

the **STOIC**

Stowe School 2018/2019

STOWE 1

SPEECH DAY AND THE ITALIAN JOB

PHILOSOTHON

**STOWE'S INAUGURAL
OPEN EVENT**

SIBLING STARS

**BADMINTON SUCCESS
AT THE NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

*Stoics hit all
the right notes!*



Stowe



Front Cover: 'Stowe I' Mini Restoration Project

the STOIC



This year, I know exactly what I want to say, and that is thank you. ” ”

When I sit down each year to write my introduction to this magazine, and all the wonderful things that have happened here at Stowe over the last twelve months, I usually agonise about which great achievement by the School Community to mention, there are so many. However this year, I know exactly what I want to say, and that is thank you.

We went into the 2018 academic year much like any other, that is 'any other Stowe year'. Jammed-packed, full of initiatives, with very busy Stoics and Staff and lots to do. Shortly into the year, the Executive Leadership Team sat down to start work on a new strategic plan for the School. We spent quite a number of hours shut away in a room, looking at what has been achieved (a lot!) and what there is to do (also a lot!) and it soon became clear that we needed to approach it differently. We needed to involve others in creating our vision to take the School into its next 100 years.

We held focus group meetings with Staff (both academic and support), Stoics from across the year groups, parents (of Boarders and Day children), Old Stoics and Governors. We talked about all kinds of things: the perception of the independent sector, the things that Stowe does really well and the things Stowe could do better. With the help of an Old Stoic, Jonathan Bannister (Walpole 86), we played with Lego (yes, Lego) and asked 'How might Stowe better prepare its pupils for the world they are going into?' We were excited by the answers.

What became clear is that Stowe has always been a disruptor in the education sector, we were founded to be such. Stowe is already doing huge amounts to prepare our pupils for the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world they are entering. Our pupils are already going out into the world and contributing in some really interesting and significant ways. However, to be complacent is not our way, and we know that we can help better prepare pupils in the skills that the World Economic Forum says will be absolutely crucial to future generations in the workplace. We can better prepare pupils for a world that is changing rapidly. We can help prepare pupils to change as the world changes and to make positive change within our world. We can, and do, create Change Makers. So that's what we will continue to do, and will do better.

Thank you to the Stowe community for helping us with the work on our vision. The impact of this work will be truly exciting and I am so pleased that I am on this journey with you. Over the next few months you will hear more about our Change Makers vision and about how we are going to support Stoics and Staff to continue to make a difference in this world. We want to ensure that our wonderful, kind, positive, forward-thinking and extraordinary School continues what it was created to do, change education for the better.

Mrs Tori Roddy
Director of Marketing and Admissions
Editor, The Stoic

P.S. As ever, this magazine would not exist if it were not for a very long list of people: my sincere thanks to the superb Stoics and all that they achieve, you are a seriously impressive group of young people and I am proud to be involved in some small way in your time here at Stowe; to our dedicated, hardworking and talented Staff whose sheer energy and enthusiasm always makes me feel lucky to have them as colleagues; to my amazing team in Marketing and Admissions, in particular, Helen Jefferies and Molly Ejdowski, who work so hard on this magazine; to my patient team of proofreaders, with particular thanks to Zoe Stirling whose eagle-eye is most definitely appreciated; to our wonderful photographers, Alan Longworth, Fiona Corthine and Jonathan Glynn-Smith; and, last, but by no means least, to all our parents, who had the faith in Stowe to send their children to us, and who support us in many other ways. I hope you all enjoy reading this magazine.

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Speech Day



Chair of Governors

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and a very warm welcome to Speech Day 2019.

On Monday 28 November last year, the Headmaster received a call from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate - the School was to be subject to a full inspection, starting the next day. And whilst we are confident in what we do and how we do it, this is nevertheless a nervous time for everybody who works here; a full inspection is something that only happens every six years and the results live with you until the next inspection.

Thank you to all those parents who responded so quickly to the survey that is sent out as part of the inspectors' evidence gathering. Within 48 hours, we had received more than 400 responses. When I was chatting with one of the Inspectors, he told me that this level of engagement was striking; and confided that the approval ratings we had received were ones that other schools would envy. Headmaster, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, your team (teaching staff and support staff - you are all part of this effort) and Stoics for what you did to demonstrate to the Inspectors that Stowe is 'Excellent' when it comes to pupils' academic and other achievements and their personal development.

When Stowe first opened its doors to children in May 1923, it had no endowment. Indeed quite the opposite as it had not been built to be a school;

the main mansion had suffered from the inevitable lack of maintenance associated with the financial misfortunes of the Temple Grenville family; and the founders of the School used its assets as security to borrow money to buy other schools. Nowadays, this is called a leveraged buy and build strategy; I don't know what it was called in the 1920s but it meant that Stowe started life in an extremely precarious financial state.

Over the last 30 years or so, Stowe has been transformed, stemming initially from the 1989 partnership with the National Trust and then the 1997 establishment of Stowe House Preservation Trust. The full restoration of the Mansion is now in sight - the latest completed project being the restoration of the North Hall and just the State Dining Rooms to do. The work of Stowe House Preservation Trust in raising the funds (none of which comes from school fees) to carry out this programme is hugely appreciated. I have even heard of a university which uses the restoration of Stowe as a case study for its History of Art students. The National Trust continues with its programme for the Landscape Gardens and is now developing plans for restoring four key structures in the grounds. And the facilities which have been added to the School, in large part through the incredible generosity of donors, mean that Stowe is now in a very different place. This year we have completed the fundraising campaign for our new Design, Technology & Engineering facility; the current facility may be loved in the way that a favourite old shirt is - but we can all recognise when it's time to move on. My thanks to all those who have so generously donated to this project enabling us to realise the next stage of our plans.

30 years ago, we were faced with the challenge of saving Stowe, both the historic Ducal Palace and its Landscape Gardens, and the School. There was a very real chance that the School would have



We will be launching a major new initiative later this year; we are aiming to raise a transformative endowment fund of £100m to provide bursaries to children who would thrive at Stowe, who would contribute fully to the life of our School but who wouldn't otherwise have any dream of receiving a Stowe education.



to be closed and the Mansion would have to be demolished. Now that so much has been achieved, we are entering a new phase.

Stoics are telling us that they don't want to be insulated, indeed isolated, from the rest of the world and we should listen to them.

That is why we will be launching a major new initiative later this year; we are aiming to raise a transformative endowment fund of £100m to provide bursaries to children who would thrive at Stowe, who would contribute fully to the life of our School but who wouldn't otherwise have any dream of receiving a Stowe education. An Old Stoic, who has made a hugely generous pledge in response to this initiative, wrote to me saying that the School has done an amazing job on the physical plant and amenities, but now providing access to these world-class facilities should be the focus of attention; broadening access is not only a good thing to do morally but will contribute significantly to the wellbeing of the School by injecting different ideas and cultural perspectives into the academic and social discourse. The scale of our fundraising ambition - to raise an eye-watering £100m over the coming years - is certainly big - but it simply matches the scale of our vision for Stowe and the sort of educational opportunities we aspire to provide in the future.

Stowe is a school committed to fostering an environment in which pupils can flourish. A key part of that environment is the absence of discrimination of any type; a development of an appreciation of different cultures and backgrounds; and above all, an atmosphere of inclusiveness and mutual respect. The Governors, the Headmaster, and indeed all our staff, are fully supportive of and committed to these values.

We are launching this initiative because it's the right thing to do for future generations of Stoics, whatever their background - and it's striking that the current

generation of Stoics, in what they said to the ISI Inspectors and what they have told us in the many months of thinking and debate that has taken place already, are showing us the way. Before any sort of formal launch, we have already raised more than £3m and I am hugely grateful to those donors who share our vision. We will be delighted to tell you much more about our ambition - and the very positive difference it will make to the life of Stowe - over the coming months and years.

This is, of course, a time of year when public exams occupy the thoughts of many Stoics. Everybody here at Stowe wishes you great success; you will have learnt much more than perhaps you realise at that moment when you turn over the exam paper and your mind seems to freeze. Do please remember to breathe. And also remember that the ISI Inspectors remarked on how you have excellent qualities of resilience, self-knowledge and self-esteem. Remember something which you did really well, perhaps even surprising yourself, and how you felt at that moment. And above all, never give up. Babe Ruth, one of the greatest ever baseball players, said "You just can't beat the person who never gives up." He obviously was a Stoic at heart.

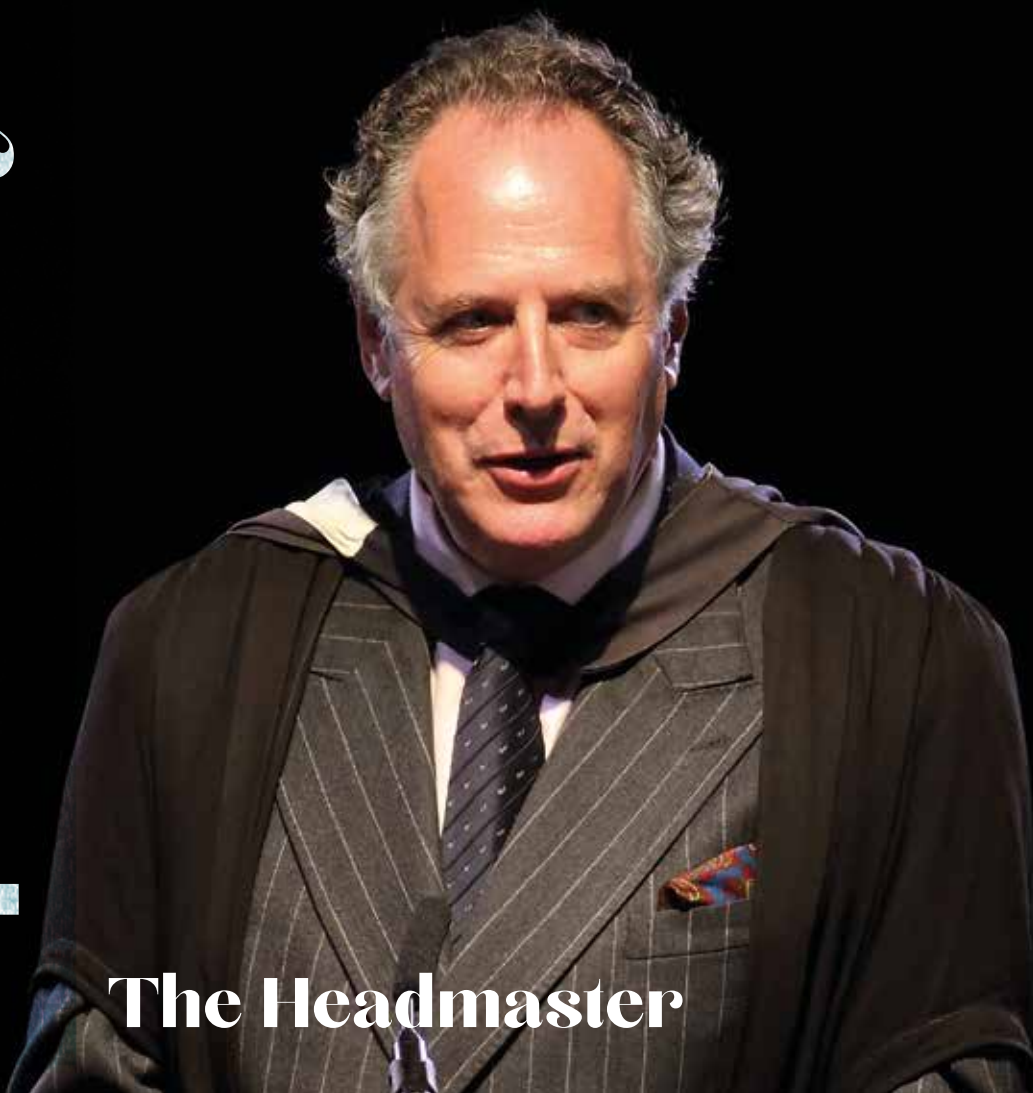
And two final words of thanks. Firstly, to my Governor colleagues who give their time freely and in large amounts. Your counsel and support are invaluable to me and to the Headmaster and this is the only time in the year that I have the chance to acknowledge that publicly. I know that you are as excited as I am about our ambition to raise £100m for bursaries and I would like to thank you for your support, both in your words and your actions, for that initiative.

I started by thanking parents and that is also how I'd like to finish. Thank you for the trust that you have shown in Stowe by sending your children here. For those whose child is leaving this year, I wonder if you recall that when you dropped off that nervous, shy 13 year old, Anthony said to you that they would go through a transformation in their time here; that they would develop into confident, independent, mature adults who understand the difference between right and wrong; and with whom it's fun to spend time with. I hope you feel that he and the team here have delivered on that. And I hope that you have enjoyed being part of the Stowe community for those years and that you will want to remain part of the Stowe family. For those who still have some time to go, I can guarantee that at the end of your child's time here, you will wonder where those five years went.

It is now my pleasure to hand over to the Headmaster. Anthony, having seen photographs of you in a biker's leather jacket imitating Danny Zuko of Grease fame, I was rather nervous about what might emerge from the Wallersteiner wardrobe for last night's Bjorn Again concert. I'm delighted that Valerie was successful in curbing those instincts.

Simon Creedy Smith, Chair of Governors

Speech Day



The Headmaster

The distinguished Old Stoic philosopher and founder President of the Roxburgh Society, Tony Quinton, identified the essential elements of the British character. According to Tony, we are allergic to radical extremism, have a healthy and well-grounded scepticism of abstract ideas, respect tradition and prefer organic change to revolution. In these turbulent times, I would add a few more key characteristics: a belief in a fair, meritocratic society without discrimination, a tolerance of different viewpoints and an ability to forgive when things don't always go according to plan.

We forgive and move on... after all, who now remembers that a narrow Remain victory “in a 52-48 referendum... would be unfinished business by a long way?” That was Nigel Farage in May 2016; or Michael Gove’s reassurance in April 2016, “the day after we vote to leave, we hold all the cards and we can choose the path we want”; then there was Liam Fox, Trade Secretary, boasting in July 2017 that “the free-trade agreement... with the European Union should be one of the easiest in human history”.

Barnaby Lenon, former Headmaster of Harrow, recently claimed that pupils educated at private schools speak mockney to hide their privileged education. George Osborne, Tony Blair and even Prince William have all been known to lapse into Estuary English. No one wants to be identified as upper class. So, in the spirit of the times, Michaelmas will henceforth be known as the Mockney Term, Stoics will be known as Geezers, I’ll be the Gaffer

and Governors will be... Guv’nors. The School motto will be updated from Persto et Praesto to Reliquatus Eam - Leave it Out - and this year’s Senior Congreve production will be a modern adaptation of As You Like It: Are You Having a Laugh. The School will SHUT IT on Thank God It’s Friday, 28 June 2019.

Each year we alight on a new educational theme - we’ve had character education, marginal gains and growth mind-set. This year we returned to the classroom to find out whether learning is learnable. Is it possible to turbocharge cognitive muscle-memory and brain circuitry to find the sweet spot when everything comes together into that psychological state of flow? You will be pleased to know that the answer is yes. But everything depends on the quality of the teacher. Gone are the days of the sage on stage in the egotistical style of Robin Williams in Dead Poets Society, a teacher who asks his pupils to call him “O Captain, my Captain”, hyperactively leaps on to the desk, tears pages out of text books, recites



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text from Richard III in a John Wayne drawl, makes fun of awkward pupils and his more conservative colleagues, urges his pupils to seize the day and suck the marrow out of life, but forgets to give them any real work or make them think for themselves. The new pedagogy is the guide on the side, the teacher as facilitator, helping pupils to interact with the material and with each other, encouraging active learning, working collaboratively and processing information far more successfully and in ways they are much more likely to remember.

It comes down to the four Es - and this isn't an ill-judged reference to the drugs culture of the 1990s: enabling, engaging, empowering and expecting.

1. Enable: we must enable your children to flourish - but we cannot make them learn: they have to do that for themselves. What we can do is to create the best possible conditions for teaching and learning to happen.

2. Engage: the best teachers engage pupils by imparting subject knowledge and guiding children's academic and personal development. Instead of filling buckets, these teachers light fires to inspire their pupils to take intellectual risks, triggering those eureka moments of self-actualisation and discovery.

3. Empower: we want Stoics to remain true to Roxburgh's vision of creating well-rounded individuals, awakening in Stoics a feeling for art and architecture, music and drama, poetry and literature, sport and competition, nature and the countryside. They feel empowered when they are trusted to develop competencies across a wide range of subjects and skills.

4. Expect: high standards are expected from all our

pupils and they should not settle for second best or mediocrity. Our reach should always exceed our grasp.

The highlight of the year was the much anticipated Independent Schools Inspection which took place in late November. The ISI team, led by Dr Stephen Grounds, included two serving Headmasters from HMC schools, three deputy heads, various senior teachers and even a Chaplain. The rigorous inspection process is regulated by the Department of Education and consists of two strands: a Regulatory Compliance Inspection tailored to the specific requirements of a boarding school and an Educational Quality Inspection which focuses on the quality of the pupils' academic and co-curricular achievements as well as on the quality of the pupils' personal development. Both formal and informal feedback conveyed how impressed the inspectors were with all aspects of the School. A particular highlight was the very positive feedback received from both the pupil and parental questionnaires. Thank you, as ever, for your loyalty and support.

The full inspection report concluded that Stowe is excellent in both the quality of pupils' academic achievement and the quality of their personal development. The inspectors reported that Stoics make excellent individual progress in lessons and the pupils spoke positively about the marking and feedback they get from their teachers; the report commented approvingly on how "Pupils benefit from the enthusiasm and commitment of their teachers who work hard to maintain and develop the activities and opportunities for them." Equally gratifying was the report's reflections on the benefits of those aspects of a Stowe education which cannot be measured by metrics: "Pupils are well-behaved and have an excellent understanding of right and wrong, taking responsibility for their behaviour. There is a tangible feeling of belonging to a community in the boarding houses and pride in individual Houses. A prominent feature of life at Stowe is inclusion and acceptance with pupils looking outwards, beyond the School itself." The ISI report concludes that Stoics show character virtues such as resilience, perseverance, good manners, cultural and spiritual awareness and a higher moral sense developed through Chapel and activities such as the CCF, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Drama, Music, Art and Sport.

Without wishing to boast as boasting is definitely



not a Stoic characteristic, this is the first time in the School's history - at least since the modern inspection regime began - that the School has achieved the accolade of excellent in all respects without any caveats or provisos. My congratulations to the Governors, senior leadership team, teachers and Support Staff who ensured and continue to ensure that we are excellent.

In the final assembly every term, I compile a list of highlights: in no particular order, here is my subjective top ten for the academic year 2018-19:

1. A new record was set in GCSEs by Harry Mehta (Lower Sixth, Walpole) who gained eight grade 9s and three A*s, a feat matched by about 700 other pupils across the country.

2. Oxbridge places were awarded to Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Nugent 17) who is going to St Edmund's Hall, Oxford for Fine Art; Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville) to read Chemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford; Lauren Brigden (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) to study Linguistics at King's College, Cambridge and Jamie Baillie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) to take Classics at St John's College, Oxford. 10 out of our 12 applicants were interviewed which is an exceptionally high ratio. Contrary to what the press might claim, I'm not complaining.

3. The opening of new Cobham on Sunday 28 October, a handsome addition to the growing roster of new Boarding Houses since Her Majesty The Queen opened Queen's in 2007. Cobham shows that modern architecture blending function and form can work harmoniously with its surroundings.

4. A memorable Old Stoic dinner on HMS Belfast with three Old Stoic admirals in attendance which has to be some sort of School Record.

5. Torn from Home was an evening of music, poetry and drama in which we heard an account of the CCF visit to Cox's Bazar, the Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, as well as reflections from our guest of honour, Lord Dubs, a child refugee from Czechoslovakia who was saved from almost certain death by Old Stoic, Sir Nicholas Winton.

6. This year's Senior Congreve was Romeo and Juliet and the star-crossed lovers were memorably played by Dom Selvey (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton). The tragic denouement is a stark reminder of the need to pay attention in PSHE lessons: it's not a good idea to kill your brother-in-law two hours after getting married and never ever trust the Italian postal system.

7. A Monday assembly led by Jamie Moir (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Captain of 1st XV Rugby, and Gemma Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Captain of Girls' 1st XI Hockey, focused on Stowe's values in sport, emphasising teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, health benefits and fair play. While we are on the subject of sport, special mentions go to the squash team Captained by James Hungin (Upper Sixth, Walpole); our basketball teams which enjoyed their best season in years; the U14 Seven a Side Rugby team which won tournaments at Haberdashers' Aske's and Ipswich before reaching the last eight out of 160 teams at Rosslyn Park. Badminton enjoyed a very strong season and congratulations to Oliver Butler (Third Form, Grenville) who is the England U15 Singles Champion, Doubles Champion and Mixed Doubles Champion. An unprecedented achievement and he is still only in the Third Form.

Whole School events demonstrating Stowe sport at its best include the Inter-House Stowe Challenge Cup and yesterday's Sports Day.

8. Jeffrey Au's (Lower Sixth, Walpole) stunning performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 in B Flat Minor, conducted by Craig Greene, and accompanied by the School Symphony Orchestra. Truly a virtuoso night to remember and only matched by last Sunday's excellent performances by our top six musicians who were vying for the prestigious Mozart Trio Cup.

9. The re-opening of North Hall on 10 March after being closed for restoration and renovation since October Half Term. My congratulations to SHPT: the Purbeck Whetstone is a huge improvement on the School-laid terrazzo floor. The full-sized bronze statue



of Laocoön will arrive later this summer to complete the restoration of this important room.

10. Remembrance Sunday, 11 November 2018, when we remembered those who fought and died to safeguard our future and, in particular, the sacrifice of Richard Morgan Grenville, the last heir to the Stowe estate, who was killed in action in December 1914 having given up his Christmas leave to a fellow officer who had a wife and young children. Stowe was founded in 1923 as a riposte to other educational establishments which provided obedient, unquestioning cannon fodder for the trenches in World War One.

And finally, we say goodbye to some Stowe legends: Terri Bosman, Mrs B, much-loved Matron of Grafton for sixteen years, died from cancer shortly after Christmas; Michael Bevington, magister optimus, the unassuming colossus of Stowe Classics, School Archivist and Historian, retires after a stupendous forty-one years of service; Jayne Duckett stepped down in January after 13 years as the caring, patient, and deeply conscientious Housemistress of Nugent; for more than twenty years Alan Hughes presided over a golden era of Rugby at Stowe, taking the 1st XV to Twickenham and the Sevens to victory at Rosslyn Park, before reinventing himself as an extraordinarily successful Housemaster of Grenville. His mordant Yorkshire wit combines with a rare ability to see the potential in each of his boys.

Pete Deakin steps down as Housemaster of Chandos after completing seven years. An email from a Chandos parent summarises Pete's achievements: "Mr Deakin is a wonderful Housemaster, able to combine a family feel with a firm but fair approach. He has built up a great rapport with our son. As parents, knowing he is there, has been a great reassurance and so he will be missed by our family." Costas Peratopoulos has been an indefatigable member of the Design & Technology Department for 17 years. His inspiring teaching is reflected in the very high quality of work we always see in the exhibition of DT projects on Speech Day. DT frequently tops the School's departmental league table of academic

results. Over the years, DT has produced a high number of coveted Arkwright Scholarships and the Good Schools' Guide recently recognised DT's excellence by awarding it a certificate for being the best DT Department in the country. Henry Swayne leaves after 13 years of outstanding service in the History Department where his knowledge of early Modern History has inspired many Stoics to study History at university. He joined as a fresh-faced Chaplain's Assistant, having recently graduated from Durham University and leaves us, still fresh-faced, to train for ordination at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford. Over the years, Henry excelled as a sympathetic and kind Assistant Housemaster in Chatham and inspired his junior hockey teams to County and National success. He will also be remembered for leading the Yearlings. A Cricket teams to some notable victories. Kim McMahon leaves after 21 years of science teaching. A graduate of Sydney University, Kim spent 14 years teaching in schools in Australia before coming to Stowe. During her time here, Kim has run badminton, assisted on Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE expeditions, supported Housemistresses in Lyttelton as Assistant Housemistress and even enjoyed a spell running the Chemistry Department.

Other teachers leaving this year include David Beniston in the Economics Department, Mary Lakin (Biology), Richard Pawson (Computer Sciences), Elena Hughes (Skills Department) and Lauren Ellis (Head of Netball). My thanks to all of them for their inspiring teaching.

And now to present this year's prizes, our guest of honour, Michael Deeley, an Old Stoic whose credits as a film producer include 'The Italian Job', 'The Man who Fell to Earth', 'The Deer Hunter' (for which he won an Oscar) and 'Blade Runner'. He also oversaw Nicolas Roeg's 'Don't look Now' and Robin Hardy's 'The Wicker Man' and is a Founding Member and Deputy Director of the British Screen Advisory Council. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Michael Deeley.

Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

Speech Day

Head Girl and Head Boy

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

Helena: May we begin by saying, on behalf of the School, a thank you to Michael Deeley. Oscar and I are both enormous fans of your work, and it has been truly an honour to hear stories from such an interesting career in the film industry.

Oscar: To have produced such classics as 'The Deer Hunter', 'Blade Runner' and, of course, 'The Italian Job' is incredible and we thank him for his insight and his time with us today.

Helena: On behalf of the School, we would like to present both you and Mrs Deeley with these gifts.

Oscar: This School is responsible for the education of 800, and is an employer of 500. Leading such an institution is no small achievement, or responsibility. However, we must acknowledge that in a marriage, duties borne by one party are shared by the other, and it is in respect of this unflinching support that we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Creedy Smith.

Helena: On behalf of the entire School, please accept these small tokens of our collective appreciation for all you do for the School. Thank you.

Helena: Blenheim Palace, the Great Barrier Reef, the Parthenon and the Grand Canyon. All beautiful places, enjoyed by millions of tourists every year. Their beauty is obvious, and irrefutable - impressive feats of architecture, of nature, of great historical significance.

Oscar: Stowe has a lot in common with these extraordinary places, save for one crucial difference. Stowe is so much more than a postcard. Visitors to the grounds may see the beauty, but only those who have been fortunate enough to have lived here, worked here and studied here, know the true beauty of Stowe.

Helena: Who else is able to see these grounds for what they truly are every day, and explore them at their leisure? Who else has made wonderful friends, and unforgettable memories within the boundaries of this remarkable location?

As we prepare to leave this School, and as we address it for the last time as Head Boy and Head Girl, we find ourselves looking both at this beautiful place and at this community with new eyes.

Oscar: For it is the friendships and the memories that have made Stowe such an important place for both of us over the last five years. And while we will miss the physical beauty of Stowe, when we leave the thing we are most thankful for is what we are taking with us.

I'm sure I speak for the Upper Sixth when I say that

we count ourselves as immensely fortunate to have been educated at this School. We know that we will spend many years reminiscing about the friendships forged, the memories made and our own stories that have been built at Stowe.

Helena: Indeed, it is always heart-warming to watch Old Stoics see old friends and pick up where they left off - it is indicative that the bonds made at Stowe last a lifetime. For it is the people within the buildings that truly make Stowe the special place we all know it to be. And with our year, while we are anxious for the next step in our lives, we are grateful that we are taking it with the friends we've made.

Oscar: It is now time to acknowledge the achievements of someone who has served the School with distinction. This year's Stoic Award is presented to someone who is known to so many around the School, whether he has taught them or not. His regular appearances at Chapel remind us of our moral and spiritual commitments and he can regularly be found running around campus, hastily getting from one of his many duties to the next. He is leaving the School at the end of this year to train as a Minister - and it gives us great pleasure to present this year's Stoic Award to Mr Henry Swayne.

Helena: May we also, briefly, say a heartfelt thank you to the Prefect body this year. We've loved our roles as Head Boy and Head Girl but it goes without saying that we could not have done it without you - thank you very much indeed.

All that leaves us to do, before we say farewell, is to hand over this wonderful responsibility to the next generation of Heads of School.

Oscar: Next year's Head Boy; he is known for his humility, his approachability, his reliability, and his genuine desire to be kind to all. Having arrived here in the Fifth Form, he has made himself known to all at Stowe, for all of the right reasons. I have loved wearing this tie, but now, it belongs to Micky Shillington.



Helena: Next year's Head Girl is someone who I look up to and admire in many ways. She is always kind to everyone and is never too busy to have a quick chat, excelling in all aspects of Stowe, be it lacrosse, drama, music or academics. Her willingness to go the extra mile will make her perfect for this role and I know she will step up to this challenge with humility and grace. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Sonya Sander to the stage to collect the Head Girl's necklace.

Oscar: I think, now, it's time to say goodbye.

Head Boy - Oscar Hill (Upper Sixth, Temple)
Head Girl - Helena Vince (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Henry Swayne

After 13 distinguished years at Stowe, Henry Swayne leaves us to train for ordination into the Church of England.

Having joined as a young Durham graduate, Henry began as a Chaplain's Assistant and lived in Grenville. He quickly threw himself into the Stowe community, engaging in a dizzying array of activities and commitments.

Pupils have loved his un-dimable enthusiasm and positivity, which makes even the most mundane task or exercise seem exciting. Any pupil taught by Henry will be able to list a range of 'Swayne-isms' that pepper his lessons and seem designed to imbue his pupils with the same zest for life that he displays every day. It is little wonder that he was awarded a coveted Stoic Award at Speech Day this year.

Hockey players were equally fortunate to have Henry as their coach, with his expert advice bringing his teams an array of excellent results in both boys' and girls' hockey. He has also remained utterly devoted to cricket, where he has coached both the U14A and 1st XI teams with enthusiasm and skill.

Although Henry officially made an early switch to the classroom, he has never really moved away from the Chapel. He preaches regularly, leads bible studies throughout the week and co-ordinates the Crossfire programme every week of term.

In the last 13 years, Henry also met his wife, Tor, at Stowe when she was appointed as his replacement as Chaplain's Assistant. They have a three year old daughter, Paisley.

He will be sorely missed but we hope to continue to benefit from his preaching talents when he is able to tear himself away from his theological studies.

Paul Griffin



Louise Wiseman

Louise arrived at Stowe in September 2018, as a newly graduated 21 year old, fresh out of Birmingham University, with a First Class BA (Hons) in English Literature and Drama. When trying to find a phrase to describe Lou's first term, a 'baptism of fire' seems reasonably appropriate. She was more than qualified and ready to ease herself into life as a Drama Graduate Assistant, gently helping out with a School production of 'Romeo and Juliet', trying her hand in the classroom, with hockey and a few evening duties. Little did she know how demanding the role would become. However, with her exceptional organisational skills and conscientious, can-do approach she took it all in her stride, from the late night rehearsals, to teaching Third Form Drama classes, stage managing productions, designing costumes, ordering props, making displays, excel spreadsheets - the

list goes on. Her time at Stowe was rounded off with her extraordinary dedication to the Junior Congreve production of 'High School Musical'. What most defined her time at Stowe was the relationships she formed with the Stoics, who were inspired by her classes and enthused by her love of Drama.

She is currently living with her parents in the Cotswolds but then she will be travelling the world with her partner, Ben.

Lucy Miller

Elena Hughes

Prior to working at Stowe, Elena was a frequent visitor to the School to support Alan and his rugby teams. A coincidental meeting with some parents persuaded her to take on the role of mentor to their son, which she successfully did for five years. After this, Elena had the opportunity to offer her support across many classes, helping numerous pupils. Her ability to build positive relationships with all her charges meant that she was able to persuade them to 'give it a try'. Indeed, pupils were so fond of her that she was often referred to as 'the lovely Mrs Hughes'.

Elena's many talents soon led to her taking up the role of Tutor in Stanhope House, soon rising to Assistant Housemistress and even a stint as Housemistress for a while. In addition to this, she has been involved in equestrian sport at Stowe and was a valued member of SPA (Stowe Parents' Association).

Elena leaves us to take up a new life in the Lincolnshire Wolds with Alan. There will be many trips by Staff to visit them in their new home.

Sharon Carter



James Speakman

James joined the Music Department in 2018, as Assistant Director of Music and Chapel Organist. He is a superb organist, performing solo concerts and making sure that the Chapel organ was played more regularly in recitals by professionals and his four Stowe organ pupils. In charge of the Choir, James also faced the challenge of raising musical standards to meet his own high expectations. With all his undoubted musical talents, it was no surprise that he has moved on to a teaching post at the London Oratory School. With its greater emphasis on wider participation in all forms of music making and a very strong choral tradition, it is a most suitable school and we wish him well.

Crispin Robinson



Leonard Murphy

Lenny is our 30th Harvard Fellow and, like his predecessors, he brought energy and hard work to his role. It is not easy to begin teaching Math(s) with little formal training or experience, particularly in a foreign country where the standards are different from those to which one is accustomed. However, Lenny soon showed that he was able to adapt to different pupils' needs and abilities, to work well with his teaching colleagues and members of Staff, and to respond well to appraisal and feedback. Furthermore, living in West House, he integrated himself into the whole School community. In addition to teaching, Lenny assisted in two Boarding Houses with pastoral duties and coached four sports - two of which he had never played before. He also advised Stoics applying to North American universities and even volunteered to play the violin in the School Orchestra. All the while, he had had a smile on his face, never complained and remained resolutely cheerful. We wish him well in a medical career.

Crispin Robinson





Mary Lakin

As the year draws to an end, we say our goodbyes to Dr Mary Lakin who retires after 12 years of teaching. Mary will be remembered for many different things, not least for the enormous amount of baking she has done for both the Biomed Society and the Science Department over the years. Cakes, biscuits, brownies, mince pies have always been on offer to colleagues in need of a little pick-me-up between break and lunch - Mary is generosity personified. Mary will be greatly missed by Stoics and colleagues alike and the Science Department will be a much duller place without her. We wish Mary the very best for her retirement which, in her case, is a relative term as I know she has a whole host of fascinating projects up her sleeve, starting with organising her eldest daughter's wedding!

Louise Carter

James Nicholl

We wished a fond farewell to James Nicholl this Summer. James returns to Bedford School after a busy year as an Assistant Housemaster in Grafton, teaching key stages 3 and 4, completing his PGCE and coaching rugby. His calm and professional approach, his love of sculpture and commitment to the Art Department will be missed by all and we wish him all the best in his new position.

Daniel Scott



Philippa Bond

Philippa returned to Stowe after leaving in 2013 to teach at The Lady Eleanor Holles School, to get married and to start a family. It has been a brief but impactful year back at Stowe, where she quickly slotted into the Biology Department. Philippa has developed strong and positive relationships with Stoics due to her caring and compassionate nature. She has provided great guidance to her pupils trying to navigate GCSE and A Level courses both inside and outside the classroom, as she is always willing to help. Her Lower Sixth pupils will miss her particularly as they have loved her lessons this year. We wish Philippa all the best as she returns home to look after her young twins, Hermione and Leo.

Louise Carter



Kim McMahon

We say a fond farewell to Kim McMahon who is retiring after teaching Chemistry at Stowe for 21 years. Before arriving at Stowe, Kim, a Scholar from Sydney University, taught in Australia and New Zealand. Over the last 21 years, she has taught Chemistry to more Stoics than anyone else, so has played a key role in the Department's excellent results. Her tenacity and patience in the classroom will be greatly missed, as will her very cheerful contributions as a core member of the Department who has always been ready to help others and lead the way with assessment and marking.

A stalwart of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Stowe, Kim's love of the outdoors and rocks spread to the many Stoics she accompanied on expeditions. She also ran Badminton and organised driving lessons amongst other things during her time here. Kim's great talent as an artist has emerged over the last few years, encouraged by the Art Department and other painters within our community.

We wish Kim all the very best in her retirement and her painting.

James Tearle



Lauren Ellis

Lauren joined Stowe in September 2014. Before Stowe, Lauren studied Physical Education at Leeds Metropolitan University, graduating in 2010. From there she moved onto Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe as a Graduate Sports Assistant, coaching netball, hockey and teaching Sports Science. During her time at Stonyhurst, she qualified as a Teacher of Physical Education whilst living in as Assistant Housemistress to the Girls' Sixth Form Boarding House. Following this, she worked at a local state school leading the girls' PE Department across a wide curriculum and even taught some Mathematics! Netball has always been a huge passion of hers - playing, coaching and officiating. She qualified as an umpire at the age of 14 and as a Level 2 Coach aged 20. She attempted a short move to basketball - playing at National League level but soon went back!

Lauren has certainly thrown herself fully into life at Stowe and is a very valued member of the Stowe community. She has been a huge help pastorally in Stanhope as Assistant Housemistress and

Fourth Form Tutor and I'm sure will be sorely missed by Louise Carter, the House team, parents and the girls.

Lauren has been ever present in the PE and Sports Science Department and has made a significant contribution to the Third Form PE programme in particular.

She is a gifted all-rounder making her mark with 3rd XI girls' hockey, boys' and girls' cricket teams and Inter-House rounders and much more. She has been a great 'team player' as a member of the Sports Department, ever willing to lend a hand driving minibuses, co-ordinating elements of the Stowe Challenge, Queen of Twitter, helping with swimming and athletics meets, organising the Sports Awards Dinners, Prep School outreach and the list goes on!

She has been an outstanding Head of Netball and her enthusiasm and hard work has been reflected in the number of girls now playing netball in activities as well as School teams and the great successes at U14, U16 and U18 level. We have been County Champions on numerous occasions, District League winners and had strong Regional success. She certainly leaves Stowe netball in a much stronger position than when she took it over.

We wish Lauren every success as she leaves us to be Director of Sport at Tudor Hall. We will miss her hugely, especially her warm personality and dulcet tones in the Common Room.

Isaac Michael

Rebecca Pryse

We bid a sad farewell to Dr Rebecca Pryse (Becky) who has retired, at a very young age, and has moved to Deal to enjoy a more relaxed lifestyle.

Becky started her medical career after qualifying at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Medical School in 1992 where she met her husband to be and later married Jonathan. Becky and Jonathan moved to Buckinghamshire in 1996 with a new baby and Becky worked part-time as a GP partner. After having their second child in 2000, Becky and Jonathan decided to job share as a GP partner at North End Surgery. It was at this time that Becky also started working at Stowe as the 'Assistant Medical Officer', being the first female MO at Stowe (and only the sixth MO Stowe has employed). Becky was later promoted to "Chief MO" with Jonathan working as her Deputy in 2005.

Becky has been able to watch her two children progress over the years at Stowe - this has given her a better understanding of the 'teenage traumas' that can occur in a Boarding School environment. Her son Matt left Stowe in 2014 and her daughter Alice left this Summer.

Becky has thoroughly enjoyed her 18 years at Stowe, and is now pleased to pass the reins onto the seventh School Medical Officer, Dr Ben Burgess. We wish Becky all the best in the future.

Debbie Jenkins



Peter Deakin

Pete, Alice and family arrived at Chandos from Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh in 2012. A superb Geographer, indeed former Head of Department, he is also a footballer and keen cricketer having played semi-professional cricket for several counties. He therefore understood the necessary balance between academic work and co-curricular activities. His natural empathy, good humour, sense of fairness and judgement helped a number of pupils to get back on track and his management of the House was extremely well received by many Chandos parents. He developed an excellent rapport with Chandosians and his House team over the past seven years, while his physical legacy is the expansion of the House and the re-decoration of the House Room to something approaching its original splendour. It was a Deakin family decision to relocate to Edinburgh and we wish all the family well for their futures.

Crispin Robinson

Tara Yates

We say farewell to Dr Tara Yates after three years of Physics teaching at Stowe. She joined us as a newly qualified teacher in 2016 after completing part of her training at Stowe, she trained as a teacher after taking a break from work to raise her young children. She gained her doctorate in Medical Physics in 2005 from Warwick University. She followed this by working as a Research Assistant at the University of Oxford researching medical imaging. She has been a valuable member of the Department and contributed well to our recent success in GCSE results. Her interest and enthusiasm for Physics and teaching came through in her lessons. We wish her well as she moves to another teaching post in Warwick.

James Tearle



Richard Pawson

Last year, I remember being extremely nervous about starting my new role as Head of Department. Knowing that I had to follow in the footsteps of Richard, with his wealth of knowledge and professional experience, did not make this any less daunting. I guess Richard sensed this when I first came to the School to meet the team, as during the Summer before I started, he invited me to his house to discuss the planned structure of delivering the A Level curriculum. This led to a discussion about his prized possession, a 1939 Daimler - I don't think I need to add anything else. This put me extremely at ease and I then felt much less daunted at the prospect of starting at Stowe.

In our many discussions before he departed, Richard demonstrated his passion and knowledge for Computer Science but above all, he always had the best interests of his pupils in mind. He genuinely cared for their success and they knew the high standards expected

of them. He would spend hours, if needed, to help pupils and go out of his way to support them. As an A Level teacher, he has created an environment of high standards and expectations that I will endeavour to maintain.

I am losing a brilliant colleague, I will miss the stories and our conversations about the subject, but I feel extreme pleasure that I have gained a friend.

Aditya Gupta

Michael Bevington

This year, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Michael Bevington, a true colossus of Stowe Classics who has been Head of Department for some 38 of his 41 years at the School, a feat which - as the Headmaster commented in his Speech Day address - is unlikely to be rivalled in the modern era.

Michael came to Stowe in 1978, after studying Classics at Exeter School and Exeter College, Oxford and then completing a PGCE at King's College, London. Before joining Stowe, he taught at Whitgift School.

Michael's love of Greek and Latin poetry, especially epics like the Odyssey and the Aeneid, was evident in his teaching and his lifelong interest in the study of the wonderful world of Greece and Rome meant that he was always learning. Those who took his classes will remember being taught gerunds and gerundives from beginning to end in 30 minutes! Michael's interest in his subject even extended to being a team leader for setting ISEB Common Entrance Classical Greek examinations, so many Stoics will have encountered Michael's work before even reaching Stowe!

In his time at Stowe, Michael has been a Sixth Form Tutor, he has taken junior hockey teams and run the sailing, as well as organised visits and speakers for the Classical Society.

Many will know Michael as the Stowe Archivist. As well as looking after Stowe's photographic archives, he has also written articles and books on the history and iconography of Stowe House and garden and has sat on the Stowe Advisory Panel for more than 30 years. During his time at Stowe he also took an MEd through the Open University and acted as a tutor for teachers taking a PGCE in Classics through Buckingham University.

Outside Stowe, Michael has been involved in charitable work with a national charity and with his local church.

As he enters retirement, I should like formally to record the sincerest thanks both of the Department and of generations of Stoics for all that he has done for Classics at Stowe throughout five decades of sterling service.

Jon Murnane



Jan Lane

In March 2019, the Staff of the Design and Technology Department said farewell to Jan Lane, as she retired from her role of part-time Technician after almost 20 years. Jan arrived at Stowe following a very successful career as a Teacher of Design and Technology at Sponne School. She brought with her an enormous amount of patience, honesty, hard work, understanding, warmth and kindness, and laid the foundations of what a successful Technician in a Department, such as Design and Technology, should look like.

A graduate of Loughborough University, there was no process, skill or material that Jan did not possess a plethora of knowledge about. In times of need in the Department, Jan was called on and would go above and beyond the call of duty so that the Stoics and Staff did not 'go without', and would come in to process paperwork or prepare materials even though she should have been somewhere else. All too often there would have been a spare bicycle at a 'Spin Class' somewhere as a result of her diligence.

Staff and Stoics alike were sorry to see Jan go. Her subject knowledge and all round pedagogy meant she could facilitate the learning of Stoics, whilst also ensuring you were supported as Staff. Although I would have loved to have seen her stay in the Department for the new build, I am glad that she is now devoting time to herself and pursuing her own hobbies. We wish her well in her mastery of photography, watercolours, embroidery, along with travelling and the finest of dining. Even in retirement, I am proud to say that Jan will remain a close friend to us all, and will forever be our matriarch. I have even told her the corridor in the new block will be named 'Jan Lane', albeit unofficially.

We wish her all the love and success for the future.

Martin Quinn



Craig Donoghue

Craig joined Stowe in September 2015 and became Head of Physics in 2017. Throughout his entire time at Stowe, Craig has been Assistant Housemaster in Bruce. Craig has been an unbelievable support for Bruce boys (sometimes he even watched them play Sport). He takes his responsibilities and duties, very seriously and has been described as 'an all round legend' as far as Bruce is concerned.

Not only is Craig an inspiring and extremely knowledgeable scientist, he has also been known to solve A Level Maths problems and attend A Level Music lessons. Craig is an incredibly talented musician, he has three grade 8s, for piano, clarinet and voice and has helped the Bruce House boys with their House Singing performances every year. He (along with Alex Aitken) is responsible for surely the most memorable Stoic lecture as they combined science and music and put on an awesome show turning vegetables into instruments, playing a giant floor piano and almost setting the Ugland on fire.

Craig has taken part in several DofE expeditions and was memorably trapped on a coach in the Lake District for several hours as it got stuck on a narrow bridge... something that is regularly brought up at Staff meetings! As a proud Scotsman, Craig was determined to make Burns Night Supper a significant date in the School's calendar, it has become a popular annual event with performances from Staff and Stoics that are truly memorable. Craig wears his tartan 'trews' to many a black tie event and has even been known to sport a kilt on occasion.

Craig has provided some outstanding pastoral support to pupils during his time at Stowe and it is no exaggeration to say he has been a rock of support to individuals during some of their toughest times. Craig's legacy at Stowe (apart from being an excellent teacher) will surely be the work he has done on 'Stowe 1'.

Craig always has time for Stoics and colleagues and has an immensely positive impact on the lives of so many at Stowe. As he departs for the Head of Physics role at Bradfield College, we wish him the best of luck for the future and thank him for all he has done at Stowe.

Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

Alan Hughes

Alan joined Stowe in 1998 as the Rugby Professional and in his early years, he was in charge of boys' sports, which flourished under his guidance. His record of successes with outstanding rugby seasons can be directly related to his coaching, enthusiasm, drive and professionalism which inspired the boys and their coaches, whichever their team. In 2014, Alan was appointed Housemaster of Grenville having earned his spurs as Tutor and Assistant Housemaster in Grafton and Acting Housemaster of Chatham.

He also continued with his demanding role as Director of Rugby. In his first year, Grenville won the Academic Salver, contrary to many people's prejudices that Grenville was going to be 'just' a sporty House. Indeed, as Alan proved every subsequent year, he cared as much about the boys' academic as their non-academic/sporting achievements and he fully earned and deserved their respect. His House team worked with him to create an inclusive and collaborative atmosphere, though his northern (Yorkshire) bluntness was only sometimes a tonic to clear the air over an issue.

His struggles with IT and email are legendary and Alan was at his most amusing and self-deprecatory when coping (or not) with technology.

Alan stepped down as Director of Rugby in September 2018 after 20 years of unmatched and distinguished service and then as Grenville Housemaster in June 2019. He and his wife Elena have a house in Lincolnshire that will require much of their energy in restoring but at least its former use as a Leonard Cheshire Home will maintain the Stowe connection. We wish Alan and Elena the very best in their retirements.

Crispin Robinson



Gabriella Valentine

As Lyttelton Under Housemistress as well as a lacrosse and hockey coach, Gaby Valentine has been much loved by her Tutees and players alike, and was able to impart wisdom from when she was in the same position as those she coached.

Gaby moves on to live and work in London in the television and filmmaking industry.

Rob Ingham Clark

David Beniston

It is with a great sadness that we say goodbye to David Beniston at the end of this academic year. David has been a real stalwart of the Economics and Business Department over the past three years and we all hope that he enjoys a well-deserved retirement; he will be sorely missed.

Crispin Robinson

Academic Report

The ISI inspectors who visited Stowe in November, gave an official rubber stamp to a fact we already knew - that both the academic achievements and personal development of the pupils here are excellent!

It has been another fantastic year, starting with strong results in the Summer from our Fifth Form and Leavers. At A Level, 63% of all grades were achieved at A*/B and roughly a third achieved either an A* or an A. At GCSE, just under a fifth of total grades achieved were at 8-9 or A*, with well over a third achieving at grade 7-9 or A*/A. Impressively, fifteen pupils achieved a full ten grades at 7/A or above and a total of 33 pupils scored at least eight grades at 7-9 or A*/A.

Over the past academic year, we have continued our push towards a more personalised curriculum, providing an increased breadth of choice so that pupils can explore what interests them most, as well as extending the individualised guidance and support on offer. Two new courses, Psychology and BTEC Engineering, were introduced this year for the first time and have proved extremely popular as electives taken alongside A Levels. In fact, the Engineering group have been so stimulated by the BTEC, which involves spending an afternoon over at the UTC Silverstone and working with their specialist equipment there, that they have all decided to carry on and do the full Level 3 qualification (equivalent to a 4th A Level). We now plan to introduce three further BTECs for 2019-20, in Sport, Business and Creative Digital Media, all of which offer a practical, hands-on opportunity to develop skills in key vocational areas and can be taken alongside A Levels.

With so many choices and possibilities to consider, both at Stowe and beyond, pupil guidance has also been extended through the creation of a team of Heads of Year. Mr Floyd (Head of Sixth), Dr West (Deputy Head of Sixth and Head of Careers), Ms Penrhyn-Lowe (Head of Fifth), Mr Elwell (Head of Fourth) and Mr Teasdale (Head of Third) have all been working alongside Mrs Akam as Senior Tutor to ensure that every Stoic is given clear and bespoke direction and guidance and that their academic needs are being both identified and met. Year group assemblies have covered key topics such as how to revise effectively, and we have hosted guidance specialists Elevate Education twice this year, first to deliver 'Secrets of the Study Sensei' to the Lower Sixth in September and then, 'Ace your Exams' to the Fifth Form in January. In addition there has been a fantastic programme of career seminars, including

a talk by Brian Marcel, author of, 'Raise the Bar, Change the Game: A Success Primer for Budding Entrepreneurs Who Want to Change the World', 'Careers in Formula One, Engineering, 3-D Printing and an Insight Into Entrepreneurship in the Industry', by Neil Furber, a seminar given by Charles Rolls (OS), founder of Fever-Tree and Ray Doran from Reaction Engines Ltd. on, 'Pioneering the Next Generation of Hypersonic and Space Access Propulsion'.



Over the past academic year, we have continued our push towards a more personalised curriculum, providing an increased breadth of choice so that pupils can explore what interests them most, as well as extending the individualised guidance and support on offer. ”

It has been another strong year for our Academic Scholars, with four successful Oxbridge applications from the Upper Sixth and an ambitious and active cohort of Lower Sixth pupils meeting weekly in the Headmaster's Essay Society. The Third and Fourth Form pupils in the Lower School Academic Scholars' groups have enjoyed a number of talks, challenges and trips to broaden their knowledge and to expose them to new interests, whilst the Fifth Form have used this year to begin to deepen their understanding and build their profile in their chosen fields through challenging reading and discussion groups through the subject Departments.

Not only Scholars, but all Stoics have also had an exciting range of talks and academic extension made available to them. In November, we hosted Professor Martin Cox of the John Locke Institute, who ran seminars with the Scholars and gave a talk to the whole Lower Sixth on, 'Separating Intentions from Consequences: The One Lesson Everyone should Learn from Economics'. In March we also welcomed Mark Regev, the Israeli ambassador to the U.K. The



Philosophy@Stowe group has been very active, with talks including, 'Buddhist Ethics and the No-Self View', by Dr Jamie Buckland from York University, 'Scientific vs Religious Knowledge', by Professor Tom Simpson of Oxford University, 'Euthanasia: The Problem of Intention', by Michael Wilcockson and a discussion on, 'The Science of Near-Death Experiences'. In a joint event with Buckingham University, Theology@Stowe hosted a talk by Dr Yama Shanneik on, 'Women, Islam and Art' in May. A highlight for many was the illustrated talk by famous Old Stoic Harry Gregson-Williams on, 'Composing Film' in November and, alongside members of the general public, our early modernist historians enjoyed a masterclass on 'The Last Will and Testament of Henry VIII' hosted at Stowe in December. In January the linguists were treated to a talk on famous French and German paintings by Mr Estorick, our very own Head of History of Art, and then an introduction to sign language (thinking about language more broadly) in March. Fourth Form Geographers had a talk on the aftermath of the Boxing Day tsunami and Stowe hosted the IEA Economics Conference in March. The sciences were not left behind, with Stowe hosting a joint Engineering Conference with the UTC Silverstone in May, as well as a Physics trip to the 'Inside Diamond' event at the Diamond Light Source. Our computer scientists travelled to the BT Cyber Security Centre in March and the Lower Sixth Sports scientists visited the Porsche Human Performance lab at Silverstone Circuit in May. In an interesting cross-curricular initiative, the Literary Society teamed up with the Gaussian Mathematics Society in February to explore the question, "What if Shakespeare studied Mathematics and Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' as a work of literature?"

One of this year's most powerfully moving events was the annual recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day,

which featured a number of performances by Stoics on the theme 'Torn from Home', followed by a talk and Q&A with Lord Dubs, one of those evacuated from Europe on the Kindertransport organised by Old Stoic Sir Nicholas Winton. The evening focused not just on the past, but on the present and particularly the awful situation of the Rohingya refugees caught in limbo in camps such as Cox's Bazaar, visited by select members of Stowe's CCF contingent this year as part of their exchange visit with Bangladeshi Cadets. As a community, we are determined to carry on the legacy of Sir Nicholas Winton by helping to raise both funds and awareness to help those caught up in conflict. Stowe has also been chosen as a UCL Beacon School for Holocaust Education for 2019-20 and in this role will share resources and events with other schools to ensure the lessons of the past are not forgotten.

Finally, we have exciting plans for 2019-2020. We are launching a new timetable, with 55-minute lessons replacing the old 40-minute structure. Our Lower School Projects programme will move to a clinic slot, and PSHE will be delivered through academic tutors on Friday mornings instead of in lesson times. As a result, there will be less movement time and therefore more teaching time, especially for the core subjects of Maths, English and the Sciences. We have also allowed for more choice at GCSE, with those pupils choosing Dual Science instead of Triple Science able to select either another GCSE or extra study time and support. A final benefit is that all lessons will have the same start and finish times every day, which will make life easier for both Stoics and Staff. With these tweaks to the curriculum adding both breadth and depth, there is little doubt that Stowe academics will continue to go from strength to strength!

Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

ENGLISH

The great poet and essayist, Adrienne Rich, wrote, 'One of the great functions of art is to help us imagine what it is like not to be ourselves, what it is like to be someone or something else, what it is like to live in another skin, what it is like to live in another body, and in that sense to surpass ourselves, to go out beyond ourselves.'

Stowe's ground-breaking decision to decouple the teaching of the English Language and English Literature GCSEs was introduced in the Third Form this year. By doing this, we now have the freedom to choose a much wider variety and greater quantity of great literary texts to deliver the skills required for the mandatory English Language GCSE. Decoupling the qualifications also allows us to gain the classroom time necessary to focus on developing pupils' aptitude in grammar and composition. The English Literature GCSE now becomes a vibrant option choice for pupils wishing to delve deeper into the work of great British writers.

A number of Third Form pupils distinguished themselves again this year with excellent poetry recitations in The Headmaster's Poetry Competition. The Finals were held in the Uglund Auditorium in front of the whole year group. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and speak in front of the whole year group, and to be able to recite poetry is an even greater skill; all of the finalists are to be commended for their efforts. The three winners were Max James (Cobham) with 'Epic' by Patrick Kavanagh, Ronan O'Reilly (Grenville) with 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke, and Paddy Potts (Chandos) with 'When You See a Million of the Mouthless Dead' by Charles Sorley. Daniyal Khaibullin (Chandos) and Alice Butler (Lyttelton) were highly commended. Special thanks go to Mrs Foden and Ms Miller for organising the rehearsals, and to Dr Smith and Mrs Ackroyd for judging the competition.

We were also delighted to be able to offer Fourth Form Stoics a poetry writing masterclass with the fantastically talented performance poet, Harry Baker. About 15 pupils were chosen to take part in the classes, in which Baker encouraged them to draw from their own experiences and to be true to their own contemporary voices.

Pupils in all year groups study literature related to war and conflict, and this year we held a Literary Remembrance Evening to mark the centenary of Armistice Day. We invited the leaders of the Army, Navy and Airforce sections of the CCF to share the literary influences that have helped them to frame their own experiences of conflict. A particular highlight of the evening was hearing Mr Murnane speak about W.B. Yeats' spiritual exploration of combat in 'An Irish Airman Foresees His Death' and then to share his own experience of making a life and death decision during a combat mission in Afghanistan. Major de

Gale shared the moving letters of her uncle who had fought in WWI and shared her reflections from her tour as a peacekeeper in Bosnia. Lt. Zammit (Stowe CCF) spoke of his experiences as a submariner in the Falklands War, and shared his original poetry with the audience. There were spectacular Stoic contributions, including Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Rosie Ludlow (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) sharing their experiences of visiting the Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. Ben Shamash (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville) reprising their McAlwee Award winning presentation about their trip reconstructing the French resistance trail, and Tallulah Goldsmith's (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) stunning a cappella performance of 'Spring Sorrow'. Juliana Ziemele (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Georgia Glenser (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Oliver Seddon (Lower Sixth, Cobham) offered poetry readings, and Dr Smith delivered a thought-provoking assessment of how literature shapes our understanding of conflict.

In the second half of the programme, we were privileged to hear the writer Anne Sebba speak about her book 'Les Parisiennes: How the Women of Paris Lived, Loved and Died under Nazi Occupation', further details of which are in the Literary Society report.

Another highlight of the year was the Fifth Form trip to the Barbican Theatre to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's inspired production of 'Macbeth', with Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack as the murderous royal couple. The Fourth Form led the way this year with the English Department's drive to use ICT to enhance the learning experience in the classroom. We started the year with 'flipped learning' lessons, in which pupils study the content at their own pace from a virtual learning platform, and then come to the lesson well equipped to discuss the material and compose answers on it. This approach worked hand in hand with reflective learning techniques in which pupils use a purple pen to annotate corrections to their work. Finally, Sixth Form pupils enjoyed a wide range of activities, details of which can be found in the Literary Society report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the English Faculty for their excellent teaching and pastoral support of the Stoics. Pupils' testimonies verified what was already evident to me: we are fortunate to have an exceptionally knowledgeable, talented and committed team of teachers who consistently deliver outstanding lessons and assessment to our pupils. I would also like to thank colleagues, Dr Smith and Mrs Ackroyd for supporting me this year.

Allison Puranik, Head of English

Mathematics



This year, the Maths Department has taken on many new and exciting challenges. It is only the second year we have prepared pupils for the new GCSE syllabus and we have now truly embraced the new 1-9 grade system. The focus has shifted from learning to do GCSE exam questions to preparing pupils for the challenges of mathematics in the modern world in terms of problem solving and logical thinking. This was the first year of preparing pupils for exams for the new A Level syllabus in which problem-solving and proves play a significant role.

In September, the Department was fortunate to gain three new members of Staff along with this year's Harvard fellow, Lenny Murphy; they all settled in quickly and have contributed enormously to the Maths Department. Martin Johnson joined us from an international school in Dubai with many years of experience of teaching both abroad and in England. Martin is also an expert in Statistics, thanks to his education at Cambridge University and from running his own company. Michelle Matthews has brought with her a wealth of knowledge and useful resources from Shenley Brook End School in Milton Keynes, where she was highly valued because of her excellent teaching skills and her innovative approach. We were also joined by Dr Charles Adkins who decided to go back to teaching after running a family business for six years. Dr Adkins has taken a lead on making Applied Maths more interesting at Stowe and been instrumental in promoting both the new electives - Core Maths and BTEC.

We were sad to say goodbye to Reva Cope and last year's Harvard fellow, Tasnim Ahmed. Richard Knight has been sorely missed this year, both as a colleague and as a friend; he has left a big void behind him in the Department having worked at Stowe for so many years.

Puzzle Day for Third Form

In October, Stowe's Third Form participated in teamwork building puzzles as part of their Co-curricular Day. Pupils were given a series of challenging puzzles to complete in groups of six. Our code breakers were given various tasks, such as balancing penguins on an iceberg, creating a continuous road out of varying road pieces (there were 72,000 different configurations!) and completing a circular puzzle to name a few. All of these tasks required the pupils to think critically about configuration, shape, planning ahead, and above all, to listen to their teammates to hear different methods of problem-solving or alternative ways of thinking. Overall, the pupils had a fun time learning to think critically, using principles that will aid them in other subjects and in the future, through friendly brain-teaser competitions against their peers.

Mathletics

This academic year was the first year Stowe offered Mathletics stretch sessions on Mondays to pupils who were interested in UKMT Maths Challenge type problem-solving questions. Mathletics is designed to teach pupils to acquire knowledge and skills in order to pursue the subject in depth, and investigate challenging, stimulating problems. Competitive and Interactive Maths Extension provides the opportunity to inspire, challenge and develop pupils inner Mathlete! Pupils tackled questions which they would not have seen in GCSE or A Level specifications, such as a wide range of questions from Individual Challenges, Team Challenges and British Olympiads. Well done to Hanxing Yang (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Yue Wu (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Jingchun Xu (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Charles Maclure (Lower Sixth, Chandos) for consistent attendance and showing excellent problem-solving skills.

Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge took place in November and the competition for the Best in School Award was very close. Abzal Amirbay (Upper Sixth, Grafton), scored 88 points, just beating Hanwing Yang (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville). All three however did qualify for Gold Awards and got to take part in the International Kangaroo Challenge.

Extra-Curricular Maths

The Maths Department offered numerous academic activities this year. One of the activities was vertical stretch, where we focus on understanding what we already know at a deeper level. We strongly encourage Stoics to ask questions in these sessions. Carl Friedrich Gauss said, "Mathematics is the queen of the sciences and number theory is the queen of mathematics." In this course, we studied a very basic concept; highest common factor and built towards advanced level theorems, such as Euclid's algorithm, and general solution to linear Diophantine Equations. It has been inspiring to see how advanced level Mathematics is connected to school level maths.

The local maximum was another activity that was offered this year, with the aim of sharpening Stoics' problem-solving skills. We worked on Oxbridge entrance papers and some Olympiad questions. There are two perspectives of Mathematics - the art of asking good questions, and then solving them effectively. We have focused on the mechanical side of Mathematics in these sessions.

The third activity we offered in the Department was the Maths Project. This activity was offered to Stoics who are deeply passionate about Mathematics. This activity covered several advanced topics in Maths, such as Jensen's, Young's, Hölder's and Minkowski's inequalities. The highlight of this year's project has been the consistency and resilience of Stowe's most passionate Mathematicians.

Stowe's Maths Society, The Gaussian Group, has had another exciting year with many fantastic contributions from our president Henrietta Gendler (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and inspiring talks delivered by both Stoics and the teachers during the year. 'The Gaussian Pizza Night' was the final meeting of the year where Gaussians enjoyed watching a movie about the life of a Maths genius.

Stowe's Maths Department is also proud to publish its third Maths magazine, 'Maths Review'. The magazine will be available to view online in September 2019.

Hakan Yadsan



Inter-House Competition

The Inter-House competition for the Dawson Shield in January was hotly contested by all Houses. Throughout the afternoon, pupils competed in group challenges, cross-numbers, and relay rounds, as well as Ken Ken and Shikaku logic puzzles.

The Dawson Cup was awarded to Lyttelton House, where Yao Zhang (Lower Sixth), Vivian Zhu (Fifth Form), Iryna Muravska (Fourth Form) and Kristy Achmann-Mwanza (Third Form) achieved an impressive 118 points. They were closely followed by Chatham and Bruce, scoring 116 and 115 points respectively.

The year finished with Junior School pupils taking on the Intermediate Maths Challenge, here the Fourth and Fifth Form pupils really showed the way. Five of them qualified for the Kangaroo Competition, Best in School award went to Vivian Zhu (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) with a magnificent score of 128, just seven marks away from scoring full marks. Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fifth Form, Walpole), Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Ned Ellison (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Olivia Omotajo (Fourth Form, Stanhope), also qualified for Gold awards.

The Kangaroo Maths Challenge 2018 Certificates went to Rosia Li and Crispin Marshall-Rowan.



Sir - I'm not being funny but when will I ever use (insert: equations, geometry, number theory, statistics, probability, mechanics etc.) in real life?

Applied Mathematics

'Sir - I'm not being funny but when will I ever use (insert: equations, geometry, number theory, statistics, probability, mechanics etc.) in real life?'

My stock answer is that if the pupils go on to work in maths, science, engineering, medicine, computing or with data sets in business, then all the time. Here at Stowe, courses such as Level 3 Mathematical Studies (aka Core Maths) or the mathematics unit of the BTEC in Engineering are very applied with their focus on engineering problems, data, estimation, finance and decision-making. However, the applications of many topics studied in GCSE and A Level are much less obvious.

Education shouldn't always be utilitarian, of course, and studying Mathematics is part of exploring the world around us and there is immense value in learning about problem solving and the implications of more philosophical areas of Mathematics, such as Godel's incompleteness theorem. That said, one of the things that I was keen to do this year was to make applications of Mathematics more prominent and explicit in the classroom, particularly as I am a huge fan of Mathematics being deployed to do things that are clever and interesting.

Enter 'STEM Story Time' - a weekly 5-10 minute slot devoted to a recent discovery, which could not have been achieved without Applied Mathematics. My suggested top five of the 33 discoveries covered during STEM Story Time this academic year would be:

- **Moral Machines:** a huge dataset of 40 million driving decisions made in 223 countries
- **Neurotechnology:** a spinal cord injury patient is able to walk again thanks in large part to machine learning algorithms
- **Volcano-ology:** recent observations which included in mathematical models of pyroclastic flows
- **PIVOT:** astrophysicists, economists and doctors attempt to fix Madagascar's health care system through an obsession with data
- **Particle Robots:** a modular robot that exploits the principles of statistical mechanics

A highlight of the year for Lower School Academic Scholars members was a visit to Bletchley Park along with an excellent extension lesson where they could see and use a variety of encryption techniques, including an actual Enigma machine. The Lorentz machine used by Hitler's generals had 10^{170} possible settings and, even today, if the world's fastest 200 Peta-Flop supercomputer could check one Lorentz Machine setting in a single operation, it would still take $10^{170}/10^{17} = 10^{153}$ seconds, or 2.5×10^{135} times the age of the universe to test them all against an intercepted message.

I am also delighted to report that two of our A Level Mathematicians with a strong interest in science, Boris Baros (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Poom Hall (Lower Sixth, Cobham), will be working on mathematical bird-flocking simulations over the Summer holidays. We're grateful to Professor Steven Bishop from the Applied Mathematics Department of UCL for starting them off in the right direction and we look forward to their report and their computerised demonstrations, in the Autumn.

Charles Adkins

Next year

Everyone in the Department will miss Lenny Murphy as he returns to the States to continue his studies, and we wish him all the very best in the future and heartily thank him for all of his efforts this year at Stowe. David Frankle will be replacing Lenny as the Harvard fellow 2019/2020.

With more pupils than ever taking some form of Maths qualification in the Sixth Form next year and extra teaching time for Lower School pupils, we are all excited about the upcoming challenges and opportunities. Two new members of staff, Simon Kong and Lucia Handley will be joining us to help ensure this expansion is successful and that pupils will be fully supported and excellently taught. We are looking forward to working together, inspiring one another and our pupils and taking the Maths Department to even greater heights in the future.

Mikkel Møller, Head of Maths

SCIENCE



This year saw the launch of BTEC Engineering with eight Lower Sixth pupils going over to the Silverstone University Technical College (UTC) on a weekly basis to carry out practical work in their first-class facilities right in the centre of the Silverstone racetrack. They also study the theory necessary to tackle an interesting range of modules including Electrical & Electronic Principles, Fabrication, Welding and Health, and Safety.

This has been complemented by Mathematics taught at Stowe and next year we will be teaching Material Science. This is a major outcome from Stowe's partnership with the Silverstone UTC and led to the first Stowe - Silverstone UTC Engineering Conference which was held in May this year. Stowe hosted the conference, which allowed 70 pupils to spend the day seeing a staggering array of high profile speakers from the worlds of motor sport and Engineering. We are indebted to Silverstone UTC's Principal, Neil Patterson, for drawing on his many contacts to pull together such an amazing line up. He even managed to get a £800K McLaren Senna parked outside the Science Building for all to look at closely with the chief designer of the car explaining the advanced technology behind its design.

Another first was the launch of AS Level Psychology, which has proved very popular with an even higher demand for it going in to next year. This has led to the rekindled Psychology Society, which complements the already thriving Quantum and Biomedical Societies. In all of these societies, the pupils take the lead to deliver lectures themselves as well as to organise visiting speakers and trips outside of the School. This makes sure that what the societies do is in tune with the interests of the pupils themselves. It also stimulates our pupils to go beyond the syllabus and find out about the practical applications of the theory they study.

We have seen an increasing number of Stoics conducting their own experiments in the laboratories in their own time. This is both for working on their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) or just to further their own experience and understanding of practical work. This not only enriches their studies but is invaluable in supporting ambitious university applications. Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville) did just this and our congratulations go to Cameron who received an offer to read Chemistry at Oxford - the fifth Stoic to do so in the last five years.

Mr Thompson's robotics activity also brings pupils

into the labs where they have to create robots to compete in national events. There is an ever increasing number of Junior and Senior Stoics involved and they have to design and build the robots as well as programming the software that controls them. Our robotics teams continue to have great success and Stowe now regularly holds regional competitions which draws in teams from the UK and abroad.

Stowe keeps up its close link with Medical Detection Dogs (MDD), a local charity at the cutting edge of using the acute sense of smell that dogs have to detect cancer and other illnesses. They also train medical assistant dogs who enhance and save the lives of the people they live with. "Stowe" the first dog we sponsored has now been trained and is helping someone with postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome. Stowe came into the School with the young lady he assists to demonstrate the work that he does. Fundraising for MDD totalled over £8,000 this year, mainly by Lyttelton and Grafton, who have both raised enough money to sponsor a dog.

Our activities within the School are also complemented by field trips in Biology, visits to the Science and Natural History museums, and to the New Science Live event in London. Subject specific trips also happen to complement the theory learnt in the classroom. Stowe also welcomes junior pupils from outside of the School to enable them to use our excellent facilities and to experience the joy of Science. This year we put on events for a Cub Pack, a Brownie Pack, a local junior school and a number of Prep Schools. Our Sixth Form Science Stoics help with these events and act as great ambassadors for the School.

I am very grateful to all of our Science Staff who get involved with putting on such a wide variety of events as well as always making themselves available to help Stoics outside lesson times. Also to the Stoics themselves, who show a great enthusiasm for Science and to our exam candidates who have worked so hard to prepare for their exams. On the run up to their final exams, our A Level candidates made great use of the Science Building late into the evening and over the weekends. The atmosphere that

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For Science education to flourish, not only do you need excellent lessons but also a wealth of activities and opportunities outside of the classroom. You also need a shared passion for Science by both pupils and Staff and for pupils to take the initiative to delve into areas beyond the curriculum that grabs their attention. Thanks to the wonderful facilities in the Worsley Science Centre and the enthusiasm of Stoics and Staff, this is just what is happening at Stowe. ”



*'Stowe'
- our medical
detection
dog*

they have set has been exemplary and their support for each other has been a joy to see. I wish them all the very best come results day and if their efforts are anything to go by, then this year's results should be very good indeed.

James Tearle, Head of Science



Biology



2017-2018 yet again presented the Department with some impressive results. With the all-new tougher linear A Level now in place; 33% of our A Level cohort gained A*/A. With GCSEs more rigorous our first set of 9-1 results were also notable with 28% grades 9-8 and 50% 9-7 grades. These results highlight our continuing success and we are very proud of our pupils' achievements.



The Biology Department has enjoyed another exciting year. Having welcomed into the fold Mrs Philippa Bond and Mrs Alison Cecil, both of whom have had previous teaching experience working for the Department, and it was great to have them back with us once more. In September, Mrs Cecil started AS Psychology as an Elective, which has proved very popular amongst Stoics. Next year's numbers are set to rise with around 20 Stoics opting to study Psychology alongside their three other A Levels. The Psychology Society continues to go from strength to strength with both Mrs Blake and Mrs Cecil at the helm; arranging meetings and talks held in the Science Lecture Theatre.

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We have been fortunate to have had a number of speakers visit the Department this year. Ms Leanne Riley, Team Leader of Surveillance and Population-based Prevention for the Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion for the World Health Organisation, came to talk to our Fourth Form pupils. Here the pupils were able to use the knowledge they had gained in lessons to discuss issues related to a wide range of non-communicable diseases (NCD). Risk factors, mortality rates, exposure targets, prevention from screening to elimination of trans-fats from the food supply as well as health system responses were discussed. As disease is now a major component of GCSE Biology specification it was great to get some insight into the impact NCDs

are having not only in developed but also developing countries.

The Lower Sixth Biologists had the opportunity to visit the Sanger Centre, Cambridge where the British contribution to the Human Genome Project was conducted. This institute mapped one third of the genome, making it the single largest contributor in the world. During the visit, our pupils were able to use the computer programme BLAST to work out which protein is coded for by a particular DNA sequence. This hands-on experience brought sequencing to life for the pupils. We then visited the Bioinformatics Lab where James Torrance led us through the development of sequencing from the laborious sequencing of a few bases at a time to now where thousands of bases can be sequenced automatically in a very short space of time. Stoics were amazed to see that 'in the field' sequencing can be done very quickly with a piece of equipment no larger than a small hard drive. This was a valuable addition to the curriculum as gene technology is now a very large component of the A Level course.

The Biomedical Society has had a busy year with a number of presentations from speakers both external and internal. Each year members of the Society are invited to compete in The Royal Society of Biology's Olympiad. Designed as a fiendish test of an individual's ability to use their biological prowess to solve a series of unforeseen problems. Under the tutelage of Dr Lakin, four of our Upper Sixth biologists took up the challenge and performed very well with Helena Vince (Queen's) gaining a Bronze award; Poppy de Salis (Stanhope) and Lexie Cook (West) Highly Commended and Liza Zakon (Lyttelton) a Commended Certificate.

Another very successful year in the Biology Department closed with our annual residential field course in Pembrokeshire. Our A Level Biologists were



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This year Mr Righton, Dr Lakin and Dr Lyons accompanied our Biologists to Wales, they were blessed with fantastic weather, returning to School sporting tans! During four days of intensive activities, a substantial amount of Ecology was covered from the specification and pupils were able to apply theoretical concepts to real life contexts, whilst having some fun too.

The fieldwork proved successful and informative so that our Biologists now have an ecosystem or two that they are familiar with for their finals next summer, even though they may not recall all the Latin names!

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so excited at the prospect of sand dune succession and rocky shore zonation that they were eager to board the coach at 7am on the last Monday of term! This year Mr Righton, Dr Lakin and Dr Lyons accompanied our Biologists to Wales, they were blessed with fantastic weather, returning to School sporting tans! During four days of intensive activities, a substantial amount of Ecology was covered from the specification and pupils were able to apply theoretical concepts to real life contexts, whilst having some fun too. The fieldwork proved successful and informative so that our Biologists now have an ecosystem or two that they are familiar with for their finals next Summer, even though they may not recall all the Latin names! A wide range of activities were crammed into the schedule to indulge our curiosity which included, woodland conservation and management, aquatic ecosystems, the distribution of organisms on rocky shores and sand dunes. We have already booked our return visit for next year's Lower Sixth, which I am sure will be just as successful and rewarding.

As we bid farewell to our Upper Sixth, we wish them all the best for the future as they move on to extend their academic careers at university. We are delighted that there are a number wishing to pursue an 'ology' in some form or another; Ellie Bewes (Queen's), Helena Vince (Queen's), Poppy de Salis (Stanhope), Milly Cranmer (Nugent), Liza Zakon (Lyttelton), Coco



Brooks (Lyttelton), Arabella White (Nugent), Isabel Ward (Stanhope) and Lexie Cook (West).

I am once again indebted to the vastly experienced members of the Biology Department who enable such successes to happen, including Dr Mary Lakin who will sadly be leaving us after 12 years teaching.

Louise Carter, Head of Biology

SCIENCE

Physics

I'm sometimes asked in lessons 'Sir, what's the point of all of this?' or 'Why do we need the Large Hadron Collider? Isn't there a better way to spend \$5bn?'

Now, your answer to the latter may be yes – and I'm inclined to agree that there might be better ways to spend that cosmic amount of money. But the point of scientific research and endeavour is simple – knowledge and understanding. It is human nature to want to understand more than we do now, and in order to answer the biggest questions of science, we need some big pieces of equipment. How many of us have looked up at the stars at night and questioned our place in the universe? Or have marvelled in the wonders of technology or the advancements in medical diagnoses and treatments? Physics is at the very heart of all of this, and the leaders in these dynamic, cutting-edge fields had to start with Newton's Laws. The 'point', to put it simply, is to understand so that we might one day discover. For our pupils at Stowe, this is the simple aim of every physics lesson they've ever been in.

This year's departing Upper Sixth will be remembered for years to come as one of the most dedicated and hardworking Physics cohorts in memory. I've been simply astounded by the diligence and the

tenacity of the Class of 2019 Physicists, who have taken a change of exam board and preparing for a new assessment structure in their stride and have capitalised on ever-greater availability of revision resources and past papers by completing every single one. It is perhaps unsurprising that this year group includes many looking to move to further study in the physical sciences and engineering - and we wish them all the very best for their futures.

It's not putting it too strongly to say that I'm incredibly proud of our pupils in the Upper Sixth this year and look forward to hearing stories of their continued successes after Stowe.

A real pleasure this year has been enjoying some of our pupils taking on EPQs and HPQs in fields related to Physics. Edward Anderson (Upper Sixth, Bruce) completed a sensational EPQ on a quantum space shuttle launching system, complete with functioning model built using neodymium magnets and supercooled superconductors. Stefano Beni (Upper Sixth, Chandos) wrote his EPQ on in-space propulsion and humanity's possibility to navigate across galaxies. Kamsi Mbanefo (Upper Sixth, Temple) built a proximity-based automated machine and Abzal Amirbay (Upper Sixth, Grafton) completed his EPQ on the design and function of jet engines.





Predictably, of course, there were several HPQs on the ever popular flat-earth theories and Moon landing conspiracies which, whilst impressively presented pieces of research, were questionable science! I hope that future generations of Projects pupils, at both HPQ and EPQ level, will be inspired by the work of Edward, Stefano, Kamsi and Abzal and delve into a scientific field for their research project.

Having entered the lottery for tickets every year I've been at Stowe, it was finally our turn to visit the UK's National Synchrotron Light Source Facility, the Diamond Light Source (DLS), in Oxfordshire. The DLS creates extremely intense beams of electromagnetic radiation to examine the internal structures of everything from proteins to aircraft engines. Our visit was during a shut-down of the accelerator, which meant the Stoics were able to get into the accelerator chamber and the various laboratories around the 560m ring. Hearing from experts in their fields, Stoics were able to get a first-hand account of working in a range of areas of scientific research.

This year saw the departure of a fixture of the Physics Department with the retirement of our Assistant Technician, Sue Jolley. It has been our pleasure to welcome Sarah Crawford back to the Stowe Science Faculty, as she joined us in January and quickly settled back into the unique environment that is a science prep-room. Thanks also to our Senior Technician Alison Ramsay for her continued hard work and dedication to the Physics Department. It's not overstating it to say that a science department is only as good as their technicians and I'm very thankful to both Sarah and Ali for all their efforts this year.

It is, however, with a heavy heart that I write this Stoic article, my last as Head of Physics at Stowe

School, as I depart for pastures new. However, I am very pleased to hand over to my friend, Mr Paul Thompson, who takes over as Head of Department from September 2019. Also leaving Stowe is Dr Tara Yates who has, for three years, inspired Stoics in Physics and been a wonderful friend and colleague. Tara, all the very best for the future from all of us at Stowe.

An exciting year is ahead, with three new members of the Physics Department at Stowe as Mr Steven Matthews, Mr Dean Gardner and Mr Kamaran Fathulla are welcomed to the Department from September.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank my colleagues in the Department for their friendship throughout the years. Mr Paul Thompson, Mr Brian Hart, Mr Simon Rose and Mr Jonathan Davis, along with the new Staff, good luck and I look forward to hearing updates from Stowe.

Craig Donoghue, Head of Physics

Speech Day Prizewinners

Friends of Stowe Prize for Physics
- Ned Ellison (Fifth Form, Bruce)

Anthony Pedder Prize for Physics
- Poom Hall (Lower Sixth, Cobham)

Humphrey Foster Prize for Physics
- Lochie Shillington
(Upper Sixth, Grafton)

Chemistry

We began the 2018-19 academic year by reflecting on the results of our first cohort of GCSE pupils certificating under the new 9 to 1 qualification.

We were delighted with the results that our 95 Chemistry GCSE pupils produced, with 19 of them achieving a grade 9 and 55% of all pupils achieving a grade 7 or higher. The Summer of 2018 also saw our second cohort of A Level Stoics certificating under the new linear A Levels and once again, we were very pleased with the results. 10 of the 22 pupils achieved an A or A* grade, whilst a further six pupils achieved a grade B. Congratulations to Victoria Beglin (Nugent 18), who achieved three A* grades at A Level, including Chemistry, who is continuing Chemistry as part of her Natural Sciences degree at University College London.

June saw our third year of participation in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, and this year's group of seven Lower Sixth Chemists produced our strongest set of results to date. Across the country, there were over 9,000 entries into this year's competition. For our pupils, Copper Certificates were awarded to Edward Don (Chandos), Henrietta Gendler (Queen's), Hannah Laurence (Stanhope) and Rohan Sekhri (Walpole) and a Silver Certificate to Poom Hall (Cobham). Boris Baros (Bruce) and Harry Mehta (Walpole) received Gold Certificates, their scores being within the top 10% of all entries received. My congratulations to all those who took part.

Following on from his Gold Certificate in last Summer's Chemistry Challenge, Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville) took part in the Chemistry Olympiad in January. The Olympiad is part of an international competition in which pupils sit a written test of their chemical knowledge, based on real-world chemistry problems. Cameron's score saw him rewarded with a Silver Certificate and placed him within the top 20% of more than 7,000 entries. This completes an impressive year for Cameron following his successful interview and subsequent offer to study Chemistry at Oxford University.

Head of Science and experienced Chemistry teacher, Mr James Tearle, continued again this year to host Chemistry enrichment events to inspire and enthuse the younger pupils of our Prep Schools and local



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Mr James Tearle, continued again this year to host Chemistry enrichment events to inspire and enthuse the younger pupils of our Prep Schools and local community.”

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community. The combination of inspiring talks, enthusiastic demonstrations and hands-on practical experiences is a great way to fire up the interests of the next generation of scientists. Also this Summer, with the help of fellow members of the Science Faculty, we have held Science evenings for the local Brownies and Cub Scouts, the latter a group of 42 young people aged 8 to 10 years who were awarded their Scientist Activity Badge after successfully completing six experimental activities.

As this academic year draws to a close, we say goodbye to Kim McMahon who retires from teaching at Stowe after 21 years and stepping into Kim's shoes in September will be Luke Radley, who joins us from the British School of Bahrain and we also welcome Dr Joanna Wakeford to the Department. Finally, I must express my sincere thanks to all the Chemistry Staff and Technicians for the continued support they have shown and their willingness to help as our Department continues to grow and we strive to do the very best for our pupils.

Alexandra Waine, Head of Chemistry

Politics



Harold Wilson once claimed that a week was a long time in politics. He was right, this year has seen a political or constitutional crisis emerge on an almost weekly basis. We have taught the Politics course against the backdrop of Theresa May reenacting the parrot sketch from Monty Python with her withdrawal agreement, the continuing saga of the Mueller Report, Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion, and the Conservative leadership race. All of this has impressed upon the pupils the relevance and immediacy of our subject and the enjoyment in better understanding the nature of these rapidly changing and historically important events.

Only a few weeks into the Michaelmas Term and we were fortunate enough to have a visit by the current Speaker of the House of Commons and local MP, John Bercow. He is a consummate raconteur and pupils enjoyed listening to his political biography and his attempts to keep order within the chamber at a time of such ideological polarity. Stoics then asked a number of extremely probing questions which delved into areas, such as Mr Bercow's role in the Iraq vote and his views on the independent education system. Only a few weeks later, 15 Stoics were off to Woburn Abbey for a black tie meal with Jacob Rees-Mogg. As we arrived at the Woburn estate, the

sun was setting across Humphry Repton's exquisite landscaped gardens and the deer were coming out to greet us. Mr Rees-Mogg enthralled the pupils with lively and engaging conversation before answering questions about what would happen in the event of a no-deal Brexit. All Stoics were thoroughly convinced of the strength of his intellect, if not the strength of his arguments.

As the nights were drawing in and Christmas decorations were being put up around the School, Lower Sixth politics pupils wrapped themselves up in thick coats and scarves, and headed off to London. We visited the Cabinet War Rooms, had a tour of Parliament and listened to a debate in the House of Commons on the financial implications of leaving the EU, before retiring to a restaurant for debate of a political nature.

Exam results continue to be very good with 74.1% of pupils achieving A*-B, over 33% gaining A*-A, and many Stoics gaining places at some of the Country's most prestigious universities.

I would like to thank both Mr Floyd and Ms Shah for their unstinting support this year; it has been a pleasure to lead such an exciting, vibrant and talented Department.

Simon Cole, Head of Politics



Geography

Never has there been a more important time for pupils to be studying geography and starting to understand the world around them, and the impacts that we as humans are having upon it. From Greta Thunberg's climate campaign, bringing the realities of climate change to the full attention of the media and governments alike, to the realities of the potential impacts that Brexit could have on the UK, these are issues that will affect every one of us over the course of our lifetime. It is therefore reassuring to see the consistently high numbers of pupils choosing to study geography at both GCSE and A Level, as well as selecting it for further study at university.

The Department has once again seen excellent exam results this year, with 28% of A Level geographers gaining an A*/A grade last year and 22% of GCSE geographers achieving a grade 8 or 9 - no mean feat in the first set of examinations for the new specifications! It is pleasing to also note the excellent value added results achieved by geographers, which see 94% of GCSE geographers achieving their baseline (target) grade or better and 72% of A Level geographers doing the same.

However, being geographers, we don't like to define ourselves by results alone, more importantly pupils gain a very wide range of skills, from data manipulation and statistical analysis, to the interpretation of scientific theories in relation to the physical geography of the world and the understanding of human interactions with and upon the planet and each other. Employability is a key strength of geographers, where pupils are literate, numerate and able to understand complex theory and use it to create fact based, reasoned arguments!

One of the best places to see these skills in action is in our fieldwork, and once again, this year we have completed a number of compulsory field trips. The Lower Sixth started the year with a trip to Oxford, visiting the Cowley Road area and Woodstock village, to help them understand ideas of place perception and identity, collecting data and doing surveys to enhance their fieldwork skills. Early October saw the Fifth Form collecting data on the River Windrush in the Cotswolds, enabling them to produce a project on river channel change and help to prepare them for their GCSE exams. Late April was the turn of the Fourth Form, who visited Bristol on a glorious sunny day and were able to see the areas they had studied in the classroom, collecting data on

variables such as environmental quality, dominant land use and pedestrian density, towards their study of the Harbourside and Temple Quarter areas of regeneration in Bristol, again, examined within their GCSE. Mid-May was the 'big' trip, where the Lower Sixth undertook a three day residential course in Dorset, helping to enhance their fieldwork skills and prepare them for their A Level independent project, worth 20% of their A Level. Amazingly we had wonderful sunny weather again this year, so I fear that in future years, pupils will come to expect me to organise the weather too...

Other key events within the year saw the November Annual Inter-House GeogSoc Quiz, a well-fought battle of geographical knowledge, ranging from guess the country by its shape, to guess the geographical word in the song title and not forgetting my personal favourite 'what's that rock?' A number of GeogSoc evening talks were held, including a look at International Development in Nepal, by Global Action





Aid. Pupils were also fortunate to be given an insight into the aftermath of the Boxing Day tsunami, given by our own English teacher (and former journalist) Mrs Heather Eisenhut. We were also very fortunate to host Dr Neil Hart, a leading Climate Scientist from Oxford University, who talked about 'Climate Change past, present and future' a talk of great relevance and interest for all pupils.

Next year will see some changes and new challenges for the Department, including the loss of Peter Deakin - not just Chandos Housemaster, but a key member of the Geography Department and an outstanding Geography teacher for the past seven years. We will welcome new teacher Shelley Rowley into the Department as a full-time Geography teacher, from her PGCE training role (and former role as an

environmental consultant). We have embarked on a change to a new specification with the Lower School, seeing a switch to the iGCSE course and with that will come a new programme for the Third Form from Michaelmas Term. They will study some exciting geographical themes and locations, such as Antarctica and Globalisation, providing them with a good skills base and relevant geographical knowledge that will help to prepare them for the iGCSE course.

But in this age of change, where worldwide problems and challenges such as climate change, extreme poverty and migration are issues which invite a need for everyone to have a geographical education, I'll leave you with this thought:

"People look down on stuff like geography and meteorology, and not only because they're standing on one and being soaked by the other. They don't look quite like real science. But geography is only physics slowed down and with a few trees stuck on it, and meteorology is full of excitingly fashionable chaos and complexity." Sir Terry Pratchett OBE

Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography



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“
At A Level, an excellent range of coursework grades for this year has already been recorded and we await results in August with hopeful anticipation. The Upper Sixth have worked incredibly hard and several go on to study History at universities including York, Bristol and Edinburgh.”

History

The History Department continues to thrive and I have been impressed with the achievements of Stoics studying History again in 2018-19. The year began exceptionally well as pupils performed strongly in their GCSE and A Level exams, with the vast majority (88%) scoring A*-B at A Level and well over half (54%) scoring A*/A grades at GCSE. The Department remains one of the top subjects for value added and I am always pleased when pupils exceed their expectations, regardless of the grade.

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With the move towards 9-1 grades finally working through to all qualifications, our Fifth Form have had to work especially hard, learning more content and being assessed in an even more rigorous style than any previous cohort. To achieve a strong grade at GCSE, analytical and persuasive extended writing is now especially valued, which has been a challenge that Stoics across the year groups have been grappling with admirably. Pupils seem to enjoy the content of the new course and we are looking forward to teaching the Russian Revolution at this level for the first time next year.

At the lower end of the School, it has been encouraging to see a new crop of Third Formers opting to study the subject, with 90 pupils now in the GCSE sets in this year group. Many of these pupils attended the trip run by Fran Shah in conjunction with the Philosophy and Religion Department to Beth Shalom Holocaust Museum, where they had the privilege of hearing the harrowing testimony of Arek Hersh MBE, a survivor of Auschwitz Birkenau. This followed on well from the account of Lord Dubs' survival on the Kindertransport on Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

On this theme, Ben Edeh (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Emma Hill (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) travelled to Auschwitz in March, accompanied by Giles Cuddy

and the team from the Holocaust Educational Trust on the Lessons from Auschwitz Project. While this will sadly be the last year that pupils from independent schools can take part in this opportunity, we will continue to make this aspect of the past a central theme in the curriculum at Stowe. In particular, the Department looks forward to working with Francesca Holloway in the Philosophy and Religion Department in making Stowe a recognised "Holocaust Beacon School" next year. The other major international visit was undertaken by Sixth Form historians following the modern course, who explored Washington DC last summer in an excellent trip organised by Fran Shah.

These longer-haul trips were complemented by several more local excursions, such as Henry Swayne's guided tour of Oxford for Upper Sixth early modern historians, which included coffee with Professor Steven Gunn of Merton College and the now traditional Lower Sixth early modernists' trip to Hampton Court.

We have also been fortunate to welcome several excellent external speakers to Stowe to stretch pupils well beyond their usual curriculum. In November, Suzannah Lipscomb gave an inspiring masterclass focusing on the rule of Henry VIII and whether it might be considered despotic. This was a fascinating chance to examine contemporary sources and for the audience to make up their own minds on a challenging and engaging debate, facilitated by one of the foremost historians in this area.

We were also treated to the fabulously engaging and accessible "Histories of the Unexpected" live show with Sam Willis and James Daybell, which examined seemingly mundane themes, such as 'The Hand' and 'Clocks' in a format that linked history across a range of time periods and was presented with immense skill and polish. It was a format and style of historical storytelling that I am sure will become increasingly popular.

The approach reflected some of the inter-disciplinary thinking that we have encouraged our pupils to undertake this year, with historians using their

knowledge and skills to excel in other academic pursuits, such as model United Nations and Debating Society, in which our new History teacher, Rhea Stafford-Smith, has been very involved. This cross-curricular approach will be something that we hope to develop even further next year.

Given our continued focus on the final Centenary commemorations of the First World War in 2018, we were also pleased to hear from Allan Wood, a battlefield guide, who gave a wide-ranging and detailed account of the political background of the conflict, stretching pupils far beyond the introductory course they received in the Third Form.

The McElwee Award, which falls under the aegis of the Department, continues to grow in strength, providing Lower Sixth pupils with an incredible opportunity to travel independently in Europe with a cultural or historical theme. We look forward to seeing the reports from the four pairs of pupils chosen during an exciting selection day in March, during which we heard the proposals from the 16 Stoics who made the shortlist.

George Gauvain (Temple) and Micky Shillington (Bruce) will travel to Pamplona, Bilbao and Madrid to assess the impact of the Spanish Civil War, Henry Saunders Watson (Chatham) and Toby Thorpe, (Chatham) go to Normandy to study D-Day and the Normandy Campaign, Harry Mehta (Walpole) and Valentin Rummel (Temple) will make a comparison of the Nazi and Russian impacts on Warsaw and Krakow, and Rohan Sekhri (Walpole) and Alfie Cliff (Chandos) will consider the ancient but relevant philosophy of Stoicism in Rome. I am sure that their trips will prove enlightening.

To celebrate the Award, the McElwee Lecture was given by the prolific writer and highly respected historian Jeremy Black MBE, who considered whether Britain might have been able to win the American War of Independence. A masterclass in making history approachable while also challenging our understanding of the past, this was a memorable evening for a wide variety of pupils.

After an excellent year, the only tinge of sadness is losing the outstanding teaching talents of Henry Swayne, who goes on to train for ordination in the Church of England. We are so pleased to see him use his obvious gifts in such a positive way but his classes will miss his kindness, sense of fun and expert advice. In September, we will welcome Dominic Green, who joins us from Sherburn High School in Yorkshire. We are excited to see him inspire and guide Stoics in their learning.

The academic year 2018-19 was an exciting and memorable 12 months in the History Department and we look forward to the challenges that await us in 2019-20.

Paul Griffin, Head of History



This year has seen another flurry of activity for the Vanguard Programme, HPQ and EPQ qualifications. This year saw our second HPQ cohort complete the qualification and the standard of their work continues to rise. The current Fourth Form have been allowed to create artefacts and I am looking forward to seeing and experiencing the exciting work that is being done already for these.

The Vanguard Programme continues to grow and develop from strength to strength. This year has seen the Third Form complete their digital learning modules in the Michaelmas Term and produce a digital project of something they are interested in. This Segway'ed nicely into the Lent Term where the Third Form have started their HPQ - this will then allow completion of the Project by the end of the Fourth Form academic year. The pupils have thrown themselves into the more independent nature of the qualification and there are some excellent projects taking shape.

The EPQ is now a well-established feature of the A Level academic programme and this has been helped by the qualification being completed in the Lower Sixth year only. There is once again a huge variety of projects on show - ranging from books being made about diabetes to putting together advice and instruction on how to wakeboard.

Michael Rickner, Head of Projects



A huge well done to the 2019 Prize Day winners:

HPQ: Sophia Batey (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Maisie Roberts (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)

EPQ: Jamie Baillie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Susannah Woodd (Upper Sixth, West)

PROJECTS

FRENCH



The limits of my language are the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

As my final year as Head of French draws to a close, I look back on my 17 years at the helm with great fondness, affection and pride. I have worked with some great pupils and linguists and have had the pleasure of working with fantastic colleagues who expertly combine fun, dedication, passion and expectation. I am enormously grateful for all their support and to the hard work of all the Stoics who have climbed the steps in the languages block and embraced the life skill of learning languages.

There was much apprehension as we awaited the 2018 exam results, as it was the first group to take the new more challenging syllabus. Their results however were a testament to their endeavour with 81% of our A Level candidates scoring A*-B and our congratulations go to Paul Purdon (Upper Sixth, Grenville) for securing the elusive A*. Our GCSE pupils also continued their success in French with 51% securing an A* or A grade and 12 scoring the new grade 9!

We are delighted to have appointed our new Head of French, Emilie Danis from Radley College who, we are very confident, will bring enthusiasm and direction to both the French Department and the Stoics from September 2019 and we look forward to welcoming her to the team.

June in Paris

The Lower Sixth trip to Paris this year was once again a great success for the Stoics who will be studying the impact of the Second World War on the people of France and how events from the previous three decades led to such a terrible episode in the history of the Country.

Eight Stoics, accompanied by Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne, set off in June to spend three days in the French Capital. Over the three days, we made three separate trips to the Musée de l'Armée where we enjoyed guided tours on the years leading up to the war and how Adolf Hitler came to power. Also, we learned about the fearful predicament in which the French people found themselves, having either to live alongside the Nazi invaders or choosing to risk their lives fighting against them and sabotaging the German war machine. Our third visit focused on the German defeat and the worldwide struggle that led to Adolf Hitler's ultimate demise in the Berlin bunker.

For me, the most shocking revelation was that the execution of the six million Jews did not take place in any of the German work camps, but in the gas chambers of the extermination camps further to the east in Poland and Czechoslovakia, showing that the Nazis knew that what they were doing was so unspeakably wrong.

Our visit to the 'Mémorial de la Shoah' delivered yet more shocking revelations for our Stoics. The term 'Shoah' translates from Hebrew as 'the terrible catastrophe'. The French no longer use the term 'holocaust' as it suggests some form of sacrificial offering to God. Clearly, the Church would not want to be associated with such a horrific historical event. Our guide described the plight of the Jews over the last two millennia and how the Germans, along with the French police, deported French Jews from Paris in the infamous 'Rafle du Vel d'Hiv' in June 1942, in which 66,000 men, women, children and babies were sent to the death camps. The latter is particularly relevant to the novel by Joseph Joffo 'Un sac de billes' that we study in the Upper Sixth. Our final affront to the senses was delivered at the exit to the



October in Nice

On the first Sunday of the October Half-Term, Mr and Mrs Dobson set off with 10 Fifth Form pupils of French to spend five days in Nice, staying with French host-families and attending four three-hour French lessons at the Alpha-B language school in the heart of the Midi and on the spectacularly beautiful Côte d'Azur.

Having arrived on the Sunday afternoon and been whisked off to their respective hosts' apartments for supper and for their first overnight stay, our intrepid tourists arrived for their first morning of lessons and were quickly put through their paces with their native French language teacher. The first afternoon's excursion was around Nice, Old Nice and its unique flower market, the castle and its waterfall and finally, a visit to the world-renowned glacier 'Fenocchio' in the Old Town, where pupils were invited to sample from the huge range of flavours of ice cream and sorbet on offer, on the condition that they order in French!

After lessons on Tuesday, we set off to visit the town of Èze and its medieval walled city and tropical cactus garden. Also on the agenda for the afternoon was the visit to the Parfumerie 'Fragonard', another world-famous French brand producing exquisite perfumes and soaps.

On the Wednesday afternoon, we took the train to Antibes, where we visited the Marina with its myriad of yachts and huge private boats and where we were able to explore the winding streets of this picturesque and historic market town. A surprising hit with the boys was the Picasso Museum housed in the building where Pablo Picasso produced a good number of the works on show.

Thursday afternoon saw us off on the train to Monaco and Monte Carlo, where we visited the spectacular aquarium and the Jacques Cousteau Centre Océanographique, the Casino and Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars, which was a great hit for Mr Dobson and the boys!

This was a fantastic trip and all of the Stoics showed that their French had improved in lessons and at home with their hosts.



memorial, in the form of a chamber that is covered from floor to ceiling on four walls by photographs of children who were deported from Paris and gassed by the Nazis.

We dined out each evening in Paris in a different restaurant and Stoics were able to explore the Latin Quarter at Notre-Dame, the Rue de Rivoli with all of its shops, as well as Les Invalides, the Forum at Les Halles and a wonderful evening visit to Montmartre with all of its live music, artists, painters and street entertainment.

A particular highlight of the trip was the Tour Montparnasse, where we climbed to the rooftop terrace on the 59th floor to enjoy the most spectacular panoramic view of Paris and where no shortage of selfies were taken! Another spectacular visit was to the Catacombs of Paris, where we saw the bones from the Paris graveyards that had been moved from their original graves and relocated to underground chambers and labyrinths in the late 1700s. Rather than being the shocker that we had anticipated, we found that the care and humanity that had been shown in this respect for the dead was quite apparent.

I would like to thank all the Stoics who have worked hard to improve their language this year in the

Department and to congratulate this year's prize winners. Annabel Havard (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) was awarded the John Webster Prize for French, Ruby Redfern (Lower Sixth, Queen's) won the Friends of Stowe (FOS) Prize for French and Evgeniia Zen (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) the Capel Cure Prize for French (GCSE).

I would also like to thank all my colleagues in the Department for their commitment, hard work and passion for language learning. They continue to make the French Department a successful and happy place to learn and work.

Tracy Jones, Head of French

French Theatre: La Salle des Enigmes (The Escape Room)

The escape room is a fully-immersive real-life game in which small groups of players are locked inside a room and given a series of riddles, puzzles and clues which they must solve to eventually unlock the door and escape the room. They have just one hour in which to complete all the puzzles.

All escape rooms are different and are styled with a particular theme. This game in this play was no exception and the theme for this escape room was Tutankhamun's Tomb and Howard Carter's Tent.



On Wednesday 1 May, The Onatti Theatre Company sent two native French actors to perform this year's French play in the Roxburgh Hall for Third and Fourth Form French sets. The play was scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the pupils, as was the immediate involvement of two of the audience members who were hauled into participate right at the very start! This was a very different approach to that taken in previous years and it was a real winner - our Stoics simply did not know who was next to be plucked from the audience and put into the spotlight. Not only did they have to speak French with the actors but they also had to try to solve the riddles in order to escape the room!

As someone who has seen each year's different production over the last 10 years, I can say that in all honesty this was by far the best performance yet.

A superb evening, and we have already made a booking for next year!

Tracy Jones, Head of French



German Play: Onatti Theatre Company

The German Department was delighted to welcome The Onatti Theatre Company in the Summer Term for a one-off performance of 'So Eine Nervensäge', a story of sibling rivalry between two sisters.

The two German actors who performed this 50 minute play, put a lot of energy and enthusiasm into their performances and kept the audience's attention throughout. The language was pitched at just the right level for pupils who have been studying German for a couple of years and whilst it may not have been Goethe, it was a wonderful opportunity to see and hear German spoken in a different context. As always in Onatti plays, audience participation is key, which is something Stoics love and dread in equal measure. This year Skyla Wakeman (Third Form, Lyttelton) was asked on stage to take part. She remained calm amongst the confusion and bravely joined in! We were also joined by five pupils from The Royal Latin and their teacher. My thanks go to Mrs Wheeler and all those who attended for their exemplary behaviour and for being so fully engaged.

Alice Tearle, Head of German

GERMAN

“
Stoics are shrewd enough to know that mastering a foreign language will set them apart and increase their chances of having a successful career.”

Germany may be the Country of poets and thinkers, Das Land der Dichter und Denker, but German is also the language of business. With the German economy being the fourth strongest in the world, it is surprising that the number of pupils opting to learn German in the UK is dwindling. Luckily, this is not the case at Stowe.

Our A Level numbers are healthy; in fact, they are slightly on the increase, thus bucking the trend. Stoics are shrewd enough to know that mastering a foreign language will set them apart and increase their chances of having a successful career. Although German isn't an easy language to learn, I was delighted with the 2018 exam results, both at GCSE and A Level, especially considering they both sat a new specification. It is never easy to be the first year group to trial out a new exam, especially one that is a lot more demanding than any before it but they did so very successfully.

Amongst the many highlights of this year was the German Fourth Form exchange to Landheim, our partner school near Munich on the shores of the Ammersee. A week or so before the end of the Lent Term, four Stoics (Joshua Farchie (Temple), Annabel Hing (Stanhope), Henry Hink (Walpole) and Clara Tearle (Queen's)) embarked on a three-week stay in Landheim, where they either stayed with families or at the school as boarders. During their stay, they attended lessons during the day and were treated to amazing outings at weekends. They visited Munich, went to the opera to see Spartacus, spent a day in the mountain up the Herzogstand and visited Louis II's fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein. When I saw the Stoics two weeks into their exchange, I was amazed at how quickly they had settled into the Bavarian lifestyle, enjoying everything this excellent school has to offer. Needless to say, their German improved dramatically and it gave me great satisfaction to see that in the end of year exam, the top three results were all obtained by students who went on the exchange (discarding the native speakers). This shows how invaluable these exchanges are, both academically and socially.

As I am writing this, Mrs Wheeler is planning our bi-annual Sixth Form trip to Berlin. Having enjoyed our exchange with the Klosterschule in Thuringia for the past eight years, we felt it was time for a change and are therefore organising a five-day study-trip to Berlin

next Easter instead.

Mrs Wheeler has put together the most exciting itinerary and we hope that as many Lower and Upper Sixth Stoics as possible will be able to join us on this fantastic trip. Having been on a number of trips and exchanges myself during my time at school, I cannot stress enough how important they are, as learning predominantly happens outside the classroom when studying a language.

In March, I accompanied the Upper Sixth Germanists to London to attend an A Level study day focusing on literature and film, two essential aspects of the A2 syllabus. The lectures were very informative and gave us an insight into several different aspects of Das Leben Der Anderen and Der Vorleser, the two works of literature and cinematography we study at A Level.

Moreover, in May we welcomed back The Onatti Theatre Company, as we do every year. This year they treated us to a wildly entertaining 50-minute play in German entitled 'So eine Nervensäge'. These plays performed entirely in German are aimed at Lower School pupils and do not only provide an entertaining evening for the pupils, they are also an opportunity for Stoics to expand their key vocabulary for their upcoming GCSE exam.

Of course, I can't finish this annual review without mentioning food. If you have read this column before, you will be aware that we endeavour to expose our German pupils to as much German food as possible and this year was no exception. The Sixth Formers were again busy baking Weihnachtsplätzchen (German Christmas cookies) in the run up to Christmas, attempting new daring recipes that tasted delicious despite their names - Totenbeinchen (corpses' legs)! We also discovered that quark is surprisingly delicious when mixed with plum butter and Lidl produce the best fresh pretzels in town.

As this academic year draws to a close, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs Wheeler who started with us in September and has thrown herself into Stowe life with great aplomb and enthusiasm, and Mrs Hutchin who continues to be the best German Assistant a school can ever get.

Alice Tearle, Head of German

SPANISH



The Spanish Department has been bustling this year with all kinds of activities bringing the Spanish culture alive.

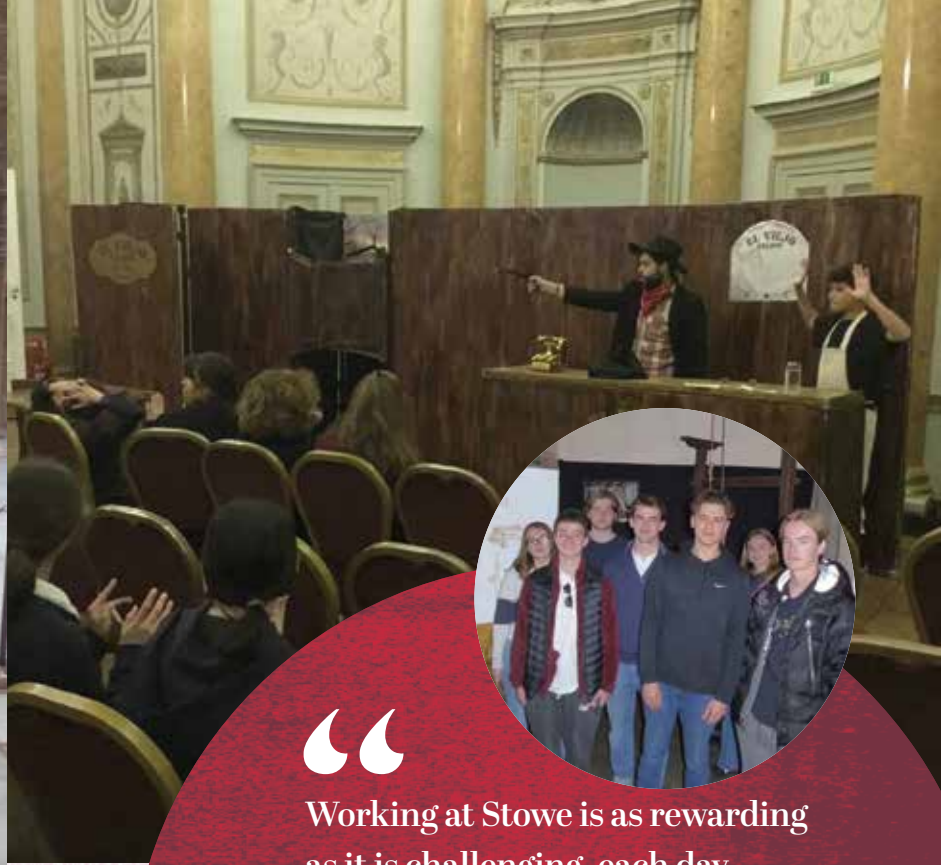
Last Summer, the Spanish Department had the first cohort of pupils undergoing the more demanding new GCSE specification and the new number grading system, so it was very much an unknown quantity. External exams replaced controlled assessments in Speaking and Writing, translations (previously only found at A Level) appeared on the reading and writing papers and pupils had to tackle reading comprehensions on authentic literary texts. Also, mixed tier entry for different skills was replaced by either Foundation or Higher level. Considering all of this, the results were extremely pleasing overall, and we performed well above the national average - a testimony of the hard work of our Stoics.

During the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, the Spanish Department liaised and planned activities with the Spanish teacher at Bourton Meadow Primary Academy to take the Lower Sixth Spanish Stoics beyond the confines of Stowe to use their language skills, while reaching out to the broader community of Buckingham. In December, our Stoics taught three groups of Year 6 pupils. Our Hispanic Stoics were themselves enthusiastic, demonstrating and teaching vocabulary through fun games. All this, transmitted enjoyment to the primary pupils. Indeed, this was an absolute highlight to see our caring Stoics take responsibility in the community, inspiring the younger generations with their passion and love for language learning.

Stowe's Lower Sixth Spanish pupils and embarked upon a minibus journey to Buckingham's Louis Restaurant to enjoy some native Spanish flare and

refine their spontaneous speaking. Mr Morales-Shearer, Dr Ferrero, Ms Peña, Mr Smith and Mr Dobson accompanied the Stoics, to facilitate a mix of revision and casual conversation during the meal. These proved helpful in dispelling the nerves Stoics had about the trip, as they were aware that from the time they set foot on the bus, all discussion had to take place in Spanish. A favourite among the icebreakers prepared was a guessing game centred on famous Argentinian dance which proved to be significantly challenging for our Stoics. Pupils also sampled a wide variety of appealing tapas washed down with a virgin sangria, leaving a legion of empty plates in our wake. The class returned to Stowe enthused to continue our revision in the final stretch prior to Christmas, with the newfound confidence and clarity only a full stomach can afford.

During the first week of the Easter break, Mr and Mrs Dobson travelled with nine of the Spanish Sixth Form pupils to the stunning and vibrant city of Granada. Despite the unseasonable weather, the Stoics thoroughly enjoyed the Spanish culture and atmosphere that this southern Spanish city had to offer. All pupils were staying with host families during their visit where they practised their linguistic abilities as well as experienced the Spanish gastronomy. All of our lucky Stoics had Spanish lessons with a breathtaking backdrop of the renowned UNESCO World Heritage of La Alhambra. They experienced the hectic life of a traditional Spanish market, narrow streets and lovely plazas as well as feeling the passion of a Flamenco show. Cooking the notorious Paella rice dish (that has ancient roots but its modern form originated in the mid-19th Century in the area around the Albufera lagoon) was thoroughly enjoyed by all Stoics. It is always a pleasure to see our pupils grow



in confidence, and see this in speaking to natives. Overall, the trip ran very smoothly, and every Stoic returned feeling confident with their Spanish. Olé!

In May, the Lower School welcomed a dazzling play written by Onatti Productions to complement Spanish language learning. The play called “El Viejo Saloon” depicted the life of the Wild West. Participation was a key element, and many of our Stoics got involved, which enhances enjoyment and adds a fun element to the theatrical performance. Staff and pupils loved the performance. We are all looking forward to the next hilarious production next year.

We are sad to announce that our outstanding Language Assistant, Claudia Fernandez, is leaving us to experience travelling in the southern hemisphere and to work in Australia. Claudia joined the Spanish Department last year and has done a sterling job. All who have had the pleasure of working with Claudia will sorely miss her and we wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Next term, Andrea Bernal Guerrero from the Basque region of Northern Spain will join us as our new Language Assistant. Andrea earned her Bachelor’s Degree in English Studies (University of Salamanca), and she has recently finished a Master’s Degree in Advanced English Studies at the very same University. Apart from having the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), she was awarded an Erasmus scholarship to continue her studies at the

University of Edinburgh for a full academic year. We believe Andrea will be an excellent asset to our Department having shown huge commitment to the Stowe community during the Summer Term.

Working at Stowe is as rewarding as it is challenging, each day bringing with it a new possibility to make a difference in the lives of those whom we share this great opportunity. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside my fellow colleagues, as well as the whole Stowe community. The Spanish Department will continue to inspire and encourage the very best in all our Stoics to bring alive the culture and the love of language learning.

Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish

“

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Sports Science & PE



Another exciting year has flown by. Looking back on our results from Summer 2018 seems in the distant past, but the outgoing Upper Sixth cohort have certainly not been forgotten.

That year group contained so many sporting role models and individuals who were very passionate about Sports Science.

The following pupils were able to bag the top grades - Adam King (A*), Jessamy Money-Kyrle (A) and Olivia Thomas (A). Five of the cohort went on to study a Sport related undergraduate degree at Exeter, Loughborough, Bath and Leeds Metropolitan Universities. At GCSE, Edward Snushall was our top performer with a grade 9. He was able to perform superbly across not only two theory papers but also on the practical assessment demonstrating all-round sporting talent across three sports.

The future looks bright for the cohorts of Sports Scientists coming up the School in terms of both numbers and performance. Benes and Commendations given to pupils achieving 90%+/Grade 8 in their Summer Mock Exams,

were awarded to Emily Sutton (Third Form), Isabella Lloyd and Eleanor Blane (Fourth Form), Alyssia Dockerty and Petrea Wolff-Petersen (Lower Sixth).

The Third Form Core Physical Education programme ran for the first time on a curtailed basis, only delivering in the Michaelmas Term due to difficulties with timetabling. However, this did not stop the teachers imparting vital skills and knowledge of 'Athletic Development' to the fresh faced pupils. The aim of this programme is to ensure every Stoic is able to develop their ability and passion for both sport and physical activity effectively as they move up the school. This is due to a solid grounding in fundamental movements for running, jumping and lifting, whilst also learning the key elements of an effective warm up and cool down.

There have been two Sports Science trips so far this year. As I write, we are days away from the Lower Sixth visiting the Boardman Performance Centre, an experience I hope will inspire deeper understanding of and a love for the subject.

We are lucky enough to have the Porsche Human Performance Centre, located at Silverstone Race Circuit very close by so we have once again made use of our link with them by offering the Lower Sixth Sports Scientists in early May the chance to experience the physiology testing that they learn about as part of the A Level syllabus in a hands-on manner. This included a step test on a treadmill during which measurements were taken through direct gas analysis and blood lactate sampling, both of which gave us an indication on how fit the participant (Ben Shamash!) was, how hard he was finding the exercise and what energy sources his body was using to fuel him. Pupils also got a chance to find out their body composition using a bio-electrical impedance device which tells us how much of our body is made up of



lean muscle, fat, water and bone, the pupils found this fascinating. Christian Linton also had his sweat analysed, from this he was told exactly how much electrolytes his personal sweat contains and therefore his personalised hydration programme to ensure he stays hydrated and at optimal performance.

For the first time, the Fourth Form Sports Scientists went on a trip to St George's Park, the National Football Centre. This facility has state-of-the-art sports facilities and sports science equipment so it gave our pupils the chance to apply GCSE content to practical scenarios covering some crucial elements of the course. For example, muscle contraction types, recovery from exercise, warm-ups, training methods and injury treatment methods. Time was spent in their Strength and Conditioning Suite completing fitness testing protocols whilst also being given the chance to see the wider £105 million facilities, consisting of top class pitches, both outside and in a giant dome and changing rooms and team areas, where the very best club and international footballers train. Stoics also had a hydrotherapy session experiencing how they use water in three ways to rehabilitate from injury and speed up recovery from exercise (the underwater treadmill, ice baths and warm water pool).

I would like to thank the team of core theory teachers, all of whom have additional responsibilities across the School, for their hard work and dedication. In addition, my thanks go to members of the Sports Department who helped to deliver the Core PE programme and Sports Science practical lessons. The Department will be welcoming a new member of Staff in September, Mrs Victoria Dias. I look forward to working with her and continuing to provide exciting and educational opportunities for the Stoics.

Andrew Jackson, Head of Sports Science & PE

Speech Day Award winners for 2019:

Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science (A Level)
- Gemma Blane

Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science (GCSE)
- Robbie Haigh

Friends of Stowe Prize Passion for Sports Science
- Oliver Garson (Fifth Form)



Classics



Classics at Stowe has enjoyed another strong year that has again seen high numbers of pupils continue their Latin studies beyond GCSE. The 2018 A Level cohort delivered 100% A*-B results while the Fifth Form returned impressive figures of 92% at Grade A* or A.

Particular mention should be made of George Gauvain (Lower Sixth, Temple) who delivered perfect scores in his two Latin papers; in addition Theo Hayes (Lower Sixth, Chatham) scored two raw marks short of a Grade 7 in his Greek GCSE - no mean feat for studying one of the hardest GCSE subjects, largely in his spare time! Last and undoubtedly not least, congratulations go to Jamie Baillie (Upper Sixth, Cobham) who has received an offer to read Classics at St John's College, Oxford, our first Oxbridge Classicist for many years; together with Samai Lamberti (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Andrea Pironi (Upper Sixth, Cobham) who both received offers to read Classics at King's College London, this has been a bumper year for university awards to Stoic Classicists.

The study of Classical literature in the original Latin and Greek remains a cornerstone of the A Level course, and the annual literature conference run by the Oxfordshire Schools Classical Association again proved to be a very useful outing for the Sixth Form Latin pupils. Hosted this year by Cokethorpe

Academic Prizes:

The Roxburgh Prize for
Classics (VI)

Jamie Baillie (Upper Sixth,
Cobham)

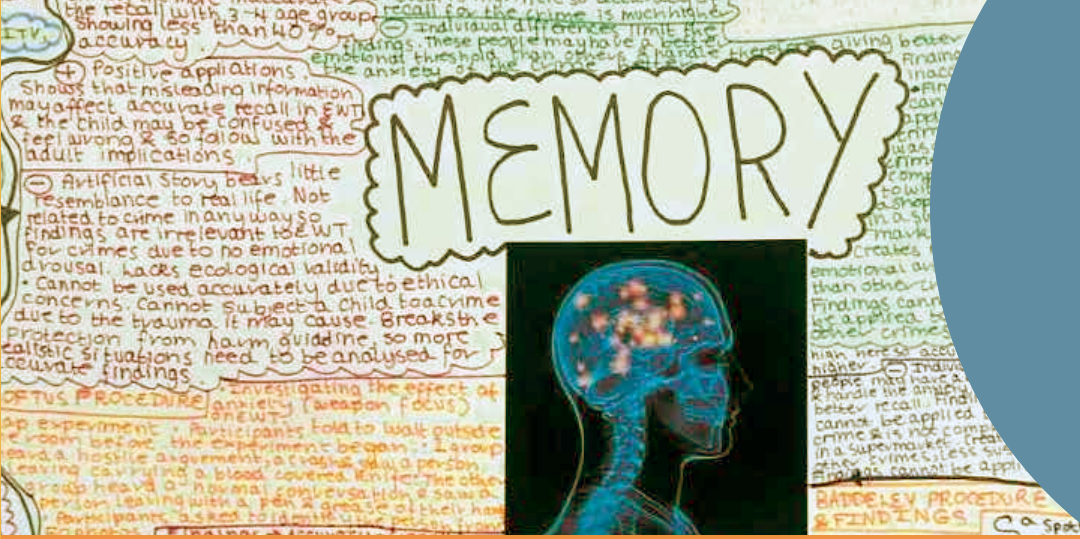
The Quentin Bertram Prize
for Classics (GCSE)

Theo Finlan
(Fifth Form, Temple)

School, leading academics from Oxford University delivered four lectures to a packed house, each focusing on one of the A Level set texts and providing an invaluable and detailed examination of the exam material.

Perhaps above all, this year's story of Stowe Classics has been one of hails and farewells. At one end of the year we welcomed Mrs Giulia Rodi to the Department, joining us from the Sapienza University of Rome, who from the outset injected some Italian energy and enthusiasm into all her classes. At the other end, we bade a fond farewell to Mr Michael Bevington, a true colossus of Stowe Classics who has been Head of Department for some 38 of his 41 years at the School, a feat which - as the Headmaster commented in his Speech Day address - is unlikely to be rivalled in the modern era. As he enters retirement, I should like formally to record the sincerest thanks both of the Department and of generations of Stoics, for all that he has done for Classics at Stowe throughout five decades of sterling service.

