

Stowe mail

VOL 11 ISSUE 5: 23 JANUARY 2020
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

Love and Information & Far Away

by Caryl Churchill

Upper Sixth pupils provided a captivating evening of entertainment in the Dobinson Studio as they performed extracts from two contrasting plays by Caryl Churchill as part of their A Level exam.

Sonya Sander (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Juliana Ziemele (Upper Sixth, Queen's) gave a moving and disturbing performance of Act 1 of 'Far Away'. In this dreamlike play, Joan, a young girl is witness to an ethnic cleansing atrocity committed by her uncle in a lonely farmhouse. The action was set in the kitchen where traumatised Joan (Sonya), haltingly reveals to her Aunt Harper (Juliana) the true extent of what she has witnessed and the trauma it has caused her. Although the play was written in 2000, the interpretation felt timeless and otherworldly and at the same time horrifyingly relevant. I felt the unsettling, hyper characterisation adopted by both actors, gave a dystopian feel as both danced around each other, darting about the space, glaring at one other as they tried to grapple with the enormity of the truth. I was also immediately reminded of the recent human trafficking tragedy of the 39 Vietnamese nationals who were found in the trailer of an articulated lorry in Essex by the powerful use of projections.

In contrast audiences were thrilled by the fast-paced snapshots of life in post-dramatic play 'Love and Information' where the performers presented us with a series of vignettes, or slices of life each containing characters and scenarios that are distinct from the last. The play provided a sumptuous feast as each scenelet, some lasting only a matter of seconds, immediately absorbed us in a moment of humanity. Tackling philosophical questions about our existence, God, fate and destiny, memory, love, maths and technology, the audience was taken on a rollercoaster ride by the accomplished cast groups. Moments brought me to

tears, while others had me laughing out loud as I was invited to recognise something of myself or my experience in each.

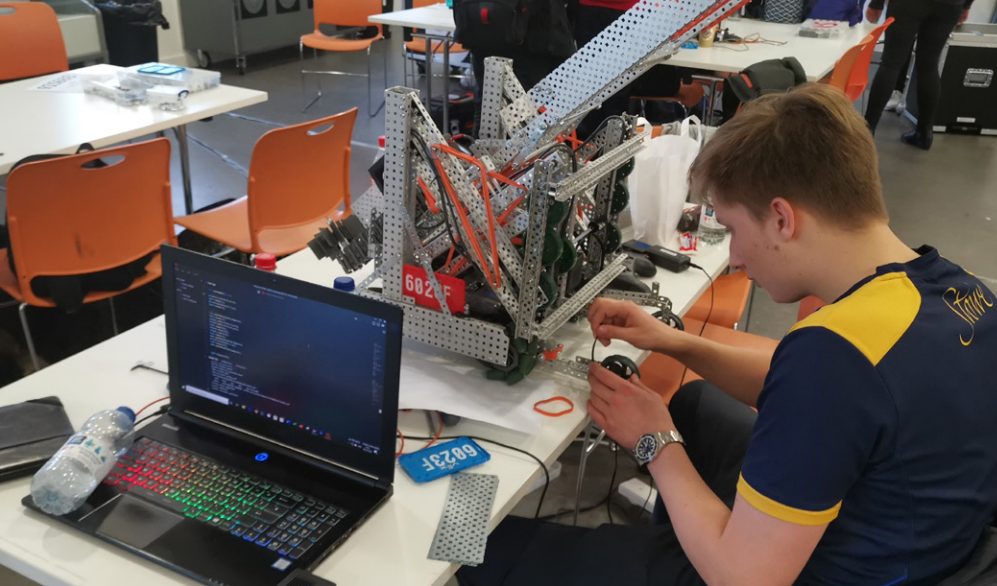
The beauty of this piece was that each and every performer had the limelight and each played a range of contrasting characters in diverse and challenging circumstances. Highlights were Georgia Glenser (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) as a character in a relationship with a virtual, computer generated lover, and Flora Walters (Upper Sixth, Nugent) attributing her baby's asthma to pollutants in the atmosphere while she smokes over the pram. Izzy Hopkins (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Maddie Marriott (Upper Sixth, Nugent) performed as extraordinary coup-de-theatre in Memory House where tragically, whilst trying to improve their memories, they fail to recognise when a significant memory from the past is triggered. Mia Dettori (Upper Sixth, Nugent) as a convincing seven year old who is the victim of bullying in the playground, created pathos as one moment we are laughing with the bullies when Mia bursts into tears, and the next forced to question why we are finding it funny when she is stoned. Ruby Redfern (Upper Sixth, Queen's) was humorous and at the same time moving in 'The child who didn't know pain' as she tried to understand whether pain was 'like being unhappy but in your leg'.

