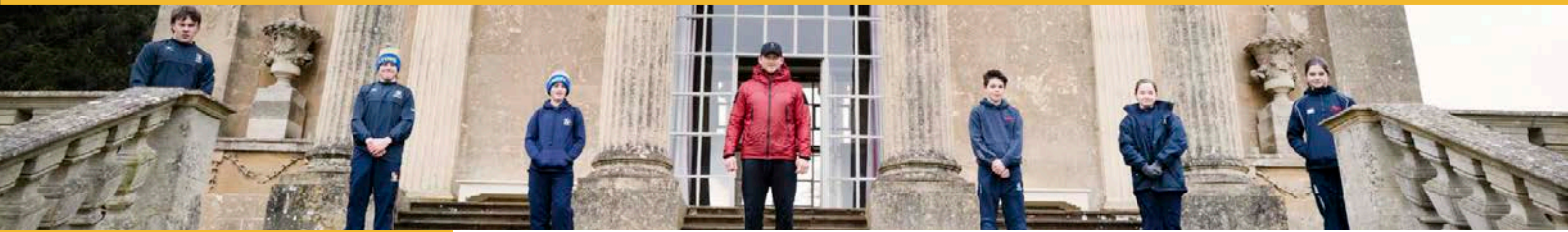


Stowe mail

V12 ISSUE 8
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NEWS FROM STOWE



Welcome to Stowe Dylan Hartley!

The vision for the new Well-Being Centre, opening in the Queen's Temple in September, is to make it a hugely positive space for the promotion of both mental and physical health, and be a place where experts can help Stoics and Staff to build mental and physical resilience.

One expert that we are lucky enough to have as part of the project is Dylan Hartley. Former rugby union player, Dylan played as hooker and Captained Northampton Saints for 10 years. England's most capped hooker of all time, Hartley Captained England to the Grand Slam in 2016, before retiring from professional rugby in 2019.

What is your role within The Stowe Group?

Alongside being an Ambassador for The Stowe Group, my primary role is to mentor pupils who have sporting ambitions. I'll be working with pupils to give advice and support, to develop them and help them achieve (to any level) their sporting goals.

What qualifies you for this role as a mentor?

I left my family and came to England at 16. Life was difficult and I had to work incredibly hard just to get by, and to become and succeed as a professional rugby player. In my relatively short life (I'm 35), I've learnt a lot of hard lessons (experience is a good teacher) and this is transferable in sport. I can't help everyone, but I can always offer my experience if someone needs help.

You had quite a turbulent career in terms of discipline on the field, how have those misdemeanours shaped you?

Over 16 years, playing at the high level I did, I had to play in a certain way to remain successful. I didn't have anyone there for me so I had to trailblaze my own way. I did things how I thought they should be done, in the way that I thought was best. I got into trouble, but I always came back stronger and better, and learnt a lot (including resilience) along the way. I want to use all my experiences to help young people now.

What help could you have done with during your career?

I had no one to mentor me as a Captain. I watched situations, I tried things and I inevitably got things wrong. Being made Captain is scary at the age of 23, when in the team you're trying to lead, you have 35-year-old men who are judging you.

At that time, no one showed me how to speak, what tone to take, how to put across clear concise messaging for the guys to take away, physically how to stand, how to make

myself present and even the impact of my body language. To have had help in showing me all those things would have been invaluable.

You have a desire to help and make people succeed, where has that come from?

As a young player, I gravitated towards the older professionals and they "put an arm around me". They looked after me and I have always wanted to give that support back in return. I've seen so many young academy players gravitating towards me, with the right attitude, humility and respect. I was that kid, and I want to give back what I got.

What has been your involvement so far in the Well-Being Centre and Stowe?

At the moment, I'm just introducing myself by letting pupils know I'm available and an asset for them to use. I believe you have to drive your own career. What's the point in having the facilities, the coach, the nutritionist, the equipment, the sports psychologist etc. if you don't use them? I don't want to have to approach pupils and say, "how are you getting on?". I believe it is their job to come to me. They can ask to simply spend time with me, or they can ask questions such as "how do I prepare for a game?" or ask for advice on a situation "we've just lost a match...", then I can work with them.

What are two important characteristics that helped to make you successful?

The first is commitment. At the age of 12, I was made to sign a contract by one of my first coaches, to agree to turn up for training, because if we didn't turn up it was pointless. As such, we all turned up and we were a really successful team. That instilled in me, that if you commit to something you need to see it through. You can't just dip in and out, because other people rely on you, including the coaches who are giving up their time.

The second is resilience. By failing, making mistakes, and experiencing set-backs, we learn resilience and it teaches us to come back stronger.

In another lifetime, if you could be as successful as you have been at rugby, what career would you have liked?

I have a passion for landscaping. I built my school schedule, so that I could spend as much time out of the classroom as possible! Therefore, amongst other things, I studied horticulture at school and developed a passion for landscaping. Being here at Stowe is truly amazing, and at some point, I really want to have a good walk around.

I also enjoyed ABT (Adventure Based Tourism). ABT is a New Zealand thing. It involved studying rock climbing, free diving, snorkelling and hiking. The course then culminated in flying to an island in a four-seater plane, pitching a tent and surviving on what fish we could catch for a few days! Much more fun than sitting in a classroom all day!

Finally, as a professional sportsman, you will have experienced a huge number and variety of match day teas. What was your favourite?

Despite all the amazing post-match high-quality meals that I've eaten, I'd have to go back to the "bring a plate" teas that we used to have at school. We'd each bring something in from home that our mums had either baked or picked up in the local store. The result was a great mismatched buffet of food (pastries, sandwiches, cakes etc.) that we'd tuck into. I'll never forget the hot pikelets (crumpets) - definitely the best!

We would like to thank Dylan for his time and look forward to working with him.



DRAMA

The Fifth Form performed their GCSE practical exam this week, bringing to life extracts from a range of contemporary and 20th Century texts:

Emilia - Emilia Bassano is rumoured to have been the 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets. In 1611, she penned the words 'Men who forget they were born of women, nourished of women and if they were not of the means of women, they would be quite extinguished out of the world, and a final end of them all; do like vipers deface the wombs wherein they were bred.' These words to her 'Vertuous Reader' were part of a radical, feminist and subversive volume of poetry, one of the first published collections written by a woman in England.

Performed by: Sophie Taylor (Lyttelton), Ruby Cooke (Lyttelton), Alice Butler (Lyttelton) and Isabella Elliott (Stanhope).

Hymns - Four young men reunite to mourn the loss of a close friend. Hymns tackles male suicide, as a brooding animosity emerges from beneath the bravura of the once tight-knit bunch. Their struggle to deal with grief and guilt brings them to breaking point where the truth lies waiting.

