

Stowe mail

V 12 ISSUE 4
11 DECEMBER 2020
NEWS FROM STOWE



FROM THE HEAD

It's not just Christmas which is nearly here, the end of the year is fast approaching. No one can pretend that 2020 has been easy: the unwelcome appearance of a novel coronavirus in the early spring has caused nearly 62,000 deaths in the UK alone, two lockdowns (and counting), physical and psychological hardship and an unprecedented escalation of the national debt in peacetime.

Amid the normal stress of preparing for Christmas, we have a regionally differentiated approach with different tiers of restrictions: I am genuinely sympathetic if you are reading this in Kent, the North-East, North-West, Yorkshire and the Humber or the Midlands. There is disillusion as a result of promises quickly made, yet impossible to keep; expectations inflated for short-term lift, but resulting in long-term disappointment. Yet, amid all this gloom, there is the uplifting Christmas message of truth, light and love.

We have seen extraordinary courage and generosity as Stoics and their families volunteered at food banks, helped elderly neighbours and undertook innumerable challenges to raise funds for charities (including sending over 400 shoe-boxes filled with presents for children in Bulgarian orphanages and Christmas hampers for local families struggling to make ends meet). The nativity story is a narrative of gifts - gold, frankincense and myrrh, the original, archetypal, luxury presents. But more important still is the gift of the life of a child, the gift of a God who comes to us in humility as the Christ-child born in a manger, a trough to hold cattle fodder, a striking symbol of poverty: God became Man, the Word became Flesh and the world witnessed the transformational power of unconditional love.

As we reflect on a term which has presented more than its fair share of challenges, we should give thanks for the gifts of friends and families and the community bonds which bind us together as a school. From 1 January 2021, Swanbourne and Winchester House will join the Stowe Group of Schools and we cannot wait to share our resources and welcome teachers and prep school children to our events. It is not an exaggeration to say that the formation of the Stowe Group is the most significant strategic decision taken since the formation of the partnership with the National Trust in 1990.

While this term has seen disruption and disappointment, Stoics have enjoyed rugby, hockey, basketball, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrianism and beagling, with cricket played on the South Front

until the end of October. In spite of the restrictions and the cancellation of fixtures, sports coaches have improvised creatively by introducing Gaelic football and embracing the advantages of co-education by running mixed sessions of netball, hockey and lacrosse. We even managed to organise the whole-school cross-country run on Saturday 17 October and new course records were set. The golf course is an unqualified success and the Laddie Lucas Golf Competition on Friday 16 October was one of the highlights of the term. Things almost seemed "normal" on the final Saturday of term with superbly competitive rugby matches played on the North Front and the girls' 1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI and U16A hockey teams returning victorious from their fixtures against Bloxham.

The penultimate week of term saw the production of *The Coram Boy* with a cast of over 60 enthusiastic and talented actors telling a compelling story in socially distanced bubbles in front of a grateful audience starved of live theatre since the middle of March. Concerts were performed online, attracting far bigger audiences than our performance spaces can usually accommodate. Chapel has continued unimpeded, although the lack of congregational singing is sorely missed. We even held our first ever open air Armistice Day Service for the whole school on the North Front on 11 November: a truly moving and memorable event.

Stoics have adapted admirably to the mantra of "hands, face and space", showing good humour, tolerance and understanding as we adjusted every aspect of school life to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. Amid all this, the prefects launched the second Stoic Charter in which Stoics pledge to aspire to excellence, abide by the school rules, respect the rights of teachers and contribute constructively to school life by becoming Change Makers and supporting initiatives such as Change 100.

"The Christmas message is that we should not be afraid, there is always hope, goodness will prevail."

During times of hardship and suffering anguished men and women often ask: where is God? The answer is that God is with us as a fellow-sufferer, an infant refugee who escaped a murderous tyrant. The Christmas message is that we should not be afraid, there is always hope, goodness will prevail. As the poet Robert Southwell wrote 400 years ago:

All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake:
For in this weak unarmed wise,
The gates of hell he will surprise.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



MUSIC AT STOWE

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once remarked that “without music, life would be a mistake”. Early in the pandemic, it seemed as though we may get to experience this “mistake” with the total closure of the live music industry. However, even in these most challenging of times, music as an art form has transcended the difficulties faced in our presently restricted existence and has brought joy to the lives of many. It is with great pride that I have witnessed the resilience and togetherness with which Stoic musicians have set about continuing their musical endeavours this term, and it has been a great privilege to oversee the fantastic range of music making undertaken by our pupils.

Since the Half Term break, and the realisation that our concert plans for November were no longer viable during the second lockdown, we have set out to create video performances of the highest order to provide Stoics with the opportunity to showcase their talents to the whole School community in a way not previously attempted. The process began with a Lunchtime Concert recording featuring solo performances put together by our Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew. Following on from this, we released our planned Soloists’ Concert as a video featuring over 20 pupils performing music from a wide range of different styles and genres. Both these initial videos provided a great platform to our soloists and have been extremely well received.