Jon Murnane, Head of Classics



“ In its inaugural year, Psychology has started to have a presence in the School as word has circulated about how fascinating a subject it is. ”

PSYCHOLOGY

The breadth of the subject quickly surprised Stoics as they were introduced to the origins of Psychology with the work of Wilhelm Wundt and were amazed to find that they would have to write essays, study statistics, consider ethics and carry out scientific investigations. This was not the mind reading and easy option that some had thought they had signed up for. Psychology pupils have studied 'Social Influence', including the infamous studies by Milgram and Zimbardo into obedience and conformity, and considered the relevance of these studies today. Stoics also learned about memory, why we forget and how reliable eyewitness testimony is. They then went

on to learn about attachment and the importance of early childhood relationships. Pupils agree that the highlight of the year was when they were able to investigate what attachment stage a baby is at and to observe reciprocity and interactional synchrony first-hand when we had a visit from 7-month-old baby Leo and his Mother.

Interest in Psychology has boomed with many more pupils interested in studying this subject next year.

Alison Cecil,
Teacher of Psychology



PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY

Stowe's Psychology Society has been running now for almost two years. Starting out small, we have slowly but surely gained a loyal and growing following, gaining new members each week. We have had talks from pupils with a passion for Psychology, and with the introduction of Psychology AS Level elective this year, the standards of the talks are going from strength to strength. We have also been lucky enough to have external speakers, ranging from academics at Buckingham University, to undergraduates (University of Northumbria) and postgraduates students (Bangor University) studying Psychology. Each has given us an understanding of what it is like to study this varied subject, and a particular insight into their area of expertise. This year, we have learnt about the infamous Harvard Prison study, had tips on memory and recall, discussed Psychosis and Psychopathy with the help of documentaries, and research into feral children studies. We are excited to see what next year has in store for us, as more Psychology pupils embark on the AS Psychology course. Members have interests in all areas of academic studies, whether it be research into PTSD treatments, Psychopathy, or the Psychology of Economics, nothing is irrelevant to Psychology. Our members have enjoyed a wide range of talks and discussions this year - and we have lots in store for the future!

Lula Goldsmith (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Psychology Society President



The Economics and Business Department continues to go from strength to strength.

Numbers continually grow, a real testament to the relative importance of these subjects to life beyond Stowe.

Business degrees are officially the most popular degrees in the UK; with Business Administration and Economics the top two choices. By studying Business at A Level, pupils are immersed in the real world application of the subject. It will provide many real world applications for the subject whilst we wait for the next financial crisis.

This year, the Economics and Business Department, has been enhanced through a programme organised by our Economics and Business Society which had its inaugural Black Tie Dinner in January, with Mr Brandon O'Reilly as the speaker. Brandon spoke about being inspired and told us about his passion for aviation that formed during his school life and has continued to grow and be pursued in his work. He is currently the CEO of TAG Farnborough Airport, and for the last decade he has built the reputation of the airport as the best executive jet airport in the world. His speech reminded us that there would be hardships that impede the process of reaching our objectives, especially as we get closer to our goals. He also spoke about the importance of relationships between people and communication between the business and its local residents that is needed in order to become a successful business in the long term. Brandon spoke about how Farnborough Airport has tackled the environmental problem of using non-renewable energy sources by becoming the first carbon-neutral airport in the world. It was a privilege to have him sharing his experience at our dinner and we appreciate his time coming to Stowe for a wonderful evening.

The second dinner, held in March, with Charles Rolls gave Stoics the opportunity to learn about his experiences as an entrepreneur and how, in fact, although Mr Rolls' career didn't begin favourably, through perseverance and hard work he found a 'gap' in the market of tonic water for gin. Mr Rolls helped his company, Fever-Tree, gain 40% market share within 14 years, surpassing Schweppes and the other main competitors in the tonic water market. His talk was very endearing and we would like to thank him very much for coming to Stowe.

The Society has had fortnightly meetings since the beginning of the Lent Term. During these meetings, the whole Society meets to debate topics about business and economics, such as; 'Have GMOs made the world a better place?' and 'Companies shouldn't look at prospective employees' social media'. These debate topics have greatly helped the pupils of the Society widen their knowledge of the course beyond the curriculum.

In addition, The Keynes Society launched this year as a more organised opportunity for pupils to explore Economics well beyond the A Level specification. We began in the Michaelmas Term by considering some of the major questions in Economics, including the methodology of economics, differing approaches to macroeconomic policy, and the varying views on the role of free trade in ensuring economic prosperity. In the Lent Term, pupils had the opportunity to read and discuss some sophisticated academic literature. We focused particularly on development economics and explored the main debates in this field. More recently, Keynes has been a discussion group for pupils writing extended essays for external competitions. Pupils are writing essays on topics including the benefits of immigration, the impact of rolling out a Universal Basic Income and behavioural economics.

Great success has, once again, been achieved in the national 'BASE' competition. In June, Petrea Wolff-Petersen (Lower Sixth, West), Valeria Primak (Lower Sixth, West), Sophie Wang (Lower Sixth, West) and Team Captain Georgia Laurie (Lower Sixth, West) competed at the National Finals for the ICAEW BASE Business and Accountancy competition. This enabled them to develop essential employability skills and understand what it is like to be an ICAEW chartered accountant and to manage different aspects of a project based around a real business opportunity. This year there were over 1,400 teams that entered the competition and Stowe was amongst the top 48 teams in the UK invited to the BASE National Final.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to David Beniston at the end of this academic year. David has been a real stalwart of the Department over the past three years and we all hope that he enjoys a well-deserved retirement; he will be sorely missed. However, we are also fortunate to be welcoming Angela Bristow and William Freeman into the Department from September, both to teach Business.

Anthony Ashfield, Head of Economics & Business

Florence felt like the right place to mark 25 years of Stowe's Art History Department.

Having presided over its founding, Crispin Robinson (Second Master) christened our yearly tour abroad with a masterclass in monastic aesthetics in one of the cradles of the Renaissance, the convent of San Marco. From our base in the Piazza dell'Indipendenza, the touring Stoics explored as many of the city's hallowed streets as three full days permitted, meeting the glare of Michelangelo's David before they had even downed their first cappuccino. With numerous works of art and sites of interest directly relevant to the Stoics' Pre-U exams, the tourists showed themselves to be the best of Stowe with ceaseless curiosity and good humour, not to mention an acute ability to apply appropriate architectural terminology: the fruits of a life lived at Stowe House. Making light work of the Basilicas of Santa Croce and Santa Maria Novella, the Brancacci Chapel and Santo Spirito, the Stoics revelled in the newly rebuilt Duomo Museum - Paradise reimaged - all in one day. Faced with the only stumbling block of an otherwise seamless schedule - a general strike - the Stoics proceeded to school their upstart Head of Department in the bella figura and the art of stoic serenity as he reminded the guards of the Uffizi Gallery of their sacred responsibility as gatekeepers of high culture. Needless to say next year we will be heading to Rome.

Back at Stowe, the new Lower Sixth bedded into their course with a series of evening lectures showcasing the breadth of the subject and the range of careers it opens up. Performance artist Emma McCormick-Goodhart presented on 'sound' as an art form, filmmaker Sophie Siem on the experience of Sieneese altarpieces, and Julien Domercq on the decisions that shaped his recent curation of Degas at the National Gallery. The Stoics were soon enthralled for themselves by the Gallery's Mantegna and Bellini exhibition, with the Sainsbury Wing doubling as the backdrop for the Association for Art History's yearly schools' conference, this year based on the theme of Identities. Pupils were left in no doubt that the new A Level demands a genuinely global outlook: one that reframes the Western canon in an appropriately self-critical fashion and that requires a range of

non-Western works of study. Art Historians at Stowe are also increasingly conscious of the ways in which images both reveal and disguise gender stereotypes across society, and with numerous pupils currently applying for Art History at university, the Department has sought to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the subject as it is taught at the highest level. Eyes are now trained not only on objects themselves but also on how we choose to view them - whether through a Marxist, feminist, post-colonial or any other lens. Stephen Nelson's evening lecture in January on the art and life of Frida Kahlo chimed well with this aspiration, engaging the local community as well as our Art Historians.

Lent Term ushered in the business end for the Upper Sixth who, as they finalised their long coursework essays, gained an insight into the rich and worldly lives of professional art historians with talks from renowned guides Charlie Hall and Nick Ross. Those Stoics leaning more towards careers as practising artists were also catered for with charming frankness and eloquence by one of Britain's greatest living artists: Humphrey Ocean RA. Addressing a generation of Stoics who appreciate the necessity of using words to interrogate images, Ocean's playfully iconoclastic reflections on image-making met a rapt audience.

This year has seen some extremely high performances - from prize winners Phoebe Hill (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), both of whom submitted essays for competitions beyond Stowe's walls - as well as some university-level personal investigations. Notable have been Jenny Jin's (Upper Sixth, West) discussion of the Qingming Shanghe Tu scroll, Tavish Struthers' (Upper Sixth, Bruce) examination of the politics of David's Napoleonic imagery, Oliver Pritchard's (Upper Sixth, Temple) study of beauty and horror in Mike Kelley's oeuvre and Katherine Howatson-Tout's (Upper Sixth, West) lucid analysis of the modernist theory behind the Bauhaus. Taken together, these studies reflect the variety of interests and intellectual approaches of our Stoics. As a Department, we remain dedicated to supporting the needs and interests of every individual, adding as much value as possible whilst engaging pupils critically, in order to ensure the kind of intangible skills increasingly prized by top employers.

Alex Estorick, Head of History of Art



Art

This year has been one of new beginnings with new staff bringing new visions and skills to the Art School. Printing specialist Cheryl Syrett joined the Department from Winchester College alongside Sculptor and PGCE trainee James Nicholl from Bedford School. It was perhaps a shorter journey for myself, as an Old Stoic and son of former Head of Art, but any familiarity quickly evaporated after being told we had an ISI inspection in the first term! Luckily, Chris Grimble continued within the Department to provide much valued support in this transitional phase, as did textile specialist Jo Banks and technician Pete Brown.

The term started with a bang in the form of visiting exhibitor and speaker David Mach. David's tongue in cheek prints and provocative collages were beautifully curated in the Watson Gallery and supported by a very well attended interview and Q&A session conducted by Dr Wallersteiner.

Unashamed and unhindered, David's heartfelt and passionate responses to our Headmaster's probing

questions not only shed light on his artistic process and diverse back catalogue but also gave some powerful insight into what drives his artistic mind.

This kick-started an exceptional and diverse list of visiting artists, architects and filmmakers throughout the year, combining one-to-one tutorials for our Sixth Form and evening lectures for the School. We are indebted to Anthony Eyton RA, Charlotte Boyens RCA, John Doubleday and Burke Roberts (LAI) for their bespoke feedback and industry perspective.

The influences were clear to see in the work exhibited at the Speech Day Exhibition, celebrating the hard work of our GCSE and A Level Stoics. It was wonderful to see the diversity and ideas being expressed through such a range of materials, from traditional oil paintings to site-specific sculptures made out of ultraviolet wool.

Print made a significant contribution to the Exhibition, with over a quarter of our pupils choosing to work with either etching, screen printing or collagraphs for their final examination pieces. Print has always had



Constance Barnes
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Anabelle Preston
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)

an important role in Stowe's artistic identity, from the 18th Century etchings by Jean Baptiste Claude Chatelain to the iconic expressionistic visions of Stowe by John Piper.

This connection is embodied by our Simon Alper Print Scholarship at the Curwen Print Studio in Cambridgeshire where every year two of our most promising Lower Sixth pupils have the honour of working for a week at the Studio with technical support and tutoring from their specialist technicians. This year, the teaching Staff accompanied this year's Scholars, Phoebe Hill (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Olivia Elliott (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), to learn new and innovative printing techniques in a day's intensive workshop. We look forward to passing on these new skills to our pupils in September.

We are also very excited to host an exhibition from the Curwen's archives at Stowe in October. Under the guidance of legendary master printmaker Stanley Jones OBE, the Curwen has worked with some of the 20th Century's greatest names and we are honoured to exhibit works by Edward Bawden, John Bellamy RA, Peter Blake, HRH Prince Charles, Anthony Green RA, Mary Cozens-Walker RA, Chloe Cheese RCA, David Gentleman and Paul Hogarth RA to name but a few. The private view will also feature demonstrations by the Curwen's technicians.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to the current Upper Sixth who have produced some spectacular work along the way and it is no surprise that we

congratulate Estelle Akeroyd Hunt (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Tilly Huser (Upper Sixth, Queen's) for gaining their places on foundation courses at City and Guilds in London, Tom Fras (Upper Sixth, Walpole) to study production design at Wimbledon and Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Nugent 18) to read Fine Art at The Ruskin, Oxford.

We also say goodbye to James Nicholl. James returns to Bedford after a busy year as an Assistant Housemaster in Grafton, teaching key stages 3 and 4, completing his PGCE and coaching Rugby. His calm and professional approach, his love of sculpture and commitment to the Department will be missed by all and we wish him all the best in his new position. In his place we look forward to welcoming Zizzie Trelawny-Vernon in September. Zizzie joins us from Marlborough College, Malaysia.

Next year promises to propel the Department ever forward, with the creation of the new Library on the middle floor, providing an invaluable literary resource to link in with the new smart screens and iPad technology gratefully subsidised by the Scott-Ichinose Fund in 2018.

This will in turn create space for a specialist sculpture studio on the ground floor, allowing our pupils to push the boundaries of three-dimensional work and materials to new heights.

Daniel Scott, Head of Art



Louis Redfern
(Upper Sixth, Temple)



Alexandra King
(Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Eloise Taylor
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Design & Technology

Well, what a year we have had. As we edge ever closer to that elusive new Department, I think I echo the thoughts of all who come into contact with the work of our pupils when I say that I am amazed at the standards produced across all years, and have to continually remind myself that we are in a school as the work would often suggest a higher level of learning.

The artefacts proudly displayed on Speech Day portray a calmness that, whilst it does not befit the chaos often observed in approaching a deadline, it certainly communicates the hard work and the effort from everyone concerned.

Along with the success on display at Speech Day, last year's Stoics who studied Design, celebrated some fantastic results in both the A Level and the GCSE exams, with the Department celebrating outstanding success Nationally and continuing to add value to the pupils' education.

This year began in a similar vein with Stoics in our Fifth Form venturing out on a Product Design in Action trip at Warwick University. As is now a tradition, pupils heard from a variety of designers and manufacturers on the importance of design, and were encouraged to interact with the discussions as well as take ideas back to the studios and workshops. The BBC's Pascal Anson returned to present a session exploring and demonstrating the creativity and resourcefulness a designer needs when approaching any design situation, and Stoics were involved in a collective creative exercise that culminated in paper aeroplanes! We were also given an insight into how cars are designed for 20 years in the future? James Trim, Jaguar's Lead Exterior Designer, explored the creative process of designing a vehicle and gave Stoics invaluable insights into a career in design. This was an important talk during the GCSE pupils' final year.

This year was also the launch of our F1 in Schools Programme, led by Mr Sam Williams. F1 in Schools

is an internationally recognised STEM competition that allows pupils to design and make their own small-scaled Formula 1 car with the use of CAD/CAM equipment. Whilst in its infancy here at Stowe, Mr Williams has already successfully run the programme internally, and the Department has supported his ambition with the purchase of a new CNC lathe to help with the manufacture of wheels and axels. Welcoming the founder of F1 in Schools, Andrew Denford, to Stowe this year was a highlight and with plans afoot for our new Department we have an exciting future ahead with F1 in Schools, and with Denford Ltd.

Sticking with the engineering theme, it has been a delight to see the Engineering Design Group work through the challenges set by Mr Chris Lloyd every Tuesday afternoon. From exploring the potential of Computer-Aided Design software, to solving issues surrounding mechanical as well as automotive engineering. I look forward to hearing how the group grows next year under the guidance of founding members Benedict Hartigan (Fourth Form, Grafton), Oscar Watson (Fourth Form, Chandos) and Matthew Ryland (Third Form, Bruce), and we wish them well as they develop their own buggy having already purchased wheels and a stub axle. Should you be interested in sponsoring the pupils in their engineering endeavours, then do not hesitate to email Chris Lloyd (clloyd@stowe.co.uk).

The Lent Term always brings with it a very busy period in the workshops, and we were delighted to welcome our new Senior Technician, Victoria Treen, to the Department. In a short period of time, Victoria has been a tremendous success in her role, and with her engineering background, she has certainly made the role her own, and staff and Stoics alike have wondered just how we managed to cope without her.

The success of the Stoics continues to be at the heart of the Department, and we were delighted to reward Ben Jorgensen (Upper Sixth, Grafton) with

the Worsley Prize for Design. Ben's product was in response to limited space for his client and a need to organise and complement an existing aesthetic. We wish Ben every success as he pursues his academic goals at university from September. In the Lower Sixth, we were delighted to reward Valeriia Primak (Lower Sixth, West) with the John Holland Prize for Design, and in Fifth Form, the Andrew McAlpine Prize for Graphics went to Will Bursnall (Fifth Form, Grafton) and the Friends of Stowe Prize for Design, Archie Holmes (Fifth Form, Grafton).

Reflecting on the past academic year in Design and Technology brings joy to me for a variety of reasons. With this being the first year of exam entries for the new specification, there was always going to be trepidation in considering how pupils would respond to the new requirements, and furthermore, but by no means as important... how it could potentially look on Speech Day! When we think of design at Stowe, we often think of established disciplines, such as graphic design, architecture or fashion. But these categories no longer do justice for the scope and the diversity



“ Years ago, design would have been illustrated by the large artefacts that fell into the category of furniture, but today it spans issues as diverse as transport, comfort, leisure and healthcare. ”

of what is design in our Department. Years ago, design would have been illustrated by the large artefacts that fell into the category of furniture, but today it spans issues as diverse as transport, comfort, leisure and healthcare. None of this would have been possible without the intuitive, creative and cohesive team of Staff in the Design and Technology Department, whose willingness to adapt and change to continue to deliver success has often been led by Costas Peratopoulos, who is sadly retiring from his role of Teacher of Design and Technology, having worked here at Stowe for almost 20 years. He does not leave us for good, I am delighted to write, and we look forward to welcoming him back into the fold in September as our new part-time Technician where he can continue to inspire the next generation.

Martin Quinn, Head of Design & Technology



Philosophy & Religion

The Philosophy & Religion Department has welcomed five academics throughout the year as part of its Philosophy@Stowe and Theology@Stowe speaker programmes. Highlights included Dr Anna Stone on the paranormal, and Michael Wilcockson on euthanasia. We also saw the appointment of our new President and Vice-President, Alfie Cliff (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Amber Capurro (Lower Sixth, Nugent). Alfie writes:

“Holding the positions of President and Vice-President of Philosophy@stowe, Amber and I have found many rewards in trying to establish the Society as an attraction for both RS pupils and the keenly interested. As one of the younger Societies, it has been exciting to see numbers at the events rise. The opportunity to meet with experts in a subject we are passionate about has been both stimulating and enjoyable. Hopefully, next year’s events will attract even larger crowds, and we continue to foster an attitude of intellectual self-improvement and philosophical thought at Stowe.”

All events are open to Stowe Parents and members of the public. At our next event in October, Alfie and Amber will interview Simon Blackburn (Emeritus Professor at the University of Cambridge) about his views on rationality in a world of ‘post-truth’.

Amber writes:

“The opportunities presented to me by Philosophy@Stowe have given me a boost in confidence specifically in public speaking and feeling confident in my ability to maintain a discursive conversation which will also hold me in good stead for interviews later in life, for university etc. Philosophy@Stowe has also provided me with intellectual growth by allowing me to be introduced to various professional opinions which have broadened my perspective on some subject areas.”



PHILOSOTHON



In November, the Department played host to Stowe’s inaugural Open Philosothon. Philosothon is a competitive discussion format where participants score highly if they manage to move the discussion forward towards mutually acceptable justified conclusions (as opposed to just “winning the argument”). Of the five schools competing, the Stowe team gained second place with Veronika Phillips (Upper Sixth, West) coming first place in her year group.

Colin Bray,
Head of Philosophy & Religion

Library

Over the Summer, our new Third Formers were given the task of producing a book review, from a selection of 18 young adult novels, in the form of a vlog. The reviews started arriving in the first two weeks of the holidays so this task had clearly been received with enthusiasm by our new pupils. This year's winners were; Clemmie Vaughn (Stanhope) and Daniyal Khaibullin (Chandos) both Highly Commended; Edward Bush (Cobham) and Nell Osborne (Queen's) Joint Second Place; and the winner for this year was Isabella Elliott (Stanhope).

During the Michaelmas Term, we organised the annual Cross-Curricular Day, in conjunction with the Maths Department. Third Form pupils worked in groups of 50 across three activities, starting with a poetry-writing workshop run by poets, Lewis Buxton and Cecilia Knapp. The next activity was with the Punctuation Man who introduced hand gestures and singing as a way of practicing punctuation which was great fun! The day ended in the Science Lecture Theatre with the Maths Department, where the pupils were given a series of challenging puzzles to complete.

Also during the Autumn Term, the Third and Fourth Form had a visit from Nicola Morgan: a young adults author who specialises in youth mental health. In the afternoon, she spent time talking to the Staff about pupils being safe online and then presented this again to the pupils in the evening. She also brought several of her books aimed at teenage readers, focusing on the teenage brain, teenage stress, being safe online and how to remain positive as a teenager. These books are now available in the Library and many of the Houses.

During the Lent Term, the World Book Day Inter-House Literary Quiz took place. Each House provided a team, which included one representative from each year group. The evening comprised of eight themed rounds and audience participation rounds, which gave the opportunity to earn extra points. With plenty of chocolate available throughout the evening to keep the participants going, it was an enjoyable way to celebrate the benefits of reading. The teams from Lyttelton, Grenville and Cobham jointly won the first round using their joker. It was then a fight to the finish between Stanhope, Cobham and Walpole. Walpole and Nugent got full marks in the penultimate round with deft use of their jokers but eventually Walpole gained the overall win with 73 points, Cobham came second and Stanhope were beaten into third place by just one point.

In the Summer Term we assisted the English Department in organising a Headmaster's Poetry by Heart Competition for the Third Form. Pupils had to



learn a poem by heart over the Easter break to recite in their lessons. Two members of each class were then put through to the final to perform in front of the whole year group. The winners received vouchers, Benes and Commendations.

On Monday 24 June, in the final week of the Summer Term, the Library organised a day of alternative provision for both the Third and Fourth Form. The pupils were given a lecture by young adults authors Rhian Ivory and Bali Rai, founder member of the author group EmpathyLab. EmpathyLab is an organisation building children's empathy, literacy and social activism through high quality literature and this was the theme for the day. After the lecture, the pupils were then split into groups with teachers from the English, Art, History and P&R Departments and were given the task of considering how they feel about others, how Empathy for others can be rewarding and how honing their empathetic skills will help them creatively. Some of the Stoics spent time in the Art Department making books with a bookbinder, creating art whilst others were engaged in creative writing.

A significant number of Lower School pupils have been having reading lessons run by the Library, as part of the ever-important quest to raise literacy levels and enjoyment of reading in the pupils. This year, we have also run two book groups a week and an activity on Advertising and Marketing.

The Library has been supporting the Upper School with their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) and coursework, sourcing specific resources they need on an individual basis, as well as offering them somewhere quiet to work out of House and during lesson time.

We have revamped many areas of the Library this year, in particular the Philosophy and Ethics section, with Francesca Holloway also creating reading lists for the pupils in curriculum areas.

Finally, the Library has purchased an RFID system to manage our ever-increasing stock and over the next few years, this system will be mirrored across all other libraries within Departments across the School.

Lyn Foden, School Librarian

International Department

The International Department has continued to play an important role in the academic and pastoral experience of international pupils at Stowe. As another academic year draws to a close, it is uplifting to reflect on the achievements and hugely positive impact that our international Stoics, representing over forty nationalities, have made on the Stowe community as a whole.

The IGCSE ESL pupils certainly lived up to high expectations, with 67% of candidates securing A*/A grades in the final examination in June 2018. The 2019 cohort have been pioneers of the new specification, graded 9-1, and it is hoped that this year's group will build on the successes of their predecessors, gaining an accolade of much-deserved top grades in the 2019 June examination series. In the Sixth Form, pupils have also continued to excel, with 100% of IELTS, TOEFL and PTE candidates meeting or exceeding their university entrance criteria and 90% of IELTS candidates achieving an overall score of 7.0.

Speech Day provided another opportunity to recognise many of our international pupils publicly for their outstanding achievements and contributions to Stowe, from musical and artistic excellence: Jeffrey Au (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Audrey Au (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), David Choo (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Shiang-Ting Huang (Lower Sixth, West), to outstanding achievements in the whole spectrum of academic disciplines including, Modern Languages, Humanities, Sciences and Mathematics. Congratulations to Evgeniia Zen (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Sophie Wang (Lower Sixth, West), Valeriia Primak (Lower Sixth, West), Kamsi Mbanefo (Upper Sixth, Temple), Maria Sharipova (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Emma Rød-Larsen (Upper Sixth,

Stanhope), Gahsem Dorji (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Kianti Subowo (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Vivian Zhu (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) for winning such highly-respected and competitive awards.

The International Society Dinner was celebrated in style on Thursday 28 March as Sixth Form Stoics donned their Black Ties and gathered for pre-dinner drinks in the Marble Hall for this much-anticipated highlight of the Lent Term. The American-Italian themed dinner was interspersed with wonderful performances by talented Stoics, enhancing the civilized, sophisticated tone of the evening. Jeffrey Au delighted the audience with his exceptional and captivating rendition of excerpts from Tchaikovsky's piano concerto, while Olivia Elliott's (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) mellifluous voice and sultry tones enraptured all present. The popular table quiz, masterminded by the International Prefects, Gahsem Dorji and Benedict Shaw (Upper Sixth, Temple), had a distinctly international theme and was also much appreciated by all. The Chinese New Year celebrations were also a highlight. The Sixth Form enjoyed a karaoke and restaurant outing to Oxford and the Lower School a takeaway in StoweBucks which proved to be a lively, memorable and enjoyable occasion.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Parnaby and Mrs Eisenhut for so ably supporting the International Department this year, to Ms Hill-Hall, Ms Brenner and Ms Greenwood for their invaluable assistance with social events and to the International Prefects and all pupils in the Department for their contributions, diligence and enthusiasm.

Julie Johnson, Head of International Department



1. INT - THE MARBLE SALOON - NIGHT

(A Red Carpet leads from the Marble Saloon into the State Music Room. From off screen, laughter, friendly chatter and clacking heels can be heard as a gaggle of Stoics, dressed to impress, enter the frame. It's the night of the StOscars, the glittering awards ceremony, hosted by Tavish Struthers (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Ivan Titov (Upper Sixth, Chandos)).

2. INT - THE STATE MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT STRUTHERS and TITOV

(Dressed to impress in dinner jackets, tartan trousers and expensive looking accessories.)

"And the nominations are..."

Film Studies

There has never been a better time to study Film and, I would argue, there is no better place to study Film than at Stowe. Stowe pupils are steeped in artistic endeavour, aesthetics are valued, and Stowe is increasingly a place where professional films are made.

Those looking to develop an academic career can pursue their studies at Russell Group universities, followed by an MSt in Film Aesthetics at Oxford University. Those looking to work in the Film Industry can go on to a practical course and fill the current skills shortage in the industry. Pupils leaving Stowe this year have been accepted on both types of courses.

Before they left, the Upper Sixth pupils submitted their crafted, sophisticated and thought-provoking short films, some of which are such high quality that they entered the Moving Image Short Film Awards. We celebrated their achievements with a glittering Oscars style ceremony which showed the Lower Sixth the high standard that they can work towards in September.

In addition to following the A Level and AS Level curricula, pupils have had the opportunity to meet and hear from a variety of people working in the Film Industry today. M.J. Delaney gave a talk about how to get into the Film Industry depending on what type

of career you wish to pursue. Harry Gregson-Williams demonstrated his talent, process and music from his film scores. Burke Roberts talked about his own Avante Garde filmmaking and spent workshop time with the Lower Sixth. Christopher Villiers screened his short film 'Snow for Water' and spoke about his career in the Film Industry. A highlight of the year was the tour of the new Vaughn film set 'Kingsman: The Great Game' and finally, we visited the Design Museum in Kensington to attend the popular Kubrick exhibition.

Through the Film Society, pupils have been exposed to films from various countries including Britain, China and the US and have spent time working on their own film projects.

With so much going on in our busy Department, the pupils are challenged, enriched and enthused. One might think that there is enough to do but we've got plans to deliver more. The new BTEC in Creative Digital Media Production is about to go live from September. This course offers pupils a chance to hone their creative and problem-solving skills and to gain entry to a wide variety of courses and careers following Stowe.

As I wrote at the start, there has never been a better time to study Film (and now Media) at Stowe!

Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film & Media Studies

Old Stoics

“
As we approach the final days of term, it gives me great pleasure to reflect on yet another jam-packed year of Old Stoic activities. Having recently produced some statistics for the OSS Committee, I am overwhelmed to report that over sixteen hundred Old Stoics and guests have attended our events during the course of the year. It gives me great pleasure to pen this review of the year and I hope it will reflect the spirit and enthusiasm that exists within the Old Stoic Community.”

I am particularly pleased to report that during the course of the year, we have made great progress with plans for how to mark the Stowe Centenary in 2023.

We have formed a Stowe Working Group, led by the Headmaster and a Committee of Old Stoic volunteers, to work on ideas for how to mark Stowe's 'big birthday'. We want to encourage Old Stoics from around the world to celebrate all that is great about our School. The plans are big and exciting, so thank goodness we have started preparations early! More news will follow but, in the meantime, if you would like to contribute, please send your most treasured Stowe memories and memorabilia to the OS Office, so we can collate them into our Stowe Memoirs Collection to present to the Stowe Archives.

This year's edition of 'The Corinthian' shined the spotlight on Old Stoic Entrepreneurs, with the feature article chronicling Primrose Matheson's (Nugent 04) contribution to the wellness industry, via her breakfast cereal brand, Primrose's Kitchen. Stowe has something of a knack for turning out individuals who go on to become successful entrepreneurs. The magazine featured a wide range of success stories, from those running modest businesses to Old Stoics at the helm of multi-million pound companies. The magazine was particularly well received this year and we were inundated with wonderful comments from our members.

Once again, we've been working tirelessly to improve our Careers Programme for younger members. We held our annual Careers Fair for Stoics in the Sixth Form in November, Old Stoics and Parents from 62 different industries took part. We have been promoting our mentor matching service to recent leavers and are encouraged by the number of requests we have received - the Old Stoic network holds so many possibilities for those looking for advice and it is our ambition to unlock its potential for our members. In May, we held a BBQ for the 2019 Leavers to welcome them to the OS Society and explain how they can make use of our network.

A common theme for our most popular events is a love of fine wines and, as a result, the OS Corkscrew Club is one of our most successful groups. During the course of the year, they have held three tastings, including a Black Tie Dinner at The Wine Club on Pall Mall; a vodka and gin tasting evening with Chase Distillery and a sell-out Champagne Tasting, led by sommelier, Guy Boursot, who ended the evening with his party trick - the Art of Sabrage. We are working on plans for a trip to Champagne in May 2020 so we can take lessons!

Wine was also flowing steadily at the OS Dinner, which took place in November 2018, aboard HMS BELFAST. We were astounded by the popularity of this occasion: tickets sold out six months in advance





“
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of the event, no doubt due to the historic vessel, which played host to our gathering. The evening took a strong Royal Navy theme, with three Old Stoic Admirals in attendance, including Former First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sir George Zambellas (Walpole 76) and Former Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (Grafton 67).

In December 2018, we held our second OS Christmas Carol Concert at Chelsea Old Church. Once again, it proved a raving success, bringing together 380 guests from the Stowe Community. The concert remembered Tristan Voorspuys (Former Parent) and had an African theme.

Our regional activities took us to Yorkshire, with lunch at The Coniston Hotel, kindly hosted by the Bannister Family. In April, I ventured to Exeter to meet up with Old Stoics living in the far South West. Our most successful regional gathering of the year was kindly hosted by our regional representative, Andrew Thomson (Temple 65) and his wife, Mulu, who welcomed us to her family's boatyard, which was purchased by her grandfather over 100 years ago. The day included boat trips around Poole Harbour and lunch at Rick Stein. Needless to say, the tickets sold like hotcakes and were gone in less than 24 hours! This year, we plan to hold events in Edinburgh, East Anglia and Cheshire.

Once again, our events at Stowe have been a resounding success, with Old Stoic Day in September 2018 attracting 230 Old Stoics and guests and bringing together Old Stoics celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th and 50th Anniversaries. We welcomed Old Stoics who left in 2008 for their 10th Anniversary Reunion in October and managed to gather 90 OSs for an afternoon at Stowe and gathered those who left in 1998 for a 20th anniversary event in London. We also invited Old Cobhamites to gather to bid farewell to their old Boarding House in November, with 100 guests gathering to mark their House's historic move to a new building in Chapel Court.

The Old Stoic Sports Clubs continue to grow, with the addition of the Stowe Alpine Club and Stowe Challenge forming within the year. The OS Sports Festival took place in March, with Old Stoics

challenging Stoics at Hockey, Cross-Country, Fives, Football and Clay Shooting. The OS Stoic Sailing Club took part in the Arrow Trophy, with the OS Chairman and Vice-Chairman aboard!

Speech Day in May was a real show stopper. Huge numbers of Old Stoics and parents flocked to Stowe, helped by the glorious sunshine, which encouraged the Stowe community to turn out in droves. This year's Speech Day had a special twist, which tied in extremely well with the Old Stoic Classic Car Display. Our guest of honour was eminent Old Stoic Film Producer, Michael Deeley (Bruce 50). 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of one of his biggest hits, 'The Italian Job', so with the help of our sponsor, classic car specialist insurers, Hagerty, we chose to theme Speech Day around the cult classic film by decorating Stowe with as many classic minis as possible!

The Old Stoic Classic Car Display welcomed 52 classic minis to its collection this year, along with a selection of replica vehicles from 'The Italian Job', including the infamous bus! As a result, we hosted a record number of classic cars at Speech Day, with 143 registered to attend, and the majority making it to join the Display. The Old Stoic Marquee was packed to the brim all day, serving drinks and bacon rolls to our drivers, Old Stoics and guests. We also laid on lunch in the State Dining Room for a record 200 people. I'm sure all those who were able to join us will agree, it was the finest Speech Day for years.

I hope this overview reflects just how busy the Old Stoic Society is as a members' organisation. It would have been impossible to produce the programme without the wonderful assistance of Sasha Moss, Old Stoic Events Coordinator, who has worked tirelessly over the course of the year.

We must now turn our attention to plans for the Michaelmas Term, which is full to the brim with opportunities to return to Stowe and join us at various events around the country. It continues to be a great pleasure to work for such a thriving Society and a sheer joy to be in the glorious surroundings of Stowe every day.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05)



Crispin Marshall-Rowen
(Fifth Form, Walpole)



Grace Congreve
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Isabella Robertson
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Amelia Cranmer
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Amelia Cranmer
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Phoebe Hill
(Lower Sixth, Queen's)



Alexandra Trumper
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)



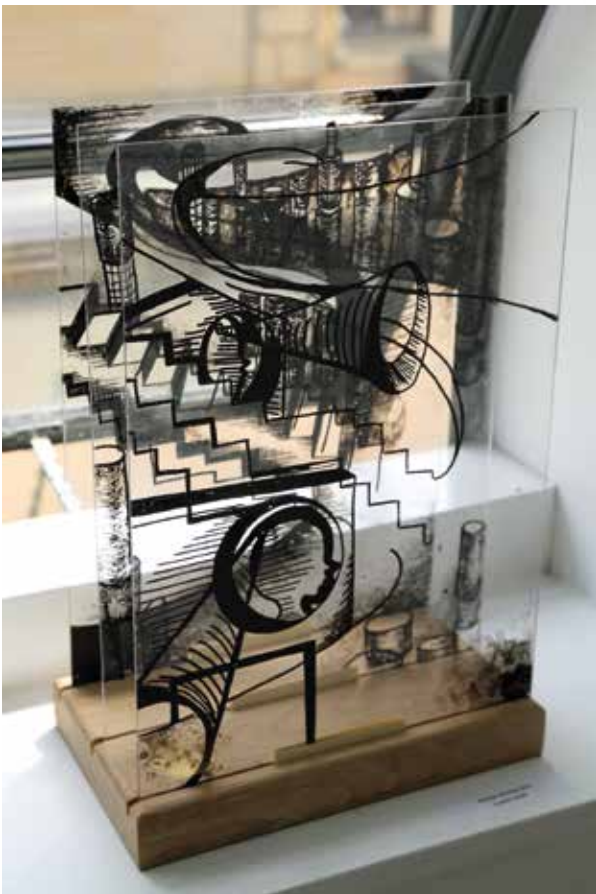
Anara Esengosova
(Upper Sixth, West)



Amber Frost
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Estelle Akeroyd Hunt
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Xiaoye Ren
(Lower Sixth, Nugent)



Katherine Howatson-Tout
(Upper Sixth, West)



Olivia Omotajo
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)

BRUCE

Housemaster

Phil Arnold

Matron

Amanda Penner

Jolene Beardon (maternity cover)

Assistant Housemaster

Craig Donoghue

Under Housemasters

Ben Scott & George Coote

House Tutors

James Speakman & Chris Grimble

Head of House

Senior School Prefect

Edward Anderson

Deputy Head of House

School Prefect

Tavish Struthers

Senior House Prefects

Max Mash, William Fox

& Freddie Richards



I can say with great assurance that this has been the most enjoyable and fulfilling year of my 16 year Stowe career. The boys have been incredibly welcoming to my family and me and we are very proud to call Bruce our home.

Bruce prides itself on its family atmosphere and this is something that has shone through all year, ever since the new Third Form joined in those early September days. At the heart of this are the leaders in the House and the Senior House Prefects, ably led by the incredibly impressive Edward Anderson, all have been excellent role models throughout. Next year's Prefects will have a tough act to follow, but under the guidance of Max Butler, I am certain they will live up to the challenge. Looking ahead to next year, we are very pleased to see the tradition of Head Boys coming from Bruce continuing with Micky Shillington. For everyone in House, this was a natural choice and we know that he will be a huge success.

The year started out very well, as several of the Bruce Lower Sixth boys were awarded their Academic Honours Ties for their fantastic GCSE results. There certainly has been a core of boys who have regularly

appeared at the top of their year group's APG analysis and they were able to maintain this in the internal end of year exams. We wish those expecting external exam results all the very best and we look forward to seeing how they got on.

Success on the sporting front was also quick to come, as there were excellent wins for the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form in the Inter-House football tournament. The Third Form and Senior team maintained Bruce's proud tradition on the basketball court, winning their respective competitions. Harry Rose demonstrated great character and endurance to win the Third Form cross-country race. The victories continued into the Senior Hockey Plate Competition and the Juniors won the House Water Polo Cup and remain unbeaten. The Intermediates won the Volleyball Competition and a fantastic team performance saw the House Golf Trophy return to our cabinet. Sports Day was an impressive display of athleticism with victories in the Junior 100m, Junior long jump, Junior 1,500m, Intermediate shot putt, Senior hurdles and Senior triple jump. The Senior 4x100m team capped off a great day with a fantastic performance to win the final race of the day and





with this the Seniors' Overall Trophy. The Stowe Challenge lived up to its name as the weather played its part, but there were some outstanding efforts in the obstacle course, swim relay, command task and rowing challenge in particular. In the House Swimming Gala, the Seniors were in fantastic form, with top two finishes in both the freestyle and backstroke races. The boys went on to win both freestyle and medley Relays in a scintillating pace. They were two tenths of a second off the medley relay record, but did smash the freestyle relay record by four seconds. There were also individual victories in the Senior breaststroke, 50m Open freestyle and individual medley races, as well as the Junior backstroke and breaststroke races.

Each one of these successes listed above is rewarded with a trophy for the team or individual concerned and it is a proud moment when they return to House to make a space on the shelves for their contribution. All I ask is that the boys give their very best whenever they represent the House and I have been extremely impressed with every single member of the House in this respect.

The House Singing Competition was a very close affair and I am pleased once again to report that all the boys gave it their best, even those who will admit singing is not their thing. The House Song, Sum 41's 'In Too Deep' sounded very good and filled the Chapel. The highlight for us was clearly the Part Song, Mumford and Son's 'I Will Wait', where the boys were rewarded with second place overall in the boys' competition. Several of the boys have represented the School in numerous concerts, Chapel and solo performances with panache. There has been equally impressive representation by Brucites in the two major School productions of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'High School Musical'.

Speech Day yielded prizes to the following Brucites: Ned Ellison for GCSE Physics and a Commendation Prize; Boris Baros for Lower Sixth Biology Prize; Ed Anderson for the Colin Shillington Cup for Outstanding Sporting Achievement; and Thor Mager for the Senior Brass Prize.

We were very pleased to support Buckinghamshire MIND as our House charity this year with several events, culminating in a very successful cake sale, coordinated by Mrs Beardon. It seems appropriate at this time to thank her for the wonderful support she has given the boys and me over her short time in the House. We wish her all the best in her new role as Matron to Winton and Cheshire and have no doubt she will be a huge success.

It remains for me to thank the Support Staff involved in the efficient running of the House as well as the rest of our House team. Mr Grimble, Mr Scott and Mr Coote have all been new additions this year and have settled into Bruce seamlessly and their warmth and professionalism is greatly appreciated. Mrs Penner returned with Amelia to add to the Bruce family; it certainly feels like she has not been away and I know how much the boys value the massive input she has to their daily lives. We sadly say goodbye to our excellent Fourth Form Tutor Mr Speakman, who whilst only with us for a year, has made a great impression on his tutor group in particular. Our final farewell is reserved for the 'Bruce Legend' Mr Donoghue, Assistant Housemaster for the past four years and a wonderful guiding light to so many boys past and present. He leaves us to go to Bradfield and he will be sorely missed by all of us in Bruce.

Thank you to my wife and family for their support throughout my first year and I am looking forward to next year already.

Philip Arnold, Housemaster



Chandos



Housemaster

Peter Deakin

Matron

Clare Hill-Hall

Assistant Housemaster

Simon Dobson

Under Housemaster

Miles Nottage

House Tutors

Miles Nottage, Peter Dennis & Simon Dobson

Head of House

Ivan Titov

House Prefects

Stewart Johnston & Ilya Riskin

This year has yet again been another very successful spell for Chandos in a variety of areas. One of the major highlights came in the Michaelmas Term with a memorable victory in the Senior House Debating Competition.

Chandos were faced with opposing Temple's proposal of the motion that 'weapons of mass destruction make the world a safer place'. The experienced trio of Alex Hamilton Stubber (Upper Sixth) and Lower Sixth Formers, Alfie Cliff and Tom Scott gained confidence as the competition went on. Temple proved tough opposition and Chandos finally edged the win through stronger rhetoric and by handling questions from the floor with greater composure and tact. Alex and Tom have now won both the Senior and Junior Competitions and were ably led by Captain, and superb summariser, Alfie who adds this Senior trophy to his two Junior titles.

This year the House undertook a number of charity events fundraising for the mental health charity MIND and in the 11 day build up to Remembrance Sunday, the House paid special attention to commemorating 100 years since the end of World War I. House Staff presented a number of daily soundbites at evening House meetings about remembrance and war events and features including a German perspective from Upper Sixth Former, and Berliner, Luca Adjei. Many of the Stowe community may also have noticed that the Stowe buildings turned red to mark the remembrance celebrations. This was all down to Chandos' Housemaster Mr Deakin, as he brought the 'Lighting Up' campaign to Stowe from one of his friends who runs the Poppy Scotland Appeal. This year's annual House Chapel provoked much interest and was also a major success. The theme of forgiveness, presented by boys from each year, was engaging, personal and thought-provoking. It was incredibly well received and the highly respected regular Chapel preacher Mr Swayne stated it was one of the best House Chapels he'd attended.

A number of Chandosians enjoyed some excellent academic success throughout the year. On Speech Day, Upper Sixth Former Jack Boswell was awarded the James Mayne Prize for Economics and at the end of the Lent Term, Alfie Cliff (Lower Sixth) won one of the three prestigious McElwee Travel Grant Awards. Alfie and Fourth Former Oscar Watson also secured commendation prizes in the Summer Term and Third Formers Daniyal Khaibullin and Paddy Potts received Senior Tutor Awards for gaining outstanding Summer Term academic progression and exam results. In addition, Stewart Johnston (Upper Sixth) was awarded the prestigious Stewart Cummings prize on Speech Day for service after superb and selfless contributions to the CCF and the School community.

The earlier date for the House Singing Competition hindered preparation but the boys performed admirably in both the Part Song, 'Home' by Michael Bubl  and House Song, 'I want it that way' by the Backstreet Boys. The House Song secured third place and this maintained a Chandos top three finish in one of the two events for eight consecutive years. Special mention must go to Gabriel Armstrong (Upper Sixth) who sang in the Part Song group for the fifth and final time. Samuel Ellis (Fourth Form) performed in a number of concerts and performed several solos and was worthy winner of the Coxe Prize for Outstanding Progress in Music. Griffin Mills (Fifth Form) and Dominic Selvey (Lower Sixth) were both involved in the Senior Congreve production of 'Romeo and Juliet' and it was no surprise when Dominic was awarded the Andrew Croft Prize for Drama on Speech Day after his outstanding and memorable performance as Romeo.

The sporting year started well with the Fifth Form reaching the House football final and the Seniors came a respectable third in House Leagues. In the Lent Term, five Seniors represented the 1st XI. Stalwarts from the pre-season Ivan Titov and Luca Adjei were joined by fellow Upper Sixth Former Max



Moseley as well as Tom Scott and Toby Stocks from the Lower Sixth. The mercurial Gabriel Armstrong also Captained and scored lots of goals for the second XI. Adrian Subowo (Fifth Form) was the Chandos star in the swimming pool winning the Inters butterfly event and gaining a top three finish in his other events. Lower Sixth Formers Edward Don and Tom Youds featured strongly in fencing and golf. Ed was part of the Stowe fencing team to secure second place overall at the National Schools' Fencing Championships. In June he represented Wales in U18 Home Nations Competition in Dublin, whilst Tom was one of the top performers in the School golf team and is the School golf Captain for next year.

Much success was enjoyed in Hockey with Josh McCallum and Charlie Maclure (both Lower Sixth) and Rhys Noble (Fifth Form) in the 1st XI. The Senior House team struggled with availability for the House Competition due to injuries but still managed a respectable joint third place. The Inters House team went one better and lost narrowly in a nail-biting penalty flick decider after extra time. Special mention goes to U16A Captain Archie Barnes, 1st XI and top goal scorer for the tournament Rhys Noble with 7 goals in 5 matches and Fifth Former Griffin Mills who hadn't played hockey for over a year and did a solid job in defence. Charlie Maclure was also nominated and gained recognition in the England Hockey Club 'Team of the Week' after a standout performance for the newly formed Buckingham Men's Hockey Club.

At a representative sports level, Rhys Noble was involved in the England U16 Hockey Pathway for the Mercia Region and alongside fellow Fifth Former George Hooper, represented the Northants U16 Cricket Age Group. Oscar Watson (Fourth Form) also played cricket for Northants at U15 level and George Foster was selected to play for the U16 Northampton Saints Academy after a rigorous selection process. George and fellow Fourth Form athlete Fred Ross also starred at the regional finals in the javelin and high jump respectively. Both secured wins on Sports Day and along with long jumper Archie Barnes helped the Fourth and Fifth Form combined House team to come second overall in the Intermediate age group competition. Josh McCallum's superb performance winning the Inter-House cross-country in the Lower Sixth Form helped the House secure third place overall. He couldn't quite match this on Sports Day but still secured a strong second place in the 1,500m. Charles Shore-Hollingsworth went one better winning

the Senior long jump event and with Max Moseley took the tally to five Chandos 1st XI cricketers this year. The Senior cricketers eased through the earlier rounds of the House Competition but couldn't replicate their form in the Final.

Head of House Ivan Titov proved to be a strong leader and was ably supported by a committed and skilled team of Prefects which included School Prefects Stewart Johnston and Ilya Riskin. The House was also very well supported by an experienced team of Tutors but we unfortunately say goodbye to several members of the House Staff team. The House is grateful to all of Mr Nottage's support and wonderful musical input over eight years. After two years as a very encouraging and positive Assistant Housemaster, Mr Dobson takes over the reins in Grenville. Remarkably, Mr Dobson is Mr Deakin's third Assistant Housemaster to gain such a promotion. Finally, Mr Deakin moves on to pastures new and the whole of Chandos House, including Parents and Staff would like to thank him for leading and maintaining the House to such a high quality over the past seven years. Chandos' strong reputation as one of the friendliest Houses is largely down to the House team and Mr Deakin's leadership and dedication. We are sad to see him leave and wish him, Alice and his family, all the best in the future as they relocate back to Edinburgh.

**Tom Scott (Lower Sixth)
& Pete Deakin, Housemaster**



CHATHAM

Housemaster

Liam Copley

Matron

Rachael Scott-Copley

Assistant Housemaster

Tom Elwell

Under Housemasters

Sam Williams & Rob Ingham Clark

House Tutors

Tom Elwell, Mikkel Møller
& Sam Williams

Head of House

Dominic Saghri

Deputy Head of House & Senior School Prefect

Ben Shamash

House Prefects

David Choo, Ludo Mannion Miles,
Tom White & Peter Wood



Ever been ‘in a pickle’ or had ‘too much of a good thing?’ Perhaps you have been ‘eaten out of house and home’ or you have been ‘in stitches’ over a joke. These are just a handful of everyday sayings that come courtesy of William Shakespeare.

Our language, our idioms and all of our lives are so much richer because of the ‘Bard of Avon’. It was therefore lovely to see the School perform ‘Romeo and Juliet’ in the Michaelmas Term with both Oscar Brett and Barnaby Peppiatt from the House, taking roles. In Act 2 of ‘As you like it’ Shakespeare penned: “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts.” During their five years in Chatham, the Stoics change a great deal and this is fashioned by the many different parts they play. In the speech, Shakespeare talks of the ‘whining schoolboy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like a snail unwillingly to school’. No ‘whining schoolboys’ in Chatham. Instead, we are proud to have happy, unique pupils, with their own particular strengths and weaknesses. It is these differences that make the House such an eclectic community in which to live.

Richard III is one of Shakespeare’s most terrifying villains. When asked for the lands and titles promised in return for his loyalty, he replies, “I am not in the giving vein today.” I am delighted to say that nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to the generosity of our fundraising for the Make-A-Wish

Foundation. During a sponsored row, we managed to raise over £4,000 and in doing so, won the new Cheshire Cup for Service. Our community allows us all to feel part of a larger family with high expectations and standards but rooted in care and kindness to others. This year we have welcomed 16 new Third Form, one new Sixth Former and Mr Ingham Clark as Under Housemaster. It was incredible to see how quickly they all settled in the Michaelmas Term.

Very occasionally, Shakespeare would elevate the sporting form to a gentleman’s occupation. But the overwhelming sense is one of distaste. This could not be said of Stowe, where we are quite tribal and fiercely competitive when it comes to our House sport competitions. The term started well for the Senior boys at the Inter-House football. The Lower Sixth narrowly lost in the Final of the event. However, the Upper Sixth went one stage further winning the Final under the Captaincy of Peter Wood. This was to continue into the Lent Term with an unbeaten season in the House football leagues. In the Junior fives, the House team of George Palin, James Raimondi, James Shaw, Bertie Fountain, Luke Holland-Bosworth and Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart successfully brought home the silverware. Our historic dominance in the pool did not reap much reward in the House swimming, but we did manage to achieve another unbeaten season in the water polo, through the expertise of our first team players Ian Hsu, Alex Girling, Ed Akeroyd Hunt and Henry Howard. The Third Form also won the first



ever boys' House Lacrosse Competition at the end of the Spring Term. The Summer brought further success, first with Hugh Fox and Theo Coley winning the House sailing, followed by a very successful Sports Day, with excellent wins for Ewan Baker, Teide Lokpobiri, Henry Howard, and also Dominic Saghri who proved himself the fastest pupil in School in the showcase 100m. With some excellent relay wins and other performances, the boys won the Junior and Intermediate trophies. The outstanding sporting performance of the year must go to Will Jenden in the Third Form who scored two back-to-back centuries in the School Cricket Festival held in the last week of term. Thanks must go to Oscar Brett and Nyle Neckel who organised the internal House Football Competition on the Chatham lawn as a light relief from the pressures of exams in the Summer Term.

"If Music be the food of love, play on", is the opening line of Shakespeare's comedy 'Twelfth Night', and play on is exactly what our musicians have done in abundance this year. The Classical Concert performed by David Choo (piano) and supported by Toby Thorpe (cello), at the end of the Michaelmas Term was outstanding. Our wonderful musicians; Baz Calkin, Theo Hayes, Toby Thorpe, Billy Baker and David Choo have entertained us at many concerts throughout the year. Theo also showed us the other side of his repertoire at the pre Bjorn Again concert and Billy was incredible with his performance at Speech Day. Oli Taylor took the brave step and performed both at the School Classical Concert and



during our 'At Home'. In addition, who will forget Harry Fennell's imaginative conducting during the House Singing Competition.

Henry V's motivational speech to his troops on the eve of the Battle of Agincourt: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." And so I come to thank a band of brothers who have led Chatham this year. My appreciation goes to Dominic Saghri and Ben Shamash, our Head and Deputy Head of House and their team of Prefects; David Choo, Ludo Mannion Miles, Tom White and Peter Wood, for all their hard work over the last academic year.

Liam Copley, Housemaster

Cobham

Housemaster
Richard Corthine

Matron
Jo Dalrymple

Assistant Housemaster
Matthew Teasdale

Under Housemaster
Charles Adkins

House Tutors
Charles Adkins, Anthony Ashfield,
Lenny Murphy, Simon Rose
& Matthew Teasdale

Head of House
Issac David

House Prefect & School Prefect
Thomas Batey



“
Although Boarding
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Taking over a Boarding House part way through the Michaelmas Term certainly had its advantages - it was rather like getting a new puppy after someone else had done the initial training.

All the Cobhamites had settled into the routines of the School, and the Third Formers were fully up and running. I was also blessed with an extremely positive Upper Sixth, and the whole House generally made the transition a smooth one. Perhaps the key person in all of this was Jo Dalrymple, the House Matron, who had undertaken so much of the hard work behind the scenes. The traditional analogy of a swan was not too far off the mark - serene on top, with frantic paddling underneath.

The first term saw various team successes across the year groups, such as badminton, football and fives, and the Senior and Inter teams both won the Rugby Plate Competitions. Max James (Third Form) performed marvellously in the School's Congreve play, 'Romeo and Juliet' as Narrator and servant.

The Lent Term saw a host of great individual performances, and a fantastic second place in the House Literary Quiz (where we only lost out to a well-played joker). Conrad On, newly arrived into the Lower Sixth, was a revelation in the swimming heats, and Teo de Saint Blanquat d'Espla was equally adept as a goalkeeper in the House water polo.

Marlow Turner competed for the School in skiing, and Ollie Seddon and his band brought a new level of noise to Chapel when he performed as part of 'Rain Machine'.

In the Summer Term, thoughts for many were truly turned to external academic exams, but all of the boys continued to throw themselves into all of the events offered by the House and the School. Jamie Baillie and Billy Hawkings-Byass were stalwarts of the School polo team and Max Smith battled the elements when taking part in the annual Gerald Micklem Trophy Golf Tournament at Woking Golf Club. Ben Li and Elliot Patel were a critical part of the School's robotics teams. Ed Bush was part of the winning CSI team, when the Third Formers celebrated Science Week by using various techniques to find out who 'murdered' the Head of Science. James Cronie continued to excel in his cricket, turning out as 12th man for the Northants 1st XI. The Seniors won the Hockey Cup and the Inters managed the Plate. The Seniors then went onto win the Cricket Plate, whilst the Juniors were runners up, with Harry Bryant unable to reproduce his hat-trick form of the Semi-Finals. Poom Hall reached the standard of a 'first class' shot



“
 We were lucky to be visited by a past Head of House (Tim Kilpatrick 63) who made a very kind donation to House funds.”

when he went on a live firing exercise with the CCF and a number of boys went on various CCF and Duke of Edinburgh trips.

Although Boarding House life tends to be dominated by classroom and Inter-House events, there has been plenty more going on. One of the first of such ‘extras’ was a beer tasting night for the Upper Sixth. In an attempt to wean them off bland ‘pub’ lager, I provided the boys with almost a dozen options to be blind tasted. There was a wide variety of favourites, from Chinese lagers to UK micro-brewed IPAs. Perhaps the only disappointment was the unerring accuracy with which they all managed to spot the non-alcoholic option that I slipped in! Movie nights also proved popular across all year groups, even if I did struggle to bring everyone around to my views on ‘classic’ 80s martial arts offerings (Jean-Claude Van Damme films have not aged well).

All Third Formers went through Heartstart training in order to become proficient at dealing with people suffering heart failure but I was slightly disappointed when one boy said that, whilst he had the theory, he wasn’t sure he would have the energy to put it into practice if I dropped down in front of him.

We were lucky to be visited by a past Head of House (Tim Kilpatrick 63) who made a very kind donation to House funds. One of the first things purchased with Tim’s donation was a goal for the back lawn. The assembly instructions almost got the better of Tom Gibson and Harry Bryant; but eventually it

was constructed with only a handful of bolts left over. The only issue now is that the goal needs to be relocated every few days as its popularity has led to the grass being worn down. The theme of casual football continued in the Summer Term when we put together a Cobham Champions League, complete with a bingo machine to draw the teams and the fixtures.

For the Upper Sixth, the year was ceremoniously brought to a close by a trip to the Go Karting track at Milton Keynes, with the honours going to Billy Hawkings-Byass but a mention to Jamie Baillie who, with the help of a very dodgy kart, now holds the slowest lap record for the circuit.

Finally my thanks to the House ‘team’ - Mr Murphy, Mr Ashfield and Mr Rose (Tutors), Dr Adkins (Under Housemaster) and Mr Teasdale (Assistant Housemaster), and of course Jo Dalrymple (Matron). Best of luck to Mr Murphy who is moving back to the US with hopes of pursuing a medical career, to Mr Teasdale, who is moving on to the Day House, and to Mr Ashfield, who is moving onto become Housemaster of Chandos. Fortunately we are keeping hold of Dr Adkins, and Mr Rose (who is stepping up to become the new Assistant Housemaster).

And finally, of course, a huge thanks to the Cobham boys of 2018/19 who have done so much to make this such a successful year.

Richard Corthine, Housemaster



GRAFTON



Grafton House has experienced great joy and sadness in equal measure during the academic year of 2018-19. The sudden passing of Mrs Teresa Bosman just before the New Year came as very sad news to the entire Grafton community of both pupils and parents, past and present, along with many members of the wider academic and pastoral community at Stowe.

'Mrs B', as she was universally known, gave 16 years of unstinting service to 'her boys' and it was wonderful to see so many people who have known Mrs Bosman in whatever guise, attend her memorial service in early March. The sun was shining, Chapel looked a picture and the occasion was a fitting tribute to the Grand Dame of Grafton. One former pupil best sums up her contribution to Grafton; 'she was one in a million'; another old Graftonian stated 'she was such a wonderful woman who played a significant role in my younger years. I loved Mrs B like a friend and a mum', whilst a recent leaver wrote 'I will never forget her comforting smile and reassuring words when we first arrived in Grafton'. It was a fitting tribute to Mrs B

Housemaster

Gavin Moffat

Matron

Emma Goulding

Assistant Housemaster

Matthew Burch

Under Housemaster

James Nicholl

House Tutors

Vlasta Pickering Polláková,
Matthew Burch & James Nicholl

Head of House

Harry Arkwright

Senior House & Senior School Prefect

Ben Jorgensen

House & School Prefects

Harry Arkwright, Oliver Bowder
& Lochie Shillington

that the Grafton boys embarked on their fundraising endeavours this year by selecting the Medical Detection Dogs Charity. The whole House completed a biathlon on the last Sunday of the Lent Term and managed to raise a whopping £5,200, which will enable the training of a dog that the boys have asked to be named 'B' in honour of their much loved Matron.

The focus throughout the year is always on encouraging the boys to value academic success as their prime motivation for their time at Stowe. It was therefore particularly pleasing to see several Grafton boys receiving academic prizes on Speech Day. Prize winners who graced the stage were Archie Chisnall (Philosophy & Religion), Lochie Shillington (Physics), Rufus Easdale (Maths), Toby Maxa Fetterlein (Business Studies), Ben Jorgensen (Design), Archie Holmes (Design) and Will Bursnall (Graphics) and I congratulate them all for their conscientious diligence and excellence in their respective fields. In addition, several members of the Grafton Fourth Form, most notably Cam Baker, Charlie Crabbie, Ben Hartigan and Kevin Xiao, were regularly invited to Headmaster's Supper in recognition of their consistently outstanding APGs across the full spectrum of their GCSE subjects.





