

CHANGE MAKER DAY



On Thursday 23 February, the second Change Maker Day of the academic year was held, with Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth pupils involved. Unfortunately, the looming GCSE and A Level examinations prevented Stoics in the Fifth and Upper Sixth Form from being part of the day.

Being a Change Maker is a mindset and a journey, and a pupil's time at Stowe is about developing the core skills that will turn individuals into Change Makers; by influencing the way they think, enhancing the physical abilities they have, the knowledge they hold, and the attitude they approach life with.

The importance and relevance of the six core Change Maker Skills, which are the core of the ethos, can be explained;

Active Learning

Active learners are those who fully engage with the learning process and take responsibility for their progress both in and out of the classroom.

Emotional Intelligence

Emotionally intelligent people have the ability to identify and regulate their own emotions, to recognise the emotions of other people and feel empathy towards them.

Creativity and Innovation

Creative and innovative people develop unique and interesting solutions to problems and are open to new ideas.

Communication and Technology

Strong communicators exchange thoughts, messages and information effectively. Technologically-able people use technology appropriately, responsibly and with confidence.

Analytical Thinking

Analytical thinkers examine and evaluate information available to reach logical and workable conclusions.

Leadership and Social Literacy

Socially literate leaders help themselves and others to do the right thing. Socially literate people have the ability to respectfully voice opinions and thoughts and make good decisions, taking into account the views of others. Sometimes being a positive team member is just as valuable.

There were a vast number of activities available on Change Maker Day, ranging from cake decorating, volunteering at local woodlands, sorting out donated clothes for a hospice, learning to row, and being a journalist reporting on the activities of the day.

Every activity that was on offer to the Stoics was selected and considered for the skills it would enhance and introduce, often many being softer and more discrete than the obvious objective of the activity. For instance, taking Third Form Pupils down to the Eleven Acre Lake and introducing them to rowing, enables so much more than just learning the physical ability of how to row a boat; listening skills, teamwork, empathy and communication are all enhanced.

An incredible number of activities took place, which meant a huge and varied amount of learning, and also a huge amount of organisation by all. The Fourth Form alone went to volunteer at eight different locations (167 pupils, on four coaches and 23 Staff)!



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THIRD FORM

On Thursday 23 February the entire Third Form had a Change Maker Day to learn and develop new skills. Change Maker Day is all about developing a new skill which will help Stoics in their futures. Head of Third Form, Mr Teasdale, says "Change Maker skills aren't about being sat in a classroom; they are about developing much softer skills. For the Third Form, they develop awareness of how to go about tackling a new skill using a wide different range of activities."

Change Maker Day applies the School's mantra and the Stoics mission which is to "be a Change Maker".

We were taking part in a journalism activity and our aims of the day were to go around the School to every activity and to see and understand what was happening in the other groups and to gather information to complete our writing about the day.

The morning started with a walk to the woods towards the Eleven Acre Lake, a place we had never been to before, where we visited pupils working to help the National Trust. We saw them cut down branches and burn wood to help ensure the wellbeing of our beloved Stowe. Aaron Li (Walpole) said "Although it's cold it is nice to take part in an activity which will help ensure the wellbeing of our site".

We also saw the music activity, where there were some fine skills on display, with one group gathered around the piano and other groups making soundtracks on computer software. All the groups were collaborating and producing some good work.

A drama workshop held in The Roxy, led by Director of Drama Ms Rebecca Clark and fellow Drama Teacher Mr Joshua Ward, explored the play 'Something Dark' by Lemn Sissay. During the workshop the pupils worked through the powerful effect of lighting on and of unison and levels on stage. While talking with Ms Clark she tells us that for her, "drama and theatre will always tell a story".

In the Drayson, many pupils were trying their skills out in new sports, including Kayaking and Table Tennis. They all looked on intently, had fun with their friends and tried their new skills with courage and enthusiasm. Learning to work together was a great skill which the boys needed in their introduction to Lacrosse. The girls who had a go at Rugby enjoyed getting stuck in and learning to tackle, although were less than pleased with their muddy hands!

One of the most popular activities on offer was cake decorating. Pupils learnt all the ways in which they could decorate a cake, from piping, to spraying the cake to give a final look. They used many different Change Maker skills such as active learning and creativity to design their cakes. Emilia Rivett (Queen's) beautifully said that "being a Change Maker doesn't mean doing something perfectly, but it is continuing to improve what you're working on to see a gradual change."

When we walked into DT, we could feel the concentration. Everyone was hard at work designing lamps, which were going to be made from acrylic, with a wooden base and an LED bulb. The designs ranged from rugby balls to farm animals. After creating the product, pupils started to engrave their lamps with their designs, hoping for a wonderful result after a lot of hard work. In the Art Department all the pupils were busy, trying out some graffiti street art and enjoying being a Change Maker.

After this fantastic day, we would like to thank all the staff for organising it and giving up their time, so that we could try something new.

Archie Charles (Cobham), Emilia Combastet (Lyttelton), Omar Curtis-Bennett (Chatham), Charlotte Hemstock (Nugent), Gabriel Ranieri (Winton) and Henry Watts Wiggett (Winton)



MUSIC



Violin Recital - Cristian Grajner de Sa & Marina Nadiradze

It was with great pleasure that the Music Department welcomed two internationally esteemed artists, Cristian Grajner de Sa and Marina Nadiradze, to perform for us on Thursday 2 February. Cristian is well known to British audiences and is now establishing himself as one of the rising violin stars of the new generation. At the age of 24, he was invited to perform his European debut recital at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam where he was acclaimed "equally poetic, wild, fierce... a future giant among soloists". He was then engaged to make his European concerto debut with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon under the baton of the Colombian conductor and Chicago Symphony apprentice, Lina González-Granados, and introduced to their audience as "...one of the great violin stars of the future...".

String players from across The Stowe Group were incredibly lucky to get to work with Cristian in an afternoon workshop. Congratulations to Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos), Olivia Ng (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Milo Xing (Fifth Form, Chandos), along with Raphael Rayner from Winchester House School, for their outstanding performances and for responding so positively to the feedback provided by Cristian. Thanks, must also go to Head of Keyboard Ben Andrew for his ever-dependable accompanying throughout the afternoon.

In an article for the Independent Newspaper, critic Michael Church compared Marina Nadiradze's playing to that of the great Japanese pianist Mitsuko Uchida and, since her arrival in the UK, Marina has captivated audiences with her

exquisite artistry and passion. Her early studies were at the State Conservatoire in Tbilisi, Georgia, where her teachers included Veka Svanidze and Tengiz Amirejibi. Subsequently she was a major scholarship holder at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she continued her studies with Philip Jenkins. During her time there she won every major piano competition and graduated with an MMus (Distinction) in Solo Performance. International competition successes include a major award in Vilnius, Lithuania, Second Prize in the inaugural Tbilisi Piano Competition, First Prize in the highly prestigious LASMO Staffa Award, and Second Prize and the Lawrence Glover Silver Medal at the Scottish International Piano Competition in 2001, where she also won the prize for the best performance of the specially composed work by John McCabe.

Together, Cristian and Marina presented a fantastically foray into the height of musical romanticism and showcased their virtuoso technique and musicianship. Sonatas by established favourites Brahms and Franck were supplemented by music composed by the much-underrated American composer, Amy Beach.

Enormous thanks are due to Katie Potts, Head of Instrumental Studies, for bringing the whole event together. It is certainly no exaggeration to claim that this was one of the most thrilling and captivating performances seen on the stage of the Ugland Auditorium in recent years!

Emma Bryden, Head of Academic Music & Director of Music

I, SPY - RHIAN TRACEY

'I, SPY' has been chosen by Blackwell's Bookshops (across the UK) as their Book of the Month for March 2023. Written by Stowe Teacher of Skills, Rhian Tracey, it is a thrilling mystery adventure set in Bletchley Park at the start of World War II, based on true events. Perfect for fans of Phil Earle and Hilary McKay.

"A highly original, gripping World War II story." - Emma Carroll

Twelve-year-old Robyn has grown up in Bletchley Park, where her father works as a driver. When she's not at school, there's nothing she likes more than helping her dad in the garages.

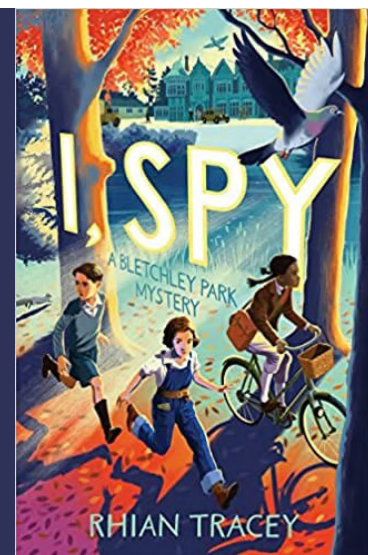
Then the war begins and everything at Bletchley changes.

Robyn is assigned to help with the carrier pigeons that take messages to the Allies. But first, she must sign the Official

Secrets Act and is ordered not to leave the grounds of the park. While Bletchley is buzzing with people recruited for the war effort and all eyes are on the skies, Robyn becomes convinced that there's something sinister going on within Bletchley Park itself.

Together with her friends Mary and Ned, Robyn resolves to uncover the enemy in their midst...

"I loved this spy mystery about Robyn and her friends as they try to uncover the enemy in their midst. Rhian's wonderful descriptions of Bletchley Park made me feel I was there in one of the most famous settings in WWII Britain. Readers will be hooked until the end." Sufiya Ahmed, Author of *Rosie Raja: Churchill's Spy*.



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Equestrian Centre

Change Maker Day saw a group of Third Form pupils attend the Equestrian Centre for a day, learning a new skill - Animal Care. The pupils started the day learning all about the care a horse needs; from creating a clean stable, providing food and water, as well as learning about their digestive systems, feed requirements and field maintenance.

In the afternoon, the pupils had the opportunity to learn how to lead a horse safely and had a hands-on grooming session. The horses definitely enjoyed the attention! The focus for the afternoon was also about how we exercise horses, so the pupils watched a demonstration of how to lunge a horse, learnt about all the variations in tack and had the chance to walk the cross-country course.

At the end of the day each pupil demonstrated their new knowledge by naming a part of the horse and giving some facts that they had learnt throughout the day. Everyone worked really hard despite the cold conditions.

Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian



Thornborough Community Woodlands

Our group of 20 Fourth Formers represented Stowe at the Thornborough Community Woodlands.

On arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the Senior Manager of the Trust and some volunteer members who would be supervising us for the day. We walked a muddy trail behind the tractor to our 'base camp' where we were each provided with thick gardening gloves, safety glasses and a long-handled pruner. After a safety briefing, we were missioned to trim the branches on the lower two metres of each tree in our section of the wood; this seemingly brutal act of mutilating a tree was justified when we were told that the purpose is to allow more sunlight to shine through the trees onto the woodland floor, promoting a richer growth of other living organisms such as ferns. In the future this will provide more habitats for wildlife and greatly improve the woodland biodiversity.