Our planned Ensembles’ Concert, due to take place on Wednesday 25 November, gave us the opportunity to become somewhat more creative with our filming. Instead of producing the event as one long video, we decided to create three distinct films representing different aspects of Stowe’s musical life. The first of these offerings featured music from within the spiritual heart of the School, the magnificent Chapel building. In the second, we made use of our outstanding, purpose-built Uglend Auditorium in the Chung Music School. We concluded the series with a trip to the resplendent Marble Hall,

a rare opportunity to use this glorious space for music making. These three films, as well as the aforementioned Lunchtime Concert and Soloists’ Concert, are all available to watch on Stowe TV and I encourage everyone to view the exceptional efforts of Stowe pupils and Staff. None of these filmed ‘concerts’ would have been possible without the help of Jonathan Glynn-Smith, and our Studio Manager Ben Weston. They have both demonstrated their indefatigable nature through long hours of filming and editing, and I am extremely grateful for all their help and expertise in making this project a reality.

We are now looking forward to next term and with the anticipated arrival of a vaccine for Covid-19, we are all hopeful that even more music making will be able to happen. Current plans include a dedicated concert for our talented Music Award Holders, an Orchestral Concert, and our annual Open Mic Evening. With a little bit of luck, these events will be able to proceed in a more familiar fashion. However, we will continue to explore recording opportunities off the back of the outstanding productions that were produced this term.

Music has always had a very special way of bringing people together. Indeed, the renowned Oxford academic Richard Dawkins stated the following, “A quartet knowing not a word of each other’s languages can sit down together and make beautiful music. How come musical notation is so much more universal than language? We can’t even agree on a standard for electric plugs. Or drive on the same side of the road. Why music?”. There is no easy answer to this question, but what I can say with confidence is that the bond formed between Stowe musicians when they “sit down together and make beautiful music”, transcends language, age, and background, and gloriously illustrates the finest characteristics of our community.

Craig Greene, Director of Music





CORAM BOY REVIEW

In a year of lockdown, where Covid-19 has inflicted such a brutal blow on the Arts and our ability to simply have a 'night out' - it was a rare and wonderful privilege to watch the opening night of *Coram Boy*. And what tonic it was for culture deprived eyes!

Perhaps it was a brave choice of a play, one not instantly recognisable to the audience, but with it came maturity and thought that felt new in the 'School Play' genre. *Coram Boy* tells the story of 'foundling' children in the 18th Century and, although fictional, is rooted in a history that comes very close to home. The Coram Hospital, a real-life haven for abandoned children, was founded in 1741 and 2nd Earl Temple - who built so much of Stowe - was the Vice President between 1760 and 1768.

Bringing the story closer to home, 'cut scenes' were beautifully shot and filmed in the grounds of Stowe which brought a real sense of the time and a chance for the cast to display their acting skills for the camera rather than a live audience. Filmed by Ablinq - Will Berner (Chatham 11) - these brought beautiful filmic context to the play and were smoothly and confidently integrated on stage.

The story was capably acted by the whole cast, with some notable and brilliant performances that helped bring considerable emotion to the tragic story being told. The darkness brought by Marlow Turner (Upper Sixth, Cobham) as Otis and by Finn Tyson (Lower Sixth, Winton) as Mr Gaddarn gave the whole play real drama from which to hang the sad tales of the young foundlings. These 'villains' were well-balanced by the heroes of Thomas and Alex who were played by a number of actors at various stages of their lives.

Felicity Holmes (Upper Sixth, West) and Camille Gibson (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) both played Mrs Lynch with a strength and confidence that made her utterly convincing. The difficult role of Melissa was played by Grace Reilly (Third Form, Cheshire), Martha Blake (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Poppy Baker (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) who artfully depicted the lack of choices for young girls at the time.

The roles of Toby and Aaron, the two young 'foundlings' who misfortune and - thankfully - salvation we follow, had very challenging depth which was well handled by James Smith (Third Form, Winton) and Julian Smith (Third Form, Grenville). James Smith in particular was telling a very difficult tale of maltreatment and exploitation and was well cast to bring a strong sense of an abused angel.

Like all great stories there is a happy ending, the reunion of young children back with estranged parents and loving homes, which brought a rush of endorphins and tweaked my tear ducts! Both experiences that were built on the strong foundations of the well-acted and emotionally difficult themes that the play had taken the audience through.

So finally (and perhaps fittingly), to return to Poppy Baker, who ended the play beautifully with a wonderful solo, which gave me a moment to digest a powerful and emotional story which - although is rooted in the earliest years of Stowe House - addressed real issues of privilege and misfortune of birth - which are just as relevant today.

Charlie Clare, Development Manager



RACING



Trennon Bettany (Lower Sixth, Grafton) has just finished his maiden year racing in the Ginetta G40 Junior series, which forms part of the British Touring Car Championship. It's Trennon's dream to one day race in the Le Mans 24-hour drive and he is already on the highly-competitive path towards either Formula One, World Endurance Championship or British Touring Car Championship.

How did you start racing?

My parents bought me a kart for my sixth birthday and by the age of nine, I was representing South Africa in the Rok International Finals held at Lake Garda in Italy. I was racing four years above my age.

Tell us about the Ginetta G40 Junior Series.

The races take place at iconic circuits including Silverstone and Brands Hatch competing nose to tail at speeds of up to 110mph! It's featured live on ITV 2 and 4 with an audience of 90 million viewers worldwide.

