

Stowe mail

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NEWS FROM STOWE



CENTENARY GIVING DAY ¹⁹²³2023

Today, Thursday 29 June is the second of this week's Change 100 Centenary Giving Days. Bringing together the Stowe Community, including our Alumni, these two days are part of our audacious ambition to create 100 fully-funded bursaries at Stowe.

Change 100 presents a wonderful way for Stowe to celebrate its Centenary. Providing transformative opportunities, it supports both talented and deserving children, also ensuring that our pupils are all prepared to become future Change Makers. Indeed, through Change 100 we, the Stowe community, can all be Change Makers together.

The highlight of the week has been the 'Head's Challenge'. The challenge was set by the School's Trial bikers and will be the only time this stunt will ever be performed. It has taken a lot of work behind the scenes to pull it off.

Having received 100 donations, the Head honoured his agreement to put his skills to the test and ride a motorbike up the North Front Steps, through Stowe House and down the full flight of the South Front. Our generous donors set the wheels in motion for him to roar through the House - the action was caught on film, and you can watch it [here](#).

During a special Chapel service, Stoics were privileged to hear inspirational words from recipients of bursaries; Liberty King, who now works as an Educational Consultant, and Andrew Isama, who now works at Eton as Inclusion Officer.

The Stoics and Staff have also been challenged today. Every Stoic being set a "Dynamic Quiz" sending them around the grounds and testing them on their Stowe knowledge. All correct answers unlocking donations into the fundraising total. The Houses are also competing in an Inter-House 100 Rep Challenge - where everything from Hula-Hooping to Press-Ups helps unlock more funding. And, back by popular demand, is the Change 100 Colour Run, which this year sees twenty members of Staff taking part too!

In total, we have secured £200,000 of Match and Challenge Funding, meaning every gift you make will be doubled until we have a total tally of £400,000. This equates to providing two, life changing, five-year boarding places for children for whom it could make all the difference.

We are scoring the number of donors from each House to provide some friendly competition and your gift could also put your preferred House at the top of the Leaderboard.

We are asking you to make a donation, at whatever level you can. Now is the time to support Change 100 and we would be so enormously grateful for any donation. Thank you.

Charlie Clare, Deputy Development Director



Henley Rowing

On Tuesday 27 June, the opening day of Henley Royal Regatta, Chairman Sir Steven Redgrave granted Stowe and Canford Schools the privilege to row past the Stewards' Enclosure, to celebrate their joint centenaries.

Canford was represented by a mixed alumni crew whilst Stowe was represented by a mixed crew of the School's best rowers; Leavers and those with their Stowe futures ahead of them. Their Henley blazers were amongst the best at the Regatta (and it's a high bar), and they rowed in specially commissioned Centenary rowing suits. After a successful Summer of regattas, the crew at Henley was the team's finest achievement.

The row past was followed by a lunch party for 60 guests, hosted for 'The Friends of Stowe Boat Club' by Nadine Edwards, attended by the Head, Dr Wallersteiner, Development Director, Colin Dudgeon and the Director of Sport, Craig Sutton.

For rowing, I would like to thank all my colleagues, parents and the pupils for their support for the Boat Club.

Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach

Henley Team: Amelia Hine (Upper Sixth, West), Lorraine Yan (Third Form, Stanhope), Max Cowper-Hart (Lower Sixth, Winton), Ben Cousins (Third Form, Bruce), Max Poliza (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Rafe Gordon (Upper Sixth, Winton), Angès Edwards (Third Form, Stanhope), Leia West (Upper Sixth, West), Hecco Harrison (cox) (Third Form, Temple), Lily Jackson (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and reserve, Ari Lewis (Fourth Form, Walpole).

Coaches: Meredith Atkinson-Wood, Leah Abbott, Andrew Arnold and Andrew Rudkin.



Opening of the State Dining Room

Stowe House Preservation Trust



We are pleased to announce the opening of the State Dining Room to Staff, Stoics and visitors once again, after restoration was completed in June 2023. This magnificent room has been transformed into a richly decorated space brimming with colour and dazzling with gilding to echo the 1740s when the room was in its heyday.

There have been numerous unique challenges to overcome, not least being that most of the original treasures were sold off when the House and its contents were put up for sale in 1922. This involved detailed research and discovery of the artefacts to make casts or replicas based on original information. To add to the complexities, the room needed to remain operational for School pupils during restoration works, which required the use of a tunnel running through the room.

The floor had been well worn, not just by the thousands of school children that have inhabited the House since 1923, but in its use first as a State Gallery and then in the later 18th Century as the State Dining Room. The new French oak floor has been laid to replicate the original board widths and waxed to ensure it is both robust and aesthetically pleasing.

When the room was transformed into a dining room, the works of art were transferred into the State Drawing Room and replaced with a magnificent set of tapestries depicting the triumphs of classical deities, these comprised of five large and sixteen smaller pieces. The tapestries, which were sold off along with many other items in 1922, were rediscovered and photographed by specialists using a technique involving ultra-high-resolution photography. The digital files were then edited and printed onto a heavy wide-width wallpaper, providing a realistic representation of the original tapestries.

The original marble fireplace surrounds were also rediscovered and, using digital 3D scans, replicas were painstakingly recreated in timber through a CNC machine to provide a true representation of the originals, then refined by a master carpenter. Conservators applied the finish and gilding to the timber, to match the appearance of the originals, including the exact veining of the marble.

Elaborate joinery including doors, chair rails, skirtings, architraves and overdoor pediments, have been repaired and restored, informed by specialist paint analysis to recreate the original decorative scheme. Mechanical and electrical services have been upgraded and sensitively incorporated into the room.

On completion of the project Andrew Fane, Chair of Stowe House Preservation Trust said, "Stowe House is recognised as one of the finest neo-classical buildings in the country and we are proud to unveil our most transformational restoration yet. As custodians of this magnificent stately home, we have weathered the challenges of delivering a major project while the House remains in constant use and, working with a talented team, we have delivered this project to time, within budget and at the highest quality. This project is also the zenith of over 20 years of Stowe House Preservation Trust's magnificent restoration of the exterior of Stowe House and the State Rooms. As part of our remit to open to the public, we are delighted and privileged to invite visitors to follow in the footsteps of 18th Century tourists and experience Stowe as it was in its heyday and witness the building's re-incarnation as a leading independent school."

We thank all our contributors to this outstanding project, from donors and grant-making trusts, through architects, craftspeople and contractors, to advisors and advocates. And most of all, we thank the Staff, Stoics and parents for their forbearance during this time and hope the wait was worth it. This is the most significant interior restoration project yet carried out at Stowe.

Melanie Whitrow, Stowe House Preservation Trust



National Poetry by Heart Competition

Our pupils were challenged to take part in the National Poetry By Heart Competition. The competition requires pupils to recite a poem by heart and perform in front of a judge. The best performances are then entered into the National competition.

Congratulations to Imogen Embley (Fourth Form, Queen's) for achieving a Highly Commended award for her performances of 'If' by Rudyard Kipling and 'A Summer Place' by Anne Stevenson.

Lucinda Stockley, Assistant Librarian

POETRY BY
HEART



Speech Day

Our Centenary Speech Day was one that will live long in the memory of those who were able to attend.

Starting with what is a regular feature of the May event, the eve of Speech Day concert, this year featuring the headline act of The Bootleg Beatles. The Fab Four took to the stage in the South Front marquee, playing a set that took the audience through all the decades of The Beatles' hits. A somewhat surreal experience that honoured the incredible music of this famous band but also served to mark the anniversary of probably the strangest concert the famous band ever played at Stowe in April 1963. This concert has legendary status at Stowe and continues to imbue interest to this day (do listen to the recent [BBC coverage](#) if you haven't already). Fast forward to May 2023 - Stoics, Old Stoics, Parents, friends of Stowe and Staff joined together to twist and shout the warm night away. The headline act was supported by Stoic musicians Ruby Cooke (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Paddy Potts (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Ruairi Massie (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Ronan O'Reilly (Upper Sixth, Grenville), who as always performed brilliantly. There was a festival atmosphere on The South Front as food vans provided some delicious food for the audience and, as the sun set, preparations by our fabulous Events and House team began for the following day.

Speech Day at Stowe is always a grand affair. Those early on site see the arrival of the first cars pulling up onto the lawn in front of the Mansion for the Classic Car display. Some arrive in trailers, some are driven and (just) a few every year end up being pushed onto the lawn! On the South Front, the bunting adorns the picnic tables and the sun begins to dry the dewy grass. A feature of a Stowe Speech Day is always the early morning mist that will clear in time to reveal a beautiful blue sky. As the temperature rose, our guests arrived.

This year's Speech Day was special for many reasons. Not least as a moment in time to mark some incredible work by our pupils which was on display in the Art School and in the Sixth Form Centre (where DT projects were displayed). For the sporting among us, there were Stoic v. Old Stoic matches across the site, and for the Centenary there were two new features of the day. The beautiful artwork of Anthony Eyton, RA, displayed in the newly created Eyton Gallery which was opened in the Music School, and the new vista created by the recreation of Roxburgh's Garden by Colvin and Moggridge on the Eastern Parterre. These markers of the Centenary are both such welcome additions to Stowe.

As our guests poured into the marquee, the main event commenced. As always, we celebrated the achievement of the pupils, heard updates from the Chair of Governors, and the Head. The speeches were interspersed with brilliant performances from this year's Senior Congreve, Grease. Prizes were awarded by Dr Potter and then Dr Wallersteiner interviewed our Guest of Honour, Dame Karen Pierce, Lady Roxburgh, DCMG, who gave fascinating answers to the questions posed by the Head about her career, what has inspired her, her connection to Stowe and the crucial role of diplomacy in our world.

As the Speeches concluded, guests streamed out of the marquee to the picnic tables for lunch in the sunshine. In addition to the Beagle display, there was the cutting of the Centenary Cake by our Guest of Honour, and a raffle to raise funds for the charity, Street Child.

These events would not be possible if it were not for the wonderful teams in Stowe Enterprises, the Head's Office, House Staff, Catering, Security, the General Office and Grounds Staff, thank you to all those involved in making the celebration so memorable.

It truly was a wonderful event to mark our 100 years.



CCF



CCF Fourth Form Adventure Training Friday 16 and Saturday 17 June

On Friday 16 June, Stowe CCF organised an adventure training day for the 100 Fourth Form RAF, Army and Navy sections, whereby Cadets were split into groups for activity rotations including water sports, rafting, laser tag, air rifle target sprint, orienteering and ultimate frisbee.

My group used our teamwork and cooperation during raft building. We were given barrels and wooden poles to build a sturdy raft. Though it took a lot of trial and error to develop a model that would stay together during the journey across the river, we were successful.