Performed by: Harry Taylor (Temple), Arthur Koomen (Chandos), Max James (Cobham) and Billy Brodrick (Winton).

God's Official - God's Official by Robert Farquhar is a hyperactive tale of loyalties and injustice. Devastated that a dodgy refereeing decision has condemned their beloved football team to relegation, Cliff and Degsy seek retribution by abducting the referee.

Performed by: Noah Cowan (Chatham) and Arman Choudhury (Bruce).

Road - Jim Cartwright's seminal play gives expression to the inhabitants of an unnamed northern road in Eighties Britain. Now a piece of history, the popularity of Road, as well as its resonances with subsequent generational hardships, has persisted.

Performed by: Henry Thornton-Izzard (Winton), Finn Fagan (Chatham) and Clara Capella (Stanhope).

Girls Like That - When a naked photograph of Scarlett goes viral, she becomes the centre of attention. While rumours run wild, Scarlett just stays silent. Evan Placey's urgent and explosive play explores the pressures on young people today and is topical in the wake of the Everyone's Invited movement.

Performed by: Alexandra Aswani (Nugent), Laura Lempriere-Johnston (Nugent), Isabella Reed (Cheshire), Lilly King (Stanhope) and Isabella Pratap (Nugent).

Let The Right One In - In Jack Thorne's adaptation of Swedish writer Lindqvist's novel of the same name, Oskar, lonely and bullied lives with his single mother near to some woods, where one day he meets a girl, Eli, who unbeknownst to him is a centuries old vampire. The pair strike up an unlikely, if doomed, friendship, where Oskar begins to find a sense of self and acceptance before the horror builds.

Performed by: Charlie Cole (Walpole) and Alexandra Besedovska (Stanhope) and lighting by Maximilian Stevens (Temple).

Chatroom - Enda Walsh emphasizes the dangers of the social network when teenagers meet in a virtual chatroom to share their issues and to express their thoughts about the world. Conversations range in subject from Britney Spears, to Willy Wonka and ultimately suicide. A clever, funny, discomforting piece that makes audiences think.

Performed by: Hugo Comerford (Chatham).

DNA - Dennis Kelly's play tells the nightmarish horror story of a group of teenagers who do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. When they find that their cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their once fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right?

Performed by: Holly Brown (Lyttelton), Nikita Nedoshovenko (Walpole), Honor Macdonald (Stanhope), Stepan Muravskiy (Bruce), Imran Tinubu (Bruce) and Oliver Butler (Winton).

Tusk Tusk - The title is an oblique reference to Nellie the Elephant who packs her trunk and trundles off to the circus. The elephant in this particular room is a mother who goes AWOL, leaving her three young children to fend for themselves. The kids can't mention this to anyone as they are on the 'at risk' register and fear being taken into care. And so, they live off Chinese takeaways and cider. A remarkably funny as well as exceptionally touching play by Polly Stenham.

Performed by: Ruairi Massie (Walpole), Fadi Zaku (Bruce) and Ava Hill (Lyttelton).

100 - This play centres on the afterlives of four characters who find themselves in a mysterious void. Intriguingly, they are given the challenge to select one moment from their lives in which to live for eternity. The play then follows their individual memories as they search for self-knowledge.

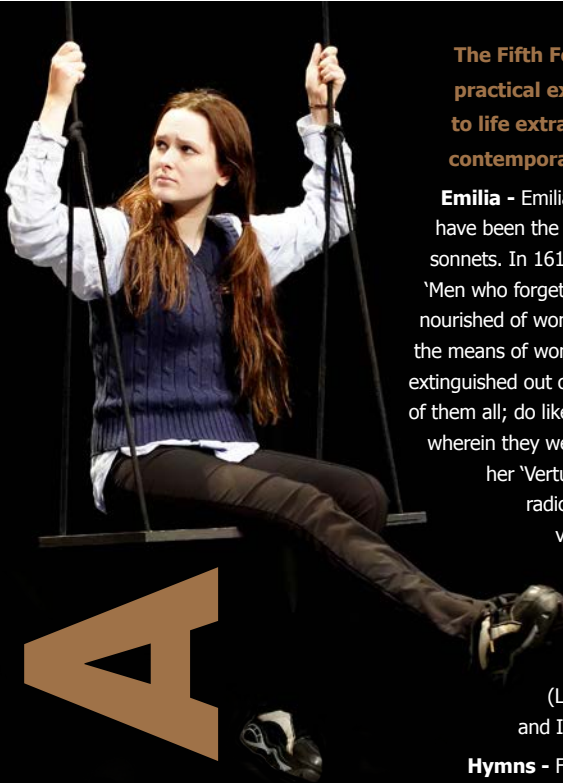
Performed by: Skyla Wakeman (Lyttelton), Nathaniel Meens (Winton), Estella Taylor (Stanhope) and Giselle Atkinson-Hieber (Nugent).

The Queen Must Die - On the eve of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, a papier-mâché statue of Queen Elizabeth II stands in Margaret Chivers' living room in preparation for the Jubilee parade. Two factions converge on the house with the aim of vandalising the statue in this comedy by David Farr.

Performed by: Lila Hill (Lyttelton), Sienna Bettany (Stanhope) and Beatrice Webb (Queen's).

Despite a disrupted GCSE journey, where two terms of drama were taught online (not easy!) the pupils captured so much of the heart of these plays and gave heartfelt, compelling performances that remind us all of the value of theatre.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



LSAS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Alongside work during lockdown which was designed to stretch and challenge our Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS), we have also been analysing the ways we can reduce our carbon footprint both here at Stowe and at home.

Initially, with Geography teacher Miss Rowley, LSAS members investigated a number of areas in School which have an impact upon the environment. These included looking closely at food waste in the canteen; the School water supply and even products sold in the School Shop. Generally, the picture painted by this research was positive and we were impressed by the way that, behind the scenes, the School was taking the subject very seriously.

We also watched "ex-President" Al Gore in action as he went about his quest to keep as many people as possible informed about climate change and its consequences in the excellent Truth to Power (Inconvenient Truth 2) documentary. This film looks at the global picture and pays close attention to how economic factors inevitably play a big part in how a country tackles (or fails to tackle) the problem. The film ends, however, with a particularly powerful inspirational speech when Gore links his campaign with the other great world-altering movements of the past: anti-apartheid; women's suffrage; civil and gay rights; the abolition of slavery.

Since thinking about both the local and the wider picture, LSAS members have become far more informed about what could be done to reduce carbon emissions and how to protect the environment from future man-made ravages.

Here are a few ideas suggested by LSAS, based on their studies which are both practical and significant when it comes to ways in which we can, as Gore puts it, "make a difference."