“
I have to admit that my personal highlight of the year was watching the Junior House Debating Team.”

I have to admit that my personal highlight of the year was watching the Junior House Debating Team. Archie Strong is in his element when it comes to communicating his arguments in the debating arena and Charlie Crabbie and Ben Hartigan followed his lead to develop their critical thinking skills when public speaking. Congratulations to Queen's for pipping the team to the title by a solitary point.

Devoting a lone paragraph to the sporting achievements of the House seems rather insufficient when considering the vast array of silverware residing in the Grafton trophy cabinet. The boys once again rose to the challenge of House cross-country with four of the five year groups winning their race (shame for the Lower Sixth who went without their supper when the results were announced placing them second) and for the fourteenth year on the trot, Grafton retained the title. Another emerging dynasty of sporting hegemony is the Stowe Challenge with Grafton once again winning for the fourth consecutive year. Wins in the assault course, run and rowing challenges garnered maximum points whilst very accomplished performances in the swimming and clay pigeon shooting events gave Grafton the overall victory by a comfortable margin. The first big Inter-House tournament of the year was the Rugby Competition and it has been a long time since the same House won all three trophies up for grabs. The boys did exactly that, with the Junior team defeating Bruce in the Final, the Intermediates overpowering Grenville and finally the Seniors romped home with an equally pleasing victory in the Senior Competition, again against Grenville. The final House event of the year, Sports Day, was once again blessed with sunshine and wonderful conditions for athletics. The boys did not disappoint with winning performances from James Watkins (Senior 400m), Josh Weru (Intermediate triple jump and 200m), Ben Hartigan (Intermediate 800m), Seb Campbell-Preston (Intermediate 100m), Henry Pollock (Junior 800m) and Dave Dooley (Senior shot

put) along with many podium placings for our athletes which once again placed Grafton first in this whole School event. In addition, the swimmers won the overall Inter-House Swimming Competition at the start of the Lent Term whilst the Junior team won the tennis and cricket trophies, the Intermediates were crowned Hockey Champions.

And who in the Grafton community could ever forget the House Singing Competition in October, which it has to be said is not high on the list of priorities for the Grafton boys. Yet, by some quirk of fate and tuneful preparation (obviously), the Grafton singers achieved a wonderful second place in the Unison Song with their unique version of Ian Dury's, 'Hit me with your rhythm stick' and second place overall with the Part Song, to ably demonstrate that every dog has its day.

Lastly, but by no means least, I would like to say a huge thank you to the Grafton team of Tutors and Resident Staff who work so hard and give up their time to help shape the daily lives of the 65 boys in our care. A big thank you to Assistant Housemaster, Mr Burch and his astute stewardship of his Fourth Form Tutees, to Mrs Pickering Polláková who expertly tutored her Fifth Form boys and Mr Nicholl, who despite only being at Stowe for one year, has been a very large character in more ways than one and looked after the 'newbies' in the Third Form. He will be sorely missed although we wish him the very best on his return to Bedford School. A very special thank you to Mrs Goulding who has made a very positive impression in her role as Matron, understanding that the quickest way to a boy's heart is through regular doughnut treats and bacon buttie rewards for getting through arduous exams! And to Mrs Moffat for organising the endless birthday celebrations, the Leavers' Ball drinks reception along with events like pizza nights which come with the territory of being the wife of a Housemaster.

Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Grenville



Well, I guess it is with a touch of nostalgia and a sense of sorrow combined with excitement that I write my final Grenville House Report.

Inevitably, you always look back when composing such a summary of the year, but this year there is also a sense of indulgence as I compare the House now to when I arrived.

I took over Grenville in 2014 and some might claim I've turned it into a Yorkshire Rugby Academy with awards such as the 'Man of Steel' and the House having had the 1st XV Captain here for the last four years but I can assure you, it is more about the leaders we are producing than professional rugby players.

By completing five years in Grenville, my current Upper Sixth have been with me all the way. When the Headmaster read out the boys he had chosen for School Prefects positions, he had virtually done a Grenville stance. Of the 18 boys, six were chosen from Grenville, twice as many as any other House.

I will start with the Upper Sixth. This year under the Prefects' guidance, Grenville has ticked over rather nicely, although the trophy that we had come to see as a permanent feature in the cabinet, the Academic Salver, slipped from our grasp. We still featured as the House gaining the most merits, and therefore

Housemaster

Alan Hughes

Matron

Julie Brenner

Assistant Housemaster

Edward Smith

Under Housemaster

Jonathan Davis

House Tutors

Jonathan Davis, Edward Smith & Alec Stanworth

Head of House

Jamie Moir

Senior House & School Prefects

Cameron Chambers & Hugo Robinson

House & School Prefects

Rowan Brudenell, Alexander Jones, Jamie Moir & Max Whitehead

the trophy is still with us in spirit. Whilst discussing academics, it is difficult to write such a report without mentioning names that jump off the page for what they achieve and he will hate me for saying it, as he gets rather embarrassed when I extol his virtues, but he has the luxury now of blushing privately. Cameron Chambers has been Chairman of the Quantum Society, member of the Corkscrew Society and Crossfire, 3rd XV rugby, 2nd XV hockey cross-country champion, 1,500m champion, winner of countless other awards and achievements, securing the top prize at Speech Day and assuming he gets the grades, will study Chemistry at Lincoln College Oxford. There is someone who seized the opportunity and drained every last drop out of the School, if any Grenvillian finds himself at a loose end, look him up. Others have also held positions of responsibility in the School. Head of House Jamie Moir was 1st XV Captain, Tom Percy was both the 1st XI soccer Captain and tennis Captain, and Hugo Robinson was the Buckinghamshire's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet meeting Royalty on two separate occasions.

The Lower Sixth now step into the limelight and we have two boys who have been made School Prefects. Egan Brosnan, the new Head of House and Ben Edeh, who is a Senior Prefect. Several have made their presence felt this year, Harry Heathcote has taken on the mantle of becoming the Chief Editor of 'The Grenvillian', the House newsletter, and his dedication in chasing his sub-editors and pulling the piece together, is to be admired. Archie Irvine was the Architect of the new Arts Society and Tom Gurney has been appointed Chief Whip of the Beagles, a lifetime ambition. Sean Carslaw Tricot and Rupert Mathers played more instruments than the London Philharmonic and Wei Liang Zhao looks set for either Oxford or Cambridge to study Maths next year.

The Fifth Form have gone through that transitional



period in their lives where they commence still wallowing in the adolescent black hole, answering most questions with a grunt, even in exams, but as the months of May and June approach and the realisation that the results of their exams will either open or close some doors, a wave of maturity, or blind panic, washes over them and they come out of the other side almost acting like humans again. There are some really different characters in this group who have many different interests but they are one of the most closely knit year groups within the House and around School. We have to say goodbye to Garret O'Keeffe who will look to study his A Levels elsewhere, we wish him well for the future. I am hopeful and suspect that we might have quite a little nest of lads who are awarded their academic Colours when the GCSE results are published, there are some notable academics amongst them but it would be wrong to make my forecast public. Amongst the sporting achievements, Sam Birch was a regular in the 1st XI cricket this term, Robbie Haigh collected three swimming trophies in one day and Dan Roberts won the Fifth Form cross country and continues to shine nationally in the triathlon.

The Fourth Form are in your face, full on, 100 mile an hour individuals. They are a competitive bunch, helping to secure trophies on the sports field and notoriety with Professional Academies. Sam Wardlaw has potential to be Captain of Sailing, plays the major sports and took on the daunting prospect of guiding me around the golf course in the Headmaster's Tankard Competition. He clearly did a sterling job as we won it, I think the handicap system must favour me. Malek Salem took one of the lead roles in 'High School Musical' recently. Alex West continues to be one of the top academics for the year and Alex Dens continues to impress me with his dedication for the CCF and I think we certainly have a leader in that young man.

So to the Third Form, what a terrific bunch of boys they have started to turn into. They have gone through the inevitable jostling for position within the year group and they have all found their special place and offer a wide variety of interest and ability.

There are some notable characters who have shown promise, Arsenii Grebenshchikov, Tom Moore and David Gollifer appear academically high fliers and Charlie Birch and Will Plessis look strong athletes in their respective sports. Maybe for this year group my departure won't leave too many scars and I am sure they and the rest of the House will prosper under Simon Dobson. I must also make a thank you to Julie Brenner in her capacity as Matron and to Ed Smith as Assistant Housemaster and Third Form Tutor, Jonathan Davis as Under Housemaster and Fourth Form Tutor, not to mention our non-resident Tutor Alec Stanworth, who did such an admirable job with the Fifth Form this year.

It only leaves me to now conclude by thanking all of the boys and parents for making our lives so rich, varied and humorous over the last five years. I've rarely been politically correct, had a dislike for health and safety, cursed risk assessments and voiced my opinion for honesty and fair play but did it all in the best interests of the boys, the House and the School.

Having been on missionary work down south for 40 years, I have been offered an outpost on Yorkshire's southern boundary to police the flow of those seeking refuge in God's very own County. I'm told if I make a good job of it, then I will be accepted into the inner sanctum in York to rest with the high and mighty!

May I wish Simon, the Staff, the boys and parents of Grenville going forward, all the very best and my advice is to do it with a smile, it makes the world spin round.

Alan Hughes, Housemaster



Lyttelton



Housemistress

Valerie Green

Matron

Penny McClean

Assistant Housemistress

Cheryl Syrett

Under Housemistresses

Sarah Sutton & Gabriella Valentine

House Tutors

Kim McMahon, Sarah Sutton,
Cheryl Syrett & Gabriella Valentine

Head of House

Annie Roberts

Deputy Heads of House

Lucy Clements & Ally Jordan

School Prefects

Coco Brooks & Ally Jordan

House Prefects

Anya Cook, Aexandra Harrison,
Emilia Pacia & Liza Zakon

As another year flies by, the Lyttelton girls celebrate their many successes. The House spirit remains high and fantastic achievements match their joie de vivre. Without wanting to make this report a long list, we must share some very special moments. Sonya Sander has been named as Head Girl and we are truly very proud of her.

Additionally both Emily Banks and Izzy Hopkins have been made School Prefects, with Emily as Senior. Speech Day was perfect especially as Evgeniia Zen won prizes for french, geography, history, biology and a Bene award; Vivian Zhu for mathematics, Coco Brooks for art, Ally Jordan for drama, woodwind and the Cumming Award for citizenship, Emily Banks for singing, Maisie Roberts for HPQ, Audrey Au for strings and Jess Foxwell for woodwind. There have been superb performances at Sports Day and House swimming, boosting the trophies on display in our Common Room. Both Congreves, 'Romeo and Juliet' for Seniors and 'High School Musical' for Juniors boasted the highest number of performers being drawn from Lyttelton. They're not all drama queens I promise! We have champion skiers (Harriet and Alice), badminton player (Eleanor), showjumper (Lila), cross-country runners (Lucy, Iryna and Poppy), an amazing ballerina (Kiera) and Alexandra Harrison and Lucy Clements completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards which were presented at Buckingham Palace! Medical Detection Dogs have received the monies from our fundraising this year. The puppy will be named Humphrey, in honour of one of our ancestors.

Rosie Ludlow and Sonya Sander visited the Rohingya refugee camp, Cox's Bazaar with the CCF returning to Stowe with a determination to make a difference. The Academic Salver is ours along with the Maths Competition Trophy. The sheer joy that each day brings with all these wonderful young women is second to none. Lyttelton rock! It's cool to be you, totally the best you that you can be. A fabulous year.

Next year we have a superb Prefect team in place, ably led by Rhea Vankova-Martin as Head of House with Izzy Hopkins and Emily Banks as her Deputies. They will be joined by Georgia Glenser, Connie Dutton, Rosie Ludlow, Holly Stradling and Tilly Howard. A huge vote of thanks must go to our retiring team who have paved the way for an even better Lyttelton (if that's possible!).

We say goodbye and thank you to Cheryl Syrett who is moving off-site; Sarah Sutton, who will be running the new girls' Day House, Cheshire; Kim McMahon is retiring after spending 21 years here at Stowe; Gabriella Valentine, our ever smiling Graduate Assistant for lacrosse moves onto a destination as yet unknown! We are very lucky to have a new fantastic four to join us. Sinead Lyons (Biology) as Assistant Housemistress, Marina Johnson (Graduate Assistant - Drama) as Under Housemistress, Shelley Rowley (Geography) and Paulina Taraskin (Classics, Latin and Greek) as House Tutors make up our new team. Penny McClean, our amazing Matron, remains along with, of course, me!

Valerie Green, Housemistress



“

The sheer joy that each day brings with all these wonderful young women is second to none. Lyttelton rock! It's cool be you, totally the best you that you can be. A fabulous year.

”



Nugent



Taking over a competitive, thriving and successful Boarding House like Nugent at Christmas was never going to be easy and the prospect of filling Mrs Duckett's shoes after so many years at the helm was indeed a daunting one.

We thoroughly enjoyed settling in and getting to know the House and its fabulous girls. We are of course extremely grateful for the warm welcome.

Inter-House sport kicked us off with the Football Competition and there were numerous other competitions to enjoy throughout the year. In the Michaelmas Term, the Junior badminton, Senior and Inter Hockey Titles were won, with the Juniors runners up in the hockey. The Third Form won the basketball competition and the cross-country team finished second with Larissa Campbell, Hattie Goodrich and Giselle Atkinson-Hieber taking an impressive first, second and third in the Junior event. A special mention must go to Lily Marriott and Georgie Leefe who took the Senior Inter-House fives title for the fourth year in a row! There was also the all-important Dads vs Girls lacrosse match in celebration of Millie Cranmer's 18th birthday - the girls coming out on top with a hard fought 9-5 victory! Early in the Lent Term, Senior and Inter-House basketball victories were secured and despite being hit by injury and illness, the girls showed incredible competitive spirit to retain the swimming cup. The Seniors and Inters also won their respective netball competitions and Nugent enjoyed a clean sweep of the lacrosse titles. In the Summer Term, the girls showed impressive character throughout the Challenge Cup, despite a number

Houseparents

Tracy Jones & Zak Jones

Matron

Marian Gallick

Assistant Housemistress

Francesca Holloway

Under Housemistress

Imogen Adkins

House Tutors

Francesca Holloway, Desirée Podesta, Lucinda Stockley, Imogen Adkins & Lyn Foden

Head of House

Lily Marriott

Deputy Head of House

Estelle Akeroyd Hunt

Senior School Prefects

Milly Cranmer, Lily Marriott & Jess Potts

School Prefects

Estelle Akeroyd Hunt, Gahsem Dorji & Arabella White

House Prefects

Milly Cranmer, Gahsem Dorji, Amber Frost, Jess Potts & Arabella White

of falls, to take victory with wins in the swimming, rowing and problem-solving. Sports Day was another highlight, with numerous girls taking part and giving it their all, despite being out of their comfort zones. Nugent finished second overall with the Inters winning their age group. Special mention goes to Larissa Campbell who comfortably broke the School Record in the 1,500m, with a time of 5:27. In tennis, the Seniors and Inters won their tournaments with Juniors finishing runners up and in the final Inter-House sporting competition of the year, the Junior cricketers showed a fantastic never-say-die attitude in torrential rain to beat Queen's.

On the equestrian front, Nugent was well represented with a large number of riders from across the year groups at the traditional Grafton Hunt, in what was a hugely enjoyable day for all involved.

We have also had a record number of girls competing both in and out of School in a variety of disciplines, with many earning representation at Regional and National level.

Our singers continue to display their talents with performances at Open Mic Nights, Summer Jazz,





our House 'At Home' and other concerts throughout the year. Whilst in the House Singing Competition, Nugent finished a creditable third overall.

On the drama front, Cosima Prestwich and Mia Dettori flew the House flag superbly with fine performances in 'Romeo and Juliet', Izzy Moffat doing the same in Junior Congreve's 'High School Musical'. We were also incredibly proud to see so many of our girls coming alive and owning the stage in their GCSE and AS drama performances.

On the academic side, many girls earned a large number of merits, commendations and academic prizes, as well as achieving high subject marks and ATL and ATP scores. Whilst on the debating front, all the girls involved argued their points excellently, with Nugent reaching the Semi-Final stage, in all three competitions, for the first time in a number of years.

Another memorable first, as Houseparents was hosting our 'At Home'. On a beautiful sunny day, a lovely picnic was enjoyed and all were treated to some wonderful performances from our musicians, not forgetting the Leavers 'Life in Nugent' video and a memorable rendition of this year's House song! A big thank you to Amber Capurro and Sofia Atkinson-Hieber for their input and support of the performances.

Reluctantly, we say goodbye to our Upper Sixth. Despite our relatively short time with them, they made a huge impression on us and we are extremely sad to see them leave. We will certainly miss their energy, support and good humour in House. In Lily Marriott, we could not have asked for a better first Head of House and her patience and guidance was a huge help as we navigated our way through our first couple of terms. She was ably supported by Estelle Akeroyd Hunt as Deputy Head of House and the rest of the Prefect team. Our grateful thanks go to them for all their energy, work and good nature.



Nugent also said goodbye to a number of Staff. After 13 years of service, Jayne Duckett passed us the baton. We are thankful to her for handing us a House in such good health and we only hope that we can maintain the high standards she set. In addition, we also say goodbye to Frankie Holloway who leaves to become a Sixth Form Tutor in West. We are indebted to our Resident House Team and Tutors for the patience, support and kindness given in helping to guide both the girls and us as we learnt the ropes. Our particular thanks to our Matron, Marian Gallick, for always being there and for being the font of all knowledge!

As we come to the end of our first two terms in Nugent, we reflect on how rewarding (and at times full on AND tiring!) it has been. We are reminded of what the great Old Stoic and humanitarian, Sir Nicholas Winton, once said, "Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do some good." We are beginning to find our feet and are looking forward to continuing Nugent's successful traditions by encouraging the House to live by Sir Nicholas's ethical values of goodness, kindness, love, honesty and decency.

Tracy & Zak Jones, Houseparents





Queen's

It has been another incredibly busy but undoubtedly, successful year for Queen's House.

With the buzz of a new term permeating the corridors of the House, the year got off to a great start with Queen's winning all three of the Inter-House football competitions, the Third Form being the closest competition, their final being won by a nail-biting goal difference. The passion, determination and good humour with which the football was played, really set the tone for what was to come this year in the Inter-House competitions.

The new Third Form settled into Queen's and Stowe life exceedingly well and they were hugely helped by the warmth and compassion of the whole House, led superbly by the Prefect Team.

The next competition to roll round was the Inter-House Singing Competition. After what seemed like months of practise, chaperoned superbly by Helena Vince, Queen's went on to sing all their rivals into submission as we swept the board, winning: Best Part Song, Best Arrangement, Best House Song and Best Overall House. Simon Cowell would have been proud!

The first half of term ended with the Inter-House cross-country and after superb, lung busting performances from girls, such as, Charlotte Would, Alyssia Dockerty, Jodie Brogden, Violet Arkwright, Ellie Bewes, Ellie Martindale and Emily Sutton (to name but a few) - Queen's were again crowned overall champions on the day.

The second half of term was just as busy as the first - with the Inter-House hockey tournaments and the Queen's charity event in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

In the hockey tournaments, we felt it was time we allowed some of the other Houses to share the limelight - with Nugent winning the Inters and Senior competitions but our Third Form team brought home yet more silverware.

If the girls were flagging towards the end of a long term, we certainly would not have known as we embarked on 80 laps of the athletics track on space hoppers. We were able to raise over £1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis and everyone certainly knew that they had

Houseparents

Mike & Sophie Rickner

Senior Matron

Anne Reading

Assistant Housemistress

Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

Under Housemistress

Megan Wright

House Tutors

Alison Cecil, Rhea Stafford-Smith, Megan Wright & Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

Head Girl

Helena Vince

Head of House

Gemma Blane

Deputy Head of House

Ellie Bewes

Senior School Prefects

Ellie Bewes & Kianti Subowo

School Prefects

Gemma Blane, Ellie Bewes, Kianti Subowo, Imy Oliver & Helena Vince

House Prefects

Alex King, Imy Oliver & Kianti Subowo

worked hard to raise such a generous sum.

The term ended with the much-anticipated Christmas Dinner and a fabulous night was had by all with the girls looking wonderful for the occasion.

It was fantastic to see so many girls representing the School throughout the Michaelmas Term in hockey and lacrosse. We were also proud to witness the School's Senior Congreve, 'Romeo and Juliet', in which Juliana Ziemele took on a leading role with aplomb and many girls (especially Phoebe Hill) worked industriously backstage to aid the performance.

With Christmas whizzing by, the girls began the Lent Term as they left off in December - full of vigour and enthusiasm. This was dampened a little bit for the Upper Sixth as they went straight into mock exams but these are a rite of passage that the girls took in their stride.

The Lent Term saw our Third Form remain victorious in the Inter-House netball, indoor cricket, and lacrosse. Our Inters and Seniors were sadly bridesmaids once again but performed superbly with great team spirit and endeavour.

In House, we were all treated to a masterclass in baking from Leia West, who guided the House in making cupcakes and cookies throughout a long Sunday afternoon and the Lankies (with friends) led the House in this year's dance competition.

Unfortunately this year, due to so many girls being selected for Junior Congreve, we were unable to



perform a House play. However, 'High School Musical' was an absolute treat to the eyes and ears and a huge well done to all the Queen's girls who took part, especially Clara Tearle who was the female lead. We know how much time and effort went into attending rehearsals, but it was definitely worth it, well done!

The Summer Term went by in a flash, not helped by Easter being so late. However, Queen's had further opportunities to win more silverware. In the Challenge Cup, the run team did superbly to win that section and Queen's finished a well-deserved second overall to Nugent. It was the same outcome for our Senior and Inters tennis teams but, again, our Third Form team brought home the tennis Cup. Johanna Konta was clearly inspired by this as her French Open performance showed. The Inter-House equestrian competition was a great success. The dressage was a clean sweep with first place going to Cecily Hopkins, second to Megan Churchill and third to Ellie Martindale. The girls all jumped clear in the show jumping and cross-country phases meaning that the House was victorious, winning the whole event.

In amongst everything else, we also held our final charity event of the year (again in aid of Cystic Fibrosis), when we held a 'Yard Sale' selling the girls' old clothes, jewellery, shoes and not forgetting Krispy Kreme doughnuts. We managed to raise a further £600 to add to our previous amount.

The last whole School Inter-House competition of the year was Sports Day and the girls did not disappoint. Our Third Form, yet again, won their section overall, with Hannah Bewes, Emily Sutton and Megan Churchill, putting on fine displays in a variety of events. The Inters and Senior teams also performed superbly - finishing runners-up in their respective divisions. This meant that Queen's accumulated enough points, across all three competitions, to be crowned 2019 Sports Day Champions.

The rest of the Summer Term was then taken up by external and internal exams as the School gradually prepared for another holiday!

Once again, all the girls have been an absolute delight and we are very sad to see our current Upper Sixth depart as well as three much loved Fifth Formers, who move onto pastures new. However, we are also excited to be welcoming our new crop of Third Formers, who enter a House built on trust, respect and love of their Queen's.

A huge congratulations to Jasmin Smith, who has been named Head of House, and Ruby Redfern and Phoebe Hill, who have been named Deputy Heads of House.

In addition, we are extremely proud to announce Queen's School Prefects: Amelia Leondiou (Senior Prefect), Phoebe Hill (Senior Prefect), Jasmin Smith, Ruby Redfern, Hatty Gendler and Chloe Daniel.

Mike & Sophie Rickner



Stanhope



Stanhope's Upper Sixth Leavers once again had a very impressive year academically.

Notable successes came from Mina Haas A*AC, now studying Japanese at Edinburgh University and twins, Immy and Tilly Fitzjohn both gaining AAB, studying Geography at Exeter and Film at Bristol, respectively. A special mention must go to Sophie Yeowart for amassing a total of 11 A**-A, Hannah Laurence a total of 10 A**-A and Lula Goldsmith with a total of 9 A**-A.

Stanhope also achieved the most merits across all Houses, securing the converted Academic Salver. Scholarships this year have been awarded to Olivia Elliott, who has just returned from Cambridge following her Curwen Print Scholarship Award and Rosia Li, who is just about to embark upon her placement in Asia on the 21st Century (ATC) Yale Young Global Scholars (YGS) Programme in Beijing. Many congratulations to all for their hard work and dedication this year.

Very early on in the Michaelmas Term, the girls were avidly rehearsing for the Inter-House Singing Competition. This year's Upper Sixth Formers, Poppy de Salis, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley, Chloe Hechle, Tabi Sinclair, Annabel Havard and Emma Rød-Larsen were key in organising the girls and perfecting their moves. We were the last House to perform on the night and unfortunately, we didn't retain the trophy from last year!

Our 'At Home' and 10th Anniversary celebrations quickly followed House Singing, with 'Alice in Wonderland' themed tea party. The girls entertained with several performances, including the Third Form, performing 'A Million Dreams' from 'The Greatest Showman' and the Fourth Form gave a memorable interpretation of 'Aladdin!' Guests participated in a number of games, culminating in the raffle of our magnificent Mad Hatter cake, made by the talented



Housemistress

Louise Carter

Matron

Shona Cannon

Assistant Housemistresses

Elena Hughes & Lauren Ellis

Under Housemistress

Emma Windett

House Tutors

Sharon Carter, Lauren Ellis, Elena Hughes, Sophie Wheeler & Emma Windett

Head of House

Chloe Hechle

School Prefects

Lauren Bridgen, Chloe Hechle, Poppy de Salis, Esme Foster & Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley

House Prefects

Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Poppy de Salis, Sienna Flanagan, Esme Foster, Annabel Havard, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley & Christiana Robinson

Louise in catering. I would like to thank all those who attended and helped us to raise just shy of £1,000 for our two House Charities - The

Cure Parkinson's Trust and Twins Trust.

Debating remains one of Stanhope's strengths. Earlier in the year, our Inters team had Emilia Havard at the helm with new recruits, Rosia Li and Celest Lamberti, all helping to ensure Stanhope was awarded the trophy.

One of the undoubted highlights of the year has been House drama. Our production of 'The Mobile Phone Show' by playwright Jim Cartwright, featured an ensemble cast across all year groups, performing a series of vignettes, focusing on the roles mobile phones play in our lives. Maria Sharipova was at the helm of Director, making innovative creative decisions in her directorial debut, which she managed effortlessly and efficiently.

My thanks go to the cast: Clara Capella, Isabella Elliott, Honor Macdonald, Sienna Bettany, Alexandra Besedovska, Francesca Napolitano, Sofia Wright, Maya Coleman, Savannah King, Zoya Korotkova, Lula Goldsmith and Hannah Laurence.

Stowe fencing continues to go from strength to strength. The Senior team is represented by veterans Lauren Brigden and Hannah Laurence. The girls performed at the Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace in February being placed second overall. Lauren won a Bronze medal in the Women's Foil, with Hannah finishing 5th and 7th in the Épée. Lauren was also selected to represent England U17 team and



I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.



won the Northants Senior Championships, placing her in the top 20 Nationally. Lauren was also awarded the Colin Shillington Cup for outstanding sporting achievement.

The Summer Term was another busy time for our girls in the Chung Music School. Poppy de Salis completed her grade 8 ABRSM for the violin with Distinction and Rosia Li achieved her grade 8 ABRSM with Distinction for viola. Olivia Elliott passed Grade 8 Singing with Distinction, Lula Goldsmith passed Grade 8 Musical Theatre with Distinction, Isabel Ward passed ATCL Recorder Diploma, Emily Wilson passed her Grade 7 Singing with Merit and Honor Macdonald passed Grade 4 Singing. Honor, Sienna Bettany and Alexandra Besedovska all took part in the Languages Society Open Mic Night and Lula Goldsmith once again performed at this year's Summer Jazz evening.

Special mention to Olivia Elliott for the most recent Open Mic Night, not only did she perform, she also hosted. Olivia has also been pivotal throughout the year with our Sunday evening Chapel services, where she has performed solos for 'Praise in the Nave'. Over the course of the year, I have had the privilege of listening to all of the girls performing and the huge amount of time given and dedication shown does not go unnoticed.

This Summer's Challenge Cup took place in the Summer Term. Emily Wilson and Hannah Laurence led Stanhope to victory in assault course, completing the obstacles in under three and a half minutes. Special mention goes to Hannah Gill for completing the 3.5km run for the second year running, Flo Hooper for running the fastest time across all the girls' Houses, Olivia Omotajo for her effective rowing technique to cover 2,000m and Jemima Howden for competing in the 'log carry and run', rowing and clay pigeon shooting.

Sports Day was as competitive as ever. Jemima Howden and Maria Sharipova retained their triple jump and long jump titles; respectively Lilly King jumped to victory, running the Junior hurdles for the first time; Emily Wilson ran the 100m hurdles as a Senior. Bo Jenkins ran both the 100m and 200m, Louise Blomqvist ran the 400m and Emma Wright took first place in the 800m. The 'tyre-flipping' event, new to Sports Day this year, saw competitors flipping enormous tractor tyres in a marked zone.

Chloe Livesey, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki and Olivia Elliott were impressive, having worked out their body position strategy to prevent as much delay between flips!

Bo Jenkins represented Stanhope in the Inter-House equestrian competition on her horse, Alfie and Emily Wilson, Savannah King, Isabella Elliott and Flo Hooper took to the golf course for the last Inter-House competition of the year. Emily won awards for 'closest to the pin' as well as 'longest drive' for the girls' competition.

I cannot thank the girls enough for all their enthusiasm for the House and their desire to succeed. I am very grateful to our superb Prefects, they have had a very important role to play in the day-to-day organisation and running of Stanhope. I would also like to thank the Stanhope Tutor Team: Mrs Hughes, Miss Ellis, Mrs Carter, Mrs Wheeler and Miss Windett, for all their hard work in guiding the girls and supporting them in all that they do. It is also with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Mrs Hughes as she starts her well-deserved retirement and to Miss Ellis as she embarks upon her Director of Sport role at Tudor Hall. They will be sorely missed by both the girls and Staff alike. A massive thank you for all you have done, you have been a huge support to me over the past two years, for which I am truly indebted.

A final message to our Upper Sixth Leavers 2018-19:

"I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known."

Louise Carter, Housemistress





Temple

“
I think we can all agree that Oscar Hill has been an outstanding Head Boy, always full of enthusiasm and positivity.”

As our time at Stowe ends, I would like to reflect on the highlights and achievements in Temple House over the past year. It all kicked off with the signing of a rugby legend, Grant Seely, who joined the Temple gang as a Third Form Tutor and the Director of Stowe Rugby.

I first met Mr Seely on a pre-season rugby tour and my initial thought was that he was going to be an intimidating individual, but once you get to know him, you discover his soft side and his dry sense of humour. He has remained calm throughout the year, even though his 1st XV rugby side only won 1 in 11 matches. We also had another ultimate signing of a fun bringer, Chris Lomax. He joined Stowe this year as a P&R Assistant, the Saturday StoweBucks Manager and a Temple House Staff, helping on Sunday nights.

Inter-House achievements have come in thick and fast this year with the Third Form winning the two opening events, football and badminton, and showed great determination in the competitions that followed, culminating in winning the Third Form Debating Competition at the end of the Summer Term. Max Cranmer, David Stirling and Max Stevens saw off the competition of Queen's, judged by the Headmaster. The Seniors reached the final of the basketball and the Plate Final for the cricket. The Senior debaters, of Ben Shaw, George Gauvain and Oliver Hall reached the Final but narrowly lost by one point to Chandos. The standout achievement has to go to the House

Song and Part Song, which won both first place for boys singing 'September' by Earth, Wind & Fire, and Peter Entwisle arranged a cappella medley. Linking the music success we decided to organise a charity event in support of William's Fund with a silent disco, held in StoweBucks. DJ'ed by BaconBoi (Louis Redfern), Chapter (Ollie Pritchard) and Shrimpboi (Nathan Dana), we raised over £1,700. Most Sixth Formers decided it was the best Sixth Form Club of the year.

The Stowe Challenge included a huge number of boys from the House, with a wide range of participants and we finished second. We tried very hard at Sports Day with notable efforts in the Intermediates and Juniors and I am sure will continue to develop our athletics in the coming years. Temple's highlight was Babalola Bakare winning the high jump.

The Temple House Staff, who are by far the best House team in the School, have continued being extremely helpful with the smooth running of Temple, including Mrs Hart who has never failed to cheer the boys up, usually with a spot of baking. Matron has been a massive support to all the boys, ever since she started back when this year's Leavers joined. Long may The Queen of Matrons reign! The House Tutors, Mr Seely, Mr Austen and Mr Last, have also played a key role in keeping their year groups' academic progress in good shape.

I think we can all agree that Oscar Hill has been an



Housemaster
Brian Hart

Matron
Julia Greenwood

Assistant Housemaster
Alistair Last

Under Housemaster
Mark Austen

House Tutors
Mark Austen, Alistair Last & Grant Seeley

Head Boy
Oscar Hill

Head of House
Louis Redfern

Deputy Head of House
Ben Shaw & Oscar Hill

School Prefects
Peter Entwistle, Louis Redfern & Ben Shaw

House Prefects
Peter Entwistle, Nathan Dana, Oliver Pritchard & Matthew Twining

outstanding Head Boy, always full of enthusiasm and positivity. It hasn't been easy for him with all his other School commitments, as we all know he missed stance on a regular basis!

We are all proud of his success and it was a well-deserved honour. Other outstanding achievements - Harry Kirby for qualifying as a solo pilot and carrying on his success in cycling, Ed Snushall for being the opening batsman for the 1st XI cricket team, Babalola and Theo Finlan for their effort in the School's 'Romeo and Juliet' play, and finally, Oscar and Pete Entwistle for receiving their Singing Diplomas.

We have all had a great year and have shared our experiences together as the Temple family. Living in the Mansion for five years is such an amazing experience, we have fond memories that will stay with us forever.

Louis Redfern, Head of House & Brian Hart, Housemaster



Walpole



Housemaster

Gwilym Jones

Matron

Jean Dufort

Assistant Housemaster

James Knott

Under Housemasters

Giles Cuddy & Fergus Parnaby

House Tutors

Fergus Parnaby,
Elizabeth Huxley Capurro,
James Knott & Giles Cuddy

Head of House

Archie Morley

School & House Prefect

Archie Morley

After quick successions of Exeats and Half Terms, Walpole once again falls silent, albeit only briefly, as the School winds down for the Summer.

Therefore, it only seems fitting to take this opportunity, in the quiet hours on this Friday afternoon, to reflect on some of the highlights of life in Walpole this year. From inside the classroom to outside on the sports pitches, from the Music School to the Drama Studio, all the boys have represented the House with pride. Over the course of a very successful year, Walpudlians have been at the forefront of every aspect of life at Stowe.

Walpole once again, demonstrated its academic prowess this year, with Harry Mehta achieving straight 9s at GCSE, placing him amongst the top 700 pupils across the Country. Rohan Sekhri also achieved a strong set of results with seven 9s and three 8s. Harry won the Chemistry Prize at Speech Day alongside Crispin Marshall-Rowan and Tom Fras, who also received prizes for outstanding academic performances. Archie Morley received a Headmaster's Special Prize.

It was very pleasing to see the whole House throwing themselves into academic life at Stowe, especially the Juniors who were able to take back the Academic Salver this year, showing the fantastic effort the boys have shown in their studies. A special mention goes to Harry Efthymiou Egleton, Tham Luanghvisut, Crispin Marshall-Rowan, and Harry Mehta who all achieved consistently fantastic APGs throughout the year. I am sure we will continue to make marginal gains on what we have already achieved this year and further improve our academic standards, hopefully enabling us to win the Academic Salver in both the Juniors and Seniors.

As well as the boys' vigorous efforts in the classroom, there were also some stellar performances on the

sports pitches. The boys represented the School in all age groups and levels in every sport. In the Juniors, Nikita Nedoshovenko, Alex Man and George Hamilton Stubber all represented the A team in their respective year groups for rugby. In the Seniors, Harry Mehta, Joe Salisbury and Ivan Quirot de Poligny made the fighting 3rd XV, whilst Harry Reed and Rohan Sekhri were regulars on the 1st XV pitch.

However, it wasn't just rugby the boys excelled at. This year the squash team comprised two of our Upper Sixth, James Hungin and Louis Hink. James led the team to its greatest season yet, achieving an invictus season as Captain. Oliver Reed in the Fifth Form also competed at top levels for both cricket and hockey this year. Basketball in Walpole is growing in popularity with Aris Hatzistefanis and Harry Efthymiou Egleton representing the School team. Badminton has also made a comeback with Chanatip Chinavicharana and Bijan de Palleja Fazeli, both playing for the School.

On the lakes, Charlie Cole, Maksim Uspenskiy and Archie Morley saw success in the rowing team with Maksim and Archie having good wins throughout the season.

In the pool, Walpole dominated with Ben Hagger, Marco Mykhalus and Maksim making up the Yearlings swim team. Marco also featured in the Junior water polo team as well as making occasional appearances for the Seniors - a phenomenal feat for a Third Former! In the Seniors, Ivan, Harry Reed and Rohan represented the Senior water polo team, with Ivan receiving his water polo Colours!

The Walpole Sixth Form have become somewhat tennis mad with Jacob Halabi, Max McLeish, Joe Salisbury and Louis Hink all representing School sides. As well as this, Harry and Rohan represented the Senior boys' athletics team. Congratulations go



to Ivan who has been made Captain of polo at Stowe and to Bertie Keane, who has been appointed as the new 'Master of the Hounds'.

As we have witnessed in previous years, the Arts have continued to flourish in Walpole. Our musical talent is outstanding with Sebastian Foxwell giving an array of fantastic performances and receiving a plethora of highly sought after awards and a place in the National Schools' Symphony Orchestra. Alongside Seb, Jeffrey Au also had a brilliant year, even getting a special mention from the Headmaster on Speech Day for his outstanding performance of Tchaikovsky's 'Piano Concerto No.1 in B Flat Minor'. Jeffrey also won the Mozart Trio Prize, a highly coveted award with lots of applicants competing. Tham Luanghvisut achieved his Grade Eight on the saxophone with Distinction. The musical talent in

the House culminated in the Inter-House Singing - what the boys lacked in musical ability they made up for with passion and enthusiasm. Despite giving what some would describe as the performance of a lifetime, we were unable to take away any silverware, a mistake we hope to rectify next year.

This year has been a joy in Walpole. The deep friendships, hilarious banter and tremendous House spirit have created an atmosphere like no other. From the inside jokes to the fierce competition on the sports pitches, Walpudlians always have each other's backs. It is this striking characteristic that makes Walpole stand out and makes it a truly inclusive community. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to lead the House to further success over the coming year.

Rohan Sekhri, Head of House (2019-2020)



West



Houseparents

Julie & Roland Johnson

Matron

Ilona Harding

Assistant Housemaster

Gordon West

Under Housemistress

Giulia Rodi

Head of House

Lexie Cook

School & House Prefects

Lexie Cook, Eliza Wauchope
& Hermione Spencer

The 2018-2019 academic year has been another hugely successful period for West House. With the size of this now five year old community growing year-on-year, the West girls continue to make an impact in all aspects of Stowe life.

From a masterful performance in the House Singing all the way back in October, excellently conducted by House Prefect Eliza Wauchope, to Cleo Leather winning the 200m and 400m cups with elegance and power at Sports Day in the Summer Term, the year has been full of successes. The academic prowess of West is also in no doubt as a plethora of Upper Sixth Formers and Lower Sixth Formers claimed prizes at Speech Day, for subjects as diverse as English, Design and Economics.

A particular strength this year has been our charity work. Masterminded by House Prefect Hermione Spencer, West undertook a range of activities in support of the ICCDR Cholera Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh. With the success of our hot drinks and doughnut stall on the North Front and a fabulous raffle at our 'At Home' event, next year's Prefect team will be hoping to replicate Hermione's success. For her part in this year's charity drive and for taking part in the visit to the Rohingya refugee camps, Hermione won the prestigious Nicholas Winton Cup for Service - an excellent achievement!

A second strength this year has been our debaters. Aably led by Captain Veronika Phillips, the debating team performed superbly well in the Inter-House competition, most memorably destroying one of the boys' Houses (which shall remain nameless) in an edge-of-your-seat encounter on the subject of the 'Dangers of Artificial Intelligence'. With her withering put-downs and incisive points of order, Veronika Phillips went onto lead the School's Model United Nations team and was voted Best Delegate for the entire competition at the external MUN Summit in November. With Head of House, Lexie Cook, winning the Pen Cup for individual clay pigeon shooting and the team of Saskia Beckley, Jess Pettit, Nina Purefoy,

Katrina Nelson and Hermione Spencer, winning the Inter-House Geography Quiz, by Christmas, the Houseparents were nearly worn out with the amount of successes being announced at House meetings!

A central event held this year was our first-ever West House Reunion. As the House is now five years old, we decided to invite all our old girls and boys (West did start out as a mixed House!) back to see how West has been getting on. It was a wonderful event and, we as Houseparents, were thrilled to catch up with how our recent graduates have been getting along. As undergraduates at a range of top universities, these wonderful scions of West are already making their mark on the world and it was fabulous to hear their reflections on their time in this boarding community. Probably the best thing about the reunion was that it marked our transition from 'new House' to 'established House'! As the youngest House at Stowe for the past five years, West has been shaking things up in the School for a good while now. However, our position as the baby of the Houses, is now going to be usurped by the new Day Houses, Cheshire and Winton. While we wish the girls and boys of Cheshire and Winton every success, it is rather nice that we in West are now to be considered an 'old hand' of a House! For anyone wondering, the next West House Reunion will be held in 2024 - to celebrate 10 years of our existence! We hope that all current Westites will make a mental note to have this event in their calendar.

With the passing of the last five years, we both reflected on our first year, when there were only 12 pupils in the House. At that time, each and every Westite took part in every competition and whilst it surely did them a great deal of good, we were more a House of happy generalists than specialists in every field. Fast forward a few years and we have realised just how easy it is to become accustomed to the outstanding range of successes and plaudits gained by our girls. With the biggest contingent of Sixth Form girls of any House, the West teams



continue to terrorise all the other Houses in the Inter-House competitions. A great example of the can-do attitude has been Upper Sixth Former Charlotte Munn. Not only has Charlotte been crowned top-scorer for the 1st lacrosse team this year (no mean feat in what is a super competitive sport at Stowe), but she has also played a central role in the Inter-House lacrosse, netball and athletics teams this year, all while pursuing lacrosse at both Regional and National levels! It is this combination of outstanding achievement but also commitment to the House, at whatever level of engagement, that really defines a West girl. We could cite so many examples of this in our current girls - from Clemmie Young claiming gold in the Inter-House swimming breaststroke to Maria Bukachi being appointed Captain of basketball to Nina Purefoy performing on the piano to Sophie Wang being the best Economics pupil in the Lower Sixth. The list goes on!

We are so grateful to our Upper Sixth year group for everything they have done and been in West. Ably led by Head of House Lexie Cook, the Upper Sixth have powered through two years of excellence at Stowe and are now on the verge of claiming university places from Bristol to Edinburgh to the West Coast of America. Each and every girl has played her role in making this now established boarding community the welcoming family that it is. It has been our privilege

as West Houseparents to work with these fabulous Upper Sixth Formers and we wish them every success in the future as they prepare to go out into the wide world, although Matron will be inviting them back for tea and waffles within about five minutes of their departure!

As a two-year-only House, the dynamic of West is fast-paced and exciting. The most common phrase heard in the House during each Summer Term is "but two years has just gone so quickly!" As a House essentially made up of two united halves (the Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth), we are constantly delighted at the strong friendships that form between as well as within the two year groups. With the girls arriving from completely disparate backgrounds when they enter West in the September of Lower Sixth, the strength of the community feeling in the House is always something that visitors and parents comment on. We look forward to welcoming a new group of Lower Sixth in September to take up the mantle of creating the next exciting chapter of West. Who knows what areas of School life West will conquer in the coming terms? However, what we do know is that this community will support its girls through thick and thin and in return for everything that each girl gives to the House, West will be with them wherever they go.

Julie & Roland Johnson, Houseparents





ESSAY SOCIETY

This academic year has marked something of a high point in terms of the School's recent Oxbridge success. Of the 12 members of the Headmaster's Essay Society (HMES) who submitted applications, 10 were called to interview at the end of the Michaelmas Term, the highest number as well as the highest conversion rate in recent years.

Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Nugent 18) won a place to read Fine Art at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, while Lauren Brigden (Stanhope 18) has become the first Stoic in memory to receive an offer to read Linguistics, at King's College, Cambridge. With Jamie Baillie (Cobham 18) also receiving an offer to read Classics at St John's College, Oxford and Cameron Chambers (Grenville 18) to read Chemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford, our total of four offers and places in one season is a recent high.

As ever, the Lent Term saw an influx of new aspiring applicants in the Lower Sixth, keen to hone their intellectual edge. Within separate groups focusing on Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities, members have led discussions, seminars and debates, allowing each candidate the opportunity to focus their academic development, reinforced by the invaluable oversight offered by a broad team of Staff mentors, routinely offering subject-specific enrichment. As in previous years, the team from Oxbridge Applications delivered another well-received workshop in September, refining each applicant's preparation for the challenging admissions tests and interviews at the heart of the Oxbridge application process. In a new development, this year saw a first of what we hope might become an annual fixture, with the current Stoic Oxbridge applicants dining alongside Stoic graduates of both universities at the Oxford and

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As ever, the Lent Term saw an influx of new aspiring applicants in the Lower Sixth, keen to hone their intellectual edge.”

Cambridge Club in Pall Mall. A splendid occasion thoroughly enjoyed by the Old Stoics and current pupils alike.

The HMES continues to deliver its remit to prepare candidates for the rigours of submitting a university application to Oxbridge as well as for all medical, veterinary and dental degrees. A key adjunct to this role has been the maintenance of subject-specific activities where Stoics have routinely engaged in Departmental extension sessions tailored to develop in-depth knowledge of their intended degree subjects over and above the standard A Level curricula.

I should therefore formally like to record my thanks once again to colleagues in all Departments who have gone out of their way throughout the year to help the School's Oxbridge candidates broaden their intellectual horizons and prepare themselves for their application campaign. Particular thanks go to Dr Adkins for his tireless work with the Science Group.

Jonathan Murnane, MiC Headmaster's Essay Society



Debating

“The standard of debating was impressive, especially since few of the competitors had debated before.”

This academic year has seen a large portion of Stoics trying their hand at debating. Internally, the pupil-run Debating Club run by Octavia Comerford (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) has become increasingly popular, with a number of Stoics volunteering to compete in external competitions.

Stowe's Debate Team of Octavia Comerford, Maria Sharipova (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Oliver Hall (Lower Sixth, Temple) achieved the best result in recent years for a Stowe team, reaching the regional round of the National English Schools' Debating Competition and only narrowly missing a place in the Final. Ben Edeh (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Ben Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Bruce) also won a Buckingham Sixth Form Debate Evening.

In School, three Inter-House Competitions have run throughout the year, giving more pupils the chance

to develop the important skill of debate and public speaking. In the Michaelmas Term, Sixth Form teams debated topics including, the future of Artificial Intelligence, the role of the prison system and the impacts of nuclear weapons. Chandos narrowly edged out Temple to take the win. Lent Term saw the Intermediate Competition, with a similar range of motions. This time, it was the Stanhope team who took home the trophy, arguing that there is a place for unelected heads of state in 21st Century nations.

Lastly, the new Third Form Debating Competition ran in the Summer Term. The standard of debating was impressive, especially since few of the competitors had debated before. The Final between Queen's and Temple discussed the importance of compulsory public exams and Temple took the win by convincingly arguing that exams play an important role in education.

Mark Austen, MiC Debating

Creative Writing Society

Also known to its members as the Kipling Society, the Stowe School Creative Writing Society has got off to a flying start this year.

Started from scratch with a dedicated core of Sixth Form members with varied talents and interests, its pieces have encompassed scientific and sociological essays confronting aspects of psychology and upbringing (Lula Goldsmith and Hannah Laurence (both Lower Sixth, Stanhope)), fiction of various kinds and genres (Harry Heathcote (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Theo Hayes (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Hannah Laurence), poetry (Theo Hayes) and music studies and reviews (Ollie Seddon (Lower Sixth, Cobham)). Theo is also currently writing the first draft of a new novella. The Society's first magazine anthology was published

and distributed last term under the direction of Harry Heathcote and we are currently corraling material for a second issue, with art to be provided by Phoebe Hill (Lower Sixth, Queen's).

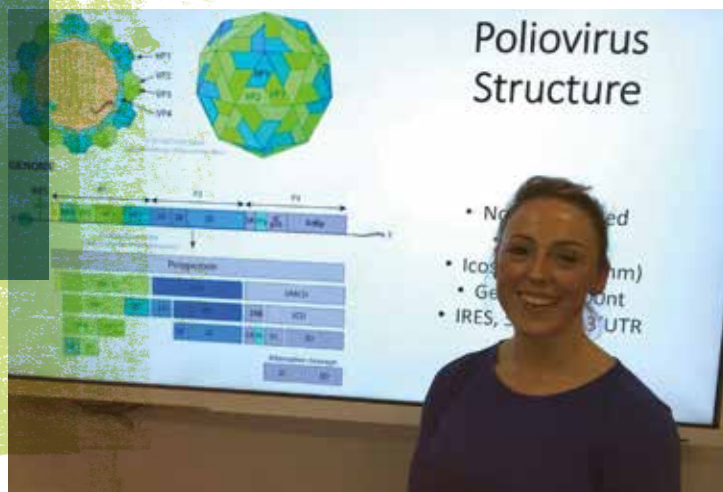
The Society is planning to expand on its regular Monday afternoon slot next year, by including a weekly evening social and presentation session, in the manner of other pupil-led groups, such as the Quantum Society. This will enable Society members to present material to an audience and encourage a greater influx of members and associate members with an interest in all things literary. We are planning several social events for the coming year, open to members and associates, so please watch this space.

Fergus Parnaby, Teacher of English

Biomedical Society

It has been another busy year for the Biomedical Society. There have been a series of fascinating talks given by the pupils on subjects ranging from sharks to the psychology of linguistic development and the use of computer modelling in Biology.

The research performed by the pupils has been impressive and the quality of the presentations outstanding. We were very fortunate to have a talk given by Dr Sinéad Lyons on her research into Poliovirus, which promoted much discussion and I was impressed with insightful questions asked by the pupils. The year rounded off with two events. The Biomedical Society Dinner, where we were privileged to have Dr Luke Bennett as our after dinner speaker. Dr Bennett is a physician with Formula One and gave us a fascinating talk about his work all over the world. We are all very grateful to Sophie Yeowart (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) for inviting the speaker and for having a large role in organising such a memorable evening. The last event was the Biomedical Society vs the Quantum



Society croquet match. This highly competitive event was, as always, organised by Mr Tearle and we were fortunate to be blessed with a beautiful, sunny evening, despite being in the middle of a very wet spell of weather.

This will be my last report as I am retiring at the end of the year but I would like to thank all of the pupils past and present, for their work as members of the Biomedical Society and, of course, Mr Tearle, without whose support I could not have taken on this role. The Biomedical Society has been one of my most enjoyable experiences during my time at Stowe and I wish you all the best for the future.

Mary Lakin, MiC Biomedical Society

THE HARVARD FELLOW

It has been my pleasure and honour to be part of this School for the past nine months and serve in many different roles.

I was never worried about moving to a new country with no friends and no idea how to play rugby, but I never guessed how many new and meaningful friends I would make during my time here. At Harvard, it was very common to hear that "Harvard has amazing professors, great research institutions and intelligent students, but what makes it stand out from all the other elite universities is the people." The people at Stowe have made my time here worthwhile and I thank you for allowing me to be myself here. I have enjoyed my time joining the School Orchestra, leading my one swimming fixture to victory against Oundle, (learning how to pronounce Oundle), trying my first Nandos, and yes, even my time helping with the Yearlings D rugby team.

I like to say 'never change', but I believe Stowe has changed me for the better. Teaching has helped me become a more compassionate and patient

(very patient) person, qualities that I know will make me a better Doctor in the future.

I would like to thank Mikkel Møller and Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe for helping me so much with adjusting to teaching, Roland and Julie Johnson for making me feel welcome in West, Crispin Robinson (and Brian Hecht) for seeing something in me that they thought worthy enough to hire me and for supporting me in my many efforts in getting a bank account and getting access to the Harvard Fellow car, to my friends for making this place a home, and I would like to especially thank my family who have always supported me no matter how far I travelled or whatever crazy thing I do. Because of all of you, I have made lifelong friends and had experiences I will remember for the rest of my life. Never change. Thank you.

Lenny Murphy, Harvard Fellow



Quantum Society

Often more associated with Physics, Quantum Theory has just as much relevance to Chemistry, it was for this reason our Sixth Form Physical Science Society was titled the Quantum Society, when it was set up a few years ago. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength and the variety of lectures given by members to their peers has been quite astonishing.

This year's President Cameron Chambers (Upper Sixth, Grenville) gave a great chemical twist to the year and through his many lectures, showed how adept he was at chemical demonstrations. He was equally at home though presenting in the realm of cutting-edge Physics in areas such as the origin of the universe and string theory. He was superbly supported by the Secretary, Hugo Robinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Treasurer, Alex Jones (Upper Sixth, Grenville), who also gave fascinating lectures themselves as well as operating as a most effective Committee, and organising many events. As a first this year, members put on an event for Junior pupils, which was very well received as it was a mix of interesting theory and practical demonstrations.

Not to be outdone, other members gave great lectures, many of which involved live demonstrations, including Helena Vince (Upper Sixth, Queen's) on dyes and Harry Mehta (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Rohan Sekhri (Lower Sixth, Walpole) on drug synthesis. There was also plenty of advanced theory from Julian Ferrand (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Poom Hall (Lower Sixth, Cobham) on 'Stars and Black Holes', and Stefano Beni (Upper Sixth, Chandos) on 'Wormholes'. James Hungin (Upper Sixth, Walpole) showed the depth of his

staggeringly, well-informed fascination with the science behind Formula One which was followed by Hatty Gendler (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Hannah Laurence (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) who presented on the science of desserts, memorably making liquid nitrogen ice-cream, sherbet and alginate balls of fresh fruit pulps during their lecture.

There were the ever-popular trips to Oxford to visit the History of Science Museum and to discover new science books in Blackwells. Both the Lower and Upper Sixth members chose books for everyone to read which were reviewed over the now traditional Chinese meal, which gives a great chance for members to share what they enjoyed about the books and suggest other books to the group.

The year was rounded off in customary style with the annual Quantum vs Biomedical croquet match and BBQ, which was a fitting send-off for our Upper Sixth Scientists who have helped so much to raise the profile of Science and set the tone so marvellously in the Worsley Science Centre - often working until late at night and over the weekends to prepare for their A Levels. Mr Donoghue was presented with a Quantum Tie as a farewell gift and a thank you from the Society for his wonderful input over the last three years, not least his own amazing presentations and the probing questions that he asks members during their presentations.

We wish them all the very best for their futures, which for many, involves a Science degree. We hope they come back to share with us what they get up to.

James Tearle, MiC Quantum Society

LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMIC SCHOLARS



This year, the Third and Fourth Form Scholars have been thinking about cooperation.

Starting with a lift and carry challenge, they pursued this theme by investigating social choice theory, free trade and exploitation, mutualisms in Biology, the 'Internet of Things', and the right to share intellectual property (thanks to an excellent guest lecture by Dr Pawson). Their programme also included a trip to New Scientist Live, where they witnessed first-hand the importance of collaboration in the advancement of knowledge. The pupils rounded off the year by submitting articles to the first edition of our Lower School Academic Scholars' (LSAS) Review - a compendium of pupil work on each Term's theme. Copies available on request!

Peter Dennis, MiC LSAS



2018-2019 has been another eventful year for the Languages Society. Ably led by our President, Laura Lux (Upper Sixth, West) and Vice-President, Tom Scott (Lower Sixth, Chandos), we started the year with a fascinating talk by Roland Johnson on 'Language, Thought and Culture'.

Although Mr Johnson is a Chemist, he speaks three languages fluently (and has a great understanding of Russian and Polish) and his passion for languages and how we communicate was infectious. We learnt many phrases from a variety of languages, and it was fascinating to hear how an individual phrase can hold so many different meanings in different languages, thus reflecting our identity and culture. Later in the term, we welcomed Flight Lieutenant Emma Sproston, who talked to us about languages in the RAF. She spoke very enthusiastically about intelligence work in the military and how learning Pashto, within the space of a few months, enabled her to intercept foreign messages, thus avoiding major disasters in a war zone. By the end of the talk, most of us could count up to ten in Pashto!

In the New Year, Alex Estorick, our very own Head of History of Art, treated us to an enthralling talk. He told us that when using words to describe art, we often distort it and he gave examples of sculptures and paintings by artists to support his argument. He also went through different periods such as the Baroque era, and how different countries represented this style through various paintings. For example, artists often liked to portray figures in a momentary or moving position - a position for which the word "momentaneous" was invented. Our last talk of the year was given by Stacey Stockwell, a sign language specialist, who came to talk to us about disability and how

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disabled people are still all too often cast aside by society, highlighting the importance of communication. We then learnt the alphabet in sign language, starting with the vowels, using your fingers on the left hand side, moving onto consonants using both hands. Shortly afterwards, we tried to complete a sentence in sign language: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. A sentence using all the letters of the alphabet. After ten minutes, everyone in the audience had mastered the basics of British Sign Language (BSL) and were able to have a mini-conversation with their neighbour, using a mixture of lip reading and BSL.

To finish the year in style, Ed Smith, our language guru extraordinaire, organised the annual Lang. Soc. Open Mic Night. Stoics from all age groups took to the mic and demonstrated their musical talent in a variety of languages. We had Latin arias, French rap, Russian pop, classical flute, German songs and much more. The evening was a celebration of languages and music and great fun was had by all.

The Languages Society wouldn't be what it is without Stoics presenting to members of the Society an area of interest they feel passionate about and my thanks go to all those individuals who have contributed this year. My thanks also go to all the teachers who have given up their time to share their knowledge and passion with us, it has been such an exciting year for the Languages Society.

Alice Tearle, MiC Languages Society

The Sixth Form Literary Society continued with weekly meetings this year, hosted by Ms Pickering Polláková and Ms Eisenhut. There were cakes, soft drinks, drama, prose and poetry in abundance as Stoics discovered the excitement of exploring literature outside of the syllabus.

Pupils and Staff also had the pleasure of hearing from three very different external speakers this year. Provost of the Worcester College, Oxford and renowned Shakespeare Scholar, Professor Jonathan Bate, spoke at an event hosted by the Buckingham Literary Festival. Discussing his latest book, 'How the Classics made Shakespeare', Bate's talk ranged from the political intrigues of Renaissance England to understanding Shakespeare as a writer, who brought his newly minted Grammar School education to bear on his work through Classical references. It was delightful to see Stoics engaging in this erudite discussion through some sharp questioning. Samai Lamberti (Upper Sixth, Queen's), distinguished herself by speaking to Professor Bate about her own EPQ research, and her observations about Classical influences in 'Twelfth Night'. He was clearly impressed by the depth and originality of her research and to be able to discuss her work with such a prominent Scholar was a great validation of her own critical abilities. Afterwards, the group took over Prego restaurant in Buckingham, where discussions were aided by Italian food and wine, making the evening a memorable night out.

At the Literary Remembrance evening, writer, broadcaster and journalist, Anne Sebba, spoke about the triumph and struggles of women in occupied Paris during World War Two. Sebba is a distinguished British biographer and the author of nine books including biographies of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor, Jennie Churchill, Mother Teresa and Laura Ashley. Her focus on women's experiences as well as her detailed analysis of primary source material allowed pupils to see first-hand how a writer employs the craft of storytelling to open new worlds through literary non-fiction. Sebba challenged her audience to consider the reasons behind female collaboration with the Nazi occupation, and through the example of Coco Chanel and others, she presented to the audience a different notion of how wartime defiance might look.

In an entirely different vein, performance poet Harry Baker, mesmerised Stoics and members of the public in another joint event with the Buckingham Literary Festival, hosted in our own Ugland Auditorium. A World Poetry Slam Champion, Baker's TED Talks have brought his unique brand of humour to wide audiences. Described as 'combining the nerdiness of being a maths graduate with the hopefulness of being a human', poems such as his 'Love Poem for Lonely Prime Numbers' were both hilarious and heart-warming. Literary Society members indulged themselves with large amounts of Domino's Pizza and discussed music lyrics prior to the event, making yet another fun and food-fuelled evening.

Allison Puranik, Head of English

Corkscrew is Stowe's longest-running Society, founded in 1972, it enjoyed its 47th year in existence and once again gave the opportunity to 30 enthusiastic Upper Sixth Stoics to learn something about wine.