While playing laser tag, we learnt about real-life Army situations during conflict and played a game re-enacting a bodyguard role that involved escorting 'The President' into the Queen's Temple safely. The range and accuracy of the laser guns was very impressive!

We also practised a field gun exercise as Charlie and Delta groups. Special mentions go to Martin Zhang (Grenville) for his positive attitude, Romulus Flanagan (Cobham) for taking charge, and Felix Bentley (Winton) for excellent engagement.

Some groups participated in the air rifle target sprints up at the track. The exercise involved cadets trying to hit five targets before running the shorter distance of 100m, due to the heat (normally 400m), then firing again, out of breath. This activity was quite challenging and special mention goes to Leo Clare (Winton) with an impressive grouping of 28mm.

Many enjoyed the water sports, which were popular as the weather was warm. I particularly loved group paddle boarding and kayaking, even though we fell in multiple times!

During the command task, Cadets challenged themselves and exercised their problem-solving abilities when completing the tower of Hanoi along with bomb retrieval. Well done to Group-D, led by Kitty Howard (Cheshire) for being the fastest team on the Tower of Hanoi, William Gorton (Bruce) for the Best Command Task Brief, Luiza Cavalcanti (Lyttelton) and Kitty Howard for being the most accurate team on bearings and Group-D, led by George Rutherford (Winton), for being the only team to successfully retrieve the bomb.

In orienteering, Cadets used a GPS orienteering app to locate and arrive at as many checkpoints as possible around the School grounds. Congratulations to Bertie Scott (Chatham) in First place, Alfie Corthine (Winton) in Second, and Kitty Howard in Third.

All in all, Friday was a memorable, influential and lively experience. A big thanks to all the CCF Staff who made it a successful and enjoyable day for everyone.

Marina Goje (Lyttelton)

On Saturday 17 June, Fourth Form CCF had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Adventure Training Day at Kempston outdoor activity centre, hosted by Canoe Trail Ltd. All three CCF sections (Army, RAF and Navy) were split into different groups to enable resilience and teamwork. Within these groups, we rotated between different activities including water sports, indoor rock climbing, a high ropes course and axe throwing. I believe each of these exercises promoted key skills such as collaboration, bravery and overall fun! My personal favourite activity had to be the high ropes course as I was able to challenge my fear of heights, with the support from my peers. Indoor climbing was very interactive and fun as the instructors set us a variety of challenges, some including trying to fit through a hula hoop while on the wall, or only being able to climb on certain colours, which was very tricky! Another very challenging yet fun activity was the Jacob's Ladder. This required a lot of teamwork and cooperation. The objective was to work as a team to get to the top of a tricky suspended log ladder. But the higher you climb the harder it gets, because the gap between each rung increased with each upward step. However, thanks to all the brilliant support and cheering, it was extremely successful. Speedy and confident climbers were Jonelle Famutimi (Cheshire) and Hugo Embury (Winton) who were split seconds apart to the top, and Rosie Allchurch (Lyttelton).

Due to the hot weather, many enjoyed the water sports, as not only were we able to cool off, but were able to experience, paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing. It was particularly fun as we all tried not to fall in! We were out on the river for hours and the instructors were all so caring. My favourite part of the water sports was all the splashing that took place. It was very exciting to be able to venture out on the river, as some of us hadn't experienced these sports before. Axe throwing was also a huge success, with a special mention to Martin Zhang (Grenville) and Kaito Mbanefo (Grenville) who managed to get every throw accurately! Overall, I, along with the rest of CCF thoroughly enjoyed this day and a big thanks to all the CCF Staff who made this day happen

Olivia Hillier (Lyttelton)





On Friday 16 June, Fourth Form CCF Cadets were treated to a splendid day, packed with various activities around Stowe grounds that was both joyous and amusing! I was with the Royal Navy group and we started the day off with sub-aqua diving. Straight after roll call, we dived headfirst into diving by going to the Drayson sheds to collect all of our equipment; which included a huge oxygen tank, diving regulator, BCD (buoyancy control device) which you wear like a backpack, scuba diving fins and a scuba mask. We slowly built the entire equipment by getting oxygen tanks then adding more equipment one by one. This way we were sure to have everything we needed. I learnt how to attach the diving regulator to the oxygen tank and the BCD, which when attached all together, were supported by your back and shoulders. At the swimming pool, we learnt how to wear all of the equipment and I tried breathing through the regulator for the first time! It was such a strange experience to be able to breathe normally underwater that at the beginning I held my breath underwater. We laid flat on the shallow end floor to get used to breathing and used hand signals to communicate when underwater. Some of the hand signals were if our instructor signalled an 'okay' sign, we would need to reply back clearly in order for them to know we were fine, and if there was an issue, we would indicate to them.

At the start, I kept rolling slightly so weights were added which helped to weigh me down and I learnt to stay calm and relax. The key to scuba diving is to breathe normally, stay calm, not stress and have fun! The experience underwater is really majestic which feels as if you enter another world. It is really quite different and it evoked such a cheerful feeling inside of me to have finally had the chance to participate in this. We even played catch and swam through hula hoops, which was a test of agility. My group also tried several tricks our instructor showed us, such as forward and backward somersaults, clearing out our scuba masks by breathing upwards and how to pop our

ears when the pressure of the water increases as we swim deeper. I am so grateful to have been able to try scuba diving and I would love to do it again in the future.

After our brief lunch at Queen's Temple, my group headed to the Bourbon to participate in command tasks, orienteering and target sprint. All of these activities were also new to me, so all of the activities on Friday were all a wonderful new experience. The command tasks involved the 'Tower of Hanoi', in which we had to organise tyres painted with numbers 1 to 5, with 5 at the bottom, stacked on three poles which was commanded by different members of my group. Another activity featured bearings and compass work. We had to walk around 50m alongside a rope with markings in metres and count how many of our strides it took to reach the other line. By using this information, we deduced around 10m was six steps. After the introduction we were given sheets with a point to start at on the rope and use bearings and steps to guide us to another specific point on the rope. I found this task fun because Nada Shamsuddin (Cheshire) and I got one of the metres on the rope exactly correct! Secondly, we did orienteering which I found very engaging. The aim was to collect six points on the Stowe course map. There were different locations dotted around Stowe grounds, worth low and high points. The locations were found by accessing a mobile app called GPS Orienteering where we were given a map to read, and a time limit of 45 minutes to arrive at our starting point - the pavilion at the Bourbon. I enjoyed this a lot because I had always wanted to try this, and it felt like going on an adventure by deducing what specific pathways and routes to take, to effectively get the maximum amount of points we could get and find where the points are located at. The target sprint was to shoot five rounds, run 100m to a football post and back, and shoot another five rounds. The entire day was very well organised and gave us a chance to discover new experiences.

Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Lyttelton)





Conservation Society

On Wednesday 7 June we created a nature scavenger hunt for the Year Three pupils at Winchester House School. They had to walk around their 'secret garden' and find insects, such as butterflies, bees and newts, in order to score points. The team with the most points at the end won house points.

We wanted to teach younger children about the environment and conservation. In particular, we wanted them to learn about different insects and the habitats they live in. And of course, we wanted them to have fun while doing it!

By having a scavenger hunt for the insects, we balanced the perfect amount of fun with learning and used some key Change Maker skills. We communicated with the children and teachers to find the animals and habitats. We used leadership skills to show the children where to find

the animals and keep them interested. The children learned how to not disturb animals and stay quiet to see them which is Active Learning.

We would like to repeat this activity next term and do something with Winchester House again. We aim to recreate another fun, interesting activity, maybe for a different Year Group, so that all the different pupils have an opportunity to engage in this activity and work on their team building skills. Some ideas we have are pond dipping, bird spotting or bug hotel building.

James Barnett (Third Form, Winton), James Pratap (Third Form, Cobham), Enzo Jacquemard (Third Form, Cobham) and Archie Denison-Pender (Third Form, Cobham).

Tom Elwell, Conservation Society



Spanish

On the Thursday 18 May the Sixth Form Spanish pupils enjoyed a trip to "Ole Tapas Bar", Milton Keynes.

As part of our curriculum this year we have been learning about different Spanish foods and drinks from different cities; and were fortunate enough to try their paella, patatas bravas and sangria!

We thoroughly enjoy trips like these as they allow us to immerse ourselves into the Spanish culture and it gives us an opportunity to practice the Spanish language with native speakers. Furthermore it was incredible practice for our end of year exams.

A huge thank you to Mr Morales-Shearer and Mrs Peña for organising a trip that we'll never forget!

Aiyana Unalkat (Lower Sixth, West)



Steve Cory

Congratulations to Steve Cory who celebrates 40 years of employment at Stowe. Steve has been a Master Carpenter in the Maintenance Department since 1983 and is a much-valued member of the team.

Thank you to Steve for his dedication and hard work over the last 40 years!





The Winton Cup

Another year and another Winton Cup hove into view and was dispatched yet again with all the aplomb of a Joe Root reverse sweep, with its usual mixture of excitement, interest and enthusiasm.

The Winton Cup, Stowe School's premier prep school humanities competition, was created to honour Sir Nicholas Winton, an Old Stoic who helped organise the evacuation of 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War. Sir Nicholas went on to find homes for all these children, many of whose parents perished in Auschwitz, often by placing photographs in Picture Post seeking families to accept them.

The day began, as has become traditional, with pastries and soft drinks as the pupils posed for 'selfies' in front of the frescoes and statues of our state rooms. This year the theme was 'How to create a happier society'. Aidan Harvey-Craig, author of the bestselling '18 Wellbeing Hacks for Students: Using Psychology's Secrets to Survive and Thrive', opened the sessions with a talk, encouraging the pupils to think about happiness in terms of what we concentrate on and what we place importance in. The talk was both fascinating and inspiring.

The pupils then competed against each other in a series of activities ranging from examining the history of happiness to looking at artists who had strived to create happier and better societies through their art, before the children created their own conceptual performance works of art.

As our Head read out the results on the South Front, silhouetted against the English Arcadia that many of us are lucky enough to call our School and home, the looks of excitement and enjoyment on the pupil's faces were delightful to behold. Kings College School Cambridge were the worthy winners, with Winchester House a very close second.

I must thank the Marketing Department for organising another successful day and the Heads of Department for planning and facilitating such interesting activities. As the sun set behind the Corinthian Arch as we finished packing away, reminiscent, some would say, of a Claude Lorraine painting, I could only reflect on how lucky we are to welcome such polite, intelligent, and enthusiastic pupils to our school each year.