How did you get on?

Having spent lockdown at home in South Africa I started the series from behind, with the disadvantage of zero testing, compared to everyone else. Sometimes my first sight of a new track was on the race weekend itself. It was a huge learning curve, but I managed to progress steadily forwards through the season, finishing 10th as my best, and running as high as 5th in one of my races, so I am extremely proud of my achievements in my rookie season. I am known for daring driving and my exciting overtaking moves.

Why compete in the Ginetta G40 Junior Series?

If I can achieve top 10 in the 2021 series I will be well on the way to my dream.

I have also learnt a great deal this year, through attending TV interviews and doing social media, studying technical data with my driver coaches, working with my mechanics and from just being part of such a major event.

What's next?

My family have always been a great support but it is very much their philosophy that I make it on my own. Therefore, I am looking for co-sponsors for next season and have prepared a document on sponsorship opportunities along with my PR team, in the hope that Stowe parents or their businesses would be interested in supporting me. I carried the Stowe logo on my car this year and the School got a mention many times by the TV commentators, who I speak to after every race.

If you are interested in sponsoring Trennon please take a look at his [brochure](#).





CCF COMPETITION

Monday 7 December, the last CCF activity afternoon of term, saw settled bands of fog provide an eerie setting, as the pupils headed in the direction of the Temple of Venus (old golf course) to take part in the Christmas Inter-Services Section Competition. This year, Covid-19 has delayed the traditional Tug of War Competition, but it will be back, along with the giant Toblerone.

Fourth and Fifth Form Cadets from Army, Navy and RAF Sections combined, in year group sections, rotated round six five-minute stands, designed to be active, fun and to build team work. CCF Staff and Sixth Form NCOs ran the stands, briefing and marking each section's efforts, as they came through.

The Spider's Web stand involved a different Cadet getting through a different sized gap in the web without touching the wire. This was found to be harder in practice than theory and it would be fair to say that some teams designed rather more effective strategies than others. There was an impressive range of scores.

The Stretcher Race provided the opportunity to build an improvised stretcher to move a casualty discovered in an area 50m to the front. The task was to safely extract the casualty a further 50m on, in the shortest, safest manner.

The Atom Bomb Pipe Run involved discovering the most efficient technique to transfer dangerous material (well, tennis balls) without touching them or dropping them, over a 10m distance using half guttering, pipes and boards, into a safe area. Some brilliant techniques were used, giving some Sections a real edge.

The Military Knowledge stand gave a slightly unfair advantage to the Fifth Form Sections, and demonstrated CCF value added knowledge! There were some fascinating explanations for what SAS and VC stood for. Kim's Game tested memory of many objects and teams used varied methods to remember everything on the ground.

A Map Reading and First Aid knowledge stand tested Cadets on quick-fire knowledge, answering as many map and first aid related questions as quickly possible. Congratulations must go to the Geography Department!

The final Stand was a Mini Obstacle Course, complete with scramble net. Not one Cadet hesitated before launching themselves onto the wet, cold grass as they leopards crawled as quickly as they could through it and to the obstacles beyond. Cadet CSM Bursnall (Upper Sixth, Grafton), with suitably festive headwear, was on hand to disentangle (the many) Cadets whose buttons got caught on the net!

CCF's newest addition to the canine team, Cadet Pickle, (C/Sgt Abbey's puppy) was on hand to observe and cheer the efforts of Cadets. His drill needs a little work, but he is 'under training'.

Results: in third place was 3 Section (a Fourth Form Section who deserve special mention as the best Fourth Form Section). Second place was awarded to 1 Section. Congratulations to 2 Section, the overall winners, comprised of L/Cpls Emily Sutton (Fifth Form, Queen's), Hannah Bewes (Fifth Form, Queen's), Benjamin Anderson (Fifth Form, Temple), Finn Fagan (Fifth Form, Chatham), James Gray (Fifth Form, Temple), Marco Mykhalus (Fifth Form, Walpole), Paddy Potts (Fifth Form, Chandos), Max Burlingham (Fifth Form, Walpole), and Cadets Daniel Boardman (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Angus Kennedy (Fifth Form, Temple).

It was a fun way to end a rather different Michaelmas Term and a joy for me, personally, to be back at Stowe. With best and safest Christmas wishes from the CCF team to all Stowe Staff and pupils.

Lt Col Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander



INTER-HOUSE HOCKEY



SENIORS
NUGENT



SENIORS
CHESHIRE

The girls' Inter-House Hockey took place across a number of days in November. Sporting events have been few and far between this term because of Covid-19, so it was fantastic to see so many involved in this action-packed tournament.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

**CLICK BELOW TO READ
THE FULL MATCH REPORTS**

- SENIORS - WINNERS - NUGENT
- FIFTH FORM - WINNERS - QUEEN'S
- FOURTH FORM - WINNERS - CHESHIRE
- THIRD FORM - WINNERS - CHESHIRE



SENIORS
LYTTELTON



FIFTH FORM
NUGENT



FOURTH FORM
NUGENT



FOURTH FORM
CHESHIRE



FIFTH FORM
LYTTELTON



THIRD FORM
CHESHIRE



THIRD FORM
STANHOPE



THIRD FORM
NUGENT



THIRD FORM
LYTTELTON



THIRD FORM
QUEEN'S

CAREERS



Careers in Journalism

BEN HUNTE - "BE NICE BUT HUSTLE HARD"

In the Careers Department's penultimate talk of the year, Olivia Omotajo (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Keira West (Upper Sixth, West) interviewed Ben Hunte on his career in journalism and how he has led the BBC's investigations into LGBTQ issues in the UK and globally. As a journalist and presenter, Ben Hunte is the BBC's first LGBT Correspondent, reporting on stories surrounding sexuality and gender. In July, Ben took the top spot of The Guardian and DIVA Magazine's Pride Power List 2020.