AT HOME



Pay that little bit extra for energy from renewable sources.



Use public transport or create your own car pools etc..



Electric cars are definitely the way forward and, from 2030, you will not be able to buy a petrol-fuelled car



Take the time to check ALL packaging for recycling information etc.



TURN OFF LIGHTS!



AT SCHOOL



Using a 30-second timer or similar, every time you take a shower would reduce water usage.



Do not take too much food when self-serving in the canteen, especially as almost food at School comes from local and sustainable sources anyway.



Note for teachers - limit the waste paper created in class.

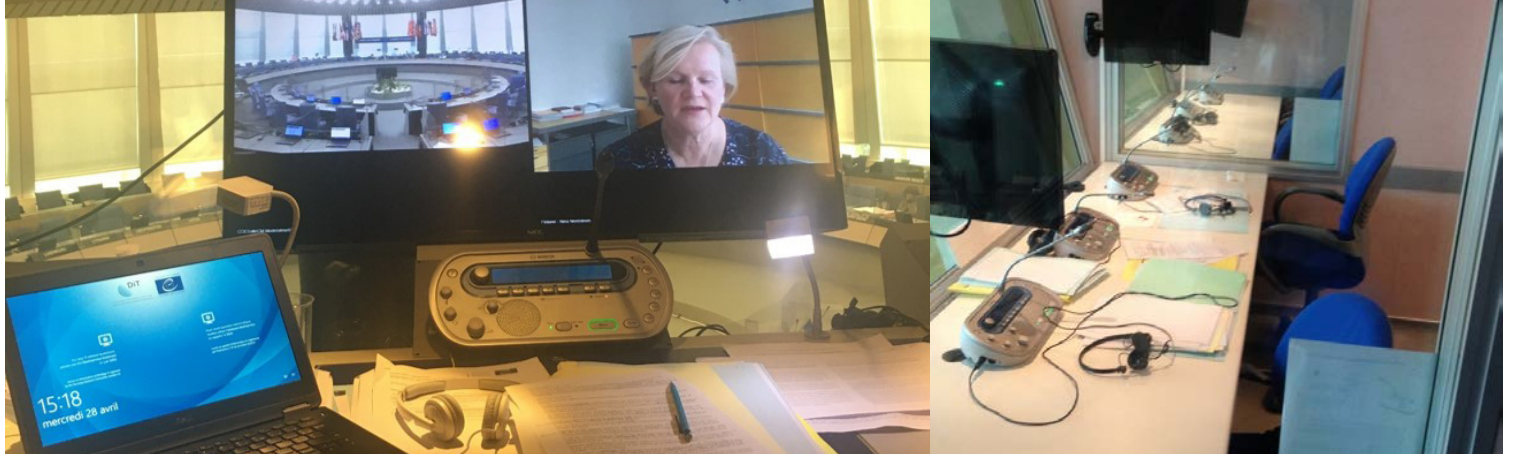


TURN OFF LIGHTS!

There are obviously many other things we all need to do to protect the environment and reduce our reliance upon fossil fuels, but the good news is that LSAS learned that Stowe is currently making every effort to decrease its own carbon footprint and that projects like this are going to lead to more progress being made in this area in the future.

This term, LSAS are finding out more about other cultures with Ms Pickering Polláková - with particular reference to Japan and, after Half Term, will be exploring Open Spaces with Ms Stafford-Smith and Ms Holloway.

Andrew Webber, English Department



Languages Society

After another lockdown, the Languages Society met together for the first time this term on Wednesday 28 May, to listen to Chloé Chénétier-Kipping streaming live from her office in Strasbourg, where she has been working for the last 15 years as a conference interpreter for the Council of Europe. Chloé's career began after she graduated from the ESIT (École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs) in 1998. She then went on to work at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, before settling for a more "quiet" life in Strasbourg, where she has not only been working as a conference interpreter but also as a teacher, forming the new generation of interpreters.

Whilst Chloé spoke passionately about the highs of the job, not least the variety of topics you encounter but also the travel opportunities (although Covid-19 has changed her working conditions dramatically) - she also made it very clear that this job was not for the faint-hearted. If you want to succeed in the world of interpreting, you need nerves of steel, an ability to withstand a high level of stress and a wide range of interests, as you may be interpreting an oncology conference in the morning and a washing machine congress in the afternoon.

Her talk was fascinating and opened our eyes to this, in many ways, strange world, which has little to do with translating but rather with communication and human interaction. Indeed, as an interpreter you only work with the spoken word - hearing one language in one ear and speaking in another simultaneously. You don't have much time to think and must try to understand what delegates say, even if it doesn't make much sense, as many don't speak in their first language.

We are immensely grateful to Chloé for having taken the time out of her busy schedule to address the Language Society members and are now looking forward to our next big event: The Languages Society Open Mic night on Wednesday 19 May. This event is open to anyone at Stowe keen to take to the stage and sing a song, rap, slam or recite a piece of poetry in a foreign language. I look forward to hearing from you!

Alice Tearle, Head of the Languages Facility

Stowe-Daly Virtual Exchange

Prior to Christmas, the Virtual Exchange between Stowe and Daly College (Indore, India) had begun with some great success. Unfortunately, the nature of the pandemic and ever-changing lockdowns saw the third part of the exchange postponed time after time. Despite the increasing struggles facing India as a nation, Dalians showed great determination in ensuring the final exchange meeting continued to go ahead.

The meeting took place on Thursday 28 April, seeing pupils present 'A day in the life of a Stoic/Dalian' to their partners. The Stoics presented well, with Poppy Goaman (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Amalie Mager (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) highlighting the differences between a Lower School and a Sixth Form pupil. They recognised that although being in the Sixth Form comes

with luxuries such as alcoholic drinks at StoweBucks, it comes at the price of much higher expectations both academically and in House. Grace Hurrell (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) then shared her thoughts on how the experience within Stowe differs for pupils who are part of the new Day Houses, suggesting that the days can be much longer due to the need to travel to and from School. However, the benefit of being able to return to your own bed at night makes it all worth it! Thanassi Ghertsos (Lower Sixth, Chandos) highlighted his experiences of Stowe through the eyes of an international pupil, making the Dalians aware of the challenges this can pose with staying in touch with friends and family. Finally, Mimi Pearson-Gee (Upper Sixth, Nugent) illuminated the Dalians with her role as Head Girl, explaining the key responsibilities of this, and the reasons she enjoys the position so much.