Simon Cole, Head of Politics



Trip to Paris

We had a very exciting trip with a lovely group of four pupils and two teachers for a jam-packed tour of Paris from Saturday 27-Wednesday 31 May.

On our first day, we travelled to Paris on the Eurostar and made our way to the hostel on the bustling metro; beginning a constant competition on who could direct us to the correct stations. The next morning, we shot straight off on the RER to Le Palais de Versailles. We visited the three main buildings: The Palace, The Grand Trianon and The Petit Trianon, followed by The English Gardens. We saw the renowned Hall of Mirrors and both the King and Queen's rooms within the main palace. We stopped for lunch after exploring the gardens, before going on to see both Trianons. After our Versailles tour, we took the metro to Bastille where we explored some quaint shops and bought a delicious baguette! Returning to the hostel we got ready for the next big day.

On Monday morning, we were off early to the famous La Place Vendôme, home to some of the most prestigious brands. We made our way to Le Louvre for our guided tour, stopping in some classic French shops around the 1st Arrondissement. After the tour, we had a lovely picnic in Les Jardins de Tuileries, before making our way to the Seine, for the Bateaux Mouches. We walked along the Seine and found the perfect photo spot in front of the Eiffel Tower!

On our final day, we went for breakfast at a delicious boulangerie before a tour of the breath-taking Assemblée Nationale - where countless powerful speeches have taken place. We then made our way to the Musée d'Orsay before heading to the top of l'Arc de Triomphe for the most amazing view of Paris. In a perfect way to end the trip, we went to a restaurant for a delicious final meal, where we were given little awards.

We had daily photo competitions with categories; funniest, most artistic, and most cultural. We were also challenged to have as many interactions with the locals as possible, and we made some friends along the way. What an amazing trip it was full of excitement and culture!

Camille Thornton-Izzard (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)





Old Stoic Society Classic Car Show 2023

On Saturday 27 May, the stunning backdrop of the North Front was a fitting location for the Old Stoic Society Centenary Classic Car Show. This annual tradition in the sparkling sunshine, showed off the 119 classic cars in all their glory. To mark our one hundredth birthday, we hoped to see cars from the 1920s and we were not disappointed. There was a 1923 Alvis Ducksback 12/50 Sport, a 1924 Bentley, a 1927 Sunbeam and a 1929 Austin 7 Van. Other cars spanned the decades from a 1902 Oldsmobile to a 2010 Maserati. The car show always proves a great attraction for all those attending Speech Day, and the Old Stoic Society are delighted to be a part of the festivities.

The prize for 'The Best Turned out Car' was won by Eliza and Richard Wyldes with their car a BMW328 Willys Jeep. On arrival, all car drivers and their guests were welcomed at the Old Stoic Society marquee with tea, coffee, bacon rolls and pastries.



Later in the day they were served a luxury picnic lunch which they enjoyed whilst watching the cricket and chatting with the other car drivers.

It was a day to remember, with large crowds on the North Front and many friendships renewed. Only one car gave up at the final hurdle, making it all the way up the drive and to the security gate but no further. It received a helping hand from the AA to get home, and no harm was done!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this a wonderful day.

Bev Kelly, Interim Director, Old Stoic Society



Sheilagh Rawlins

The Science Department say a very fond farewell to Mrs Sheilagh Rawlins who is retiring at the end of term. Sheilagh joined Stowe in September 2003, bringing her background in Special Educational Needs Education to the Skills and Science Departments. With a passion for Science and a First Class Degree in Natural Science, Sheilagh is a truly outstanding teacher who gets the very best out everyone she teaches no matter their previous experience or ability.

She runs her very popular "Science Booster" activities which has helped to boost the confidence and results of all of those who attend. Sheilagh's classes all know that she wants the very best for them and I'm sure that everyone she teaches great appreciates both her highly effective teaching as well as her unstinting encouragement and support. To quote one piece of pupil feedback which was typical of the responses about their experience of her teaching and learning in Science, "Mrs Rawlins is just perfect." As her classes know, she is never happier than when surrounded by pupils chanting her odd mnemonics and using ping-pong balls to imitate atom arrangements! All part of her unique own way of helping her students to get wonderful results.

Sheilagh has been the lead behind Stowe's link with the Medical Detection Dogs, a local charity of national significance in using dogs to detect cancer from breath and urine samples, as well as training support dogs for people with various medical conditions. Her collaboration with this charity has led to Stowe pupils sponsoring three dogs and therefore doubtless many lives saved or enhanced.

"Grace" the three-metre-high elephant bird replica skeleton that adorns Stowe's Science foyer was Sheilagh's idea which she followed through by working with the production company to make sure it was as scientifically accurate as possible. An inspiring welcome to all who come into the Science building.

Very musical herself, Sheilagh lives locally with musician husband, Pete, and used to have her own family jazz quartet. With the family now grown and out in the world, Sheilagh and Pete like to travel and have ambitions to 'sail round the horn'.

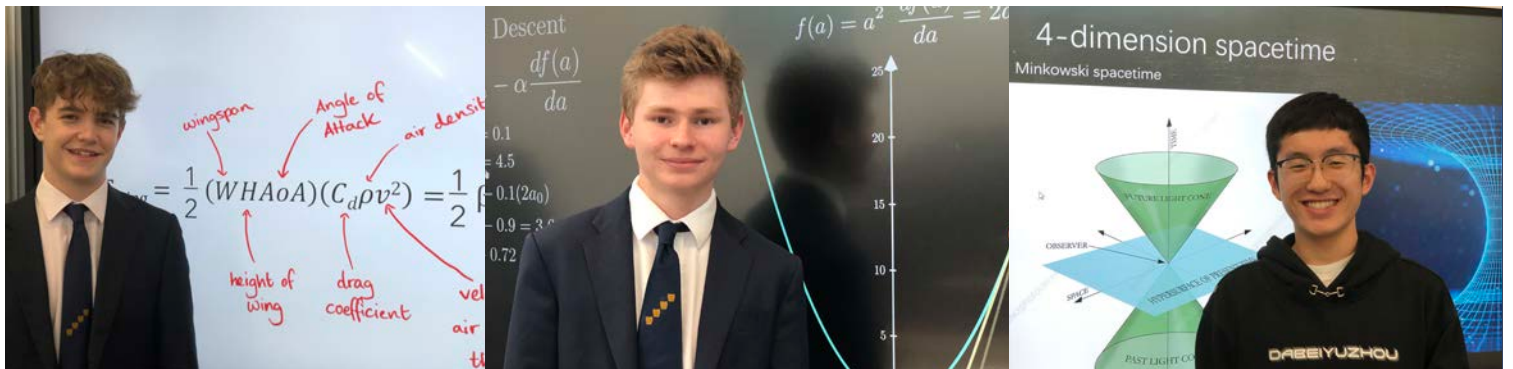
We wish Sheilagh all the very best for the future - we will miss her tremendously.

James Tearle, Head of Science



Centenary Staff Photograph

In the School Blue Book issued in September 1924, 26 Academic Masters and one Medical Officer were listed as working at the School. Today in our Centenary year, the Blue Book lists 135 Academic Staff, with a total staff team of around 600! On Wednesday 21 June, as many of the Stowe team as possible congregated on the South Front steps for a special Centenary Celebration photograph.



MATHS

Maths Talks: Formula 1, Higher Dimensions and Neural Networks

The Gaussian Society met on Wednesday 24 June to hear talks from Archie Jacobs (Lower Sixth, Winton), Clark Lin (Lower Sixth, Grafton), and Hardy King (Lower Sixth, Chandos).

Archie Jacobs introduced an audience of twenty Stoics to the equations that model downforce in Formula 1 racing, and used these to show that a car must be travelling at 112mph to stick to a ceiling. However, in an important lesson in the complexities of mathematical modelling, Archie then used a simulation to show that although the downforce was sufficient, the traction was not - many more calculations are required before anyone tries it for real!

Clark Lin started out by explaining the concept of the Möbius strip and the toroidal equations that can be used to define its shape. Then, after an introduction on how to think in higher dimensions and their

relevance to physics, Clark explained how the mind-bending Klein bottle is a similar shape to the Möbius strip, but in more dimensions. Disconcertingly, the inside of the bottle is also the outside, and the entrance connects directly to the exit, making it impossible to fill. Finally, Hardy King presented his outstanding independent project in which he solved the heat equation, which describes the diffusion of heat, by a machine learning method. Hardy made the steps of this highly technical process easy to follow, and showed how gradient descent, chain rule and automatic differentiation can be brought together to form a physics informed neural network. Furthermore, after 500,000 updates of the 2081 trainable parameters, Hardy's computer programme successfully solved the equation.

Stoics Solutions Submitted to Cambridge NRICH Mathematics

Cambridge University regularly sets challenging problems for pupils to solve via the NRICH website, to which pupils can

then submit their work for discussion and publication. Very well done to our Junior mathematicians who entered their solutions to the following challenging problems aimed at the higher 16-18 age range.

- Proper Factors - Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Ryan Zheng (Fifth Form, Grenville)
- Square Difference - Gilbert Xu
- Divisible Factorizations - Gilbert Xu, Alex Fan (Third Form, Chandos) and Harris Chan (Fourth Form, Temple)
- Square Remainders - Gilbert Xu and Jingyuan Zheng (Fifth Form, Chandos)

All have done very well but particularly Alex Fan who is new to the School this year and with his first entry from Third Form, and Gilbert Xu, who solved four of these!

We hope to see extracts of the Stoics' solutions featured on the website in due course and you can review the latest NRICH open problems [here](#).

Charles Adkins, Teacher of Maths

Lyn Foden

Lyn Foden joined Stowe in 2015 and quickly became a key member of the Stowe community with her positive attitude and willingness to always help where she could.

At the same time as joining the Library, Lyn also started as Assistant Houseparent and Tutor in Nugent House. She brought a warm and welcoming aspect to the role helping numerous girls through their GCSEs and A Levels.

Lyn's expertise and determination to push reading for pleasure within the School has resulted in the creation of the Stowe Reading Colours Awards, Inter-House Literary Challenge, and numerous events across the School calendar year. Lyn has made the Library the heart of the School; a safe place for pupils and Staff to go when they want to study, read for pleasure or get some general life advice. Her ability to know what a person should read next and find the next upcoming piece of technology is a skill that cannot be taught.

Lyn has not only been a heart of the Library but has also worn several other hats whilst working here at Stowe. She has chaired the SC3 Committee over the last four years, which has made a positive change for Staff working at Stowe, Lyn has also taught an English GCSE set covering "Of Mice and Men", helped teach EPQ and HPQ lessons, PSHE lessons, and has also organised yoga sessions for Staff on Thursdays which are taught by her daughter Ellie.

