

Stowe mail

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NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE



Casting and putting on a musical for Congreve was without doubt a big ask, but one that paid off, with plenty of memorable moments for cast and audience alike.

Prodigy is a wonderful and cautionary tale of what happens when reality TV meets competitive classical music, competitive contestants and even more competitive families. It was an impressive and unifying undertaking for Stowe, an explosive tale of intensive hard work, vanity, love, betrayal, pride, hypocrisy and humility.

Brought to Stowe by our new Director of Drama, Rebecca Clarke, and Head of Academic Music, Alex Aitken, this show (a new schools' version) gave us a glimpse of what a drama company looks like. After only a few short weeks of intensive rehearsals, Stoics rose to the challenge of creating something from nothing and building a team where none had previously existed. This enabled them to react and respond to the unexpected in their performance and communicate a fresh and spontaneous original artistic event at each of the four shows.

Originally commissioned by the National Youth Music Theatre, Prodigy gave many opportunities for ensemble acting and singing, solos, duets and trios, plenty of choreography, a fight scene and a minimal set with maximum lighting and bright costumes.

Leading his orchestral arrangements from the grand piano, Mr Aitken performed beautifully whilst directing a ten-piece orchestra consisting of our visiting music teachers. From a personal perspective, I was really impressed with how

Music Award holders, choristers, actors, rugby specialists, those with no acting experience, those with no singing experience, all blended together to form a seamless and cohesive whole and gave the School a real demonstration of a positive, shared endeavour based on genuine challenge and growth.

Carole Dore from the Drama Department reflects "the cast and crew excelled themselves and delivered a truly entertaining and engaging piece of theatre. The ensemble work was the highlight for me - all members of the cast supported each other and they delivered a powerful and ordered performance which communicated their enjoyment to the audience. I was lucky to be sitting on the front row and I could palpably feel the enthusiasm and attack all the cast put into creating this production. I left the Roxy reminded how powerful theatre is and what a unique privilege we have to work with such pupils."

Cast member Dan Biss (Lower Sixth, Grafton) reflected: "I will never forget the feeling you get when you walk onto the stage to see a full audience waiting for you to perform. 'Prodigy' will always have a special place in my heart and so will the people associated with it."

Our in-house production team of Mr Baker, Mr Goodman and Mr Weston, was assisted by Lighting Designer, Casper Sunley; Choreographer, Nyroy Dixon; and Costume Designer, Suzanne Burlton. The production received the support of Steinway, Viking, LightFantastic and SoundWave.

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music





Movies and Musicals

In five years at Stowe this was probably the best quality and most uplifting concert that I have experienced with Stoic musicians. This was a concert of great variety, starting with two movements from the St Paul's Suite by the String Orchestra directed by Chris Windass. They were joined by Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West) on the harp and by our flute teacher Sally Adams, for Vaughan Williams' haunting 'Fantasia on Greensleeves'. This was very cleverly programmed to follow the same tune in Holst's arrangement in the St Paul's Suite. Charlotte then went on to play a wonderful solo on the harp, demonstrating her amazing musicianship and technical skill. We were then treated to two Stoic String Quartets, playing very mature interpretations of movements by Beethoven and Borodin. The first half concluded with the opening movement of Grieg's Holberg Suite, again showing off our very fine String Orchestra.

After a short interval to rearrange the stage, the Wind Band got off to a great start with the 'Captain America March'. The Clarinet Quartet, directed by our clarinet teacher Jonathan Howse, then gave a great rendition of a 'Slavonic Dance' by Dvorak. The Wind Band continued with their 'Movies and Musicals' theme, with music from 'Les Misérables' and 'Gladiator'. 'The World is not Enough' had its opening sequence filmed at Stowe, featuring Steve Duffy our Bagpipe teacher, so we recreated this with Steve playing the pipes at the end of the theme tune.

Steve then led our Pipe and Drum Trio featuring Josh (Fourth Form, Temple) and Adam (Third Form, Temple) McKelvey and Jamie Baillie (Fifth Form, Cobham). They then joined the Wind Band for a performance of 'Highland Cathedral'. The concert concluded with music from 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens'.

Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Wind and Percussion



RUGBY

On Wednesday 23 November a combined 4th and 5th XV beat Kingham Hill 55-12 and a Development U17 side beat Kingham Hill's 1st XV scoring over 50 points. The Yearlings As had their first outing for the School and made it through to the next round of the County Cup by beating Walton High School.

The 1st XV produced one of their best performances of the season to beat Eton 24-22 in a pulsating match on the North Front on Saturday 3 December. In the block fixture for the other sides against local rivals Bedford, the Seniors recorded three victories in the four matches played. The 2nd XV won 28-19, the 4th XV won 45-7 and the 5th XV won 42-12. In the Junior matches the Colts As were close to recording a memorable victory but fell short 27-25. There was a fine 19-12 win for the U15Bs and the U15Cs drew 17-17.

On Saturday 10 December the 1st XV were seemingly on their way to successive victories when their match was abandoned due to a hip injury to an Oakham player. The 4th XV continued their winning streak with a hard fought 12-0 win and the performance of the week came from the Yearlings A side who beat Princes Risborough 52-0 in the second round of the County Cup.

Alan Hughes, Head of Rugby

The Great Debate

On Monday 24 October the Regional Final of the 'Great Debate' took place at Northampton University. I went as Stowe's representative and was accompanied by Mr Griffin, Mr Cuddy, members of the Senior History Society and quite a few enthusiastic Lower School Historians.