The whole experience was akin to channel surfing, and this effect was emphasised by the laboratory style white cube set that had a clinical feel, and the interjection of catchy electronic beats and ambient underscore to propel us from one meme to the next. Added to the equation, lighting designer Sascha Clark-Jones (Upper Sixth, Bruce) offered up a sumptuous kaleidoscope of lighting states, punctuated by projected scene titles that gave the whole piece a visually cinematic feel.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



A wonderful first weekend of Inter-School sport saw 33 Stowe teams taking on seven different schools in five sports. Particular mention should go to the Junior girls who made our first 'Super Saturday' a great success as they took on the challenge of playing matches in both lacrosse and netball on the same afternoon. Read the individual sports reports for more details.



ROBOTICS

NATIONAL FINAL QUALIFICATION

On Saturday 18 January, the Stowe Robotics teams attended a regional VEX robotics competition in Nottingham. The three teams performed well and worked hard, however the best performance came from the Senior team. Their robot performed well and consistently won matches during the day. They suffered one mechanical failure however, which did limit the performance of the robot over the later part of the event. Even so they finished the qualification rounds ranked third and selected a good partner for the playoff rounds.

The Third and Fourth Form teams pair up for the playoffs, but unfortunately the draw fell in a way that meant they faced the Senior team in the Quarter-Final who beat them, knocking them out of the running.

The Senior team went on winning the Semi-Final and made the Final. Despite the mechanical issue from earlier in the day, the score was extremely close with just one scoring object making the difference, but the match did not fall in their favour.

All was not over however as the teams in the opposition alliance had already qualified for the National Finals so the qualification places rolled down to the Stowe Senior team.

This means that the Senior team will now be competing at the National Finals at the end of February. They have a few issues to fix and some more comprehensive programming to write to improve the robot, but it showed real promise. The Third and Fourth Form teams will have one last chance to qualify for the Nationals on Saturday 8 February in London.

Paul Thompson, Robotics

RUGBY

Huge congratulations to the Fourth Form boys who beat Felsted on Thursday 16 January to reach the Quarter-Finals of the National Cup. To become one of the top eight sides in the country out of the 256 schools who entered is a fantastic achievement and the team is training hard for their next match which will be against Stockport Grammar School on Thursday 13 February.



HOCKEY

Two encouraging victories against Rugby and Bedford kicked off a positive pre-season afternoon on Monday 6 January and the 1st XI continued in fine form scoring four first half goals against Kimbolton. The second half saw the momentum swing heavily to the opposition and the match ended in a draw. Well done to the 2nd XI for scoring six unanswered goals and the U16A team who have particularly impressed the coaches this week and got everything right, turning last year's defeat into a 2-0 win. A good first block of results with six wins for Stowe, two draws and just two losses.

FIVES

Junior Girls' House Fives

On Sunday 19 January, the Junior girls had their annual House matches. The year group selection was from the Third and Fourth Forms, and it was good to see a mix of both year groups playing together as a team. Some girls had never played fives before, but after a quick run through of the rules and some practice points, they all got stuck in.

In the first match, Stanhope beat Nugent and in the second match, Queen's beat Lyttelton. In the final, Queen's and Stanhope had a great match and Queen's came out on top to retain their title for the second year running.



January 2020

This year we were delighted to welcome Professor Guy Claxton who addressed all the teaching staff along with visiting staff from a wide range of local schools. Guy is the author of "The Learning Power Approach" and is an influential researcher and innovator in education. He gave a thought-provoking and highly relevant talk about the skills pupils will need to develop in order to be successful both in school and in their careers. After this, staff from Stowe, Winchester House School, Ashfold, Caldicott, Swanbourne and Waddesdon School ran breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics such as developing leadership skills, increasing innovative approaches to learning, intellectual curiosity and creativity. All the breakouts focused on preparing pupils for a future which may be volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

The afternoon keynote speaker was from the charity "Bounce forward". Lucy Bailey gave an entertaining presentation on the development of resilience as a skill for life, basing her work on research, theory and evidence.