We always look for an eclectic group. Knowledge (perhaps reassuringly!) is not a pre-requisite to membership, but rather a willingness to approach it with sufficient sobriety and open-mindedness. And the more they listen and remember what they discover, the greater the chance of winning one of the two bottles of Chateau Latour that are offered in the end-of-year Wine-Tasting Challenge (two cases of the wine were donated, extraordinarily generously, by Old Stoic Philip Gray a few years ago). Congratulations to Ed Anderson (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Alex Jones (Upper Sixth, Grenville) on being victorious in a tie-break this year.

We enjoyed some excellent evenings during the course of the year, our traditional 'Introduction to Wine Tasting' in October was followed by evenings when we were delighted and very grateful to welcome Ted Sandbach from Oxford Wines, Hugo Thompson from Berry Brothers and Rudd and Hugh Taylor from Slurp. We enjoyed a fantastically varied collection of wines from the Mediterranean basin, South Africa and finally Bordeaux. After the drama and fun of the annual Corkscrew Challenge (with thanks to Chris Wightman,



OS, for being our Quiz-Master once again,) the culmination of the year was the Corkscrew Dinner early in the Summer Term at which we were honoured to have Charles Hopkinson-Woolley return as our special Guest and Speaker.

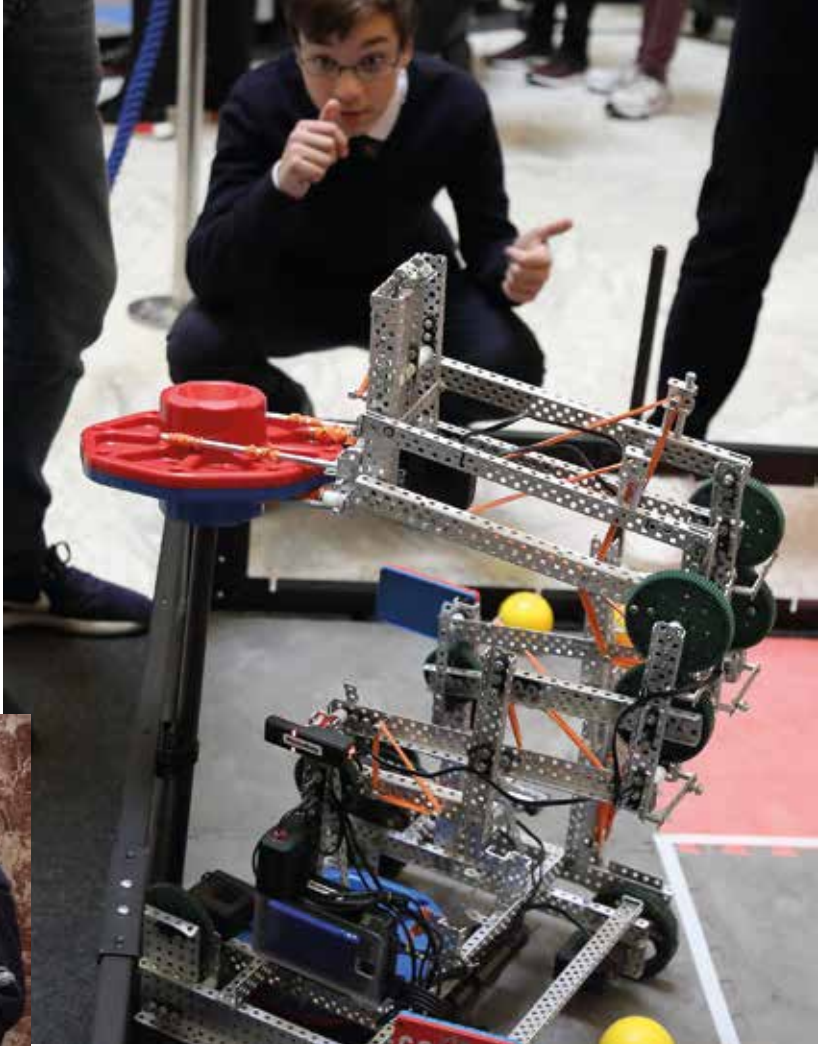
I wanted to thank, personally, Claire Hill-Hall for all her organisational support and, of course, all this year's members for their good company and enthusiasm: I hope they will now have a very basic grounding and knowledge in how to navigate a wine list. A major celebration lies ahead in 2022: the Society's 50th anniversary Dinner and Tasting, former members of every vintage will be warmly encouraged to attend!

Colin Dudgeon, MiC Corkscrew Society



STOWEBOTS

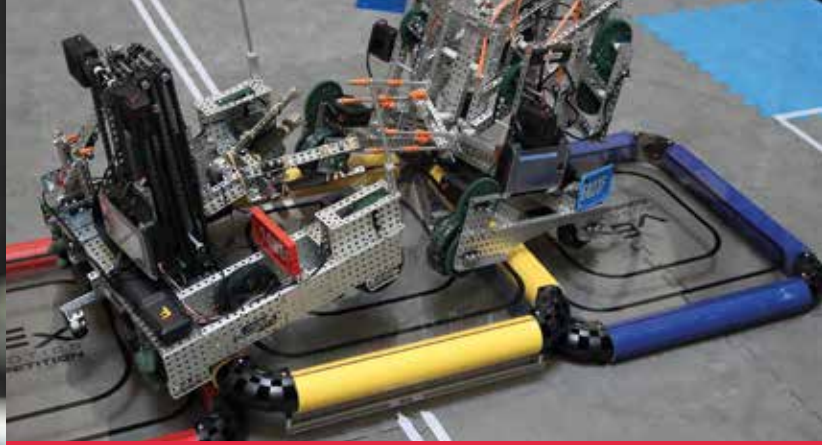
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This season was possibly one of the toughest so far for the StoweBots robotics teams competing in the VEX International Robotics Competition.

The standard of the competition in the UK is increasing with more and more very competitive Regional competitions. However, the Stowe teams are also growing in confidence and ability. We had two more experienced Senior teams this year and started a third team for the large group of Third Form pupils who joined this season. This year's game was called 'Turning Point' and as the name suggests, the game could turn from winning to losing very quickly as game objects could be flipped to score for or against a team. The robots had to be able to flip large discs on the ground or throw balls at flags to switch their colour. The new season also saw the introduction of new technology and a more advanced robotics system, including an object recognition camera.

In February, Stowe hosted one of the first Regional Competitions that saw 18 teams from different schools come to Stowe and compete for a National Final place. The competition went well with some strong robots and tough challenges, both the more experienced Senior teams were eliminated in the Finals by the eventual winners of the Regional. The Third Form team made the Quarter-Final and learnt a lot from their first event. After a rebuild and tweaking of their designs, we attended a friendly event in Bedford and the robots performed well and showed real promise for future events. In Bedford, we were also able to help a number of teams, new to the competition, with building tips and coding assistance.



Robotics National Finals

Having all three of our teams qualify for the National Final this year, was an outstanding achievement. All our teams performed well through the qualification matches and got themselves into high enough rankings to get into the playoffs. The Third Form team managed to win their first playoff match but lost their Quarter-Final match. Our second team, led by Crispin Marshall-Rowan and supported by Ben Li (Fourth Form, Cobham) made it to their Semi-Final and narrowly lost out on a Division Final spot. However, our Senior team, led by Valentin Rummel, managed to win their way to the Division Final but lost that in a very tough match, So they picked up the Division Finalist Trophy and were one step away from the World Final spot.

Overall, this has been an excellent year with massive progress and development of skill from the team members. With the new game having been released at Easter, the teams are already well under way with their builds for the 2019-2020 season. We have combined the two more senior teams into one, which will allow us to create a new Third Form team in September as new pupils arrive at Stowe.

Paul Thompson, MiC Robots

Just before Christmas we attended a London Regional Competition and again competed for a National Final place. This was to be a tough event as many London schools are well established in the competition and are traditionally strong teams. However, through the day our robots performed well and won the qualifying matches (randomly drawn matches) to finish ranked first. After a bruising final match, the Stowe team (led by Valentin Rummel (Lower Sixth, Temple)), was victorious and gained their place at the National Final. Our second team, led by Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fifth Form, Walpole), picked up the Judges' Award for a quality design.

In January, we went to Birmingham and although we did well with the Senior team once again making the Final and gaining a Judges' Award, it didn't allow our second team to qualify. Following this, we went to Bedford to compete with just the second team and our Third Form team. The second team was undefeated through the event and won the Final meaning they gained a place in the National Final.

The Stowe International

Our final Regional for this term was at Stowe where we hosted an event with a mix of UK and International teams. We had 23 teams in attendance, from Turkey, Finland, China and Senegal, joining in the competition. The event was extremely competitive, but the Stowe teams performed well-ranking 4th, 5th and 12th out of the 23 teams, during the qualification matches. The Finals did not quite go our way, but the Senior team picked up a Judges' Award for the quality of their design and their engineering logbook. This is our fifth trophy of the season and adds to an ever-growing collection of silverware. The Third Form team also had success as they were the second highest ranked UK team that hadn't already qualified for the National Finals and so gained a roll down spot for the National Finals.

SHPT

Another Monumental Achievement - the Restoration of North Hall

Some pupils and parents who arrived in September 2019 will have seen North Hall for the first time as it was closed for restoration work between October 2018 and March 2019.

During that period, having overseen conservation work to the painted ceiling in 2014, the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) completed the project with the replacement of the 1960s terrazzo floor, redecoration of the walls and woodwork and installation of the magnificent copy of Carbonneaux's cast of the Laocoön group. For those who might wonder how a five year gap can occur in a project of this magnitude, the answer lies in the search for authenticity and a fortuitous discovery.

The painted ceiling is undeniably the early Eighteenth Century work of William Kent, who also produced designs for the walls of the Hall, including niches and decorative features. Kent's design can be seen, in the form of a 'laid flat' plan in the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art in New York but no records have been found to confirm the extent to which the design was actually carried out. Archaeological evidence on the walls suggests that Kent's scheme may have been implemented, at least in part, but there is no conclusive evidence that a coherent scheme was ever completed. The removal of Kent's chimney piece from the west wall in the 1780s and the insertion, in 1803, of the staircase to the Egyptian Hall below, meant that any reversion to a fully Kent scheme would have been speculative in nature and difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. One of the few historic images of the Hall shows Queen Victoria leaving Stowe after her visit in 1845. Prominent in the foreground is a bronze copy of

the Laocoön statue, acquired in about 1823 and sold twenty five years later in Stowe's first great sale. By an almost unprecedented chance, that very same statue was found by one of SHPT's advisers in a house in the West Country. Its provenance confirmed, negotiations began with the owner, who readily agreed to lend the statue to Stowe for copying so that North Hall could be restored to its appearance around 1840, shortly before Queen Victoria's visit. Problem solved? Well, not entirely...

There still remained the question of finishes for the walls and woodwork and the matter of replacing the terrazzo floor which, while it might have graced many a public building in the 1960s, was wholly inappropriate for a Grade I listed Ducal Palace of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. For the walls, we turned to trusted expert Patrick Baty, whose analysis showed that there had been sixteen different paint schemes between 1734 and the late Twentieth Century, ranging from various shades of pale stone to green and terracotta. Around the time of Queen Victoria's visit, terracotta appeared to have been applied to the upper walls but the experts all discounted this scheme as atypical and unlikely to have lasted long before reversion to the more usual pale stone. Thereafter, by trial and error, the most appropriate shade was agreed by an expert panel to match the ceiling above and the floor below. Selecting stone for the floor was slightly more problematic as the sketch depicting Queen Victoria's departure appeared to show a light coloured floor with black diamonds at the intersections, which might have been expected in the early Eighteenth Century but no other supporting evidence could be found. Photographs from the late



Nineteenth Century showed a plain stone floor so the archive was searched for references to procurement of stone between 1800 and 1895. As none could be found after Queen Victoria's visit, it was considered most likely that the surface shown in the photographs had already been in place around the time of her visit and, therefore, that the statue had stood on the same surface. Careful study of the photographs enabled selection of an appropriate stone, which also worked visually with the transition to the Marble Hall.

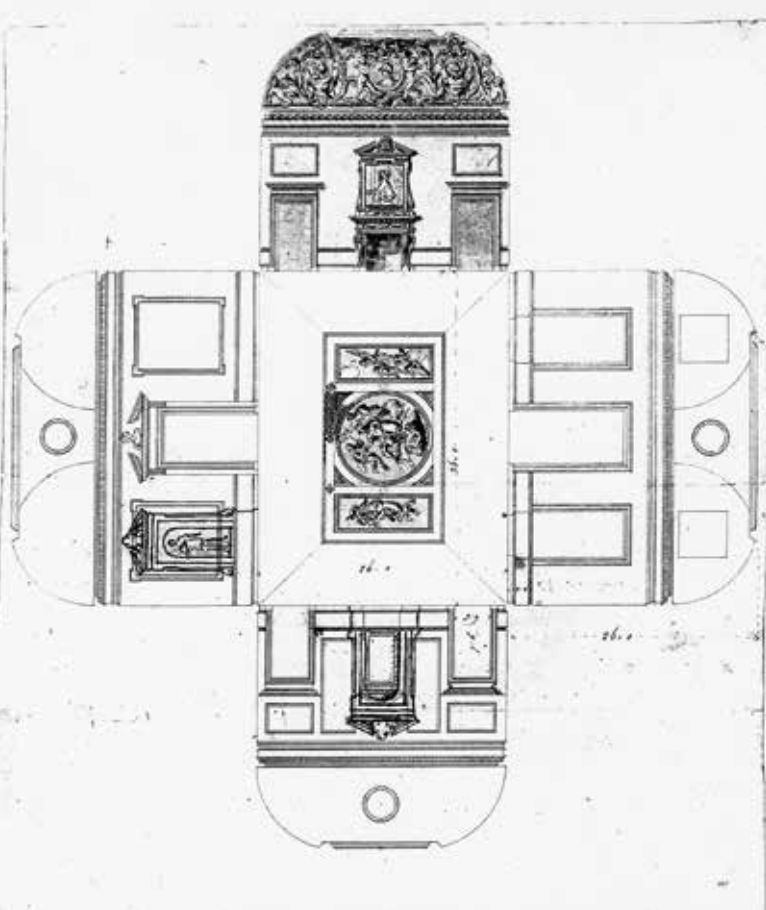
Work started on 15 October 2018 with the fitting of an internal lining to protect the decorated ceiling. Temporary fire detection systems were installed as the protective structure blocked the existing "beam" detectors. Paintings that normally hang in the Hall were all taken down, wrapped and prepared for storage and wooden casements were constructed around the door openings in preparation for removal of the doors for refurbishment. The following week saw the start of work to take up the terrazzo floor. For the most part, as anticipated, the floor was bedded in limecrete on a more solid concrete base but, in places, there were deeper beds of more solid concrete making its removal more difficult than anticipated. The presence of different bedding suggested that there had been interventions at various times, possibly reflecting repair work but overall, the colour of the concrete suggested that the floor had been laid in the 1950s, when Portland cement first became used. The floor and surrounding areas were monitored throughout this work for structural integrity. Channels had to be cut into the concrete bed to enable the laying of new services, including electricity to the door closers required for new fire doors. Next it was the turn of the wall surfaces, all of which had to be prepared for redecoration. Areas of flaking paint were reviewed by specialist conservators to ensure that the underlying cause could be rectified before redecoration.

Finally, by 22 November, all the demolition work was complete and attention turned to laying the new floor and decorating the walls. A minor scare occurred with the detection of materials suspected to contain asbestos but specialist checks cleared the material and work continued. Following repairs to the concrete surfaces, a levelling compound was applied onto which matting was then laid to contain any movement of the underlying structure and prevent damage to the stone surface. In early December, work began on

laying the new stone floor and, barring a small hitch with the supply of edging stones to the correct length, work was completed to schedule.

Through December, repairs were carried out on the areas that had previously been opened up in 2014, when looking for Kent's original decorative scheme. A report on this work was completed at the time and these repairs have now been carefully documented and areas of historic plaster photographed for the archaeological record. At this stage, faint traces of earlier plaster that had not previously been noted were found on the upper walls. Raised plaster faintly visible beneath the surface appeared to show the outlines of





four console bases and rounded tops to wall recesses that may have been part of William Kent's design. This evidence has been retained for future researchers.

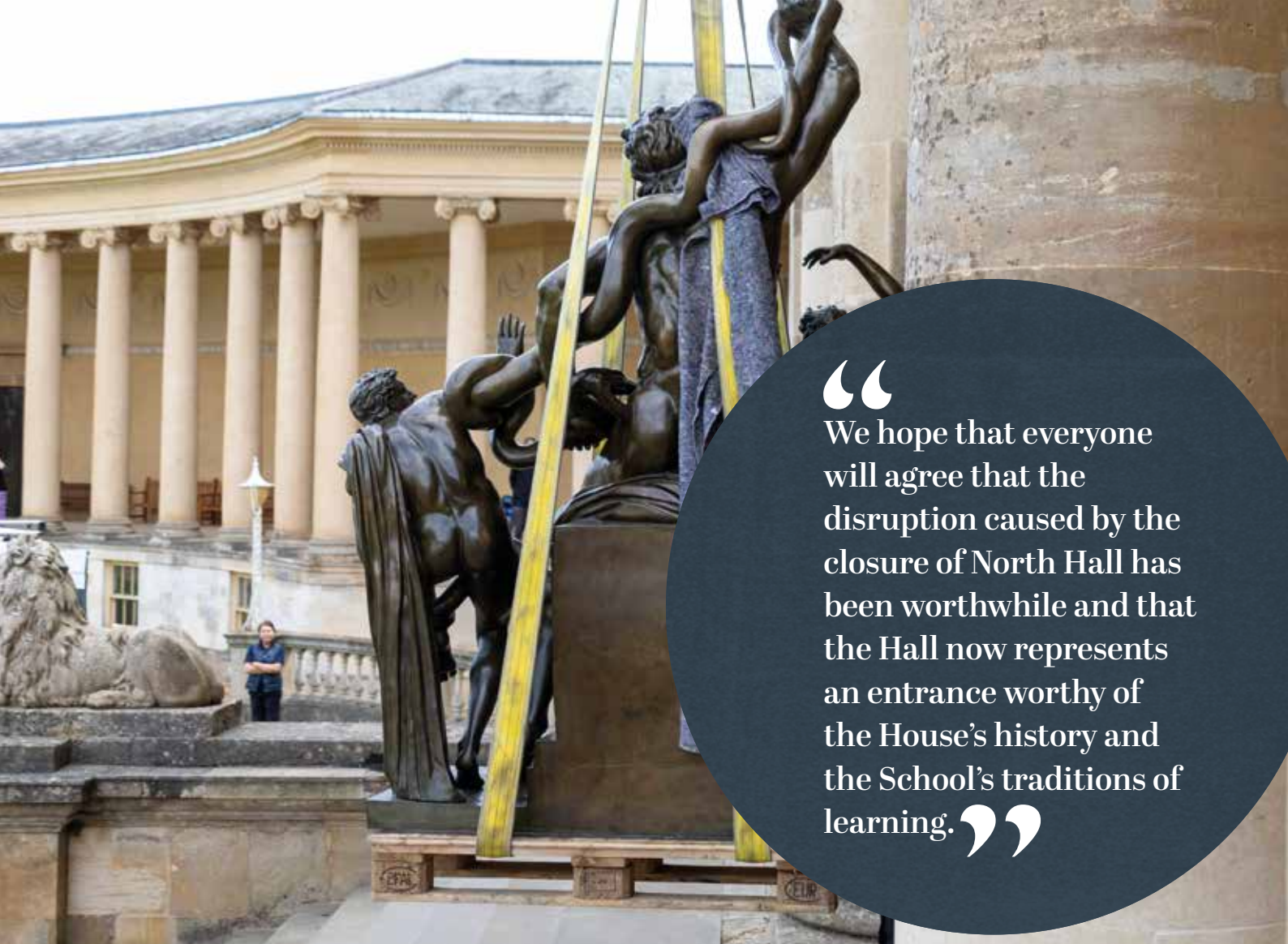
During January, work focused on stripping woodwork and preparing the walls. Doors that had been removed from site for work were returned and fitted. The shutters to the east windows were found to be incomplete and the contractor was asked to design and manufacture two additional panels to complete the set. The reason for the shutters being incomplete was not known and it could only be assumed that the two missing panels (one per side) had been removed for some reason by the School. It did not seem likely that they had been removed during the Eighteenth or Nineteenth Century and it was therefore decided to replace the missing elements. On 16 January, work began to prepare the wall surfaces for decoration in the agreed shade of pale stone and decorative work proceeded to plan along with conservation cleaning of the wall-mounted marble reliefs by Banks and Veyrier. In the process, damage was discovered to the frame of the Veyrier relief, possibly due to application of an inappropriate paint at some stage. This damage has been rectified. Upgrading of all services was also completed as part of the project, improving heating efficiency, fire protection and lighting of the ceiling, on which the trompe l'oeil painting, giving the impression of a three-dimensional surface, is now much more clear.

Meanwhile, work progressed at the studios of Rupert Harris Conservation in East London on conservation of the bronze Laocoön statue and the manufacture of the moulds that would be required for casting the replica. The statue was made using the lost wax technique, with a fibreglass mould produced for each element,

prior to casting in over twenty pieces, all of which then had to be assembled, cleaned and patinated to an appropriate shade.

The statue depicts the moment when the Trojan priest Laocoön and his two sons are attacked by sea serpents sent by the Gods to punish him for warning the Trojans not to accept the horse left by the Greeks as they feigned their retreat from the besieged city. The original marble statue was described by Pliny the Elder who, in his *Natural History* (XXXVI, 37), wrote that it was the work of the Rhodes sculptors Hagesandros, Athanadoros and Polydoros. Pliny writes that it stood in the palace of the Emperor Titus, and that it was to be preferred to all other depictions of a similar subject in painting or in bronze. When it was discovered, possibly having been buried to avoid its theft or destruction in the sack of Rome, the marble statue was recognised from the ancient writer's description. Julius II purchased it on 23 March 1506 and had it brought to the Vatican. The Stowe copy was made by Jean Auguste Marie Carbonneaux in the early Nineteenth Century and was acquired for Stowe at the sale of William Beckford's colossal mansion, Fonthill Abbey. Representing a mythological subject described in Virgil's *Aeneid*, referred to by Pliny, copied from the original and having passed through the hands of several collectors, the bronze copy now





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installed in the completed Hall is therefore a statue of enormous significance and gives SHPT some amazing opportunities for education and interpretation.

The story does not quite end there, as we know that the Hall was also decorated with Roman busts, some of Emperors and other known public figures, while opposite the Laocoön, there once stood a bronze figure of Mercury, copied from the original in marble by the Renaissance sculptor, Giambologna. The search is on for suitable busts to copy, while a full-size statue of Mercury has been found and purchased for display as soon as essential conservation work can be completed. With that, SHPT will have completed the restoration of North Hall. We hope that everyone will agree that the disruption caused by the closure of North Hall has been worthwhile and that the Hall now represents an entrance worthy of the House’s history and the School’s traditions of learning.

The Stowe House Preservation Trust is an independent charity, formed in 1997, to raise funds for the restoration of Stowe House, to conserve the building and to ensure appropriate presentation of the Grade I listed mansion. It depends entirely on fundraising for its work and, to date, has completed £24m worth of restoration projects. The next major project to be tackled by the Trust will be the Western Suite, comprising the State Dining Room, the State Drawing Room (Temple Room) and the small dining room.



So far £1.26m has been raised towards the £3.04m cost of this work.

To find out more about our work or to contribute to the restoration, please visit our website www.stowehouse.org.uk or contact Nick Morris, Chief Executive (nmorris@stowe.co.uk) or Anna McEvoy, House Custodian (amcevoy@stowe.co.uk).

**Nick Morris, Chief Executive Officer,
The Stowe House Preservation Trust**





“
The Gala Concert held in March to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Chung Music School, was a monumental success and Stoic instrumentalists delivered a performance of the very highest quality.”

Music

Life in the Music Department over the past academic year has been extremely busy, with a large number of exciting events taking place. Stoics have had a wide range of successes in a great variety of musical disciplines and I have been immensely proud to be a part of the development of our many talented musicians!

In January, Stowe hosted a concert featuring both Stoics and young musicians from the Golden Bauhinia Music Foundation in celebration of an exciting new partnership. Based in Hong Kong, The Foundation is a charity that seeks to promote the Arts across Hong Kong, mainland China and now in the UK. Children who study there benefit from the highest levels of musical tuition and we were delighted to welcome Staff, current students and alumni to Stowe for this special and unique concert.

The Gala Concert held in March to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Chung Music School, was a monumental success and Stoic instrumentalists delivered a performance of the very highest quality. The programme featured Jeffrey Au (Lower Sixth, Walpole) performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. This demanding concerto is one of the most beloved pieces in the repertoire and Jeffrey performed it in a virtuoso

manner. Learning a piece of this size at Jeffrey's age is an incredible achievement. The second half of the concert saw the School Orchestra tackle Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 'from the New World'. The pupils rose to this significant challenge admirably and the audience were treated to a performance of exceptional quality. This event was a real highlight of the year and illustrates the significant progress that the School Orchestra is making!

During the year instrumental pupils at Stowe have staged a wide range of concerts, both as soloists and as ensemble musicians. In January, the Strings section of the Music Department gave a superb concert showing off the tremendous strength and depth of the talented musicians at Stowe. The concert got under way with a brilliant performance of the famous Dvorak "American" string quartet, given by Audrey Au (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Ben Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Bruce) (violins), Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope (viola)) and Toby Thorpe (Lower Sixth, Chatham) (cello). This was followed by a lovely performance of the 1st movement of the Mozart "Hunt" string quartet with Poppy de Salis (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Antonia Bartoszewski (Fourth Form, Nugent) (violins), Jeffrey Au on viola and Rosia Li, this time playing the cello. The third piece was possibly the most demanding piece



of the chamber music items - the 1st movement of the Beethoven String Trio No. 1, which was very well played by Anya Cook (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton (violin)), Ben Li (Fourth Form, Cobham (viola)) and Henry Hink (Fourth Form, Walpole (cello)). The final item was an atmospheric performance of the slow movement of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D minor by Audrey Au (violin), Rosia Li (cello) and Jeffrey Au (piano). The Stowe String Orchestra finished the evening with a wonderful performance of the much loved Holberg Suite by Grieg.

Our Wind & Brass players staged a wonderful concert of solos, which opened with Tham Luanghvisut (Third Form, Walpole) on Saxophone, giving an atmospheric account of Debussy's *La plus que lente*. Sophia Southwick (Fourth Form, Nugent) demonstrated what an overlooked instrument the recorder is with *Sonata prima* by Dario Castello. Jess Foxwell (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) performed again as a soloist with the *Sonata* by Taktakishvili. Samuel Ellis (Fourth Form, Chandos) performed three times in this concert, firstly on the Bassoon with the *Hurleston Sonata*, he then gave an amazing display on the recorder with electronic delay effects of *Contrapunctus* by Ziegenmeyer. Samuel also played with our wonderful Bassoon Quartet for a rousing finale of Alfred's *Colonel Bogey*. Isabel Ward (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) gave one of her final concerts at Stowe, playing *Hypnosis* by Ian Clarke. Seb Foxwell performed twice, once on the trumpet and then again in a trio with Sophia and Jess. They gave a really lively account of a *Trio Sonata* by Telemann.

Keyboard music continues to be an area of great success for Stowe. In October, a large number of Stoics took part in an evening concert featuring music written for both the harpsichord and piano. The concert displayed a huge variety of musical genres and each pupil performed to a very high standard. The professional manner in which the Stoics engaged with the audience was most impressive and their confident and communicative performances made for a very enjoyable concert.

In November, several Stoics took part in a piano masterclass with the Russian-Lithuanian virtuoso Lukas Geniušas. Lukas has performed in some of the finest concert halls around the world and with some of the worlds most established orchestras as a concerto

soloist. He won the Silver Medal at the Chopin International Piano competition in 2010 and in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in 2015. Stoic pianists Rosia Li, Jeffrey Au, Jess Foxwell, Billy Baker (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Annabel Hing (Fourth Form, Stanhope) were very fortunate to work with such a consummate musician and they all gained a great deal from Lukas' teaching and advice following performances in the masterclass. Following the masterclass, Lukas gave a stunning evening piano recital. The audience were transfixed and Lukas' programme of works by Chopin, Tchaikovsky and contemporary Ukrainian composer Leonid Desyatnikov, was performed with the highest level of artistry. We very much look forward to welcoming Lukas back to Stowe in the future.

Our very own Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew, also treated us to a virtuoso piano recital. Mr Andrew performed a recital of Schubert and Chopin and demonstrated dazzling technical skills as he tackled demanding repertoire. The event proved extremely popular with audience members and the piano pupils at Stowe are exceptionally lucky to have a pianist of such prowess as a member of the Faculty!

Vocalists at Stowe continue to amaze audiences with their versatile and dynamic performances. In October, the whole School gathered in Chapel for the annual House Singing Competition. It was, as always, a fiercely contested and vibrant event and a great many Stoics had clearly gone the extra mile to provide a musical and entertaining rendition in both Unison and Part Songs. Temple took the best overall boys' House gong and were closely followed by Grafton in second place. There was one clear winner overall though and that was Queen's - their energetic rendition of Avril Lavigne's 'Girlfriend' complementing an excellently arranged Part Song.

The Vocal Department staged two solo concerts throughout the year, the Classical Vocal Concert and *A Night at the Musicals*. Both were rousing successes and demonstrated the sheer depth of talent that Stowe singers possess. Head of Vocal Studies, Rachel Sherry, organised both events and delivered concerts of the very highest standards, a testament to the hard work that she and her team of singing teachers contribute to Stowe.

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Stowe continues to excel at producing rock and pop music of the highest order and the wide range of events for contemporary music this year has been outstanding. In March, the Uglund Auditorium was the venue for the Open Mic night. Open Mic is an opportunity for Stoics to perform music they have chosen themselves in a style that they enjoy listening to and playing. It is also a forum for young musicians, who do not frequently perform live music at Stowe, to showcase their talents as well as enjoy listening to their friends and peers. We were treated to some really musical and emotional performances. Sofia Atkinson-Hieber (Fifth Form, Nugent) got the ball rolling with her own original song and Malek Salem (Fourth Form, Grenville) followed her with a moody and chilled out rap that he had also written himself. There were further striking performances from Celest Lamberti (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Olivia Omotajo (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Millie Fooks (Fourth Form, Queen's). Olivia Elliott (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) performed an original song with Peter Entwisle (Upper Sixth, Temple) and then went onto engage us with a haunting interpretation of Chris Isaacs' 'Wicked Game' with Mimi Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent). We were very fortunate to have both the Head Boy, Oscar Hill (Upper Sixth, Temple) (superbly accompanied by Billy Baker) and our Head Girl, Helena Vince (Upper Sixth, Queen's) performing at the event and there was fantastic representation from the Third and Fourth Forms as well.

In June, the North Lawn of the Chung Music School was the picturesque setting for the annual Summer Jazz picnic. The weather was kind enough for the Stowe Big Band to perform an excellent and entertaining set of both jazz standards and some more modern classics. The Senior Jazz Combo

also performed an accomplished set featuring Sean Carslaw Tricot (Lower Sixth, Grenville) playing blues harp and supplying a suitably delta style vocal to go with it. We were treated to excellent solo vocal performances from Emily Banks (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Millie Fooks, Boris Baros (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Henry Hink, Amber Capurro (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Skyla Wakeman (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Paris O'Broughton (Fourth Form, Queen's). The afternoon concluded with a spirited and well chosen mix of classic covers and great original tunes from Theo Hayes (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and his band, Rainmaker.

The annual Mozart Trio Prize Competition took place in May. This event allowed our most advanced Sixth Form musicians to put themselves forward in a competitive musical environment, judged by a professional adjudicator. This year we were lucky to have Keith Slade (Head of Woodwind at Oakham School and professional clarinetist/conductor) to deliver the adjudication and his insights into the music and performance practice were greatly appreciated by all. The competition featured six Stoics, all of whom have reached an exceptionally high level of musical performance. The winner was announced as Jeffrey Au, who performed Liszt's incredibly difficult Mephisto Waltz No. 1. Performing this piece is a significant achievement for any pianist but particularly for someone of school age! Jeffrey also gave an acclaimed solo recital as part of the Arts at Stowe programme in June, a feat also accomplished by David Choo (Upper Sixth, Chatham) back in November. Congratulations should also be given to Theo Hayes who has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the Berkeley School of Music Summer School. Berkeley



is one of the most prestigious colleges of music in the US and this is an amazing achievement for Theo. This year also saw two of our pupils, Audrey Au and Jess Foxwell, successfully attain an LTCL Diploma. The LTCL is an exceptionally demanding qualification and we are immensely proud of their achievement.

We have also hosted a wide range of activities involving junior schools this year, which have furthered Stowe's links with musicians from other schools. The Instrumental Festival Day was held in February. We had a day to construct an orchestra with young musicians, many of whom had never even played in a small group before. All of the music had been specially arranged for the combination of instruments, from strings, flutes and recorders to brass and percussion. The transformation that we witnessed through the day was very much due to the expert guidance from Nigel Gibbon (Brass), Sally Adams (Flute), Chris Windass (Strings), and John Wilkinson (Clarinet).

In March, 30 pupils from six local schools took part in the annual Keyboard Festival Day, led by Ben Andrew. This was a record year in terms of attendees and it was wonderful to work with such a talented and enthusiastic group of young musicians. Following several rigorous rehearsals, the event culminated in an afternoon concert which featured 10 pianos being played by all 30 pianists at the same time, with three pianists per piano.

In May, Stowe ran a very successful Singing Festival Day for Primary and Prep Schools. Over 80 children and their Music Teachers enjoyed a packed day of singing which included mini competitions, quick learns and work on a wide variety of prepared repertoire. There was a tangible buzz in the Music

School throughout the day as the children learned and refined songs under the direction of Rachel Sherry and James Speakman (Assistant Director of Music). The children learned a short song and then, led by Mrs Sherry, found themselves stretching to a drum riff before launching into a series of exercises to warm up their voices ready for action. Even the morning break included an activity as groups practiced tongue twisters ready for a competition! The afternoon gave the opportunity to refine the pieces further and to learn three slightly adapted songs, 'Streets of London', 'Go West' and 'Don't look back in Anger' which were sung simultaneously to an adjusted backing track from 'Go West'. Stowe Chapel Choir joined us for the last part of the day and added their voices to 'Climbin' up the Mountain'. Finally, the children performed the pieces in an informal concert for family and friends. Despite a tiring day, they sang with energy and clear enjoyment.

It has been a fantastic year for Music at Stowe and my thanks must go to all of my colleagues both within the Department and the 'Arts at Stowe' office, for enabling Stoics to benefit from such a varied and exciting musical programme. There are so many other events that I could have mentioned in this article which demonstrates the sheer volume and quality of musical activities here at Stowe. It has been a great pleasure for us to also collaborate with the Drama Department on the Junior Congreve production and for us to provide continuing support to the Chapel life of the School.

Next year has a number of fantastic musical events lined up and all of us in the Department are looking forward to witnessing the astonishing achievements that our pupils will undoubtedly accomplish!

Craig Greene, Director of Music

DRAMA

This year, Stowe Drama has produced an eclectic mix of plays and devised work.

The year was bookended with two productions that at first seem to bear no link, but as pointed out by Dominic Selvey (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Assistant Director for Junior Congreve and lead role in Senior Congreve, we have actually staged the same play twice! Not quite the case but certainly parallels can be drawn between what appear to be polar opposites, in terms of style and appeal. In order to provide a range of production styles to appeal to different potential cast members and audiences, Stowe Drama purposefully selected a range of plays including classics, historical plays, adaptations, modern drama and a range of musicals. The Michaelmas Term saw pupils from across the School performing in a full-scale production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and we closed this year's season with the love story 'High School Musical', which includes a play within a play, as the pupils from East High stage 'Juliet and Romeo'.

In the Lent Term, the Dobinson Studio went into repertory theatre as a large body of work was produced back to back. Sixth Form Drama pupils staged 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill and a collection of devised work including a political satire based on an election campaign, a Stepford Wives inspired comedy, and a historical, physical theatre piece documenting the life of Edith Cavell, WWI nurse, activist and spy. The Term concluded with an exciting

range of plays produced by GCSE pupils including David Hare's well-observed and touching comedy set in a boys' boarding school in the 1960s, 'South Downs', Martin McDonagh's black comedy 'The Pillowman', an alternative staging of Churchill's 'Top Girls', and the beautiful and funny 'Frantic Assembly Play', 'Things I know to be True'.

The Summer Term saw Stowe Drama produce our first community theatre venture with a successful, well-received rehearsed reading of 'Escaped Alone' by Caryl Churchill. We plan to continue this initiative as it is an excellent way to attract new audiences from the School and beyond, and to provide opportunities for local actors.

Following this and for the second year running, our Fourth Form GCSE pupils worked in collaboration with Tooth and Nail Theatre to devise physical theatre pieces inspired by the stories and paintings included in 'The Magic Lamp' by Ben Okri and Rosemary Clunie. These pieces, performed in May, were each unique as individual devising groups took different direction from their initial stimulus. Themes included the environment, climate change, community and belonging, coming of age, conflict and war, and the value of art.

That's the on-stage work and meanwhile much has been achieved behind the scenes this year. With the creation of a new role and the securing of Robert Parker as our new Theatre Manager, who is facilitating our ambitions and vision for the future of the space. Our aim is for the building to accommodate performances and School events readily with state of the art equipment and infrastructure to meet the varied needs of the space, creating a vibrant and busy hub that all pupils and Staff in the School feel welcomed to and share a sense of belonging. Both the Dobinson Studio floor and the Roxburgh

floor have now been resurfaced with specialist theatre flooring. The removal of the tiered seating from the Dobinson has allowed us to reclaim the wing space and make this area more flexible. We have put in new electrical systems in the Dobinson to increase lighting capacity. Both the Dobinson and Roxburgh Hall have new lighting desks and we have invested in new intelligent lighting and tungsten lanterns. Following a successful experiment with out-rigging for 'High School Musical', we have discovered some solutions to overcome the challenge of the height of the Roxburgh Hall and we are looking to implement these permanently. Dropping the existing rig will allow greater functionality of all lighting equipment, and

easier and faster access to the rig for Technicians will benefit internal and external companies. Pupils studying lighting design now have an extensive range of hardware and software available to them and are able to learn, using the latest industry standard equipment and technologies. In the last few weeks, new signage has gone up in the foyer and we are looking to redesign the area as part of our future plans. We are also planning to upgrade our sound equipment and continue to fit the Roxburgh Hall to increase its functionality as both a School and public venue.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



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The Summer Term saw Stowe Drama produce our first community theatre venture with a successful, well-received rehearsed reading of 'Escaped Alone' by Caryl Churchill. We plan to continue this initiative as it is an excellent way to attract new audiences from the School and beyond, and to provide opportunities for local actors.

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Romeo and Juliet



In last year's production of '1984', the Stowe Drama Department and pupils set themselves a very high bar indeed, which saw the Congreve production go beyond any run-of-the-mill school performance - with this year's 'Romeo and Juliet', they not only reached that bar but surpassed it.

Set against the backdrop of 16th Century Verona, the pace of the play was established right from the start, as we are introduced to the bustling atmosphere of Veronese Society and the conflict between the warring houses of the Capulets and Montagues. As one of Shakespeare's better known plays (few will be oblivious to the tragic outcome when they take their seats), there is always a danger with 'Romeo and Juliet' that the less dramatic scenes will leave an audience distracted, but it is testament to the hours of hard work and talent of the production team

and actors that we remained gripped throughout. With slick scene and set changes, innovative and imaginative direction and a contemporary feel, the tempo and pace of the play was sustained until the very final scene, even on the last night, which is no mean feat in a two and half hour performance over four nights.

What was perhaps most striking was the faultless delivery of the lines from each and every pupil. Even for professional actors, delivering Shakespearean verse to capture the natural rhythm of speech and emotion can present its challenges, but the skill and confidence of the cast ensured that even the most complex of speeches was delivered with fluency and clarity. The precision and detail of the choreography was particularly impressive, especially in the fight scene between Mercutio (Isobel Hopkins





(Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Tybalt (Theo Finlan (Fifth Form, Temple)) - there can be a tendency in more amateur productions for these types of scenes to appear forced and descend into the farcical, but the meticulous preparation of the actors meant that the intensity was retained throughout.

While space does not permit the personal mention that every member of the cast deserves, key to the success of any production of 'Romeo and Juliet' is of course the chemistry between the two eponymous characters - without that, it becomes another clichéd and sentimental love story with a bit of fighting along the way. Both Romeo (Dom Selvey (Lower Sixth, Chandos)) and Juliet (Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)) established that chemistry with

consummate skill from the outset, so that by the time Romeo seeks to 'shake the yoke of inauspicious stars from this world-wearied flesh', we genuinely felt his grief and anguish. Both actors displayed a maturity and understanding of their characters well beyond their years, as did the entire cast. Special mention should go to Emily Banks (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), whose brilliantly humorous portrayal of the Nurse injected the comedic levity needed to avoid Shakespearean tragedy weighing too heavily!

Congratulations to all the cast and production team, and especially to Rebecca Clark and Louise Wiseman, for yet another outstanding School production.

James Peppiatt, Teacher of English

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Performed by musical high schoolers After watching this year's production of 'High School Musical', I think you'd be hard pressed to find an audience member who hasn't fallen in love with musicals all over again.

It is infectious joy that unites cast and audience when watching Gabrielle (Clara Tearle (Fourth Form, Queen's)) and Troy (Seb Campbell-Preston (Fourth Form, Grafton)) disrupt the status quo to bring the jocks, nerds, thespians and skaters together.

There are a good number of "triple threats" in this cast. The leading couple are polished, convincing, yet heart warmingly innocent. And it's clear to see that the creative team, led by Rebecca Clark and Lucy Miller, understand how to utilise the cast's various talents effectively. Gymnasts, Latin dancers, acrobats and basketball players work together in perfectly choreographed, high energy and infectiously fun numbers. The total is something so much greater than the sum of its parts.



The cast clearly worked late nights and endured tired mornings to put this show together, fitting rehearsals around end of year exams and GCSE coursework performances. They sing in pitch, dance with precision and do both with an obvious relish. Humour, provided by Sharpay (Sofia Wright (Fourth Form, Stanhope)) and her beleaguered brother Ryan (Matthew Ackroyd (Fourth Form, Bruce)), also hits the right note. I couldn't take my eyes off the stage as the cast bopped from the top to the bottom of every number with commitment and confidence and I found myself believing again in a world of unity and optimism.

At half time, a grandmother sitting next to me enthused, "I've paid lots of money to see professional musicals that aren't half as good as this one!" I agree.

There was a forward momentum and a rattling pace from start to finish, helped by Jack Scott's (Max James (Third Form, Cobham)) clear DJ style announcements and a wonderful band made up of Stoics and Staff.

In the current, politically charged climate, this show brought what we're longing for: unity, connection and community. They created a beautiful sense of nostalgia for a simpler time when we could heal rifts in society by being well meaning and honest. We remember that we're all in this world together and it makes us feel good.



Maybe we should tell our world leaders to watch the show and get their heads in the game! As Ms Darbus (played by a convincing Amalie Mager (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)) puts it, this young talented cast and crew “give me hope for the future of the theatre” and for our world. These young actors, dancers and musicians could be the start of something new. It’s exactly what we’ve been looking for!

There are seven High School Musical Song titles hidden in this article. Can you find them?

1. Gotcha Get your Head in the Game
2. Were all in this together
3. Bop to the top
4. Breaking Free
5. Start of something new
6. What I’ve been looking for
7. I can’t take my eyes off you

**Emma Ackroyd, Teacher of English,
Head of Media & Film Studies**



ESCAPED ALONE

An impression

Preconceptions are that a 'play-reading' will simply save you trying to keep track of characters if you're reading a play to yourself. You think, 'great. I've been meaning to read that. I'll go along, listen to a bedtime story, look like a supportive member of the local community and give RADIO FOUR a rest'. At least, that's what I thought and why I went to the reading of Caryl Churchill's 'Escaped Alone' which has been on my shelf for a while.

The rehearsed reading took place on Tuesday 30 April in The Dobinson Studio. It was performed by Jan Pickering, Katie Thomas, Ann Payne and Chrissy Powell and directed by Rebecca Clark (with support from 'Arts at Stowe', Rob Parker and Nick Bayley).

It was dark. There were four chairs and four very real people, as we, the audience, are also here in the moment, like Hamlet's play within a play. Chrissy Powell's rendering of character 4's howls are ours. Ann Payne's depiction of character 2's fears resonate. Neither can the abject be denied as the accident of happenstance enacted between Jan Pickering and Katie Thomas draws our empathy and reveals the audience are at once lizard brained: murderous humans, and sensitive. Human. Flawed.

I cried as it closed - for myself and in gratitude for the commitment the group made to move us, hammering



the playwright's message home; urging us to see, to take responsibility and action to reorder priorities and live in balance. An empathic, moving, professional exposition of subjects and themes explored through 'Escaped Alone' reshaped the audience. Thank you.

The thought now, since attending Stowe's first public reading, of spending time with others, growing intimate through and with a text, unearthing similarity is compelling. I expect many others in the audience were, as I was, moved to explore ways to get involved with prepared public readings.

Great stuff from Stowe - a blow to the heart and a call to action. A tribute to Caryl Churchill's text.

Cherry Coombe, Poet and Novelist, Happiness Tsar/Creativity Coach, Lecturer, Mentor, Course Lead in Creative Writing, University of Buckingham



Top Girls



On Wednesday 23 January, Stowe's Upper Sixth Drama pupils performed two extracts from Caryl Churchill's play 'Top Girls', in the style of practitioner Katie Mitchell, to an audience of family, friends and an external examiner for their A Level exam performance. 'Top Girls', set in the 1980s, is a canonical piece exploring the sacrifices women have made to 'make it' in a Thatcherite world of ambition.

Thomas Frasier (Walpole) cleverly designed set visually invited us into the world of these women, with slick use of projections that emulated the world and time from where each woman came. This clever multimedia effect included opening and closing clips of some of Thatcher's speeches, a reminder to the audience of cold socio-political reality the play was set against. The Stoics' choice to use aspects of modern life such as 'selfies' with the audience, made a powerful comment on the relevance of the narrative even today. In sharing tales of fathers, lovers, sisters and a fierce debate over religion, the actors showed credible skill and control over Churchill's structurally challenging dialogue, with thoughtful timing in regard to tension and comedy. Flashes of psychosis, an effect heightened by Tavish Struthers (Bruce) clever lighting design, interrupted the realism depicted by the actors. Congratulations further to Estelle Akeroyd Hunt (Nugent) and Emma Rød-Larsen (Stanhope) for their authentic costume designs. Well done to Ugochi

Ekpecham (Lyttelton) for her depiction of Marlene as a powerful woman, who could maintain control in an otherwise chaotic situation and to Imogen Oliver (Queen's) as Isabella, whose facial expressions painted a whole picture as she indulged in telling us her stories. Polly French (Nugent) showed particular skill in capturing the complexity of Lady Nijo and Ally Jordan (Lyttelton) fascinated the audience in her portrayal of the lovable and, at times, irritating Pope Joan. Further congratulations to Alexandra King (Queen's) as Gret, who had the audience laughing with her perfectly-timed comic interludes and to Tabitha Sinclair (Stanhope) and Una Barclay (Stanhope) for their tense, moving and truthful performances of a domestic scene between family.

Louise Wiseman, Graduate Assistant - Drama

GCSE Drama

Audiences were delighted by an eclectic mix of plays performed by GCSE Drama pupils on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 March.

Assured and heartfelt performances came from many and both evenings took audiences on an emotional rollercoaster with moments of high comedy, interspersed with tragedy, storytelling and even a touch of psychological thriller. Something for everyone! Particular mention must go to Emilia Havard (Stanhope), Eleanor Butler (Lyttelton), Barnaby Peppiatt (Chatham), Fixy Hill (Queen's), Griffin Mills (Chandos), Camille Gibson (Lyttelton) and Henry Pearson (Walpole), for their emotionally intelligent, sophisticated performances. And to Uma Batey (Queen's) for her set design for 'South Downs'.

'Things I Know To Be True', by Andrew Bovell, is a moving piece that puts a quiet suburban family under the microscope as the parents are realising their children are all grown-up. The cast of Eleanor Butler (Lyttelton), Katie Beaton (Queen's), Martha Shillington (Nugent), Edward Ives (Temple), Eloise Taylor (Stanhope), Marlow Turner (Cobham), Keira West (Lyttelton) and Katie Lee (Nugent) gave touching and compelling performances, breathing life into the characters and relationships, captivating the audience and leaving them shocked and saddened by the tragic outcome.

'South Downs' by David Hare is set in a public school in 1962. The GCSE pupils certainly had fun acting as Housemasters and Prefects from another time, and exploring hierarchy and friendships and what happens when one boy will simply not conform or adapt to the ways of the school. 'South Downs' was performed by Frankie Atkinson (Grafton), William Warde-Norbury (Grafton), Oscar Esquerré Gow (Grenville), Joshua Clarke (Bruce), Oscar Wiseman (Grenville) and Barnaby Peppiatt (Chatham), with set design by Sophia Batey (Queen's).

'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill is a canonical piece set in the 1980s, bringing together different women from history with their unique stories and tales of sacrifice, alongside Marlene, a work-driven woman inspired by Thatcher and her sister Joyce, who never quite 'got away' from home. Performed by Niamh Dudgeon (Queen's), Cosima Prestwich (Nugent), Emilia Havard (Stanhope), Imogen Laurence (Nugent), Vivian Zhu (Lyttelton), Camille Gibson (Lyttelton) and Celest Lamberti (Stanhope), the girls embodied the particulars of the sisters, Joyce and Marlene, as well as the inspirational women from across history who have each overcome personal difficulty to succeed in their own way. The second piece was captivating in its use of non-conventional staging and ensemble sequences.

'The Pillowman' is a dark tale by Martin McDonagh. A lonely writer is accused of committing a series of horrifying murders that appear to be linked to his stories - but did he do it? A detective and a policeman are determined to get his confession. The piece is a challenging one with Tarantino-like violence and some difficult subject material which was handled well by the performers, who drew us into their volatile world, creating a sense of unease that McDonagh is aiming for. The cast and company were made up of Fixy Hill (Queen's), Xavier Treacher (Bruce), Udo Ekpecham (Bruce), India Case (Queen's), Griffin Mills (Chandos), Hugo Manners (Grafton), Archie Strong (Grafton), George Hooper (Chandos), Henry Pearson (Walpole), Tessa Clarke (Nugent), Alexander Maidment (Bruce), Koty King (Queen's) (costume design) and Adam Twining (Temple) (lighting design). Such was the popularity of the work that the Dobinson Studio was bursting at the seams and some audience members had to be turned away. It is brilliant that Drama is becoming so popular and don't worry, we will be looking at ways to increase the capacity in future.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



Huge congratulations and credit must go to the 13 members of the Lower Sixth A Level Drama group and their teaching Staff, who, over a two night 'run' in March in the Dobinson Studio, presented their 'devised' and original exam performance pieces to an audience of fellow Stoics, Staff, family and friends.

Taking as their inspiration the varied theatre techniques associated with the work of Complicité, each group were not only able to engage and entertain, but also demonstrated a genuine level of sustained skill and understanding that was worthy of high praise and even higher marks.

Complicité was founded in 1983 by Simon McBurney, Annabel Arden and Marcello Magni. Its original name was Théâtre de Complicité. The company are renowned for their use of extreme movement and the emphasis on strong, corporeal, poetic and surrealist image-making to support the text. Their productions often involve the dazzling use of technology, such as projections and cameras, as well as lyrical and philosophical contemplation of serious themes.

Ruby Redfern (Queen's), Juliana Ziemele (Queen's), Flora Walters (Nugent) and Rosie Ludlow (Lyttelton) set their 'The Stepford Wives' inspired mystery in the location of Dream Town - an idyllic 1950s suburbia, where the ever-smiling, polite and uber-friendly residents welcome a newcomer to their fold. However, everything is not as it appears and the climax of the performance saw a dark and menacing physical theatre sequence in which 'perfection pills' were forcefully administered to the newcomer, in order for her to 'fit in' accordingly.

Sascha Clark-Jones (Bruce), Dominic Selvey (Chandos) and Maria Sharipova (Stanhope) cleverly used the backdrop of the current, British political landscape to present a funny, observant and satirical piece linked to the creation of a 'new' party and their attempt to win a political campaign. All three group members were at ease in delivering the witty dialogue and effortlessly switched characters with skill and aplomb. We had an array of 'stereotypical' characters on show, from the hard-nosed political analyst to the pretentious advertising/media consultants who were capable of 'spinning' just about anything.

Maddie Marriott (Nugent), Izzy Hopkins (Lyttelton) and Georgia Page-Turner (Stanhope) drew their inspiration from Angela Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber' and asked their audience to think carefully about what it is to be a woman in today's fragile and fractured world. The use of music and video technology in this piece was particularly noteworthy and the dark, menacing and foreboding undercurrent left the audience with plenty of food for thought, especially after seeing the two previous light-hearted and quirky presentations.

The exploits and courage of Edith Cavell are truly inspiring and it was the remarkable legacy of this

WWI British Nurse, who helped over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium, that Mia Dettori (Nugent), Sonya Sander (Lyttelton) and Georgia Glenser (Lyttelton) took as their sensitive and compassionate starting point. All three performers skilfully and effectively switched seamlessly from an array of characters, in order to tell their story. The physical theatre and their movement were handled with real skill and the tragic ending was a sobering way to end the evening.

We know that the quality of performance work at Stowe is always very high but it was fascinating for me as an audience member to see these pieces with relatively fresh eyes as I had very little involvement in their development and rehearsal. The collective ensemble work and the way in which everyone 'cared' for each other during the performance was such a pleasure to watch. The understanding and awareness of the chosen practitioner was evident for all to see and each of the pieces told their particular story by cleverly incorporating subtle and entirely appropriate theatrical techniques and conventions.

Nick Bayley, Teacher of Drama



As another year has ended, it is time to reflect upon everything that the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) participants have achieved over the past twelve months.

Once again, it is pleasing to see more Stoics than ever thinking beyond the Expedition section and completing all sections to ensure that they achieve their Awards. At the time of writing, almost all of those eligible to complete their Bronze and Silver Awards have done so and we are seeing a marked increase in the number of Gold completions as participants use the Summer of their Lower Sixth to complete the Residential section. As always, it is fantastic to see the wide range of activities and experiences that Stoics use to complete their Awards, highlighting that a DofE Award is not just about walking in the rain!

There has been an increase in the number of volunteering opportunities over the course of this year and it has been great to see Stoics taking full advantage of this to gain a range of experience whilst completing their Awards. In addition to our outreach programme in the local care homes, Gold and Silver participants have been involved in conservation projects supporting the National Trust and the Thornborough Woodlands Trust, outreach programmes supporting local primary school children and Riding with the Disabled - a local project which offers disabled riders access to riding opportunities at a local stables. The Bronze participants have been involved in increasing environmental awareness throughout the School and finished their programme by spending a day supporting a variety of local community conservation projects, which help to ensure that

areas of natural beauty are accessible to everybody. Next year we hope to see continued development of our outreach projects and a change to our Bronze programme, which will see our Fourth Formers involved in developing fundraising initiatives over the course of the year.

The Expedition sections have, as always, been an important focus for our participants. The season started in October with the Silver Assessed Expedition in the Brecon Beacons. The Beacons Ridge can produce unfavourable conditions even in the middle of Summer and so, unfortunately, October proved to be a real test of the Silvers' preparation for adverse conditions. On the final night of the Expedition, after three days of heavy cloud and low visibility, the participants were taunted by the skies clearing and sunlight illuminating their routes in the background.

The Gold Practice Expedition to Yorkshire in early April proved to be an equally challenging experience for the candidates. Although there was limited precipitation, the temperatures were not kind overnight and the Gold pupils really found their sleeping bags being tested to the limits after some glorious blue sky days over the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Over the course of the Expedition, they summited Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-y-ghent and were pleased that they did not have to complete them in the three hours it takes some of the best fell runners! The experience did however stand them in good stead for their final Expedition in Scotland. The Cairngorms Expedition is always the most challenging for our pupils and this year it did not disappoint. After leaving camp on Day One, participants do not enjoy the luxury of basic amenities



Duke of Edinburgh's

until they return to camp on the afternoon of Day Four. In contrast to last year, this year we had a day or so of low visibility and drizzle before the skies cleared and we were able to enjoy the true majesty of the Scottish Highlands for the next couple of days. For most of our participants, this is the only time in their lives where they experience time living in true wilderness, although we hope that they leave equipped with the skills to be able to venture into the wild country safely with family and friends in the future.

Over the course of the Summer Term, the Bronze participants put their training into action on both their Practice and Assessed Expeditions in the Cotswolds and in the Shropshire Hills. Each Monday afternoon throughout the academic year, they had been offered the opportunity to learn the essentials of navigation and campcraft and how well they had paid attention became evident, as they were required to complete their expedition journeys through some 'textbook' British countryside. Overall, the groups acquitted themselves admirably, although after the Cotswolds experience, many of the participants revised their menu choices!

Early July saw a Silver Practice and an alternative Gold Assessed group depart for Snowdonia. The Gold Assessed Expedition had planned an ambitious four days travelling over Mynydd Mawr, a little travelled peak to the west of Snowdon, through the Carneddau to finish on the beach on the North Wales coast. It was a real change to our usual programme and the small group who completed the Expedition thoroughly enjoyed the experience - a special mention must go to Max McLeish, who completed this expedition two days

after returning from the Scotland Expedition! The Silver participants also saw the best that Snowdonia has to offer in some glorious conditions for their Practice Expedition. Over the three days, they summited Tryfan and Carnedd Llewelyn, whilst developing their navigation and campcraft skills in preparation for their Assessed Expedition in the Brecon Beacons in October.

As Staff who complete these expeditions year in, year out, it is all too easy to forget how much resilience is required for our pupils to complete these expeditions successfully. Much is learnt about oneself, each other, and the need for careful preparation, an experience that will hopefully prove to be invaluable later in life. None of these experiences would be possible without the support of a particularly dedicated team of Support Staff and particular thanks must go to: Mr Stanworth, Mr Rose, Mr Gibbon, Mrs Davis, Mrs Roddy, Mrs Matthews, Dr Adkins and Dr Adkins, Mr Grimble, Mr Møller, Mr Thompson, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Mrs Pickering Polláková, Mr Griffin and our Mountain Leader Team of Steve Rogers, Nick Piper and Rich Pickersgill, for ensuring that these expeditions can take place safely. A special mention this year must go to Mrs Kim McMahon who is retiring from Stowe after supporting more expeditions than anybody can remember - her support and Antipodean humour will be missed on our adventures in the outdoors. As always a final thank you to Mr Fraser Liversage for his invaluable support in ensuring that we do not forget anything and that Stoics are fully prepared for their expeditions.

Gwilym Jones, MiC DofE



Award



MINI RESTORATION PROJECT

I still can't 'quite' believe we pulled this one off. What started as a purely academic discussion between Ben Jorgensen (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and me has culminated in the most exciting project I have been involved in at Stowe.

In early 2018, Ben and I were chatting about engineering, cars and design, and imagined that it would be a wonderful School project to buy an old car and set about restoring it to its former glory. We discussed at length which car we would most like (for me, it would have been a 1965 Aston Martin DB5, but that was deemed 'excessive') and we settled on a classic Mini. Something manageable, iconic, and most importantly, something that can be totally disassembled and reassembled using merely a Philips-head screwdriver, socket set and some elbow grease.

I genuinely believed our discussion that afternoon was as far as this would ever get, but I did resolve to make a few phonecalls and send some emails just to see what might come of it. On the advice of a colleague, I got in touch with current parent and OS Marcus Atkinson (Chatham 90), who just happened to have a colleague selling a 1985 Mini Mayfair at the time. Progress. I asked the co-ordinator of the extra-curricular programme whether we might be able to start an activity restoring a car. They agreed. Further progress. There was the tiny matter of financing the purchase of a car, which necessitated a conversation with the Headmaster. Thankfully, the Head responded most positively, saying that it would complement the Red Bus and expand our School fleet of iconic, classic vehicles.

And like that, we had a car. A few conversations later and we had a team comprising Mr Simon Dobson, Ben Jorgensen (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Edward Anderson (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Lochie Shillington (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Benedict Shaw (Upper Sixth, Temple), Rufus Easdale (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and myself.

Work started in earnest in the Michaelmas Term, when the vast majority of our time was spent sanding away the gold paint and taking the body of the car back to the primer. The mechanical work on the car did reveal the unique, British Leyland, "that'll do" attitude that was characteristic of British car manufacturing in the 1980s. One door was inexplicably bolted in place while the other was screwed in. The door locking mechanism only functioned thanks to some heavy-duty tape that prevented the whole system from bowing out every time the door was opened. The fuel tank was held in place by a glorified elastic band and the radiator had a nasty habit of nearly exploding every time the car was driven more than about 40 feet. It's safe to say we had our work cut out for us.