Although titled the 'Great Debate', the competition itself didn't take the form of a debate. Instead each candidate was required to give a five minute speech. The speech had to be in answer to the question, "How has World War I affected you and your community?" Upon hearing this question I found it hard to pinpoint one particular way in which the Great War has affected my life and the life of my community since the event as a whole was so multi-faceted. However, upon further research I was fascinated to realise how relevant such an event is to my life

today, the direct links that the war has to my life are endless. A particular favourite of mine was finding out that the park that I walk my dog to everyday when I am at home happens to be the same place where a German aircraft was brought down by British Air Forces, in what has been described as a 'decisive' moment in the air war of World War I. I think it's incredible that the place that I now go to for peace and tranquillity was the site of a plane crash 100 years ago.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the competition and I would highly recommend it to any A Level Historians next year. I would also like to thank Mr Griffin for helping me to prepare, as well as everyone that came along to support me – Stowe definitely had the largest cheerleading team out of all the schools.

Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West)



SWIMMING

On Saturday 10 December Will Perry (Fifth Form, Cobham) took part in the Para Winter Nationals where he had qualified for four events. He won gold in the 200m Individual Medley and 100m Freestyle and silver in the 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly and achieved a Personal Best in all four. This is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the determination and effort he has put into his training.

Cheryl Davis, Swimming Coach



Human Performance Laboratory

On Tuesday 29 November, our Upper Sixth Sports Scientists took a trip to the Human Performance Laboratory based at the Porsche Centre in Silverstone.

Throughout the morning they carried out various practical experiments that are covered in their A Level course. This included the VO₂ max test, where Philippa Stacey (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Oliver Pell (Upper Sixth, Bruce) had to run on a treadmill for as long as they could, with the speed increasing every three minutes and with their breath being analysed every second. During this test they also carried out a lactate analysis, where the subject has a small blood sample measured every three minutes, looking at the effect of increasing exercise on their lactic acid levels.

A sweat test was carried out, looking into the composition of the subject's sweat which allows them to plan their hydration and nutrition

prior to and during exercise. The results were very insightful for Jack Foreman (Upper Sixth, Cobham) who finally had a reason for why he always cramps up towards the end of his matches.

The final test was carried out by Thalia Felton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who had to run in a heat chamber where the temperature went up to 40 degrees C for 30 minutes. Her core temperature, water consumption, sweat loss and heart rate were all measured to see how she coped with this and what practical implications this would have when she comes to exercising in extreme heat.

All the pupils had a fantastic time and several were inspired to follow this area of exercise physiology in their Further Education studies. We will be running a similar trip for the Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms in the New Year.

Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science



VARSIITY RUGBY

On Wednesday 8 December Cambridge ended their six-year losing streak as they claimed their first Varsity Match victory since 2009 with a 23-18 triumph at Twickenham. Our very own Mr Chris Lloyd was on the coaching team for Cambridge, alongside Head Coach James Shanahan, and was able to share in the success of the team and lift the trophy.



EPQ Presentations

On Friday 25 November, the 94 strong EPQ cohort – made up entirely of Upper Sixth Stoics, descended into the School's State Rooms to set up and present their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) and to show off the previous 11 months' worth of work they had done.

The presentations took the form of a market place fair – with each EPQ pupil being given a table and display board to decorate with posters, pictures and information about their project. Those with even more artistic flair were able to utilise videos, music and physical props to help bring their projects to life.

The pupils were presenting on the planning process that had taken place to enable them to complete their EPQ, the actual content of their EPQ, and finally, they reflected on the whole process and what skills they had taken from the project as well as critically evaluating their own performance over the past 11 months.

In 40 minute intervals the whole School was invited to attend the presentations, to walk

around and ask the Stoics questions and find out in more detail about what they had studied. In addition to this, each EPQ pupil was formally questioned by their supervisor as part of the official procedure.

It was an extremely successful and academically enriching experience for all involved and everyone who came to view the presentations. Stoics, teachers and parents alike were able to walk away from the fair with a greater knowledge in Manuka Honey and its wound healing properties, whether or not NASA deserves to be publically funded, issues of teenage emotion, how to train a horse to a top eventing standard and what it is to be homeless.

The breadth and depth of research carried out by everyone doing the EPQ highlighted perfectly the rich tapestry of skills and interests that exist at Stowe amongst its pupils. I, for one, am already looking forward to next year's presentations.

Michael Rickner, EPQ Coordinator

FENCING

On Saturday 10 December, Cameron Chambers (Fifth Form, Grenville), Hannah Laurence (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Hugo Paynter Bryant (Third Form, Grenville) and Oscar Wiseman (Third Form, Grenville) competed in the Luton Sword Club Foil Competition. All the competitors had a fantastic first round of pool bouts with all of them advancing into the semi-finals. Three of the four Stoics made it through the second round of pool bouts to fence in the finals. In the final set of pool bouts Cameron Chambers came fourth, Oscar Wiseman came third and, with an excellent performance on the piste, Hannah Laurence came second.

Our more advanced Foilists, Hugo Robinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Lauren Brigden (Fifth Form, Stanhope), assisted in a coaching capacity and helped create a camaraderie between the Stowe fencers, despite the fact they had to fence each other as the competition reached its climax. Considering this was the first competition of the year for the Stoics, and Cameron's first competition ever, they all did very well, leaving us with high hopes for the future and looking forward to the further development of fencing at Stowe.

Isaac Michael, Director of Co-Curricular



TENNIS

During the Michaelmas term the Senior girls' squad has taken part in the Senior Students' Tennis Competition. They finished top of their round robin group beating Tudor Hall 'B' six sets to nil, and then had a very convincing victory over Rugby five sets to one. The team so far has been Kira Evans (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Yasmin Mama (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Bubby Upton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Victoria Beglin (Lower Sixth, Nugent). The competition comprises four sets of singles followed by two sets of doubles, and to date we have been unbeaten in doubles play. The victory means progression into the knockout stages which begin in January. All the girls have worked very hard in training and deserve the success they have achieved so far.