Over 250 people attended the conference, coming from local Prep Schools and state schools. We are already beginning to plan the conference for next year and look forward to welcoming many from the Stowe community and local schools.

Sharon Carter, Head of Skills Development

Lower School Open Morning

Our first Lower School Open Morning for the year took place on Saturday 18 January. Over 100 prospective families came to see what Stowe has to offer and we were certainly looking our best as it was a gloriously sunny but crisp Winter's day.

Following a tour of the School and a boarding or day House, the parents attended a presentation from the Head, the Head Boy and Girl, and a lively session with Mr Tearle. In the meantime, the children were separated off into groups to enjoy a selection of activities with Stowe teaching staff. Maths with Mr Møller was a particular hit (the sweets may have helped) and Mr Hart couldn't fail to impress with a variety of

experiments using liquid nitrogen. The Drama and English Departments also did a fabulous job entertaining our young Stoics of the future.

The families were reunited in the Marble Hall to meet Academic Staff and the Admissions team before savouring a delicious Stowe lunch.

Open Mornings are an extremely important part of our admissions process and their success is reliant on the hard work and support of our Academic, Catering and House Staff. A special mention, in particular, must go to our Stoics who act as guides and represent the School, with eloquence, enthusiasm and confidence.

Marketing & Admissions Department

Languages Society

On Wednesday 15 January, two members of the Languages Society made a presentation about their respective countries. Thor Mager (Upper Sixth, Bruce) talked about his home country of Denmark, including its traditions, landmarks and famous beers. He also taught the group how to count to 10 in Danish (en, to, tre, fire, fem, seks, syv, otte, ni, ti).

Matteo Pangherz (Lower Sixth, Chandos) then presented on the cultural heritage and history of Italy. He also gave us an insight into three of Italy's main cities: Rome, Milan and Venice. Matteo spoke about the cities' cultural heritages

and explained why they were, and still are, so popular. Like Thor, he taught us how to count to 10 in Italian, which incidentally is very similar to Spanish (uno, due, tre, quattro, cinque, sei, sette, otto, nove, dieci).

The night was informative and fun and I hope each member of the Languages Society remembers how to count to 10 if they ever find themselves in one of these countries. A big thank you to Thor and Matteo for providing two wonderful presentations.

Tom Scott (Upper Sixth, Chandos)



BEACON SCHOOL IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Holocaust Beacon School Training

On Wednesday 22 January, a number of Stowe Staff from the Humanities and English faculties attended a CPD day with UCL's Centre for Holocaust Education. This was part of Stowe's continuing partnership with the Centre as a 2019-20 Beacon School for Holocaust Education. A number of teachers from schools in the local area also attended.

Staff from the UCL Centre ran a variety of interesting and engaging sessions, focusing on the challenge of teaching the Holocaust across the curriculum. Francesca Holloway, the Lead Teacher on the Beacon Programme said: "As always, the staff from the Centre delivered interesting and thought-provoking training that will contribute to the development of Stowe's Holocaust Education programme."

Stowe will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day on Wednesday 29 January, with an evening of reflective and commemorative music, theatre and poetry, followed by a talk from Nick Winton, Sir Nicholas Winton's son.

*Francesca Holloway,
Lead Teacher for the Beacon Programme*



CCF



One of the key attractions of being a member of the RAF CCF section is the regular opportunity to go flying. On Saturday 18 January, two Upper Sixth Form Cadets, Sgt Sascha Clark-Jones (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Cpl Imogen Joyce (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) travelled to RAF Syerston near Newark in Nottinghamshire to spend the day gliding.

RAF Syerston is a station of notable heritage: a Lancaster bomber base during the Second World War, it was for a while the home station of Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC of 'Dambusters' fame. After the war, Syerston hosted jet flying training before becoming the RAF's centre of gliding excellence in the mid-1970s. It is currently the home station of No 644 Volunteer Gliding Squadron.

The Cadets spent the morning completing mandatory parachute drills and learning about the aerodynamics of glider operations and principles of flight. This indoor element culminated in each Cadet completing 30 minutes of flying in the highly impressive Viking T1 glider simulator, which prepared them very

well for their flying experience in the afternoon.