Initially, the part of the wood we were assigned to could barely fit a person through, but after some rousing encouragement from Mr Møller, everyone was determined to break this natural blockade. We started at the edge of the wood and worked our way towards the interior, lopping and pruning in teams of two or three, eventually becoming more spread-out into secluded spaces, working productively in peace. It was deeply therapeutic to be in

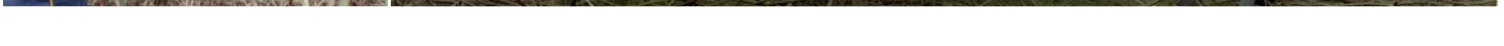
the calm of the woods.

After a morning of hard physical work our efforts paid off, with a number of accessible corridors created through the wood from the Stoics' endless energy, ambition and teamwork. We took a lunch break with everyone looking victorious. But this group of Stoics were still full of energy, and many asked to leave lunch early to do more work; the Trust Staff members were staggered by our passion.

We worked tirelessly alongside the Trust volunteers. After the pruning, we collected and piled the cut branches, trimming those that were too long into appropriate sizes, and carried the logs of the dead trees that were taken down. The Trust will sell the logs to help finance more oil and fuel for the tractors and chain saws. Five hours flew by very quickly. We all pushed ourselves and everyone was feeling like a Change Maker. We were overwhelmed by the compliments coming our way from the team.

Overall, despite a day of tiring manual work, there was a great feeling of satisfaction as we contemplated corridors of trees with a slimmer silhouette and a dappled sunlight woodland floor.

**Jerry Liu and Paul Ostroverhy
(both Fourth Form, Chandos)**



The Award

The Award is a process we have developed at Stowe to encourage Participation and Engagement in the eight key areas of life at Stowe: Academic Engagement, Citizenship, Thinking Differently, Sport and Physical Activity, The Arts, In the Community, Achieving Qualifications and Beyond Term Time.

Last term's Personal Reports have been moderated and scores have been compiled to produce leaderboards for each Year Group. The top twenty from each Year Group have been circulated to Houseparents for publication in Houses, and Tutors also have the full lists to discuss how individual Stoics are faring.

Once again it is encouraging to see that those who are at the fore in their age groups are really demonstrating that it is possible to commit to success in multiple areas across school life – amongst a host of other things, their Personal Reports demonstrate that they are representing in a range of sports teams, taking leading roles in the CCF, contributing to the pupil newspaper, supporting and developing volunteering initiatives, performing in drama productions and developing skills and performing within the Music Department. Not to forget the host of opportunities that Stoics are taking part in outside term time.

We have listened to feedback from Staff and Stoics and the scoring system is now taking into account multiple achievements in one area, such as Sport or Music, but we are awarding bonus points for those who contribute in two or more different areas – so Stoics will still score more highly if they have entries in Sport, Thinking Differently, The Arts and In the Community.

It is a real pleasure to read the personal reports and see everything that Stoics are achieving, however it is important to remember that ultimately all of this experience is helping Stoics build their personal profile and these reports are an important record of achievement for them to review when writing personal statements and other applications.

At the beginning of next term, we will be awarding ties and pins to the top scorers in the Upper Sixth and Fifth Form as they come to the end of the process, so this term's Personal Reports are their final opportunity to celebrate their engagement.

The top five for each Year Group are as follows:

Third Form

Charlotte Hemstock (Nugent), Emily Gauvain (Queen's), Ariel Guo (Nugent), Niamh Byrne (Cheshire) and Alexander Burchell (Winton)

Fourth Form

Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Lyttelton), Rufus Shillington (Temple), Sassy Hall (Lyttelton), Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Winton) and Grace Nasmyth (Queen's)

Fifth Form

Gilbert Xu (Chandos), Lulu Goaman (Lyttelton), Josephine Parker (Cheshire), George Turner (Cobham) and Isabella Fuller (Cheshire)

Lower Sixth

Grace Barnett (Cheshire), Annie Flint (Queen's), Jemima Pearson-Gee (Nugent), Alice Bryant (Queen's) and Jasper Calkin (Cobham)

Upper Sixth

Leia West (West), Emily Sutton (Queen's), Max James (Cobham), Tham Luanghvisut (Walpole) and Maximilian Stevens (Temple)

Gwyllim Jones, Co-curricular Coordinator



Sleep Meditation with Ellie Foden

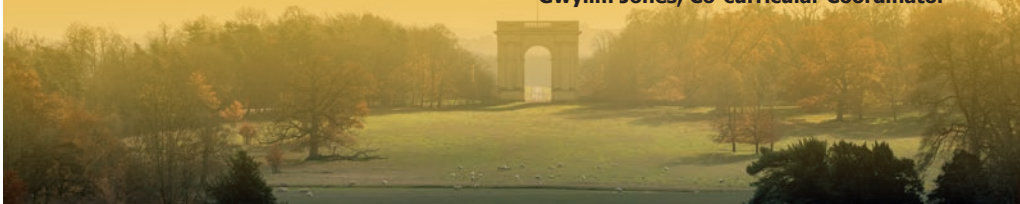
On Thursday 26 January, Ellie Foden joined some of the Sixth Form Stoics in the Blue Room to discuss how meditation and yoga can help with relaxation and improve sleep.

Ellie is a yoga and meditation teacher and life coach with over ten years of experience guiding people from all backgrounds to navigate modern life's anxieties, live well, and create a life they love.

Ellie has worked in London's top yoga studios, 5* hotels, and privately with clients. In this workshop, Ellie shared her tips on getting the best sleep during stressful times, like during exams or deadlines, and guided pupils through a few techniques including breath work and Yoga Nidra (sleep meditation), that can be used whenever you need to calm anxieties and get your best nights rest.

A recording that Ellie kindly did for pupils to use before bedtime is available to watch [here](#). I hope you enjoy it.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WIZARD?



APPROACH WITH EXTREME CAUTION
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE
MAGIC AGAINST THIS WIZARD

ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF THIS
WIZARD SHALL BE DULY REWARDED
NOTIFY IMMEDIATELY BY OWL TO THE MINISTRY OF MAGIC

LIBRARY

Harry Potter Book Night was held on Thursday 2 February in the Library. Pupils from all years were invited to join in to celebrate the magical world of Harry Potter. During the evening, Stoics had their wizard photographs taken, were sorted into Hogwarts Houses and then undertook a magical quiz to test their wizarding knowledge.

It was a tightly contested, but the Winning House was Slytherin, Second place was Gryffindor, Third place went to Hufflepuff, and Fourth place was Ravenclaw.

Thank you to all the Stoics who took part and made it a fun night.

Lucinda Stockley, Assistant Librarian



CHANGE MAKER DAY

Buckingham Primary School

Buckingham Primary School was extremely well organised and had allocated the Fourth Form Stoics to work in several small groups across different areas. They cleared an outdoor area of leaves, undertook the task of weeding and sweeping, then arranged logs around the edges. Others tidied and organised stationery, sorted books and disposed of old Maths textbooks by carrying them to the recycling bins outside of the main school building. A different group sorted out Maths resources into table groups, whilst others checked through Science resource boxes including electrical equipment, batteries and bulbs, and threw away broken equipment. In another area, a group sorted out PE bags from each classroom and put in labelled play equipment for break times. In the computer room all the headphones were checked to ensure they worked. Some of the Stoics also got

to work with BPS pupils in classrooms, reading with children and giving classroom support, or playing games outside. Two from our group even got to work in the Nursery with the children under four, and absolutely loved the experience.

Staff at Buckingham Primary School said, "The pupils were brilliant and the Teachers and Staff really appreciated their help - they did make a change to our students. We would love to have Stowe visit again and we are grateful for their help." Stoics have been invited back to help sort out the pond area.

Well done to the Stoics, you have received great praise from BPS and should be extremely proud of yourselves.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



Riding for the Disabled

Twenty Fourth Form Stoics went to Shacks Barn Riding for the Disabled Centre, to help around the stables. We did various activities such as mucking out the stables, brushing the horses, cleaning the arena and the horses' fields. However, we also heard some heartwarming stories of how life-changing and beneficial horse riding can be for those who attend. A horse's walking pattern is almost identical to a human. This means that riding a horse can start to stimulate some movement in human limbs, especially if the use of arms or legs has been lost. We then did some games involving teamwork, and learnt how hard it can be to do simple things with an impairment. It was a really thought-provoking day and we would certainly recommend the RDA activity.

Millie Colebrook (Fourth Form, Queen's)





Hockey

Oundle proved, in the block fixtures on Saturday 4 February, to be just ahead of us in boys' hockey, but with Stowe having only recently joined the demanding Midlands League, we are closing the gap. Well done to the U15Bs and Cs and the U14B teams for their encouraging results.

The boys' U14A and U14B teams successfully competed in the County Championships on Friday 10 February. Well done to both sides who became County Champions of their respective Tiers. The A side now progress to the regional competition.

In the block fixtures against Stamford on Saturday 25 February the 1st team had a 2-2 draw, coming back from being 2-0 down at half time, with Captain Ewan Hughes-Rowlands (Upper Sixth, Walpole) scoring a drag flick in the last minute of the match. The 2nds had a 3-0 win and the Yearlings As had a tight match that ended 0-0. Toby Sutliff (Third Form, Bruce) deserves a special mention for scoring a hat-trick in one half of the match for the Yearlings Bs.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Football

It was a successful afternoon for the Football Club who played Stamford at home on Saturday 4 February. The 1sts won 2-0 and the 2nds won 3-0.

The 1st XI had another impressive 4-0 win on the North Front against The Leys on Saturday 25 February, Alvin San (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Charlie Oldershaw (Lower Sixth, Winton), Ed Brook (Lower Sixth, Temple), Milan Choudree (Upper Sixth, Cobham) all scoring. The Most Valuable Player was Will Eastwood (Upper Sixth, Winton) with a fantastic performance in goal.

Matt Burch, Football Coach



Netball

Izzy Kaye (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) represented England in the U17 Netball team, in the Netball Europe competition in Northern Ireland on 23-26 February.

Phoebe Haynes (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) represented Scotland in the U19s against England Colleges in Scotland.

Very well done girls!

Victoria Dias, Head of Netball



Rugby

Five Stoics played in the U18s' Academy Final on Sunday 19 February at the Stonex Stadium, London, home of Saracens Rugby Club.

Henri Burditt (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Archie McParland (Upper Sixth, Temple), Ewan Baker (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Captain, Henry Pollock (Upper Sixth, Grafton) played for Northampton Saints and narrowly lost out to London Irish 24-19 with scrum half Noah Cowan (Upper Sixth, Chatham) lifting the trophy.

It marks the end of a tremendous Academy XV's season for these five Stoics and they were rewarded for the efforts with international recognition. Noah has been selected to trial for Scotland U18s' training camp at the end of the month and Henry and Archie have already been selected in the England U18s' squad for the 2023 Six Nations Tournament.

Grant Seeley, Director of Rugby





Stowe Serves up Justice!