On Saturday 3 December Rodney and Freddie Pope (Chatham 16) visited the School and very kindly presented us with a tennis trophy for a Senior boys' singles competition which will be played in the first half of the Summer term. Freddie was captain in his last year at Stowe and wanted to put something back into the sport. As all school matches are doubles he wanted to encourage singles play within the School. We are very grateful for this generous contribution.

John Skinner, Head of Tennis

One of the highlights of our musical year is always Dinner and Jazz. This year's event proved to be a great and memorable evening. Guests were treated to a pre-dinner jazz rendition of 'House of the Rising Sun' in the Music Room. This was brilliantly conceived by Theo Hayes (Fourth Form, Chatham) on piano, Sean Carlaw Tricot (Fourth Form, Grenville) on drums and Finlay Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Grafton) on the trumpet.

During the meal our cabaret entertainment followed a new format. In the Marble Saloon, Miles Nottage led his Jazz Club with songs from: Bella Coldstream (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Lucy Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Starzi Graffey-Smith (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Mali Aitchison (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Tash Woods (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Max Campbell-Preston (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Henry Gauvain (Lower Sixth, Temple). They all gave very accomplished renditions of their chosen songs.

Whilst the singers were performing in the Marble Saloon, the Music Room was entertained by Anastasiia Nazarova (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Poppy de Salis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) playing solos on the piano. They were followed by a Jazz Ensemble coached by John Cervantes, one of our visiting jazz piano teachers. This

group was fronted by Mina Haas (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), voice, and Lauren Taylor (Lower Sixth, Queen's), flute, with Alice Pryse (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) on the piano, with help from Mr Andrew on drums. Both groups then swapped rooms and performed their sets again, making sure no one missed out.

After dinner the entertainment was provided by the Big Band, who played two 40 minute sets, and Dave Richmond's Jazz Combo. There was a welcome return to both bands by Alex McQuitty (Walpole 16) who, along with his brother Henry (Lower Sixth, Walpole) on drums and Lewis Bell (Upper Sixth, Grenville) on piano, provided a brilliant rhythm section. The more that people danced, the better the Big Band performed. It was probably the best playing that I have ever heard from them.

Many thanks must go to Geoff Higgins and the Catering team for such a fine meal and also to the House Staff for helping with transporting and setting up the equipment and staging in three different rooms. Finally most of all to Sarah Searle for all of her help in planning such an enjoyable evening. More photos of the event can be seen [here](#).

Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Wind and Percussion

EQUESTRIAN

Throughout the Michaelmas term we have competed at NSEA Show Jumping qualifiers, the Stowe Beagles Hunter Trial, the Beachborough Eventer challenge, the Bloxham Eventer challenge and had our own Inter-House competition. We have seen the return of many rosettes, a trophy and even a qualifier for the NSEA Eventers challenge final at Hickstead.

We attended the Abi Hutton Dressage Clinic at Moulton College with a further trip planned to watch the High Profile Dressage to Music Championships at Addington next term.

Further plans for next term include the Hunt meet at Stowe and specialist clinics from invited instructors.

Angela Churcher, Acting Equestrian Centre Manager

LACROSSE

Our 1st and 2nd XIs travelled away for their triangular with Queen Anne's and Putney on Saturday 10 December. The 1st XII played extremely well and recorded a 3-3 draw against Queen Anne's and a fine 11-3 win against Putney. This means they remain undefeated this term. The 2nd XII found it difficult to find their rhythm against Putney but rallied well to draw 5-5 against Queen Anne's.

Kaitlan Griffin, Head of Lacrosse

LCM Music Theatre Examinations

On Thursday 1 December, the Music Department held its first ever session of LCM examinations in Music Theatre, with candidates from the Fourth Form to the Upper Sixth Form taking examinations at Grade 6, 7 and 8. The syllabus at Grade 6 and above requires four songs to be presented, in character and with items of costume suggestion and props. There is a wide variety of styles, including musicals, cabaret, parlour songs, standards, light opera and songs from films and plays.

After performing their pieces, candidates discussed them with the examiner, considering

aspects of characterisation, context and genre together with the vocal and dramatic techniques employed to convey the songs effectively. Grade 8 additionally tested the ability to sight-read a duologue from a libretto.

The examination results were stunning; a total of seven Stoics gained six distinctions and one merit between them. LCM examinations are accredited, meaning that passes at Grade 6 and above attract points on the UCAS tariff, making them an attractive option, especially for pupils considering courses in Performing Arts.

Rachel Sherry, Head of Vocal Studies



CCF

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

On Thursday 8 December, 15 cadets, led by Cpl Dily Adilkhanova (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and L/Cpls Tavish Struthers (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Estelle Akeroyd Hunt (Fifth Form, Nugent), took part in an inter-section military skills competition organised by 4 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, based in Abingdon.

Our cadets took part in five of the stands. During an observation stand they attempted to identify an unknown number of objects, cunningly hidden, as they patrolled along winding woodland. A camouflage and concealment stand assessed their varying degrees of camouflage skills. The Regiment's Signals Detachment ran an Army 'voice procedure' exercise using military radios and headsets, and cadets were tasked with sending a series of operational messages as accurately as they could. They were also introduced to an operational command room and its workings. A cerebral Command Task challenged our Section Commanders. Particular mention must go to Cpl Dily Adilkhanova, who calmly and mathematically worked out a solution in an impressive time, to the high praise of Regimental staff.

All cadets shot in the Dismounted Combat Trainer, (indoor electronic laser range using cadet GP rifles). There was some commendable and accurate shooting with Sgt Alex Harris (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and L/Cpl Tavish Struthers matching some of the regular soldiers' scores in a couple of very competitive, adrenalin fuelled 'scenario' shoots.