The main aim of the day was to progress towards the RAF's initial gliding qualification, the Cadet Blue Wings brevet. To achieve this, pilots need to log 20 minutes of airborne gliding time or three winch launches; this was a tall order to achieve on a cold January day in the immediate aftermath of Storm Brendan, but conditions proved to be as good as possible in Winter, cold but cloudless. By the end of the afternoon, both Sascha and Imogen had logged sufficient airborne time to qualify for their brevet, with both Cadets earning praise from their instructors for their readiness to learn and ability at the controls.

To have the opportunity to experience a thrill as exciting, dynamic and enjoyable as unpowered gliding was fantastic in its own right; but to do so at an airfield with such a distinguished operational history was truly memorable. Congratulations to Sascha and Imogen on their award of the Blue Wings.

*Jon Murnane, RAF Section Commander,
Stowe CCF*





Work Placement in Italy

Jennifer Levenson de Sanchez is the parent of two Old Stoics and would like to offer the following fantastic opportunity to spend some time in Italy.

We are looking for a Sixth Former (aged between 17-20) to help with our tiny full immersion Summer School in Felizzano in Piemonte from Sunday 7 June to Friday 31 July. (Beware it can get very hot).

You will come and live with us in our Cascina in the middle of the countryside about one hour from Turin / Genoa and one and a half hours from Milan. You will have your own room, with a bathroom, a TV and full-board and we have broadband internet. We will pay you a modest sum weekly to help fund your own adventures. There is a local train station for easy access to the major cities or the sea in Liguria. We have a dog and two cats. Unfortunately, we cannot cater for those with special dietary requirements, as there is limited choice in our local shops.

Each Monday, a different child (aged between 7-17) comes to live with us for five days. During this time, they are immersed in English. We speak English, watch TV in English, and even eat English meals.

Every morning, they have formal lessons but in the afternoon, they need stimulation from a younger person to do a project, learn a pop song, make a film, etc. That is where you come in. Your mornings are your own. After lunch, you take over and invent creative things to do with the student for a few hours and help them with their homework from the morning session. Then, your evenings are your own. You also get every weekend off from Friday afternoon (5pm) to Monday lunchtime. You can spend your free time exploring or you are welcome to stay here and save your money if you prefer.

So, if you like a wide variety of foods, enjoy using your imagination, fancy a sun tan and time to explore northern Italy, this could be a great opportunity. You will need a sense of humour and love playing in the garden in 36 degrees. English should be your mother tongue and you need to know your way around fundamental English grammar.

We expect our assistant to make their own way to Italy (Turin, Genoa or Milan airport), where I will pick them up and bring them home. I will take them back to the airport at the end of their stay at the end of July.

Closing date for applications is the end of March

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Stowe SPORT



BASKETBALL

Two Senior boys' teams travelled to the Wellington tournament on Saturday 11 January to test their basketball skills against the likes of Harrow, Eton, Wellington and Bradfield. The A team nearly made the Semi-Finals but just missed out on goal difference. The young side gained tremendously from the experience.

The 1st team had two strong wins in their matches against Magdalen College and Abingdon on Thursday 16 January.

Inter-House Basketball

The Inter-House Basketball took place on Sunday 19 January.

Congratulations to Queen's who won all three of their matches, beating Nugent 8-6 in the deciding match to win the girls' competition.

In the boys' competition, Grafton beat Cobham and Bruce beat Chandos in the Semi-Finals. In a thrilling Final, Bruce beat Grafton 9-8 to win the competition.



IN BRIEF

Football

The 1st team opened their season with a 6-0 win against Akeley Wood on Wednesday 15 January. On Saturday 18 January, the opposition was far tougher at Loughborough Grammar School, but all three Senior teams had competitive games with the 2nd XI earning a draw.

Cross-Country

On Saturday 11 January, the team travelled to Uppingham for their first race of the season. George Hopkinson-Woolley (Fifth Form, Chandos) was 20th in the Inter-Boys, and Will Hanson (Third Form, Chatham) came 21st in his first ever race.

Badminton

On Saturday 18 January, a weakened 1st team lost against Cheltenham, however, with the score in matches level 4 a-piece going into the last match, the B team clinched a great 5-4 victory.

International School Award



This academic year has been a big one for Stowe's international community. The Michaelmas Term saw Stowe introduce the International Student Council, a body of pupils who regularly meet to discuss concerns and issues of international pupils, and also plan events. Large-scale celebrations were held such as that for Thanksgiving, and trips were organised to provide cultural experiences for our international pupils.