On Saturday 21 January, Stowe hosted the regional heats for the Mock Trial Competition. The Stowe team was made up of Alice Scheffey (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Beatrice Floyd (Fifth Form, Queen's), Xavier Nylaende (Fifth Form, Bruce), Joseph Barnett (Lower Sixth, Winton), Max Broom Smith (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Henry Clare (Lower Sixth, Winton), Araan Sobhan (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Gus Deliss (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Oliver Jenden (Lower Sixth, Chatham). To prepare for this, Stoics had to conduct research into two different court cases. They then took on the roles of barristers and witnesses for each of the cases, and prepared questions and statements for the event. On the day itself, Stoics had to participate in three different rounds. All involved worked hard, made great statements in court, and responded well to questioning whilst on the witness stand. The trials were overseen by judges who work within the court system and provided great insight into the UK justice system's workings. Unfortunately, the Stowe team were knocked out after these three rounds, with Oxford International School and Norwich School making it through to the Final. Oxford International School were then announced as the Regional Winners. Below are accounts from both our prosecution and defence teams about their experience during the event.

Francesca Shah, Teacher of History and Politics

The Defence Team Account

Alice Scheffey, Bea Floyd, Henry Clare and Araan Sobhan

During the mock trial event, we participated in three trials. During the first one, we acted as the jury for a trial held by Nottingham High School and Norwich School. This case was about proving whether a high school pupil had an intent to supply drugs. During this trial, the defence put forward the argument that the defendant, Jamie Cuthbert, was innocent of possession with intent to supply. They instead argued that Baily Redican, a friend of Jamie's, was the culprit. Witnesses were called, including PC Rodgers, the officer who pulled Jamie over and discovered the drugs. Jamie's neighbour, who witnessed the event was also called to the stand, as was Casey Carillo, Jamie's tutor. The defence cross-examined Rodgers and Brooks to frame them as unreliable, biased, and unfriendly witnesses, whilst presenting Jamie as a hardworking, good natured and innocent victim. The outcome of the trial had us rule the defendant, Jamie Cuthbert, innocent due to a lack of evidence and the jury not being convinced by the prosecution's argument.

In the second trial, we again acted as the jury, this time for a trial held by St John's College and Norwich School. The defence was put forward by Oxford International College. This case was about a fight between a civilian and a club bodyguard. The outcome of this trial was that the civilian was innocent.

In the final round, we acted as the defence team for the trial, and the prosecution team was put forward by Edgbaston School for Girls. This case was again about the intent to supply drugs by a teenager. During the trial we argued that the teen was unaware of the substance in his vehicle, and that he was an innocent bystander. We did this by using witnesses to vouch for the teen's good character. The outcome was that Cuthbert, the accused, was innocent of the crimes.

When acting as the jury, we gained the skills of listening to statements and responses to questions to help decide whether the accused was guilty or innocent. Through the trial in which we were the defence team, we learnt how to ask questions in ways designed to bring out the best in our defendant and witness as well as make well-timed opening and closing speeches. We also developed the skills of answering questions clearly and responding under pressure to questions from the prosecution team.

The Prosecution Team Account

Xavier Nylaende, Joseph Barnett, Max Broom Smith, Gus Deliss and Oliver Jenden

In the first two trials, we acted as the prosecution team. During the second round, the defence was put forward by Oxford International College. This case was about a fight outside a bar, where a man named Cameron Porter was accused of punching the security guard, Eden Tomlin, in the face. As the prosecution, we were able to question a range of witnesses, including those involved in the incident. During the trial we tried to prove that there were eyewitnesses to the attack. However, the defence team argued that Cameron Porter was actually tackled to the ground due to being uncooperative. As there was no clear-cut evidence of the attack happening, the jury decided that it was not possible to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Porter had attacked Tomlin, and declared him innocent.

We thoroughly enjoyed the event, and have developed the skills of critical thinking, teamwork and public speaking.



CHANGE MAKER DAY

Bourton Meadow

The group of Stoics volunteering at Bourton Meadow Academy School for the Fourth Form Change Maker Day were split into three groups. They were helping to sort out the School's move from one library site to another. Pupils in the old library tidied up all the books which had been spread all over the floor when they were removed from the shelves. The books were piled into neat stacks all the way around the edge of the room, leaving a nice clear, useable space in the middle of the room, until the books are moved to the new site. Pupils in the new library area were cutting out words printed on paper. These will be used in the future for learning phonics. The third group spent the day laminating resources for the new library. The work by the Stoics was very much appreciated by the School.

Three pupils got a special mention from Mr Gardner for their excellent contribution on the day, they are Oliver How (Grafton), Hannah Campbell (Nugent) and Marina Goje (Lyttelton).

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



Evenley Woods

Our day out at Evenley Woods was packed with great activities, that were able to develop our Change Maker Skills further and give us a sense of giving back to the community through volunteering. There were 20 of us at Evenley and we were split into two groups. We made natural fences, planted trees, and did some minor habitat relocating. The natural fence making consisted of hitting tree branches cut to size with a post basher into the ground, then attaching longer branches horizontally to make an aesthetically pleasing fence. The fence we built was made to protect the flowers from the public so that when they flower, they do not get trampled and walked on. The habitat relocating was simple, and we were moving smaller piles of branches and leaves off the path and splitting them up giving more areas for the animals to hide in and make homes in around the forest.

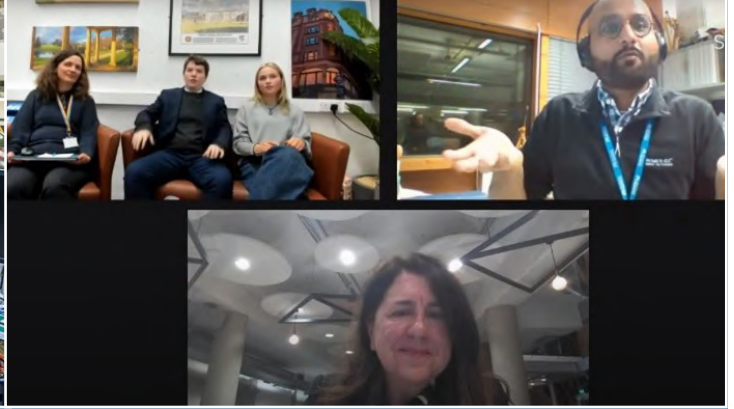
In the afternoon, we planted trees using a method I had never heard of before called the 'Miyawaki,' which was the mass planting of saplings in a certain area that was small and fertilised to get the maximum amount of growth in the shortest amount of time. This enabled the Evenley Wood Staff to replenish trees lost to the disease affecting the Ash trees now. It was estimated that 60% of the trees we planted would survive and within five years, around one to two metres of growth will have occurred.

The day developed our skills in analytical thinking, communication, team building and emotional intelligence, and personally I think I have gained a lot of empathy for the people who volunteer and give back to the community. This is something I would like to do in the future, and I would also like to thank Evenley Woods for giving us the opportunity to do these amazing activities. I hope they enjoyed having us there as much as we enjoyed being there.

Harrison Newman (Fourth Form, Winton)



FUTURES



Engineering at Coventry University

On Wednesday 1 February, two of Coventry University's Engineering faculty joined us and gave us an overview of degree programmes and projects at the university. The Coventry facilities and the projects that Dr Zubairi and Dr Ashram talked about were genuinely inspiring. My favourite thing was hearing about how students design using CAD and then test their own racing cars. What stood out to me was the professors' passion for their students' work. They seemed interested in the individuality of each student's project.

As well as the facilities being incredible - I believe at one point, there were six flight decks in view of the camera and a Mercedes-sponsored wind tunnel, I learnt a lot about the practice side of engineering through the talk. Dr Zubairi spoke about the importance of testing data in real-life scenarios and how this testing introduces unseen problems. This also links to the prototyping Dr Ashram mentioned, and the students using 3D printers. The talk showed and explored all the ranges of subtopics in aerospace engineering. The possibilities range from solving water levels in Venice and bomb protection for No 10, to building rovers to landing on mars.

To watch the talk click [here](#). To listen to the talk click [here](#).

Engineering and aerospace engineering are two of the most important professions in society today. They play a vital role in the development of technology and the advancement of our society. Engineering is a profession that applies the principles of science and mathematics to the development of materials, structures, machines, devices, systems and processes. Engineers use their skills to design and build products, structures and systems for the benefit of society. They also use their skills to solve problems and develop new technologies.

Engineering has the potential to improve the quality of life for everyone, from providing clean drinking water to creating faster, more efficient transport systems.

Aerospace engineering is the branch of engineering that focuses on the design and development of aircraft, spacecraft and satellites. Aerospace engineers use their knowledge and skills to design and build aircraft, spacecraft and satellites that can fly through the air, space and sea. Aerospace engineering is important to society as it provides a means of transportation, communication, exploration and defence. The UK Government recognises the importance of engineering and aerospace engineering in the economy and has made a number of reports to support the industry, such as the Aviation and Aerospace Industry Report and the Engineering UK 2019 Report. These reports show the importance of engineering and aerospace engineering to the UK economy, highlighting the importance of these industries in providing jobs, skills and investment. Studying engineering and aerospace engineering can provide pupils with a number of benefits. Firstly, pupils will gain a deep understanding of the principles of science and mathematics, as well as develop problem-solving skills. They will also gain an understanding of the design and development of products, structures and systems, as well as develop technical knowledge and skills. Additionally, studying these subjects can also provide pupils with the opportunity to learn about the history of engineering and how it has evolved over time. Finally, studying engineering and aerospace engineering can open up a range of career opportunities in fields such as aerospace, automotive, defence and energy.

Martha Blake (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

Time to secure Easter and Summer Work Experience

During Covid, many Stoics used virtual work experience as an option to gain some work experience when there was little access to physical workplaces. As a result, the range and quality of this type of provision has improved. Many Stoics have attended physical and virtual programmes with InvestIn. Although nothing can replace real work experience, for those who struggle securing work experience, live outside the UK or have hectic lives, providers like InvestIn can help, especially for the Fifth Form who might be unsure of what they want to study at university.

Virtual work experience has become increasingly popular in recent years as a way for young people to gain insight into various careers and gain valuable skills, knowledge, and networks. InvestIN, a London-based organisation, provides students aged 12-18 with an immersive experience of their dream career, offering programmes both in person and live online.

InvestIn have kindly produced Stoics a short video to outline available programmes and are currently offering our pupils a 10% discount. Video can

be watched [here](#) - Discount code: STOWE10

One of the main benefits of virtual work experience is accessibility. It provides students with the opportunity to gain an understanding of different industries, even if they live far away or have limited resources. This allows individuals to make informed decisions about their future careers and academic paths and broaden their horizons.

Virtual work experience is generally hands-on and interactive. InvestIN's programmes are live and interactive, offering students a unique and immersive experience of their dream career that they won't find anywhere else. The programmes are designed and run by industry-leading professionals, offering students a comprehensive understanding of their chosen industry and setting them up for a successful future as well as enhancing their competitive university application.

Dr Gordon West, Head of Futures



Hockey

Bella Hinde-Smith

During February Half Term, Bella Hinde-Smith (Third Form, Nugent) attended the England U16 camp at Lilleshall Sports Centre. The three-day camp comprised of training sessions, tactical analysis, training with the U18s and also a technical session led by the current England Development Programme and GB Senior women's squad. Bella made her England debut in a match against Exeter University Ladies. On the second day, Bella played against the England U18 side in a very competitive match. Her next camp will take place at Bisham Abbey, Marlow on 12 March - good luck Bella!