The Dalians then shared their experience of life at school, suggesting the opportunities within the two schools are very similar. The Co-Curricular and Sports Programmes are a key element in both institutions. Alongside this, pupils in both schools sit IGCSE exams in a number of subjects. The pupils took the opportunity to share their knowledge within academic areas and support each other with their studies. Although the two schools do have similarities in their aims and the shape of the school day, there are key differences in regards to the timings of different activities throughout the day, and also the types of co-curricular programmes available. It certainly opened our eyes into how we could begin to incorporate some of the wonderful things Daly provide, into Stowe in the future!

All parties involved thoroughly enjoyed the process, and have gained a lot from this experience. We do hope we are able to maintain our links with Daly, and are beginning to consider how we can begin to expand our Virtual Exchange Programme to other nations around the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Daly community whilst their nation undergoes such a turbulent time, and we do hope we are able to maintain and foster our partnership further in the future.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils





DofE

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessed Expedition

On Sunday 25 April, sixty-seven Fourth Formers began their assessed expedition to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The groups completed two days of walking in the Buckinghamshire countryside, whilst carrying all of their overnight equipment to camp at the Bourbon playing fields on the Sunday evening.

The circular routes from Stowe took the groups either West towards Biddlesden, or East through Lillingstone Lovell, and involved sections of intentionally challenging navigation. The supporting Staff and Assessors were impressed with the manner in which the Stoics applied their route-finding techniques to journey over 18km each day. In some cases, groups walked closer to 25km in a day, when their navigation didn't quite go to plan!

Overnight, the temperature plummeted, but the teams worked well together to prepare and cook their own meals, so that they were ready to embrace the second day. The Assessors were particularly impressed with the way the groups coped during their first camp, given the impact of the lockdown on their training and preparation in the Lent Term.

Having successfully completed their Bronze assessed expedition, the participants are now preparing for the even more challenging Silver practice expedition, due to take place later this term.

Alec Stanworth, Head of DofE Bronze

Design & Technology

Usually, Lent Term would see Fourth Form Design and Technology pupils involved in both the design and manufacture of a product. Given the uncertainty of when we were going to be able to return to School and have access to the workshops however, the approach had to be modified.

The Department had to devise a project that had the flexibility to be taught via the Stowe Distance Learning Programme, but still maintain the core principles of Design, Development and Manufacture. With this in mind, pupils were tasked with providing their take on a 'Flat-Pack Chair'. The brief stated that all the components of the chair had to be machined out of one sheet of plywood, they could not make use of permanent fixings, and should occupy as small a footprint, when packaged, as possible (think IKEA),

whilst trying to remain creative and original.

The task required pupils to compile research into ergonomics and anthropometrics, to gain knowledge into relevant sizes of parts of the human body, as well as studying how material can be held together without permanent fixtures. Pupils used their findings to design and develop a product using traditional sketching techniques, alongside Computer-Aided Design (CAD). Happily, on returning to School, we have been able to produce scale models, bringing the concepts to life.

The Fourth Form pupils should be commended on their approach to this project, given the difficulty of working remotely.

Thomas Webster, Design Department



Change 100 Telethon



We are hugely grateful to the 13 Old Stoics who took part in our first telephone campaign raising money for Change 100. Over two weeks, our callers spoke to over 700 Old Stoics about Stowe and Change 100 and as a result raised over £100,000. The Telethon was held remotely, but there was a tremendous camaraderie between the callers and they all thought it to be a hugely beneficial experience, both personally and for Stowe.

As Tallulah Goldsmith (Stanhope 20) wrote afterwards; "Though apprehensive and a little nervous, the support from the Telethon Managers made the experience pretty seamless, and I definitely felt a part of something special, particularly as I started sharing Stowe's message with Old Stoics about the significance of the Change 100 project. Taking part in such a special project has written us into the adventurous history of Stowe, and it has made me even prouder to be involved in the Stowe community - something I didn't think was possible."

Mid-way through the Telethon, Sir Richard Branson (Lyttelton 68) also joined the pre-session Zoom call to pass on his tips on getting the result you want when making a business call. That same evening, a bumper total donation was received from Old Stoics.

The money raised has meant that we have now secured the 'First £1 million' - the amount earmarked to go towards immediate funding for bursary provision starting at the beginning of the next academic year. However, watching the team develop and master the hugely employable skills of making business calls, made the exercise an even more rewarding experience.

Charlie Clare, Deputy Development Director



CAREERS TALKS SAT/ACT Testing

with Simon Lewis

On Monday 26 April, Simon Lewis from UES Education gave a presentation with various tips and tricks for the American standardised tests (SAT/ACT). This stream was attended by members of the Lower Sixth who are hoping to apply to American universities this Autumn. He provided a timeline outlining the entire application process, from when to start preparing for the tests to when you should aim to sit them. Additionally, he explained the weight that standardised test scores have on your application, especially during the the pandemic. Simon explained that as a result of some universities adopting a "test-optional" policy, there has been a surge in the number of applications for some of the most competitive US universities. Therefore, you need to adopt a certain strategy in order to put your best foot forward, for example deciding against submitting a test score that is not within the 75th percentile for your choice of school. We then went on to a Q&A session covering questions such as:

Q: Is it worth taking the test at all if you are applying to a test-optional school?

A: Yes, especially as an International pupil. A competitive score and a great academic profile can set you apart from another pupil with similar academic achievements.

Q: How many times should we take the test?

A: A maximum of three. The tests matter, but it is important to not become obsessed with the idea of a perfect score.

Q: Do colleges see all scores?

A: Most schools have a "super score" process in which they take your highest scores from each section across all the tests you have taken.

Olanma Kalu (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)





FLiX

**FLiX
(Film and
Literature
Society)
continue to
celebrate
inclusion**

The School Film Society, FLiX, meets once a week and since the beginning of the year, its members have been watching a range of films with inclusion as their theme.

These have included the brilliant police drama 'In the Heat of the Night', brutal western 'Hostiles' (chosen for its representation of native Americans) and the French drama 'Rust and Bone' - Audiard's haunting look at disability (and masculinity) which was loosely based on Canadian Craig Davidson's powerful short story collection.

Last term, to lighten things up, the group watched John Landis' 1980s comedy 'Trading Places' - the movie which consolidated Eddie Murphy's status as a leading black star and comedian. In terms of the current climate, where the issue of inclusion in all its guises is something we are all taking very seriously - it was interesting to note that, in spite of Eddie Murphy's stellar turn, 'Trading Places' had fared less well in terms of its sexual politics. FLiX also took a quick look at 'Raw', Murphy's stand-up comedy performance in New York, made at the height of "Murphy mania", which was even more problematic. Homosexuals and women were targeted relentlessly by the comedian in ways modern viewers found unpalatable and this led to some very healthy discussion about how we should respond to texts from the past which do not conform to our own values and, indeed, what do we mean if we decide to "call out" a film or a star for antiquated and possibly offensive attitudes.