In recognition of this work, Stowe has been awarded the Foundation International School Award by the British Council.

The British Council recognised and stated within their report that the School has "shown the importance of including International and Global learning into your school curriculum and some of your pupils have formed an International Student Council. The Thanksgiving Activity had many purposes. Besides celebrating an American cultural day, it gave opportunity for pupils to reflect and be grateful for what they have, and gave the USA pupils a chance to share their culture within the School community."

The School is now going to begin the journey of gaining the Intermediate Award, ensuring that the international and global learning of pupils continues to grow and flourish.

Francesca Shah, Head of International Pupils



THE FAIRFAX & FAVOR PRODUCT DESIGN PRIZE

Stoics have the chance to win a £1,000 cash prize and a one week internship with the Fairfax & Favor product development and design team.

To enter, please design a pair of shoes, boots or accessories for men's or ladies' products.

Email your entry to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk by 1 May 2020.

The competition is open to Stoics in the Lower and Upper Sixth. The internship will take place during the Summer holidays. The winning entry will be selected by Marcus Fairfax Fountaine (Chandos 09) and Felix Favor Parker (Cobham 09).



LACROSSE

On Saturday 11 January, Moreton Hall and TASIS both brought teams to play on the most picturesque lacrosse pitches in the country on the Stowe South Front. Moreton proved a strong first challenge as we shared the results with three wins for each school and a nail-biting 10-10 draw for the U15As. The two matches against TASIS were shared with one win each. Holly Phillips (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Ellie Martindale (Fourth Form, Queen's), Lyla Mulcahy (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Clara Capella (Fourth Form, Stanhope) had excellent performances.

Stowe also hosted Marlborough on Saturday 18 January. Well done to the 1st team for winning 12-10 with Captain Georgie Mercer (Upper Sixth, Queen's) netting five goals. The 2nds won 7-5, the 15As won 16-2 and the 14As won 12-3 on an excellent afternoon on the South Front.

Lacrosse Success

Whilst our Senior teams have also been enjoying a strong season, there have been other successes for individual players, Old Stoics and coaches.

Olivia Thomas (Nugent 18) has been selected for Senior England at the young age of 20.

Philly Stacey (Nugent 17) and India Chadwick (Nugent 16) have been selected for England U23.

Amber Capurro (Upper Sixth, Nugent) has been selected for Wales U19 training squad for the Home Internationals in 2020.

Holly Phillips is training with the U17 Regional Academy.

Lyla Mulcahy and Hattie Goodrich are training with the U15 Regional Academy.

Lyla Mulcahy (Fourth Form, Nugent), Hannah Bewes (Fourth Form, Queen's), Emily Sutton (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Lizzie Knott (Fourth Form, Nugent) have all been selected for the U15 Super Counties Teams.

During the holidays and on Sundays throughout the term, two of our coaches - Rob Ingham Clark (Head of Lacrosse) and Kieran Garvey (Assistant Head) have been coaching the Wales U20 and U19 teams in men's lacrosse. Rob is Head Coach and Kieran is Offense Co-ordinator and they took charge of the men's team in Prague last July at the Europeans, finishing with a sixth place success. They are currently working with the U19s in preparation for Home Internationals (3-5 April 2020) and then a 24 team tournament in Limerick in July 2020.

Jayne Duckett, Lacrosse Coach





Holocaust Memorial Evening - Stand Together

Wednesday 29 January, 8pm



Extraordinary Wall of Silence

Friday 7 February, 8pm



Tom Brace: Brace of Spades

Wednesday 12 February, 8pm



ROWING

The Northampton Head of River took place on Saturday 18 January.

It was great to see the Stowe Rowing Club enter more events than we have ever done in the past. The weather was perfect and the teams were well supported by many parents.

Highlights were wins for the boys' 1st VIII and the Senior Quad and first appearances for the girls' 1st Quad, boys' Colts VIII and Junior Colts Quad.

NETBALL

On Saturday 11 January, Stowe played Oundle in our first-ever, full block fixture on a Saturday. The fixtures turned out to be very evenly balanced on the whole, with Stowe winning five out of 11 matches. The closest match was a thriller at 1st team level where the score ended 26-27 to Oundle. Our U14A team is beginning to make quite an impression and they started their season with a 45-16 win. Two further wins for the U14 teams suggest they have a particularly strong year group. Well done to Mrs Dias and the whole netball club for such a strong start to the season.