Lyn is sadly retiring at the end of this academic year to focus on a quieter life and enjoy her other passions such as gardening, travelling, spending time with her family and dogs, and having the time to read all the books she wants.

Thank you for all your hard work and the passion you have brought to Stowe, the Library will never quite feel the same without you and we will all miss you greatly.

Lucinda Stockley, Assistant Librarian



Rock and Pop Days

On Tuesday 16 and Tuesday 23 May, the Music Department hosted many budding musicians from Beaudesert Park School and Pinewood School respectively, as part of our annual Rock and Pop Days. Both days were packed full with various exciting musical activities, such as rehearsals and coaching from our expert team of Music Staff including Ben Weston (Studio Manager and Teacher of Music Technology) and Gary McFarlin (visiting teacher of Bass guitar). As part of the day, each of the seven school bands that took part had the opportunity to record professionally produced session in the Stringer recording studio; recorded, mixed and mastered by Danny Mills (visiting teacher of Music Production). All of us in the Music Department were hugely impressed by the standard of musicianship from both schools, and it was a real pleasure to work with such enthusiastic and capable young musicians. Both days culminated in a concert given by the pupils to an audience of parents, Staff and Stoics. The repertoire featured a mixture of pre-prepared songs as well as new songs introduced on the day. It was wonderful to hear how well the pupils

progressed throughout the day and it was particularly impressive to hear some highly polished performances of songs they had previously never played, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication shown by the musicians. As part of the concerts, Stoic musicians also gave some inspiring performances and displayed an exceptionally high level of musicianship.

Congratulations to Ruby Cooke (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Milo Xing (Fifth Form, Chandos), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Gilbert Xu (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Emily Garwood (Fifth Form, Cheshire) for their excellent performances which showcased a string quartet in a popular music setting as well as creative use of loop pedals. A huge thanks must go to Jane Horwood (Music Administrator) for all her excellent support with coordination, as well as all the Staff from the visiting schools, who provided excellent support throughout both days. We look forward to welcoming pupils from Beaudesert Park and Pinewood Schools for future events.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard





POLO

Our A team travelled to Kirtlington to face our nemesis, Harrow, on Thursday 8 June. Captain Lucas Stern (Lower Sixth, Grenville) scored the first goal and Luca Natella (Fifth Form, Cobham) went on to score four more. Charlie Hodges (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Leander Sautter (Fourth Form, Cobham) battled hard to keep the strong Harrow team from scoring goals and this great teamwork meant Stowe won 5-1.

On Sunday 18 June we took three teams to Kirtlington to take part in the SUPA Summer National Championships. Our A team of India Baillie (Captain) (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Lucas Stern, Luca Natella and Leander Sautter played in the Open section and after four tough chukkas against Rugby School and Cheltenham College, with many amazing goals and some tough umpire decisions, we finally came Second in the division. A phenomenal result against tough opponents.

Our B team, Captained by Charlie Hodges with Archie Vernon Miller (Fourth Form, Chatham), Jemima Hammond (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Pia Glynn-Smith (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) had three tough chukkas, but finally beat Winchester College 3-0 in their final chukka. They won their Intermediate Division which was a fantastic result in an impressive show of great teamwork. Some incredible goals came from Archie Vernon Miller and Charlie Hodges.

Our C team, Captained by Poppy Wates (Fourth Form, Queen's), with Domino Flint Wood (Fourth Form, Queen's), Agatha White (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Nora Bedi (Third Form, Stanhope) ploughed through all their opponents in their first Summer Nationals and went on to win against Heathfield 2-0

in their last chukka. They won their Division, which is made even sweeter as they also hold the winners title in their Winter Nationals - this C team were great!

As if this lovely collection of silverware wasn't enough, Charlie Hodges was awarded Most Valuable Player of the whole Championship and was given a beautiful pair of knee pads from the Association of Saddlers.

On Saturday 24 June, Oxford Polo hosted the Stowe Centenary Polo Day, which was a fantastic event, organised by Polo parent Sarah Heseltine, to celebrate Stowe's long Polo history. The day was made up of three matches; The Bradshaw Cup showcased future Stowe Polo players currently at prep school, the second game was the Corinthian Cup which saw Stowe's players take on Radley College and the last match of the day was the Old Stoic Centenary Cup, which was a fierce eight goal battle.

The level of Polo from all these matches was amazing and proved to be exhilarating to watch! With incredible weather and seriously talented players to support, everyone enjoyed this well organised and fun day - helping to celebrate this Centenary year in true Polo style. With prizes given out by special guests Antony Fanshawe, the Director of Polo at Guards Polo Club and our very own Dr Wallersteiner, it felt like quite the event! As Master in Charge, the highlight for me was to watch the future players heading to Stowe in the next few years. Thanks go to Sarah Heseltine and her team at Oxford Polo for hosting such a great event.

Fiona Corthine, Head of Polo



A Guide for Lower Sixth Parents: Supporting your child's university applications during the Summer holidays



As the Summer holidays approach, it is important for parents of Lower Sixth pupils to familiarise themselves with the information and resources available to support their children in creating competitive university applications and personal statements.

This summary article aims to highlight key points from the Summer Report Pack, which will be sent to parents with the end of term APGs.

1

Understanding the Application Process: In today's highly competitive world of university admissions, it is essential to approach the application process strategically and thoughtfully. Top universities in the UK, such as Oxford and Cambridge, have highly selective acceptance rates. Similarly, prestigious American institutions like Harvard and Stanford are even more competitive. Therefore, parents need to understand the level of competition their children face and prepare accordingly.

2

UCAS Personal Statement: The report stresses the importance of academic integrity in UCAS personal statements. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and can harm pupils' chances of receiving offers. It is crucial for parents to be aware that using AI tools, like ChatGPT, to write personal statements is considered plagiarism. UCAS has introduced an AI detection tool to identify AI-generated content, ensuring the authenticity of applicants' statements.

3

Tips for Supporting Oxbridge Applications: Parents are encouraged to engage their children in academic pursuits during the Summer holidays. This includes building a portfolio of knowledge and analysing reading materials. Pupils interested in Oxbridge have been provided with opportunities for interview practice, entrance exam support, and personal statement guidance. Parents should ensure that their children share their personal statements with subject matter experts.

4

Interview Preparation: For courses with an interview process, parents are advised to utilise their family and friends' networks to arrange interview practice. Interviews now primarily focus on subject-related questions, making subject knowledge crucial. The article provides resources for sample questions and invites parents to participate in interview practice sessions at Stowe.

6

6. Recommended Reading and Mental Health Support: The report suggests optional reading on various higher education topics, including UCAS references, increasing applications, clearing, BTEC equivalencies, personal statements, UCAS reform, and medical school applications. It also highlights the importance of mental health and student well-being, with universities providing increased support options.

5

Changes to UCAS Reference System: Parents should be aware of the changes in the UCAS reference system, which now consists of three distinct sections: general statement, extenuating circumstances (optional), and reference. The reference section holds significance for universities, and a concise, bullet-point style is recommended. Tutors and the UCAS quality team thoroughly review references before submission.

7

Supporting Personal Statement Writing: The personal statement is a critical component of university applications. Parents can assist their children by ensuring they understand the importance of personal statements, familiarising themselves with course requirements, encouraging participation in relevant Summer activities, highlighting transferable skills, and leveraging their professional network for informational interviews. Additionally, parents play a vital role in reviewing and providing feedback on their children's personal statement drafts.

With intense competition for university placements, it's essential for Lower Sixth parents to actively support their children in preparing competitive applications. By understanding the application process, avoiding plagiarism, engaging in Oxbridge preparation, assisting with interview practice, being aware of reference system changes, accessing recommended reading materials, prioritising mental health, and providing guidance during the personal statement writing process, parents can help their children stand out in the university admissions process. It is crucial to gain a comprehensive understanding of the recommended steps and resources available to support their children's aspirations.





On Friday 9 June, Stowe Upper Sixth Form Cadet NCOs, Officers, CCF Staff and Guests, gathered on the North Front for pre-dinner drinks. It was a gloriously sunny evening, set against a backdrop scene of the gentle Summer sounds and sights of Stoics playing sport and enjoying the weather, prior to our annual Mess Dinner in the stunning Music Room.

Our grateful thanks go to David Watts, Deputy Manager Food Services and Hospitality, who in this period of Catering transition pulled out all the stops and led the team brilliantly. The tables were beautifully decorated, groaning with House silver and we were served in style, very much in line with the feel of a formal Regimental Dinner. Mr Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard, and Cadet CPO Isobel Cox (Fifth Form, Cheshire) played Te Deum with majestic formality as we processed into dinner, where our Chefs treated us with delicately presented, delicious food.

Our Guest Speaker, Major Mike Dobson DSO MC, Grenadier Guards, talked about some of the best qualities of a leader that he has observed during his career, placing courtesy and kindness high on that list, along with humour and humility. Upper Sixth Form NCOs and Staff alike thoroughly enjoyed his Speech, which was inspiring and generous. He referred to our 270 Old Stoics who gave their lives in the service of their country and the 242 decorations they accrued, highlighting the career and leadership of OS Colonel Wells (Grenadier Guards) in particular, explaining that we would experience many different types of leaders in our lives. He went on to quote Field Marshall Sir Bill Slim; "Leadership is a combination of example, persuasion and compulsion which makes men do what you want them to. If I were asked to define leadership, I should say it is the 'Projection of Personality'. It is the most intensely personal thing in the world, because it is just plain you." (1957)

Major Dobson then offered practical suggestions to help us as leaders, all of which rang clear, true and pertinent - those of Knowing Our Skills

(in terms of credibility); Our Situation (to be better placed to think and process quickly); Our Soldiers (and what motivates them); and Our Self (in terms of self-belief, values and goals).

Much of what Major Dobson said touched on what we teach in CCF and through the CCF run Institute of Leadership and Management (Level 3) Elective, and every person in the room related to his honest and inspiring words, whilst also enjoying a good dose of humour in relation to some of his experiences.

Cadet CSM Gordon ably performed his duties of President of the Mess Committee (PMC), assisted by Cadet CPO Isabella Reeder (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), as Ms Vice (the Junior Subaltern equivalent), as Loyal Toasts to our Sovereign, His Majesty the King, and the Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, the Queen, were raised.

The Upper Sixth NCOs were delighted to have an occasion, mid-A Levels, to enjoy a break in revision, dress up in elegant black tie, and experience their first introduction to a formal military Regimental-style dinner. As ever, our NCOs rose to the formality of the occasion, and were engaging and charming hosts to our Guests. It was a delight to be able to lay on such an occasion for our NCOs, thank them for their leadership and wish them well in an exciting new chapter in their lives.