This term we have broadened our remit even further and FLiX members are currently watching (and scrutinising) two documentaries. The first - 'The Times of Harvey Milk' (also the basis for the Sean Penn starring movie 'Milk') tells the story of San Francisco's first openly gay person to be elected to public office and was described by critics as "a profoundly moving portrait of communities in conflict." It is all that and more.

In addition, we are also looking at a second San Francisco-based documentary, 'We Were Here' from 2011 which looks at the AIDS epidemic in the city in the 1980s. This contains first-hand accounts of the impact this disease had upon the community (both gay and straight) and is an interesting companion piece to Russell T. Davis' 'It's a Sin', the BBC drama which has proved extremely popular with viewers this year.

Dr Andrew Webber says, "FLiX provides an opportunity for all Stoics in the Upper School to experience films which are often slightly out of their comfort zone. The texts scheduled for screening are often chosen to engender debate and so, not only do we see some interesting films, more importantly we get a chance to discuss what we have been watching. Those who think watching films is an easy ride should think again!"

FLiX meet every Monday in V002 at 3.15pm and new members are always welcome.

Andrew Webber, English Department

CAREERS TALKS

Army Air Corps and Commercial Pilot

On Wednesday 28 April, I attended the Army Air Corps careers talk. The talk was headed by Bob de Gale. De Gale was a helicopter pilot in the Army Air Corps who, after transitioning to civilian life, used the skills he learned in the Corps to become a commercial pilot for British Airways.

Bob inspired us with anecdotal stories of his time operating in Germany, Belize, Canada, and Haiti. With these stories, he highlighted his most enjoyable times in the Corps, including one memorable story where he almost flew by a speed camera on the motorway in his helicopter.

After talking about his time in the Army Air

Corps, he then went on to talk about flying commercial planes for British Airways, where he explained the differences between flying commercially and flying for the forces, and the complications with both.

I ended the talk by asking questions, and though all my questions were relevant, one stuck with me the most. I asked, "If there was one piece of advice you would give Stoics who want to pursue this career, what would it be?" to which he responded, "Have fun and if this is what you enjoy doing, then pursue it, aim high and work towards it."

**Johnny Sutherland
(Lower Sixth, Chatham)**



Sailing

It is nice to see so many Stoics choosing to sail this term. On Fridays we use the Stowe lake, and during the other activity sessions, we use the bigger lake at Great Moor. Well done to William Warde-Norbury (Upper Sixth, Grafton) who was awarded with his colours for consistently impressive performances and an exemplary attitude to all aspects of being part of the sailing club.

Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing

Rugby

In an effort to develop links with our neighbouring rugby clubs, our Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Form players played a touch match against Towcester on the evening of Friday 23 April.

Ewan Baker (Fifth Form, Chatham) has been selected to represent Northampton Saints U18s, two years early. On Saturday 1 May, he played against Saracens, scoring one try, giving the scoring pass for two tries and converting twice.

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby

Hockey

The 1st XI boys managed a game on the evening of Friday 23 April, against Buckingham Men's Club. It was very much a friendly game, and rather one-sided towards Stowe. Rhys Noble (Upper Sixth, Chandos) scored four goals.

The girls 1st team played Towcester U18s on Friday evening and performed extremely well, despite limited training, scoring six goals and conceding just one.

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected for the Performance Centre hockey squads: Cassidy Jorritsma (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Larissa Campbell (Fifth Form, Nugent), Lizzie Knott (Fifth Form, Nugent), Emily Sutton (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Arianna Hay (Third Form, Cheshire).

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

Netball

The Shop Courts were the centre of attention on the evening of Thursday 22 April, as Stowe hosted MK Dons Netball Club in three matches. Both our U14s and U15s won their games and look very promising for the future.

Congratulations to Megan Thorne (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) who has been selected to be part of the England U19s squad.

Victoria Dias, Head of Netball

Equestrian

On Saturday 17 April, Libby Hayes (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Cryptic Clue had a busy Easter Holiday, going double clear at unaffiliated events at Aston and Offchurch as well as the BE90 U18 at Ascott-under-Wychwood. They also won both the British Novice and the Discovery at a BS Show at Keysoe, meaning that they have qualified for 2nd rounds in both classes from only four outings as BS members.

On the same day, Cecily Holland (Fourth Form, Nugent) competed at the SEG (School Equestrian Games) at Calmsden, entering Flash light and Malty May in the 1m class. Cecily was placed sixth and third, qualifying for the Horse Events unaffiliated Eventing Championships 2021 and also the SEG Schools Eventing Championships.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager



Tennis

It has been an interesting first three weeks of term with plenty going on. Firstly, due to lockdown last Summer Term, we had not seen this year's Third Form and Fourth Form play tennis. With a late fixture added to the fixtures list, the girls had a match against Rugby School on Saturday 24 April.

We had four days to assess and select four teams for the girls' U14s and four teams for the girls' U15s. The Seniors also had four teams go to Rugby, but selection was a little easier as most had played in 2019.

The Seniors had good matches, and although they did not have a team win, they lost a couple of close matches five sets to four. The Stowe number one of Eliza Percy (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Isabella Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Nugent) were unbeaten in all their sets in the 1st team.

The Juniors had a fantastic afternoon, with a clean sweep across both year groups.

The overall block result against Rugby was eight wins to Stowe, four to Rugby.

On Wednesday 28 April, we had the girls' Inter-House (Fourth and Fifth Form combined) matches. Congratulations to Queen's for taking the title. In the Senior House matches, Nugent won the girls' and Temple won the boys', beating Grafton in the Final.

Saturday 1 May, sadly saw a lot of fixture cancellations, but we were able to send four teams of girls' U14s to Tudor Hall. Another good afternoon of tennis, with the girls returning with all four teams winning. Well done to the Third Form girls, and the emerging stars of the A team, Madeleine Baker (Queen's), Frederica Hodges (Queen's), Dominic Dubsky (Nugent) and Tara Fox (Nugent).

John Skinner, Head of Tennis

Lacrosse

Stoics invited to join Hawks Lacrosse Club

Rosie Grayson (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Savannah King (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Kimi Chen (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) have been invited to train at Hawks Lacrosse Club, Tring. The Senior squad, with which they train, finished 2nd in the South England Women's Premier League last season. Rosie played her first game for the club on the Sunday 2 May, away at West London Lacrosse Club.

All three girls hope to use this fantastic experience to grow their abilities, and progress towards their high-performance aspirations. Rosie hopes to play in the USA, pursuing an NCAA career, while Kimi aspires to play for the Chinese National Team.