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

Water Polo

This year the team have come on in leaps and bounds. Stepan Muravskiy (Upper Sixth, Bruce) is Captaining the side and creating a great atmosphere at training and en route to matches, even if some of his music choices leave something to be desired! There is a great togetherness and a constant willingness to train and play matches. This year we have played Bedford, Bradfield, Abingdon and Oundle twice each.

Last term, the boys played Abingdon in a Triangular tournament and lost 4-9. The boys played well but knew they had plenty to work on and needed a slight tweak to tactics. Less gung-ho and more strategic!

This term we travelled to Abingdon and although we were 5-1 down with eight minutes left, they fought through fatigue to bring the game back to 5-5. It was decided that there should be a shootout, with three penalty shots each to decide the winner on the day. Stowe came out victorious with our first win in three years! Our fixtures against Oundle were tight affairs with Stowe unfortunately just falling short by a goal each time. "Sir, they're fouling" was used in these games but being underwater and a spread out match, the dark arts are used constantly. A push here and a dunk there, they just don't get caught!

Overall, we have a very young squad with over half the team in Fifth Form or below, this leads me to believe that this team has many more wins coming their way.

In the Inter-House Water Polo fixtures, Chandos led the way. The matches were played in a terrific atmosphere and with great sportsmanship.

Andrew Pynegar, Head of Water Polo



Inter-House Swimming

Sunday 26 February, brought the conclusion of this year's Inter-House swimming. 15 Houses competing for eight major honours. The girls' Houses raced on Tuesday 24 January with a great atmosphere and many close races. The boys raced over a culmination of three days, consisting of heats for Individuals, Relays and Finals.

The Junior section brought our newest swimmers to the water and they did not disappoint with a high level of competitiveness but also a great level of sportsmanship. Isabella Bawden (Third Form, Stanhope) led the way winning all three of her races in style and becoming Junior Girls' Champion. The Junior Boys' Champion went to Johnson Sun (Third Form, Bruce) who won his three races, closely followed by Sultan Saigol (Third Form, Grafton) who won his two races. Chandos won both Junior boys' Relays and Stanhope won the girls!

The Intermediate age group of the Fourth and Fifth Form had even more competitive races. A thrilling breaststroke race had Hannah Campbell (Fourth Form, Nugent) edging out Charlotte Hall (Fourth Form, Cheshire) by just 0.4 seconds. Sandrine Van Grembergen (Fifth Form, Queen's) brought murmurs of "Wow she was brilliant" by a few members of Staff for her 50m butterfly. Isobel Cox (Fifth Form, Cheshire) was the star of the show for the Intermediate girls winning all her races on route to becoming Intermediate Girls' Champion. In the boys' section Poon Prachakrit (Fifth Form, Grenville) edged out Julian Smith (Fifth Form, Grenville) in a tight 50m freestyle race and Sam Shortridge (Fifth Form, Winton) to win the 50m breaststroke. This led Poon Prachakrit to become the Intermediate Boys' Champion.

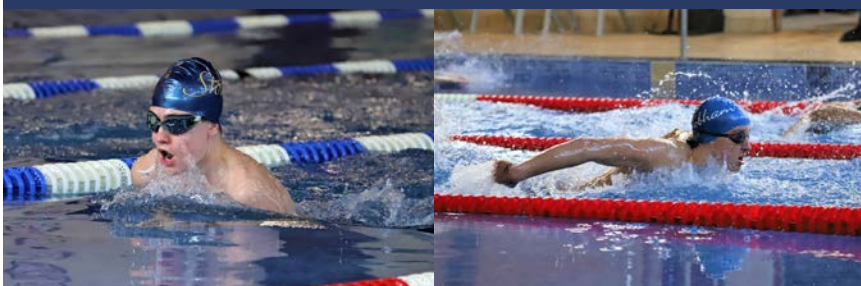
Next, the Seniors, was probably the most competitive set of races I have seen. Less than 0.5 seconds between the winners and second place in most of the boys races. With Stowe playing a competitive fixture at the same time as Sunday's Final it was agreed between the Houseparents that heat times could be kept and it would be a race against the clock for those who were available. Edward Davis (Upper Sixth, Bruce) narrowly edged out Angus Kennedy (Upper Sixth, Temple) in the 100m sprint to claim the Senior Boys' Championship after both had already won two races each. In the girls' races, these were just as competitive with a friendly rivalry between Phoebe Haynes (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Larissa Campbell (Upper Sixth, Nugent). Phoebe ended up with wins in all three of her races and became Senior Girls' Champion.

A massive thank you goes out to all those helpers along the way with Michelle Matthews, Richard Paxton and Craig Sutton deserving special applause. Also, to all the Houseparents for getting teams out, and to those Stoics not mentioned who swam brilliantly for their Houses, no matter their swimming experience or standard.

Winners

Junior Girls' Champion, Isabella Bawden; Junior Boys' Champion, Johnson Sun; Intermediate Girls' Champion, Isobel Cox; Intermediate Boys' Champion, Poon Prachakrit; Senior Girls' Champion, Phoebe Haynes; Senior Boys' Champion, Edward Davis; Overall Girls' Winners, Nugent; Overall Boys' Winners, Bruce.

Andrew Pynegar, Head of Swimming



CHANGE MAKER DAY

Roundwood School

Stoics volunteering at Roundwood School for the Fourth Form Change Maker Day were split into two groups, some working inside with primary school pupils and some outside clearing rubbish into a skip, clearing the grounds of logs, and general tidying up. Others did some gardening and cleared two overgrown flower beds, and most significantly, painted a fence surrounding the children's playground.

The teachers with the group were most impressed with each one of the Stowe pupils who showed their resilience and kept motivated for the day. They sang, they chatted, they hoovered up after themselves at lunch (with only a small amount of prompting!), and they were brilliant with the primary school children. They worked together really well, both in small groups and as a collective, and were happy to share the 'prize' of working inside in the warmth with the children. It was a day of surprises and certainly challenged the pupils, but also gave them the opportunity for self-fulfilment and a real feeling of service.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



Willen Hospice

Change Maker Day was devoted to Fourth Form volunteering and having the opportunity to give back to the community. Our task for the day was to work at a Willen Hospice store located in Milton Keynes. During our work, we were tasked with sorting through mounds of donated clothes on a rack for them to be priced and sold at the Willen Hospice Shop. This task seemed quite easy to us at first as we thought it was quite straightforward, but little did we know, sorting through hundreds of items of clothing as a group of young teenagers isn't that easy! However, we were able to overcome these challenges by using our collaborative skills which enabled us to create a system to work more effectively. This was a perfect opportunity for us as we were able to develop our Change Maker skills such as emotional intelligence and social literacy. Both of these skills deal with the development of social skills, knowledge and positive human values. Overall, we all found this experience to be very fulfilling as we were able to give back to the community alongside with helping a very important charity.

Olivia Hillier (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) & Romulus Flanagan (Fourth Form, Cobham)

Stoics supporting Willen Hospice helped the grounds and maintenance teams build a pond which will provide a water source for wildlife, such as foxes, deer and hedgehogs that visit the grounds after dark. It will also make an improvement to the experience of very ill patients attending Lymphoedema clinics. Stoics also benefitted by learning a new skill.

The Staff at The Well at Willen Hospice were delighted with the hard work the Stoics put in and were extremely impressed with how respectful and polite the team of pupils was. They did not expect the pond to be built in a day and were most excited to see it finished, even before the coach was due to collect the group and to see the pond being filled with water by late afternoon.

Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



CCF

During February Half Term break, I attended a week-long Ski course with the Combined Cadet Adventure Training Team. The course was heavily subsidised by the MoD and took place in the Bavarian Alps. Having never skied before, it was a daunting undertaking, but the experience was brilliant!

In total there were over 30 Cadets and adult Cadet Force volunteers on the course, with a range of experience levels. I joined the novice group with six other learners, and during the first few hours was taught the basics including how to use the snowplough technique to come to a stop. The afternoon involved using these skills on a beginner slope, and learning how to turn on skis, which proved invaluable to ensure one could navigate around other skiers! The second day saw the group progress onto some steeper blue runs, practicing the snowplough turns, and developing these into the parallel technique. By day three, muscles were getting tired, but we soon limbered up as we visited a different resort and navigated down some steeper and longer routes. This was furthered on the Thursday, when the group went into the Austrian Alps, where we not only practiced our skiing but also had the chance to use a gondola ski lift - the only one in Europe!

Unfortunately, the course did have to come to an end, and on the Friday we undertook our final day on the slopes before preparing to return home. The entire course was an excellent opportunity to not only learn some new outdoor adventurous skills, but also to meet Cadets and adult volunteers from all over the country. The CCAT courses are available to all Cadets over the age of 15, and are often used by many as their residential for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I certainly enjoyed the experience and would strongly recommend it to all who have the opportunity!

Lt Shah, Deputy Co-Curricular Co-ordinator



Senior International Dinner

Thursday 23 February saw Stowe hold the Annual Senior International Dinner. The aim of this event is to bring together pupils from across the globe, to celebrate the diversity they bring to School life, and help foster relationships between people of different cultures.

The evening was well organised by Isabella Elliott (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), one of the International Prefects. She did a fantastic job of ensuring the Music Room was well decorated and that all who attended felt welcome and cared for. Alongside this, Leia West (Upper Sixth, West) acted as photographer for the evening, capturing some great moments.

During the evening, an international themed quiz was held, which highlighted just how multicultural our community is. Pupils enjoyed a brilliant meal which the Catering Department had put together for them, and the event was also attended by a number of Staff who provide great support to our international pupils. Next term will involve the Junior International Dinner being held, and we hope it is just as successful as this one.

Francesca Shah, Head of International Pupils



RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course at Stowe

We are delighted to be able to offer this course to Stoics in the Summer Term. The course will teach pupils how to safely operate and manoeuvre powerboats and the qualification covers both inland and coastal (tidal) waters. Please be aware that the minimum age for attending this course is 16 at the time of the course.

There will be a charge for this course, but depending on numbers should be less than getting this qualification at a commercial training centre.

The course will only run if there is sufficient interest, so in the first instance, if you have any questions or would like your son or daughter to be considered for this course, please email dsyme@stowe.co.uk to register your interest.



Basketball

Since the Wellington College Tournament on Saturday 14 January, the 1st team beat Rugby School 30-11 in a triangular with Rugby and Stamford on Saturday 21 January and then followed this with a dominant performance against Oundle, to win 85-19 on Saturday 4 February. The team started in style restricting Oundle to 13 first half points whilst amassing 50. The shortened second half continued in much the same vein with Stowe scoring 35 points to Oundle's 6. Every one of the team played their part, both offensively and defensively and moved the ball unselfishly. Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos) led the scoring with 19 points, with Alex Gu (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Imran Tinubu (Upper Sixth, Bruce) chipping in with 16 points a-piece.

In their most recent encounter against Bradfield on Saturday 25 February, the 1st team had a ding-dong battle for three quarters of the match. After the first quarter Stowe led 14-13, then 25-24 at half time. At the end of the third quarter the teams were level 37-37, but Stowe eased ahead in the final quarter to win 60-48. Gilbert Xu top scoring once again, with 17 points, and was well supported by Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Lower Sixth, Chatham) with 11 points.