Finally the sections competed for times in an imaginative and physically demanding indoor obstacle course. At the end of the formal competition, the Regiment's physical training instructors challenged our fittest cadets to a fiercely competitive race of the indoor obstacle course in mixed teams; L/Cpls Tavish Struthers, Max Mash (Fifth Form, Bruce), and Cds Thor Mager (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Thomas Riley (Fourth Form, Bruce) rose to the challenge and flew around the course, giving very good accounts of themselves.

The Regiment, (which I have close links with, having served with them in Abingdon and on operations in Bosnia), were very generous with their time and staff, and were impressed with the standards and behaviour of our cadets. All were excellent ambassadors for Stowe. Congratulations go to Cpl Dily Adilkhanova and her section who were the overall winning section.

Major J S de Gale, Adjt/SSI Stowe School CCF



CCF AT WINCHESTER HOUSE

On Monday 28 November, Captain Wilson and I visited local prep school, Winchester House to give a flavour of the Army to Year Three and Year Four pupils.

Beverly Lomax, Head of Seligman at Winchester House responded to the talk by saying: "a huge thank you for giving up your time to speak to the children in Years Three and Four today. It was hugely appreciated and both Seligman staff and children alike found the

talks you gave fascinating – "awesome" and "amazing" in the words of the children! They also really enjoyed looking at the photos, ration packs, guns and swords. Thank you for letting them handle them and for answering their questions, I think they would have happily carried on asking questions all afternoon if they'd had time! It gave us all a real flavour of life in the Forces today."

Jan de Gale, Major Adjutant/SSI Stowe School CCF



SEA SURVIVAL SKILLS

Eleven RN cadets, led by Oscar Hill (Fifth Form, Temple), visited the Royal Navy's Sea Survival School on Tuesday 13 December to develop their self-reliance and initiative. They started with a talk on "yellow crinkly stuff" (fire, to the rest of us), how it happens and how to kill it.

First practical task: use extinguishers to put out chip pan fires. Second practical task: form into teams of two – one equipped with a thermal imaging camera and one with a hose – and enter an engine room compartment in which one of the engines has caught fire, identify the seat of the fire and put it out.

Then on to the Damage Repair Instructional Unit – imagine the set of 'Titanic' or 'The Crimson Ocean', but in this case your task is not to act out a drowning passenger, but to stop the water coming in and to save the ship! Meanwhile the deck is rocking and the free water is hurtling from one side of the compartment to the other. "Brace, brace, brace" for attack, and then came the damage report: "Flooding in the Junior Rates' Mess". Stowe's team descended into the flooded space, hammered wedges into holes in the bulkhead, and held their breath while hammering wedges into holes in the deck several feet below the water. The most difficult one was the hole that could only be reached by squeezing into a locker, but even that was blocked in the end. The cadets emerged bedraggled but enthused, with the highlights recorded by photographer Zara Vickers (Fourth Form, Stanhope).

David Critchley Lt Cdr RNR CCF



Universities Visit Stowe

James Ringer, Deputy Head of Recruitment at Goldsmiths, University of London, spoke to the Lower Sixth on Tuesday 22 November about how they can make the most of their Lower Sixth year and use it to make a more effective university application in the Upper Sixth. His impressive series of spider diagrams focused on the applicant – his skills, interests and experience – and he finished up with some entertaining examples of what not to say in a Personal Statement. He has given Stoics all the advice they need to get ahead of the game and put in place all the evidence that they will need to back up what they say in their Personal Statement next September.

Katherine Pagett, Student Recruitment Manager at the University of Birmingham, spoke to

Stowe parents on Friday 25 November. She has given this talk annually at Stowe for several years now and it is well received each time. She emphasised the breadth of choice available, and the importance of the applicants researching all of their options properly. Parents appreciated her explanation of the application system and how they could support their children through this anxious period. Her closing advice was to make sure that Stoics had basic cooking skills and could master the intricacies of a washing machine; it was amusingly put but made a serious point as well. For those parents who were unable to attend, or who want to refresh their memory, Katherine's slides and video footage of her presentation can be found on the [website](#).

David Critchley, UCAS Applications Tutor



Literary Society

The Senior Literary Society's first meeting of the year welcomed bestselling author Leigh Russell to Stowe to discuss her career as a novelist. Despite her critically acclaimed talent for penning hideous murders and heinous crimes, she was lovely; she delivered a fascinating writing masterclass including both advice she herself received as a writer: such as to never include a prologue or kill off a dog; as well as her own advice to us: ignore any "rules" given.

Russell proved plenty adept at practising what she preached; she later told us one of her books included both aforementioned writing sins! In order to exercise our own skills, those who attended were ushered into the dark to absorb the chilling (in all senses of the word) atmosphere of the South Front under the cover of night, we were then instructed to write the opening of a crime piece set at Stowe. The prospect of presenting our efforts to the author and her husband was perhaps even more chilling than our setting, though ultimately very rewarding.

We would like to thank Leigh Russell and her husband for attending, as well as Ms Puranik for organising such a wonderful event. The Senior Literary Society would also encourage readers to look out for the next thrilling instalment of the Lucy Hall mysteries - might we offer the title "The Body in the Blue Room"?

Ingrid Galler (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Alex Orton (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)



LAMDA

Following a recent examiners' visit to the School on Friday 18 November, we are delighted to hear of further success, achievement and awards given to some of our Stoics.

Sophia Sander (Upper Sixth, West) was awarded Level 3 Gold medal Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 8; Annie Ormerod (Upper Sixth, Nugent) Level 3 Gold medal Solo Acting pass with distinction Grade 8; Emily Osborne (Upper

Sixth, Queen's) and Laurine Heerema (Upper Sixth, Queen's) Level 3 Gold Medals Duo Acting pass with distinction Grade 8; Bella Mullarkey (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) Level 3 Silver medal Solo Acting pass with merit Grade 7; and Izzy Hopkins (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Maria Sharipova (Fourth Form, Stanhope) Level 2 Acting Grade 5 pass with distinction.