Since starting the role in April 2019, Ben has uncovered how the UK government quietly axed LGBT anti-bullying projects in schools; he exposed Poland's 'LGBT Free Zones'; he revealed how British LGBT people are still under attack and failed in 2020, and he investigated how Black male victims of sexual abuse are 'ignored' by the government. His investigation into the government failing to record LGBT suicides led to policy change. Whilst fronting a season of coverage celebrating 50 years since the Stonewall Riots, Ben broke the news of HRH Prince William supporting a potential LGBT royal. Ben's digital films have been seen by millions, with topics ranging from men feeling 'too ugly' to be gay, to racism within the LGBT dating scene.

As one of the BBC's youngest correspondents, Ben's journalism has already been nominated for awards, including by the British Journalism Awards, Royal Television Society, PinkNews and British LGBT Awards. In 2019 he was awarded an 'Alumni Laureate Award' by the University of Nottingham, where he studied a Neuroscience degree on a full scholarship. Prior to this role, in 2018, Ben launched and presented What's New, the BBC's first TV programme and digital service for children in Africa.

After Ben's whirlwind tour of his time at university studying medicine, early career with Google and his careers so far with the BBC, Olivia and Keira asked him a range of questions regarding LGBTQ issues in the UK, schools and in higher education. Dr West asked Ben about sourcing internships in media.

Questions from students included: Do you think the binary structure we live in is a result of imperialism? Since in some cases, most jobs are succeeded in with being closeted, should we have laws against outing another LGBT individual in workspaces? Or should there be tighter laws on treatment of LGBT co-workers in office spaces? Do you think being LGBT+ is only seen as a 'commodity' or 'decoration' for diversity in work spaces? How has being black British and LGBTQ affected your treatment in journalism compared to a White LGBTQ member? Do you think the use of the correct pronouns is important?

To hear the answer to these questions and more, please see the recording of the careers talk [here](#).

Olivia Omotajo (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) & Keira West (Upper Sixth, West)



WDSO



The Marble Hall is the magnificent centrepiece of Stowe House and is the venue for our final video of ensemble music making for 2020. Stowe musicians have been on a journey throughout the term, learning to adapt to the challenging circumstances that we all face, and rising to the challenges presented by filming and recording music. In this collection of ensemble performances, we mix the reflective *Andante Festivo* by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, with the jubilation of Mozart's ever-endearing *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. The video culminates with a nod to the festive season by featuring a performance of *The Rose* from Ola Gjeilo's *Winter Songs*. This beautiful and lyrical music is a fine way to conclude our series of ensemble performances this term. My thanks go to Jonathan Glynn-Smith and Ben Weston for their tireless work in producing these **three ensemble films**, and to all Stoics, and members of Staff who have contributed to the performances.

Additionally, we are releasing a final Lunchtime Concert of term alongside the aforementioned ensemble video. The Lunchtime Concert series, capably organised by Mr Andrew, provides a less formal opportunity for Stoic soloists and ensembles to perform away from the glaring lights of a full-blown evening performance. **This video** features a number of fine performances, and also offers a festive twist!

I very much hope that you enjoy watching these two videos and thank you for supporting music at Stowe.

Craig Greene, Director of Music

Stowe Distance Learners

Covid-19 saw the School having to adapt its practices quite drastically this year, in order to support pupils who were unable to be physically present at Stowe. Their attendance was restricted for a whole range of reasons, from travel difficulties to the need to self-isolate. In order to ensure these Stoics did not miss out on their education, the SDLP programme has grown and adapted over the course of the Michaelmas Term.

Staff have been working hard to ensure all Stoics can still access lessons via Microsoft Teams, with many pupils still being able to get actively involved in lessons. Those working remotely have been involved in class discussions, conducted independent research which has then been shared with the class, and even acted as the judges within whole class debates. It is great to see the Staff and Stoics engage with this programme so well, despite the occasional technical difficulties which may arise.

Alongside this, many of the pupils utilising the SDLP have been holding weekly tutorial meetings with Thalia Felton (Queen's 17), who has been supporting them not only in their academic work, but also pastorally. Some of these pupils have undertaken virtual tours of their houses, and also been involved in tutor-time socials. This has been a great way to ensure those Stoics, who are unable to join us physically, do not miss out on any aspect of School life.

Many of our SDLP pupils have already begun to flourish this academic year, with some great achievements being made;

- Antonia Bartoszewski (Lower Sixth, Nugent) attained an outstanding grade in a Politics essay considering the utility of pressure groups within the UK. Her engagement and focus within lessons are outstanding, especially

considering the internet connectivity issues she has faced at times. This is a true testament to her hard work and diligence.