Both the 2nd team and the U16 team played Oundle on Saturday 4 February. The 2nd team had a resounding 41-17 victory in a shortened match. The match was evenly poised after the first third with Oundle leading 10-9. Stowe imposed themselves on the Oundle team in the second third, restricting the opposition to just 4 points and scoring 22 in reply. The final third of the match was 10-2 in Stowe's advantage. Henri Mueller (Upper Sixth, Bruce) was top scorer with 14 points, and he was well supported by Andre Davis (Fifth Form, Chandos) who bagged 8 points.

In the U16 match, Oundle came out all guns blazing and stormed into a 10-2 lead in the first third. They maintained their ascendancy to lead 17-13 at the break. The Stowe team pegged Oundle back in the second third and edged into a 25-24 lead at the break. Gilbert Xu took the game away from Oundle with 10 points in the final third, which included two 3-pointers and the team ran out comfortable winners in the end 40-31.

The team showed great composure under pressure with some excellent decision making at key moments of the game. Gilbert Xu top scorer with 15 points and was well supported by Edward Tyrer (Fifth Form, Grafton) with 7 points.

In the Senior Inter-House boys' and girls' competitions held on Sunday 22 January, Nugent won all four of their matches in the girls' competition, beating Queen's 6-0 in the deciding match to become the Girls' 2023 Champions.

In the boys' Semi-Finals Bruce beat Chatham and Chandos beat Grenville to set up a Bruce/Chandos Final, which was won 11-4 by Chandos to make them the Senior Boys' 2023 Champions.

Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball



Netball

The 2nds and 3rds got well deserved wins away against Stamford in the block fixtures on Saturday 25 February and the U16s had very close matches, well done to the U14Es who had a draw.

The standout result of the weekend of 3 February was the girls' 1st team who played Oundle away in the Friday Night Lights fixture. They put on a stunning display as they enjoyed a 42-16 win.

The U16Bs also continue in their winning ways. A special mention goes to the U14A team who have played some extremely strong schools over the last few weekends, they keep bouncing back whatever the score is, showing real resilience and throw themselves wholeheartedly into the next fixture. They are progressing rapidly due to this attitude.

Victoria Dias, Head of Netball

Rugby 7s

Our first afternoon of the sevens season started well with the Seniors beating all five schools at the Pangbourne Tournament on Sunday 5 February. A tight win against Eton was the most impressive performance. The strength in depth of the U16s 7s squad meant we took two teams to Pangbourne and they both managed to win all their matches, so we ended the day having played 11, won 11!

On Thursday 9 February the 7s teams competed in tournaments held at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School. The Seniors won four out of five matches, ending up as Runners Up against St Paul's in the Final, our U15s also won four out of five matches and were also Runners Up against Haileybury in the Final. The U14s went one better and won all five of their matches, beating Brighton College in the Final, special mentions go to Charlie King (Third Form, Winton) and Jack Moreton (Third Form, Chatham).

Grant Seely, Director of Rugby



LANGUAGES SOCIETY

In our second meeting of the term on Wednesday 1 February, we had a talk from a Tania Haines, a professional interpreter, and Lorna Joy, a retired translator. They firstly clarified the differences between their respective jobs; interpreters are working with the spoken word, whilst translators work with the written word.

They then told us about the different categories of interpretation; conference, business and public service interpreting, as well as the different types of translation work; mainly legal, technical or private health documents.

A fun part of the evening was when we were given an insight into what this work may represent through a set of exercises. One of these included a pupil simultaneously interpreting a text into Norwegian and another pupil summarising an English text in Russian, using the skills of consecutive translation.

It was a really interesting and educational talk about what the world of interpretation and translation beholds, and we are very grateful to Tania and Lorna for having made the time to come and talk to us.

Aleksandr Kozlov (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

We are now over halfway through the restoration of the State Dining Room and progress is on schedule!

The French oak flooring has arrived after spending three weeks drying in a warehouse. It will now spend a month acclimatising to the room and undergo daily temperature and humidity checks before installation can begin.

Part of the old floor was perhaps original from the 1740s with lots of later additions. Over the years repairs would have been made as and when needed, particularly over the last 100 years with more intense use. In some places, the boards were only 2mm thick instead of 2cm. Unfortunately, some boards were beyond saving, but the good news is that we have been able to keep half of the old floorboards to reuse later in another part of the House.

Meanwhile, our wallpaper specialists, Zardi and Zardi, have displayed some samples of trial wallpaper for our project team to view. The key at the moment is getting the colours to the right levels as the five original tapestries have been stored in different locations since their sale in 1922. This image shows a small section of one of the panels as a taster of how the whole room will look once complete.

To keep updated with the latest restoration news, we've released a new series of interviews with our experts. Head over to our [YouTube channel](#) to discover more of the behind-the-scenes research and techniques used to undertake the work.

Anna McEvoy, House Custodian, Stowe House Preservation Trust

LANGUAGES SOCIETY

Spanish Traditions

On Wednesday 18 January, we were lucky to have Daniel Flames (Lower Sixth, Cobham), come and give the Languages Society a talk about Spanish traditions, foods, and culture.

From 'la Tomatina' which consists of a tomato fight, to 'Los Castellers', seen as a key Catalan cultural heritage, we were taken through an immersive and engaging showcase of the unknown Spanish hidden gems. We also learned about Spanish artists like Goya and Picassos iconic 'Guernica' painting, drawing on historical events of the Spanish Civil War.

If one thing is clear, we all left the session with a more in-depth knowledge of Spain which lies beyond its stereotypes of paellas and tapas, which of course is still an integral part of Spanish life. We all really enjoyed this talk and had so much fun!

Sofia Tangsrud (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)





Badminton

The boys' 1st and 2nd teams and girls' 1st team played Rugby on Saturday 21 January 2023 with all three teams winning their matches. A high-class performance from the boys' 1st team saw them ease to a 14-4 win. 1st pair Josha Mital (Upper Sixth, Winton) and Arin Chatsuwana (Lower Sixth, Grenville) won all their matches.

The girls' 1st team had a very exciting 10-8 win against Rugby. 1st pair Yuki Jiang (Upper Sixth, West) and Deborah James (Upper Sixth, Nugent) won five of their six games and 2nd pair Wanxin Bai (Upper Sixth, West) and Madya Liu (Fourth Form, Stanhope) won four of their six matches.

The boys' 2nd team had a fantastic 15-3 win with 1st pair Harvey Tian (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Terry Tan (Upper Sixth, Chandos) as well as 2nd pairings William Harrison (Lower Sixth, Winton), Thomas Bicknell (Fifth Form, Winton) and Graham Bentley (Lower Sixth, Temple) winning all 12 of their games.

On Saturday 4 February the boys' 1st and 2nd teams and girls' 1st and 2nd teams played Oundle. A weakened boys' 1st team lost 11-7 but it did not prevent our regular 1st pair Josha Mital and Arin Chatsuwana winning all six of their games.

The boys' 2nd team continue to impress and won their encounter 13-5. There were five wins out of six games for 1st pair William Harrison and Ned Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and 2nd pair Thomas Bicknell and Graham Bentley

Although the girls' 1st team lost 10-8, 1st pair Yuki Jiang and Deborah James played outstandingly, winning all six of their games. It was great to have been able to put out a girls' 2nd team and although they were very young and inexperienced, they learnt a great deal in defeat.

The boys' 1st and girls' 1st teams played St Edward's on Saturday 25 February. The boys' 1st team recorded an excellent 7-2 victory with our 1st pair winning all three of their matches and our 2nd and 3rd pairs winning two matches a-piece.

The girls' 1st team fought hard against an unbeaten and very strong St Edward's side. Although our 1st pair won two of their three matches, the team lost 7-2 overall.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton



LACROSSE

New Members of the Lacrosse Team

We have a couple of new faces in the Lacrosse Department, we would like to warmly welcome Mr Bruce Philp who joins us from St Albans High School, and Mr James Parrett who joins us from University of Bath.

Both will be helping with the Lacrosse programme this Spring, with Mr Philp focusing on Juniors and Mr Parrett coaching the 3rd X.

We welcome their years of experience in the run up to the National Schools' Championships.

Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse

RUGBY

Will Plessis playing for Scarlets

Scarlets back row, Will Plessis (Upper Sixth, Grenville), pictured scoring for the Scarlets, has put in some impressive performances for the region throughout February.

Grant Seeley, Director of Rugby



Hockey

Mrs Campbell shows the youngsters how it's done!

On Saturday 18 February, ex-Ireland international and Premier League player, Mrs Lorraine Campbell, helped guide Buckingham Ladies' 2nd XI to victory away at South Berkshire 1st XI, scoring a hat-trick in a 3-1 win. Quite a few Stoics are currently in the BHC L2 squad, so it was good for them to see their Geography teacher showing them all she still 'has it'!

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

Service@Stowe



ForEver Stowe

On Wednesday 28 June the Service at Stowe group ForEver Stowe are holding a fantastic day for up to 20 children from the SEN Evergreen School in Warwickshire. The day will consist of many fun activities on the theme of pirates! These activities range from a sensory book bag where Stoics will be dressing up as pirates and telling an interactive story to the pupils, all the way to following a treasure map around the beautiful grounds, to find the pot of gold. The ForEver Stowe group have been working closely with Evergreen School for the past year and after the success of last years 'Alice in Wonderland' themed day, we wanted to do it all over again! We want to encourage any enthusiastic pupils who would like to help lead the activities in June and plan our upcoming Neurodiversity Week in November 2023 (among other planned activities) to join our Service@Stowe group. Doing this will help develop your people and problem-solving skills, as well as your overall understanding of the different neurodiversities. ForEver Stowe meet every Monday and if you are interested, please [email](#).

Annie Flint (Lower Sixth, Queen's) & Sophie Lloyd (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Maids Moreton Care Home Afternoon

On Monday 27 February, the Service@Stowe team welcomed the residents of Maids Moreton Care Home for an afternoon of tea, cake and laughter.

The team of Stoics from West, Bruce and Cheshire Houses enjoyed listening to the visitor's stories about their families and their past working lives, along with playing board games, drinking tea and eating cake. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all involved!

This activity is important for all Stoics involved, allowing them to engage with the local community. Some of the elderly residents had degrees of dementia or disability issues which were challenging for the Stoics, but patience, time and smiley faces seemed to be the focus of the day.

Thank you to all involved.

Phoebe Haynes (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)

Stowe mail



Willen Hospice

Stowe has teamed up with a local hospice charity in a groundbreaking initiative which combines business, retail and education.

When members of the public donate clothing and other items to Willen Hospice, some of those goods are then sold on the charity's online retail shops, eBay and Depop.

In order to sort, research and list the products online, the hospice relies on the availability and expertise of volunteers. Pupils from Stowe have stepped in to help over the next few months, in a venture that is a first for the charity.

Pupils check items for damage, measure, and research them to calculate suitable online prices, write descriptions and photograph them. Details are entered in an Excel spreadsheet ready to be uploaded to online platforms when the goods are returned to Willen Hospice.

The retail team from Willen Hospice visited Stowe to explain the value of the pupils' contribution and how the funds raised from online sales directly support end-of-life patients and their families.

Fourth Form Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award pupils must do weekly volunteering - something that would be difficult to achieve off site with over 50 pupils and their teachers. This project can be accomplished on site and will help to round pupils' education through development of their volunteering ethos and Change Maker Skills.