Nick Bayley, Drama Department

HOCKEY

In the matches against Stamford earlier in the term our Yearlings sides lost two and drew one of the three matches played. In the return matches on Saturday 3 December they turned it around and won two and drew one of the matches. The A team drew 3-3 having lost 3-2 previously, the B team drew for the second time and the C team reversed a 4-2 defeat in the first game to win 3-1 and record their first win of the season.

The fast improving girls' U15As beat Wellingborough 2-0 on Tuesday 29 November and on Thursday 1 December Bubby Upton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) scored a hat-trick to secure a fantastic 3-2 victory for the 1st XI against Trent. The 2nd XI recorded an impressive 4-1 win against Trent on Saturday 3 December and the U16As had a very one-sided 0-0 draw. The U14As rounded off some fine performances against Trent with a 2-1 win.

On Wednesday 7 December the U14As had a fine 3-0 win against Cokethorpe, the 1st XI drew with MCS Oxford, the 2nd XI won 4-1 and the 3rd XI had an extraordinary 9-0 win. Even with most teams playing a team down the block fixtures against Repton on Saturday 10 December were always going to be tough. However, there were some really encouraging results led by the 1st XI's 3-2 win and the 2nd XI's 3-1 win, the U16As had an exciting 3-3 draw and the U14C edged their game 2-1. The performance of the day came from the U15Cs who completely outplayed Repton to win 6-1.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

POLO

On Sunday 4 December we had two fast and exciting polo matches against Wellington College at Emsworth Polo Club in Berkshire. The A team fought a tough game but unfortunately lost 28-20. The B team also had a hard match and lost 11-5.

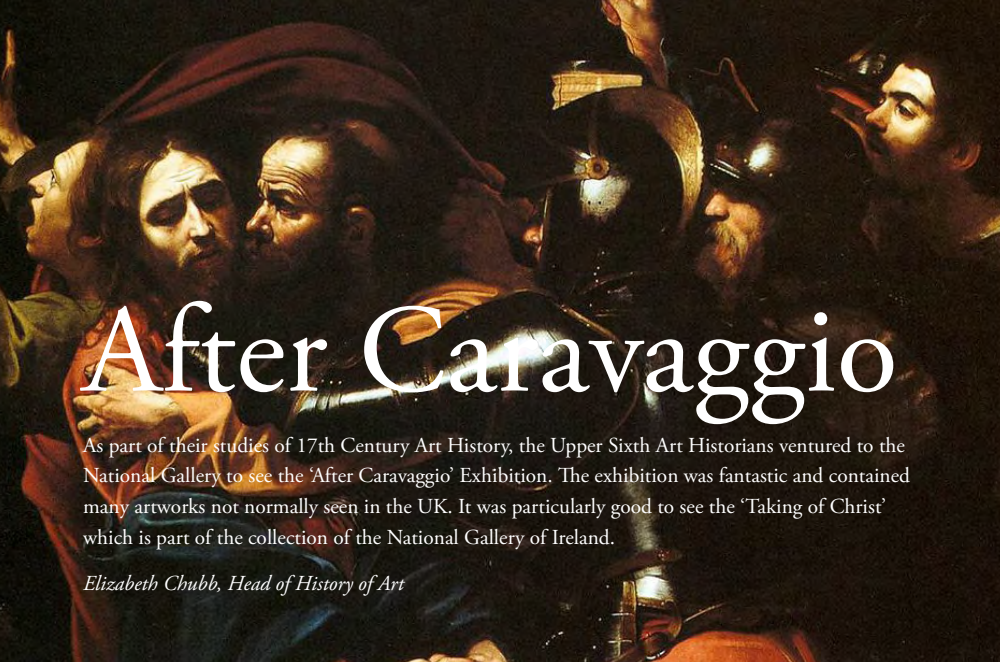
Fiona Corrhine, MiC Polo



StoweSport.co.uk

For up-to-date news, fixtures and results from all the sports at Stowe make sure you visit our dedicated sports [website](#). You can also get live reports from our teams by following us on [twitter](#).

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After Caravaggio

As part of their studies of 17th Century Art History, the Upper Sixth Art Historians ventured to the National Gallery to see the 'After Caravaggio' Exhibition. The exhibition was fantastic and contained many artworks not normally seen in the UK. It was particularly good to see the 'Taking of Christ' which is part of the collection of the National Gallery of Ireland.

Elizabeth Chubb, Head of History of Art

Mark Garnier MP

On Thursday 1 December government trade minister Mark Garnier MP visited Stowe to talk to Lower Sixth Politics pupils about all things politics, which at the moment means Brexit. The talk was a fantastic event and Stoics asked a range of questions about the functions of Parliament and the role of the select committees, before the conversation inevitably turned to the issues surrounding our decision to leave the European Union.

The talk was followed by dinner, where Stoics were able to go deeper into the debates and learn some of the inside stories of Westminster, including a committee filibuster to waste time by Jacob Rees-Mogg, which included calling for



new candles after 2.00am. All in all this was a hugely valuable event and we are very grateful to Mark Garnier for taking time away from securing new trade deals for Britain to talk to the Stoics.

Charlie Barker, Head of Politics

After Liverpool

Following hot on the heels of the whole School Musical 'Prodigy', staged with such exuberance and panache at the start of December, it was a pleasure for me to be involved with Directors India Spencer (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Florence Berner (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and their superb cast of fellow Upper Sixth actors in producing 'After Liverpool' by James Saunders.

This gripping and at times very challenging 'adult' piece was staged with imagination, simplicity and a good deal of style in the intimate surroundings of the Dobinson Studio

Theatre on Friday 9 December. Two packed houses, made up of families, staff and Stoics were treated to some superb performances from Carleton Tufnel (Temple), Lucy Alderton (Stanhope), Florence Fox (Stanhope), Isabella Mullarkey (Stanhope), Isabel Avery (Lyttelton), Fabian Bevan (Grafton), Charles Granby (Grafton), Thomas Cowley (Bruce), Eliza Dubois (Nugent) and Annika Ormerod (Nugent). A huge congratulations to everyone involved in the production.