- A number of new pupils who have not yet been able to arrive at Stowe are already thriving online, taking the challenges of virtual learning in their stride. Sunny He (Third Form, Chatham) has been enjoying German and achieved an 84% on a recent vocab test.
- Dameli Yessey (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) has excelled in Maths, progressing into a higher set where she will continue to be stretched and challenged. Away from the virtual classroom, Dameli is hoping to be involved with Service@Stowe's Community Projects. Over the Christmas break she is hoping to help organise volunteering events at home in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Simon Ren (Third Form, Walpole) is a keen cross-country runner who is itching to join the cross-country and Athletics teams once at Stowe. He has been working hard to maintain his fitness levels whilst away from Stowe, ensuring he continues to progress in his running technique.
- Amber Anderson (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) has been raking in merits across the board. Another fantastic example of an A Level pupil who is putting in the extra efforts to ensure she succeeds in all that she does.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Academic and Pastoral Staff in supporting Stoics accessing their education via the SDLP. Although this has proven to be an additional challenge facing us in 2020, Staff have gone above and beyond to continue to support Stoics across the globe.

Fran Shah, Head of International & Thalia Felton, Pastoral Tutor



SHPT

Temple Room Nears Completion

The work that started in May to bring the Temple Room back to life is nearing completion as shown in the attached image of conservators applying gold leaf to decorative details. The room will be handed back to the School ready for the Lent Term. Work will have been completed by the Stowe House Preservation Trust and contractors Messenger BCR and Chroma Conservation within the allocated budget and on time, but, even more importantly, to a very high quality. Meanwhile, work is underway to carve the replica chimney piece which will be installed over Easter. Working from a computer generated scan, the basic outline has been produced for skilled craftsmen to hand carve the detailed ornamentation as shown in the images. The use of modern technology allied to traditional specialist skills is a remarkable way to produce such a detailed piece and the craftsmen feel that the artists who produced the original in marble are looking over their shoulders as they work. This project is being overseen by Refinery Ltd and local cabinet maker Colin Urch.

Work Starts on the State Dining Room

As the gold leaf sets in the Temple Room, the contractors will move into the State Dining Room, where full conservation of the ceiling will begin on Monday 4 January. On the weekend of Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December, with pupils and Staff safely at home, contractors will move in to start building a complex scaffolding deck above which work will continue while space is left for safe dining below. Work will continue until the end of June and regular updates will be produced for Stowemail. Tours of the work in progress will be arranged, please contact **Nick Morris** to register for a place.

Nick Morris, CEO Stowe House Preservation Trust

Stowe Book Club

It has been a lovely Michaelmas Term in Stowe Book Club. We have had four Upper School members who picked us as their activity. The Book Club meet every Wednesday in the Library and it is a great opportunity for pupils to discover new books and talk about their love of reading whilst enjoying tea and cake. This term the Book Club members picked two books to read as a group, 'The One' by John Marrs and 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig.

Tess Clarke (Upper Sixth, Nugent) reviewed the books...

"'The One' By John Marrs follows five people as they discover who their soulmates are through an app called 'Match Your DNA'. As more is revealed about each character and their 'matches', we find ourselves more invested in each gripping, surprising and dark storyline, and one question arises; would you want to meet your match?"

"'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig follows one woman, suspended between life and death, as she jumps in and out the infinite lives that are held within a library. Matt Haig brings to life the damaging effect of regret, and introduces a new perspective on life; for every opportunity we don't take, a thousand more become available."

Everyone is welcome to join Book Club either on Wednesday for Upper School or Friday for Lower School.

Also, to find out the latest information about what is happening in the Library and what new books have just arrived by follow the Library on Instagram @librarystowe and Twitter @LibraryStowe.

Merry Christmas from Stowe Library.

Lucinda Stockley, Assistant School Librarian



HOCKEY

Stoics win 4 out of 4 matches on Saturday 5 December against Bloxham.
Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



1st XI Girls 2-1 WIN

This was the last match of term and quite possibly, the last ever hockey match for the Upper Sixth. The previous match between the two sides had ended in dramatic fashion with the Stowe girls having to come from 3-0 behind to snatch a late winner.

The match had to start immediately upon arrival to ensure the second slot of matches were able to go ahead before sunset. We had prepared for no warm up and the girls got themselves physically and mentally ready.
[Read more.](#)

2nd XI Girls 5-1 WIN

The second XI girls' hockey team were really looking forward to the match against Bloxham in what has been a challenging season. Earlier in the season we played Bloxham and were very unlucky to lose 1-2. Therefore, the team were very keen to try and turn that result around. The match started very positively for Stowe and following lots of Stowe pressure we were rewarded with a very well-deserved goal from Violet Arkwright (Lower Sixth, Queen's). [Read more.](#)



3rd XI Girls 1-0 WIN

Stowe 3rd XI had an excellent final appearance against Bloxham. They dominated the game and control of the play for the majority of the match, keeping pressure on Bloxham throughout. They had lots of chances at goal in the D, but a strong Bloxham Keeper kept the score 0-0 for the majority of the match saving a dozen of shots on goal. Finally, in the last 30 seconds of the game, Tilly Dubsky (Lower Sixth, Nugent) took a shot at goal then had a checking touch off another stick to beat the keeper and score the game-winning goal. An outstanding game from a committed group of players who have had an enjoyable season of hockey.