EQUESTRIAN

Well done to the Stowe 80cm team of Helen Sharp (Third Form, Lyttelton), Constance Sharp (Third Form, Lyttelton), Jasper Hayes (Third Form, Bruce) and Lucy Rigler (Third Form, Stanhope) who came 2nd in the Bloxham School Eventers Challenge on Sunday 12 January. A special mention should go to Lucy Rigler who came third individually out of over 30 starters.

For weekly reports on all Stowe Sports visit our website

www.stowesport.co.uk

SOUTHSIDE20

22nd May ^{6PM}

Arts at Stowe is delighted to announce
Tom Walker as the Headline Act for 2020

TOM WALKER

Tom Walker, winner of the BRITs 'British Breakthrough Act' 2019, has taken the charts by storm this year. Tom has established himself as a major voice in music with his honesty and passion. His plaintive, acoustic driven new single 'Better Half of Me', is as stunning and addictive as previous certified Platinum hits 'Leave A Light On' And 'Just You And I' and looks set to follow in the same footsteps.

After a highly successful sold-out UK headline tour in April, and a summer of storming festival sets, he has embarked on yet another sold-out UK headline tour, which kicked off at London's O2 Academy, Brixton. Now, Tom is coming to Stowe.

Following the brilliant success of Rain Machine last year and the SOUTHSIDE18 acts featuring Tash Woods (Dylan), who was named best brand new act this October in Music week, we will showcase some of the finest from Stowe as the warm-up acts.

So bring your friends, picnics and best festival vibe, for a night of fine music and fun at SOUTHSIDE20.

As this year, the Headline Act was the Stoics' Choice, their tickets are free. Parents' tickets are £20, whilst family, friends and Old Stoics are £35.

[BOOK ONLINE NOW](#). Tickets are non-transferable

Stowe Parents

Stowe Parents would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and we hope you will find something of interest in our selection of Events for the Lent Term 2020. If you would like to make a booking, please click on your chosen event below and you will be taken through to our online booking page on the [website](#). If you have any queries, please contact stoweparents@stowe.co.uk



Breakfast with Bubbles and Stowe House Tour

Saturday 29 February, 9:30am - £25.00

After breakfast with bubbles in the Blue Room, Stowe House Custodian, Anna McEvoy, invites you to join her for a guided tour of the mansion, looking at the historical and restoration stories behind the gilded doors. With 15 years of experience working at Stowe, Anna says she still learns something new about the House every day and is looking forward to sharing with you some of the more unknown and quirky stories behind this incredible building. Anna's expert knowledge of the mansion's hidden secrets means that her tours are always fascinating.



Purdey & Sons

Wednesday 12 February, 11am - £37.50

Located in London's Mayfair, James Purdey & Sons is a British gunmaker specialising in high-end bespoke sporting shotguns and rifles. Purdey holds three Royal Warrants of appointment as gun and rifle makers to the British and other European royal families. The current waiting list for a Purdey is 12 years!

Join us on an exclusive tour of this British institution, covering not only the business but also the story behind its historic building, Audley House. After the tour, take a short walk to the fabulous Browns Mayfair for a two-course lunch with a glass of wine followed by coffee.



Aston Martin Works

Thursday 12 March, 10:30am

10.30am Tour and Lunch - £40.00

2.15pm Tour and Lunch - £40.00

Enjoy a private tour around the Buckinghamshire workshops of this iconic brand and get an insight into the immaculate craftsmanship, precision and quality techniques that go into every Aston Martin. The tour will focus primarily on the heritage of the brand taking in workshops for both modern and heritage vehicles.

We will be running two tours, one before lunch and one after. The tour will last approximately 1 hour. Both groups will meet at The Swan at Salford for a two-course lunch with a glass of wine in our own private dining room. The Swan at Salford is an attractive Edwardian pub in a lovely village setting, a short drive from the Aston Martin factory, near Newport Pagnell.



Parents' Prayer Meeting

On the Friday of each Exeat and Half Term from 11.00am to 12 noon, Stowe parent, Caroline Bewes, will lead Parents and Staff in prayer for the School, Stoics, Staff and any other specific events or services happening in that Term. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Music Schools' Library. Please email [Caroline](#) or the [Revd Tim Mullins](#) for more information.



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