Nick Bayley, Drama Department



GOLF

Golf at Stowe has continued to thrive with a good number of Stoics participating. The PGA Coaching and Development trip to Portugal next Easter has been confirmed and this is an exciting development with 14 Stoics now confirmed. Stoics will have the opportunity to play on some of the Algarve's most pristine golf courses. In preparation for the trip, Stoics have been submitting official handicap cards and notable performances thus far have come from Tom Youds (Fourth Form, Chandos), Chanatip Chinavicharana (Third Form, Walpole), Louis Hay (Fourth Form, Grafton), Tom Riley (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Tom Scott (Fourth Form, Chandos). Other key improvers over the past few weeks are Piense Odell (Lower Sixth, Grenville), who continues to impress us all with his ball striking and Gabriel Armstrong (Fifth Form, Chandos) who has really improved the technical aspects of his game. After the Christmas break I will be available to Stoics for private golf lessons thus continuing to improve the golfing provision at Stowe.

Andrew Hancox, MiC Golf

For weekly reports on all Stowe Sports visit our website www.stowesport.co.uk

French Christmas Poetry Recital

Stowe held its second French Christmas Poetry Recital on Thursday 8 December and what a joy it was! All those studying French in the Third Form gathered in the Roxy to listen to the nine acts who made it through to the final. We heard solo poetry performances, singing and dancing acts and everything inbetween. But it was up to our three judges, Mr Perronnet (Head of French at Beachborough School) and our French Assistants, Marie Derrien and Anna Chaumont, to cast the final vote. Evgeniia Zen (Lyttelton) and Isabella Henderson (Lyttelton) were crowned as the overall winners with their polished yet very entertaining version of the poem 'Le Père Noël est enrhumé', whilst Marlow Turner (Cobham) and Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Walpole), sang a harmonised duet of 'Vive le Vent' to come second. In third place was Mimi Pearson-Gee (Nugent) who sang 'Dans un coin, le sapin' and played accompaniment on the guitar. My thanks go to the judges, the performers and all those who supported the event.

Alice Tearle, Modern Languages Department





Nice

On the first Sunday of October Half term, 17 Fifth Formers jetted off to Nice in the South of France to spend a week attending morning lessons at the Alpha-B Language School and to go on a number of planned excursions along the beautiful Cote d'Azur in order to sample the climate, tastes and sights of this lovely part of the world.

Stoics stayed with host families, all of whom spoke little or no English, so we had no choice but to use our GCSE French to communicate. Meals were served in famille, with many Stoics encountering niçoise specialities for the first time, such as pissaladière, socca, pan bagnat, poutine and daube niçoise – all met with varying degrees of approval!

Our French teachers, Martine and Patrice were so helpful in the lessons, suggesting improvements in our French GCSE work and organising linguistic treasure hunts in the Old Town, followed by some very spirited conversation sessions where Stoics of all abilities and bravery were able to join in and make the most of their newly-learned vocab.

Our guide for the afternoon excursions, Nicolas, was very well clued-up on the Riviera and its customs and gave us a wealth of information on our guided tour of Nice and the Old Town. We were shown the Place Masséna, leading on to the Opéra de Nice and the famous Cours Saleya with its antiques and flower market. We then went up to the castle and waterfall, with its breath-taking views over the Baie des Anges and the port and then around to the Confiserie Florian, a sweets and chocolate factory where Stoics were very quick to put their language to good use in the factory shop!

On a serious note, this year there was the very

visible presence of the 'Vigipirate', a military security force carrying loaded machine guns, who are on constant alert following the terrible attack on Bastille Day of this year on the Promenade des Anglais by a man who drove a truck through crowds of partygoers, killing 84 people. We visited the bandstand which now acts as a memorial to those killed in this awful attack.

On Tuesday afternoon we went East along the coast to the medieval walled town of Èze where we visited the tropical cactus garden and went on a guided tour of the Fragonard perfume factory. Wednesday afternoon saw us on the train to Antibes where we visited the old market town and the Picasso museum and got to spend some time on the beach and swim in the sea.

We went further East on Thursday to Monaco and the town of Monte Carlo, taking in the Casino, Café de Paris, Hotel de Paris and the starting grid of the Formula 1 Grand Prix. It was then up to the Oceanographic Museum with its spectacular underground aquarium and then Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars.

After a heartfelt thanks to our Alpha-B teachers and guide, we had a pizza and pasta lunch where Esme Foster (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Helena Vince (Fifth Form, Queen's) won the prize for the best involvement in French lessons, Will Perry (Fifth Form, Cobham) won the petrol-head award and Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Fifth Form, Stanhope) was recognised for her politeness and consideration for others. This was followed by sunbathing and swimming at the beach for a couple of hours until we all made our way to the airport to fly back to the winter weather at Luton.

Simon Dobson, French Department



SKIING

Every Wednesday since Half term, Mrs Browne and I have taken groups of Stoics to the MK Snozone indoor ski slope to take part in training and selection for the Stowe Ski Team. Training has been delivered by Will Manns, an expert coach and former racer and Mark Berry, our very own race consultant coach who is also GB's FIS Commissioner.

The training has been a mix of basic race technique and gate training, as well as freestyle weeks, where the pupils have been able to go on the Snow Park and jumps, including landing on a huge inflatable jump mat. At the end of this block of training, the two teams for the Schoolboys' and Schoolgirls' British Championships in January were selected.