U16A Girls 1-0 WIN

Although a different season with minimal matches, the U16s work effort throughout the term has been fantastic and this was evident in their game vs Bloxham. Although, with a slightly slow start, Stowe had the majority of the possession and pressure, but with Bloxham's physical defence they struggled to connect this possession into any real scoring chances and went into the break 0-0. [Read more.](#)





Inter-House Badminton

In the Fourth Form Inter-House competition which took place on Sunday 29 November, Queen's beat Lyttleton 3-0 in the Final of the doubles and Annie Flint (Queen's) beat Ruby Colebrook (Queen's) 21-14 in the singles Final of the girls' competition.

In the boys' competition Cobham beat Chatham 2-1 in the Final of the doubles and Arin Chatsuwon (Grenville) beat Jasper Calkin (Cobham) 21-8 in the singles Final.

In the Fifth Form competition held on Sunday 6 December, Nugent beat Queen's 2-1 and Stanhope 3-0 to win the doubles. In an epic singles Final, Calypso Riviere (Nugent) beat Emily Sutton (Queen's) 21-20.

In the boys' competition, Temple beat Walpole 2-1 in the Final and Oliver Butler (Winton) beat Michael Spencer (Temple) 21-8 in the singles Final.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton



Golf

Stowe's PGA Golf Professional and Head of Golf, Andrew Hancox, has been selected to join a very exclusive group of highly-qualified worldwide golf instructors who will collaborate to form a research panel exploring some of the most innovative and cutting-edge 3D biomechanical analysis of golf swing mechanics, dynamics and kinematics. This ground-breaking research will be carried out in conjunction with world leading golf bio mechanist Dr Mark Bull, with many of the world's leading professional golfers being analysed. Numerous additional case studies will be explored in an attempt to identify key biomechanical patterns across a range of differing swing mechanics and kinematic sequences. Having competed on numerous worldwide professional tours, Andrew is relishing this exciting new venture and will be implementing many of the key findings within the Stowe Golf Academy Programme moving forwards.

Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf

Sport In Brief

Netball

Well done to the 60 Third Formers who played mixed netball on Saturday 28 November. Your behaviour and attitude were outstanding making it a very enjoyable and positive experience for all who took part.

Victoria Dias, Head of Netball

Rugby

It was great to see competitive internal squad matches being played on Saturday afternoon using the new RFU regulations. The rugby coaches wish to praise the commitment, patience and positive attitude maintained in training by all players through this most difficult of seasons.

Grant Seeley, Head of Rugby

Hockey

1st XI Boys' Captain

Rhys Noble (Upper Sixth, Chandos) has been appointed Captain of the boys' 1st XI hockey team for the 2021 Lent Term season. Archie Holmes (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Ned Ellison (Upper Sixth, Bruce) have both been appointed Vice-Captains.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

EQUESTRIAN

On Sunday 1 November, Cecily Holland (Fourth Form, Nugent) took part in the School British Show Jumping. She came third in the 90cm and first in the 100cm. She was absolutely thrilled as this was her first British Show Jumping Competition.

The Equestrian Centre's Virtual Dressage competition on Saturday 7 November, saw Lilly-Rose Tadier-Holtshausen (Third Form, Stanhope) compete for the first time in the Intro C test. For the prelim 7 class the results were first Kitty Scott (Fourth Form, Stanhope), third Libby Hayes (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and fifth Sophie Taylor (Fifth Form, Lyttelton). Bo Jenkins (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) took third place in both the Prelim 18 and the Novice 28 classes.

The Grafton meet took place on Tuesday 8 December and a chilly morning ride was enjoyed by Charlotte Morgan (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Amelia Morgan (Fifth Form, Nugent), Hattie Goodrich (Fifth Form, Nugent), Bo Jenkins, Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Third Form, Stanhope), Cecily Holland (Fourth Form, Nugent), Connie Adams (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Kitty Howden (Third Form, Stanhope), Jemima Howden (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Lucas Stern (Fourth Form, Grenville), Bea Rose (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Freddie Timmis (Fourth Form, Grafton) escorted by Angela Haycock and Catherine Hinton.

Entries are being taken for NSEA competitions for next term. Please see the [website](#) for details.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager



Stowe Sport are pleased to announce the launch of the official Instagram account with the handle **@StoweSports**. This will be used alongside the present **@Stowesport** twitter page to inform parents present and future about everything that goes on under the substantial remit of the Sports Department. Please do follow the accounts for plenty of new content coming over the Lent term!



Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse

MEDICS SOCIETY

On Thursday 12 November, the 2020 Medics Society organised a talk with their first external guest speakers; Dr Sam Adcock, Admissions Tutor and GP and Dr Suzanne Dawson, Admissions Tutor and Consultant Geriatrician of Leicester University. The medical admissions tutors from Leicester University discussed what is to be expected at the MMI's (Multiple Mini Interviews). Every medical school applicant in the UK will go through a series of interviews and even though they vary between universities, they are more or less looking for the same values within each candidate; motivation, resilience and communication skills, amongst many others.