It was also, poignantly, my last Mess Dinner, as I shall be stepping back from my role as CCF Contingent Commander in July. The Head spoke generously about my eight years in post, and what our CCF Cadets have achieved during that time. I was delighted to be the first recipient of the unique and attractive Stowe Centenary bracelet. I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege and responsibility of serving all our Stoic Cadets and wish each of them every success, as they step forward, purposefully, into the next stage of their lives, striving to be the fullest and best versions of themselves.

Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander





The Stowe Putter

On Sunday 21 May, we were absolutely thrilled to host The Stowe Putter. The Putter has a long and distinguished history as the oldest and most prestigious Prep School Golf Tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated in 1967 when Headmaster, Bob Drayson, conceived the idea of hosting an annual Prep School Golf Tournament. He received instant support from two of Stowe's legendary Walker Cup players, P.B. 'Laddie' Lucas and John Langley, who represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup whilst still a schoolboy at Stowe. 'Laddie' Lucas kindly presented The Putter - a classic Andrew Kirkaldy putter of St Andrews design.

Over the years, thousands of young budding golfers have locked horns in friendly competition contesting the highly coveted trophy. In 2004, an additional trophy was introduced, the Junior Jigger, for the leading under 11 competitor.

This year's winner of The Putter was Hayden Sarfo from King's Worcester, who recorded a fine score of 51 gross stableford points. Hayden possesses an outstanding tournament record at The Putter - he was crowned Champion of The Junior Jigger in both 2018 and 2019 and won The Stowe Putter in 2022.

The Winner of The Junior Jigger (under 11 age group) had another familiar name, Rory Hughes from Caldicott with a score of 37 points. Rory was also successful last year when he won with 28 points.

And in a year of defending champions, Caldicott once again won this year's Team Shield, which is based on the best two combined scores from a competing Prep School with a total of 85 points. [Click here for the full breakdown of the results.](#)

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Tim Hare and Dusan Gavrilovic (the incoming PGA Professional at Stowe) led the Tournament Presentation. Dr Wallersteiner recognised the spirit of Bobby Jones in all that he saw during the day and emphasised the spirit of fair play and honesty, so important in golf and life. We were also very grateful to all the parents and Staff who acted as markers for the players, the Support staff who helped manage the day behind the scenes and a special word of thanks for Steve Curley and his Ground Staff Team who presented the course in such a magnificent condition.

The event was a huge success and we eagerly anticipate the return of The Putter next year.

Tim Hare, Organiser, The Stowe Putter



TENNIS

BRADFIELD SENIOR PAIRS MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

We were invited to send two mixed double pairs to Bradfield for their inaugural Seniors Mixed Doubles Championship on Thursday 22 June.

Sixteen pairs were entered including pairs from Eton and Marlborough to name but a few. Stowe's first pair Annie Flint (Queen's) and Arin Chatsuan (Grenville) got off to a great first round start by winning their match, as did second pair Ruby Colebrook (Queen's) and Bear Hewlett (Cobham).

Ruby and Bear then came across a more difficult pair in their second match which then put them into the consolation draw in which they came runners up.

Annie and Arin went from strength to strength and went on the win the tournament by beating Bradfield's mixed 1st pair in the final, bringing the silverware home.

A very proud moment for Annie and Arin who incidentally are our Tennis Captains, and a very proud moment for the School too. From a personal point of view, it was a thrill for me to finish my time at Stowe on such a high.

John Skinner, Tennis Coach





Arts Award

Fourth Form Arts Award trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

On Saturday 17 June 2023, the Arts Award group visited the Ashmolean Museum which showcases historic artefacts from thousands of years ago, from all over the world. Japan, China, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India; all the ancient civilisations you could possibly think of, were there.

First on our agenda, was the Labyrinth Exhibition. This was all about Greek mythology and its connections to real life. The Labyrinth's myth was that it was a maze that used to contain a minotaur. The King of the land, Minos, had many pieces of pottery and fresco paintings that had images of the minotaur depicted on them. Ruins and artefacts were recovered by a man named Sir Arthur Evans and were donated to the Ashmolean.

After we had learnt about the Minoans, we moved in groups to different sections of the museum. Some of us explored the Ancient Egyptians and their burial methods, with mummies and incredible sculptures of sphinxes, and pottery telling stories of mythology. Some went to look at ancient China, and the art, as well as exploring ancient Chinese as a language, which much of modern Chinese is derived from. The art depicted the peasant class of ancient China and how they lived, horses, simple string instruments, farmland.

We also looked at the massive Roman sculptures, sculptures that towered

over us and were in incredible detail. Some depicted soldiers in armour and some were simply indulging in food. Going back to Asia, we looked at Japan and Samurai as well as their armour. There were also many art pieces showing nature and its beauty.

Near the end of our visit, we came across a musical history display that contained string instruments, such as cellos and violins, that were from their first instance in history. There were guitars with a notable two strings per note. We assumed this was because the material used for the string wasn't thick or strong enough by itself.

In conclusion the Fourth Form Arts Award trip to the Ashmolean Museum was both educational and enjoyable. It was incredibly interesting looking through human history from centuries ago, and it was something I am sure we will all remember.

Benjamin Barbeli (Fourth Form, Grafton) and Jason Lu (Fourth Form, Walpole)

On Saturday, we set upon recreating the story of Theseus and the Minotaur for the stage, including the complete process from story board and script writing to the end product on film. All Arts Award pupils had a role to play and rose to the occasion, resulting in a breathtaking, action-packed play.

Sandra Wheeler, Teacher of German and Laura Parker, Teacher of Drama

Law Society Talk Corporate Fraud

On Thursday 22 June, Stowe's Law Society hosted a talk about corporate fraud from Simon Cuerden, a highly experienced forensics practitioner for the firm Deloitte UK and a partner there for over 16 years. In preparation for this talk, Law Society members were required to complete a series of pre-readings, enriching their understanding of the complex topic of fraud and enabling them to formulate well-developed, targeted questions during the discussion.

The pre-reading materials included comprehensive resources like "Fraud 101: What is Fraud?" from [acfe.com](https://www.acfe.com), the Fraud Act 2006 from The Crown Prosecution Service, "The Silent Threat" from [rusi.org](https://www.rusi.org), and the Annual Fraud Report 2022 from [ukfinance.org.uk](https://www.ukfinance.org.uk). **The Economic Crime Plan 2, 2023-26** was also part of the pre-reading.

Simon's talk provided an insightful overview of what constitutes fraud and the types of individuals he regularly interacts with in his profession. Fraud, as we learned from the pre-readings, is any activity that relies on deception to achieve a gain. It becomes a crime involving a knowing misrepresentation of the truth or concealment of a material fact to induce another to act to their detriment. The Fraud Act 2006 further clarifies specific instances of fraud, such as fraud by false representation, fraud by failure to disclose information, and fraud by abuse of position, among others.

Members learned that organised crime groups lead some of the most significant fraud cases. These groups present many challenges when building



a successful case due, in part, to their large size and international reach. As the pre-reading from [ukfinance.org.uk](https://www.ukfinance.org.uk) revealed, criminals have continued to take advantage of the pandemic, with over £1.3 billion stolen through authorised and unauthorised fraud in 2021.

The talk also explored why people commit fraud and how concerned individuals should be about it. A staggering 1 in 17 people are affected by fraud in the UK, and with advancements in AI and other technologies, this number is expected to rise. Simon also discussed potential legal career paths and shared valuable advice from his experience at Deloitte.

This robust combination of pre-reading and expert discussion presented an invaluable opportunity for Law Society members to deepen their understanding of fraud, its implications, and the complexities involved in its prevention and prosecution.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to Simon for generously supporting the Law Society at Stowe.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to receive a talk from Simon. The talk is available to pupils via the new VLE Futures pages.

Henry Clare, Head of Law Society (Lower Sixth, Winton)



Languages Society

On Thursday 27 April, the Languages Society hosted one of its last events of the Lent Term in which Federico Rioja's (Upper Sixth, Bruce) gave us a top-notch presentation on what to see and discover in Mexico. Whether it was the food in Oaxaca, to picturesque colourful towns like San Miguel de Allende, we all left the evening wanting to book flights to Mexico as soon as possible! An overall very enjoyable night where once again, the Languages Society became the melting pot of cultures and a platform to exchange traditions at Stowe.

Sofia Tangsrud (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

On Wednesday 17 May, the Languages Society hosted its annual Open Mic Night. Despite the peak season of exams, a lot of Stoics from all year groups turned up to watch and support the performers. These ranged from a Chinese rap, to an acted-out performance of a German poem, to a display of Sanskrit language (an ancient Indian language). It was a very enjoyable evening for the audience, but also for the very talented performers, whose performances shall not be forgotten. If you want to find out more about this event, click on this [link](#) which will take you to a short mash-up.

Alex Kozlov (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

On Wednesday 14 June, we held our last event of the year and were most fortunate to have Bossoro Ngo as our guest speaker. Bossoro has spent many years in China working as the Head of Communications and Public Relations at the French Embassy, organising many events such as francophone festivals. He also talked to us about his many travels, months spent in Austria, Cuba and his many jobs working with Air France and now as Chief Communications Officer for ReMark. His love of languages and travel was infectious, prompting many Stoics to ask him questions about what it was like to work in a communist country and what best to study if you want a career in the diplomatic world.

This ended an exciting year of Language-related events, and I would like to formally thank Sofia and Alex for having been the most wonderful President and Vice-President respectively.

Alice Tearle, Faculty Chair for Languages





Lieutenant Colonel Jan de Gale, Royal Logistic Corps

After 13 years service in the Combined Cadet Force preceded by 13 years regular service in the British Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jan de Gale has, in her own words, taken 'with a heavy heart the difficult' decision to step back from the Combined Cadet Force. She will leave her role as Contingent Commander, Stowe School CCF from 1 September 2023.

Colonel Jan joined Stowe in September 2015 initially as the School Staff Instructor before assuming command of the contingent in September 2016. During her command the number of Cadets joining has consistently increased each year to stand at its current strength of 200; nearly double the size at the start of her command. She has introduced several events to the School calendar including the Remembrance Sunday Service and the Senior NCOs Regimental Dinner. Equally impressive is her introduction of the Institute of Leadership and Management Course which has equipped a strong cadre of Lower Sixth NCOs for the daunting task of leading young Cadets. One of her earliest highlights as Contingent Commander came in November 2018 when she was instrumental in organising an exchange visit with an Army Cadet college in Bangladesh. After hosting the Bangladeshi Cadet contingent at Stowe, Jan visited the country and toured several Cadet Colleges with a select group of Stowe Cadets and Staff.