Before term was finished, the car had been fully sanded, the interior in its entirety was removed, and the engine bay was missing the radiator, alternator, fan belt, rocker cover, washer fluid reservoir, distributor, carburettor, air filter, fuse-box, fuel pump, and spark plugs. We had also removed the fuel tank, all windows and windscreens, all the lights and indicators and the bumpers and brightwork.

Over Christmas, the car was taken to our partners at Buckingham Ford, who kindly agreed to assist in the respraying of the car into 'Stowe Blue'.

After the holiday, with our beautiful car now pristinely painted, it was time to start the lengthy process of rebuilding it. A quick trip to a specialist Mini spares superstore in North London and the reassembly could begin.

It was at this point we regretted not keeping a closer eye on what went where as we took the thing apart. Nevertheless, over the course of the Lent Term, a new radiator and fuel tank were installed, and the serviceable parts of the engine bay were cleaned, restored and returned to our car. The interior was refitted along with new carpets and door cards. Shiny new chrome was fitted to the bumpers and

headlamps, and new window seals were put in as the windscreens were reinstalled.

It was around this time we got wind of the 'Grand Plan' for 'The Italian Job' themed Speech Day. Our internal deadline for the completion of the restoration works was always Speech Day, as we intended to display the car in the wonderful Show on the North Front. However we now needed the car completed, fully working, in advance of that to take part in the production of the surprise film that would be the highlight of the Speech Day celebrations. It was at this point I started having sleepless nights.

However, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Stoics who were foolish enough to agree to be a part of this project, our good friends at Buckingham Ford for their guidance and expertise, and a not-insignificant amount of good luck and fortitude, we did successfully get 'Stowe 1' completed in time for filming over the Easter holiday, and display for at the Classic Car Show at Speech Day.

A highlight of my time at Stowe, and possibly of Simon Dobson's entire life as he is an enormous 'Italian Job' fan, was being able to show our car to producer Michael Deeley at Speech Day.

We are truly thankful to all those who made this ridiculous experiment possible, and on behalf of the team, I'd like to thank Marcus Atkinson, and Charlie Patterson from Hagerty International, for providing the car in the first place, Tori Roddy and the Marketing team at Stowe for their continued support (emotional and financial), the Science Faculty for allowing me to use the foyer as a garage on multiple occasions

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Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Stoics who were foolish enough to agree to be a part of this project, our good friends at Buckingham Ford for their guidance and expertise, and a not-insignificant amount of good luck and fortitude we did successfully get 'Stowe 1' completed in time for filming over the Easter holiday, and display at the Classic Car Show at Speech Day.”



(without complaining too much), George and his colleagues at Petroleum and Co, for their brilliant filmmaking talents, producing a wonderful film for Speech Day which featured our little car, and of course Ian, Kieran and their colleagues at Buckingham Ford. You can watch Stowe's take on 'The Italian Job' on the School website.

Finally, a thank you to Ben, Ed, Lochie, Ben, Rufus and Simon for being such brilliant company on Monday afternoons this year. We did it, in the end.

'Stowe 1' will remain at Stowe, and I very much hope it will continue to provide the same inspiration and challenge to future generations of Stoics as it has done so much this year.

Craig Donoghue, MiC The Italian Job





Beagling

The 2018-2019 season has been a successful season in so many ways, although I am sad it was my last season at Stowe having hunted the beagles for two years.

We kicked off the season with a tour up to Northumberland, staying with the Old Stoic family, the Leylands, who continue to be a strong support for us. I hunted the hounds for two days, flying along the Scottish Border in beautiful countryside, with trails laid by Michael Leyland (Walpole 10) on his quad bike. Tom Gurney (Lower Sixth, Grenville) hunted the hounds on the third day on the farm of Adam Waugh (Bruce 89). Once back, we continued our hunting every Wednesday and Saturday, with some great days early on in the season. After Christmas, we took our annual tour up to Yorkshire to stay with another Old Stoic family the Bannisters, (the only family to provide the Beagles with three Masters, the late Tom Bannister (Lyttelton 82), Harry Bannister (Chatham 12) and Roddy Bannister (Grafton 17)) who once again were extremely generous hosts and produced one of the best days of the season. We are grateful to the Leylands and Bannisters for their continued support.

Once again this season, we had our annual Hunter Trials held at Primrose Hill, Gawcott. It was a successful day and I thank the Strangmans, Mr Laurie (Bruce

57) and Alicia and their daughter, Mrs Jane Jones (Stanhope 91) for allowing us to continue to hold the Hunter Trials at Primrose Hill.

Our Puppy Show was held in July, with the weather holding off for us. The two Judges this year, Rosemary Stobart and Charles Stirling, did an excellent job and had tough decisions to make. They were very generous with their time. I would like to thank everyone for their help and support.

I would also like to thank the whips for all their hard work and effort they have given over the season, we have a great group of Beaglers. As ever, the followers were steadfast and we appreciate the fun and help that everyone brings who come out with us.

The biggest thanks go to Philip Kennedy (Kennel Huntsman) and Lucy Kennedy for their amazing help and support throughout the season. I would also like to thank them personally for all the kindness they have shown me throughout my career at Stowe.

I am very grateful to have had this amazing opportunity of being Master and hunting the hounds for my two years of Sixth Form at Stowe. I wish the new Masters, Tom Gurney and Bertie Keane (Lower Sixth, Walpole), the best of luck for the forthcoming season.

Freddie Richards (Upper Sixth, Bruce)



The Chapel at Stowe has always been at the heart of School life.

The entire pupil body meets collectively in the Chapel four times a week, three times for worship and once for an assembly. It is the only building at Stowe where the entire School can meet, so over the years it has become the focus for the School community. The Christian faith on which the School was founded remains the guiding principle of our collective spiritual life. Physically, socially and spiritually, the Chapel is central to Stowe.

Having been the Chaplain here for nearly two years, it has been a delight and a privilege to be part of this vibrant community and I have enjoyed the way that people have engaged with the spiritual programme in its varied forms. Pupils are eager to participate and offer willingly to read lessons, lead prayers, take part in their House Chapel service, play instruments or sing songs in Chapel. Over the year over 250 different Stoics have actively helped with our services in one way or another. I am most grateful to them, as I am to the many Staff who support the work of the Chapel by their talks, their leading of Confirmation groups, and their encouraging attendance.

The Chapel is a place for all seasons, for joy and for sorrow and for the everyday. Just after Christmas we heard the sad news of the death of Terri Bosman, the long-serving and much-loved Matron in Grafton. Naturally we held a thanksgiving service for Terri that was attended by generations of Old Graftonians as well, of course, as all current Grafton boys, along with members of Terri's family and many from the wider Stowe community. It was both a sad and a healing occasion, and it is a very good thing to have this place to gather for such moments.

Each year, every House leads a House Chapel service. These have been great occasions and each House has prepared thoughtfully and delivered their material in an interesting and often challenging way.

The theme of the Michaelmas Term was The Apostles' Creed, covering in 15 short talks, the full breadth of Christian doctrine. Some Stoics arrive with plenty of Christian background, others with little or none, so

the educative role of Chapel is significant here. In the Lent Term, we looked at God's 'Good Gifts', everything from creation to grace, and in the Summer Term, we have been looking at how the 'Big Names' in the Bible, both heroes and villains, still speak to us today.

Highlights from the year have included a visit from Linda Ngamlana from the Amasango School for street children in Grahamstown, South Africa. Remembrance Sunday was a memorable occasion complete with the CCF parade, flag-bearing, wreath-laying, bugle-playing, and a talk from our Head of Classics and former RAF officer, Jonathan Murnane. The Prefects' Carol Service gave our pupil leaders an opportunity to strut their stuff on the stage, at the same time giving us a first taste of Christmas. The two Christmas Carol Services were both packed with family, friends and the entire Stowe community, and Rico Tice from All Souls Church, Langham Place, gave a short talk that reminded us why Christmas is such good news (clue: it has nothing to do with turkeys or tinsel!). Rico then returned in March to give our Lent Addresses, as well as giving three evening talks in the Art Gallery when many Stoics joined us to hear the relevance of Jesus Christ to our lives today.

The Confirmation Service on the last Sunday of the Lent Term saw 32 Stoics and two members of the Common Room confirmed by the Bishop of Buckingham. Confirmation is no longer an unthinking rite of passage and it is good to see those who are confirmed taking the preparation process seriously and making their promises sincerely.

I am writing this on a blazing hot Summer's day, but am reminded of the words of Isaiah: "The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." Although the pitches may be hard, may the refreshing word of God stand forever here at Stowe!

Tim Mullins, School Chaplain

“The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”

CHAPEL

CROSSFIRE

'Come and see', is what a Disciple once said to his brother after meeting Jesus Christ. The same invitation is extended via Crossfire each week to the Stowe community!

Friday evenings in StoweBucks this year have, as usual, been marked by the warm atmosphere, biscuits and a short but thought-provoking talk from the Bible from a range of engaging speakers, mainly from outside but also from an expanded home team. The 'Encounters with Jesus' series in the Michaelmas Term did just that, and provoked thoughtful discussion and responses to the greatest figure of human history. Into the Lent Term and a series on 'In the Beginning' from The Book of Genesis helped us to consider ancient truths of Creation and humanity and was complemented by an excellent trip to St Ebbe's Church in central Oxford for a 'Christians in Sport' quiz. The Summer Term's series on 'Big questions about the Bible' helped Stoics to grapple with thoughts beyond the day to day.

Other notable highlights included the Summer Term BBQs (one of which went ahead in monsoon conditions) and the Lent Addresses, led this year by the effervescent and hugely engaging Rico Tice.

Henry Swayne, MiC Crossfire

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It has been a very busy year with increasing numbers and I look forward to more pupils joining me next year to share my passion for textiles.”



This year we launched a Monday Fashion Workshop. The Stoics worked on diverse themes and used a combination of textile techniques to create an imaginative variety of designs inspired by culture, art and recycling. These impressive designs were on display on Speech Day showing the skill and talent of all pupils involved.

As a member of the Textile group, Olivia Omotajo (Fifth Form, Stanhope), has been awarded a prize for Fashion Textiles. She embraced the recycling theme, reworking Stowe uniforms, mixing tie-dye and made a futuristic outfit cleverly fusing bin bags and bubble wrap. Her creative energy is evident in all her designs.

I have had an exceptional group of enthusiastic Third and Fourth Form pupils who have enjoyed learning new skills, and have made some outstanding pieces of work including silk painting and embroidery. Jewellery making is becoming more popular and pupils are designing pieces that are more ambitious.

Genevieve Carter (Third Form, Queen's) and Nell Osborne (Third Form, Queen's) have been awarded a joint Creative Textiles Prize for their excellent work, both produced exquisite silk paintings as well as other creations.

It has been a very busy year with increasing numbers interested in using textiles in their mixed media expressive work for GCSE and A Level, all of whom I have enjoyed teaching. I look forward to more pupils joining me next year to share my passion for textiles.

Next academic year, I aim to develop projects relating to the growing awareness of reusing and recycling clothes and understanding the importance of sustainable fashion and I hope to enable pupils to create designs to wear or enjoy as a work of art.

Congratulations to all my pupils for producing such great work and for putting so much effort into their projects.

Jo Banks, MiC Textiles



Arts Award

The Arts Award programme has enjoyed another successful year with nine Fourth Form Stoics completing their Bronze Award and several more working towards Gold and Silver qualifications. Isabel Moffat (Nugent) completed a superb portfolio as a filmmaker, while the hugely talented Malek Salem (Grenville) and Greta Burnell (Queen's) recorded original music tracks. Paris O'Broughton (Queen's), Annie Saghri (Nugent) and Neel Collin (Bruce) developed their extensive skills as musicians and Matthew Ackroyd (Bruce) had the opportunity to tread the boards as an actor. Antonia Bartoszewski (Nugent) and Polina Von (Queen's) concentrated their efforts on the visual arts, honing their talents in photography and illustration, respectively. We hope that these Fourth Form pupils will join some of their seniors in pursuing the higher level Art Awards next year.

The pupils have enjoyed a variety of field days to supplement and inspire their individual project work. In October, we visited the Buckinghamshire County Museum and the Queen's Park Arts Centre. The pupils enjoyed finding out more about how both establishments play host to a wide range of artistic ventures. Through question and answer sessions, tours and practical workshops, they learned more about working in the arts industry, event management, funding, marketing and community engagement. A key part of the Arts Award Gold and Silver levels is interviewing and working alongside arts practitioners, so this interactive and informative day helped the pupils consider future career pathways.

In April, the group went to Stratford-upon-Avon for an enriching and inspiring exploration of Shakespeare's

home town. They had the opportunity to walk in his footsteps, taking in some of the sights, including the house where he was born and grew up, before visiting the Royal Shakespeare Company. They learned all about the history and recent renovation of this impressive venue, and climbed to the top of the tower, which boasts stunning views across Stratford. In the afternoon, the pupils visited the theatre company's alternative venue, 'The Other Place', home to a smaller studio theatre, a vast costume store and expansive rehearsal rooms. We were treated to a fascinating tour, which gave the Stoics a true insight into the process a play goes through from conception to final performance.

The culmination of our Arts Award year was our exciting June field days; two days of creativity, exploration and fun on the theme of 'Dirty Dancing'. On Friday 14 June, the Stoics were fortunate enough to take part in stimulating workshops across a range of disciplines, including creative writing, singing and drama. Many thanks to Stowe teachers, Heather Eisenhut, Fergus Parnaby, Rachel Sherry and Nick Bayley, for laying on such dynamic and vibrant activities. The weekend was rounded off with a visit to Northampton's Royal & Derngate Theatre to watch the show.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with such a talented, engaged and enthused group of young arts practitioners this year. We look forward to supporting a new Fourth Form cohort through their arts journeys in 2020.

Lucy Miller, Teacher of Drama





Welcomes/farewells: This year we welcomed a number of new teaching Staff to CCF: Mr Anthony Ashfield, Mr Martin Johnson, Mr Ali Last, Ms Cheryl Syrett, and Mr Chris Lomax to the Army Section, Mr Jonny Davis to the RAF Section and Mr Duncan Syme to the Navy Section.

We also welcomed Sgt Geoff Abbey (ex-Royal Marine Warrant Officer) to the team as our new SSI (School Staff Instructor) and bade a fond farewell to Sgt Alex Sprules, who has taken up a new career in the world of Health and Safety.

Head Cadet: Cadet Company Sergeant Major Hugo Robinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville) performed his duties as Head Cadet with tangible pride, demonstrating a real attention to detail and consistent reliability. He has been proactive, hard-working and an excellent role model to the Junior Cadets. Following on in his predecessor's footsteps, (Alex Harris (Upper Sixth, Grafton)), Hugo too was appointed Lord Lieutenant's Cadet to Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, carrying out his duties in an exemplary manner and acting as a wonderful ambassador to Stowe. We wish Hugo and our excellent outgoing Upper Sixth NCOs the very best of wishes in this new chapter in their lives. They were a particularly strong year group and leave a big hole for the new Upper Sixth Form NCOs to enjoy filling.

Stowe CCF, across all three Sections, has had another productive and high achieving year.

Highlights

Bangladesh Visit

One of the highlights of the year was the CCF Cadet visit to Bangladesh in October, (following a visit by 12 Bangladesh Cadets to Stowe last June). 10 Stoic Cadets (Army and Navy) accompanied by Dr Smith

and myself. In Dhaka, we visited the excellent Bangladesh National Museum and the deeply moving Museum of Liberation (where 3 million Bangladeshis lost their lives in nine months of the bloody War for Independence during 1971). We then flew to Chittagong to visit Faudjarhat Cadet College, (the oldest of the 12 Bangladesh Cadet Colleges). From there we went onto the Bangladesh Royal Military Academy (closely mirroring our RMA Sandhurst model) and finally, to the Rohingya Refugee Camp, where more than 700,000 Rohingyas had been forcibly displaced from their homes in Myanmar's Rhakine Province.

The Bangladesh Defence Advisor, Colonel Dominic Spencer, father of Hermione Spencer (Upper Sixth, West), supported us most generously leading up to and throughout the visit, and the Bangladesh Army took the greatest care of every aspect of our visit. The aim was for Stoics to be exposed to a culture and country vastly different to our own, with a socio-economic environment well outside any of their normal experiences, ably challenging any previously held preconceptions or inexperienced world views. The full immersion in Bangladesh culture was an entirely unique and remarkable experience for us all.

Whilst visiting the Rohingya Refugee Camp we were most grateful to be given the opportunity by UNICEF to engage with Child Friendly Spaces, and wonderfully inspiring refugee children whose smiles belied the horrifying scenes they witnessed. Following our visit, we all hope to continue educating and broadcast the plight of what UNICEF and NGOs in the camps fear may become a lost generation of children.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Leading Hand Rosie Ludlow (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Cpl Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) presented at the Holocaust Memorial Day on the Theme, 'Torn from Home', at which Lord Alf Dubs



spoke of his experience as one of the Kindertransport child refugees who fled Czechoslovakia. The evening was in honour of Sir Nicholas Winton (OS), who heroically arranged the transport that saved the lives of so many. Rosie and Sonya spoke movingly about the plight of the Rohingya refugees, educating the audience on the situation in the camps and what they had experienced. Lord Dubs extolled their efforts in raising the profile of these refugees.

Joint Literary/CCF event

Rosie and Sonya also presented at the joint Literary/CCF event which tied in with the military/remembrance theme, on the unspeakable atrocities committed by the Myanmar military, as they forcibly and violently expelled the Rohingya minority from Myanmar, ethnic cleansing by any other name.

Remembrance Service

A highlight of the CCF calendar was this year's Remembrance Sunday marking the Centenary of the end of the First World War. CCF Cadets are always proud to mark Remembrance Sunday and all were turned out immaculately for inspection by the Chair of Governors and the Headmaster. Those with key roles during the Service carried them out with pride and dignity.

Royal Albert Hall

Meanwhile Stowe CCF was honoured to be invited to send a Cadet to the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance. Cadet Petty Officer, Oscar Hill (Upper Sixth, Temple) proudly represented Cadets nationwide, as Escort to the Combined Cadet Force Standard.

Individual Cadet Achievements

RAF Scholarship/Air Cadet Pilot Scheme Scholarship. A highlight for the RAF Section was a second successful bid in two years for an RAF Scholarship,

this time for Cadet Flt Sgt Harry Kirby (Lower Sixth, Temple), who thoroughly enjoyed his experience of 12 hours of flying tuition towards a PPL (Private Pilot's Licence). It would be fair to say competition was extremely stiff and it is a remarkable and most impressive achievement for him, and indeed the RAF Section, achieving the Scholarship two years in a row.

Institute of Leadership and Management

10 Upper Sixth Cadets successfully passed their ILM Certificate, a nationally recognised adult leadership qualification. Hugo Robinson (Grenville), Cameron Chambers (Grenville), Kianti Subowo (Queen's), Jess Potts (Nugent), Rowan Brudenell (Grenville), Thomas White (Chatham), Tavish Struthers (Bruce), Max Whitehead (Grenville), Alex Jones (Grenville) and Tom Abbott-Drake (Bruce).

BTEC Level 2

Stewart Johnston (Upper Sixth, Chandos) was awarded a BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community (QCF).

Cadet Forces Uniformed Services Competition (Equestrian)

L/Cpl Cecily Hopkins (Fourth Form, Queen's) excelled at the Cadet Forces Uniformed Services Competition held at the Light Cavalry Stables, Windsor in November. Of the 20 successful entrants, Cecily was top Army Cadet and 2nd overall - a fantastic result.

Exercise Baltic Guard

Over Easter, L/Cpl Poom Hall (Lower Sixth, Cobham) successfully passed the National Cadet Selection Weekend for Exercise Baltic Guard. He is one of 30 Cadets from the UK to take part in a camp with Lithuanian Cadets this Summer. This feat is all the more remarkable as he had only seven months of Cadet experience under his belt and was on an accelerated trajectory to catch up on the requisite 'Senior Cadet' knowledge.



Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

Cadet CSM Hugo Thomas (Fifth Form, Temple) supported the Vice Lord Lieutenant for the visit by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) at Great Horwood and to MK-ACT (women's refuge). This visit was hugely important to the Staff, Trustees and Volunteers at Medical Detection Dogs and MK-ACT. Hugo was commended on his turnout and represented Stowe extremely well. Later on in the year, Hugo also proudly performed his duty as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet to HRH the Duchess of Cambridge on a visit to Bletchley Park.

Champion Contingent - 7 Infantry Brigade Army Section Summer Camp

The last highlight of the year must go to the Army Section who returned triumphant from 7 Infantry Brigade Army Section Summer Camp, having won the hotly contested overall Champion Contingent prize. This is a first for Stowe CCF in many years, and the Cadets were justifiably delighted. Stoic shooting skills are very strong, with Stowe placed first for both Air Rifle and Cadet General Purpose Rifle, with a particularly impressive performance by L/Cpl Sam Ellis (Fourth Form, Chandos), who won the individual Best Shot of the cohort of 350 Cadets. Added to third place in the Military Knowledge competition and fourth in Drill, the results in all four disciplines ensured an overall win.

Army Section

The October Exercise provided an opportunity for the 110 Army Cadets to deploy to a wooded military training area in Hampshire. New Fourth Form Cadets (just three weeks into their CCF training) learned basic field craft, shelter construction and army ration pack cooking. They were taught how to build a signal/smoke fire to show through a wooded canopy and in particular, enjoyed the 'escape and evasion' serial, where Sixth Form Cadets were the hunter force. The

Senior Cadets focused on development of field craft and leadership skills through night recce patrols, blank firing night ambushes, and an 'advance to contact', to rescue a downed helicopter pilot.

March Fifth Form Cadet Exercise

This exercise took place in Staffordshire and provided an opportunity to focus on, and develop, the Fifth Form Cadets. Activities included, a range of combat and movement exercises, such as TIBUA (training in built-up areas), Laser Tag team matches, and navigating in complete darkness through a maze, whilst trying to avoid being captured by Sixth Form NCO volunteers. The next day included fire and movement drills with laser guns, learning how to successfully surround enemy territory, and practicing on the DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer), which provided pop-up and moving targets to shoot at. The Cadets also put into practice TIBUA theory by clearing a building, using blank firing weapons to make sure there were no enemy in any of the rooms. Lots of thinking on their feet and rapid decision making.

11 Infantry Brigade Military Skills Competition

On Friday 22 March, eight Stoic Cadets set out for 11 Infantry Brigade Military Skills Competition, Longmoor Military Training Camp, Hampshire, competing against 16 other ACF and CCFs. Activities included the obstacle course, Live Firing shooting on the cadet 5.56mm GP rifle, command tasks, paintballing, first aid, navigation and section attacks.

An excellent competition with limited places, hotly fought for by Fourth Form Army Cadets, finishing with a placing in the top third for a Junior team, which was well-deserved.

Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College STEM Competition

10 Cadets from Fourth Form Army, RAF and Navy Sections went to Welbeck Defence College, near Loughborough, for a two-day national STEM



(Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Leadership Challenge Competition, competing with 23 other ACF and CCF teams from across the country. Activities included a Trim Trail, REME Land Rover recovery stand, an assault course, command tasks, an indoor climbing wall, an electronic clay pigeon stand, and a complex First Aid stand, complete with injured casualties and improvised explosive devices in the surrounding area. The Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Logistic Corps each provided role-relevant stands to test the cadets.

The Bloodhound SSC (the team behind the record-breaking supersonic speed car) gave a fascinating presentation about the ways in which human driven world speed records have been made, and what techniques vehicles have used to reach such speeds over time. In teams of five, Cadets were then tasked with creating a car out of K'nex (similar to Lego or Meccano), that replicated the Bloodhound. Overall, the Stowe team came 7th out of 24 teams - a great performance against some experienced teams.

CCF Sixth Form NCOs' Annual Dinner Night

On Tuesday 26 March, a large gathering of 68 Stowe Cadet NCOs across all three Sections, together with Officers and guests, gathered in the Marble Hall for pre-dinner drinks, prior to the annual Stowe CCF Sixth Form NCOs' Dinner Night, held in the Music Room.

Our Guest Speaker, Group Captain Richard Thomas OBE AFC, talked about some of the best qualities of a leader that he had observed during his time in the RAF, and particularly during high profile, potentially high risk, public events, when he commanded the RAF Red Arrows Display Team. Every NCO listened intently to his wise and salient words. As our NCOs go out into the world to serve and lead men and women in their chosen career paths, they would be well-served reflecting on his humble and inspiring

words. The NCOs looked elegant and dashing in black tie and formal evening gowns. Without exception, each Sixth Form NCO rose to the formality of the occasion and behaved in an exemplary manner, thoroughly enjoying the occasion.

Army Section Field Day Exercise

This exercise involved a live firing range package, held at Bicester Garrison outdoor range and a blank firing exercise, conducted on School grounds. This was the first time that the Fourth Form Cadets had exposure to live firing 5.56mm rounds on a 25m range and it was greatly enjoyed by all. The second half of the day saw Cadets learn how to camouflage themselves properly, patrol in pairs and respond to enemy contact, using blank rounds. The Cadets learnt how to move and fight through an enclosed wooded area, effectively and quickly. Stoics were also put to the test with their navigational skills and basic military fitness over the obstacle course.

Adventure Training in Cumbria & the Lake District

All Fourth Form Army and Navy Cadets took part in a dose of Army style adventure training. The caving serial gave Cadets the opportunity to explore natural caves underground and, for many, the opportunity to overcome a natural aversion to being squeezed between cold, damp rocks underground. They also enjoyed some dry ghyll scrambling and canyoning down waterfalls as well as some challenging jumps, from pause worthy heights, into the cool Cumbrian water. The cold and wet had little effect on the enjoyment of the Cadets, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the adventurous nature of the activity.

Army Section Summer Camp

The last activity of the year was the annual week-long Army Section Summer Camp, aimed at consolidating everything that the Fourth Form have learned during the year. This year we were attached to 7 Infantry Brigade at Beckingham Training Camp, Lincoln. Always busy, and mixed in with lots of other School



Army Sections, the Cadets took part in a variety of activities: Fieldcraft and Military Skills, aimed at basic and advanced levels; Air Rifle, Cadet Target Rifle and Cadet General Purpose Rifle Basic, Advanced and Familiarity shoots; and a Personal Development Day offering sailing, kayaking, raft building and mountain biking. The last 24 hours were taken up with an overnight exercise in a wood. We paired up with another school and deployed reconnaissance patrols to gather as much information as possible, in order to launch deliberate attacks against known enemy positions the following morning. The level of cleverly obtained intelligence was most impressive. We had no idea Stowe Army Section had so many recce ninjas!

Following the routine, less enjoyable culmination of an exercise (otherwise known as thorough weapon cleaning), the Cadets stampeded the CCF stores van which brought them round-shaped doughy/cheesy morale, in the form of pizzas. I just thought they were pleased to see me.

**Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander
Stowe CCF**

Navy Section

The Royal Navy CCF Section has been exploring new activities, in which the Cadets have been clearly excelling.

In October 2018, the section travelled to Portsmouth, Southampton and Chichester to carry out canoeing and kayaking. During our field trips in March and April, we provided the Cadets with access to Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, to visit the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, M33 and the Submarine HMS Alliance. The M33 is the only surviving warship which took part in WWI and in particular Gallipoli, including saving the ship's cat that fell overboard during a night of action.

HMS Alliance also fought in a number of battles during WWII and now stands proud in Portsmouth, open to visitors to see and understand how the submariners of that day lived, ate and found time to sleep. The tight constraints of HMS Alliance always

leaves the Cadets in awe of the confined space in which the crew had to live.

More recently, Fourth Form Navy Cadets joined forces with the Army Section Fourth Form Cadets and enjoyed an adventure training trip to Cumbria and the Lakes, testing themselves with caving and canyoning challenges.

The last field trip of the year has once again brought the Cadets to Portsmouth. On Monday 24 June, Stowe and King's College School, Wimbledon combined to carry out the Royal Navy's obstacle and low ropes courses. These courses are designed for current serving Royal Navy personnel to establish their leadership skills.

On Tuesday 25 June, Stowe paired up with Haileybury School and took to the water at Chichester Canal in kayaks.

With a sigh of 'aahhh', as the cygnets with their parents swam past, a group of nine ducklings with mum followed, which gave us all something to smile at on a hot Summer's day and before the activities began.

There were a number of on-water activities, water football, 'Mr Crocodile' and others, which the Cadets thoroughly enjoyed. Teo de Saint Blanquat d'Espla (Fourth Form, Cobham) was the star of the show for Stowe as upon our return to the quay, his kayak slowly began to sink a voice from the quayside shouted "DIVE DIVE DIVE", as he slowly began his descent (in 2ft of water)!

Wednesday 26 June saw the Cadets battling fires and preventing compartments from being flooded. This, of course, is in a simulator, being guided by our instructors. The Cadets were faced with fires and floods at sea. The simulator moving as if it is on the water, provides an impression of being at sea in various conditions. The Cadets threw themselves into the exercises, in ensuring the fires were out, flooding was secured, with lives and the ship being saved!

In the Summer, the Cadets have experienced leadership tasks, over the obstacle course and low ropes, experiencing how to lead with a large group of Cadets following their instructions. This was



extremely salient during the firefighting and damage control environments, encouraging others in order to extinguish the fires and plug holes to prevent the compartments from further flooding.

We had an enjoyable few days in Portsmouth, the sun shining, the Cadets having a great time in preparation for their long-awaited Summer break.

Lt Nick Zammit, Officer in Charge Royal Naval Section, Stowe CCF

RAF Section

With an influx of 17 Fourth Formers at the start of the year, the RAF Section of the CCF continues to grow. Once the Michaelmas Term had begun, the Cadets soon got into the swing of things. The traditional RAF start to the School year again saw a closely fought competition in the annual paper plane competition, with the new Fourth Form Cadets giving the old-timers in the Lower Sixth a run for their money with some impressive (and some other less than impressive) designs. As November approached, several drill and uniform sessions paved the way for an excellent showing at the School's Remembrance parade and service, marking the Centenary of the Armistice.

This year, some of the traditional calendar events (including the land navigation exercises around the obelisk and the concealment and stalk exercise to the Gothic Temple) were blessed with blue skies. Alas, for the second year running, the outdoor astro navigation exercise was beset by uncooperative weather.

As always, the highlights of the year remain the field days and flying opportunities. This year saw visits to the aircraft and aerospace museums at Duxford and Leicester as well as the opportunity for scuba diving in Aylesbury, while a memorable day's gliding at Bicester Airfield proved to be an excellent augment to the annual air experience, flying on the 'Tutor aerobatic' aircraft at RAF Benson.

In addition to the School-run field days, one of the undoubted benefits that the CCF has to offer is the opportunity to travel and fly with the frontline RAF.

Having already participated in the 2017 Summer Camp in Gibraltar, Cadet Sergeant Harry Kirby (Lower Sixth, Temple), continued his travels by completing the 2018 Summer Camp at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. Not content with that, Harry was also awarded a coveted flying scholarship through the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme (ACPS), completing several hours of pilot training at Dundee Airfield during the October Half Term. With around 17,000 Cadets nationwide eligible for the award, Harry's success is even more significant as this is the second year running that Stowe has fielded a successful applicant. Last year Cadet Flight Sergeant Rowan Brudenell (Upper Sixth, Grenville), also won an ACPS Scholarship. Harry will be taking over next year from Rowan as Senior RAF Cadet on promotion to Cadet Flight Sergeant.

As ever, I should like to extend my sincere thanks both to the Cadets for their spirit, humour and general willingness to get stuck in, as well as to Mr Davis, Mrs Murnane, Mr Liversage and Sergeant Pickard for their selflessness and professionalism, in helping to plan and deliver the many various activities that the Section has enjoyed throughout the year.

Jon Murnane, RAF Section Commander, Stowe CCF

So, another excellent year for our intrepid Cadets. It is wonderful to see so many of them really taking advantage of the exciting and varied opportunities available, and developing their leadership and teamwork skills. We much look forward to welcoming our new cohort of Fourth Form in September to our three sections.

Of course, Stowe CCF would not offer the fine Cadet experience it does, without our fantastic group of Officers, Cadet Volunteers and Staff. I thank them all, most sincerely, for their continued hard work, humour and professionalism. We look forward to delivering more successful, effective, enjoyable cadet leadership and adventurous experiences in the new academic year.

Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander, Stowe CCF

RUGBY



1st XV

This season has seen the Stowe 1st XV face its toughest season in living memory. However, in terms of teaching character and resilience, it has probably been one of the most rewarding seasons in recent times. Aply led by Jamie Moir, the results did not go our way, despite a promising pre-season camp and a good early win against Abingdon. The 1st XV regularly came up against more physical and larger teams, which meant we were on the back foot for large periods of matches. Our scramble defence and doggedness carried us through the tough times and the team were rewarded with the only other win of the season, which came against St Edward's in a nail-biting 13-10 victory and that was after giving them a 10-0 lead, just to make things interesting.

Week in, week out, the players continued to put their bodies on the line and fight to the final whistle, even when the result of games were long gone, we scored late tries against Bromsgrove, Rugby and Uppingham which is testament to the team's character.

Special mention must go to the leaders Jamie Moir and Ed Anderson, and to Egan Brosnan and Peter Wood, for all their efforts this season.

We wish our departing Upper Sixth Formers the best of luck in their post-Stowe careers and we hope that most, if not all, continue to play the game they gave so much to over their five years at Stowe.

Grant Seely & Mike Rickner

2nd XV

With three good wins and 34 tries scored over the 11 matches, there were some definite highlights to enjoy from a rather up and down season. We did draw from a wide player base, with 31 Stoics having played for the 2nd XV team, so continuity was a challenge, but the players adapted well to the changing line up and became used to working out tactics and moves together on the Friday match preparation sessions. Two matches stand out as being defining performances, these were against Stamford and Bromsgrove, both unfortunately went the way of the opposition by narrow margins, but we played very well in each match and certainly

developed from these experiences. In terms of statistics, if we had managed to turn those two fine margins in our favour, the season would have looked very different on paper. The spine of the side came from Upper Sixth players: David Choo, Dan Ackroyd, Billy Baker, Tom Worrall, Alec McLeish, Max Moseley and Ben Shaw. Lower Sixth Formers who show promise for next season include Poom Hall, Tom Fountain, Micky Shillington, Dave Dooley, Harry Burnet, Jack Colebrook and Sam Holloway. Special mention must go to characters who I will remember very fondly. Alec McLeish, who played on the wing, stepped up to show real leadership and Captain the side in the last few matches. David Choo's sheer enthusiasm for the game and cheery nature made him a lovely player to have in the squad. Jack Colebrook gained in confidence with every game, having started



in the 4th team and rose through the ranks to even get a cap for the 1st XV. Tom Worrall scored the majority of points in terms of both tries and with the boot. Max Moseley, who towards the end of the season, eventually realised he was in fact a really good rugby player and, finally, Billy Baker who got fitter and more effective with every match, proving to be a strong number 8 in the later matches. Therefore, the big picture is of a tough first half of the season but a markedly improved team, winning 3 and losing 3, in the second half. This suggests pleasing progress in terms of team cohesion, developing tactics and, the positive effect of the new weekly strength and conditioning sessions that were introduced this season.

Craig Sutton

3rd XV



This year what the 3rd XV lacked in focus and intensity in training, they made up for with character and determination on the field of play. The first game against Marlborough showed much promise. The half backs, Harry Fennell and Lochie Shillington, looked to be developing a good symbiotic relationship, varying the pace and structure of the game, sometimes kicking into space and at other times, running the ball with vim and vigor. The game was closely fought with

Stowe having a try disallowed in the dying seconds of the game, meaning that Marlborough were the victors by three points.

This early promise peaked in our second game of the season against Cheltenham. The boys played some delightful rugby; Billy Hawkings-Byass monolithic in the line-out and Fin Dickerson running with balance and the ball in one hand like a Fijian International. We

won 37-15 with high hopes for the season ahead, the coach trip back full of grandiloquent talk of the potential of the team.

However, this turned out to be hubris. We were defeated in our next three games, the boys unable to beat their opponents in the battle of the breakdown, entering rucks and mauls like old men with bad backs. The arrival of young Joe Salisbury from the 2nd XV and a more determined attitude to training, helped the team recover, with good wins over Kingham Hill and St Edward's. We became much better at using our big powerful runners, like Ivan Quirot de Poligny, to draw in defenses before unleashing our backs. In the final four games of the season, we played some cracking rugby. Max Smith running straight and true from inside centre, Tom Percy making some truly creative breaks, and Elliot Mullarkey using the grubber-kick to great effect. The tackle of the season goes to Archie Chisnall, who felled a Rugbeian Billy Bunter only yards from our try

line. The most improved player was definitely Edward Wentworth-Stanley. In the first half of the season, Edward had been more of a spectator than a player, out on the wing and rarely getting involved, the game must have been a mere rumour. However, the change in him in the second half of the season was incredible. As an impact player, he burst onto the pitch with a ferocity which made him look like he had been plucked from 'The Book of Revelation' folding people in half with tackles and driving powerfully with the ball in hand.

With a convincing win over Uppingham and some good rugby played against Oakham in the final game, this will be seen as a season of lost opportunities. That said, they were a team of real characters and I thoroughly enjoyed being in their company. My thanks go to all, especially those not mentioned in 'Dispatches'. I hope they continue to play and enjoy this most beautiful game.

Simon Cole



Rugby, the focus was very much on securing three wins from three in the remaining games and the possibility of being the best 4th XV team in the division. Subtle changes such as Ben Shamash moving to scrum half, Bertie Bryant full back and maintaining the ethos set by Captain Harry Arkwright, allowed the team to flourish.

A depleted 13-man team stepped onto the pitch against Bromsgrove, only to secure a 36-12 win, aided with the return of Cameron Chambers to the fold and the dynamic and powerful running of Zachary Ibraheem. Closing out the season were victories against Uppingham (24-0) and a nail-biting final battle against Oakham, where the large

crowds had gathered to witness a 'Man of the Match' performance from Oliver Taylor, inspiring the Stoics to overturn a 7-0 Oakham lead into a 22-7 Stowe victory.

I will always look back on this team with genuine appreciation. Every player who stepped onto the training field and who played a part in the matches, helped to fuel the desire for success and enjoyment in equal measure. I am incredibly grateful to those who supported the boys and to the parents who enjoyed our journey and I must say a special thank you to our Upper Sixth boys, who will be sorely missed. I look forward to building on those foundations laid and to the prospect of an undefeated season in 2019.

Martin Quinn

What a fantastic term of rugby for the 4th XV, with the Stoics developing into the most successful Senior rugby team over the Michaelmas Term. The mentality of this group of players has always been to win or learn, and they did both in abundance.

Embarking on their first game of the season, the 4th XV travelled away to Marlborough, where they were narrowly defeated 7-0. With a depleting squad, many other groups may well have lost heart but this cohort identified areas to strengthen and did so splendidly. Moving into the second half of term having won just two of their five games against Cheltenham and Oundle, the 4ths returned from Half Term to win every game they played. With a storming 57-0 home win against Kingham Hill and a 15-7 away win at



5th
XV

This season proved to be a frustrating one for the players as they were keen to play rugby every Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, matches were cancelled against Marlborough, Stamford, Rugby and Uppingham. In all, five matches were played with two wins against Kingham Hill. The three losses were at the hands of Bedford, Oundle and Radley.

Having already played one match this season, Bedford started the match with purpose and seemed well-drilled. They quickly went into a 17-0 lead. The Stowe team took a little time to settle in their first match of the season, however an inspirational try by Felix Holland-Bosworth gave his team belief. With the score 17-10 at half-time, Stowe came out all guns blazing in the second half. Captain Hugo Robinson and Vice-Captain Hector Smiley were leading by example, with Stowe tantalisingly close to scoring after the break. It was Bedford who drew first blood in the second half scoring from a cheeky front of the line-out move. They went on to score three further tries to seal an impressive 39-12 win.

Due to Oundle's depleted numbers, to make things fair, the game was adjusted to 12-a-side which meant Stowe were able to make plenty of rolling sub changes. Stowe went in 17-12 up at the break but Oundle came back with two killer second half tries to edge the game 24-22, despite 4 tries from the amazing Zachary Ibraheem.

The team came back well in the first half away at Radley after going two tries down, with a fine try from Edward Akeroyd Hunt and well converted by Ashwin

Batey. Unfortunately, poor tackling led to further tries from Radley in the second half. It was an enjoyable free-flowing game which was well refereed.

Having beaten Kingham Hill 49-7 earlier in the season, a very excited 5th XV took to the field on the North Front against Kingham Hill's 2nd XV. The team was finally rewarded with a match after a string of previous cancellations. The ball handling was good in wet and difficult conditions with tackles flying in thick and fast. Four first half tries were scored by Oliver Taylor, Tavish Struthers, Ener Ozturk and Ian Hsu with Max Flawn-Thomas kicking an outrageous drop goal conversion and then adding another. Stowe added three more tries in the second half with Ludo Mannion Miles and Smiley getting on the score sheet with Hsu capping a fine game with his second and the team's final try. 39-12 was a fair reflection of Stowe's dominance and Captain, Hugo Robinson should be proud of his team's spirited performance. This was a fine way to end the season with many excited at the prospect of playing again next season. Well done team!

5th XV regulars and appearances from:

T Abbott-Drake (5); A Bryant (5); L Mannion Miles (5); E Akeroyd Hunt (5); S Carslaw Tricot (5); I David (5); A Irvine (5); L Pascal (5); H Robinson (Captain) (5); H Smiley (Vice-Captain) (5); T Struthers (5); H Fox (4); Y Ma (4); H Wyatt (4); A Amirbay (3); M Flawn-Thomas (3); C Garment (3); F Holland-Bosworth (3); J Muhoho (3).

Isaac Michael



COLTS A

Played 10 | Won 8 | Lost 2

The Colts A season was one of great success in many areas. Summer Term training developed the players' understanding of the type of game we wished to play, along with some vital conditioning work and the pre-season trip to Bath University, further built on the expansive style I wanted to become part of the team's DNA. Victories versus Abingdon, St Paul's and Solihull Schools at the Abingdon Pre-Season Tournament hinted a real togetherness and team spirit, which would be very prominent throughout the season.

Having lost heavily to Marlborough and Bromsgrove during the previous campaign at U15 level, a real barometer of the team's development were wins in the corresponding fixtures at U16 level. Marlborough were defeated 31-24 in early September whilst the performance of the season was the 14-8 win versus a strong Bromsgrove team. Uppingham (54-15), Rugby (27-12), Cheltenham (31-24) and Radley (49-10) were brushed aside on the North Front, whilst convincing wins were also achieved versus Oundle (20-0) and Stamford (33-17) on the road. The two losses of the season both came away from home against St Edward's (26-48) where we produced our single poor performance of the season whilst a powerful Oakham team deserved their 27-5 win in the final match before Christmas.

In terms of personnel, the team were fortunate in terms of injury, resulting in 18 players being used

throughout the season. The strength of the team was built around the forward pack which wasn't the biggest, but they were undoubtedly fit, mobile and provided excellent 'set piece' possession. Tomi Akinyemi, Logan Brown and Alex Man were an industrious front row with Archie Strong, George Hamilton Stubber and Henry Hobby providing the grunt behind. The breakaway forwards of Maxi McNally and Conrad Flint Wood worked tirelessly in the loose with Udo Ekpecham offering real athleticism and go forward when the mood took him. The back line was very settled during the season with Flynn Mulcahy and Jack Mercer pulling the strings at half-back and expertly moving the team around the pitch. Centres Ben Sarraff and Oliver Garson developed an excellent understanding and ran hard with ball in hand, often freeing the wingers down the outside channels. Hamza Arbab, Toby Moore and Will Bursnall played pivotal roles in the success of the team with excellent work, both in attack and defence, whilst ever-present Archie Holmes at full back was 'Mr Consistent', showing high levels of skill, bravery in the tackle and positional awareness. Lastly, special mention must go to Archie Strong, who proved a fantastic Captain during the season. His leadership skills ensured the players always approached every match prepared to give 'their all' whilst being respectful of both the referee and opposition. All told, the team were a joy to coach, given their exemplary attitude to training, willingness to attend analysis sessions to develop their tactical awareness and playing each match in the true spirit of rugby.

Gavin Moffat

COLTS B

A thoroughly enjoyable and overall successful season for the Colts B in 2018. After a very disappointing opener against Marlborough, I felt the team would have their work cut out for the remainder of the season. However, the approach that the boys showed to training in the following weeks was good and gave rise to three wins on the bounce against strong Cheltenham (26-0), Stamford (22-7) & Oundle (13-7) teams.



A slight dip mid-season was followed by another successful run of results, with the highlight being an 11-10 thriller against Bromsgrove on the hallowed North Front. The team performance for this game was as impressive as you are likely to see for a B team level anywhere in the Country.

The team were fortunate to have had reasonable consistency with selection, which allowed performances to improve week on week. All team members deserve a shout-out but to highlight a few: Barney Denison-Pender and George Hamilton Stubber in the forwards were both hard as nails throughout the season and did a lot of the groundwork that goes unseen in a game. Max Vesty's impressive boot secured many important points and our centre partnership of Ned Ellison and Hugo Manners developed massively over the length of the season. The 'Most Improved Player' goes to Oscar Wiseman who really developed his attacking running and was a valuable asset on the wing. My thanks to Captain Will Bursnall for showing excellent leadership before, during and after matches.

Matthew Teasdale

COLTS C

The Colts C team had a beaten season, unfortunately losing all of their 7 games. The season got off to a rocky start with heavy losses to Bedford and Marlborough, however this did not dishearten the boys and they were determined to come back better and stronger. This was proven by their fantastic performance against Oundle where they were narrowly beaten, with a final score of 20-39. Training was difficult with a number of boys involved in other commitments for the School, however through the use of touch rugby, the boys began to develop their skills and game awareness. After Half Term, the opposition did not get any easier but the boys showed a real team spirit, even when succumbing to heavy defeats. I am confident there is not a single boy who would say they did not enjoy playing for the C team this year. Special mentions must go to Archie Page who worked tirelessly every game for the forwards, Tommy Cranmer (Captain) for his excellent game management



and Hugo Paynter Bryant for his great work in defence. I would like to thank all of the boys who turned out to play for us this season for an extremely enjoyable term of rugby, despite the defeats. I look forward to seeing many of you represent the Senior sides next year.

Matthew Burch



JUNIOR COLTS A

Expectations were high for this Junior Colts A team following a successful Yearlings season. Questions loomed large - will they be as good as we think they could be? Will injuries take their toll? Will the key players crumble under pressure? Reflecting on the season, the clear answers are - Yes, No and definitely NO! This is a very talented group of players who were a pleasure to coach and guide through their journey on the rugby pitch this year. They came together to become more than the sum of their parts, something that is fantastic to see as a coach.

The season began with a pre-season tour to Truro, Cornwall. Having known the potential strength of this side, I made arrangements to meet Millfield School down in Truro for a triangular tournament played over three days. This was a great experience for the boys, giving them the chance to 'bond' off the pitch and 'gel' on it. Stowe managed to see off Truro School with some superb running rugby and also came off on top against Millfield following a back and forth, 'ding dong' battle between two top teams.

Following the tour, we came up against two tough opposition sides, Marlborough and Cheltenham, both games we played at home. The team made a great start to the season and this set the tone for our 'Fortress Bourbon' pitch. Comfortable wins against Stamford and Oundle followed, building momentum for our toughest opposition of the regular season, Radley. This ended up being a fantastic match, pitching two very good teams against one another. Having led for most of the match, Stowe found themselves losing with the last play of the game but the boys kept their composure and were able to score out wide after keeping possession for multiple phases to win.

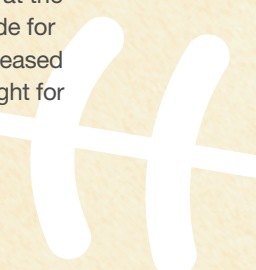
That result showed the boys what they were capable of and sent us into the second half of the season with huge confidence. A 57-0 win against St Edward's was followed by our first National Cup game (1st round

bye) against Bloxham School. In tricky conditions, the boys won 26-10. Next up were Rugby School, in what ended up being, in my opinion, our best performance of the year. We whitewashed our rivals 21-0, with forwards and backs linking in perfect harmony! A 50-15 win against Aylesbury Grammar School followed in the 3rd round of the NatWest Cup. Bromsgrove, who are notoriously tough opposition, fell in a tight encounter 17-14, unfortunately two weeks later they were able to turn the tables on us in a NatWest Cup 4th round tie, to end our dreams of a run to Twickenham. The boys were able to bounce back with two further wins, 36-0 against Uppingham and 34-15 against Oakham, to round off a memorable season. With a 92% win ratio, and with 362 points scored and only 98 conceded, across 12 matches in the regular season, shows just how successful this team was.

The team was ably led by Xander Brett in the backs and George Foster in the forwards but to be honest, this team did not take much leading. When you have physical specimens such as Josh Weru, Opus Seriake-Dickson and Teide Lokpobiri leading the charge with ball in hand, the whole team got behind them. Top try scorers were Josh and Barney Cunningham on 9 and 8 tries respectively. Well done to the whole squad who committed to training and made the season so enjoyable. Our 'Most Improved Player' was Fred Ross, who learnt more and more about the sport with every game, certainly one to watch for the future, as are most of this squad!

One of the biggest reasons behind our success on the pitch was the fact that there was competition for places, with strong B team players snapping at the heels of those with A team slots and this made for some very effective training sessions. I am pleased to report to Mr Seely that the future looks bright for rugby at Stowe!

Andrew Jackson & Liam Copley





Played 10 | Won 9 | Lost 1

With a points difference of 320, it is fair to say that the U15B team had a very successful season. With the singular exception of a draw away at Rugby, we did not just win every game, we dominated every game. Aply led by Ethan Garrett, who anchored the midfield with stylish grace, the season started with a close win at home to Marlborough (19-0). Having been through an unbeaten season the previous year, the boys were keen to continue with this trend. The next match was a very closely-fought game against Cheltenham, who tested the Stowe defence regularly. The loose forwards of Bettany, Parsons and Penrose were everywhere, making tackle after tackle and turning over possession. With this stable base, the backs were given the freedom to fire, leading Stowe to just pull away in a 22-10 victory.

A long away trip to Stamford brought our heaviest victory of the season, with dynamic forwards Max Markham and Archie Blake getting on the score sheet. Ben Calabro's finishing was excellent with Cosby and Crabbie also adding to a 65-0 victory. Inigo Orchard kicked consistently and Cam Baker made the score sheet. Another decent journey to Oundle led to a fine victory here, with the Stowe backs proving too powerful and quick for the opposition. With all the backs getting on the score sheet, the boys used the dry pitch and slight slope to their advantage. Again, our work at the breakdown and in defence was a real positive, keeping the opposition out for another clean sheet. A much stiffer challenge against Radley followed, and a tight battle up front was fought keenly before Ben Calabro opened the scoring and the floodgates. With confidence renewed, Stowe's backs pulled us out into a 37 point lead at half-time. Radley came back in the second half, scoring two unanswered tries and creating some nerves among the Stowe supporters. Fortunately, Stowe then woke up and got back into the game, scoring again to take us out of sight of the opposition. Another tough fixture against St Edward's followed, with our free scoring backs kept in check by

some excellent opposition defence. Our front row of Bettany, Pullin, Atkinson and Ackroyd, led by example in a close and gritty encounter. The Stowe backs broke through eventually finishing off some nice, running rugby on a cold, wet day. Against Rugby, two undefeated teams came together and perhaps a draw was the fairest result. The boys did show some promise early on, and in a very close and hard-fought game, Stowe scored twice early in the second half, to give us the lead. Unfortunately, the boys took it a bit easy then, allowing Rugby to bundle over for two efficient forward-dominated tries. Stowe were under huge pressure for the last ten minutes and must be congratulated for their excellent defence in the face of a mounting attack, Dmitrii Fedko joining Parsons and Penrose in making tackle after tackle.

Away at Bromsgrove, normal order was restored, however our defence looked decidedly shaky and the score was 17-17 after the first twenty minutes. In the second half, we scored from a couple of well-practiced backs moves; Garrett and Orchard again, pulling the strings to open up the opposition. Constantine Chu scored his first tries of the season and Stowe pulled away as Bromsgrove heads dropped. A home game against Uppingham followed, and a comfortable victory in very wet conditions brought the potential of an unbeaten season well within sight. The final match was away at Oakham in cold and darkening surroundings. Stowe approached the game with usual enthusiasm but in a changed team with Jayden Preko filling in for Crabbie's illness. Some delightful handling and All-Blackesque offloading led to a dominant display, Stowe bringing the score to 49-0 with Preko, Cosby and Chu scoring a couple of times each.

It has been very pleasing to see the progression the boys have made this season. Many have represented the A team and they are a very tight-knit group. They give their all on the pitch each Saturday and will hopefully think back to these heady days in the future.

Thomas Elwell



JUNIOR COLTS C

The Junior Colt Cs had a very successful season, winning seven of their ten games.

The season started on a difficult footing with a tough 7-55 defeat to Marlborough. Despite this loss, the team were still buoyant and didn't let their heads drop in subsequent games. This showed in a solid performance and 32-5 win over Cheltenham. The season continued with two consecutive wins over Bedford and Oundle, 12-10 and 17-5 respectively.

A closely-fought loss on the road at Radley checked the JCC's stride but they bounced back with a solid 24-5 win, during a needle match at home against St Edward's and then a tight 25-22 win away at Rugby.

The final three games of the season saw a tough defeat, 35-7 away, to a big and powerful Bromsgrove

team, knocking the wind out of Stowe's sails and the team took the heavy loss on the chin. This was followed up by a good 36-19 win against Uppingham. The season was rounded off with a comprehensive 53-0 win on the road at Oakham.

The whole team played some exciting and expansive rugby throughout the season and the progress they made was clearly visible. Special mention has to go to Wilf Wyatt, playing most positions in the back line and especially for tackling anything coming down his channel against a strong Bromsgrove team. James Keating also had a solid season on the flank of the pack, showing great pace around the park and tenacity, turning over a lot of ball at the breakdown.

Simon Rose





Played 11 | Won 6 | Lost 5

A new approach to U14 rugby saw our Third Form playing rugby in the Michaelmas Term for the first time. Very much a case of suck it and see regarding selection and a style of play. Inevitably, it turned out to be a 'season of two halves' as the TV pundits love to put it. After an initial win against Cheltenham away, it quickly became apparent that we had quite a number of backs but very few forwards and the remaining matches before Half Term witnessed a set of backs playing without the ball and if they did get it, they were on the back foot. Plan B had to be adopted. Five backs were converted into forwards and joined our two othes who had never played rugby before they joined Stowe. The most noticeably developed player was Joe Atkinson who arrived as a carefree winger used to the open spaces but then found himself stuck between two props, immersed in the scrum for most of the season.

A mini-tour to Bristol at Half Term, Will Jenden recovering from injury and the gamble of playing Nikita Nedoshovenko and Alex Gu at tighthead and lock respectively, turned the tide. All of a sudden, we had presence at the breakdown and the backs received ball going forward. Noah Cowan, the ever-present Captain and scrum-half thought he had died and gone to 'Rugby Heaven'. St Edward's, Rugby, Bromsgrove, Uppingham and Oakham were all beaten in the second half of term and there was progression from week to week but more importantly, their brand of rugby

was a joy to watch, the interplay between backs and forwards after several phases of play was a pleasure.

It is a measure of the group that they didn't lose heart. There are some upbeat characters in this side. Noah Cowan never said a negative word, Henry Pollock, who say one word when you can say 20, lived offside for most of the season but rarely got caught. Will Plessis, who having moved from backs to forwards to backs to forwards again, found himself on the end of try scoring passes whatever his identity.

There were other regulars who brought their own niche to the side. Ollie Hartigan is a sublime runner and even I bought some of his dummies on the touchline, Rhys Jordan has the pace and physical presence to get us over the gain line and finished some excellent scores, and Ed Bush and Gus Howard gave the pack that extra grunt at scrum time. We tried several fly-halves. Wilf Chisnall, Sam Collins and Milan Choudree, all had stints but eventually moved to other positions with Wilf guiding the side eventually. Inevitably, there are always some boys who compete for their places. Harry Taylor, Milo Vieceli-Mellor, Tom Moore and Drake Selby Boddy, all came in and did sterling work when the opportunity arose.

In short, a season they can be proud of and one they will be able to call on a raft of experiences for future years. Their main assets are their spirit, camaraderie and passion, lessons not taught in a classroom but essential lifeskills.

Alan Hughes

YEARLINGS A

YEARLINGS B

The Michaelmas Term saw the arrival of 100 or so hungry U14s ready and raring for the new season. My role as B team coach is to organise and prepare the players for a potential step up to the A team and I am happy to say that most, if not all of this cohort, showed the talent to play in the top team.

There were many changes to the team throughout the season with no less than five different starting fly-halves, all of whom did a similarly impressive job up in the A team. However, some consistency in the back line proved how well we could play with ball in hand. George Cunningham, tenacious, competitive and a downright pest led from the front, as all 9s should, providing good ball moving forward as well as a wicked dummy and step when needed. Milo Chauveau and Charlie Cousins manned the centres with some wonderful running lines and smooth interplay, both punching way above their weight in defence. Arthur Koomen, Archie Miller, Thomas Moore, Samuel Collins, Drake Selby Boddy, Harry Rose and Sasha Luard, provided pace to die for in the back three and once the ball was in hand, proved devastating strike runners when needed. As a coach on the touchline, I found it interesting that my catch phrase turned out to be 'two passes' because give any of these boys 5 metres of space and they would carve most teams apart.

The forwards featured a more fluid approach with players coming and going between the two teams or changing position even during a match. If you're a Yearlings forward, you've got to be versatile and ready to try something new almost on a weekly basis. Will Nottage, Nico Shillington, Max James,

Valentine Smiley, Rory Baker, Nael Riahi, Carlo de Vivo and Paddy Potts, all doing a shift at the coal face and earning the boys at the back a fantastic platform on which to launch an attack. Alex Gu, Nikita Nedoshovenko and Arsenii Grebenschchikov, all having never played rugby before arriving at Stowe, mastered the art of smashing rucks and generally being a complete nuisance at the breakdown, all making their way up into the As and cementing their place there. Guy Warman in the back row provided some moments of brilliance in the tackle whilst also making sure his hair remained firmly in place. Riahi finished the season with some devastating carries from the number 8 position and gave us a fantastic platform to build on next season.

Paddy Potts finished the season with the Captain's armband and really shone through. A quiet and considered young man with some real presence on the rugby pitch, an absolute workhorse who will put everything in until that final whistle blows, someone you want leading the charge when we were on the back foot.

The hardest task throughout this season was not getting these boys up for playing but attempting to control their enthusiasm. If I heard one more time on a Friday afternoon team run-through: 'Is it contact?' I think I would have lost what still remains of my sanity. The boys want to play and prove what they are made of. It has been a real pleasure working with this group of boys throughout the season and the parents on the touchline have been just as passionate and committed. Thank you.

George Coote



YEARLINGS C

A season of much improvement for the Yearlings C team. After a promising start, the boys went through a rocky patch mid-season but finished on a high with exceptional wins against Uppingham and Oakham. The Cs have developed into a strong, cohesive team whose tackling and rucking, in particular, have improved exponentially from the start of the season. All Stoics in



the Cs are to be highly commended for their performances but special mentions for Max Burlingham, Jonathon Tung and Max Pascal, whose work in the backs has been second to none, and for Arman Choudhury, Theo Hahn James and William Pigott, for their consistent hard grafting in the forwards. Maksim Uspenskiy is most definitely our 'Most Improved Player', having never played rugby, he steadily developed into one of our strongest runners and fiercest tacklers. Well done C Team, a good foundation to build upon next season!

James Nicholl



YEARLINGS D

Played 10 | Won 5 | Drew 1 | Lost 4

Well over 30 boys have played for the Yearlings D team this term, some of whom had never encountered the oval ball before September. We have come a long way from our first match against Marlborough, three days and one full practice into term, when the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing, and the boys have capped a very positive term with a few end-of-season romps. 'Champagne rugby' might be overstating the case, but tries by the hatful have flowed since Half Term.

The team has been well Captained by Nathan Meens who has led from the front with tigerish displays of fearless tackling. His noble lieutenants have included Ronan O'Reilly, James Gray, David Gollifer,

Jack Hughes, Alex Gu and Daniel Boardman in the forwards, ably assisted by James Shaw, Luke Evans, Archie Miller, Freddie Farrell, George Owen-Thursfield, Beltran Olano Moro, Ed Dickinson and Stepan Muravskiy in the back division. Along with them, a number who were new to the game have come on in leaps and bounds. Matches have been played in a great spirit, with good sportsmanship shining through.