Willen's Commercial Director Mark Rawlins said: "These are our business-people of the future. Whilst we benefit from the pupils' IT skills and knowledge of fashion and brands, they will benefit from the exposure to working on a real-life business project. We are very pleased to be working with our local community in such an innovative way."

Online Retail Manager Dulcie Stewart said: "Working with Stowe means we can increase the number of items we can list and sell. Helping in this way will grow our online inventory and ultimately, increase the amount raised for our hospice."

The pupils are sorting, photographing and carefully preparing the items for resale on online platforms. They also conduct online research to produce accurate and realistic pricing, so that items have a good chance of selling for the maximum price."

Rowland Shuttleworth, Head of Service@Stowe, said "We are proud to be supporting Willen Hospice and are looking forward to getting involved in future projects. We recently donated clothing and accessories to the value of around £2,000 for resale. In February, over 40 pupils and their teachers will be volunteering at The Point in Central Milton Keynes and at the Hospice."

Willen Hospice needs to raise £5.9 million every year, or £11 a minute to provide compassionate end-of-life care, free of charge at its in-patient unit and in people's homes. Less than 20 per cent of its funding comes from the Government and all the rest has to be raised privately by the local community.

Alec Stanworth, Jess Nichols & Rowland Shuttleworth, Service@Stowe



CRICKET



Over Half-Term, Friday 10 February to Sunday 19 February, the Stowe Cricket 1st XI travelled to South Africa for the Centenary Tour. This was the first international tour since Covid hit in 2020.

The boys had a great start to the trip, albeit behind on sleep after the overnight flight. Day One saw us head straight into a morning training session in an attempt to adjust to the climate. This was followed by a well-deserved trip to the pool, and a celebratory team meal for Harvey Julyan's (Upper Sixth, Winton) 18th birthday!

An early start on Day Two started with a trip to the Cheetah Sanctuary, followed by a drive to Paarl High Boys' School for the first match of the tour. After taking in the scenery, the team took to the field in the 33-degree heat, which was deemed as 'cool' by the opposing Staff, who explained how the temperature had dropped 10 degrees from the previous day!

A good start for Stowe found the homes side 5 wickets for 85 runs by the drinks break at over 17, with Angus Howard (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Will Jenden (Upper Sixth, Chatham) taking some important wickets. Despite a fight back from Paarl, their aggressive style led to plenty of chances in the field for Stowe, all of which were taken with style. Paarl finished on 136 all out after an impressive first innings of the trip for Stowe.

Stowe headed out to bat in contrasting conditions to the first innings. Choppy winds and a setting sun provided a new challenge for both teams. During the innings, Will Jenden, who much to his delight, has recently been named as the teams 'biggest hitter' by coaching Staff, lived up to the name with several powerful 6s on what was a particularly large boundary. His quickfire 27 off 17 balls helped contribute to Stowe reaching 137 in the final over to close out the match.

A team-spread stomach bug resulted in our fixture Vs

Rondebosch unfortunately being cancelled. Without going into the details, most of the team were left unable to travel to the venue, let alone play. Despite this we then moved from Gordan's Bay into the centre of Cape Town and had the pleasure of enjoying the surrounding areas. The boys headed to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront during the evening and had the chance to look around and do some shopping, the majority returning with a selection of newly bought goods (no gifts for parents from what I saw!).

With heavy cloud cover over Table Mountain our next plan was tweaked, and we went to Century City for another browse and some lunch. Finally, back to the cricket and the team headed to Victoria Cricket Club where we faced The Cape Vikings in a 20/20 clash. After observing the trademark southern hemisphere wicket, the home team opted to bat first and Stowe made a great start in the field with some tight bowling. With the Cape Vikings setting a total of 104 to chase, Stowe raced to the target in just 12 overs to take a second win on the bounce. The team travelled home in great spirits.

With confidence high after a two-game win streak, the team travelled to one of the highest ranked schools in SA, Bishops College. On arrival, the boys took some time to soak in the incredible surroundings. Sat just below Table Mountain, Bishops College offered top quality facilities, which the team wasted no time in testing with a pre-game net session.

After a successful net, Skipper Aadi Sharma headed to the middle and won his first toss of the trip, electing to bat first. Aadi had been equally perplexed by the coins used in South Africa, as Jenden had been by the quality of grass. "What's the deal with the coins in this country?" he asked, heads and tails being replaced by buffalo or elephant, amongst other combinations of animal across the week!

Continued below





CONT/CRICKET

Stowe managed to post 154 all out. After a quick lunch break, Stowe headed out to field, with the sun setting and the floodlights in full use. The Bishops opening pair looked very comfortable batting under the lights until Harvey Julyan broke the partnership at just 20 runs. Angus Howard returned to the side and bowled well, after being written off with a serious stomach bug in previous days. "This is even worse than Brackley Belly" the Buckinghamshire local said after being kept out of the previous match. Howard had packed some dry toast in his lunch box, and continued to express his excitement to get back home to a classic sausage casserole!

Bishops raced to 146 before Stowe had any more luck. Will Durnell was the man to do the job as he dismissed the batsman on 66, his first wicket of the trip. With just 10 runs remaining in the chase, the middle order completed the run chase, handing Stowe their first defeat of the tour. The team were disappointed with the loss but made honest reflections on where things went wrong, while feeling privileged to experience a day/night match in that setting.

For the final match of the tour, the team travelled back to where they had their first training session in the early morning of Day One. Bellville High School hosted a 30 over match in a different setting to Bishops; no Bermuda grass this time. Choosing the cheetah on the coin toss, Adi Sharma won and opted to bat first. A great display by the Junior side of Stowe cricket, Archie Lazarus-Ingman (Fourth Form) and James Bristow (Fifth Form) contributed 60 runs between them, which put the team in a great position with the more experienced left to bat, resulting in Stowe reaching 185.

Stowe took to the field to bowl and put forward a tight display to keep the run rate low for Belville High. With Bellville failing to chase the target in 30 overs, the tour was concluded with a third win for Stowe, finishing with a positive record of 3-1.

The final day of the trip gave the opportunity for the boys to tick off a few tourist boxes while in Cape Town; Table Mountain followed by Camps Bay Beach. The evening could not have concluded the tour any better with a traditional African Drum Dance experience over dinner. A 14-course meal with live performances and interactive drumming for each diner.

We finished the trip by presenting the players with some well-earned awards:

Coaches & Players Player/Best Batsman: Charlie Oldershaw

Best Bowler: Aadi Sharma

Best Fielder: Milan Choudree

Most Improved: Ed Mercer

A huge thank you to the players for all their hard work leading up to and during the tour. They were good company and great ambassadors for the School on and off the pitch. Also, thank you to Mr O'Connor and Mr Dingley for all their hard work and support as well. And lastly, thank you to the Parents who made the trip and the support that we got from home.

The full tour and match reports are available [here](#).

James Knott, Head of Cricket

Stowe Presents...

EXCITING NEW EVENTS FOR 2023



National
Theatre
Live

BEST of ENEMIES

by James Graham
directed by Jeremy Herrin

Our new 'Stowe Presents' events series is now live on the Stowe website! We currently have some confirmed events showing, and there will be more added as plans are finalised.

You will see here a mixture of different types of events, but the common feature is that they are all suitable for an external community audience (as well as our own Stoic audience).

Some of the events will be School-arranged and free to attend (such as the film weekend, and the Come and Sing Day), some will be directly promoted and arranged by Stowe Presents and are paid tickets (National Theatre Live, children's theatre), some will be independent hire events taking place at the School (Stowe Art Club), and some might be promoted by a different entity but are relevant for the overall programme (such as events promoted by the Stowe House team).

We look forward to sharing more forthcoming events with you soon, and please do follow the sign-up on the [web page](#) for our monthly email updates, if you would like to receive details of the latest shows direct to your inbox.

Simon Wales, Director, Stowe Presents Programme



Music Award Holders' Concert

On Wednesday 25 January, a selection of our extremely talented Senior Music Award Holders took to the stage to showcase their musical excellence.

The audience of family, friends and Staff were treated to an eclectic programme ranging from Bach to Beyoncé. Featured too, was one of our pupil's very own compositions which was most exciting to hear. We could not have asked for more captivating performances from Ruby Cooke (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Will Nottage (Upper Sixth, Temple), Grace Hodgetts (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Alessia Capella (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Jemima Pearson-Gee (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Skyla Wakeman (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Milo Xing (Fifth Form, Chandos), Tamia Sibanda (Upper Sixth, West), Alicia Wilson (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Matthew Ryland (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Tham Luanghvisut (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Owen Gunn (Lower Sixth, Chandos).

The enthusiasm as well as the growing expertise of our Award Holders shone through to create a highly enjoyable evening for their audience. We are fortunate to have such keen and committed Fifth and Sixth Form pupils in the Music Department and our thanks go to them all.

We are most grateful to Ben Andrew (Head of Keyboard) for his expert accompaniment and for all the hard work done by our Visiting Music Teachers to prepare their pupils for such an event.

Looking ahead, our Junior Award Holders will have a similar opportunity to showcase their talents in the Summer Term. This will provide another exciting evening of music making and we hope to see many of you there.

Emma Bryden, Head of Academic Music & Director of Music



Stowebots: The Final Regionals

This term, the Stowe Robotics team has competed in two events. The 2022-2023 competition revolves around collecting and shooting discs into elevated baskets, as well as scoring points for controlling coloured rollers. Both teams saw success at the John Lyons School Competition on Sunday 15 January. The Senior Upper Sixth team, Matthew Ryland (Bruce), Jack Hughes (Chatham), Tina Lazar (West), and Benjamin Anderson (Temple) was selected by the first seed during the Alliance Round.

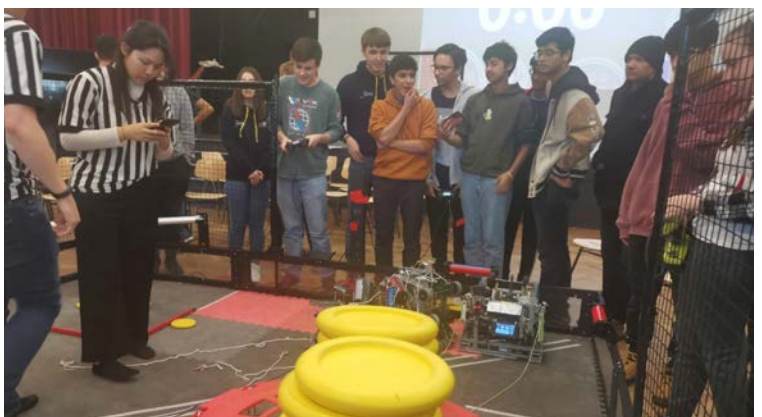
The Junior team of Henry Anderson (Third Form, Temple), James Stratford (Third Form, Walpole), James Barnett (Third Form, Winton), and Euan Davies (Third Form, Winton) was selected by the fourth seed alliance.

Ultimately the Senior team knocked the Junior team out in the Semi-Finals and went on to win the competition, qualifying for the UK National Finals.