Under Colonel Jan's aegis, Stowe Cadets have secured important positions of responsibility - positions ranging from Senior School prefects to the impressive three-year run of Cadets winning the roles of Head Boys and Girls. Other Cadets have been awarded representational positions as HM Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Cadet, whilst still others have won the prestigious RMAS Sandhurst Scholarship.

Stowe CCF Cadets regularly attend military skills competitions, the Rifles Cup and Summer camps conducted normally on military bases but, during COVID on Stowe's own grounds. Colonel Jan has ensured the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force sections have developed allowing them to experience similar opportunities as their Army counterparts. Colonel Jan has also overseen several biennial inspections, these rigorous one-day visits invite a Senior military officer to view and report on the standard of the CCF contingent. The most recent biennial inspection was January 2023 after which the Inspecting Officer, Colonel Edward Spinelli (US Air Force, Commander 422 Air Base Group RAF Croughton) commented:

"The CCF look well organised, well led, and extremely motivated. It was great to see such an integrated group of young people working and learning together. Overall a great experience and something the School and community should be proud of."

Over the last two years, Colonel Jan has introduced more training resources to all sections of the contingent. In these efforts, she has broadened the CCF activity remit to include, laser tag rifles, water sport equipment, and a flight simulator - all activities that ensure each Cadet receives a full Cadet experience.

In writing this tribute, we invited some of her CCF Staff to share their own thoughts, on serving for Colonel Jan.

My stand-out reflection on the short time I've known Jan here would be how much like a "Mother with very high expectations" she feels to us all, the absolute optimum balance of care and warmth while also managing to get the very best out of us. She will be sorely missed from the CCF and the School. I've often noted to myself that I think the CCF is the happiest bit of the

School and she takes the majority of the credit for that.

Captain Andrew Arnold, Army Section

Jan can only be described as an absolute hero. I couldn't think of anyone better or more capable of leading our CCF. I met Jan a few years before I joined Stowe and instantly knew she was the real deal! She is constantly upbeat even when things get murky and never fails to put a smile on ours or the Cadets faces.

Lieutenant Rebecca Brown, Army Section

Without Jan's persuasion it is unlikely I would have joined the CCF. She is an amazing leader and I know will always back me and the RAF section. Her positive mental attitude is infectious, and she makes for amazing results.

The respect I have for Jan is of the highest order.

13 years ago, the School made one of the best decisions in its 100 years and I for one will miss her hugely.

Pilot Officer Stephen Whitby, Officer Commanding RAF Section

Jan has made the CCF a wonderful part of the School. I had never worked with Cadets prior to joining Stowe, and over the course of the past five years it has easily become one of my favourite parts of the School. This is in no small part down to the excellent leadership of Jan de Gale. She is so welcoming to both Staff and pupils, and a wonderful colleague. I have no doubt she will be sorely missed by all in the Cadets.

Lieutenant Fran Shah, Army Section

Don't let the smile fool you: five years ago I fell for the hard sell - you like the outdoors and you can shoot a gun - but little did I know what was in store for my time working with Jan. Loads of laughter (and a life-changing trip to Bangladesh) later, I still admire Jan's skill at coaxing, cajoling, hectoring, and cheering. She runs a tight ship with a flexible grip; the trust and respect that her Cadets and Staff show her on a daily basis speak to how much they value her steadiness of purpose and sincere concern for the development of each Cadet. You can, of course, still find yourself shivering under a basha in the rain wondering why you'd sign up for something like this, but Jan always knew the way to a Cadet's heart: in her words, 'The Mother of all Toblerones...'

Lieutenant Fitz Smith, Army Section

Colonel Jan's determination, drive, commitment, passion towards the contingent are infectious and she inspires Cadets and Staff alike. She has led by example whilst the development of the Cadets has always been at the core of everything she has strived to achieve. She will be greatly missed by us all, but she can step down safe in the knowledge that the Stowe CCF contingent she passes on is in an extremely strong and healthy condition.

Thank you ma'am and we wish you much success in your future endeavours. Your Contingent salutes you.

Lieutenant RN Nick Zammit, Officer Commanding Royal Navy section and WO2 Geoff Abbey, School Staff Instructor & Contingent Sergeant Major

Despite Jan stepping down as CCF Contingent Commander, we are delighted that we are not losing her completely from Stowe. In September Jan will be taking up a part time position as Change 100 Leadership Coach working across The Stowe Group with our Change 100 pupils.



Golf

Gerald Micklem Champions 2023!

The Gerald Micklem Trophy is an historic competition which is competed for by eight traditionally strong golfing schools. The last time Stowe won this trophy was 1991, although we have been runners up four times in the last five years.

Our new Head of Golf, Dusan Gavrilovic, worked wonders with the talented team of five golfers. This rearranged competition, the original one due to be played at Woking Golf Club in March was cancelled due to snow, was organised by Winchester College and played at Hockley Golf Club. The morning qualification was a scratch stableford competition with the two highest point scoring schools going straight into a match play final in the afternoon.

The predicted final was Stowe v Wellington, and that is exactly what happened, so it was a five-way match play format. Ed Davis (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Miles Dickinson (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Elliot Strickland (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Miles Davis (Upper Sixth, Bruce) took the fight to the opposition, but as usual, it was very tight and as the players came through to the later holes, it was Wellington in front and our fears that we would be runners up again were building.

However, Captain Ed Davis turned his match around from being two down with two holes to play, to win it on a play-off hole. That changed the dynamic as Elliot Strickland also managed a win to put the score at Stowe 2, Wellington 2. The only match left on the course was 15-year-old Tristan Dickinson's (Fourth Form, Grenville). He played the 18th hole in front of a very nervy Stowe band of supporters, but Tristan looked fearless and managed to win the match and guarantee the win for Stowe.

Congratulations boys!!

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport

BRITISH ROWING

On 25-27 July, in Oxford, British Rowing are looking to find young athletes who have what it takes to potentially make it into the GB Rowing Team racing at the World Championships and Olympic Games.

They are looking for Athletes who may currently be playing a different sport, such as rugby, netball, volleyball, basketball or swimming, but who have the right build, physicality and desire to succeed at rowing.

To book a place, they can **contact me directly** copying in one of their parents or a guardian.

Ben Reed, British Rowing

ROWING

The Stowe rowing team attended its biggest event of the year on Friday 23 June, the Qualifying Races at Henley Royal Regatta. In the build-up to Henley the team has enjoyed some lovely regattas at Evesham, Worcester, St Ives and races against St Edward's on the 11 Acre Lake at Stowe - taking outright event wins at each one.

At the St Ives Regatta in Cambridge on Saturday 17 June the team had many races with many crews, with several going in singles and doubles for the first time; Orlando Mayhew (Third Form, Chatham), Bella Bawden (Third Form, Stanhope), Lorraine Yan (Third Form, Stanhope), Hecco Harrison (Third Form, Temple), Coco Bartoszewski (Fourth Form, Nugent) in singles; Bella and Tallulah Havard (Third Form, Stanhope) in doubles. Hecco Harrison, Amelia Hine (Upper Sixth, West) and Agnès Edwards (Third Form, Stanhope) won their first round races in singles. Lorraine and Agnès continued their unbeaten run, again winning outright in doubles. 20 Stoics competed, and a special mention goes to Oliver Bicknell (Lower Sixth, Winton) for his helpfulness throughout the long day.

Henley is the big one and Qualifiers is a frenetic event with a real buzz and hundreds of crews, including boats from overseas challenging for places in the Regatta.

We took both a boys' and a girls' eight, who enjoyed playing their part in the

big event. It was great to see Stowe represented here in both these events. In her last week at school, Leia West (Upper Sixth, West), at stroke, did an excellent job of ensuring that Stowe's first-ever girls' eight at the Regatta performed well.

Our crews were by far the youngest in the Regatta and they gained a lot of experience. Now they know the point of their years of training, we hope they will be inspired to come back and try again!

Boys Eight - Luca Grimble (Third Form, Winton), George Seward (Third Form, Walpole), Ari Lewis (Fourth Form, Walpole), Cameron Gray (Fourth Form, Temple), Ben Cousins (Third Form, Bruce), Oliver Bicknell (Lower Sixth, Winton), Max Poliza (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Max Cowper-Hart (Lower Sixth, Winton), Oscar Beumer (cox) (Third Form, Chatham), Orlando Mayhew (Third Form, Chatham) and reserve, Max Frohnsdorff (Third Form, Temple).

Girls' Eight - Coco Bartoszewski, Bella Bawden, Tallulah Havard, Jasmine Zheng (Third Form, Stanhope), Madya Liu (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Lorraine Yan, Agnès Edwards, Leia West, Hecco Harrison (cox), and reserve, Elaine Liang (Fourth Form, Stanhope).

The team really appreciates the support of the parents, Houseparents and Staff who have helped them.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing





Dr Andrew Webber explores the joys of making a musical comeback

The Fray

(or How I Made my Return)

Like many young boys in 1977, the thrill of the DIY ethic of Punk Rock inspired me to teach myself to play guitar and form a band. Not that we were especially talented, but that wasn't the point. Nor could we play very well, because that wasn't the point either. The thing was, we could say "we're in a band" and, you never knew, a girl from the girls' school over the road might have been impressed. Or not.

I was in the Third Form then and, unlike many of my contemporaries, I kept at it and my band went through several name changes (The Bridgewater Tank Affair and Positively Maybe - yaghhh!); several line-up changes (yes, we sacked that viola player) but miraculously survived. Various bandmates got better and better at their instruments; the songs improved (well, I thought they did as I wrote them); our confidence grew and by the time we were in the Sixth Form we were regularly playing in local pubs at weekends for a pittance; most of our earnings spent over the bar by the time the gig was over.

When I went to university, in the early 1980s, even though most of the band members either stayed at home or went somewhere else to study, we kept at it, playing university shows, parties and continuing our appearances at the local bars in our hometown during the holidays.

On leaving university, having been playing for over eight years together and finally settling on the name 'The Hyacinth Girls' (taken from TS Eliot's poem The Waste Land), we were ready to do some recording and, using money made from the gigs (which we'd stopped spending on beer) we booked sessions at a newly opened recording studio which one of our friends had set up in a shed in his parents' garden. A few (costly) sessions in and we thought we were ready to make an album - to be honest that had always been the dream - to have your own album in your record collection. So, we set up our own record label (we were still in the thrall of DIY) and in 1987 or so made an album called 'Happy Now?'

This record apparently fetches huge prices on eBay these days and is unavailable on Digital platforms like Spotify (sorry folks), although some tracks can be found on YouTube. I've still got a few copies and it's nice to occasionally listen to the record years later because so many of the songs on it were written in my early years whilst at school or university and it's a bit of a time capsule in that respect; just how could I have ever been that naïve or even, on occasion, "sweet?"