Perhaps the most telling statistic is the fact that we won one match out of five before Half Term and four matches (and a very tight defeat) after. It is our hope that this cohort of Yearlings D giants will not only have thoroughly enjoyed this season but will go onto love this great game throughout their time at Stowe.

Leonard Murphy & Tim Mullins

SENIOR
7s



Our first tournament at Haberdashers' Aske's kicked the season off encouragingly. We beat Mill Hill, The Oratory, St Columba's and Haberdasher's and met Champion in the Final. By this stage, our squad was rather depleted and we ended runners-up, but there was a sense that the squad had potency in attack and potential for the season that lay ahead. A second tournament at King Edward VI School, Stratford proved that our initial positive thoughts were correct as we cruised through the group stages beating the hosts, King's Worcester and King's Aston. We got past MCS, Oxford in the Semi-Final and set up the expected Final between Stowe and Bromsgrove. The first half of this match was one of the two outstanding halves of 7s this season. We played with a sharp cutting edge, impressive work rate and cohesive defence. The half time score was 12-0 to Stowe, against the team who went on to win Rosslyn Park. In the second half, the Bromsgrove stand out scrum-half did lead them to an eventual win but again we ended with high spirits. The attacking threat of Ben Edeh and Dom Saghri out wide on one side and Ed Anderson and Jack Comyn as the 'fast forwards' on the other wing, both being set free by the linking play of Harry Hewlett and Egan Brosnan showed how far the boys have developed. Jamie Moir and Alec McLeish were adding the work rate and intensity in defence.

The annual trip to Oakham was the next challenge. A re-match against Champion saw us start slowly and we just lost again. However, we soon found our stride again and beat Oakham, Ipswich and St Edward's

to set up a Semi-Final against King's Macclesfield. In a brutally tough contest, we found ourselves level with seconds to play. Unfortunately, our exhausted defence let a final try in, so we did not progress. However, a top four finish out of 20 high standard teams was a pleasing return.

Although the squad was now confident, cohesive and physically in good shape, we approached Rosslyn Park with some trepidation as we were drawn in the Cup Competition and knew the schools and ACER Colleges we would face would be extremely tough. On the day we gave our all but found ourselves behind in each game and although we only lost by one try to each opposition, we were finding the going tough. However, the final half of the season saw us put together the second of our outstanding one-half performances against Hampton. We were trailing 0-24 but rather than roll over, the boys dug deep and ended up scoring three tries to get to 21-24 and give Hampton a real scare. This final flourish ended a good season. We did not quite pick up any trophies but we were competing at the sharp end of the tournaments and can take fond memories of our experiences. Special mention must go to Dom Saghri, who proved to be one of the most effective finishers I have seen in my 22 years taking Stowe 7s. Jamie Moir's energy and work rate was a key part of our success and lastly a special mention for Ed Anderson, a very fine forward whose athleticism and superb attitude stood out again this year.

Craig Sutton



JUNIOR
7s

Played 16 | Won 11 | Lost 5

Whilst the team were fortunate before Christmas with minimal injuries in the 15-a-side format, alas the 7s season was disrupted due to injuries to three key players (Archie Holmes, Ben Sarraff and Oliver Garson). Despite this, the team started the season at the Oakham tournament by making the Final, beating six teams along the way before eventually coming up short versus a talented Bromsgrove outfit. At the Stowe tournament, the team again played well in matches, winning four games before an agonising golden try defeat to Warwick in the Quarter-Final. The finale of the season at Rosslyn Park, saw the team comprehensively outplay King’s College Taunton, Plymouth College and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymi but lose against a very physical Woodhouse Grove team.

Gavin Moffat

FIVES

Matches this year were few and far between, mainly due to clashes with other sports and activities. However, when we were able to put out a team, the boys always fought hard, with a very positive attitude, Captained by Ludo Mannion Miles. Two pairs went off to Shrewsbury to the Schools Nationals on a very hot March day. The pairs were made up of Nyle Neckel, George Palin, Ludo Mannion Miles and Hector Smiley. Both pairs played many matches with Ludo and Hector becoming runners-up in the

Plate Competition. Another great event of the year as always, was the Inter-House competition for both boys and girls. The Senior girls’ winners were Nugent, Senior boys’ winners were Cobham. Junior girls’ winners were Queen’s and Junior boys’ winners were Chatham. As always, thank you to all the Old Stoics who played a couple of matches against the School and helped by passing on their skills and knowledge of the game to all.

John Skinner

Swimming

House Winners

Junior Girls: Lyttelton

Intermediate Girls: Nugent

Senior Girls: Lyttelton

Overall Girls' House: Nugent

Junior Boys: Walpole

Intermediate Boys: Grafton

Senior Boys: Bruce

Overall Boys' House: Grafton

Inter-House Swimming Finals

The Lent Term started with a bang and we headed into the Inter-House Swimming heats, which pretty much involved the whole School. Everyone put in their best efforts, the Grand Final lists were posted and last minute training started. The afternoon arrived and, as always, the Houses filled the sides of the pool and the competitive tension was amazing.

The School has been very lucky to have an influx of elite swimmers join the Third Form so the Junior competition was going to be exciting. Alice Butler and Larissa Campbell went head to head to be Junior Champion, both girls swam their best and Larissa came out on top to win the Cup. In the boys' section, Marco Mykhalus, Ben Hagger and Edward Davis, all took individual Cups but the Overall Champion title fell to Marco after an exceptional sprint in the 50m Freestyle. The Fourth and Fifth Form swim as Intermediates, Robbie Haigh and Louise Blomqvist gave no leeway to any other pupils and both stole the show taking the overall Intermediate Champions.

The Senior girls' title was taken by Holly Stradling in a masterclass of swimming. Holly has held the title throughout her time at Stowe. The Senior boys are always fun to watch, they get more and more competitive each year! With some very talented swimmers in the mix, Julian Muhoho and Julian Ma were hoping to take the Champion title in their last year but could they hold off Ian Hsu, Sascha Clark-Jones or Lucas Davis in the Lower Sixth? With much



thigh and chest slapping, the boys gave it their all and Lucas Davis took the Senior Champion Cup.

Records fell in the afternoon. Larissa Campbell (Nugent) in the 50m Freestyle, Robbie Haigh (Grenville) in the Intermediate 50m Back and Bruce Senior boys in the Medley Relay, saw them all just missing out on a School Record. The only record broken was the Seniors boys' Freestyle Relay, where Bruce's Senior boys took it by four seconds. The open events this year went to Lucas Davis (Bruce) in the 50m Freestyle and Holly Stradling (Lyttelton) in the 100m Freestyle.





Individual Champions:
Junior Boys: Marco Mykhalus
Junior Girls: Larissa Campbell
Intermediate Boys: Robbie Haigh
Intermediate Girls: Louise Blomqvist
Senior Boys: Lucas Davis
Senior Girls: Holly Stradling

The Swimming Year

The U18 boys had a good season, winning over 70% of their matches, with great wins over Bradfield and Oundle. The U16 boys saw success over Oundle, Bradfield and Bloxham, losing a tough draw against Marlborough. The U14 boys had a great start to Stowe swimming, winning over 75% of their fixtures, with wins over Bradfield, Marlborough and Bloxham. The U18 girls had a great season with wins against Bradfield and Oundle, then a fantastic effort at the Bath Cup finishing with swimming in the Independent Girls' School Swimming Championship. The U16s and U14s also had great success with wins over Bradfield, Oundle and Bloxham. The U14 girls get 'Team of the Year' for a great winning streak and their overwhelming team spirit and willingness to swim up and help out the older girls' teams.

On Friday 7 March, the Senior swim team headed to the Olympic Pool in London to compete in the prestigious Bath Cup, where nearly 80 schools from

Great Britain had come to swim. Senior boys - Julian Muhoho, Julian Ma, Ian Hsu and Lucas Davis, came a respectful 17th in the Aldenham Freestyle Relay and 13th in the Dunelm Medley. The Senior team of Holly Stradling, Emily King, Louise Blomqvist and Third Former, Larissa Campbell, impressed with one of our best girls' placings from the last five years. Finishing 16th and 15th in the Fred Parkes Freestyle and the R. L. Stead Medley respectively.

County and District Representation this year came from Larissa Campbell (Third Form, Nugent) who qualified for six races in the Oxfordshire and North Bucks County Championships and Angus Kennedy, (Third Form, Temple) who qualified in four races in the Scottish District Swimming Championships, both held in February. Swimming Colours this year went to Julian Muhoho, Julian Ma, Emily King, Robbie Haigh, Ian Hsu and Sascha Clark-Jones.

Cheryl Davis





BOYS' HOCKEY

The 1st XI boys had a strong season, winning 10 matches, drawing 2 and losing 7. Their season began with a win against Northampton School for Boys as a friendly in the first half of term, this was backed up by two strong results on their pre-season tour in Lisbon.

After being knocked out of the National Cup in Round Two by a competitive Dr Challoner's team, the boys put a run of good team performances together, notably beating Kimbolton on penalty strokes after a competitive game finished 2-2 in normal time (a team they had previously drawn with in the league), and qualified for the National Plate Quarter-Finals.

The 1st XI boys finished second in the County

Cup, beating RGS High Wycombe and Sir William Borlase's Grammar, only losing to Dr Challoner's in a much closer battle to when these two teams met earlier in the season.

A highlight performance came against St Edward's. A strong display of smart, patient hockey, along with some attacking creativity, saw them win 4-0.

Finally, the boys ended their season with a good victory against the Old Stoics and a close game versus the Staff, one they eventually lost on penalty strokes.

Ella Jackson



The boys' 2nd XI had a very tough season competing against some strong opposition. They played seven fixtures in the Lent Term with two further matches unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather.

The boys lost four matches but each loss was by just one goal. In a number of these games, the team were incredibly unlucky as they created some great scoring chances. They produced a fine 1-1 draw against a strong Uppingham team in their second match of the season.

I was delighted with the 2nd XI's fantastic performance against our local rivals St Edward's, which they won 1-0 away from home. The season finished with a 3-0 win against Bromsgrove at home which was a lovely way to end the season. 'Most Valuable Player' went to Ollie Taylor for his great work in defence, with 'Top Goal Scorer' going to Monty Fenwicke-Clennell.

My thanks go to the team for working hard in training and I look forward to the 2020 season.

Lorraine Campbell



**3rd
XI**

The 3rd XI had a short but enjoyable season with some very competitive matches. Their highlight of the season was winning 4-2 against St Edward's in what was an excellent result for Stowe hockey. They also enjoyed a win against Kimbolton and a very close match with Bloxham. Captain Ludo Mannion Miles led the team well, along with Thomas White as Vice-Captain. Louis Newman was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' as a dedicated member of the team and one of the key players and a high goal scorer, however it was a tough decision as several other team members played vital roles. Felix Holland-Bosworth and George Bonham Carter were dedicated team players and special mention goes to Stewart Johnston, our keeper who suffered an injury mid-season. He has always been a dedicated hockey player, not just in his final year at Stowe but every season past. Overall it was an enjoyable season with some great hockey. The team picked up well-deserved wins and showed excellent team spirit.

Paul Thompson

COLTS A



The Colts A had a competitive season, winning 3 matches, drawing 2 and losing 5. The side has continued to improve and develop as they managed to draw with Uppingham 3-3 in a very close encounter, having lost to them as Yearlings and Junior Colts. There were high scoring wins over St Edward's, Bloxham and Warwick, with a hard-fought draw against Kimbolton in the first match of the season.

Olly Garson was superb in goal throughout the campaign and he had strong support in front of him

from Will Bursnall and Archie Barnes. The middle field was marshalled well by Captain Archie Holmes, who was the 'Player of the Season'. Ned Ellison and Josh Clarke had strong seasons in midfield and James Cronie won the 'Most Improved Player Award' in his first season in the A team. Up front, Hugo Manners and Freddie Smith worked tirelessly throughout. Well done to all of the players involved throughout the season.

James Knott

JUNIOR COLTS A

The Junior Colts A team had very competitive season. Starting off with two good results against evenly matched competition they brought home a 2-2 draw against Kimbolton and a 3-3 draw against Uppingham. They went on to win against St Edward's 2-0 and their most successful result came against RGS High Wycombe where they had a convincing 8-1 win.

Archie Burnet was the 'Top Goal Scorer', putting away 8 goals over the 6 matches. He was closely followed by Joshua Weru who scored 5. Lauren Yeowart was voted as 'Player of the Season' for her consistently strong and calm performances.

Megan Lewis-Williams





The season started with two away trips to Kimbolton and Uppingham. The Junior Colts Bs were not lacking in enthusiasm and ambition, but team cohesion and playing positions were in need of refining as the teams settled down into the season. At half time against Uppingham, we were 0-4 down and things were looking rather bleak. However, the team demonstrated a never say die attitude and to their great credit scored 3 goals in the final 15 minutes, giving the boys an important boost of confidence and belief. The next match against St Edward's was drawn 3-3, so we were now scoring goals, which makes the game more fun! A tough encounter against Bedford saw us outplayed, but again we tried our best and learnt from the experience, even though it was a tough lesson. With the input of the wonderful hockey coaches at Stowe, helping myself

and Mr Scott in the three-weekly training sessions, improvement was definitely being made and we enjoyed back to back wins in our next two matches against RGS High Wycombe and Bloxham. The spine of the side was now evident with Alex Goodhart doing a fine job in goals. Archie Atkinson and Barney Cunningham playing the role of centre backs in very different styles, but effectively in their own way. Ben Hartigan and Alex Dens adding the work rate and pitch coverage in the

midfield and Oscar Parsons and Mwai Kibaki adding lively threat in attack. Our most solid technically correct players were Oscar Watson and Neel Collin who secured the left side. With increased confidence in our game plan, the boys began to relax and play to our strengths. Although we lost the last match to a strong Bromsgrove side it felt as though we had come along way and I am pleased with the progress the players made both individually and as a team. The awards for 'Player of the Season' went to Captain Ben Hartigan whose attitude, commitment and Captaincy was outstanding all season and the 'Most Improved Player' went to Neel Collin who made dramatic strides forward and will develop to be a very good player. I would like to thank my assistant coach Mr Scott and the whole team for an enjoyable season.

Craig Sutton

We had a fine gathering of renaissance men whose multifarious gifts also included hockey for the magnificent 3rds. Practice sessions were regularly depleted by the conflicting demands of rowing, rugby 7s, Lower School Academic Scholars, badminton, music, basketball, beagling, polo, clay pigeon shooting and football. In fact, we only saw Philipp Benedic, our Captain, on match days! Nonetheless, these boys played with great spirit and we scored as many goals as we conceded.

Some boys are new to the game and showed real promise for future seasons, with Aaron Hudd and Alex 'Westie' West, deserving particular mention for their effort and improvement. The lightening heels of Constantine Chu opened up many defences, the scything tackles of Rupert Fox halted many opposition attacks, whilst the Walpudlian defensive machine of Messrs Alfie Darling, Sebastian Foxwell, William King-Eccles, Saul Lewis, Dmitrii

Fedko and Joseph Pullin, meant that Mr Jones' men should have waltzed away with the Junior House Hockey Cup. Others in the squad included: Charlie Powell, George Penrose, Elliott Derville, Sam Shellabear and Toby Buck, all of whom contributed with enthusiasm and a certain 'joie de vivre'. At the end-of-season awards, the 'Players' Player of the Year' was Aaron Hudd and the 'Most Improved Player' was Alex West but every player won some prize or other, reflecting the solid team effort throughout a long Lent Term.

Tim Mullins





YEARLINGS A

The Yearlings hockey team had their most successful year so far with 20 talented players providing a constant source of help for all the teams but particularly for the As. The As had a tough but very promising start, with five wins and five loses. There were a few great closely-fought wins, such as 3-1 against Uppingham, 3-2 against St Edward's and a 1-0 victory against RGS High Wycombe in the last match of the County Cup, a great rallying result considering the team knew they were most likely out of the Cup by that point. Their form did not continue past the County Cup, but some valuable lessons were learnt by all in the process.

Dominic Blackmore-Beales

YEARLINGS B

The Yearling Bs had a season of progression, with some difficulty at times finding their best team. They enjoyed a great 2-0 win over Uppingham and a well-fought draw against St Edward's that ended 1-1. Standout performances came from Fadi Zaku in goal, Milo Chauveau in defence and Noah Cowan led the line well in attack. Overall, a promising sign of better seasons to come from a strong and spirited Yearlings B squad.

Dominic Blackmore-Beales



YEARLINGS C

The Yearlings C boys this year were keen from the start. As the majority had never played hockey before, the first lesson was how to hold the stick. Our first game after two training sessions together took us away to Uppingham and the boys held possession but could not get the ball in the net. Uppingham had the upper hand from the start and we left losing 3-0. We hit training hard the next week and the boys rallied and listened and learnt and we welcomed Rugby for our next match. The boys played their socks off and we had our first win 1-0. We then had a run of success beating St Edward's 2-0, then a fantastic match away to Bedford coming home with a 6-1 win and away at Bloxham winning 1-0. Could we end the season away at Bromsgrove on another win?

Sadly we took defeat, but not for the want of playing fantastically. The boys' growth over the season has been amazing and is a testament to their determination and work ethic. The team have worked so hard in training and we could not be more proud of them. Well done Yearlings Cs - good job!

Cheryl Davis

YEARLINGS D

The Yearling Ds improved throughout their first season. Many of the team had never previously played hockey, however their effort, competitiveness and teamwork, allowed them to improve consistently and compete against other schools. They ended a very enjoyable season winning 1, drawing 2 and only losing 1. Notable excellent play came against Uppingham in their first match representing Stowe, winning 2-1.

Louise Wiseman



GIRLS' HOCKEY



The girls' 1st XI had another very enjoyable season starting with the pre-season tour to Brussels. The tour provided the girls with a great opportunity to bond on and off the pitch as well as play against some quality opposition. The girls won their first two matches against Indiana THC 2-0 and HTC Isca 3-2, before losing to a very impressive Royal Evere side 2-0. The first weekend saw the girls make the short trip to play against Milton Keynes Ladies. The match was an absolute thriller and after coming from 2-0 down to lead 3-2, the girls conceded two contentious goals in the last ten minutes. At 4-3 down, the Stowe girls pushed for an equaliser and Immy Joyce showed her trademark bravery to scramble the ball home just before the final whistle, the game ended 4-4.

The Stowe girls travelled to Oakham for the first match of the season and it was another nail-biter. Oakham had a very strong side but Stowe held them off well, Alex Trumper shining in goal on her 1st XI debut. Oakham won 12 penalty corners and had numerous shots saved and blocked until they finally broke the hearts of the Stowe girls 40 seconds from the finish to win 1-0. A draw against Tudor Hall followed before an unfortunate defeat to rivals St Edward's (2-1). Stowe ended the first half of term with a very professional win away at Northampton High School with Alyssia Dockerty and Immy Joyce scoring the goals.

After Exeat, the girls played in the North Section of the County Cup, knowing a top two finish qualifies them for the Finals. Clinical wins against Akeley Wood (4-0) and The Royal Latin (3-0) meant the girls would play again the following week. The next Saturday, the girls played against Bromsgrove in the league and although the match was very even, it was a tale of what happened in the two Ds. Bromsgrove took their chances and Stowe did not!

After narrowly missing out on qualifying for the regional pools, Stowe played away at Kimbolton after Half Term, drawing 2-2, a good result after a lengthy break. League matches followed and the girls struggled to find their rhythm and didn't taste victory again until the start of December. A 4-0 win at home to Towcester Ladies helped give the girls some momentum going into the last big game of the season.

Stowe hosted Bloxham in December in what was an outstanding match to watch and the Stowe girls were very impressive. Dockerty scored twice and goals from Charlotte Would and Una Barclay ensured that Stowe ran out winners, 4-1. It was a brilliant performance from all the girls who outplayed their opposition and showed real passion throughout the match.

The final game of the season was against the Staff! The girls took a 2-0 lead before being pegged back to 2-1 by the Staff but responded very well and went 5-1 up. The Staff, visibly shaken, threw everything at the girls and started to claw themselves back into the game. At 5-4, the Staff had one final chance to win the match but the girls held out for a memorable victory.

Big thanks go to Gemma Blane who Captained the 1st XI with great professionalism and to the whole squad for their commitment throughout the season.

'Most Valuable Player' - Ellie Bewes, 'Players' Player' - Charlotte Would, 'Top Goalscorer' - Immy Joyce, 'Highlight of the Season' - Alyssia Dockerty, 'Most Improved Player' - Lucy Bourn, Captain - Gemma Blane, 25 Appearances - Immy Joyce, Helena Vince and Ellie Bewes.

Ben Scott

2nd XI

Imy Oliver Captained the Stowe girls' 2nd XI this season to great effect, with some fantastic team performances throughout. Although the season started slowly with losses to Oakham and Tudor Hall, the girls soon bounced back to have three successive wins beating St Edward's, Bromsgrove and Kimbolton. Throughout the season, Isabel Ward had many impressive displays in goal, and at the other end, Imy Oliver, scored several well-hit strikes from short corners.



The core of the team remained consistent throughout the season with performances from Georgia Glenser and Stephanie Ross earning them call-ups to the 1st XI. Jess Pettit was a late addition to the team, coming up from the 3rd XI and fitted seamlessly into the squad, offering something different in attack.

Izzy Hopkins, Sophie Grant and Esme Foster formed a formidable midfield which, after a few poor results, led to a four-match winning streak to finish the season. This included a 2-1 victory over Trent College, 3-0 against Magdalen College School and a solid 1-0 performance against rivals Bloxham.

Dominic Blackmore-Beales



3rd XI

The girls' 3rd XI had another enjoyable year with over 20 girls featuring at both training and in matches. There were some memorable games during the campaign - a thriller of a match with Tudor Hall, which resulted in a narrow 2-1 loss, a 2-2 draw with local rivals St Edward's and a 1-0 win against Kimbolton in a very tight match. The girls also had an emphatic win against Bromsgrove as well as going down bravely against Oakham, Rugby and Uppingham.

The 3rd XI 'Most Valuable Player' was awarded to goalkeeper Emily Banks, who was fantastic throughout the season. The commitment shown throughout the year was excellent and the 3rd XI will hope to improve on their results in the 2019 campaign.

Lauren Ellis

U16 A

The U16As showed great improvement over the course of the season, beginning with a few below par performances but working hard throughout the season to redeem themselves. This included their County Cup run, featuring some fantastic U15 reinforcements, which ended at Regional Cup level having come second in the County Cup stage. This was the second year in a row the U16As got to this point and the team did a brilliant job competing fiercely with the top teams and schools from the South of England. Outside of the Cup, notable wins came against Kimbolton with a 3-0 victory and the best performance of the season for the full U16A team was away to Rugby where one goal was enough to achieve a hard-fought win, with team determination and a greater understanding of the game also on show.



Dominic Blackmore-Beales

U16 B



The U16B girls had a season of highs and lows but one characterised by good humour, enthusiasm and a real team atmosphere. The season opened with a fixture against Oakham, who we knew would be strong. The girls fought hard but the game ended as a 4-0 loss. The next fixture at St Edward's was a much improved performance, Stowe dominating throughout. Goals from Harriet Page, Jemima Laurence and Eloise Taylor, and a clean sheet from goalkeeper Koty King, gave the girls a 3-0 win and their first victory of the season. A tough string of matches then followed, with losses against Bromsgrove, Rugby and

Uppingham. But even three defeats on the trot weren't enough to deter the girls who kept their heads up and really started to work hard in training sessions. That hard work on cold, dark evenings on the Bourbon Astro proved to be time well spent when we travelled to Trent College. Something had clicked and everything came together that afternoon. The girls fought tooth and nail from the first minute to the final whistle, there wasn't a single player who didn't give 100%. Niamh Dudgeon, Immy Laurence and Lara Blott Wickins standing out in particular. A very well deserved 3-0 win. The icing on the cake came in the final match of the season with an outstanding 9-1 win against Magdalen College.

It was a shame that the season had to come to a close as the girls had made great progress and really found their feet on the hockey pitch. A very enjoyable and eventful season, and I speak on behalf of team coaches, Williams and Thompson, when I say we are incredibly proud of the way the girls approached their hockey and the progress they made throughout the term. End of season awards go to - 'Most Valuable Player' to Jemima Laurence, 'Most Improved Player' to Sijeh Fongho, 'Players' Player' to Koty King, and 'Top Goal Scorer' to Lara Blott Wickins.

Sam Williams

U15 A



In strong resemblance to Pep Guardiola's other teams, this season's girls' U15A side was full of movement, fantastic passing and brilliant goals. Captained by the excellent Lauren 'David Silva' Yeowart and with Bella 'Sergio Aguero' Lloyd upfront scoring or assisting plenty of goals and Jemima 'the engine' Howden's work rate up the right hand side, they worked hard for each other, were positive in their attitude to training and a rewarding group to coach.

The 'Match of the Day Highlights' of the season include a thrilling end-to-end 1-1 draw vs St Edward's and a superb 6-0 win over Rugby. Well done the Team of Legends 2018.

Henry Swayne

U15 B

The U15Bs' hockey season could not have been much better. They ended the season undefeated and joint winners with Oundle in the Independent Schools' Hockey League, who they unfortunately did not get the opportunity to play. The girls turned up to every training session with high energy levels, a willingness to learn and an extremely positive attitude. Our season started with a home fixture against Oakham. The girls showed great teamwork from the start and won the match with an impressive 4-1 against a very strong Oakham side. By the next game against St Edward's, it was clear the girls were set to have a very good season, having won against Tudor Hall 7-0 and winning against local rivals St Edward's 3-0. Another win in a friendly against Quinton House set them in a good position going into their fixture against Bromsgrove, a school the girls did not have the opportunity to play last season. This was no doubt the girls' toughest fixture of the season and a game that could have gone either way. The girls battled hard from start to finish and worked tirelessly in defence to stop Bromsgrove putting away an equaliser.



Entering the second half of the season undefeated and winning 10-0 against Repton, the girls were so determined to finish the season how it had started and that they did. They won 1-0 against Uppingham, 5-0 against Trent College, 6-0 against Akeley Wood and finished with a 5-0 win against Bloxham. The only draw of the season was at an away fixture against Rugby. Despite having 80% possession and numerous opportunities, they couldn't get the ball past Rugby's keeper, resulting in a 2-2 scoreline.

Special mentions go to Olivia West, who was awarded 'Most Valuable Player' and Poppy Goaman, who was awarded 'Most Improved Player'. I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the U15Bs this year and I look forward to following their progress next year.

Megan Wright



U14 A

The U14A team surpassed themselves this season, achieving way beyond our initial expectations and we were extremely delighted with the success of this rather unique group of girls. Their work rate throughout their matches was extraordinary. They developed an unusually strong bond to form a cohesive team who were difficult to defeat! Throughout the term, they played 19 fixtures and thoroughly deserved to win 11, draw 3 and lose only 5, finishing 4th overall in the very competitive Midland League. Their most notable performances were against Oundle (3-0), Oakham (0-0), Rugby (4-0), Trent (8-1) and Bloxham (3-0). In the National Tournament, they were winners of the North Bucks Round (11-0) and runners up (6-1) on penalty strokes in the County Cup. In their group

at the Regional heats, they faced Wellington College (L 0-2), St Edward's (W 2-0) and Surbiton High (L 1-2) who went on to become the National Finalists! The 'Top Goal Scorer' was Larissa Campbell at centre forward with 10 goals, the 'Most Improved Player' was Willa Percy and the 'Most Valuable Player' was Emily Sutton, who played centre midfield, scoring 9 goals. A special mention must also go to our goalkeeper, Francesca Napolitano and our fantastic Captain, Clara Capella. Congratulations also to Emily and Hattie Goodrich, who both represented Oxfordshire County and to Larissa, who represented Buckinghamshire County. Emily and Larissa are currently awaiting the outcome of the Performance Trials. In preparation for their U15 season, the girls are looking forward to their pre-season tour to Germany and The Netherlands, and we will certainly follow their progress with interest as they move up through the School.

Sarah Sutton & Tracy Jones

The U14B team had a challenging season with only two wins over a 10 game season. Fortunately, the two wins came against local rivals St Edward's and Bloxham, which are arguably the most important games of the season!

It was good to have a match on the first weekend of the new term. It was the first time the U14Bs had played together as a squad, on a full-size pitch so it was a great learning experience for the team despite the loss against The Leys. The girls made a huge amount of progress over the season and several of the score lines did not reflect the excellent work by the defence.

Evie Brooks, who stepped up to play goalkeeper in week one, was a regular 'Most Valuable Player' with some outstanding saves. Georgia Page worked tirelessly through the midfield and always tried her best to push towards the goal. Sophie Lee and Olivia Scott-Copley (Captain) have the makings of an excellent centre-back partnership and I look forward to seeing their progress next season.

27 girls took part in U14B fixtures throughout the Michaelmas Term. Skyla Wakeman, Sophie Lee, Florence Hooper and Bea Webb, all finished the season with two goals each. As the girls mature as a team, they will need to take more of their



**U14
B**

opportunities in front of goal. There is a lot of creativity but at times, we lacked the final crucial touch of quality.

Awards this season went to Georgia Page for the 'Most Improved Player'. The 'Coaches' Player' was Imogen Taylor, who worked hard in every training session and every game. She was eager to listen and was a dependable player at left-back. 'Most Valuable Player' for the season was Evie Brooks.

Thank you to Mr Deakin and Mr Blackmore-Beales for helping me to coach the U14B side this year.

Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

The U14C girls this year started the season as a novice team, with many of them having never played hockey before coming to Stowe. Our first match put us up against Oakham, where we held our own in the first half but the second half saw us go 6-0 down. We returned to Stowe with much to work on. Our next match was against our neighbour St Edward's, where the girls came out fighting and goals from Imogen Nuttall and Isabella Pratap sealed our first 2-0 win. We then faced Bromsgrove and had a fair draw, followed by a 2-1 loss to Repton although the girls played one of their best games of hockey with Alex Aswani showing amazing skill in defence. We then visited Rugby and came away with a draw, great play again from Alex and Ava Hill, showing how the team had really learnt so much in such a short time. Our last fixture was away at Uppingham, conditions were not great and the girls fought hard but sadly we ended on a 3-1 loss. The team worked diligently all season and I was so proud to see them develop their skills over the term. A mention must be given to



**U14
C**

Genevieve Carter for being our outstanding goalie and often keeping us out of trouble!

Cheryl Davis



1st

The 1st team had an outstanding season beating Radley 52-37, Cheltenham 62-24, Bromsgrove 60-38, Rugby 58-20, Uppingham 61-39, Pangbourne 59-33, Bradfield 67-41, Abingdon 58-32 and finishing the season off in style beating Radley 91-24. The only two losses came when the team was not at full strength against Abingdon 27-35 and Stamford 26-28.

The team was superbly led by Ed Anderson who was equally strong in offence and defence, finishing the season as 'Top Points Scorer'. Fifth Formers Michael Chen and Tebi Fongho worked well in the guard spot, which helped free up Will Murray for his 3-point game. Dunking Dave Dooley and Babalola Bakare gave the team height and power with blocked shots and strong offensive play inside. Dooley was king of the foul shots and rarely missed from the line. Udo Ekpecham was Mr Versatile playing any position on

the court and gave the team huge energy. Walter Wu is one to watch for next season as a 3-point shoot with injury cutting his season short. Max Flawn-Thomas and Archie Chisnall forced their way into the team in the latter part of the season. Maria Bukachi and Pete Entwisle were very much team players helped hugely in developing the team spirit.

1st team squad:

M Bukachi; T Fongho; A Chisnall; P Entwisle; Q Wu; M Flawn-Thomas; W Murray; U Ekpecham; E Anderson (Captain); B Bakare; D Dooley; Y Chen; I David.

Thank you to the coaching team of Messers Møller, Morales-Shearer, Gupta and Karakus.

2nd

The 2nd team finished the basketball season with a fine 52-36 win against Akeley Wood. The scores were level 34-34 at half time. Stowe tightened up its defence and showed more composure under the basket to take the second half 28-12.

Team & scorers: J Choo; P Entwisle (3); V Amorntien (6); A Chisnall (8); M Bukachi; A Hatzistefanis (6); I David (14); Y Chen; T Efthymiou Egleton (5); T Cranmer (-); Z Ibraheem (10).

Inter-House Basketball

In the Michaelmas Term, the Third Form started off the Inter-House Basketball competition. In the boys' competition, Bruce beat Chandos and Grafton beat Temple in the Semi-Finals. Bruce were crowned Champions having beaten Grafton in the Final. In the girls' competition, Nugent were crowned Champions after winning two and drawing one their matches with Queen's runners-up having won one and drawn two of their three matches.

In the Junior competition, Temple beat Grafton and Grenville beat Bruce in the Boys' Semi-Finals. Temple beat Grenville 8-6 in the final to be crowned Champions. In the girls' competition, Queen's won all their matches to be crowned champions, with Nugent Runners-Up.

There were some very tightly contested matches in the Senior competitions. In the boys' competition, Bruce beat Temple 14-12 in the Semi-Final and Grafton eased past Walpole in the other Semi-Final. Bruce dominated the Final against Grafton to be crowned Champions. Nugent dominated the girls' competition winning all their matches comfortably with Queen's in 2nd place and Stanhope in 3rd.



U16
A



U16
B

The U16s played two games this season and won both. The first was against Bradfield. They started the game well scoring the first 6 points but Bradfield's playmaker hit two 3-pointers to help his side to a 15-9 lead at the end of the 1st quarter. Great defence and baskets from Michael Chen and Tebi Fongho saw Stowe level the scores 17-17 at the end of the 2nd quarter. Udo Ekpecham and Fongho led the scoring in the 3rd quarter with Ekpecham dominating the defensive boards and making a superb assist to put Aaryan Aswani clear under the basket to take the team 4 points clear 34-30 going into the last quarter. Chen scored a flurry of early baskets in the final quarter to help the team to a 47-36 lead. With Chen, Fongho and Ekpecham on four fouls Bradfield took the initiative and clawed their way back into the game to make it a 6-point game 43-49, however, a strong finish by Aris Hatzistefanis killed the game off for an impressive 55-46 win in their first match of the season. It was good experience for our three Third Formers (Max Cranmer, Ugen Dorji and Imran Tinubu).

For their second game on Tuesday 20 March, they played Princes Risborough who came out strong,

taking an early 10-4 lead. Their National League player scoring all 10 of their points. The team played much better 'help' defence to limit scoring opportunities for the opposition and Ekpecham and Michael Chen found their shooting touch to help the team go in level 10-10 at the end of the 1st quarter. In the 2nd quarter Fongho, Chen and Ekpecham started to control the game with excellent assistance from the bench particularly Sam Birch's contribution in defence. The team eased to a 25-18 lead at half-time and kept the squeeze on Princes Risborough for the remainder of the match. Hatzistefanis, Dorji and Aswani made useful contributions to the points tally and helped the team to a 50-33 points win.

The U16A and B teams took part in the Bradfield tournament and the A team came back well to beat Bradfield 20-15 in their last group match. Although there were no other wins, both teams learned a great deal and had an extremely enjoyable day.

U16 squad: U Ekpecham (Captain); Y Chen (Vice-Captain); T Fongho; A Hatzistefanis; T Cranmer; T Efthymiou Egleton; A Aswani; S Birch; A Subowo; D Fedko; U Dorji; M Cranmer; I Tinubu; A Díaz-Rato; T Gu.

Our co-ed Tuesday evening basketball slot for the Fifth and Sixth Form proved to be massively popular once again. The girls who attended formed the basis of the girls' team.

A very excited girls' team took to the court against Thornton College, having been disappointed by a cancellation of a match against Cheltenham previously. The girls showed a great deal of energy and initially found it difficult to contain Thornton's tallest player who dominated the



1st

offensive boards scoring all 8 of their points in the 1st quarter. Our main scorers for the match Maria Bukachi (17), Lily Marriott (14) and Sonia Sander (8) all got on the score sheet in the 1st quarter to give the team a slender 10-8 lead. Maria and Lily stepped up again in the final quarter to lead their team to an impressive 47-32 victory.

Girls' Team Squad: L Marriott (Captain); M Bukachi; K Subowo; H Vince; L Paske; A Harrison; A King; L Clements; C Brooks; G Carvalheira-Mobaraki; E Zakon; S Sander; E Almeyda; H Trautmann; I Benson.

All reports by Isaac Michael



CYCLING

Stoics were still rounding off their 2017-18 season in style at the start of the Michaelmas Term 2018. Daniel Roberts was the ninth fastest athlete in the Final A Youth's Triathlon Category, establishing his name in advance of his second possible year in this category in 2019. Harry Kirby rounded off last year's season, coming 2nd place by only one second in the Muswell and Brill Hill Climb Championships, organised by the Bicester Millennium Cycling Club. In his first dedicated time trialling season, Harry also firmly established his name in the Junior British Best All Rounder (Junior BBAR) competition, which is a National Category that extracts the average speeds from two 10 mile and two 25 mile time trials. In the end, Harry averaged 28.06mph (compared to the winning average of 28.91mph) to achieve 5th place. Only 17 Juniors in the UK qualified by having established the 22pmh average to enter. This therefore bodes well for Harry as a young entrant with two more years to improve.

For the first time, Stowe School Cycling Club dipped into the world of cyclo-cross. This has very much been the new inclusive trend in cycling that has been booming across the UK and abroad, providing an exciting and fun combination of participation and racing via weaving courses in parks and open areas. Categories and courses span appropriately across all age groups from under 8s to Juniors and Veterans and last from 15 minutes to 1 hour in duration. The Central Cyclo-cross League races are all local and

hosted by different clubs. The experience is made even more thrilling with families and supporters cheering, ringing bells or pumping out music along the way. Best of all, there is a very inclusive atmosphere with many competitors looking to enjoy the occasion on a range of bikes, including mountain bikes.

Stowe's debut into this world was led by the likes of Ethan Collins, Larissa Campbell and Harry Kirby with Daniel Roberts putting in a guest appearance and achieving 6th place in the under 16s category at Equipe Velo's event at Swanbourne House School. Weekly sessions were put aside in the Stowe grounds, practicing starts and technical skills that were put into practice with great effect in subsequent races. If nothing else, these events proved really useful for improving fitness and cornering skills. Larissa achieved a podium place coming 3rd at the Swanbourne race.

Meanwhile, spin sessions have grown in popularity during the course of the year, with sessions taking place five afternoons a week. In the last week of the Summer Term, they also provided the third discipline for the Fourth Form's fundraising, walking with the Wounded and Refugee Action. Each group had to divide up and cycle the equivalent distance from Calais to Versailles (302km) in their groups.

Some respite was provided at the start of the Lent Term as further training took place with the core of



Stoic cyclists: Kenny Kim, Sascha Clark-Jones, Ethan Collins, Larissa Campbell and Harry Kirby. The hopes for a Stoic team at the Silverstone Team Time Trial were dashed with the announcement that the event was cancelled for 2019 due to resurfacing. However the Weston on the Green weekly time trials provided a worthy substitute for measuring performance and sampling homemade cake afterwards! Needless to say, Harry's second dedicated time trialling season and additional year of physiological growth and development was paying off. The racing programme was interspersed with occasional circuit and road racing at venues, such as the Dalton Barracks in Abingdon. Time trial personal bests and results have flowed in on almost a weekly basis at the airbase at Weston on the Green, with Harry's fastest time to date being 22:38 for 10 miles. In May, he won the Junior category in the open time trial at Cambridge and in June, he came 3rd and received a Bronze medal in the last of the Sigma Sport National Circuit Time Trial Championships, averaging, a speed of 41km/ph over the undulating 20 mile course. At the time of writing,

Harry is still pedalling away in an effort to improve on last year's Junior BBAR position whilst at the same time, targeting the Chris Boardman trophy for the best results from three events. Therefore, it is rather apt that Harry jumped at the chance to be the test guinea pig for the PE educational trip to the Boardman Performance Centre at the end of the Summer Term to experience professional physiological testing and aerodynamics normally reserved for professional cyclists.

In the interests of promoting Stowe cycling abroad, a Staff peloton of Mr Arnold, Mr Coote, Mr Jackson, Mr Sutton, Mr Durrant and myself based ourselves in Bourg D'Oisans for a few days in advance of competing in a 40km international climbing race entitled 'Prix des Rousses' which involved ascending Alpe d'Huez and then immediately afterwards, the Col de Vaujany. More than 200 competitors from all over the world combined with 37 degrees temperatures added to the challenging mountains but we were rewarded with amazing scenery!

Chris Grimble



SKIING

Girls' Skiing

During the Exeat weekend in January Mrs Brown and three Third Form girls Harriett Perris, Alice Butler and Sienna Bettany (our youngest ever team) went to Flaine where the girls represented Stowe in the British Schoolgirl Races.

The girls had two days of intense training being guided around the course and then all three raced in the Giant Slalom and Slalom races. In the Giant Slalom races the Stowe team came a very respectable 19 out of 50 teams and in the Slalom they came 40th. Conditions were difficult and the course was very tricky with a lot of falls as the snowfall was very heavy through the few days, broken up with some lovely sunshine.

This is the Stowe team of the future and I have high hopes for success for Harriett, Alice and Sienna for 2020.

Hazel Browne



Boys' Skiing

The boys' teams departed for Wengen in January to represent Stowe at the British Schools Ski Championships in Europe. The team performed admirably, with standout performances coming from Matteo Pangherz, who came in the top 20 in both the Giant Slalom and the Slalom, Xan Kenlock, who posted an excellent Giant Slalom time, and Luke Holland-Bosworth, whose Slalom showed huge promise for years to come. Tom Scott, Louis Hay, Marlow Turner, Archie Page and Trennon Bettany also contributed to solid team performances.

Ed Smith & Craig Sutton





Fencing

This year, we have once again made regular use of our connections with Towcester Fencing Club to provide a wider range of opponents and experience on a Wednesday evening. This is valuable additional training time and helps to prepare our fencers for competitive events. Not only do these sessions provide a hard workout but also a weekly opportunity for a change of scenery for the Stoics and an occasional opportunity for a treat by diverting via a nearby fast food outlet on the way home.

Although our Coach, Mr Baldip Sahota, was away with the Indian National Team at the Asian Games for a period at the start of the year, we welcomed Abingdon to a fixture in October. Exciting investment in Stowe's fencing facilities made this the first real test of a new Leon Paul electronic roll-out piste and scoring equipment. Although heavily outnumbered in squad size, a quite literally hard-fought afternoon followed, with excellent performances from Lauren Brigden, Edward Don, Hugo Robinson and Hannah Laurence. These four came very close but eventually were narrowly beaten by opponents who had not lost a fixture for several years.

The major event of the year is the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace in March. Mr Dominic Blackmore-Beales kindly accompanied the squad, this time including Luc Katyar, who made his debut appearance at the competition. The organisers award an overall trophy, the Queenswood Cup, for which the Stowe squad of four achieved second place to the winners, Millfield, whose squad numbered more than 36. This was the final appearance for Lauren Brigden, whose glittering collection of School, Regional and National achievements and commitment to the sport was

recognised by being awarded the Colin Shillington Cup for Outstanding Sporting Achievement at Speech Day. We wish our Lauren well for the future and once again extend our thanks for her hard work and support. Mr Sahota and I are now keen to welcome more Stoics to the sport and to coach the next generations of Stowe medal winners.

Jonathan Cook





The 1st XI started brightly with wins over Bloxham, Bradfield and Abingdon. There was also a thrilling tie with Marylebone Cricket Club in a game shortened by rain. James Cronie was the heavy run getter in these matches, with 70s against Bloxham and Bradfield, and a scintillating 114* against Abingdon off only 55 balls. Jack Mercer scored quick, impressive 40s against MCC and Bradfield in those run chases. Tom Worrall was also not out on both occasions in those matches. In the run chase against Abingdon, George Holmes also scored an aggressive 40* in support of Cronie.

The early season was marred by injuries to seamers Olly Taylor and Charles Shore-Hollingworth but Rufus Easdale, James Cronie and Jack Mercer all did well with the ball and it meant there were debuts for James Watkins and Max Flawn-Thomas. The 1st XI lost twice to Bedford in the National T20 and our regular Saturday fixture but there were some strong individual performances. Jack Mercer scored a brilliant 70 off 50 balls in the National T20 match and he bowled tightly as well with his off breaks.

Two close games against Oundle and the Old Stoics saw us up to Half Term. Rufus Easdale and James Cronie were the pick of the bowlers against Oundle taking two wickets each and Ed Snushall top scored with 44. The highlight of the match versus the Old Stoics was a superb 60* by George Holmes, his first fifty for the 1st XI.

After Half Term, several games were lost to rain, although 50 overs were possible against Oakham and a superb bowling performance saw us bowl them out for 178 with Olly Taylor, pick of the bowlers with four wickets. Another highlight of this match was a superb wicket-keeping performance from Ed Snushall.

There was a comfortable win against Bedford Modern. Batting first, the team posted 204-6 in their 30 overs, thanks to 69 from Jack Mercer and 59 from Sam Birch (his first fifty for the 1st XI) and a disciplined bowling performance restricted Bedford Modern to 169 in reply.

On the final Saturday of term, there was a very close low scoring game against Bromsgrove. Thanks to a fifty partnership between Rhys Noble and James Cronie, Stowe were 72 for 1, only to find themselves at 95 for 6 at the lunch break - a crazy half an hour where we lacked focus as a batting unit. The lower order then got stuck in and we battled up to 143 before being bowled out. Another superb opening spell from Olly Taylor and Rufus Easdale reduced Bromsgrove to 33 for 2 at tea. The team kept their discipline and continued to put pressure on the Bromsgrove batsman. James Cronie took the next two wickets with his off spin and there was a superb spell from Max Flawn-Thomas, who bowled 10 overs and took one wicket for only 16 runs to really keep the pressure on. Easdale also took two more wickets but eventually Bromsgrove got over the line after 47 overs.

Our two-day game against Wellingborough was rain affected and play was only possible on day one. Stowe batted and were 276 for 7 at the close of play. This was set up by an opening stand of 70 between George Hooper and Rhys Noble. James Cronie scored 78 - a well-constructed innings, and there were contributions all the way down the order. Olly Taylor (34*) and Fourth Former Oscar Watson (23*) were the not-out batsman overnight.

On the final day of cricket for the term, we experimented by playing the new 100 ball format. Our first game was against Buckinghamshire U17s and the team

put in their most disciplined performance of the season restricting them to 88-9 in their 100 balls. Charles Shore-Hollingworth was the pick of the bowlers with 2 for 19 from his 20 balls and special mention to Third Former, Will Jenden, who bowled his first over for the 1st XI and took two wickets.

The second game against Harrow was unfortunately very one-sided in their favour, but we had a young team this year. All of the XI against Harrow will be back next season so this bodes well going into the 2020, which kicks off with our tour to Dubai.

Heartfelt thanks to Henry Swayne for his support with the team this year and for his many years of service to Stowe cricket. And thanks to our scorer, Lynn Allen, our umpires, David Tooth and Graham Frost, and of course Steve Curley, Kevin Beasley and our team of Groundstaff who have all worked very hard all Summer.

James Knott

The season started on a real high with a tremendous away win against Bradfield. Bradfield won the toss and decided to bat first. Elliot Mullarkey and Micky Shillington both took wickets in their opening spells but Bradfield recovered well. The Stowe spinners found it difficult to find their length and Bradfield capitalised on the short pitched deliveries. They were threatening to take the game away from Stowe until Max Flawn-Thomas was brought into the attack, bowling a double-wicket maiden in his first over and finishing with fine figures of 2-18 off 4 overs. Shillington also bowled well finishing with figures of 1-22 off 5 overs. Bradfield finished on 163 for 6 in their 25 overs leaving Stowe a run-rate of 6.5 runs per over. Freddie Horlick and George Gauvain opened the batting and put on 50 in 10 overs before Gauvain was caught for 15. Horlick went on to score an impressive 46 before he was bowled by an excellent yorker. This brought Louis Newman and Tom Youds to the crease together. They both played very maturely, giving the team every chance of victory, needing 30 to win off the last 3 overs. They kept up with the run-rate and needed 9 off the last over. Youds dispatched the first ball for 6 then took 2 off the 2nd ball and sealed victory by crashing the ball through the covers for 4. What an outstanding run chase with Youds finishing on 42 not out and Newman on 41 not out, guiding the team to an impressive 8 wicket victory.

Next up were Abingdon, who batted well to hit 164-6 in this T20 match. Both Mullarkey and Oscar Brett bagged a brace of wickets. Stowe were 42-0 off 4 overs with Horlick in majestic form on 34*. Sadly, the rain came tumbling down and the match was abandoned.

The next visitors to the glorious North Front were Bedford. Their 215 for 2 in 25 overs was just too much for the Stowe batting to chase, with the team finishing on 157 all out. The rays of sunshine were fine knocks from Shillington (46), Horlick (42) and Edward Wentworth-Stanley 25.

The team suffered back-to-back defeats but ran Oundle close in the next match. The team posted 148-7 off 30 overs with James Watkins (36) and Mullarkey (24*) the pick of the batsmen. Brett was pick of the bowlers with 2-16 but in reality, the team



could have done with scoring 20-30 more runs.

After Half Term, the team travelled to Eton with just the one Upper Sixth, Mullarkey, with the remainder of the team, Lower Sixth and Fifth Form. Charles Shore-Hollingworth saw the track and put Eton into bat, bowling them out for 122 in 23 overs. No fewer than 8 bowlers took wickets with best figures coming from Edward Broughton 2-5 and Gauvain 2-14. Newman 53 and Hooper 30 provided the main firepower as the team replied with 124-4 in 20.4 overs to win by 6 wickets.

Unfortunately, another game was abandoned to rain and this time only 9 Oakham overs were bowled as proceedings came to an end with Stowe 32-2 with Christian Linton timing the ball well with a quick 16.

The 2nd XI travelled to Bromsgrove for their last match of the season and played out a very exciting match. Bromsgrove batted first and posted 127 for 4 in their 20 overs. The team made a great effort chasing 127 and fell just 5 runs short. Shore-Hollingworth threatened to win the match until he was out for 23 and at the death, Thomas Riley smashed a quick 14* but ran out of deliveries. This was a great game played in the right spirit and brilliant to see every player involved!

Team squad and appearances:

E Broughton 7; G Gauvain (Captain) 7; L Newman (Vice-Captain) 7; C Linton 6; M Butler (W) 5; F Horlick (Vice-Captain) 5; E Mullarkey 5; O Brett 4; M Fenwicke-Clennell 4; M Flawn-Thomas 4; L Shillington (Captain) 4; C Shore-Hollingworth (Captain) 4; T Hall 3; L Redfern 3; T Youds 3; B Shaw (W) 2; J McCallum 2; T Riley 2; T Batey 1; S Birch (W) 1; F Dickerson 1; G Hooper 1; O Landau 1; R Mathers 1; F Smiley 1; K Subasinghe 1; O Taylor 1; J Trumper 1; J Watkins 1; E Wentworth-Stanley 1.

Isaac Michael



3rd
XI

Played 3 | Won 3 (not counting Bedford, which was really a 4th/3rd hybrid)

Cricket's combination of variables make it the most confounding, perplexing, frustrating and compelling of sports. At the time of writing, England's World Cup fortunes hang in the balance and the spectre of unfulfilled potential lurks large and menacing just beyond the boundary rope (for the record I very much welcome being proved wrong here) whilst by contrast, the 3rd XI season ended a few games early with many highly talented individuals only just starting to find the idiom to express their ability. This really was a side that had all the gifts but not the fixtures and the few games we did have, could only hint at what might have happened and what could have been. This is no one's fault and it is the nature of things for the 3rd XI to struggle to find 11 willing and able bodies as the exams, and then study leave, cut a swathe through the playing cohort; sometimes that can come as sweet release but on other occasions, such as this, you find yourself chomping at the bit and shaking an angry fist at fate for denying these talented young players the time and space they very much deserved.

In the three full fixtures completed (Bedford can very much be discounted on technical grounds), this team out bowled, out batted and out fielded, one poor, one evenly matched and one very dangerous looking side, to finish the season well on top and wishing it could have gone on a few more games. This is a nice problem to have and on balance it is probably preferable that the season finished a rubber or two early rather than late (see previous years) and in the time allowed, we did see some very fine cricket and

very talented players, who will surely go on to bigger and better things next year, be that at Stowe or at university.

On paper, this looked like a bowling side and though perhaps short of a genuine spinner, the 3rd XI bowled out the opposition twice and restricted a tenacious Abingdon side to 132. Jamie Hungin could be relied upon to run in hard, Harry Arkwright kept it tight without perhaps hitting the highs of last season, Joshua McCallum's spin will come good one day, Ben Shamash's medium pace wobblers consistently proved deceptively tricky, Oliver Landau is a strong, bustling bowler who will perform at a higher level soon and the same can be said of Fin Dickerson, whose whole-hearted medium fast unsettled many a batsman.

Others pitched in with the bat and the ball, not least Monty Fenwicke-Clennell whose 41 at Abingdon proved invaluable, Christian Linton who produced a 'Man of the Match' performance with bat and ball to see the team home against Oundle and Ashwin Batey, who shared a 94 run partnership with Christian in that game. In the field, Max Butler and Tom Scott were very tidy when called upon to serve behind the stumps and 'Catch of the Season' was as fierce as any contest with Archie Chisnall's amazing over the shoulder pouch against Oundle narrowly shaded by Fin Dickerson's second slip athleticism at Bradfield.

'Player of the Season', however, was Ludo Mannion Miles. Not only did he bowl with the barrel chested swagger of Darren Gough and bat with the stylish pugnacity (and disdain for singles) of Inzamam-ul-

Haq, he Captained the 3rd XI with the instinct and perspicacity of Mike Brearley, manipulating his field and rotating his bowlers with an intuition uncommon at this level. His double-wicket maiden followed by a destructive 27 at Abingdon (including two flat sixes derisively swatted to square leg) were a highlight amongst many and he consistently set a high standard for others to follow. Which, by and large,

they did so, bringing a real team ethos to this atypical collective.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with these gentlemen this year and I wish them all the very best for their cricketing futures, virtually all of which are sure to be played out at a higher level than this.

Paul Floyd

The 4th XI had a short but enjoyable season, winning all but one of their games, playing cricket in the gentlemanly style expected of players at this level. Their first game against Bloxham saw the team win emphatically, beating the opposition score of 98 with seven wickets and seven overs to spare. They then consolidated this excellent performance, winning by 22 runs against Kimbolton. Their only defeat came on a tough day for all of the teams against Bedford, which ended in an



exciting fashion with an incredibly narrow one-wicket victory to the opposition. Many players, also earned call-ups from the 3rd XI with team Captain, Tom Scott, showing maturity and skill beyond his years in all of the games he played at both levels. The 4ths were also indebted to several players responding to last-minute call-ups to ensure that Stowe's cricket club offers the full range of teams to promote excellence at all levels. An enjoyable and fulfilling season for all involved.

Paul Griffin & James Peppiatt



On the one hand, with five of the Colts team representing the 1st XI this term, the season was always going to be tough in terms of results. On the other hand, this would provide greater opportunities to shine for those players perhaps used to being on the periphery in past seasons and player development was very much the focus of our efforts.

And so it proved, with all four of the completed matches resulting in defeats as the team struggled to set big enough totals for the bowlers to defend. Flynn Mulcahy led from the front and was the leading run-scorer, playing strongly all around the wicket and forming a good opening partnership with Holly Phillips, often getting the team off to an impressive start. The other batsmen failed to spend sufficient time at the crease to trouble the scorers, with the exception of a decent 43 from Willoughby Clarke against Bedford and a hard-hitting half-century from Conrad Flint Wood against Bradfield. On the bowling front, Archie Barnes, Angus Pollock, Oliver Reed, Tommy Cranmer, Marlow Turner and Robbie Haigh, all bowled well at certain stages of the season with the Champagne moments being Marlow's stunning one-handed catch against Oundle and Holly Phillips being selected as Captain of the team by her peers, perhaps making history as Stowe's first ever female Captain of a boys' team?

Gavin Moffat

COLTS A



A rain affected season led to a slightly disjointed campaign for the U15A boys. Many training sessions were called off meaning match preparation was limited and the boys were relied on to keep themselves fit and sharp in their own time.

The team was ably led by Captain and wicket-keeper, Oscar Watson, who, on more than one occasion, kept his team in with a shout as others gave their wickets away cheaply. 66* v Bloxham and a 62 v Bradfield were Watson's standout performances with the bat and other notable innings of 46, 46, 39 and 36*, meant he was clearly top of the batting averages come the end of the season.

The boys had an excellent win against Oundle in the middle of the season as well as a run to the County Cup Final with wins over Chesham and John Hampden.

The bizarre County Cup Final saw both teams bat for just 5 overs on the South Front (because of the weather) despite a full 40 over match being played out on the North Front. It was a cricket version of a penalty shootout and Stowe lost by one run. The

COLTS B

The Colts B season went by in a flash but it was not without some excellent cricket being played and also some great schoolboy cricketing moments.

Whether it was Ned Ellison's 33 against Oundle or some excellent bowling by Tristan Montague against Bradfield, the Colts B were very unfortunate to lose both their games. We also had many dropped catches, many wide and no balls and even players taking out their fellow players in the field - the Colts B certainly threw themselves into the short season with gusto. Thanks to all the players who played this year.

Mike Rickner

current Yearlings will have the chance next year to win back the U15 County Cup.

Watson averaged 47 with the bat with Wilf Wyatt following with 18. This included a memorable 57 against Oakham on the North Front. Josh Weru showed signs of being a very destructive batsman but didn't quite turn some promising starts into big scores. A 47 and a 37 against Bradfield and MCS respectively were his top scores finishing the season with a 17.22 average. Charlie Crabbie played three times but averaged 21 showing a great attitude in the field as well as Will Jenden showing his future 1st XI potential with an innings of 34 in the County Cup Semi-Final.

Bowling wise, the boys never struggled to take wickets. Wilf Wyatt took 4 for 25 against John Hampden but the best figures belonged to Milan Choudree - 4 wickets for 7 runs. Wyatt finished with 12 wickets followed by Weru (9) and Orchard and Bryant (6).

Ben Scott



JUNIOR COLTS B

A blustery afternoon did not stop the Junior Colts B winning their first match of the season at home against Bradfield. Conrad Spencer, the pick of the bowlers, taking 5 wickets for 29 runs in five overs. Charlie Crabbie, along with a strong batting performance, took 1 for 14 in a spell of four overs.

Slightly overcast but good conditions for the first T20 match of the season against Abingdon. A valiant effort and a close game in the end but Stowe fell short by 5 runs, ending the innings at 157 for 5.

Stowe continued to lose regular wickets in a game against Bedford and besides Charlie Crabbie (21) and Bertie Fountain (14), no other batsman managed to get into double figures. Stowe lost their final wicket in the 25th over for only 66 runs, a poor batting display against a very good bowling side.

The Junior Colts bounced back from a lost game to win their home match with Oundle, maintaining their 100% win record at home. Continuing their winning streak, Stowe beat the team from Dr Challoner's in a nail-biting finish to a very good T20 game.

After a rainy journey to Eton, unfortunately it was another away loss for Stowe to a disciplined Eton side.

Our final home game did not disappoint as the Stowe JCB XI comfortably won the T20 match and ended the season with a brilliant 100% record at home. A great end to the season with a 'Man of the Match' performance again by Conrad Spencer. The JCB boys have played brilliantly at home and worked well to develop their game.

This has been a good season from a talented bunch of boys who developed as a team over the eight games we played and gave their utmost to play this beautiful game of cricket. The end of season awards highlighted individuals without whom the team's success would not have been possible. Other good contributions were from E Collins, C Chu, A Dens, E Garrett, S Shellabear and G Penrose.

Aditya Gupta

The Junior Colts Cs had a tough Summer season, with many not having properly bowled or batted before, gaining experience throughout the games. Going from being all out for 69 against Abingdon to getting 119 for 8 against Oundle may not have landed a positive result but did bring some positive performances. In addition, much credit must be given to the several pupils who have stepped up when the team has been short of players, to help out their class and Housemates, showing a great sporting spirit and attitude.

Dominic Blackmore-Beales



JUNIOR COLTS C

Played 15 | Won 3 | Drew 3 | Lost 9

The aim for the Yearlings squad this year from the start of the season has been to work hard, to develop and to enjoy their cricket. This is one of the youngest Yearlings squads around and it seemed clear after winter nets that they were likely to be physically, and in terms of experience, a little behind most teams we were to play and the results confirmed that. We were always competitive in the field and with the ball but were rarely able to

score enough runs. However, at no point did the players give up and as the season progressed, individuals and the team as a whole became increasingly competent and as a result competitive. This was a fair reward for their hard work and resilience throughout and the excellent team spirit that developed.

It was fitting that they were able to finish the season playing some very good cricket indeed and enjoying the experience of the annual Yearlings Festival with two very complete team performances, in which Will Jenden scored back-to-back centuries. The team beat St Joseph's and ran a very competitive and successful Cheltenham side close in a last ball finish in a game where nearly 400 runs were scored in a T20 match; impressive for Yearlings!