Stowe hosted its second competition on Tuesday 24 January, where all six Stowe teams competed. The Senior team finished the qualifying round with five wins and two losses, while the Junior team finished with three wins and four losses. During alliance selection the Senior team again partnered with the first seed (the same team from the John Lyons event); the Junior team was selected by the second seed; and the four remaining Stowe teams partnered together. The Senior team went on to Win again, while the Juniors narrowly lost in the Semi-Finals, and the remaining teams were knocked out in the Quarter-Finals.

Overall, this term the Stowe Robotics Senior team has seen tremendous success, additionally the Junior team has also qualified for Nationals and hopefully we will continue this run of success into the National Finals.

Benjamin Anderson (Upper Sixth, Temple)



SKIING

British Schools' Ski Championships in Wengen

Skiing's coming home!

Mr Jones asked me to take over Skiing back in September, and despite only having skied twice before in my entire life, after a bit of persuading I took on the job and got to work revitalising the programme which had fallen apart over Covid.

Four months later, we have just competed in our first International competition, representing Stowe among a strong field of competitors, including Harrow and Wellington. Getting ready for such a challenge in such a short space of time has been tough, both for Staff and the Stoics, but I am incredibly proud to say that everyone rose to the challenge admirably. Weekly Ski race lessons at the Snozone in Milton Keynes, training in both slalom and giant slalom courses, gave the team the confidence that they could perform under the pressure of a spectator event. With no small number of nerves, we departed Stowe, flying to Switzerland on Saturday 28 January.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday were spent training for the upcoming races alongside our fantastic Swiss ski coaches who we had hired in advance. On Monday evening we had the first race, a friendly team parallels to ease the team into competitive skiing. It is worth remembering that of the seven Stoics we took on the trip, only two had competed in ski racing before. Amidst temper tantrums over disqualifications and more than a few crashes, our Stoics carried themselves with a decency and a maturity that was everything we could have hoped for. On Monday evening, we learnt that the races to come would take place on the infamous World Cup Lauberhorn Black Piste, giving our Stoics the incredible chance to compete on the very courses, and with the very start gates, used by some of the best skiers in the world. You can imagine the excitement (and nerves)!

On Tuesday, the races started in earnest with the Giant Slalom, a whole-day affair that saw hundreds of competitors take part across a variety of age ranges, from under-12s to under-21s. Our Stoics formed up in two teams, Captained by Conall Clark (Lower Sixth, Bruce) for the As and William Pigott (Upper Sixth, Cobham) for the Bs, both of whom did an excellent job. There were several injuries among the other schools, including one boy taken by snowcat to hospital, having been cared for in the immediate aftermath by Mr Jones, but thankfully our team got through the entire race without so much as a single fall. Brooks Stevens (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Freddie Bühler (Upper Sixth, Temple) distinguished themselves, with each of them fighting their way to the very front of the pack for their age band. That evening saw a group of extremely tired but exhilarated Stoics return to the hotel for an early night.

Wednesday was the Slalom, the more anticipated and more difficult of the two races. We assembled at the race start in the mid-morning, having skied down much of the black piste to get there, with Mr Jones and myself with wobbly legs bringing up the rear! The conditions were far colder than the day before, with lows of -4 and heavy ice on the track immediately taking a toll on the

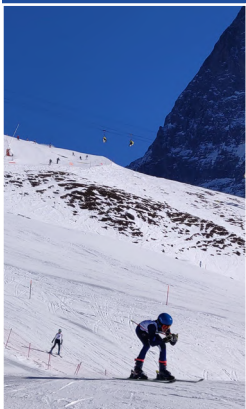
event. With incredibly challenging conditions, the Stoics maintained a brilliant resolve and heart, pushing themselves to their limit to shave seconds from their times while also keeping their feet. When all was said and done, not one of our boys was disqualified, and our only fall, Charlie Ighani (Fourth Form, Winton), rose back up to his feet, ran back up the course and kept skiing, to the cheers of onlookers. Of the 136 skiers that took part on the second day, 42 did not manage to complete the course, crashing to the ground or skiing out.

Wednesday evening saw us all, alongside many Stoic Parents who had come to support, assembled for the prize giving in the old cinema in the centre of Wengen. The team was understandably nervous, but a cautious optimism had begun to grip us as we realised just how well we may have done.

All the Stoics performed incredibly well, with Conall Clarke doing a phenomenal job as overall Captain. A special commendation must go out to two skiers, each of whom pushed themselves to perform far above their peers and take podium positions. Brooks Stevens rose through the U16s, by far the most competitive and fought-over division in the competition, to receive not one but two Bronzes, for Giant Slalom and the Combined Giant Slalom and Slalom. Brooks was all the prouder for having his Father in the audience, cheering along with the rest of us. His accomplishment was truly an incredible one and should be celebrated. Freddie Bühler brought the entire hall to deafening applause, as he won an incredible two golds, a silver, and a cup for his outstanding performance across the board in the U21s, even more impressive given that Freddie had never competed before. His name will now go on a DHO trophy alongside that of Olympians from years past.

Overall, our Stoics returned to Stowe rightly proud of their achievements, presenting the absolute best version, not only of themselves but also of the values which Stowe stands for. Each one of them kept their chins up during adversity, and I was approached by the organisers of the event to commend me on their behaviour and politeness, which was a lovely moment. I was incredibly proud of all of them, and hope to use this fantastic set of results to continue to grow Stowe Skiing, giving our pupils the best possible chance to achieve all that is possible. We have more races to look forward to in the future, and, with perseverance, more fantastic results to celebrate.

James Bonomi, Director of Skiing





Lacrosse

The 1st X and 2nd Xs competed at the Cheltenham Ladies' College Tournament on Saturday 4 February. As a key point in the preparation for Nationals, both teams acquitted themselves splendidly.

The 1st X defeated last year's championship bracket side Shrewsbury 5-1, and fellow Division 1 side Monmouth School for Girls, tying in a very close-run game with the hosts Cheltenham Ladies' College, and recording losses to tournament winners Marlborough College and Cheltenham Lacrosse Club.

The 2nd X fared even better, defeating Cheltenham Ladies' College 2nds and 3rds as well as Monmouth's 2nd team, just losing out to Marlborough by a goal.

1st X

The Stowe 1st X hosted St Mary's Calne on the South Front on Saturday 25 February.

Stowe got underway quickly, with two early goals but Calne responded in kind with a brace, however a caused turnover via interception kept the scoreline level at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was much the same, with a few too many empty stick checks from Stowe giving the ball to Calne in the midfield to attack with, but solid defence was on display from the Stowe side, holding them to just one goal. 3-3 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Calne draw taker started to take control and the visitors were able to put three past Elizabeth Knott (Upper Sixth, Cheshire). Solid ground-ball work and a great interception did build towards a brilliant goal from Co-Captain Hannah Bewes (Upper Sixth, Queen's), scoring her second goal of the season - an unusual occurrence for a defensive player.

Going into the final quarter, neither side had let up. Hannah scored another goal, this time a very hard shot into the far pipe from driving down the left wing, however Calne scored a pair themselves this quarter, meaning the score finished at 8-5.

Stowe put up a great showing against a Championship Division Calne team, and this was excellent experience and preparation for the impending National Schools' Tournament. The performance of the game was certainly Hannah Bewes, scoring a brace, and seemingly everywhere at once on the pitch, putting in an equally impressive defensive shift.

2nd X

Stowe Lacrosse 2nd X came up against a well drilled and extremely competitive side on the South Front. The last match against HelKats finished 11-0, it was fantastic to see a huge difference in this game with a much closer scoreline of 9-5.

The defensive unit of Freya Embley (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Lucy Wilmott (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Greta Loughran (Lower Sixth, West) sustained huge amounts of pressure and played exceptionally well. The midfield were also extremely disciplined in defence and coped with vast amounts of pressure from the opposition.

Our attack did not see much of the ball. However, when we did get the ball into the attacking third, they were clinical, scoring five times. Ally Ter Haar (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) was vital all over the field, and slotted extremely well into defence when we had an injury. Larissa Campbell (Upper Sixth, Nugent) led the team with her great work rate and attitude.

Overall it was a fantastic team performance which leads the team nicely

into the next tournament at Marlborough.

Huge thanks to all the Parents who came along to watch!

3rd X

The game took place on a sunny Saturday afternoon, and having just finished their mocks the girls were looking to blow off some steam and get a win.

The girls did not hold back, after winning the draw then scoring just 10 seconds into the game! There was a lot of back-and-forth transition, and unfortunately St Helen and St Katharine (The Hell Kats) equalised. Not wanting to give up their lead, the girls fought back. The quarter time whistle blew with the score being 2-1 to Stowe.

During the start of the second quarter, the opposing team equalised the score. This did not stop the girls however, as they immediately pulled off an amazing fast break transition goal. The Hell Kats continued to fight back, with an outstanding performance from our defence, consisting of Dominic Dubsky (Fifth Form, Nugent), Jemima Dare (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Théa Gross (Fourth Form, Cheshire), preventing many scoring opportunities from being capitalised on. Dom then carried the ball from the defensive third all the way up to the attacking third and scored a great goal, increasing our lead. To finish up the quarter, Alba Sunderland (Fourth Form, Stanhope) added another goal to the tally.

The second half started at a great pace and the game went back and forth, but finally Stowe broke the deadlock making the score 6-3. Some outstanding performances in defence again by Dom, Jemima and Théa meant that Hell Kats only managed to score one goal. The girls came back fighting, not wanting to give up any ground, with Suraya Hashimi (Fifth Form, Nugent) scoring, to make the game 7-4 at the end of the quarter.

Going into the fourth and final quarter up by three goals, the girls did not let this go to their heads and carried on fighting. With the score line now 13-5 the girls did not waiver and with some excellent defence and key saves by Alice Watson (Fifth Form, Nugent), the game ended with Stowe the victors.

An all round amazing performance and the only win of the day at 13-5, the best result yet for the fearsome Thirds.

15A

The 15As came up against extremely tough opponents but what was great to see, was the girls giving 100% and playing for each other throughout the whole game. Playing from a large squad was great practice for what will happen at Nationals, and it was great to have so much depth on the bench!

15B

The 15Bs played an excellent game of Lacrosse, leading the game at half time 3-1. However, the opposition were able to rally in the 2nd half and pour on a couple of goals, so that at full time it was eventually 5-4 to St Helen and St Katharine. A great game from goalie Grace Nasmyth (Fourth Form, Queen's), who without the score could have been far more one-sided. Thanks to all the parents who came to support!

Rob Ingham, Head of Lacrosse



LSAS

Laud The Lion King at London's Lyceum

As part of the LSAS investigation of the Musical genre, on Wednesday 18 January we were privileged to visit The Lyceum Theatre in London to see a matinee performance of the hugely successful production, *The Lion King*. Oliver Dickman-Peña (Fourth Form, Winton) said, "We wanted to expand our academic knowledge and have a wide range of perspectives on life as we know it."

This was a spectacular show, well deserving of the acclaim it has received, which brought the Disney animated film to life with the aid of astounding puppetry, singing, choreography and some brilliant stagecraft.