The successful members are Cami Hay (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Georges Tasker (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Louis Hay (Fourth Form, Grafton), Tom Scott (Fourth Form, Chandos), Hugo Warner (Third Form, Temple), Xan Kenlock (Third Form, Chatham), Oli Reed (Third Form, Walpole), Matteo Pangherz (Third Form, Chandos), Bella Hobby (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Jaimie McIntosh (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Chloe Livesey (Fourth Form, Stanhope). Congratulations to all of these racers, and commiserations to all those who didn't quite make the team.

For these pupils and any other Stoics who are interested in joining the ski team, we will continue to go training and are hoping to run a training camp in December 2017 for all skiing and snowboard disciplines. If you would like more information, please contact [me](#).

Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science



How to Tie a Bow Tie

Another successful team of Stoics have enjoyed learning how to tie a real bow tie correctly. Great fun has been had by all and this is a great skill for the Stoics to have.

Clare Hill-Hall, Chandos Matron



Mum's the Word

On Wednesday 23 November, the Business Society explored the real world of intelligence, security and espionage with a talk from Professor Anthony Grees from the University of Buckingham. Professor Grees is a long-term academic, author and advisor on government policy and is also the Director of the University's Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies. He expertly led Stoics through the top secret world of MI5, MI6, SIS and GCHQ and through the history and structure of British intelligence from before WWII, using developments in technology and global political relations as a framework to help pupils understand how the world is changing.

Stoics were fascinated with tales of how technology is being used to help security services track and intercept key information to help protect our Nation. From the heroic exploits of Bletchley Park to how mobile phone technology can be used to disrupt and intercept terrorists, the talk then moved on to the value of international relations; trade blocks and, of course, the "special relationship" the UK has with the United States.

As part of Professor Grees' brief, Stoics had requested an overview of potential career routes into this industry from undergraduate and postgraduate perspectives. Essential skills and attributes included intellect, resilience, outstanding skills in maths, science and computing and above all else, strength of character. The attributes of many of our current and Old Stoics I am sure.

After the talk, many Stoics remained behind for a rather intense Q&A session with regards to the commercialisation of intelligence services. The Stoics impressed Professor Grees with their knowledge of the industry and how profits are impacted by the level of investment required to protect organisations against growing cyber threats and what happens when a company's security is inadequate.

Overall this was an amazing opportunity for Stoics to engage with a non-standard potential career path and to gain insight into how the growing industry of intelligence, security and cyber security impacts businesses across the globe.

Gordon West, Business and Economics Department

Cycle Clinic

Thank you to all Stoics and staff that have been to see me over the past few months. It is very encouraging to see so many Stoics who have bikes wanting to ensure they are safe and road worthy. The Clinic has been operating since the beginning of November and is going from strength to strength. I have been in attendance every Thursday in term time between 4.00pm - 6.00pm and will be operating once again from 12 January 2017.

The Clinic is free of charge to all Stoics and staff and I do my utmost to carryout minor repairs during this time without any costs. However, where there is work required that we believe will take longer to repair a small charge for parts will be incurred and charged back to the parents via the School billing process.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you in January. Happy and safe cycling

Nick Zammit, Cycle Mechanic

Omnibus

This is a reconstruction by Lower Sixth Art Historians of William Maw Egley's (1826-1916) 'Omnibus Life in London'. Making use of our own red double decker bus, as well as the Drama Department's costumes, we managed to get a close representation of the scene.

The genre became popular during Egley's time; the settings of public places, such as the seaside or other typical British locations, with crowds used to represent microcosms of society. This one in particular is most likely based on Honoré Daumier's depictions of the inside of railway carriages. The omnibus - a horse-drawn carriage that picked up and deposited people along an established route (the first bus one might say) was introduced into London on 4 July 1829 and quickly became a popular mode of transport among the middle classes, as it was relatively expensive.

In order to achieve the high degree of realism of the interior, the cramped conditions are enhanced by the framed, closed composition and lighting. The passengers depict several classes of society, from the old country woman with her piles of baggage and the young mother with her children, to the city clerk with his cane, who are all forced to share a small compartment. The Illustrated London News said "the stern and trying incidents would be recognised by thousands of weary wayfarers through the streets of London."

Mar Martinez-Tomas (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)



Sulgrave Manor

On Thursday 1 December a group of Upper Sixth US Politics pupils visited Sulgrave Manor, the historical home of the first US President George Washington, to meet two former Congressmen: Republican Phil Gingrey from Georgia and Martin Frost, a Democrat from Texas. Pupils from a range of local schools asked questions in a 'Question Time' format, covering a range of topics.

This really assisted our learning as we were able to expand on topics we had already looked at in class and also had the added value of first-hand experience of the Congressmen which gave us another perspective. Of course, the topic everyone was interested in discussing was the recent election of Donald Trump, the reasons for his win and the future of his office. Phil Gingrey gave us a particularly interesting view of the state of his Party. His perspective on Trump's controversial views, such as those on immigration and climate change, was unexpected, but perhaps nothing was as

surprising as his response to the question: "Will the Republicans ever publicly accept man-made climate change?" In essence, he asserted that the Republicans might not be ignorant but that there are other influencing factors which limit their ability to actually state their real opinion. He described how, for example, the increase of a partisan media means members of Congress must keep their opinion in line with the party position to avoid bad press coverage, showing the modern influence of the media in politics.

This was just one example of the number of interesting subjects covered in our discussions. We do not necessarily have time to look at these topics in such detail in class and as such, this trip really does enrich our learning and so has great value. We would definitely recommend it to next year's Upper Sixth.

*Katy Webb (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)
and Olivia Fox (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)*

Gingerbread House

Our new pastry chef, Kathy Turner, has put her skills from her training at Le Cordon Bleu in London to the test and created this marvellous Christmas Gingerbread House which is on display in the State Dining Room. The house took a staggering 25 hours to build and there are 450 individually made roof tiles. All donations are going to the [Leonard Cheshire Disability](#) and at the end of term it is going to be donated to a local nursing home.