MMI's are becoming increasingly common within medical schools as they test a variety of different skill sets within a short period of time for each candidate. This year, due to extenuating circumstances, many interviews will be held online rather than on the campus of each medical school. Normally the interviews are organised between 5-10 stations designed to test different aspects of your personality and skills. Each station lasts between 7-10 minutes and within it, there may be a scenario where you would be expected to either give an answer, engage in a role play, discuss an ethical scenario or complete maths related questions. All stations are uniquely designed in order to give the opportunity to showcase your different skills. It's important to keep in mind that the interviewers are not trying to catch you out but rather to give you the best opportunity to showcase your skills and mindset. Be prepared to answer questions that test your motivation such as 'Why do you want to study medicine?'

So how can we best prepare? One of the best things you can do is look up topical medical news. BBC Sounds have some really interesting podcasts on medicine and the life as a doctor. The Good Medical Practice Guidelines will provide you with an insight to the values that must be obtained by all

doctors. Research on topical medicine is always valid as you will receive at least one ethical question in your interview. Researching about your university and why it is your university of choice is also an essential. Practice some GCSE maths, as well as your handwriting as they are easy marks that could be your ticket to medical schools and make sure to verbalise your thought process. Practice answering questions and selling yourself. Read through your personal statement and introduce aspects like your work experience and further reading. One of the popular methods of answering your questions is the STARR technique. Situation, Task, Action, Result and Reflection.

During the interview, first impressions are key. Dress smartly and think about your posture, smile and maintain eye contact. Speak with confidence but do not be arrogant. Don't be afraid to pause and think about your answers. Remember each examiner marks you individually and one bad station should not put you off. Lastly, enjoy it!

During the talk, Dr Adcock highlighted that competition for places is fierce, with over 3,000 applications for the 200 spaces available this year on their medical (A100) course. He did highlight that Leicester are willing to consider resit students who have missed their place by a grade. If you are interested in applying to Leicester a full breakdown of how your application is scored and key points to be considered can be found [here](#). Additionally, the talk is available on Stowe's careers VLE.

Our thanks to Dr Adcock and Dr Dawson for their time and sharing their insights on applying to medical school.

Kiera Haines (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)
& Precious Wakhungu (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)

CHANGE 100 AMBASSADORS

Following the official launch of Change 100 in November, we have been elated by the response, not only from Old Stoics and current and former Parents, but from the Stoics themselves. After presenting the mission to each of the Houses over the course of a two-week Change 100 roadshow, the number of Stoics asking how they could help was heartening. So much so, we now have a strong team of Change 100 Ambassadors, spanning across the year groups and who will be vital in helping reach our goal.

We asked them what Change 100 meant to them and some of their responses can be seen below:

Jemima Pearson-Gee (Fourth Form, Nugent)

This project means that future Stoics, with huge potential, will be able to access the incredible opportunities which I am so grateful to have benefitted from, here at Stowe.

Barnaby Peppiatt (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

To me, Change 100 means the opportunity for Stowe to become a more inclusive and diverse community. This venture has the potential to allow Stoics, both present and future, to thrive, and I am excited to see how it will evolve going into the future.

Max James (Fifth Form, Cobham)

Change 100 means a lot to me. Stowe has opened up new opportunities for me both academically and co-curricular wise, and given me the opportunity to study subjects that I didn't know even existed. If it wasn't for Change 100, I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you.

Izzie Selby (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

Change 100 is so important to me because recognising the potential of students and welcoming them to Stowe is an amazing initiative. Coming from a state school has made me incredibly grateful for the opportunities Stowe presents, and I'd love for more pupils to experience what this School has to offer.

Grace Barnett (Fourth Form, Cheshire)

Change 100 means that I can help less fortunate people in the UK and change their lives by giving them the incredible chance to experience Stowe's wide range of opportunities.

Finn Tyson (Lower Sixth, Winton)

At Stowe, we cannot climb the ladder of success without bringing others up along with us. Change 100 means removing barriers for other hard-working, determined pupils giving everyone the opportunity to reach their full potential to improve not only Stowe, but the global community as a whole.

Ben Hartigan (Lower Sixth, Grafton)

Change 100 has the potential to create a work ethic and atmosphere at Stowe that you'd struggle to find anywhere else.

For me, change 100 means using Stowe's excellent resources to help those that are less fortunate than those who are lucky enough to go to such an amazing School. I think it is a tremendous scheme and I am certainly proud to be a part of it.

Arron Quinton, Development Office



Stowe-Daly Virtual Exchange

The second meeting of the Stowe-Daly Virtual Exchange Programme, held on Wednesday 25 November, was used as an opportunity to educate each other upon the history, politics, geography and popular culture of their home nation. Stoics made great use of their academic studies, with pupils providing clear examples and case studies to support their explanations. Mimi Pearson Gee (Upper Sixth, Nugent) provided some great personal examples about how her family celebrates Christmas, which is pretty full on considering her father is a vicar! Grace Hurrell (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) also spoke very eloquently about the geography and geology of the UK, providing some great detail and examples to illuminate her talk. Poppy Goaman (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Amalie Mager (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) provided some insights into UK celebrations and traditional food. However, the description of gravy as being 'brown sauce' perhaps did not make our food sound appealing! Thanassi Ghertzos (Lower Sixth, Chandos) also instigated a great discussion about the history of the UK, and encouraged Dalians to share how their history interlinks with that of Britain.