Whilst its simplistic plot and occasionally pantomime-worthy dialogue could easily be criticised, its impact upon the Scholars was obvious, as you can see from these comments beginning with Paul Ostroverhy (Fourth Form, Chandos);

"The Lion King musical has proven to be a phenomenal theatrical show that fundamentally tries to produce a beautiful, sophisticated and stunning production out of rather cartoonish origins. At times, it did slip and revert to buffoonery and humour to appeal to a wider audience, creating a subtle and, at times, unstable balance between the comic-like 'primark joke' and the ornate, as in the intricate designed and successful shadow puppets."

Alex Richards (Fourth Form, Winton) however said, "It was fantastic," and Ari Lewis (Fourth Form, Walpole) found the lighting "Superb. Scar's kingdom/abode really added to his jealous, evil personality."

Paula Sanchez Podesta (Fourth Form, Cheshire) noted, "Interestingly, the play did broaden my understanding of what physical theatre can creatively develop and successfully achieve," whilst Hayden Smith (Fourth Form, Winton) commented, "I had a wonderful time watching the performance with my friends and was captivated by the amazing choreography. The music couldn't be faulted."

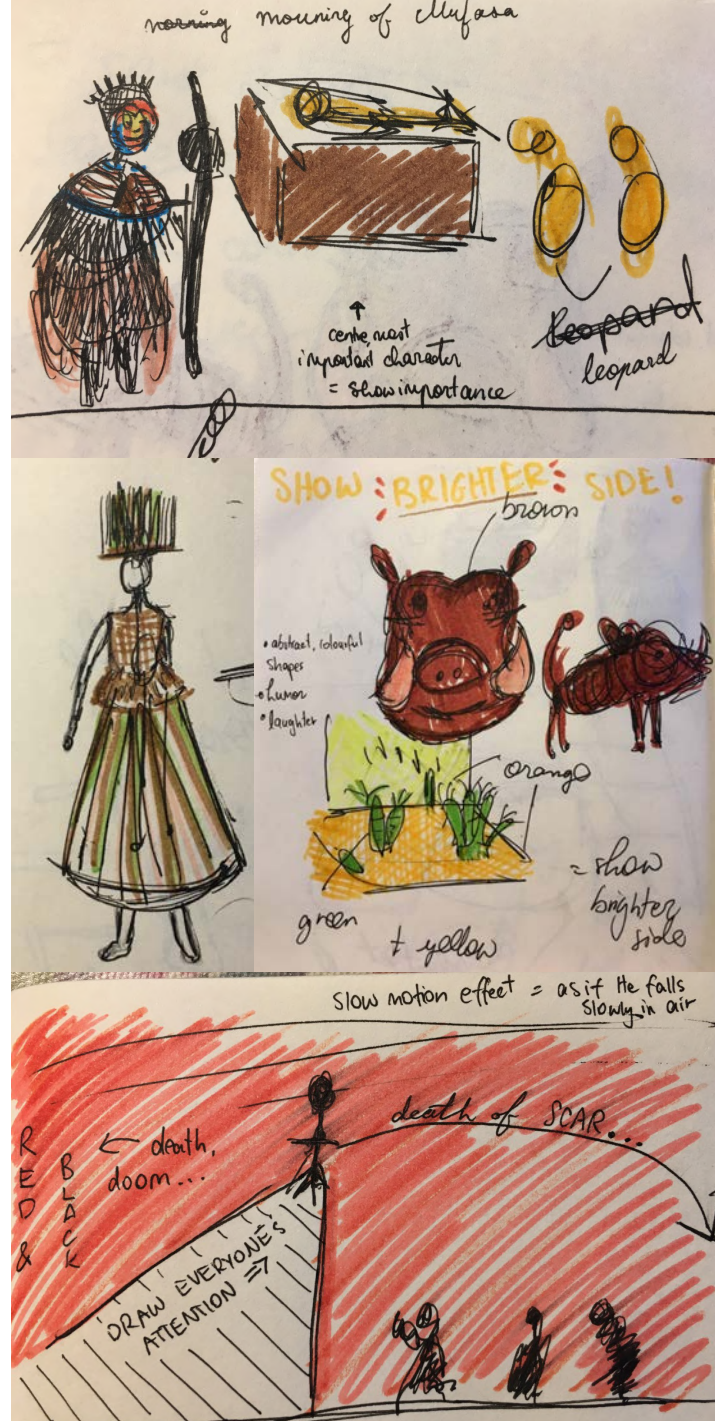
Niamh Gilmore (Fourth Form, Cheshire) thought, "The intricately designed costumes were often made up of different mechanisms so that the puppets came alive on stage" and Leo Clare (Fourth Form, Winton) said, "Overall, the production values made it a true spectacle to behold."

Lani Shah (Fourth Form, Cheshire) also loved the costumes, "The tweed skirts of the dancers that represented the grass showed their structure and dryness; the parachute like costumes of the lionesses showed their elegance."

Nada Shamsuddin (Fourth Form, Cheshire) particularly enjoyed the music, "The musical elements of the show were spot on - it was amazing how the cast performed stunts in heavy costumes whilst singing. I had already seen *The Lion King* before, but it had only improved with age. Statistically speaking, productions normally decrease in excellence over a period of years, but I cannot fault the effort and skill the whole cast had in the performance we were so lucky to see."

Ariel Guo (Third Form, Nugent) summed up the show and the group's reaction "Even though it was my second time watching this musical in England, it is still vividly engraved in my mind. One of my favourite songs is *Hakuna Matata* because it is an extremely cheerful song and the background change of the desert to rainforest on stage is extremely creative." Tallulah Havard (Third Form, Stanhope) added "This performance made us see characters that we would otherwise have only seen in cartoon brought to life, as their expression demonstrates their persona throughout the show."

Sophie Rojas (Third Form, Cheshire) was overwhelmed: "The characters made the different scenes come to life with their extraordinary acting and ways of saying their lines," and Thomas Hampson (Fourth Form, Winton) comments speak for almost everyone, "In general, it is a must-see for movie-goers and movie fans alike."



Overall, as the LSAS pupils' enthusiastic reactions make perfectly clear - this was a wonderful afternoon out and a fantastic opportunity to take a genre seriously which is often marginalised as just mass entertainment.

Only cynical Carlo Galliani remained slightly underwhelmed.

"Overall, *The Lion King* was met very favourably by LSAS, appealing in its loudness, shine and splendour. The costume work and set design is unrivalled; it took a unique spin on the film, using the bare bones of the movie and adapting it (although some jokes were a bit lost on me and some of the older members of the audience).

I will not deny that *The Lion King* is a fabulous show, and it has earned its place amongst the great West End musicals. However, it would be unfair to say it is flawless: the dancing was fun but often unsynchronised and repetitive. The child actors, especially Simba, did not seem born for the role, it seemed his role on stage was a necessity. His acting seemed more akin to a Year 6 pantomime than a West End production.

And as two nine year old girls squealed in glee behind me at the banishment of Scar, it did feel a bit embarrassing to be sitting there as a young adult.

To conclude, I would say that *The Lion King* is a wonderful show but though it is for many, it may not be for all."

Oh well, you can not please all the people all the time, as someone once said.

Dr Andrew Webber, LSAS co-ordinator

Sketches based on the set and costumes of *The Lion King* were drawn by Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

↑ FUTURE S



American University of Paris

On Monday 27 February, Hannah Westley, the Associate Director Dean from the American University of Paris visited Stowe. During her visit she spoke to pupils interested in studying liberal arts degrees in Paris following the American college system. The American University of Paris (AUP) is a private, independent, co-educational university, located in the heart of Paris on the Left Bank of the Seine. AUP offers a unique and diverse curriculum that includes both undergraduate and graduate programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Business, Science, and The Arts. It is one of the few American universities located in Europe and is known for its diverse student body, which reflects the dynamic cultural mix of Paris. AUP has a unique and welcoming campus that includes iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe. The University is also part of the French higher education system, which means that it is accredited by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

AUP offers a variety of liberal arts degrees, such as Psychology, Literature, Film Studies, International Relations, History, Philosophy, and French language and culture. The University has a range of tuition fees, depending on the programme, but the average tuition fee for an undergraduate degree is around €18,000 per semester (two semesters/year). The university also offers financial aid and scholarships, which can help to reduce the overall cost of tuition. In addition to the American University of Paris, there are other universities



in the UK that offer liberal arts degrees. For example, Durham University has a range of liberal arts degrees in subjects such as Philosophy, History, Literature and Sociology. Similarly, the University of Exeter offers a range of liberal arts degrees in subjects such as English, History and Anthropology.

The benefits of studying a liberal arts degree at the American University of Paris are numerous. Students benefit from the unique cultural experience of living and studying in Paris, as well as the unique curriculum offered by the university. The university's international focus also provides students with the opportunity to learn about different cultures, as well as the ability to network with professionals from around the world. Additionally, the university's low tuition fees and financial aid options make it an affordable option for international students. Finally, the university's impressive alumni network provides students with the opportunity to make valuable connections with professionals in their respective fields.

Luciane Guntner-Jones, Careers Advisor



Pastoral

Stoic Pastoral Prefects spent time at Swanbourne House School on Tuesday 24 January talking about their experiences of promoting mental health and wellbeing at Stowe.

The Swanbourne House Prefects loved the meeting, with pupils asking to do it again, "The Stoics helped a lot, and it was lovely chatting with some older pupils about struggles."

Mike Rickner, Deputy Head (Pastoral)



CHANGE MAKER DAY



ROWING

On Thursday 23 February, Rowing was part of the Change Maker Day and nearly 40 Third Form pupils were offered the opportunity to learn to row with coaches Andrew Arnold, Chris Grimble and myself.

All of the pupils had a try in a quadruple scull, and they also completed a 500 metre ergo challenge. They all did well, and we hope that some of them will choose to take up rowing in the future.

Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach



STOWE SCHOOL SHOP

Opening Hours

School Shop
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
(The Shop is closed at weekends, but for essentials please ask the Tuck Shop Staff)

Tuck Shop:

Monday-Wednesday 2.30pm - 5.45pm
Thursday 1.30pm - 5.45pm
Friday 2.30pm - 5.45pm
Saturday 10am - 4.45pm
Sunday 12pm - 4.45pm
email: shop@stowe.co.uk

CENTENARY BALL

Saturday 1 July 2023

Limited food court tickets still available to purchase

A limited amount of Food Court Tickets are available to those who are happy to start the evening with a festival feel Drinks Reception and street food served from food court vendors on the South Front, prior to entry to the Mansion.

After the street food reception, our guests will be treated to entertainment from West End musicians, performers from the Stoic and Old Stoic community, classical and jazz musicians, all within the unparalleled setting of the Mansion and the South Front. The evening will come to a crescendo with a stunning firework display.

HOW TO BOOK

Please follow this [link](#) to book Food Court Tickets; Food Court Tickets are £90 per person (£75 for Under 30s)

Dietary and access requirements should be emailed in advance to oldstoic@stowe.co.uk

If you have any questions or queries about this event, please telephone the OS Office on 01280 818349.

Accommodation

Unfortunately, due to logistical issues related to the End of Term, it will not be possible to offer Accommodation at the School for the Centenary Ball.

We are delighted to be able to offer Glamping on an Old Stoics' farm on the Dadford Road. Minibus transfers will be arranged for those staying at the Glamping Site. Please follow the [link](#) for full details and to book. Password: 010723



SOCIAL MEDIA

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