The players are well placed now to continue on the upward curve of their development and have resolved to work hard in winter nets. The team were a pleasure to work with and that was only enhanced by a supportive set of parents who at no stage put the boys under any unrealistic pressure; that certainly contributed to allowing these boys to develop as much as possible in the environment. We look forward to seeing them flourish in the future.

Chris Lloyd & Phil Arnold



YEARLINGS B

The Yearlings Bs had a mixed season with a few games unfortunately cancelled. The season started with a heavy defeat away at Bradfield, which taught the boys a few lessons about being awake and aware in the field. Ably led by Ali Saunders through the whole season, the boys always worked hard in the nets and out in the middle during our practices to improve. The game against Abingdon was much closer, with Stowe just losing by a few runs in a rain disturbed batting performance; had the toss gone the other way, victory could well have been ours.

It was after this game that we began to settle on our opening batsmen of Charlie Cousins and Nico Shillington - boys who never minded facing the fiercest bowling and chipped in throughout the season with good scores. Our next game at Bedford seemed lost after a batting collapse but some excellent bowling by Nathaniel Meens, Rory Baker, Saunders and Cousins ripped through the Bedford batsmen. Although we narrowly lost the game, the team were beginning to grow in spirit and become more settled.

A trip to Oundle produced our first victory, solid batting from Noah Cowan, Oliver Halsey-Wright, Paddy Potts and winning runs from George Owen-Thursfield got the team over the line. After a couple more defeats and rain abandonments, the boys came up against Bromsgrove in the last game of the season. With some accurate bowling, tight fielding (and a catch of the season by Pollock), we limited them to 108. The win was secured by a season high score of 84no by Pollock, which saw us win comfortably.

I would like to thank all the boys involved in the B team for an enjoyable season and for playing the game in the correct spirit, they were a joy to coach! Many of the boys represented the A team as well and were rewarded for their hard work and effort.

Thomas Elwell

YEARLINGS C

A tough start to the season saw three defeats on the bounce as the Yearlings C team found their feet in competitive cricket fixtures but they improved with each game and secured an impressive victory against Oundle, with Captain, Theo Hahn James, displaying an impressive innings with the bat to set Oundle a high target they failed to chase down. The poor weather then heavily disrupted the fixture list before our final win of the season by 9 wickets against Bromsgrove in the last weekend. The Yearlings C group were an amicable group to coach and will definitely improve further over the coming years.

Matthew Teasdale



YEARLINGS D

Unfortunately, due to poor weather, many of the Yearlings D's matches were cancelled this season. Out of the three matches we did manage, the results didn't go our way but the amount the boys learned about the game was noticeable, many of them had never played cricket before. This was apparent in our final match against Bedford when our opening bowler, who struggled with bowling at the beginning of the season, bowled the opening batsman out for a 'golden duck'.

Megan Lewis-Williams

Girls' Cricket

Played 3 | Won 2 | Lost 1

The girls' cricket season got off to a great start, with a lot of enthusiasm and desire to play matches and with leadership from Captain Emily Banks, we embarked on the first few training sessions. We had our first match against Ousedale School which was a game of pairs and we won by 42 runs. With the girls on a high, we went on to play Oundle, known for their cricket, and this game was our first hardball game as a girls' cricket team. We missed out by 6 wickets but the perseverance and determination from the girls meant they were keen for more matches. Our final match was against Akeley Wood, which was another game of pairs and was won by us comfortably by 70 runs, meaning we finished the season on a high.

The hard work and determination shown by the girls this year makes for an exciting season next year with hopefully more hardball matches and continued success!

Hannah Nelson





Sailing

Having extended the sailing season this year, the sailors at Stowe are really developing well, and their skills are improving, whatever level they started at.

Our race squad trained in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms and we worked towards competing in the British Schools' Dinghy Racing Association regattas in the Summer Term. It was great to welcome some new faces who have joined the team this year and they have settled into the existing team. We have had some success in competitions and the team finished the events we entered in the positions I would expect, given their experience and that of the other competitors. Much of the racing we undertake is in the team-racing format. This is a highly tactical form of the sport and is the format of racing seen in all schools and universities so what we do really builds on the opportunities for Stoics in later life.

At the time of writing, we are about to set off for three days of sailing in the coastal waters at Itchenor Sailing Club in the Schools' Week Regatta. This is our third year attending this regatta and we are entering a record three boats this year. It will be a great experience for these sailors to sail in a sixty strong, fleet of boats.

The Inter-House sailing competition also received a record number of entries, resulting in us having to split the competition into a boys' regatta and a girls' regatta. Our Captain of Sailing, Hugh Fox with his crew Theo Coley, won the boys' regatta for Chatham. The girls' regatta was closely fought with Queen's coming a very close second to the winners Stanhope.

We have also been developing sailing as an activity, rather than just a sport, and have seen several Stoics learn to helm a boat in our sessions on Thursday afternoons during the Summer Term.

I hope that sailing will continue to grow as a key part of School life for the pupils who get involved. We have a great bunch of sailors with a real team ethic and we are very happy to hear from any pupil wanting to join that team and learn to sail or race at Stowe.

I am indebted to Giles Cuddy and Kieran Garvey for their help in delivering sailing at Stowe and to Craig Sutton and Gwilym Jones for their support of the ongoing development of this sport at Stowe.

Finally, all credit to the sailors who I've had the pleasure to instruct this year.

Duncan Syme





BADMINTON

Stowe entered the National Schools' Year 9 Badminton Championships for the first time and got through to the Quarter Finals of the County round, they went out to a strong Webber School team. On the day, the team consisting of Oliver Butler, Michael Spencer, George Owen-Thursfield and James Gray beat John Hampden and Buckingham School 5-0.

The Inter-House singles and doubles competitions were well supported and keenly contested.

The girls' results in the Finals were as follows:

Third Form Singles:

Emily Sutton beat Tallulah Morris 21-10

Junior Singles:

Poppy Goaman beat Hattie Goodrich 21-10

Senior Singles:

Eleanor Butler beat Rosia Li 21-19

Third Form Doubles:

Queen's beat Nugent 3-0

Junior Doubles:

Nugent beat Lyttelton 2-1

Senior Doubles:

Stanhope beat Lyttelton 3-0

The boys' results in the Finals were as follows:

Third Form Singles:

Michael Spencer beat George Owen-Thursfield 22-20

Junior Singles:

Oliver Butler beat Ben Li 21-15

Senior Singles:

Hector Smiley beat Chanatip Chinavicharana 21-12

Third Form Doubles:

Temple beat Grafton 2-1

Junior Doubles:

Cobham beat Grafton 2-1

Senior Doubles:

Walpole beat Bruce 2-1

The 1st team had an outstanding season, only losing one match, beating Bloxham, Rugby (twice), MCS, Oxford and Wellingborough. Eleanor Butler and Rosia Li together with Oliver Butler and Ben Li went through the season with hardly a game dropped. The opposition found it difficult to cope with their power, touch and disguise. Other strong performances came from Chanatip Chinavicharana, Oliver Reed, Hector Smiley, Bijan de Falleja Fazeli, Michael Spencer, Rafi Mahmood, Michael Chen, George Owen-Thursfield and Alexander Crasneanski.

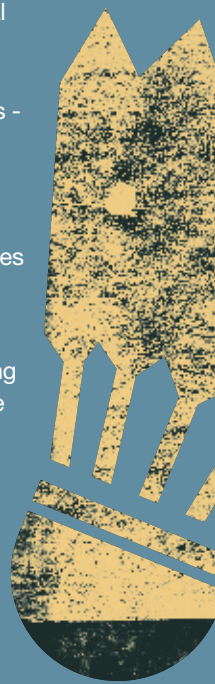
A special mention must go to England pair Eleanor Butler and Oliver Butler, who have had outstanding seasons outside School as well. At the U17 National Championships, Eleanor won bronze in the doubles and Oliver dominated proceedings at the U15 National Championships, winning a hat-trick of titles - singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

The Staff/pupil badminton festival at the end of the Michaelmas Term proved to be a great hit with both Staff and pupils. It was great to see players of all ages and levels having so much fun! This will certainly be repeated next season.

With all the team returning next season and a thriving number of Third Formers coming through, the future of Stowe badminton is looking very healthy!

Thank you to Mrs Browne, Mr Dobson, Mr Gupta and Mr Karakus, who have helped with fixtures and badminton activity throughout the Winter terms.

Isaac Michael





CROSS-COUNTRY



Stowe's cross-country runners have had a successful year. The highlight of the Michaelmas Term was the School Inter-House race, in which every pupil raced around a new course. The revamped format emphasised running as a personal challenge and the benefits of fitness, while keeping the competitive element amongst the top runners. Queen's and Grafton took home the overall wins for the girls and boys respectively.

In the Lent Term, the Stowe cross-country team raced in several competitions. The team competed

at schools including Welbeck, Wellingborough and Uppingham. 18 Stowe pupils competed in the Buckinghamshire Cross-Country Championships, which Stowe also hosted. Over 1,000 runners visited the site to compete in a range of races. Dan Roberts came an impressive 8th in the Intermediate boys' competition, qualifying for the Stowe team at the National Cross-Country Competition, whilst Jodie Brogden was the top Stowe girl, coming 18th in a tough Intermediate girls' race.

Mark Austen





Water Polo

The water polo squad has worked hard this year and has only lost one match. Our first match saw us at home to Bedford winning 8-3, our team depleted to Rugby, we had to field three Third Formers on the subs' bench (Marco Mykhalus, Carlo de Vivo and Fadi Zaku). The first quarter ended 3-1 and great attacking from Logan Brown and Rory Trotman saw Bedford under great pressure. Going into the second quarter, Bedford won a penalty but failed to convert it to a goal. In the third quarter with tiredness kicking in, Rory and Ed Akeroyd Hunt both took advantage of a cherry-picker goal and the fourth quarter ended 8-3, after Henry Howard (goalie) shot goal to goal and scored! Our loss came against Harrow, where despite fighting hard, we could not find the back of the net losing 6-1. The team has trained hard this year and we have changed our training and formation. We are looking forward to entering the ESSA water polo leagues this year.

Water polo Colours have been awarded to: Alex Girling, Ed Akeroyd Hunt, Rory Trotman, Ian Hsu, Henry Howard, Sam Holloway and Ivan Quirot de Poligny.

Inter-House Leagues

Saturday afternoons in the Lent Term are fun times in the pool. The Inter-House water polo leagues take place and the boys' Houses either love it or hate it! The Junior leagues saw Bruce hold the lead and eventually win the Cup. The Senior Cup was hard fought between Grafton and Chatham, with it going up to the final week, where it could have gone either way. Chatham eventually raised the Cup as Senior winners, scoring 36 goals throughout the tournament.



Old Stoic Water Polo

My most favourite day of the water polo year! The competitive streak of Old Stoics never diminishes, and we just love having them back with us at Stowe. Another thrilling match from the start to end! The Old Stoics dominated from the start but the pupils kept clawing back point by point. It was by no means an easy match, the Old Stoics did not hold back and showed the pupils a hard fight. The match ended with an Old Stoic win 8-6 and a very wet me! A big thank you to Old Stoic water polo Captain, Sam Morris (Chatham 08) for helping to organise the event.

Cheryl Davis



GOLF

I have been delighted with the way in which golf at Stowe has continued to develop and thrive during the course of this academic year. PGA coaching is readily available during the golf activity programme, throughout all three Terms and in addition to this, private golf lessons can be arranged. The Golf Scholarship programme has continued to be very exciting as we welcomed Chanel Fontaine-Geary as Stowe's inaugural girl Golf Scholar. We have also seen Tom Youds' excellent golfing progress, resulting in him being able to transfer his generic Sport Scholarship to a more specific Golf Scholarship. As we now prepare to launch the exciting Stowe Golf Academy, in conjunction with the opening of our new golf course in March 2020, there really are exciting times ahead for Stowe golf. With significantly longer and more challenging holes, along with much larger greens, that have been constructed in accordance with USGA guidelines, we believe that our new golf course will be one of the finest school golf facilities in the country.

With a significant increase in the number of both Junior and Senior golfers opting to either learn or play the game, performances in our varied school fixtures

and competitions have been very encouraging indeed. We have once again been fortunate enough to visit a number of superb and iconic golfing venues, including Stoke Park (courtesy of Chester King, (Chandos 89)), Sunningdale, Woburn, Woking, the Buckinghamshire, and The Berkshire. Our Junior team has recorded some comprehensive victories and I have been pleased with the growing contributions from Fred Ross, Sam Wardlaw, Johnny Sutherland, Edward Davis and Elliott Derville. We eagerly look forward to more Junior fixtures next year.

Led by Captain Lochie Shillington, our Senior team has had a mixed campaign. We have claimed some very good scalps with particularly notable victories against Harrow, Radley, Wellington and the ever-competitive Old Stoic Golf Society.

However, our performances in the HMC Foursomes and ISGA Match Play Championship were disappointing with key players, Max Smith and Lochie, unable to find their best form.

We wish Lochie all the very best as he moves on to Higher Education and welcome Tom Youds as our new golf Captain in what will undoubtedly be a unique year for Stowe golf.



Gerald Micklem Trophy

The highlight of the competitive year is always in mid-March when we travel to Woking Golf Club for the annual Gerald Micklem Trophy. The Trophy was inaugurated in 1954 and is a traditional and extremely prestigious invitational golf tournament played every year between eight of the top Public Schools. Each year, we compete against Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Charterhouse, Rugby, Bradfield and Winchester with Stowe still holding the record of winning the Micklem more times than any other school. This year, our team of five was led by Captain Lochie Shillington and consisted of Max Faulkner, Max Smith, Tom Youds and Tom Riley.

Following a solid start against the Old Stoics, we entered the first round of the Championship in good spirits but unfortunately suffered a narrow defeat against a strong Winchester. This early defeat meant that we were forced into the Plate competition and secured a superb victory against Harrow in the Semi-Final before narrowly losing against Charterhouse. Although we were disappointed, I was extremely proud of the Stoics throughout a very intense tournament, there were excellent debuts for both Tom Youds and Tom Riley - they were all a real credit to both themselves and Stowe.

PGA Coaching & Development Trip

At the beginning of the Easter break, Stowe golfers set sail for the sun-kissed fairways of the Algarve as we embarked upon another exciting six-day PGA Golf Coaching and Development Trip to Portugal. We based ourselves at the award-winning Amendoeira Golf Resort, home to both the Faldo and O'Connor Championship Courses, along with a 9-hole Academy course and superb practice and teaching facilities. With my PGA coaching, the Stoics made significant progress with both their golf technique, short games and overall on course performance. Through use of the latest V1 digital golf coaching software,

Stoics were able to compare and contrast their biomechanical swing patterns during both practice sessions and on course competitions. We also visited two of Portugal's most prestigious and iconic venues, Quinta do Lago and Vale do Lobo. In a closely-fought contest, Tom Riley was crowned winner of the Stowe Golf Portugal Classic after recording the lowest 36-hole gross score. Tom played some very good golf and maintained his focus throughout the event. Ed Snushall was a very close runner-up and played some superb golf at Quinta do Lago.

In summary, the trip was a huge success and I must thank Mr Panos John and Mr Craig Sutton for assisting me and supporting me throughout our very busy and demanding trip.

Headmaster's Tankard

On Friday 21 June, the annual Headmaster's Tankard Golf Competition was once again keenly contested around the iconic Stowe Golf Course. Indeed, as we prepare to open our new superb golf course next Spring, this was the final Tankard to be played on the existing course. With this in mind, the event was exceptionally well supported with a bumper 15 pairs entering! With a competition format of foursomes Stableford played over 9 holes, we witnessed some interesting Staff/Stoic pairings. The winning pair, Mr Alan Hughes and Sam Wardlaw, recorded a fine score of 34 points. Mr Giles Cuddy and Lucas Davis finished runners up with 32 points and third place was jointly occupied by Mrs Sarah Sutton and Emily Sutton, along with Mr Harry Gaunt and Fred Ross. Hannah Durden, Chair of the Old Stoic Society and keen golfer, kindly stepped in to present the prizes. We eagerly anticipate the inaugural Headmaster's Tankard to be played next year on our new golf course.

Inter-House Golf & Laddie Lucas Trophy

As part of the Inter-House Golf Competition, the flagship Laddie Lucas Trophy was once again keenly contested, this event is 18 holes individual scratch stroke play. With the course proving tricky to play on due to the rain, Max Faulkner played some excellent golf and recorded a +2 gross score to retain the trophy once again. Tom Riley and Edward Davis were tied second, so a sudden death play-off was required in order to separate the two players. On the first play-off hole, Edward Davis played a magnificent iron shot to within 10 feet and duly converted the putt to beat Tom Riley and claim second place. In the House team event, Bruce won the boys' event and Queen's won for the girls' event.

Andrew Hancox



ROWING

Rowing at Stowe this year has had some significant developments, both in terms of our performance at regattas as well as improving our fleet of boats to race in.

Following on from our rowing at Henley Royal Regatta last year, the Senior 8 trained each Wednesday at Hollowell Reservoir. We have had an enthusiastic and regular squad of Juniors, predominantly from the Third Form which enabled us to train in an Octuple for most of the year, which has been the first time we have ever managed to achieve this.

Our racing year started off with a very good performance by our Senior 8 against an adult crew from Milton Keynes. They narrowly lost by only a couple of feet. In October, we sent a coxed quad over to Boston in the USA to compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta, the biggest event of its type in the world. Our crew of Oscar Hill, Archie Morley, Ilya Riskin and Elliot Patel, coxed by Fixy Hill, performed very well and produced our best performance so far in this event. Archie Morley dominated several events in the Junior 18 single sculls, including an excellent win at Evesham.

Our Juniors' first major event was at the National Schools' Head Race at Eton Rowing Lake. This was a challenging day with very poor weather, but as a first event for most, the crew raced very well, gaining a lot of experience on the day. This was followed shortly afterwards by the Schools' Head, which races

over the same course as the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race on the Thames. Again, our Senior 8 produced their best result so far in this event which bodes well for our future in this race.

After the June Half Term our focus was now on the Junior squad, putting them into the smaller single and double sculling boats. The squad performed very well getting into four final events at St Ives Regatta with many pupils in the squad getting their first win at a public event. An example of the Junior squad's determination to perform as best they can was seen by Sienna Bettany, racing in the Ball Cup at Eton. As she approached the finish line, her blade caught, capsizing her boat. Sienna then, after racing down the 1,000m course, swam with the boat crossing the finishing line.

During the year, we were able to purchase two new high-quality single sculls and sculling blades. We are consolidating and improving the equipment that we have at Hollowell to enable us to practice in a variety of boats. Next year, our plan is to develop the Juniors further by training them in our eight with the aim to participate in the Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers in June 2020.

I would like to thank the coaches, Andrew Rudkin, Martin Johnson and Chris Lomax for their support over the year.

Michael Righton



“

At Stowe we have had an enthusiastic and regular squad of Juniors predominantly from the Third Form, which enabled us to train in an Octuple for most of the year, which has been the first time we have ever managed to achieve this.”

”



1st
XI

FOOTBALL

Stowe's 1st XI football team have been unlucky this season, although they have produced some good performances against strong opposition and have shown signs of improvement on last year, scoring almost double the number of goals. The boys won or drew 40% of matches played, losing six games to much stronger footballing schools, such as King's Ely and Loughborough Grammar.

The Manager's 'Player of the Season Award' was given to Captain Tom Percy for his excellent and consistent leadership and footballing performances throughout the season. Tom also scored five goals and was pipped to the 'Golden Boot Award' by Tom Worrall, who was prolific in front of goal in the second half of the season, amassing an impressive six goals in nine games and often coming on as an impact substitute.

The season started off with a grudge match against Uppingham on the newly created football pitch on the North Front with Stowe taking an early 2-0 lead through goals from Luca Adjei and Tom Percy. The boys were playing some lovely football with excellent defending from Max Moseley and Alex Bernard-Bell before two complete lapses in concentration saw Uppingham bring the scores level with the last kick of the game. Heartbreak for the boys and their confidence didn't really recover for the next two games with losses to Bedford Modern and King's Ely. A solid 1-1 draw that Stowe should have really

won against Abingdon set the boys up for their best performance of the season against Akeley Wood who they beat 11-1. Standout performances from that game were Elliot Mullarkey and Lyle O'Brien, who scored three and two goals respectively. Three days later on an awful Oundle pitch, the boys could not repeat their performance and stuttered again to a 1-1 draw. Unfortunately, things went downhill after that and the remainder of the season is best not discussed (there was a high number in the goals-against column).

Despite the slightly disappointing season, there is a lot of talent coming through the ranks, both Teide Lokpobiri and Udo Ekpecham, made their first team debuts. Micky Shillington worked tirelessly throughout the season and with slightly better finishing could be our top goal scorer next year. Tom Scott went from strength to strength and Thor Mager looks as though he will be our rock at the back next season. At the end of term assembly, full Colours were awarded to Tom Percy and Pete Wood for their excellent attitude, commitment and performances throughout the season and half Colours were awarded to Luca Adjei, Elliot Mullarkey, Tom Worrall, Ivan Titov, Alex Bernard-Bell and Ed Snushall. To all of the boys who I have not mentioned, thank you for your excellent commitment this year and I look forward to seeing Stowe's 'never say die' attitude continue next season.

Matthew Burch

The 2nd XI had a strong start to the season with a 3-3 draw against Uppingham. The new Captain, Edward Snushall, stepped into the role with ease and helped to keep his team in check.

Snushall remained Captain for the rest of the season apart from the few times where he was called up to the 1st XI (where he continued to perform excellently). Our most successful game came against Akeley Wood School, with a 6-2 win at home on the Athletics track pitch. Sadly from then on, we struggled to improve and lost the next four games.

The second team played well throughout the season and always gave 110% in every game, even when we fell behind. I have been greatly impressed with how the team played and I am confident that many of the players will be moved up to the 1st team come next season.

Despite a low success rate, this has been a good season for the 2nd XI.

Alistair Last



2nd XI



U16 XI

A promising start to the season for the U16 football team with a brilliant victory against Uppingham in their first match. Results then went against the boys for the remainder of the season, with some of the fixtures being very close whilst in others, we were outplayed against older opposition. The majority of the squad were an U15 age group and so the experiences from this season should serve them well next year when I expect results will be much more in Stowe's favour.

Matthew Teasdale

SQUASH

This season has been the most successful squash season in years with a 100% win rate from six matches against high-quality opposition from schools such as Bedford, Bromsgrove and Oundle. Hector Smiley produced the best display of the year in our match against St Edward's but all players from our top 10 put in sterling performances and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with them all.

This year it is a shame that so many of our top players are leaving us but whilst their sense of camaraderie and humour will be missed, we are set up well for

future years as there are some strong Lower School players, for example, Third Former Michael Spencer.

Finally, thanks go to James Hungin, our departing Captain, who has shown professionalism throughout the year. He is the only player in the School to already have his Colours.

Colours were awarded to Hector Smiley, Louis Hink, Paolo Alvigini, Joss Walker, Max Mash and, although only in the Fifth Form, Arthur Dobbs.

Ed Smith



Seniors

This year it has been a delight to be able to offer five Senior netball teams. We were also fortunate to once again be invited to three major tournaments by Bedford Modern, Bradfield and St Helen & St Katharine and had much success in the England Netball National Schools' Competition. We also toured for the first time to La Manga, Spain. The trip was great fun and enjoyed by all the girls. After three days of fantastic coaching in the sunshine, including a session with ex-England coach Maggie Jackson and current Saracens Mavericks' player Lindsay Keable, we came away the winners after a nail-biting tournament Final which went to extra time! I wish our Leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.

All reports by Lauren Ellis

1st VII

The 1st VII this season have had a challenging and developmental experience led wonderfully by Captain Amelia Leondiou. They are to be applauded for their perseverance and determination in some tough fixtures. We started the season at the England Netball County Rounds finishing as County Champions with wins over Akeley Wood, Waddesdon and Ousedale which saw us head to the Regional Rounds over Exeat in Farnborough.

In the Lent Term, the most thrilling moment came at the St Helen & St Katharine Tournament. They faced three teams in the group stages, starting with Headington in the first game winning 11-9, closely followed was a 9-6 win against Cokethorpe School's 2nd VII. Going into the third game versus a strong MCS, Oxford side, the team knew they had to win to get into the Semi-Final but could not quite pull it off despite their best efforts, losing this game 9-7. Well done to Amelia Leondiou for being awarded 'Most Valuable Player' for the season.



2nd VII

The 2nd VII have had a great season, playing 8 matches and winning all 8 in an impressive undefeated season with a goal difference of +106 goals. They started the season well with a convincing win against Wellingborough (48-16) and enjoyed some competitive fixtures against St Edward's, Rugby and Tudor Hall.

The highlight of the season was the annual St Helen & St Katharine Tournament, in which the girls really stepped up playing against some other schools' 1st teams. They won their first game against Our Lady's School's 1st team after being down at half-time. They then lost their next game against Cokethorpe's 1st by one goal in a very closely-fought match that went down to the last centre. The third game was against Queen Anne's School and was a challenging match that we lost. We went into the last game needing to win if we had any chance of going through to the

Semi-Final. The girls worked well as a team bringing the ball through court and turned over a number of St Helen & St Katharine's centre passes. We doubled their score and got a place in the Semi-Final against St Helen & St Katharine's 1st team who won Regionals and are in preparation for Nationals. The girls had nothing to lose and played the best netball I have seen all season. They left everything they had on the court and at times ran rings around the hosts, coming away doubling their score. The girls faced MCS, Oxford in the Final, which they lost, having just given their all in the Semi-Final game.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the 2nd VII this year and am looking forward to hearing how they get on next season. A special mention to Jemima Laurence for being awarded 'Most Valuable Player' for the season.



3rd VII

The 3rd VII have had an exhilarating season playing 8 very competitive matches and coming away as the winners in 7 of them! They started with a great first match against Wellingborough to kick-start the season. It was 7-7 after the first quarter but soon the team settled to play some impressive flowing netball. The goal shooter and goal attack, played by Ele, Daisy and Jess, were extremely consistent, intuitively playing together even at this early stage, rarely missing to amass a total of 50 goals - setting a benchmark for the rest of the season. They continued to put in some impressive performances, kept up a strong team spirit up all season throughout their eight games, and most definitely made sure they enjoyed all of their netball. Well done to Connie Barnes for a well-earned 'Most Valuable Player' this season.



**U15
A**

The U15A team had an exciting start to the season with a 22-22 all draw against Cottesloe. They went on to win all of their 10 games apart from a close 17-15 loss to Wellingborough in a non-league fixture and a 28-20 loss to The Grange. The girls finished the season on a high winning against Thornton College 33-9. A special mention goes to Ele Blane for being awarded 'Most Valuable Player' for the season.

The U15Bs have to be our most hard-working and resilient team in the School. This squad worked hard every minute of every game played, even when on the back foot, and as a result finished the season undefeated! The closest game was against Tudor Hall where the girls managed to steal an 8-7 win. Well done to Millie Fooks who was awarded 'Most Valuable Player' for the season.



**U15
B**

The U15C team played the season with much determination and resilience. They had the opportunity to play five competitive fixtures this year, winning all but one of their games. They lost to Tudor Hall 12-10 but finished with a 15-7 win to Bloxham. A special mention to Poppy Goaman for being awarded 'Most Valuable Player'.



**U15
C**

Inter-House Results:
 The winners of the 2019 Inter-House Netball Competition were:
 Seniors: Nugent
 Intermediates: Nugent
 Juniors: Queen's

This year, once again, we took the opportunity to enter both the U14 and U16 County Tournaments. The U14A team did not have a massive amount of preparation but this did not stop them performing on the day. The U14s had an incredible tournament, showing a multitude of positive attributes including, phenomenal passing through court, a very high shooting conversion rate and a tangible team spirit. They opened the tournament with an 8-3 win against Cottesloe and followed this with wins against Thornton (8-5), The Grange (7-0), Aylesbury High (10-5), Sir Thomas Fremantle (13-0) and Waddesdon (8-1). The tournament was so hotly contested that the top two places went down to goal difference with Stowe coming out 3rd place by one goal! They

even beat the winners, Thornton! A really heart-wrenching end to a fantastic debut performance for this team who have an exciting future. The whole team showed real promise for a thrilling Lent Term. I was not only blown away by the horrendous weather conditions but also the skill of the U14 team! All the girls demonstrated fantastic court discipline, which can be tough at this level.

During their Tuesday and Thursday netball activity, six teams across the U14s and U15s had an opportunity to play in fixtures against some local schools in the North Bucks Schools' League. All teams showed brilliant improvement.



U14
A

The U14A team opened the league with a thrilling win against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. They played 11 games, winning 7 and losing 4. Particular highlights included their 33-9 win against Cottesloe and 35-3 win against Akeley Wood. The girls finished 3rd in the end of season tournament, narrowly losing out to The Royal Latin and Aylesbury High. Special mentions go to Ellie Martindale and Hannah Bewes for both being awarded 'Most Valuable Player'.

The U14B team had a great first season of netball at Stowe, playing 10 games, winning 6 and losing 4. The girls played some of their best netball halfway through the season with two fantastic wins against Wellingborough (25-11) and Akeley Wood (19-1). A special mention to Lizzie Knott for her efforts this season.



U14
B



U14
C

The U14C team played the season with much determination and resilience and their results reflect this with the team only losing one fixture out five to Tudor Hall by two goals. A few of our players had played little, if any netball, before joining Stowe so what an excellent way to start, with wins against Wellingborough, Downe House and Bloxham. Well done to Chanel Fontaine-Geary for being awarded 'Most Valuable Player'.



1st
XII

LACROSSE

The season has been one of tremendous growth for the Stowe lacrosse programme. In the Michaelmas Term, the team opened with three wins and two losses at the annual Moreton Hall Top Test Tournament, and of those two losses, only one was by more than a single goal deficit. Wins in the Autumn came against Malvern St James, Radley Boys' Upper Sixth, the newly-formed Dadford Lacrosse Club, Tudor Hall and Uppingham (19-1), while losses came at the hands of St Albans and a disappointing showing at the South Schools' Tournament.

After the Christmas break, a wake-up call was delivered by a strong Moreton Hall side, followed up with a good run out at the London County Championship, the 1st XII coming first in the Plate Competition. More wins came against Marlborough, Haileybury and St Albans in preparation for the National Schools' Tournament, where the team proved themselves disciplined and worthy adversaries. Here they defeated Putney High and tied with Haberdashers' Monmouth in the pools, placing themselves 3rd of 7, then the girls defeated Heathfield and St Bart's in the division, making their way comfortably into Division 1. The first game of knockouts against Fettes saw Stowe 1st XII really shine - we took two goals in the first half, conceded

two in the second, then Captain Lily Marriott scored a game-winner with four minutes left on the clock. The team then comfortably and maturely ran the clock down to secure the win. Stowe advanced to the Quarter-Finals, but were defeated 4-1 by a very strong St Paul's team which went on to win the Division 1 title. The team rounded out the season with a loss at rivals Cheltenham, but finally a great 10-1 victory over UEA on the South Front. The team developed splendid chemistry, with a wide range of scoring threats, though the top goal-scorer was undoubtedly Charlotte Munn, for which she won 'Attacker of the Year'. Defensively, Grace Congreve was the standout, playing both low defence and defensive wing. Hannah Laurence was a stalwart in goal, with a very strong performance in her first season between the pipes, for which she won 'Coaches' Player', while the overall season 'Most Valuable Player' went to Captain Annie Roberts, who was an athletic, assertive player on both sides of the ball, and led the team marvellously.

The 1st XII Leavers in the Upper Sixth will be missed, however, the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form players from the 1st and 2nd XIIs will, I'm sure, confidently fill their boots.

Rob Ingham Clark

2nd XII



The 2nd XII had an excellent two terms of lacrosse, starting positively and maintaining a strong record throughout the two terms. The pupils who represented the squad across both terms deserve a lot of credit for giving one of the best performances in recent years, losing in full match play only to perennial powerhouse Moreton Hall and playing up against St George's 1st team.

Tournament play saw the girls win the Bradfield Round-Robin Tournament with victories against the hosts, Denstone, and Uppingham. This tournament victory was of particular note as Co-Captain Gahsem Dorji stepped up to play in goal after a late withdrawal from our regular keeper. The National Schools' Tournament was also a weekend to remember as the girls overcame St Albans who they had tied with in the regular season and delivered strong performances against Lady Eleanor Holles and St Helen & St Katharine.

The squad was well represented across the years with girls from the Fifth Form, Lower and Upper Sixth. Gahsem Dorji and Martha Scott Knight Co-Captained through both terms and demonstrated excellent leadership and dedication. Lucy Bourn led the attack scoring in excess of 20 goals over the term, ably supported by Georgie Leefe and Charlotte Would, who all received awards for their efforts for the squad. At the defensive end, Jess Potts made a comeback to play in goal and anchor the team, making saves that kept the team in games and really helped to change the momentum when their backs were up against the wall.

This season's performance is one the girls should be extremely proud of and despite losing players to graduation, the future is bright for this talented squad next year.

Giles Cuddy



3rd XII

This season, the 3rd XII have shown great enthusiasm for both the competitive and recreational sides of lacrosse. In all their matches and training sessions, the girls showed great commitment to the game and this has become evident in their progress as players. Even though some members of the team had not wielded a lacrosse stick before, everyone in the squad represented Stowe this season.

Although the figures at the end of the season were 2 wins and 2 losses, a draw against a team from the University of Birmingham should not be regarded lightly, with the whole team coming together to put on an extremely commendable performance against a strong side. All in all, the season has been a great success as we wish those in Upper Sixth all the best for their futures.

John Wilkinson



U15 A

The Fourth Form girls showed incredible determination and steady improvement throughout the 2018/19 season. New natural leaders emerged from the group, and whilst a number of members were off games due to illness this did not stop the hustle and energy shown at training sessions. Jodie Brogden and Rosie Grayson led the team throughout the term with maturity beyond their years. They guided the U15As providing knowledge of how to work better as a unit, improved the team chemistry and game IQ, such as, how to dismantle an opposition's defence, which allowed the team to get creative and own their newly learnt offensive plays.

This tough season of illness, injuries and weather affected the Fourth Form the hardest. However,

we ended the term on a great high with three wins placing ourselves 4th out of 8 in the Marlborough 2019 Tournament. The girls had put into play everything they had trained for over the term, played like a team and identified the opposition's strengths and weaknesses. With this, Stowe proved to be a determined side and made the Marlborough Tournament their best performance to date.

The U15As worked hard and it has been excellent to see the positional leaders come out to implement our practiced plays against some of the unsuspecting opponents. These players will undoubtedly perform well in their Senior years at Stowe. Well done all.

Kieran Garvey

In their matches this season, the U15B team have worked hard. The season can certainly be called a successful one, with 2 out of 3 wins, the team only missing out to a very strong St George's side. As well as team success, we also had several players progressing to the A team, as well as a few representing the Senior girls' teams. This U15B squad has shown large amounts of talent and will undoubtedly proceed to play crucial roles in the Senior teams as they progress through the School.

John Wilkinson



U15 B

U14 A

The U14A lacrosse team should be impressed with their first season. The majority of the team were new to the sport in September and there is no doubt that they will be a force to be reckoned with as they go through their five years at Stowe.

Led ably by Lyla Mulcahy and Tallulah Morris, they produced some outstanding results against schools who have all been playing since the age of 11. Victories over St George's, Marlborough, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Uppingham and Walthamstow Hall speak volumes for the talent of the squad. Lyla dominated the scoring with a total of 40 goals and this is made more impressive when you realise that she played centre in every game.

However, mentions have to be given to Lizzie Knott for her incredible saves, her ability to clear the ball into the centre circle and her ability to run out of goal and set up many attacks. Hannah Bewes, Willa Percy and Tallulah were relentless in terms of their non-stop running from defence, their interceptions and safe



tackling. Hannah also contributed with 8 goals.

In attack, we were fortunate to have a versatile squad, all great athletes and all able to contribute with goals when they were needed. Ellie Martindale's pace, Emily Sutton's stickwork and Hattie Goodrich's relentless running have caused opposition problems all term.

Jayne Duckett



U14 B

The U14B team has had an encouraging first season playing lacrosse. Never held to a shut out by the opposition, key players such as Ellie Martindale (who later moved up to the A team) and Captain Bella Ellott were able to always find the back of the net in some degree in games against St George's Harpenden and Cheltenham, while the team recorded exciting wins against Bedford Newnham at home and St Albans on the road. In defence, Alex Aswani has proved she is a capable player with a real ability to transition the ball up the field, while a few goalies have played for the Bs, all recording great save percentages, namely Casey Lo, Sienna Bettany and Sophie Taylor. The team has really worked well together with enthusiasm, while firm friendships have been developed, and being part of such an exciting lacrosse-playing year group bodes well for the future.

Rob Ingham Clark

The U14 development teams (C&D) have had a wonderful introduction to the sport of lacrosse, often playing outside their age bracket, and representing Stowe with pride. The team held St George's, Harpenden to 1-1 in the second half of term and turned over The Dragon School's very keen Lacrosse Club comfortably. These players improved steadily with great character over the term. We look forward to seeing them again next year.

Rob Ingham Clark



U14 C&D

BOYS' TENNIS



1st
VI

The Senior tennis season is split into two halves. In the first half of the Summer Term, the boys and girls play as separate teams and after Half Term, we play mixed matches. In terms of success in matches, the two halves were very different with the boys' 1st and 2nd VI teams finding the going very tough against our traditional competitors, but when we combined with the girls to play mixed matches, we found far more success with some impressive and comfortable victories against Rugby, St Edward's and Bloxham.

The boys' 1st VI was made up of Harry Hewlett and Tom Percy (Captain), Harry and Archie Burnet, and Thor Mager with Charlie Maclure. The 2nd VI saw Henry Saunders Watson and Alec McLeish, Toby Thorpe and Tom Fountain, George Buxton and Hector Smiley who played for both the 1st and 2nds. The boys cannot be faulted for their effort or attitude. They trained together as a squad on the shop courts and certainly made progress with their performances. The reality was that we tended to play rather naïve tactics, preferring to hit up and down the court from the baseline. When we came up against teams who played more advanced doubles tactics, we found the matches swinging their way. There was no shortage of practice time trying to adapt our tactics, but it all came too late for the early season matches. However, this improvement was evident in the second half of term, as we made more effort to get to the net and hit cross-court with our improved volley technique. This does bode well for next season.

It was pleasing and encouraging to see so many Lower Sixth Form tennis players coming through the ranks and all of them have represented the School this season, with Stowe able to field more teams than other schools. These players need to keep

playing through the Winter months (they can now play twice a week in the Winter activity programme) and I am confident that they will make the step up to compete against our competitor schools on a more level playing field next year.

In the Senior Singles Tournament, Tom Percy emerged as the Champion for the second year running, beating a rapidly improving Tom Fountain in the Final. Congratulations to Tom Percy and Harry Hewlett, they deserve a special mention for their huge contribution to Stowe tennis over the years. I am sure they will go on to enjoy playing tennis for their university sides. I wish them all the very best.

Craig Sutton

2nd
VI





U16 A

This season must count as the shortest on record, with the very late Easter and the earlier than ever onset of public exams meaning that the A team only had three fixtures and the B team one, before GCSEs kicked in. However, in a short period we saw considerable improvement with base-liners becoming attacking serve-volleyers, surely the only way to win at doubles!

Captain Hugo Manners led the charge, and in monsoon conditions at Oakham, we managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, but we quickly bounced back to win in the sunshine with a sound victory over Uppingham. Sadly, our last match at Oundle was in weather more suited to a grousemoor in the Highlands with driving mist and rain making conditions very slippery and preventing expansive play. Yet Archie Holmes shed blood for the team proving that nothing daunts this happy band of pilgrims. Sebastian Smart and Maxi McNally, together with Ollie Horton and Frankie Atkinson, made up this collection of fast-improving players, and we hope they will all go on to enjoy this wonderful game in the future.

Tim Mullins

This year, the U15 boys were once again able to field a strong A and B team. Both teams experienced a challenging season, in which they competed on par with some of the biggest and most competitive (in tennis terms) schools in both the South and East of the Country. Captained by Benedict Hartigan, the U15A team fought hard in a number of closely-matched encounters. The individual pairs performed very strongly across the whole term, the outstanding highlight of the season was a thrilling 5-4 victory over Rugby - one of Stowe's fierce rivals in sporting endeavour. With these high-class individual performances in mind, the U15A team should be proud of the tennis they played this season. The U15B players faced similar challenges but equally managed to hold their opponents to account.

Striking performances by the individual pairs at both U15A and U15B level promise great things for the future of Stowe tennis. A team members were Benedict Hartigan, George Hopkinson-Woolley, Jayden Preko, Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart, Tom Gibson and Oscar Parsons. Congratulations to all who represented Stowe at U15 level this season.

Roland Johnson



U15 A

U14 A

Played 6 | Won 3 | Lost 3

This year's U14A team comprised James Gray, Michael Spencer, Alfonso Díaz-Rato, Edward Dickinson, William Nottage, Harry Taylor, Milo Chauveau and Carlo de Vivo.

The boys played some excellent tennis appreciating the need to focus on the more attacking aspect of their game and coming into the net in order to dominate and win points. As the term progressed, the boys tightened up on their service games and it was great to note the increase in both pace and determination to get ahead, whoever the opponent may have been and however tough the match situation was. We were fortunate this year to



have some strong players join the Third Form and out of the six matches that we played, the boys won three and lost three. I am sure that the Fourth Form will see these boys pairing up again and developing their game yet further. A great season of gamesmanship and tough competition - well done boys!

John Skinner



U14 B

Played 4 | Won 2 | Lost 2

The U14B team this year comprised William Nottage, Wilbur Hamilton, Artem Kondrashov, Freddie Farrell, Drake Selby Boddy, Ben Anderson and Beltran Olano Moro.

There was a lot of talent available to choose from this year, hence boys appearing in both As and Bs listings. The boys' pairings worked well in training and it was gratifying to note the boys' steady improvement through the Summer Term at each of their training sessions. Much attention was paid to the consistency of the boys' serve and volley games, while accuracy in returning and covering the court was a real focus. The boys played 4 matches (our match against Radley was cancelled as they were only able to field three pairs for the As), winning two and conceding the other two. That said, much of the match play at home and away was fierce and determined and it was great to see the boys play with such sportsmanship. Return journeys back to School were always a positive experience with the boys reflecting on their respective performances, whether or not they returned victors or vanquished. I never fail to feel proud of my players when we host matches or travel to away matches. Our Stoics always conduct themselves with grace and good character, showing the School off in the best light.

John Skinner

GIRLS' TENNIS



1st
VI

This year's squad of seven was Ellie Bewes (Captain), Lily Marriott, Georgie Leefe, Gemma Blane, Maria Sharipova, Alyssia Dockerty and Bella Lloyd. The girls' first team had a good season winning four of their five fixtures including a very tight first match against Oakham, Stowe won 5 sets to 4. As the term moved swiftly towards Half Term, their confidence grew and there was some solid performances from all the players. After Half Term there was just one girls' match which was dominated by Stowe Lower Sixth girls and they finished off their season with a convincing 8 sets to 1 win. Congratulations to Ellie, Lily, Georgie and Gemma who were awarded their tennis Colours.

John Skinner

Representing the 2nd team this year were Alyssia Dockerty, Izzy Hopkins, Milly Cranmer, Grace Congreve, Lucy Bourn, Hattie Grace and Gemma Blane. Having only four fixtures, they ended up with a 50% win/loss record. They had a great start to the season with a convincing 8 sets to 1 win in their first match. This was followed by two very close losses 4 sets to 5 but they finished with a 9 sets to 0 win in their last match. After Half Term, the Lower Sixth players from the 1st and 2nd girls' squads teamed up with the boys to play three mixed doubles matches of which the 2nd VI girls won two.

John Skinner



2nd
VI



3rd
& 4th
VI

The season started with two superb wins for both the 3rd and 4th VIs over Oakham. The 3rds won 8-1, with emphatic victories for India Case and Willa Hodson, and Eliza Percy and Immy Bewes. The 4th VI won all their sets, only losing 11 games in total. The second fixture was more challenging, on the road to Uppingham. The hard courts proved difficult to adjust to from our own Astro courts that the girls are used to. After losing the first few sets, Stowe began to clawback some matches, but ultimately failed to overcome our opponents. The 3rds narrowly lost 5-4, with strong performances by Eliza and Immy once again. Toyah Mowat and Maddie Marriott came back well and won their last set. Alice Warner and Jemima Priest suddenly realised they could win in the final set, thrashing their opponents 6-0! The final match against Oundle was also close but the girls came through winning both fixtures 5-4 and 4-0. Imy Oliver and Georgie Mercer won 2 sets comfortably, and I was astonished at how the 4th VI demolished their counterparts.

It has been a pleasure to see the development of tennis this term, and the way in which the girls enjoyed their training. Learning to play and score tie-breaks was probably the most enjoyable game session, as it surprised me how many didn't know how to play tie-breaks. They certainly do now!

Brian Hart

The season started and finished well with convincing wins over Oakham, Bloxham and Rugby. However, the middle part of the term produced some disappointing results and we could all look back and ask 'What if...' 21 of the sets that were lost produced scores of either 4-6 or 5-6 which suggests that the girls did all of the hard work without being able to finish. The squad worked hard in training and although numerous school trips and music rehearsals affected their ability to work together, it would be wrong to suggest that this was the only reason for their defeats.

Olivia West and Otilie Hewlett ended the season well winning their last 5 (of 6) sets. They formed a strong partnership as 1st pair and have a bright future playing tennis.

Jayne Duckett



**U15
A**

**U15
B**



The U15Bs played from a squad of 8 and should be congratulated on an excellent season winning 6 of their 7 matches. Their only defeat was to a strong Oundle side when we were missing two players.

Strong partnerships have been evident and we have benefited from being able to play any one of the three pairings at the top. Injuries and illness have forced us to move pairs around - however, Sophia Southwick and Izzy Moffat have won 14 sets and lost only one; Sonia Steffanson and Lauren Yeowart have won 15 and lost 3; Violet Arkwright and Poppy Goaman have won 12 and lost 6 and those statistics speak volumes for the strength of the team.

Poppy has contributed to the strength of the side, training with the B team and playing with three different players whenever we have needed her.

Well done girls!

Jayne Duckett



U15 C&D

The U15Cs had a great season of tennis against some very strong sides. The team played a total of 7 games, winning 6 and losing only 1. Despite the girls having lots of other commitments, with DofE and Junior Congreve rehearsals, they attended training at every opportunity they could, with lots of enthusiasm and willingness to improve their tennis.

The girls started the season strong with 6-3 wins against both Oakham and Uppingham and an 8-0 win against Bloxham. Their only loss of the season came against a very strong Oakham side. The girls could not get a win against their second pair, which resulted in Stowe losing the match a close 5 sets to 4. In the next two fixtures, Stowe were on the right side of a 5-4 result, winning against St Edward's and then Tudor Hall. The girls finished the season with a fixture against Rugby who could only field two pairs so only 6 sets were played. We won the match 5 sets to 1. The girls should be proud of the improvement they have made in tennis this season. I hope they continue playing next year and I look forward to following their progress if they do.

The U15Ds should be pleased with the progress they made. Despite the girls only having 4 games, they were keen to learn and improve their tennis, which they did! The girls won 2 out of their 4 matches. The girls won an impressive 6 sets to 0 against Bloxham, who could only field 2 pairs and 6-3 against Uppingham. They lost their first match against Oakham, a very close 5 sets to 4 and unfortunately, finished the season with a 6-0 defeat to a very strong Oundle side. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching the girls and I hope they continue playing tennis next year.

Megan Wright

The U14As have really improved to enjoy an extremely successful season. They have been very focused in training sessions, developing the consistency of their groundstrokes, power in their serves and tactical cross-court volleys. They have also become more effective doubles players leading to some really competitive matches with other schools.

It is an excellent achievement to finish with a winning season, defeating Uppingham (7-2), Bedford High (6-3), Bloxham (6-3) and Rugby (9-0). Overall they won 34 sets and conceded 29. The weather was challenging at times with heavy rain and strong winds although we did go to Portugal for our pre-season tour where the weather was similar! This U14A team has plenty of potential and by playing throughout the year to refine their technique, I am confident they will continue to be successful as they progress through the School.

Sarah Sutton



U14 A

U14 B



The U14B team has been a pleasure to coach and were committed to improving the consistency of their tennis throughout the Summer Term. They played some super matches and are to be congratulated on a most successful season, winning 6 out of their seven matches which is an impressive achievement. They defeated Oakham (8-1), Uppingham (8-1), Bloxham (9-0), St Edward's (5-4), Bedford High (7-2) and Rugby (7-2), losing only to Oundle (2-7). In total as a team, they won 46 sets, conceding only 17! They have been positive and good humoured at training and during fixtures, despite the inclement weather, and have been a credit to the School.

Sarah Sutton



U14 C

Both the U14C and D teams had a very strong season this year. The Cs had a 50% win record, playing 8 matches and winning 4. Notable performances came against Oakham (7-2), in their first School match and Rugby (8-1) in their final game of the season.

The Ds had an impressive opening season, playing 6 matches and winning 4 of them. With a large squad,



U14 D

the team selected often differed from week to week, however their determination and hard work continued throughout. Exceptional playing from Stowe for them came against Oakham (5-1) and Uppingham (7-2).

Both teams displayed enthusiasm and tremendous effort all season, making them a pleasure to coach.

Ella Jackson

As ever, clay pigeon shooting has been a popular, successful activity that continued to welcome new shooters all the way into the Summer Term. The level of skill ranged from expert to novice, but under the meticulous, eagle-eyed tutelage of lead instructor Clive Harris and his support team, all shooters left The Bursar's Field having improved in outlook and ability. This year's Captain, Tavish Struthers, struck the keynote for the year, with regular impressive displays of shooting across the stands that Clive and his team would rearrange for new challenges. Last year's winner of the Swan Cup, Tavish missed this year's competition, opening the space for this year's top shooter, Hugo Robinson and Lexie Cook who secured the top shot for the second annual Pen Cup.

The Inter-House competition was superseded by the inaugural Stowe Challenge, which saw each House fronting a trio of shooters on an exceptionally challenging flush. Camaraderie was high, excitement higher, but by the day's close, the winning House was evident: the retiring (but never retiring) Housemaster Alan Hughes, kept his trophy cabinet full in Grenville, thanks to the fine display of shooting by Hugo Robinson, Cameron Chambers and Alex Jones.

The annual Stoics vs Old Stoics Competition brought its characteristic blend of ribaldry and rivalry, yet once again the Stoics, led by Tavish Struthers, shot with impressive consistency, beating the Old Stoics!

The morning of Speech Day saw a full roster of Stoics with family, all prepared to lay waste to the clays during the annual Parents vs Stoics Challenge. The competition was fierce, with Third Formers and parents giving the more seasoned shooters in Fifth and Sixth Forms no easy path to victory. When the barrels fell silent, a clear winning pair stood proud: Mr Brett Chambers and his son Cameron Chambers.

Several Stoics deserve mention for their achievements and improvement. Fred Watson and Matt Ryland brought both skill and engagement to their efforts, and were dependable, affable presences, in even the direst of shooting weather. Shooting Colours were earned for both improvement and commitment, and awarded to Lexie Cook, Hugo Robinson and Sebastian Smart, who will Captain the team through the shooting year of 2019-2020.

Fitzpatrick Smith

FISHING

It has been a good year on the water for the Stoic fishers. The Club is up and running again and with the support of the School, the Old Stoic Fly Fishing Club and the National Trust, current and future Stoics will be able to enjoy their fishing in what have to be the most picturesque lakes anywhere. There are also plans in place to stock the 'Home Farm' Lake with trout in the Autumn, as well as make fishing at Stowe more accessible to pupils from other schools, by offering tuition by our expert Stoics and Staff.

The sport this season has been predominantly coarse fishing on the lakes with a number of Stoics making good catches and many excellent specimens have been recorded. A group attended the annual Sportfish Show at Theale where they talked to and saw demonstrations from experts such as world-class fly-fishing instructor Hywel Morgan and Jeremy Wade of River Monsters on ITV. At the show, Charlie Powell exemplified the spirit of the Stoic Fishing Club when he engaged with the renowned casting coach, Gary Pearson who was so impressed that he was moved to write about it. "It was an absolute joy to see Charlie's enthusiasm and natural ability at fly casting. I have taught many to fly fish and some to international honours, I was extremely impressed by how quickly everything came to him and the fact he was asking questions and taking photos is well beyond what I would expect for this age group."



In early May we were very lucky to be visited by 'fishing legend' David Wolsoncroft-Dodds who gave training and inspiration to our Staff on the 'Safe and effective fishing for pike on the fly' on the 11-acre lake, which he loved fishing on. The training certainly helped and guidance has already been passed on to some very keen fly fishers in the School who are now turning some of their skills towards old *Esox Lucius* (Northern Pike).

The Club stalwarts have been Fred Watson, Arthur Irvine, Charlie Cousins, Angus Howard, Daniel Boardman and Charlie Powell, who have all been a joy to take out fishing and have all caught their fair share of fish this season.

Chris Lloyd



Equestrian

Stoics have been extremely busy and successful during this academic year in equestrian competitions. These are some of our highlights of this academic year.

In September, Chloe Livesey achieved 1st place in the elementary dressage with 68.2% and Jemima Howden came 19th in the prelim class with 64.6% at the NSEA Dressage Competition at Bury Farm.

The Stowe Team of Josh White, Jemima Howden, Emma Wright and Rosie Grayson were placed 1st at the Beachborough NSEA Eventers' Challenge on Sunday 14 October in the 1m class. This qualified Stowe for Hickstead for the 3rd time in a row. Josh was also placed 2nd individually, which also qualified him for Hickstead.

Lila Hill won the 90cm and 100cm class at the Akeley Wood NSEA Show Jumping in November at Addington. The Stowe Team of Lila Hill, Jemima Howden, Sofia Wright and Polly French proudly achieved 1st place in the 1m class.

The Wellingborough NSEA Show Jumping Championships and Plate Qualifiers at Keysoe, took place during May Half Term. This was strongly supported with some fantastic results. In the 80/85cm team of Amelia Morgan, Hattie Goodrich, Libby Hayes and Georgia Page put in a fantastic effort but were unfortunately out of the ribbons.

In the 90/95cm team section, Libby Hayes, Polly French and Lila Hill all rode clear rounds securing 3rd place qualifying for the Championship Plate in



December. In the individual section, Georgia Page was placed 6th, also qualifying for the Championship Plate. Lila Hill came 1st qualifying, her for the National Championships in October.

The 1m/1.05m team of Polly French, Cecily Hopkins and Lila Hill, secured 5th place. Individuals Cecily and Lila rode fantastic rounds but unfortunately were not placed. In the 1.10m individual, Polly French came 5th also qualifying for the Championship Plate.

At the Stowe Beagles Hunter trials, Amelia Morgan & Hattie Goodrich took 5th place whilst Megan Churchill came 4th in the pairs class. In the Open class, Josh White was placed 4th just beaten by fellow Stoic Megan Churchill who came 3rd and was awarded the Stoic Cup.

Lila Hill has done extremely well winning 1m and 90cm classes at the British Show Jumping Schools Championships Final and 1m Winter league.

Leilia Paske has once again been chosen to represent Great Britain at the FEI Junior Europeans with new ride Billy McPhee in Maarsbergen. We wish them all the best. This is the 4th consecutive year that a Stoic has represented Team GB in Junior eventing.

The Grafton Hunt meet took place at Stowe on Tuesday 22 January. 17 pupils took time out of academic studies to join in including: Megan Churchill, Polly French, Hattie Goodrich, Rosie Grayson, Otilie Hewlett, Isla Holman-West, Jemima Howden, Arthur Irvine, Bo Jenkins, Sophie Lee, Chloe Livesey, Ellie and Krissy Martindale, Francesca Macleod Matthews, Charlotte Morgan, Lydia Taylor and Josh White.

It was a very fast day, covering some amazing country along with some great jumps. Pupils were all immaculately turned out and extremely well behaved, as were the horses! We were very fortunate with the weather, as the snow did not arrive until the end of the day.

For Speech Day, Chloe Livesey, Cecilia Mayne and Bo Jenkins rode at the Equestrian Centre

demonstrating lateral movements. Parents and Staff came and supported them.

The Equestrian Inter-House competition took place on Wednesday 5 June. The sun shone and a BBQ was held for pupils, parents and supporters. The results were:

In the Dressage section: 1st Cecily Hopkins, 2nd Ellie Martindale and 3rd Megan Churchill.

Show Jumping: 1st Lila Hill.

Combined Show Jumping & Cross-Country: 1st Megan Churchill, 2nd Ellie Martindale and 3rd Libby Hayes.

We also welcomed the Biology Department who are studying the evolution of the horse as part of the GCSE syllabus. Classes were held at the Equestrian Centre where the structure of the lower leg and how it has evolved was demonstrated along with common ailments and an illustration of the movement of the horse. Mr Righton, Mrs Blake and Dr Lakin, and their classes, found the sessions particularly enjoyable outside the laboratory, and the pupils were able to learn the physiology of the horse directly.

It has been 25 years since Stowe hosted a Hunter Trial. Plans are in motion for a British Eventing Competition to take place in April 2020. The event is being organised by Alec Lochore who has recently been appointed as Eventing Competition Manager, for the Tokyo 2020. Alec has also been assisting the Equestrian Centre with the redesign of the Cross-Country course to assist with meeting the pupils' needs for different levels of schooling.

As the Equestrian Centre grows from strength to strength with stable requests being booked some four years in advance, our inspection for BHS approval in November was extremely successful, achieving highly commended in all areas. The continued support of Staff and Coaches such as Ernest Dillon and Lyndsay Gammon, and the recent news of the British Eventing Competition, mean that exciting times are ahead.

Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager

POLO



It was a fantastic Summer season for Stowe polo. We have had many new members join us for our twice-weekly lessons. It's also been a busy term for matches.

Our A team: Billy Hawkings-Byass (Captain), Ivan Quirot de Poligny, Jamie Baillie and Henry Hobby had a fantastic winning streak beating Rugby, Marlborough, Cheltenham and Eton. The team had a highly competitive series of matches at the Copenhagen Cup at Guards Polo Club in Windsor. The two-day event held on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May, saw eight teams compete and we were thrilled to beat Eton in the Final and win the Copenhagen Shield.

Our A team, with Louis Hink (instead of Henry Hobby) also came 3rd at the National Schools' Competition held at Black Bears in Henley on Sunday 16 June and our B team of Julian Ma, Rafi Mahmood, India Baillie and Oliver Halsey-Wright came 2nd in their intermediate division which was an excellent result. The B team also beat Radley and Rugby when we faced them in a match on our home ground of

Kirtlington. The absolute highlight of the year was held in the last weekend of term with the A team playing against the mighty Sandhurst Army Officers at the Academy. It was an incredible event with a huge audience watching our players take on a crowned Prince and his fellow officers. We won 8-0 in a fiercely competitive game.

We are very sad to say goodbye to our wonderful Captain, Billy Hawkings-Byass, who has been a huge part of Stowe polo having represented the School in ten National competitions and has shown huge commitment to the sport. At the Sandhurst game, he was awarded 'Man of the Match' by the Head of Army Polo. We welcome Ivan Quirot de Poligny who will be taking on the role of Captain and will be supported by Ella Almeyda who will be Captain of the girls' team.

Fiona Cortine





Ethan Phillips
(Lower Sixth, Bruce)



Katherine Howatson-Tout
(Upper Sixth, West)



Jack Saville Sneath
(Fifth Form, Cobham)



Jolly Koska
(Fifth Form, Chatham)



Coco Brooks
(Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2019

Simon C Creedy Smith, BA, ACA (Chair)
The Rev Canon Peter Ackroyd, MA, MBA, PhD
Jonathan M A Bewes, BA, FCA
Julie C Brunskill, BSc, MRICS
Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, KCB, CBE, MA (Cantab)
David W Cheyne, MA (Cantab) (Vice-Chair)
Juliet Colman, BA, Dip Arch, RIBA, SCA
Elizabeth J de Burgh Sidley, BA, FRICS
John P C Frost, BSc, MRICS
Professor Guy M Goodwin, BA, DPhil, FMedSci, FRCPsych
Joanne E Hastie-Smith
Andrea Johnson, BSc, PGCE
Robert A Lankester, MA (Cantab)
Catriona Lloyd, MA (Cantab)
Elizabeth Phillips, OBE, BA, MA, AKC
Vanessa Stanley, BEng, MEd, AdvCertEdMgmt, NPQH
Lady Stringer, BSc, MB, BS, LRCP, MRCS
Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC

Michael B M Porter, BA, MSc
(Secretary to the Governors)

Hannah Durden, MA (Cantab), MRICS
(Chair of the Old Stoic Society)

Headmaster: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



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