantly worked out that their parents were coming to play them, and as such were prepared to give them a good game. Though the scores were tied at the half, the girls ran away with it in the second half, with the final score of 7-4 to the Stoics, with a pair of goals each for both Daisy Binger (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Rosie Grayson (Fifth Form, Nugent). Many thanks to all those family members who joined us to both play and support, and we can be thankful that poor weather held off just long enough for the match to take place.

Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse



Cross Country



Congratulations to all Stoics who took part in the Inter-House cross country festival held before half term. Your positive attitude and willingness to take on the challenges of the 4.7k course and the miserable weather was a great demonstration of the Stowe spirit.

Third Form boys: Grafton - Tobias Ellson

Third Form girls: Nugent - Pia Glynn-Smith

Fourth Form boys: Grafton - Henry Pollock

Fourth Form girls: Nugent - Larissa Campbell

Fifth Form boys: Chandos - Ben Hartigan

Fifth Form girls: Lyttelton - Jodie Brogden

Lower Sixth boys: Winton - Dan Roberts
(in the fastest overall boys time of the day of 16.33)

Lower Sixth girls: Stanhope - Clara Kretschmar
(in the fastest overall girls time of the day of 22.33)

Upper Sixth boys: Bruce - Josh McCallum

Upper Sixth girls: Stanhope - Georgia Glenser

Overall Champions boys: Grafton

Overall Champions girls: Nugent



Stowe Parents



Stowe Parents Clay Pigeon Shoot

On Wednesday 30 October, a group of Stowe Parents enjoyed a Clay Pigeon Shoot on the Bursar's Field. We were blessed with a beautiful, fresh Autumn day and not too much bright sunshine so no excuse for any misses! We were a mixed bag of abilities from the regular game guns to the very occasional clay shots and the villain of the day proved to be the fiendishly difficult low grouse!

There was a great deal of good-natured banter and some excellent shooting all round.

The shoot was followed by a fabulous lunch served on the portico of the Concord and Victory Temple in Stowe Landscape Gardens.

Port and fruitcake in a temple was a first for most, with undeniably some of the best views you could wish for when enjoying lunch.

All present agreed this should be an annual event and are already looking forward to next year and a chance to revenge themselves on those pesky Grouse.

Our thanks must go to Clive Harris and his assistant for organising the shoot, the National Trust, who allowed us to use the Temple and Stowe Catering Department for serving such a delicious lunch "on location".

Amanda Blane, Stowe Parents Committee



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

AT CHELSEA OLD CHURCH

64 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, London SW3 5LT

Monday 2 December

7.30pm

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Petyt Hall

Tickets £15

Old Stoics, Parents and Friends of Stowe are warmly invited to attend

Book [online](#) or email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk to reserve a place

A collection will be taken after the concert for Downs Heart Group, a charity offering support and information relating to heart conditions associated with Down's Syndrome

If you would like to join the OS Choir to perform one carol during the concert, please email oldstoic@stowe.co.uk



My daughter Eloise (Nugent 16) is making a bid to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support by having her head shaved on Saturday 16 November. With great magnanimity, her two brothers, Samuel and Joseph, have offered to wield the hair clippers on the day and the event will be filmed and posted onto Facebook and other social media platforms.

Eloise has decided to do this following the death of my mum, Margaret Dobson, earlier this year, and following the death of Eloise's best friend's mum, Fiona Reynolds, four years ago. Both of the deaths were due to inoperable metastatic bowel and intestinal cancers.

The MacMillan Cancer Support box for 'Brave the Shave' will be in the Common Room for the next two weeks or so until, hopefully, it gains some weight. Any donations will be welcomed, however large or small. You can donate [here](#).

Simon Dobson, Grenville Houseparent



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