We were played by cult DJ John Peel on his Radio One show; met Alan McGee of Creation Records (who signed Oasis instead of us, the next day - the fool!); supported indie darlings 'My Bloody Valentine' (I'd like to say we blew them off the stage but that would probably not be true) and I carried on writing new songs and then, horror of horror, somewhere in the early 1990s vinyl became redundant almost overnight when the CD format arrived. Our response? Let's make one of those too. So, we returned to the studio and in 1992 or thereabouts, the sophomore album 'Old Men Ought to be Explorers' (another Eliot reference) was finally completed and manufactured on one of those shiny new discs.

By now we were all were approaching our early 30s Members of the group (including myself) were settling down, getting jobs or married and having children. We had other priorities (mortgages!) and began performing less often. I remember our last appearance was playing at my Father's funeral. Thereafter I sold my guitars, and we faded into the background.

And the rest was silence. Until now.

After nearly 30 years, I decided that now might be time to return to the fray and announced that a third Hyacinth Girl album would appear some time in 2024. My love of recording has been re-ignited after working with Ben Weston in the Stowe Stringer Recording Studios on a number of spoken word projects (including our 100 year anniversary performance of, what a surprise, TS Eliot's The Waste Land) and by hearing so many of the School's talented musicians at work during School concerts and the like.

Stowe is incredibly fortunate to have so many brilliant singers and musicians and its facilities are second to none. We are also privileged to have a Music Department whose skills are beyond compare and whose passion for performance, recording, collaborating and having fun making music is inspiring.

With this in mind, I was delighted, therefore, to appear at the recent lunchtime concert - joined by the very gifted Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Jemima Pearson-Gee (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and keyboard genius Ben Andrews, and perform one of the songs from The Hyacinth Girls' second record, entitled 'The World (Cries with You)' which I wrote sometime in 1983, making it 40 years old!

We have agreed to work on several other numbers over the coming months and have plans to continue to play live next year, plus record these for the new album, which I am already calling 'The Fray (or How I made my Return)'. Nothing to do with good old TS this time, but a lot to do with the Orpheus myth. It might even include a song about Eurydice if I could find a rhyme (How about "I'm down on my knees?" - Ed). Expect a pretty starry cast of musical talent to be on board too.

I never thought I'd be inclined to pick up a guitar or play live but again Stowe has a habit of bringing out the unexpected and (hopefully) best in people.

Next year, watch out Bootleg Beatles!

Dr Andrew Webber, English Teacher



New Pupils' Weekend

Over the weekend of Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June, our new 2023 Third Form pupils and their families joined us at Stowe for New Pupils' Weekend. The event provided a great opportunity for families to meet other pupils and parents in their new Houses, as well as becoming more familiar with the School.

Families arrived in their Houses on Saturday evening and whilst Parents stayed for light refreshments, the children settled in for the night settling into their rooms and meeting with the other members of the House. The new Stoics went to the State Dining Room for dinner before having a good opportunity to familiarise themselves with their surroundings and to meet some of the current Stoics in their House. The weather was glorious which meant they could enjoy all that Summer

evenings at Stowe have to offer.

Sunday morning was an opportunity for the New Stoics to get to know each other better.

Working in House teams and aided by their House Prefects, they were set a treasure hunt around the School - Croft House were the triumphant winners!

A mixture of inflatables on the South Front entertained, before Stoics, new Stoics and their parents attended a Chapel Service led by the Rev'd James Righetti and Dr Anthony Wallersteiner.

The weekend was finished off with a glorious and enjoyable (but very hot!) lunch on the South Front. A valuable and fun event which gave the opportunity for all to get to know each other before September and the new school year begins.



John Skinner

We say a very fond farewell to John after many years of service at Stowe as our Head of Tennis and Head of Fives.

John has been a very caring, extremely organised and dedicated member of the Sports Department and we thank him for his significant contribution. John is a very experienced coach who has led the girls' tennis teams in particular to notable achievements, with the highlight being Stowe winning the Girls' Team Tennis Championship in 2018.

He has built tennis up to a level where Stowe field over 20 teams for both boys and girls and they play over 100 matches a year.

John always gave generously of his time and was a reassuring presence on the shop courts each afternoon and on Sundays. We wish him the very best for his future retirement.

Craig Sutton, Director of Sport



ATHLETICS

Stowe entered eight athletes in the Bucks County Championships on Friday 9 June and returned with five Gold Medals and four Silver Medals!

Congratulations to our newly crowned County Champions:

100m & 200m - Marina Goje (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

100m Hurdles - Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fourth Form, Bruce)

1500m - Katie Webb (Third Form, Cheshire)

Triple Jump - Joshua Williams (Third Form, Grenville)

Silver medalists were:

100m - Ross Priestley (Third Form, Winton)

800m - Elsie Jacobs (Third Form, Cheshire)

1500m - Lauren Webb (Third Form, Cheshire)

Long jump - Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fourth Form, Bruce)

On Monday 12 June the Inter girls' athletics team competed in the Regional B round of the Track and Field Cup in Birmingham. Having previously won the County round, the girls had a good chance of doing well. It was a hot day, however all the Third and Fourth Form girls performed very well and came Third overall.

Outstanding performances were from; Marina Goje (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) who ran 27.3 in the 200m, Alisa Baser (Third Form, Lyttelton) who ran 13.2 in the 100m, Jonelle Famutimi (Fourth Form, Cheshire) who threw 9.53 in the shot and Katie and Lauren Webb (Third Form, Cheshire) who ran very well in the 800m and 1500m in the 28-degree heat!

We have had a great athletics season; well done to everyone who has competed!

Vicki Dias, Head of Sports Science

SPORTS DAY



Friday 26 May saw Sports Day, one of the Stoics' favourite events of the year.

The weather and atmosphere were perfect and no fewer than five School records were broken!

- Elsie Jacobs (Third Form, Cheshire) broke both the Junior girls' 300m and 800m (by 11 seconds!)
- Josh Williams (Third Form, Grenville) jumped an impressive 11.96m in the triple jump
- Lauren Webb (Third Form, Cheshire) broke the Junior girls' 1,500m with a time of 4 mins 54.4 seconds

- Winton Junior boys' (Charlie Mclure, Charlie King, Benjamin Shortridge and Ross Priestley) broke the 4x100m relay record

We were delighted to welcome Old Stoic Nigel Rice (Chatham 64), who still holds the record for the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, set way back in 1963! Nigel presented the trophy to the winners of the Open 100m boys' (Joe Atkinson, Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Open 100m girls' (Jo Jo Parker, Fifth Form, Cheshire).

Congratulations to the overall winners on the day; Bruce for boys and Cheshire for girls.

Grant Seely, Head of Athletics

Cricket

Well done to the U14 girl's team who had another win in the midweek match on Wednesday 7 June against Cokethorpe.

In the nine fixtures against Oundle on Saturday 10 June, Stowe won five of them and the U15As had a rare tie. It was our Senior teams who performed the best, with convincing wins for the 1st and 2nd XI's and a one run win for the 3rds.

The star of the day was Wilf Pickard (Lower Sixth, Cobham) who scored a superb 112 for the 1st XI. He was supported by Freddie Timmis (Lower Sixth, Grafton) with 68.

Other notable performances were, Barnaby Schilder (Lower Sixth, Temple) who scored 48 for the 3rd XI; Arthur Clayton (Lower Sixth, Grafton) got 5 wickets

for the 2nd XI and Archie MacGowan (Fourth Form, Cobham) who got 67 for the Junior Colts C team.

With wins over Oundle, Uppingham and Rugby the Stowe 1st XI, Captained by Aadi Sharma (Lower Sixth, Winton), retain the David Capel Cup this year.

Well done to the Yearlings A, Yearlings B and 2nd XI for their wins against Oakham on Saturday 17 June.

This fixture also unfortunately saw our 1st team come to the end of their superb unbeaten streak.

In the Junior House match girls' Final, congratulations to Queen's who beat Nugent and in the Junior boys', Bruce were triumphant over Grafton.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

Tennis

On Saturday 10 June, Stowe played 15 matches against Bradfield College.

The girls' teams performed particularly well on home ground with four victories by the closest margin of 5 sets to 4 and four narrow defeats by the same score, but with the result going the other way. Well done to the victorious girls' 1st team, the U15D team and the U14A and B teams. The Stowe boys travelled to Bradfield and enjoyed playing on their amazing tennis facilities. They put up a good fight, but with several full-time academy players, Bradfield showed their strength in the end and defeated Stowe.

Chris Hampton, Director of Racket Sports



Summer Soirée

Sunday 11 June saw the Music School lawn host this year's Summer Soirée. A line-up of Stowe's most talented musical soloists and ensembles delighted a large audience who were highly appreciative of the seasonal, musical offering in these stunning surroundings.

The saxophone ensemble, expertly guided by Sarah Watts, played some wonderful improvised blues along with a Stevie Wonder classic. Holly Ford-Langstaff (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Owen Gunn (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Flora Peppiatt (Fourth Form, Queen's) then gave lovely solo vocal performances accompanied by Craig Greene and myself.

The Flute trio featuring Leo Clare (Fourth Form, Winton) and Lani Shah (Fourth Form, Cheshire), expertly guided by Katie Potts, performed 'Shimmering Flutes'; a delicate and sweet piece that was in juxtaposition to the gathering storm.

Jonelle Famutimi (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Sunny He (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Ryan Zheng (Fifth Form,

Grenville) fought bravely against the thunder with brilliant renditions, and then as the heavens broke, we moved indoors to the Ugland Auditorium.

We were treated to wonderful music at the Steinway from Finley Simpson (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Araan Sobhan (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Amina Aldabergenova (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Tia Sibanda (Third Form, Lyttelton). Archie Denison-Pender (Third Form, Cobham) charmed the room with an Elvis classic, accompanying himself on his Ukelele. Tham Luanghvisut (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Alicia Wilson (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) joined me for the final songs, 'Summertime' (naturally) and a lively version of 'Valerie'.

I have long enjoyed these outdoor Summer concerts that I always feel mark the 'beginning of the end' of term. In this case it will also be my final concert as a teacher at Stowe and I would like to thank all the Stoics involved as well as Katie Potts, Craig Greene, Sarah Watts and Emma Bryden.

Miles Nottage, Teacher of Music



CCF

CCF continues to offer Staff some fantastic opportunities. Over the weekend of Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June, Charlie Adkins and I attended an Archery Instructors' Course. During the weekend, we learnt how to safely set up an archery range and how to coach individuals participating in the sport. Working with other Staff from around the country on this course allowed me to learn new ways we could make the sport of archery really enjoyable and fun. Now we have this qualification, it will allow the CCF to develop the provision of archery next year, and it is hoped that they will be able to use the skills learnt over this weekend to give Stoics more opportunities to enjoy this sport.