Robert Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse

Athletics

A squad of 32 boys travelled to Harrow on Saturday 24 April, for the first athletics meeting of the season. The Stowe athletes performed well and recorded some impressive times and distances to come 2nd overall. Notable performances came from Gilbert Xu (Third Form, Chandos) in the Juniors, Joshua Parker (Fourth Form, Winton) in the Inters and Captain Daniel Roberts (Upper Sixth, Grenville) for the Seniors, who all won their events. The highlight of the day was the Junior Boys winning the 4x100m relay as they powered passed Harrow on the home straight to take victory.

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics

CCF

Field Day



CCF were delighted to be able to run a full day of face-to-face Cadet training and activities on School grounds on Monday 26 April for 81 of our Fourth Form Army, RN and RAF Cadets and 17 Lower Sixth Form NCOs. Lockdown roadmap regulations may have prevented us from our usual visits/activities to Army Regiments, RN Ships and RAF Bases, but with a little adapting and the great fortune of the wonderful facilities here at Stowe, we were able to offer all of our Cadets the opportunity to get properly active and engaged after a long break.



The Fourth Form Cadets threw themselves into the activities with enthusiasm and energy. The 17 Lower Sixth NCOs all stepped up to their leadership roles and our expectations, and were delighted to have the opportunity to get to know their Fourth Form Sections, building up teamwork, motivation and their own leadership skills.

It was a joy to be able to offer the Cadets such a cross section of engaging and enjoyable activities, the success of which was sealed by the glorious sunshine, welcomed by all, particularly those on the lake.

As ever, I would like to thank all the CCF Staff for their energy, efforts and hard work. It is a brilliant team.

Lt Col Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander



Army Section

On a rather chilly Monday morning, the Fourth Form Army Section Cadets, and their Lower Sixth Form NCOs braved the nippy winds and early morning frost to head up to the Bourbon for the annual Summer Term Field Day - a day hugely treasured by all Cadets. The purpose of the day was not only to teach the Cadets some key skills and drills in order to make up for the lost time from the Lent Term, but also to ensure that the Cadets enjoyed themselves as much as possible.

Throughout the course of the morning, Cadets were taught several lessons on basic skills and drills with the SA80 assault rifle, as well as doing some Map and Compass work, First Aid and a small Command Task thrown in too. As the day progressed and the sun started to warm numb fingers, the morale of the Cadets rose significantly, and everyone began to truly throw themselves into the afternoon activities: Archery, Air Rifle shooting, a 'Hide and Seek' Stalk as well as the classic Obstacle Course were the order of the day. The obstacle course was a particular challenge this year with an addition to the course - a seatless bike which Cadets had to work together using ropes attached to the frame in order to carry it back to the start of the course, a real test of teamwork which many Cadets told me was the best activity of the day.

All the NCOs also found it particularly enjoyable being able to take command of a section which we hadn't been able to get to know over the past two terms. Trying to get the team to work together as a unit to achieve goals, in my opinion, was both in equal parts a real challenge but also very rewarding. On top of this, as most of the NCOs are taking the ILM, (Institute of Leadership and Management City and Guilds Level 3 qualification, it was a great opportunity to put some of the skills we had learnt within the course and in the classroom into practice and develop our own personal leadership style.

Whilst there were a few moments of panic, when Cadets had hidden themselves too well and were promptly lost during the 'Hide and Seek', all the exhausted Cadets returned safely back from the Bourbon after a thoroughly enjoyable and exciting day. A huge thank you must go to Lt Col de Gale, Colour Sergeant Abbey and the rest of the CCF Staff for putting on such a brilliant day. A huge success all round.

Cpl Harry Bryant, (Lower Sixth, Cobham)



CFCE

RN and RAF Section

The day started at the Chapel Forecourt, where I was pleased to have been greeted by fine weather, given the water-based challenges that lay ahead for us all.

My first duty was to ensure that all the Cadets fell in promptly at 09:05 for their briefing.

It was encouraging to welcome 17 new recruits into the small number of Cadets that make up the RN section. We were joined by the 10 RAF Cadets for the day's activities.

At 09:15 we were dispatched to the lakeside and split into three teams for a Raft Building Challenge.

Despite the mild weather, the lake looked cold and uninviting. A motivation, if ever there was one, to succeed in our mission and stay above the water. However, my optimism proved to be short-lived as we soon realised the significant level of skill required to build a raft that would stay afloat with crew aboard, as we all took an unplanned early morning dip. Our other task of crossing from one bank of the lake to the other, using the assorted planks and barrels provided, proved to be equally as difficult.

Amongst the fun and amusement, serious lessons were learnt in teamwork and communication, and it was interesting picking members of the teams for various leadership roles and identifying people's strengths within their groups.

We dried off and headed to the front lawn for a welcome rest and refuel, as we tucked into our packed lunches. After lunch we made our way over to the

rather less foreboding, indoor pool to attend the much-anticipated 'Try Dive' session. Following a 40-minute briefing and all-important safety talk, where we were issued our equipment and assembly instructions, we headed to the poolside with our kit. It was surprisingly heavy to carry and felt very cumbersome outside of the water.

Once at the pool, we donned our equipment and entered at the shallow end to learn the basic skills of diving, including both underwater front and backflips. Once our instructors felt comfortable with our ability, we progressed to the deep end. Learning to equalise by popping our ears on the way down to the 3m depth.

It was here that we got a real sense of sub-Aqua diving and became a lot more manoeuvrable and adept at underwater tasks, despite me being upended on the bottom of the pool several times, like a beached turtle because of the unwieldy size of my oxygen tank. We played underwater Frisbee, tornados and carried out various manoeuvres through hoops, becoming confident in our unnatural environment in no time. It gave us a great introduction to diving and hopefully, others shared my enthusiasm to pursue this further.

Everyone had a fantastic day and I would like to extend our thanks to Lt Zammit, the Try Dive team, Mr Symes and all the RN and RAF Staff for organising such a fun field day event.

**Petty Officer Bo Jenkins
(Lower Sixth, Stanhope)**



service@stowe

Visiting the Elderly

This year has been incredibly isolating, especially for those who find themselves unable to see their loved ones. Stowe's Visiting the Elderly Team have been creating and writing cards to individuals in our local care homes. We made over 50 Easter cards, and have written to tell the residents about ourselves - our passions, studies and hopes for the future, things which we would have spoken about with them, were we able to visit. Last term we recorded ourselves singing Christmas carols in Santa hats for them!

We would love to meet them and say all of this in person - which is what the activity hopes to do very soon - but nevertheless it has been incredibly heart-warming to hear some of their thank you messages. We are all so excited for the day when we can learn more about each of their lives and I would strongly suggest to anyone to come along and listen to their stories with us, which is a most grounding and rewarding affair.