The Dalians then shared a presentation about India, taking us on a tour of different cities within their nation. Dalians spoke with passion about various cuisines which exist in cities such as Mumbai, including food stuffs such as chole bhature and parathas. They introduced Stoics to other areas of India, such as Rajasthan, and through doing so provided a great account of the artwork and geographical features of the nation. Stoics were then taken on a tour of the Seven Sisters in northern India, and learnt a lot about the tourist industry here, which centres around the wildlife in the area. This all provided a fantastic chance for the pupils to compare and contrast the lifestyles of each country. A discussion into the history between the two nations was then delved into, in order to help consider why these similarities and differences exist.

Alongside the regular meetings, Stoics and Dalians have remained in touch with each other. Emails have been exchanged sharing details about their week, and how they and their families are coping with the preparations for the festive period considering the global political situation.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils

Radio DJ

Araan Sobhan (Fourth Form, Bruce) has been involved in a community-led radio project during lockdown. He and his friends set up a community-run radio station, Sunninghill Radio, and have been broadcasting every Saturday afternoon since the first lockdown began. Araan presents the late afternoon show from 4-6pm and you can tune in using the following [link](#).



Just before Half Term, Araan agreed to present the very first Bruce Radio Show, with the boys and members of the Bruce community choosing their favourite songs for Araan to put together into a show. This was a huge success and so much so that Araan is doing a Christmas special edition this week. He is a natural behind the microphone and we are sure he is destined for a career in radio!

Philip Arnold, Bruce Houseparent

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



This year at Stowe, an Amnesty International youth group has been founded, allowing a small group of Sixth Form Stoics to come together and plan ways to play a role in social activism. Our initial focus is to promote Amnesty International's work in supporting refugees. Our group have also lobbied Members of Parliament about other causes, including writing to Rishi Sunak. We will be continuing this work in the New Year and hope to welcome new members from the Lower School. Our initial focus is inspired by Old Stoic Sir Nicholas Winton's work with the Kindertransport. Making the decision to leave your country to seek a safer life is a hard one, and we hope to raise awareness of this around Stowe. We are also hoping to support other Amnesty International campaigns next term. This activity is open to any Stoic. Please contact **Ms Holloway** for more information.

Ella Wright, (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



A bit of fun in Business

This year, the Upper Sixth BTEC Business pupils have worked hard in preparation for their Finance and Recruitment and Selections units. The group achieved outstanding results in the Lower Sixth which has enabled the majority of the group to be in track for Distinctions or Distinction* (that's up to 56 UCAS points - the same as an A* in the A Level). As a festive reward for their hard work, Mrs Bristow made the Upper Sixth some festive facemasks. As you can see, they are all smiling. Merry Christmas from the Business Department.

Gordon West, Head of Business



The Michaelmas Term saw Stoics, from two Service in Action activities, join forces to support the local community. The Community Project team and the team who support local primary schools, co-ordinated their efforts in order to make Christmas hampers for local vulnerable families.

The two teams held a range of fundraising activities throughout November, including an online auction, a pizza raffle and a candy cane sale. The auction saw Stoics win a range of prizes, such as an ice cream sundae bar and even the chance to be the Head for a Day! Through these efforts, a total of £1,893 was raised. All of this money was used to purchase food items and gifts to place into the Christmas hampers.

The cause was also supported by **Boycott Farm Shop**, who generously donated homemade jams, marmalades, Christmas cake and sweet goodies to be placed into each of the hampers. These items certainly smelt and looked delicious and I am sure will bring joy to the families who receive them.

This was a great combined effort across the School body to support local families in need, and has made a huge difference to over 15 families who ordinarily would struggle greatly at this time of year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ackroyd who worked incredibly hard to not only support Stoics in their fundraising activities, but also ensure that we are able to change the lives of those around us in a meaningful way.

Fran Shah, Deputy Co-curricular Co-ordinator

MOTORCROSS

Noah Cosby (Lower Sixth, Temple) has been riding FMX (Freestyle Motorcross) and he is hoping to take this up professionally when he leaves School. He is already becoming a hit on **Instagram** and includes some of the world's best riders as his followers. Noah was also interviewed by the **Bucks Herald**.

Over lockdown, Noah built an FMX set up which included a 20-foot ramp and a 600-tonne dirt landing. Over the course of about three weeks, he had fully welded together the main structure of the ramp and finished painting it. Whilst making the ramp, he had about 25 lorry loads of earth delivered which then had to be shaped to specific measurements and degrees.

Once the FMX set up was complete, Noah was finally in a position to ride. By the end of the Summer, jumping was second nature and from then on it was just a matter of practicing new tricks over a gap of 75ft. His activities during lockdown can be seen in this **video** and (with the Head's permission) he will continue to practice at weekends.

Brian Hart, Temple Houseparent

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

SOCIAL MEDIA



Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000
f | +44 (0)1280 818181
e | stowemail@stowe.co.uk
w | www.stowe.co.uk

Editorial Team:
Ms Helen Jefferies
Mrs Tori Roddy