Lieutenant Fran Shah, Army Section



Preparing for Different Seasons



LSAS TRIP TO COMPTON VERNEY

As we move into Summer, our thoughts may well also be turning towards the longer, darker nights which approach soon after. The seasons of life ripple ever forwards with a rhythm as inexorable as the passing of time.

This is a subject which has perplexed, intrigued and astounded the imaginations of some of our greatest writers and in the UK, the seasons bring with them unique changes in the landscape, weather and rituals of this small island.

Next term, on Wednesday 4 October at 7pm in The Ugland, I will be unveiling my latest poetry project which is entitled 'Different Seasons: The Turning Tides of Time', a show which will use poetry, music and art to bring the seasons to life for the audience. Included in the performance will be much-loved works by, amongst others, Keats, Byron, Thomas and Heaney. Taking part, a star-studded cast of readers including Dr Wallersteiner, Dr Smith, Ms Ackroyd, Mrs Rickner and myself. Those of you who have listened to our previous performances of 'The Wasteland' and 'Uncanny: an Evening of Gothic Terror' (both still available on the Stowe Youtube channel) will know what to expect.

The recordings are being produced by Stowe's studio supremo Ben Weston and we are certain that this will be another memorable evening.

For the first time, the poetry recordings will be accompanied by live music (after all, composers, like poets, are often inspired by time passing, the seasons and the landscape) plus all-new poetry, written and performed live by some of the Junior members of LSAS (our Academic Scholars who meet weekly for activities which stretch and challenge).

With this in mind, to get the creative juices flowing, we visited Compton Verney in Warwickshire, a beautiful art gallery set amongst a typically impressive Capability Brown designed backdrop. This relatively free to roam visit was organised so that our Juniors could soak up the atmosphere and make notes (in true Wordsworth fashion) for the poems they will be writing and editing over the coming months.

We were fortunate that during our visit, Compton Verney was hosting a superbly mounted exhibition of English folk costumes which reminded us of the neo-pagan relationship we sometimes have with this island we inhabit. The recently re-released 1973 cult film 'The Wicker Man' is another example of the strangeness of the rituals buried beneath the surface in some of our more isolated communities.

As well as exploring the galleries and the surrounding natural areas, LSAS members also found much to enjoy investigating the mysteries of hollow trees, listening to the Living Symphonies sounds and playing in the rather bizarre children's village, a picture of which you can see, drawn by Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fourth Form, Lyttelton).

It was a pleasant break from screens, computers, emails and the burden of modern living and a chance to lose ourselves in ruminations of England and the Turning Tides of Time.

Dr Andrew Webber, LSAS Co-ordinator

Lunchtime Concert

On Thursday 8 June, a variety of Stoic musicians took part in the final lunchtime concert of the academic year. This popular series of concerts is the ideal platform for any Stoic musician to perform, regardless of where they are in their musical journey. It was fantastic to see such a large audience comprised of Stoics, Staff and members of the local community.

The event kicked off with a brilliant performance of 'Paper Bag', sung by Amina Aldabergenova (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton). Amina really captured the spirit of the song and demonstrated excellent vocal control. This was followed by a colourful and expressive performance of 'Blue Waltz', capably given by Sophie Rojas (Third Form, Cheshire) at the piano. This performance featured some lyrical phrasing and strong melodic projection. Victoria Lee (Third Form, Cheshire) then gave her debut performance at Stowe with the song 'Lost Without You' by Freya Ridings. Accompanying oneself at the piano is no easy feat and it presents some unique challenges, but Victoria rose to the challenge and gave an excellent and accomplished performance. Aaran Sobhan (Lower Sixth, Bruce) also gave his debut lunchtime concert performance with a well-shaped and stylish performance of Offenbach's Barcarolle Waltz. In what was a lovely contrast, Holly Ford-Langstaff (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) gave a sensitive performance of Lloyd Webber's 'Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again'. This was followed by Aurora Flanagan (Lower

Sixth, Stanhope) with a highly engaging performance of 'Pool House' and Lilia Møller's (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) spirited performance of 'Tears Dry On Their Own' by Amy Winehouse. All the vocalists demonstrated excellent stylistic awareness and vocal projection in their performances. Isabelle Donovan's (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) ethereal performance of Debussy's 'Syrinx' for unaccompanied flute filled the Ugland auditorium. Isabelle made excellent use of the acoustics in this spacious performance.

The penultimate performance was given by Dr Andrew Webber, with one of his original songs 'The World (Cries With You)'. Connie Goodrich (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Jemima Pearson-Gee (Lower Sixth, Nugent) were on backing vocals in what was a well-polished and dynamic performance. The concert was concluded by a theatrical and animated performance of 'America' from West Side Story. This particular arrangement was for piano duet and it was adeptly performed by Ryan Zheng (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Sunny He (Fifth Form, Chatham).

Congratulations must go to all those who took part, and we look forward to welcoming them back for future lunchtime concerts in the next academic year.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard & Accompanist in Residence

Senior Congreve

Winter 2023



Macbeth

Paint it Black

Drama throughout Michaelmas Term

The Senior Congreve next term will be a new performance version of Shakespeare's Scottish Play.

This streamlined high energy production of the classic play of greed and betrayal mixes physical theatre, with music from one of the greatest blues bands ever, to create.

Macbeth - Paint it Black - Shakespeare's magical language plus the power of a live rock band mix ancient and modern to create a new interpretation of the familiar story to revitalise understanding of the classic tale of one couple's lust for power. Interweaving the plot with some of The Rolling Stones' most iconic songs, this production explores the juxtaposition of classic rock and classic literature and the power of physical theatre. Open to all in the Sixth Form, and Fifth Form Drama Scholars, auditions will be held on Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Sunday 10 September. Tickets for performances on Wednesday 6 - Saturday 9 December will be available in due course.

Opportunities for the Junior Drama Scholars exist too. In September we will present **'Pieces of Pygmalion'**; Scenes created in the special two-day workshops at the end of this Summer term, then the Monologue Slam will return, open to all.

A Level Drama classes will bring excerpts of 'Antigone' to life in the open air in September - weather permitting. Fifth Form GCSE Drama groups will perform their examination Devised Performances in the week prior to October half term.

Trips to educate, entertain and inform are in the pipeline, kicking off with a joint venture, Drama and Music will head for the Oxford Playhouse to see Willy Russell's acclaimed musical 'Blood Brothers' on Thursday 14 September. GCSE Drama groups watching 'Brown Boys Swim' at The North Wall on Friday 22 September will find inspiration for their own performances, and their Live Theatre write-ups.

For A Level pupils, Gecko Theatre Company's 'Kin' tackles issues of those travelling to find somewhere they can find home; thoughtful content for theatre review essays.

Parents, Staff and friends are welcome, as always, to support all performances.

Laura Parker, Drama Teacher



STOWE PRESENTS



Half Term Theatre in the Roxburgh Hall

During the recent half term break, the Stowe Presents series welcomed theatre group Wrongsemble for a performance of their show 'The Not So Grimm Tales'. The three actors (who also sang and played various instruments throughout the one-hour show) were very entertaining as they told the story of how they saved their family story-telling business. We encountered a dragon, a witch and plenty of sibling rivalry, with the two brothers and the sister eventually setting aside their differences to deliver (of course) a happy ending. Our audience really enjoyed the experience, and we would like to thank everyone who came to support the show.

There are three events taking place over the Summer, please do join us if you can:

Thursday 6 July, 7pm, Roxburgh Theatre - National Theatre cinema screening of the hit one-woman play 'Fleabag'

Sunday 16 July, 7pm, Roxburgh Theatre - 'Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet: an unhinged comedy double bill!'

Thursday 24 August, 7.30pm, South Front (outdoors) - Illyria present 'Twelfth Night'

Tickets for all events can be found on the main **Stowe Website**.

Simon Wales, Stowe Presents

Service@Stowe

Riding for the Disabled Group

Once a week a group of Stoics go to a local Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) centre. We assist in the lessons and do jobs around the yard, including horse care and maintenance. The lessons are incredibly important and our roles range from leading the horses, holding the riders in place, to reading stories and singing to the small children while they use the horse to engage and use their core.

This has been an important year for the RDA and Stowe are continually raising money for the yard. This year we have helped to fund a horse and next term we will be doing more events to raise money.

Sophie Rickner, Service@Stowe

HISTORICAL FICTION WRITING COMPETITION



This term, the Lower School have been invited to participate in the Historical Fiction Writing Competition, which is organised by the Historical Association, the UK National charity for History.

In order to participate, pupils had to write their own piece of historical fiction, based around the theme of coronations. The stories had to be historically accurate regarding the language used and details of the time period, but Stoics were then free to write their story in any manner they chose. We have had two completed submissions, one by Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and one by James Barnett (Third Form, Winton).

Gaia's story centred around a detective who was looking for patterns between different historical coronations, whereas James's focused upon the notion of King Henry VIII having another son who should have been crowned. To read excerpts from their stories, please follow the links.

- **James Barnett**
- **Gaia Mesonero-Perez**

We will find out in the next academic year whether these Stoics have been successful in the national competition.

Fran Shah, History Teacher



Brave the Shave

Angie Brooks from the Stowe Housekeeping Team has 'braved the shave' for MacMillan Cancer Support.

"Everyone has been so supportive and generous with their donations that doing the shave is an honour for this wonderful charity. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I am loving the warmer weather as my head was getting a little cold when I first had it done!"

The amount raised so far has been incredible £3,129.

There is still time to donate if you would like to. Please click [here](#).

First Aid Qualifications



During the Summer Term, another 12 Stoics have successfully completed their First Aid qualification.

Throughout the course, they have learnt how to perform CPR, deal with choking casualties and support people who are suffering from bleeding and broken bones. This will be a great qualification for them in the future, especially when entering the workplace or university.

The pupils who have successfully completed the course are:

- Beatrice Floyd (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- Beau Deacon (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- Ellie Watson (Fifth Form, Stanhope)
- Ella Brook (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- Grace Huang (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)
- Finlay Nasmyth (Lower Sixth, Chandos)
- Lily Taylor (Lower Sixth, Cheshire)
- Joseph Albertella (Lower Sixth, Chandos)
- Rory Calvert (Lower Sixth, Chandos)
- Nolly Mannion Miles (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- Tomi Babajide (Lower Sixth, Chandos)
- Samuel Watson (Lower Sixth, Chandos)

Francesca Shah, Deputy Co-curricular Co-ordinator



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