To learn more about the Visiting the Elderly Programme contact **Dr Adkins**.

Clara Tearle (Lower Sixth, Queen's)



An Egg-cellent Easter Fundraiser

Thanks to the efforts of the Visiting Primary Schools Service Team, 137 chocolate Easter eggs were donated to the Windmills Children's Centre in Milton Keynes. On Thursday 18 March, the members of the Service Project held a "buy one give one to charity" Easter egg sale. Eliza Wilson (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) said of the Project "It was great to see that so many Stoics enjoyed not only buying a chocolate egg, but also giving one to a children's charity." To learn more about the Visiting Primary School Programme contact **Mrs Ackroyd**.



Pupil Perspectives

When we first joined Stowe, we felt it was important to take every opportunity given to us so, when we saw a chance to attend Community Projects we decided to join. Since then, we have had great joy in participating in all initiatives. Together we have helped with upkeep in a local graveyard, organised Christmas shoeboxes for children in poverty, organised a raffle to raise money and created 700 Easter activity booklets to entertain children during the Easter holidays. These projects have been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding.

We wanted to partake in a chance to give back to the community as we understand how fortunate we are. By attending Community Projects once a week with the occasional extra day, it has allowed us to really engage with charities in our local area and do our part to help. We have enjoyed joining with others both in and outside of School, to have an impact. We enjoyed the independence to create ideas and take leadership roles within the initiatives. We hope to continue and expand our efforts in the future. To join the Community Projects Team contact **Ms Shah**.

Caitlin Gilmore (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)
& **Harriet Hines (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)**



Conservation Project

Easter Activity Packs

The Community Projects Team has been hard at work since returning to Stowe, creating and assembling Easter Activity Packs. The packs were distributed to children aged 3-18 and contained age-appropriate activity items such as Spring-themed word searches, colouring pages, instructions for art projects and guides on how to run fun outdoor games. Over 700 activity packs were distributed among Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers Youth Club, Windmill Children's Centre, Buckingham Primary School and the Centre in Buckingham. Hopefully the packs engaged children of all ages and provided fun, educational and creative activities for them over the Easter holidays. To join the Community Projects Team, contact **Ms Shah**.



CRICKET



Stowe 1st XI win against MCC

With some kind weather, the start to the season has been very busy. The 1st XI arrived back four days early for their pre-season training with a day of practice and four matches. They got off to a great start with a win against the MCC on Saturday 17 April. Rhys Noble (Upper Sixth, Chandos) bowled superbly to claim 6 for 45 as the XI bowled the MCC out for 218. Stowe chased this down with six wickets to spare thanks to a fifty-run opening partnership between Noble (28) and George Hooper (24) (Upper Sixth, Chandos) that set the innings up. Jack Mercer (Upper Sixth, Grafton) played solidly for 18 but the match winning partnership was between two Fourth Form pupils - Wilf Pickard (Cobham) (28 not out) and Aadi Sharma (Winton) (75 not out). Stowe won with a couple of overs to spare.

Framlingham was next. Stowe won the toss and elected to bat. They got off to a flyer with George Hooper and James Cronie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) going well. However, both were dismissed within a few overs of each other. Oscar Watson (Lower Sixth, Chandos) played soundly, but Jack Mercer and Sam Birch (Upper Sixth, Grenville) fell cheaply on a wicket that just had enough in it for seam and spin bowling. A 75-run partnership between Aadi Sharma (52) and Ali Short (Lower Sixth, Winton) (36) steadied the ship, but when the partnership was broken, wickets fell at regular intervals to leave Stowe bowled out for 157. With the ball, Stowe got off to the perfect start with Rohan Hesketh (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Rhys Noble taking a wicket in both of their first overs. James Cronie then came on and bowled a superb spell - taking a further three wickets. However, Framlingham's number four - Bailey Farrant - kept going for and got to a well-made fifty. Whilst he was there Framlingham were still in the game, but Aadi Sharma's leg spin took a further three wickets and Noble and Hesketh another wicket apiece to have Framlingham bowled out for 135. Stowe won by 22 runs.

On the Monday 19 April, the 1st XI played The Oratory and Malvern College in two T20 matches. Oratory were restricted to 126 for 6 in their twenty overs and Stowe chased comfortably winning by nine wickets with Rhys Noble the top scorer. Against Malvern, Stowe won the toss and elected to bowl first, opting to chase with a short boundary on one side of the wicket in mind. The Malvern openers got off to a slow start reaching only 19 off the first four overs, however some powerful range hitting in the following overs accelerated their score to 90 off 9 overs. Stowe managed to regain some control of the innings, with James Cronie taking four wickets and Jack Mercer bowling four very economical overs for only 17 runs. Malvern finished their innings in style

to reach 165-5 off their 20 overs including three sixes in the final three balls. In response, opening batsman Rhys Noble got the innings off to a flyer, taking full advantage of the first powerplay scoring an exciting 42 off 37 balls. Jack Mercer and Aadi Sharma also made useful contributions to the run chase with 39 and 44 respectively. After a nail biting final few overs, Stowe managed to get over the line after requiring eight runs from the final over with Aadi Sharma and Ali Short seeing the 1st XI home.

Monday also saw the Junior Colts and Yearlings A teams arrive at School for their practice and fixtures. They both had games against Bucks County XIs and there were fifties for Captain Freddie Timmis (Fourth Form, Grafton) in the Junior Colts and James Bristow (Third Form, Winton) in the Yearlings XI.

Midweek saw another comfortable win for the 1st XI against Buckinghamshire U18s. An impressive fielding display, which included five run outs, saw Bucks restricted to 103 all out. Stowe knocked this off for one wicket with Rhys Noble putting the bowling to the sword with 75 not out.

Saturday 24 April saw us back against local rivals Bloxham, and Stowe won all but one of the matches. James Cronie scored a 130 for the 1st XI and took four wickets. George Hooper (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Jack Mercer both scored fifties, the team winning by 196 runs. Milan Choudree (Fifth Form, Cobham) scored 83 in the 2nd XI run chase. Wyatt Fell (Fourth Form, Chatham) score 71 for the JCAs on his debut. James Bristow (Third Form, Winton) scored his first century for Stowe, for the Yearlings A XI and there was also a win for the Yearlings B with Maxwell LaGrande (Third Form, Temple) taking four wickets.