Arts at Stowe and Chance Organisation present



The Legendary Voice of

ROGER HODGSON

formerly of SUPERTRAMP

TICKETS from £50

[BUY TICKETS](#)

The Supertramp 'Dreamer' returns to Stowe by popular demand

Following a sell-out tour in America, I am delighted to announce that the charismatic Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68), co-founder and former lead singer of Supertramp, is returning to Stowe to sweep you away with his beautiful melodies and evocative lyrics; weaving those incredible harmonies that made him the diviner of Progressive Rock.

He is widely recognised as one of the most gifted composers, songwriters and lyricists of our time – The Logical Song, Breakfast in America, Give a Little Bit, Take the Long Way Home, Dreamer, It's Raining Again, School, Fool's Overture and so many others...

At this very special event, welcoming Roger back to an inspirational place he knows so well from his schooldays, Stowe is delighted to invite you to picnic in style in our

glorious grounds overlooking the lake or dine as a VIP in our resplendent State Rooms.

We warmly invite you to join us for what promises to be a magical and unforgettable evening. Tickets for the concert are now on sale and can be obtained by clicking on the 'buy tickets' link. Picnics can be pre-ordered or you may bring your own. We have created a variety of hospitality opportunities and you can find out more [here](#).

Current parents please note, there is no need to order tickets for Stoics as these have already been reserved for our pupils.

I hope we will see you on this very special occasion.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

Exeat Pastoral Presentations to Parents

All parents are invited to attend a series of talks hosted by the Headmaster, Dr Wallersteiner, in the Music Room from 11am-12.30pm on the dates below.

20 January: Henry Maybury

Henry Maybury is a young British singer songwriter whose debut song 'Lost Days' was released in September 2014. The song was written after the death of his 29 year old brother Tom in 2013. The video is so powerful that it was nominated for 'Best Music Video' at the 2014 London Independent Film Festival. Henry and his mother will talk about family loss through addiction and its lasting legacy on family members.



10 March: Mandy Saligari

Mandy Saligari will present on 'Parenting for Prevention'; the addictive profile, the family influence, six steps towards acceptance and how to love without suffocating – it is an essential guide for any 21st century parent. Mandy has recently appeared on Channel 5's 'Violent Child, Desperate Parents' and 'In Therapy', currently being shown at 10pm on Tuesday nights. An expert therapist, Mandy Saligari is the founder and clinical director of CHARTER, one of London's leading outpatient clinics specialising in private addiction and eating disorder treatment.



12 May: Dick Moore

Since November 2012, Dick Moore has been visiting schools, universities and organisations to help raise awareness of mental health issues. Born and brought up in London, and educated at Durham and Newcastle universities, Dick became an English teacher, rugby coach, boarding school housemaster and, for over twenty years, the headmaster of a co-educational day and boarding school. Circumstances led Dick to develop a passionate interest in adolescent development, mental health and emotional wellbeing.



Please contact Kirsten McIntock, Head of Pupil Welfare, for further information on kmclintock@stowe.co.uk or 01280 818136.

Stowe

Fundraising Dinner for Cape Town & Dubai Cricket Tours

Friday 20 January 2017
Stowe State Rooms

7.00pm Champagne Reception followed by a four course meal

Auction, silent auction, raffle and speeches

Members of the Northants T20 Blast winning squad will be our guests of honour, with words from Steve Crook and Alex Wakely

Speaker: Former England International, Devon Malcolm

MC: BBC Broadcaster, Jamie Reid

Dress: Lounge Suits

£450 for a table of 10 or £50 individually

For further details and to book tickets, please contact James Knott on 07738 683605 or email jknott@stowe.co.uk

Stowe School Limited, a company limited by guarantee, Registered in England, Registered no: 187251
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The dinner will also be supporting the following charities:
Chance to Shine
Lord's Taverners
PCA Benevolent Fund



Looted Art

In November, the History of Art Department was pleased to welcome Dr Adriano Aymonino from the University of Buckingham to speak to Stoics and staff. He is a specialist on the 18th Century Country House, but his previous position was with the Commission for Looted Art in Europe. We listened to a fascinating talk on the process of looting in Nazi occupied Europe and how art is being resituated to its rightful owners. The process of restitution isn't as it is portrayed in the 'Monuments Men' film and he demonstrated the complex task that Art Historians have in finding and recovering missing art.

Elizabeth Chubb, Head of History of Art

Carols by Candlelight

Between our Advent Carol Service and our end of term Carol Services, the Choir excelled themselves by staging 'Carols by Candlelight' presented with the Parish Church. This intimate event in an ancient and beautifully decorated setting, featured a first half of selections from Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols', with Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West) on harp conducted by myself, and seasonal solo songs, accompanied largely by Mr Aitken and Mrs Sherry, including Peter Warlock's, 'Adam Lay Ybouden' performed by Emily Banks (Fourth Form, Lyttelton); Handel's 'The People that Walked in Darkness' by Peter Entwisle (Fifth Form, Temple); and Mrs Sherry's new arrangement of 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' sung by Emilia Pacia (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and accompanied by Charlotte Brennan.

After some seasonal fortifications at half time, everyone joined in with a community carol sing, with Sally Army favourites led by Mr Gibbon's Chapel Brass from the Organ Gallery. Also, by popular demand, following their debut at the community lunch earlier in the month was 'Jingle Bells', performed by Lucy Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Nugent) on her ukulele and Lauren Taylor (Lower Sixth, Queen's) on the sleigh bells.

Our thanks to Rev'd Sue Sampson, Stowe Minister, the Parish Wardens Chris Close-Smith and Margaret Ryley, and their congregation for such a warm welcome. We raised funds for their new servery and hope to have further such combined events in the future.

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music



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