On Saturday 1 May, the 1st XI played Merchant Taylors, Northwood, whilst a selection of other teams took on Kimbolton. The 1st XI had a high-scoring draw with MTS, fifties from Hooper and Noble were the highlights. Highlights in the other games were Conrad Spencer (Lower Sixth, Chatham) taking five wickets in the 3rd XI, and Oliver Reed (Upper Sixth, Walpole) top scoring with 85 not out. Freddie Timmis scored another fifty (not out) in the JCAs first win of the season and Arthur Clayton (Fourth Form, Grafton) smashed 87 off 49 balls for the JCBs. Well done to Theo Ankarcrona (Third Form, Walpole) who took a rare hat-trick for the Yearlings Bs.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

DISTANCE LEARNERS

This term, it has been wonderful to see the return of the majority of our international pupils. The celebration of different cultures continues to be a central part of School life, with a Eurovision House Competition being held later in the Summer Term. Although the singing and dancing may not be everyone's cup of tea, it should prove a great opportunity to recognise all that different nations have to offer to the arts.

Some Stoics are still joining us on the Stowe Distance Learning Programme and are working incredibly hard to ensure they continue to flourish in lessons. They are ensuring that work is completed to the best of their ability, and many are also utilising the extra support provided by the School by attending virtual clinics and Tutor sessions.

Ms Felton has also been working to support these pupils pastorally and ensure they are making strides forward in terms of their social and emotional wellbeing too. Small group sessions have been set up between Stoics on the SDLP, and those on site. This has allowed those on the SDLP to still feel part of the School community, and keep up-to-date with life at Stowe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all academic and pastoral Staff in supporting Stoics accessing their education via the SDLP. This has not been an easy task, especially in regards to those in the examination years, but both Staff and Stoics have risen to the challenge and seen great success.

STAYCATION

During the Easter holidays, some Stoics were unable to return home or to their guardians, due to limitations on travel placed on them by the Covid-19 pandemic. This could have been quite an upsetting time for these pupils, facing such a lengthy amount of time away from friends and family. However, the School continued to support and care for these Stoics fantastically during the holidays. Dr Lyons and Mr Deyzel welcomed them into Lyttelton House with open arms for the entire Easter holiday, and provided a fantastically relaxing and fun Easter break for the pupils.

They were kept busy with a wide range of activities, as outlined by Thanassi Ghertsos, (Lower Sixth, Chandos), who stated "I enjoyed my time in Lyttelton over the Easter break very much. Both Dr Lyons and Mr Deyzel worked around the clock to ensure our stay was as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. They organised activities such as golf, indoor and outdoor cinema nights, an Easter egg hunt, crazy golf, tennis and my favourite: Mr Deyzel's South African Barbeques. These activities were extremely fun, and I can speak for the whole group when I say that we really did have a great time, even if we were not with our families for Easter. In case you ever find yourself in Lyttelton for a staycation, I can assure you that you are in safe hands."

Thanassi's thoughts were replicated by others who stayed, with Gilbert Xu, (Fourth Form, Chandos) sharing that "the staycation in Lyttelton was a wonderful experience for me. Dr Lyons and her husband Ross kindly welcomed us into their House and told us to feel at home. During this staycation, we really enjoyed ourselves. We had three evening barbecues and we had an outdoor movie night when we watched "Inception". Ross also took us to the golf course to experience some mini golf, which I really enjoyed. They also arranged tennis and night time CCF, it was great fun. It has been a wonderful holiday."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Lyons and Mr Deyzel for their generosity in giving up their Easter holidays to care for these pupils, and I know the Stoics are eternally grateful for the wonderful time they had.

QUARANTINE

During the Lent Term, many Stoics continued to access the academic provision of the School via the Stowe Distance Learning Programme (SDLP), as they were unable to travel due to the pandemic. However, the Easter holidays provided a great opportunity for these Stoics to spend time with family and friends prior to returning to the UK to undertake their period of quarantine or isolation. As such, during the Easter break, Mr Corthine and Mr Copley generously opened up Cobham and Chatham Houses to allow these pupils to undertake their quarantine at School. Although pupils were limited in the activities in which they were able to participate, they simply enjoyed being able to see each other again. Many decided to utilise the time wisely, beginning their preparations for the Summer exam season, and others kept themselves busy with various art and design projects. Natalie Nylaende (Fourth Form, Queen's) stated that "During my quarantine at Stowe, I have been mostly catching up on prep and revision for the term ahead. We have also had walks every day, which has been great. I have enjoyed back at Stowe and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again as it has been a while!"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Food Services and Hospitality and Housekeeping Staff for all of their efforts which enabled the School to support these pupils during this time. Alongside this, the following Staff all gave up their time to support pupils during their quarantine period - again, without their efforts, such a feat would have not been possible. My thanks go to Mr Matthews, Ms Windett, Ms Sundstrom, Ms Stafford-Smith, Ms Herrbach, Mr Cuddy, Ms Westmoreland, Ms Trelawny-Vernon, Mr Cummings, Mr Coddington, Ms Bernal Guerrero, Ms Atkinson, Mr Ingham Clark, Mr Turner, Ms Theveret and Ms Jackson for their support of this programme.

Fran Shah, Head of International Pupils



Jessica Foxwell (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and her mum, Mrs Lisa Foxwell, are lacing up their trainers and taking on the Run for Dementia Challenge. They will be running 100 miles over the next 30 days. Their goal is to raise as much money as they can for the Alzheimer's Society, an organisation that provides educational resources about dementia and support to help individuals cope with the emotional impact of the disease. Jess and her mother are participating in the Run for Dementia as the cause is close to their hearts. "My

Grandmother and Great Grandmother were diagnosed with dementia, and I know that many of my friends' families have also been affected by this disease," said Jess, "my mum and I want to do our part to raise money for an organisation that does so much to help those impacted by Dementia."

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking [here](#) to support Jess and Lisa Foxwell and ensure Alzheimer's Society can be there for the people who need them most.




TREE WORKS

In order to make the main road from the Stowe entrance towards Chackmore safer and reduce the number of overhanging trees along the route, contractors arrived at Stowe on Monday 22 March to undertake tree works.

The photographs show the range of machinery used, along with the large quantity of chippings created and stored in the yard at the Bourbon Fields. Everything taken down was chipped and will now be used on the rose and shrub beds around the site (as seen on the Chapel Court rose beds).


Kevin Beasley, Estates Department

STOWE HOUSE

Restoration Scaffold Tours

Mon, Weds & Thurs in May and June
£12.00



Take this unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and see restoration in action at Stowe House
For further details see www.stowehouse.org

Pre Booking Essential, 16 years +, Social Distancing measures in place

AUDITION SUCCESS

Seb Foxwell (Lower Sixth, Walpole) auditioned for National Youth Musical Theatre during lockdown submitting performances via video. He has just been offered a place as principal Trumpet/Flugelhorn in a brand-new musical called Henrietta which will be showing in a London theatre from Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21 August. It is a huge achievement to be offered a place - well done Seb!



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